



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

Managed Mentoring



Managed Mentoring

Using A Hive Tool

Lesson | Performing Inspections



What is Covered in this Module

Where to Make Entry

Gaining Entry

Using the Gap

Restoration of Frames

Working from the Far Side



Using A Hive Tool

Overview of the process



Proper Hive Tool Use – and Hive Entry

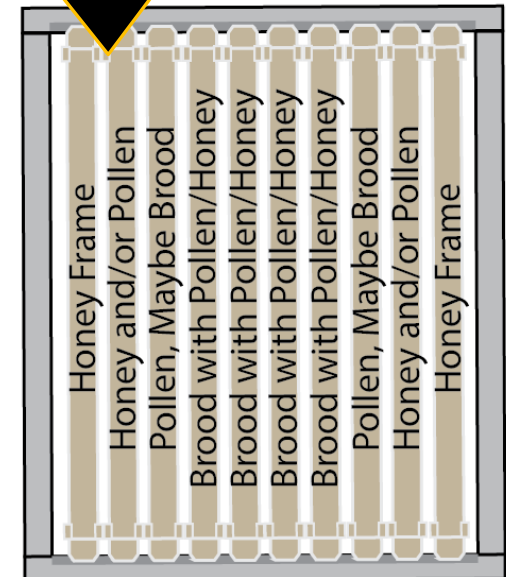
□ Where you enter the hive matters

- *You want to extract the first frames where it least likely that you will harm the queen – and/or harm bees*
 - Enter the hives on the areas away from the brood nest
 - Make a space (GAP) and then extract. Do this in conjunction with a quiet box or frame hanger

□ Using the tool properly

- *The following is a visual guide of how to use a hive tool to gain entry*

There are fewer bees
On the outside frames



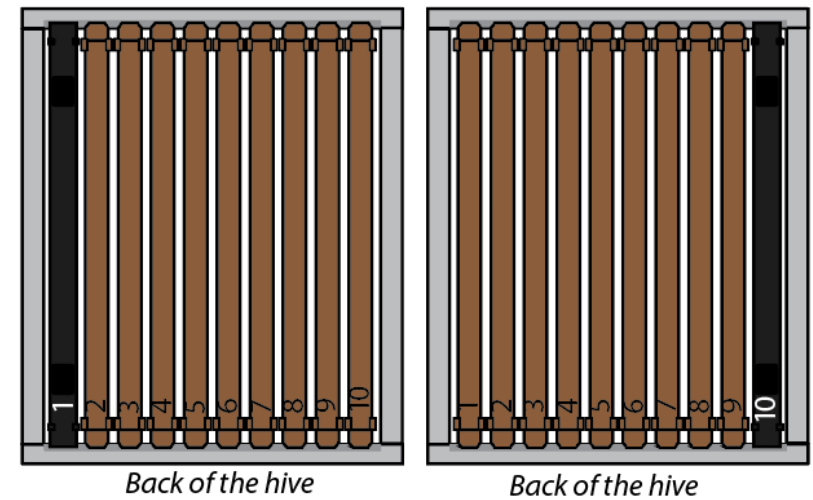
A quiet box is a small hive (typically a nuc) set to the side. Frames are placed within for holding during inspection

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Left-Side vs. Right-Side Bias

□ Working Hive Preferences

- *Standing back left is typical*
 - How one works a hive is personal preference.
 - Theory (and Observation) – Right-handed dominant people like to work things off to their right.
 - They demonstrate a preference to have what they are working on positioned on their dominant side.
 - You might have put your feeder in position 1 so you can work with it close to you – or maybe you did not give it a second thought.
 - The instructions in this lesson take into account the bias
 - Illustrations assume you are working back left. Just switch it if you do it differently



Research shows that eye dominance and dominant hand preference are associated, though not directly related.

Someone who is right-handed is more likely to be right-eye dominant,

Of course It is possible to be right-handed and left-eye dominant as eye dominance can vary from person to person

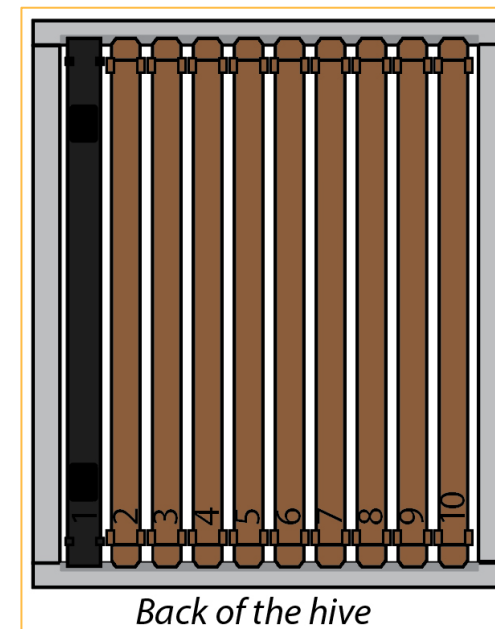


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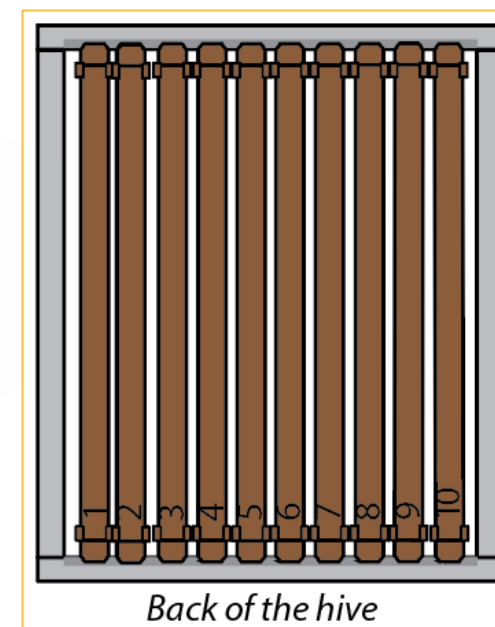
Quick Aside

□ Frame Setup

- *Initially we recommend having a feeder*
 - So far, our illustrations have a feeder in slot 1 or 10...
- *Eventually, you will remove the internal feeder and host 10 frames in the hive.*
 - This lesson advances the hive layout to the 10-Frame State
 - This will become the conventional layout in time
 - For a brief period of time as you get a hive up and running, you will adapt and pull the frame on the opposite side of the box from your feeder.
 - Eventually this will become the norm. This will make sense as the lesson proceeds.



