

## **A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO THE ARTIFICIAL SWARM**

(this method will split your foraging force but will produce a new queen)

You will need a spare:-

Hive stand

Floor

Brood box filled with (preferably) clean drawn comb or foundation

Crown board

Roof

Feeder (plus an extra box if the feeder is deep)

### **The artificial swarm method**

1. Move your hive at least 3 feet away from the original hive stand - more if possible.
2. Put a new floor and a brood box containing only frames and foundation or, better still, clean drawn comb if you have it, on the original hive stand.
3. Take out one empty frame from the centre of the new brood box
4. Carefully examine the old hive and find the frame with the queen on it. Make **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** that there are no queen cells on this frame (you may need to shake all the bees off this frame, including the queen, into the new box so that you can examine the frame properly)
5. Place this frame in the new box.  
**So now, in the new hive on the original stand, you have 10 empty frames in the new box and, in the middle, one frame containing some brood and the queen. The older flying bees who "know where they live" will all return to this hive.**
6. Push the frames together in the old box and make up the right number of frames with the frame of foundation taken out of the new hive (do not put it in the centre of the brood nest)
7. As the bees in the new hive must draw comb and have no stores you must feed this hive. Put the roof back on as normal.
8. In the "old" hive you now have eggs, brood and young bees and (possibly) queen cells. If there ARE queen cells, remove all but two nice big **unsealed** cells. If there are no visible queen cells, the bees will make a new queen providing there are eggs under 3 days old. **You need to check after 4 days and remove all but two as above.**
9. Depending on how much honey there is in the old hive you may or may not have to feed. Just remember that there are no foraging bees now in this hive so they will need enough food to tide them over until some of the young bees are old enough to go foraging.
10. A new queen will be made in the old hive, so do not disturb it for at least four weeks, by which time you should again see eggs and brood and you can find your new queen and mark her with the correct colour for the year.

## **A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO THE ARTIFICIAL SWARM (onwards and upwards!)**

(this method will not split your foraging force and should remove the desire to swarm,  
while keeping your colony strong)

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Crown board

Roof

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5. Place this frame in the new box.
6. Check the old colony and make **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** that there are no queen cells in there.
7. Push the frames together in the old box and make up the right number of frames with the frame of foundation taken out of the new hive (do not put it in the centre of the brood nest)
8. Now put on the queen excluder and any supers and put the old colony back on top.
9. The bees in the top box will think themselves queenless and will make new queen cells. If you do not want a new queen, go through this box after four days and make **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** that there are no queen cells in there. They cannot now make a queen in the top box.
10. As the bees emerge in the top box they will go down to join the rest of the bees in the bottom box and, hopefully, the urge to swarm will have abated (if not, you can repeat the process). You will now have an empty brood chamber full of drawn comb for future use which can be removed.
11. PLEASE NOTE:- because there is a QX in place, drones will get trapped in the top, you may have to periodically release them.