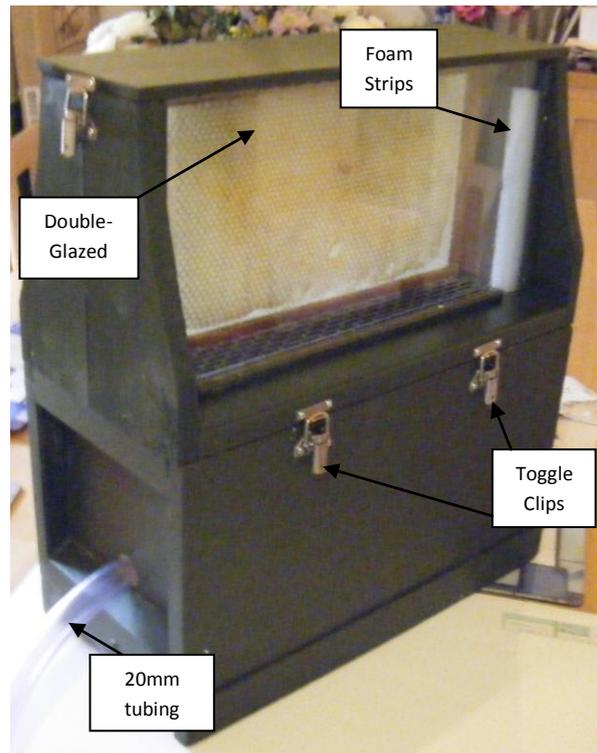
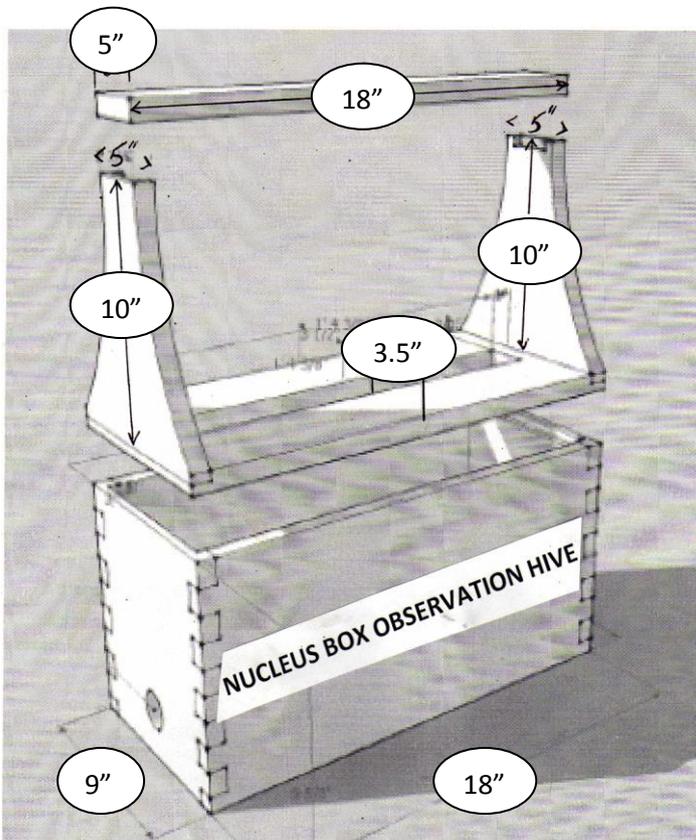


NUCLEUS OBSERVATION HIVE.

Below is a plan of the observation section for an existing nucleus box and if you want to have a go at making it here is a brief resume'.

- Cut wood to sizes as detailed below.
- I used wood off-cuts stored in my garage.
- The frame lugs can be supported on 2 x 20mm screws fitted in the side wall, each end to minimise the surface contact for the bees to propolise.
- Install a small section of queen excluder on the top side of the base.
- When finished, it is best to take it down to a local glazier to have 4 panes fitted to size.
- Strips of foam can be used to give a 20mm space between panes to double glaze the hive.
- I also used draught excluder foam strips, stuck to the top of the 4 edges of glass to ensure it was completely bee tight.
- Use frame bottom quadrant strips of wood to hold the glass in position.
- Drill a 25mm hole for the 20mm I.D. plastic entrance tubing.
- Fix toggle catches as shown in the picture.
- Cut a feeder hole in the roof.
- Costs were only £20 for the glass, toggle clips and 20mm I.D. plastic entrance tubing.



Once installed in your shed, outbuilding or garage you will want to stock it with bees. The best way, is to get the bees to raise their own queen:

- Fill the nucleus box with nurse bees + frames of stores + one frame of capped brood cells.
- Place a frame of eggs at various stages in the glass section above the queen excluder. The nurse bees will migrate up to cover the eggs & any brood.
- This would be a good time to feed the bees a 50:50 sugar water mixture.
- Watch the bees draw down a queen cell which will hatch in 16 days.
- When she has hatched it will be necessary to put her below the queen excluder so she is able to go on her mating flight, hoping the weather will be suitable.
- Then enjoy observing exactly what is going on in your hive at all times: queen piping/queen laying/eggs/brood/hatching/wagging/grooming/stores/pollen collecting etc....
- And if the queen did not mate very well because of the weather, you may be able to witness the queen being superseded!
- In the autumn, all the frames can be united in the nucleus box to get the queen through the winter.

John Farrow March 2013