↓ Becomes This ↓



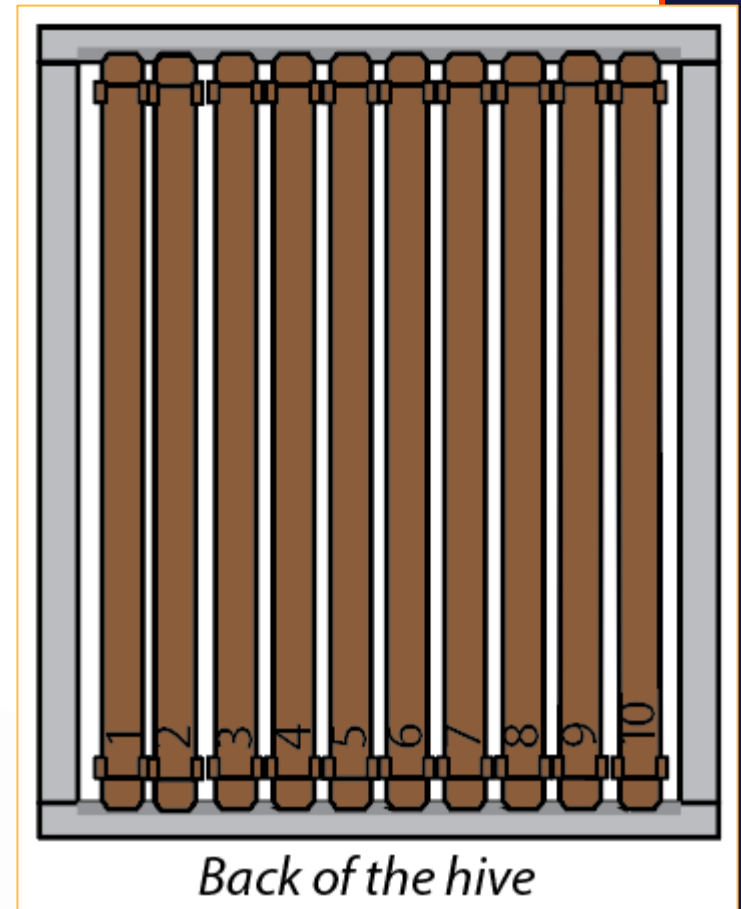
Where to make entry

Left Side...

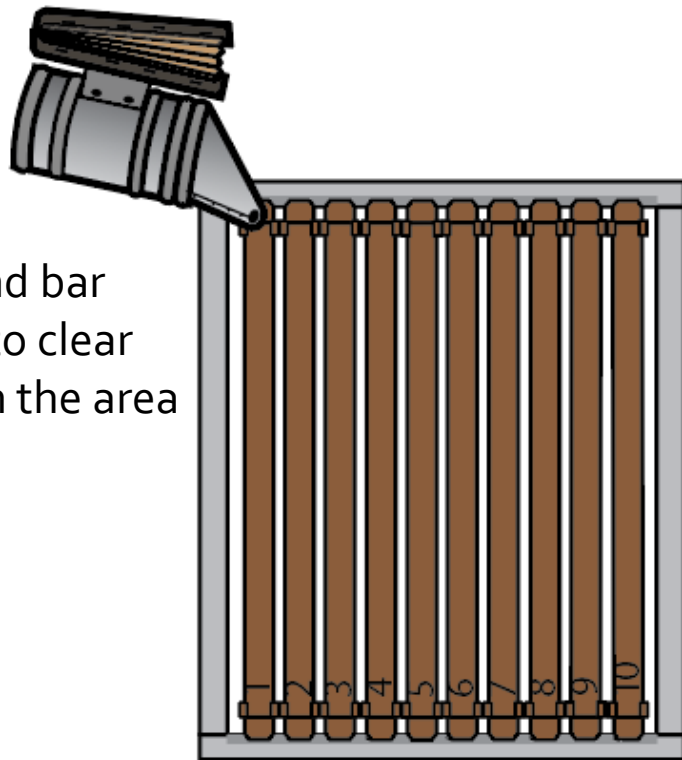
□ Standing at the back of the hive

- *We are going to pull frame #2 First*
- *We separate that from its neighbors*
- *Pull it, and put it in a safe place*
- *And proceed to inspect frames by pulling them into the gap created*
- *We will use the smoker first, then use the hive tool to make entry*

Pull Frame
#2 First



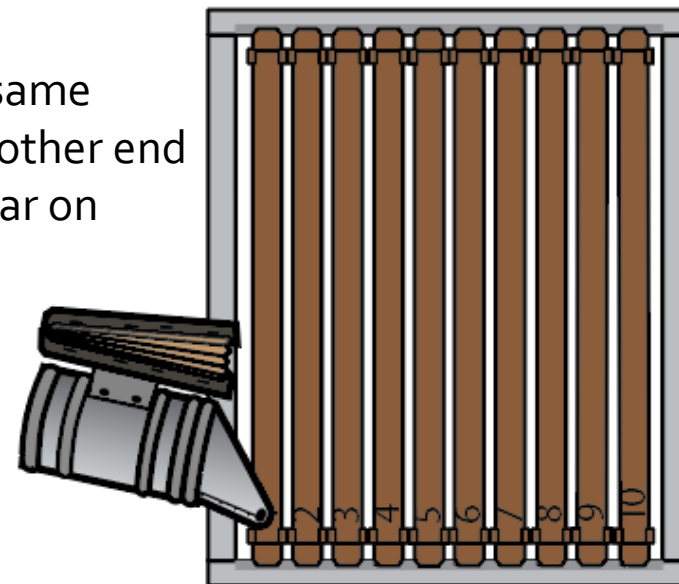
Clearing the Bees



Smoke the end bar of Frame #2 to clear the bees from the area

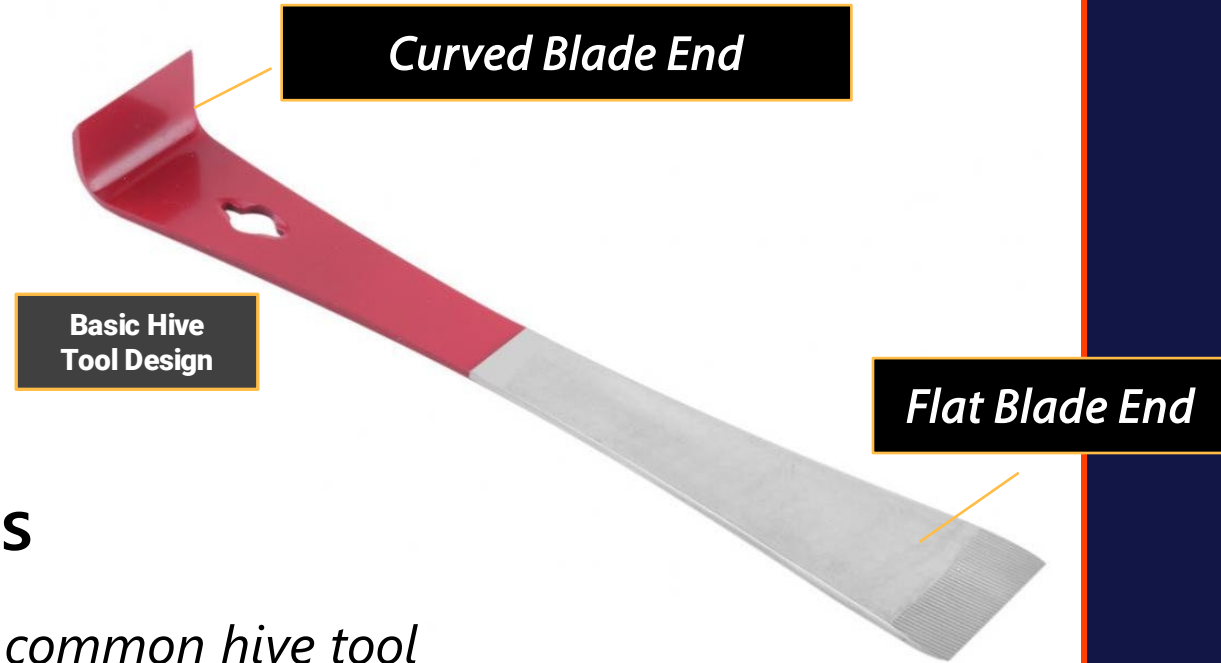
Back of the hive

Smoke the same area on the other end of the end bar on Frame #2



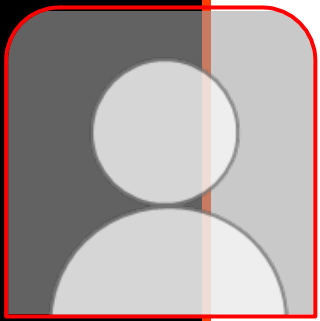
Back of the hive

Hive Tool Assumption



❑ Lesson 4 – Slide 8 Hive Tools

- *Earlier in the program we said this is a common hive tool*
 - This set of instructions assumes you are using a basic hive tool design
 - In Beekeeping there are dozens of hive tool designs...
 - ❑ It is not possible for us to go down the path of providing instructions for alternative styles. There are a multiple variations of a J-Hook style tool as an example.
 - If you are using something else, you will have to adapt to these instructions.



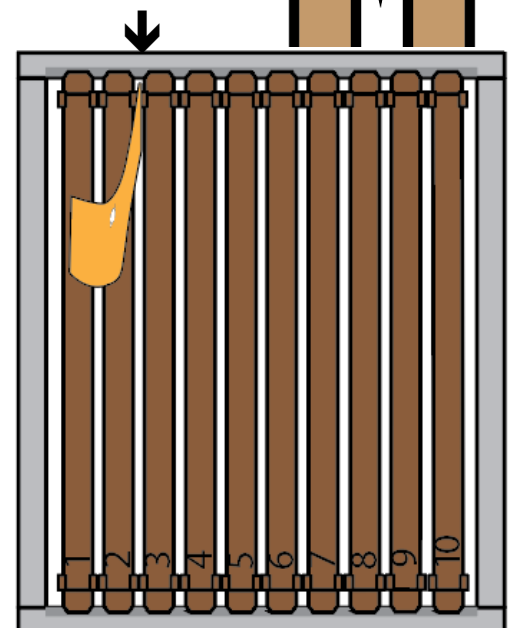
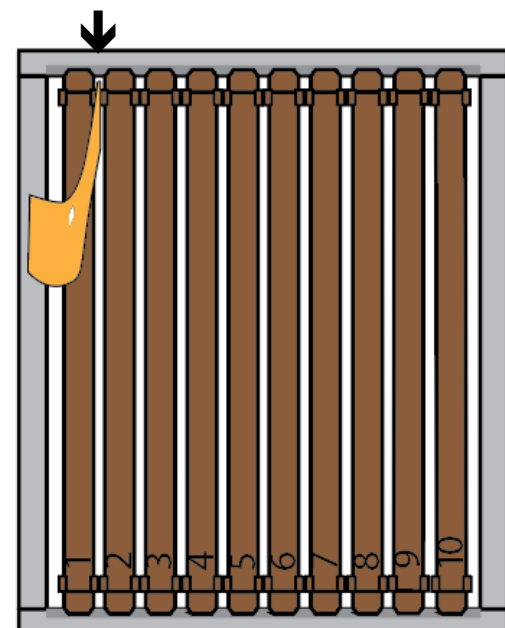
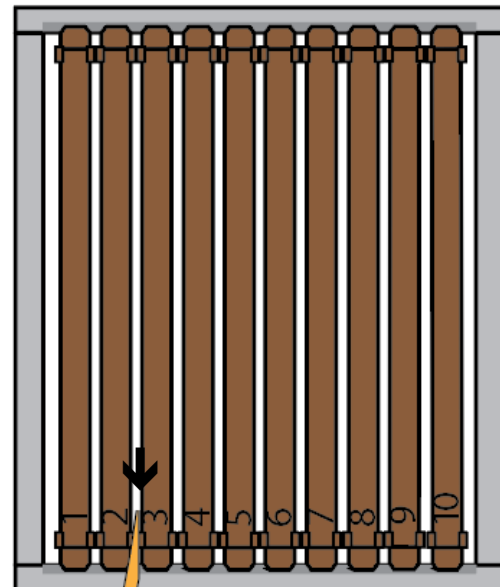
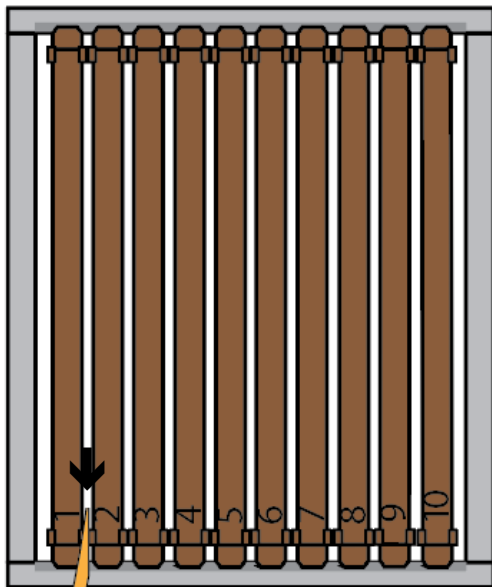
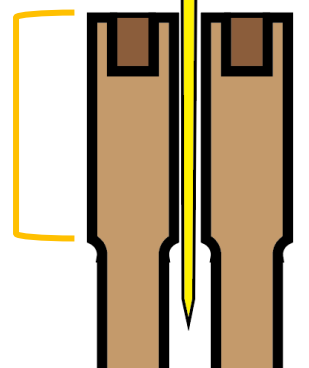
Use your hive tool to separate the shoulders

Insert the hive tool blade between the shoulders

One side, then the other

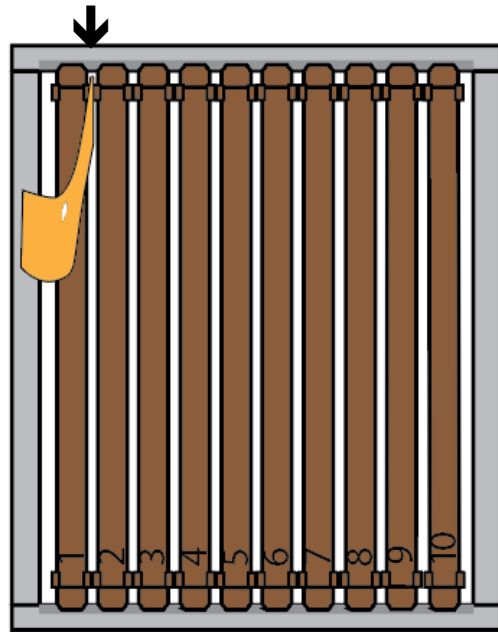
Repeat the process on the other side

Frame
Shoulder >



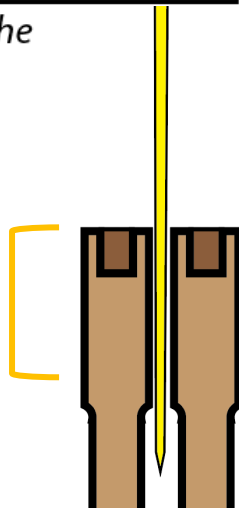
Not common on new hives

Verry common on established hives



Back of the

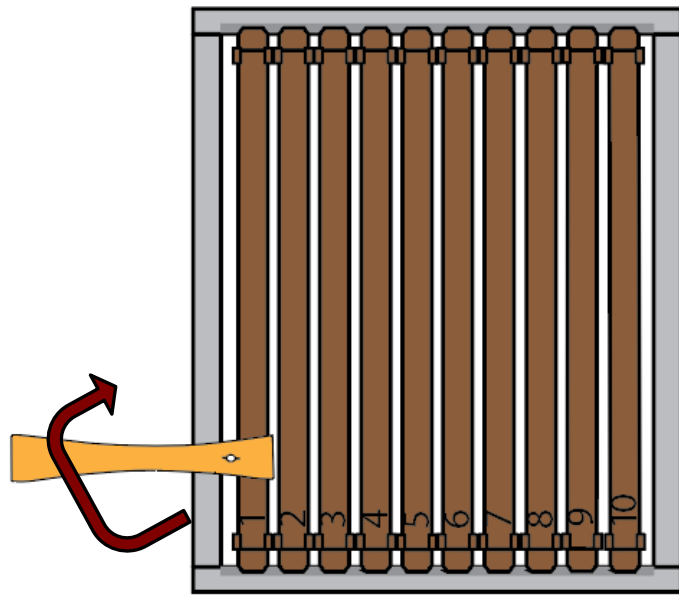
Frame
Shoulder >



□ New Hive vs. Established Hives

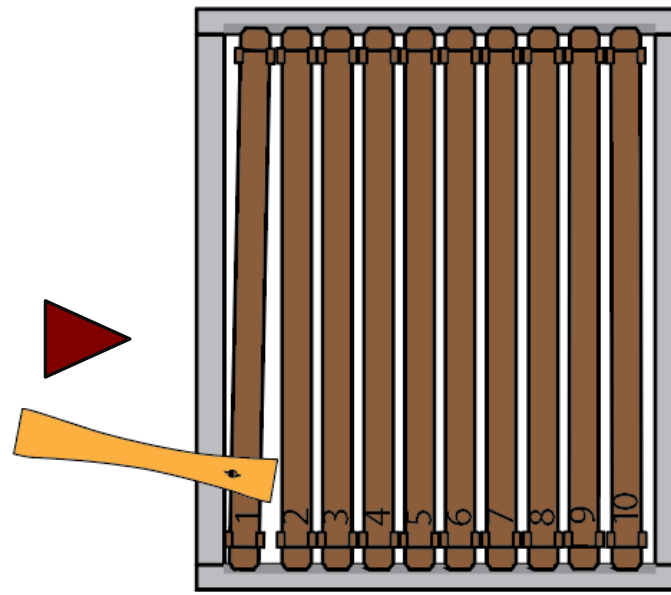
- *Inserting the blade in a new hive is probably not needed initially*
 - In newly established colonies the bees will not have enough time to propolize the shoulders together
- *Very likely on established hives*
 - You should anticipate that the longer the hive is in service, the more likely this will be needed.
 - Most times you can use the blade to pull the frame into the gap.
 - However, with some hives, you may have to slice the shoulders frame after frame, after frame.

Pull #1 away from Frame #2, using a twisting hive tool motion: blade down



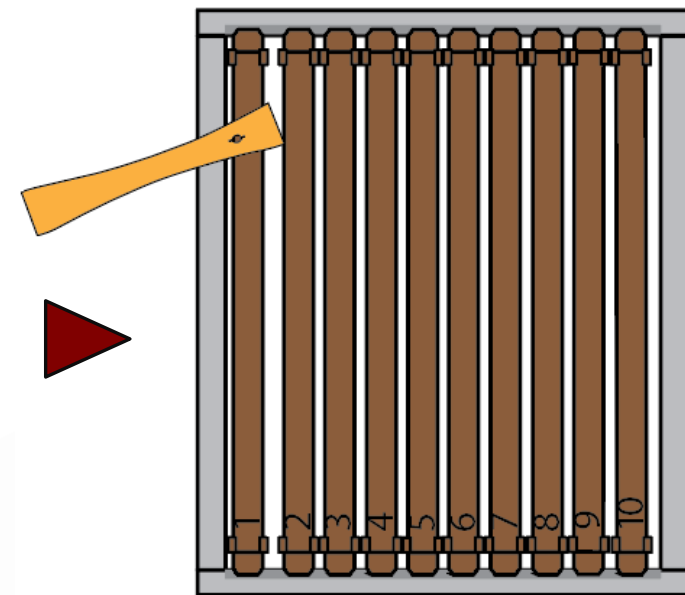
Back of the hive

Rotate the hive tool
and use the curved blade
to separate the frames



Back of the hive

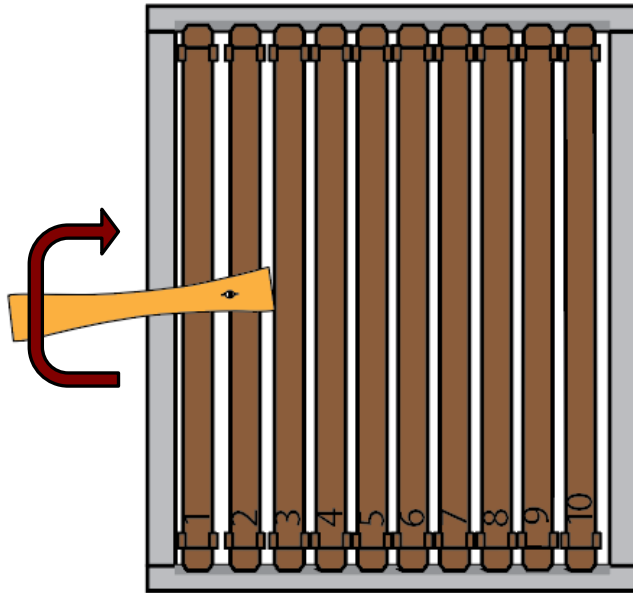
Separate #1 from #2,
make space



Back of the hive

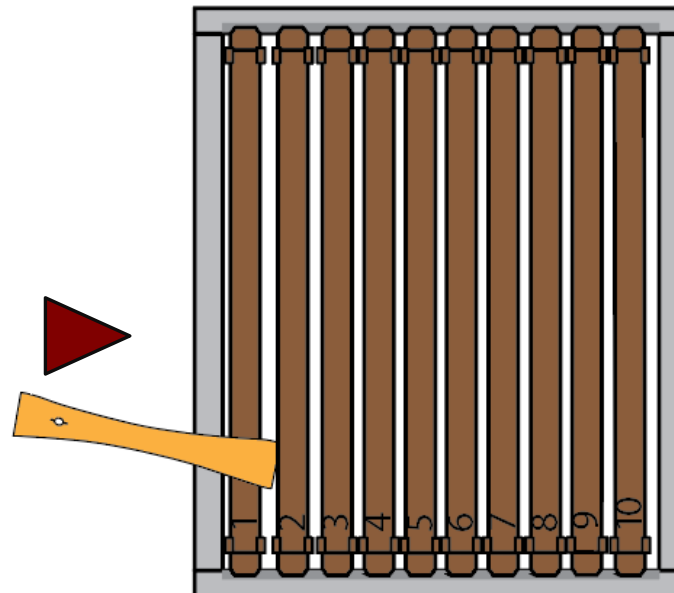
Pull #1 against the wall
and away from #2

Pull #1 away from Frame #2, using a twisting hive tool motion: blade down



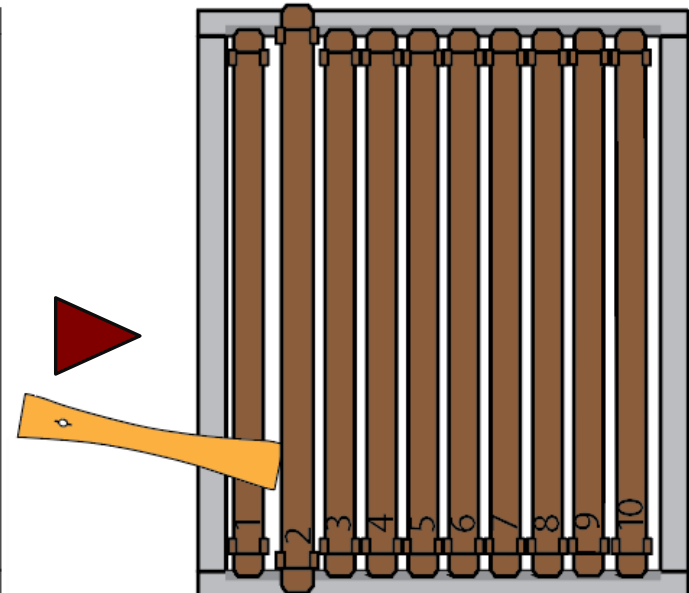
Back of the hive

Rotate the hive tool to pull #2 into the gap



Back of the hive

Use the blade end, placed over #1 to pry the top bar up



Back of the hive

Pull #2 out of the hive

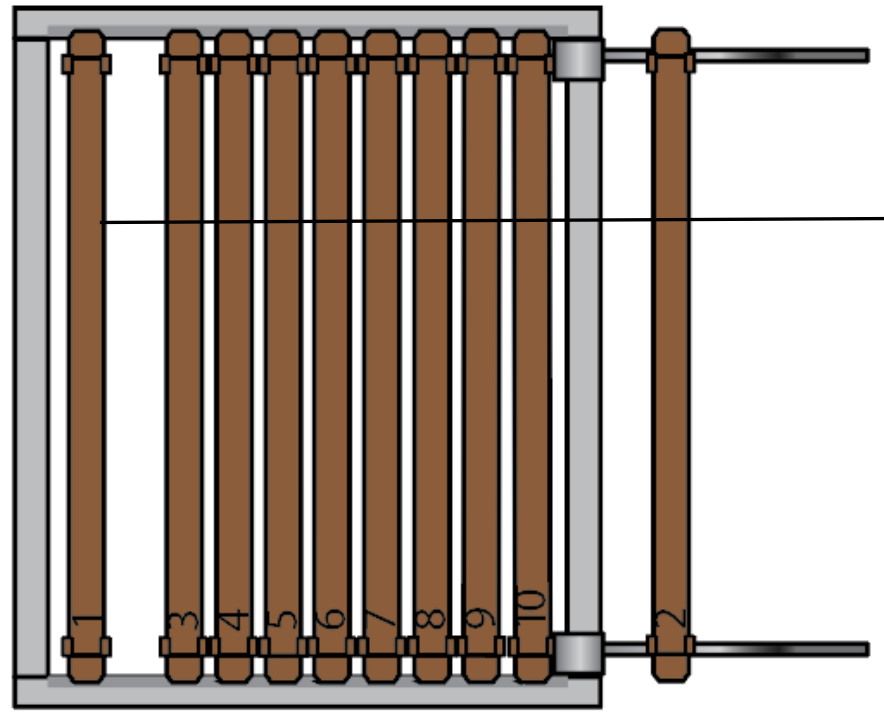
Inspect and Place #2 in the hanger

Inspect Frame #1, *or not...*

Place #2 in a frame hanger post inspection

Hang it slightly away from the side of the hive.

Avoid placing #2 right against the hive box, as the bees will walk to the side of the box



Back of the hive

If you want to inspect #1, do that now, before going to frame #3 (which is next)

When done....Place it back in the #1 spot when done

Inspect the extracted frame #2



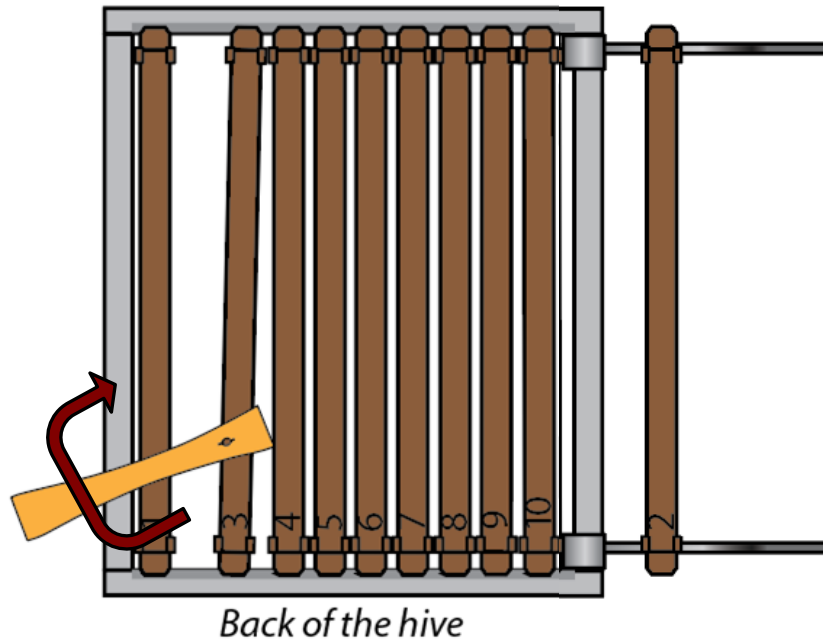
Place #2 on your frame hanger



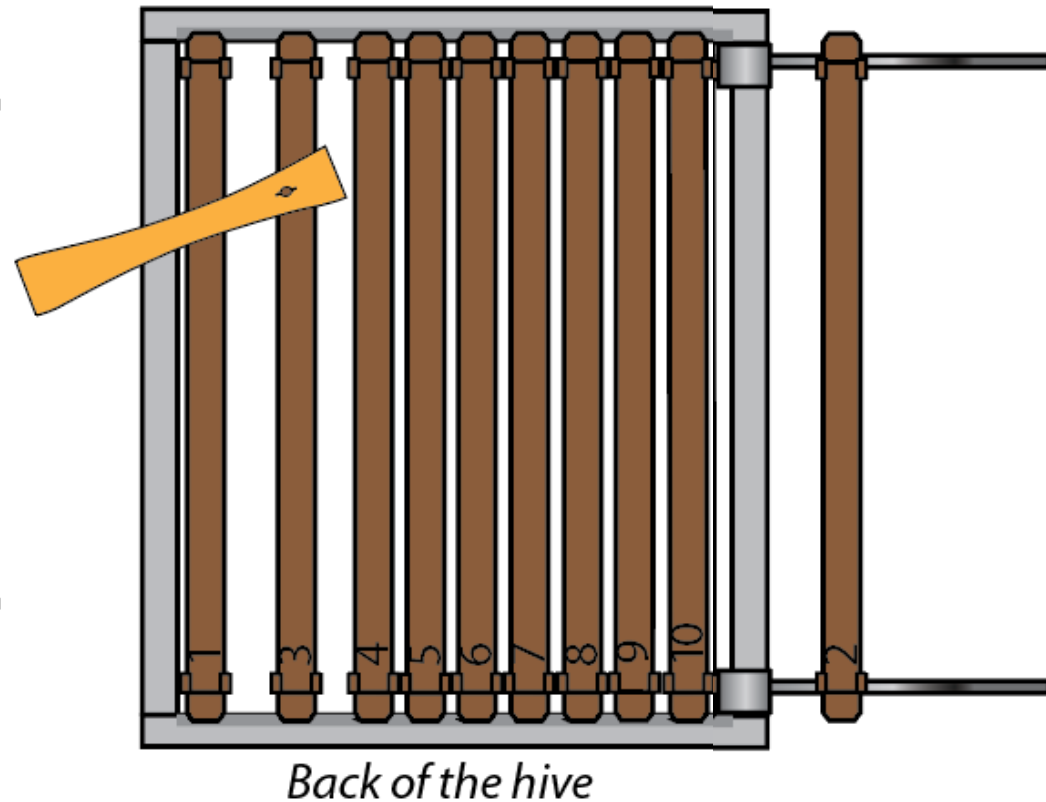
Optionally check frame #1 if you need to see what it holds



Pull #3 into the gap so it can be extracted for inspection

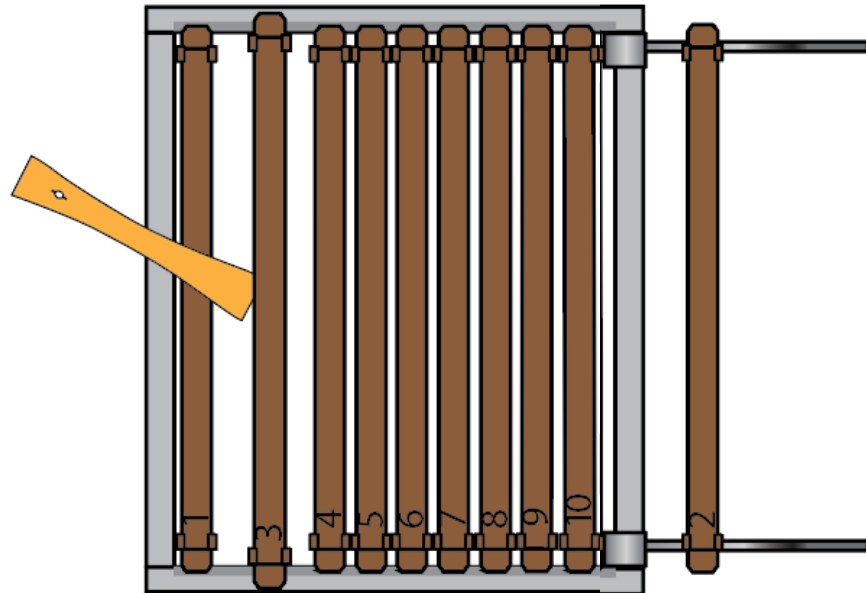


Twist the hive tool blade to pull #3 into the gap



Do the same for the other side

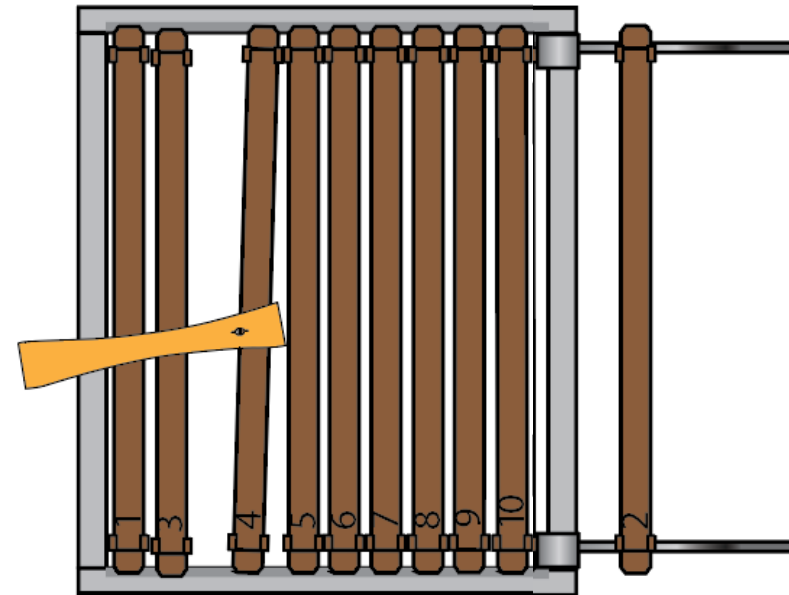
Pull #3 from the hive – inspect it... Place it back in slot #2



Back of the hive

Use the blade end to pull #3 out and inspect.

↓ 3 went back in the gap!

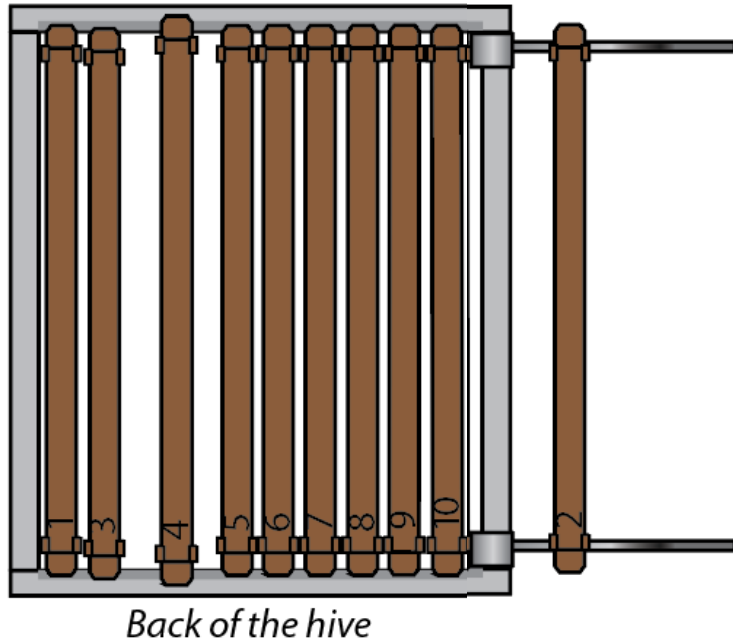


Back of the hive

After inspection, #3 goes in the #2 slot.
...Pull #4 into the gap.

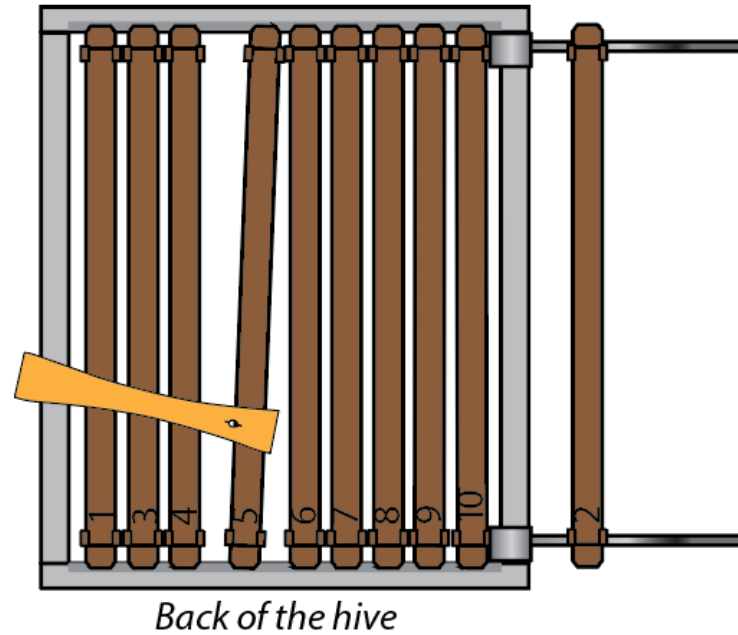
Always put frames back in the same orientation they came from the hive

Repeat the process for #4 and #5

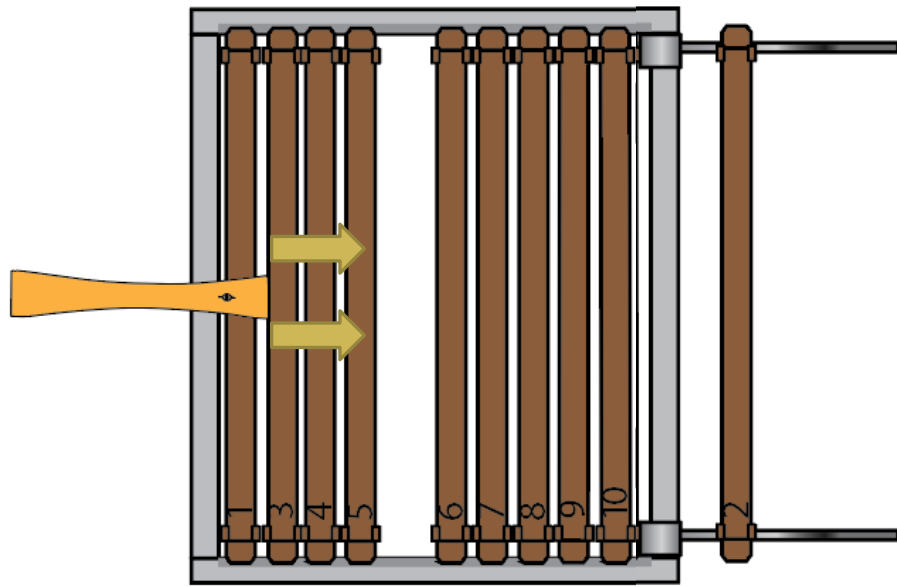


Once in the gap, pull #4 and inspect

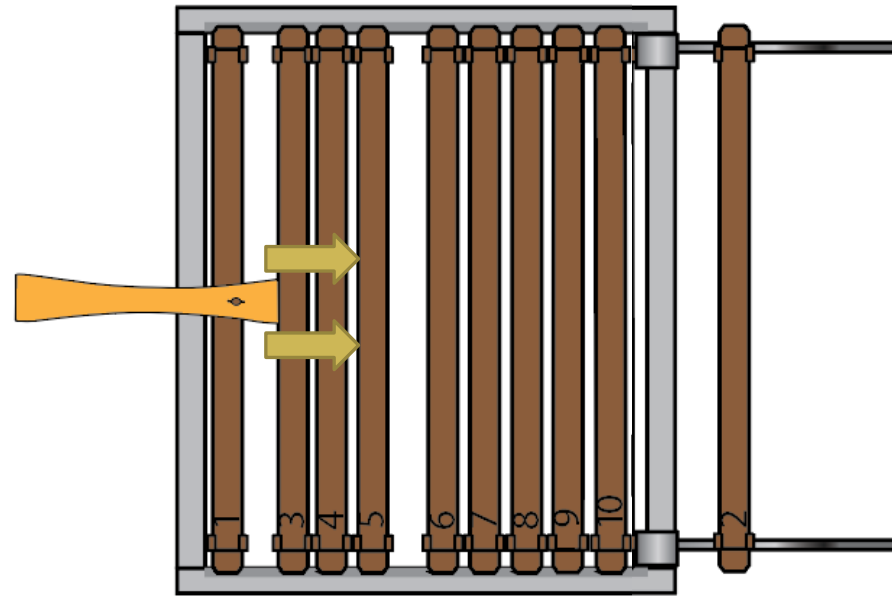
↓ 4 went back in the gap!



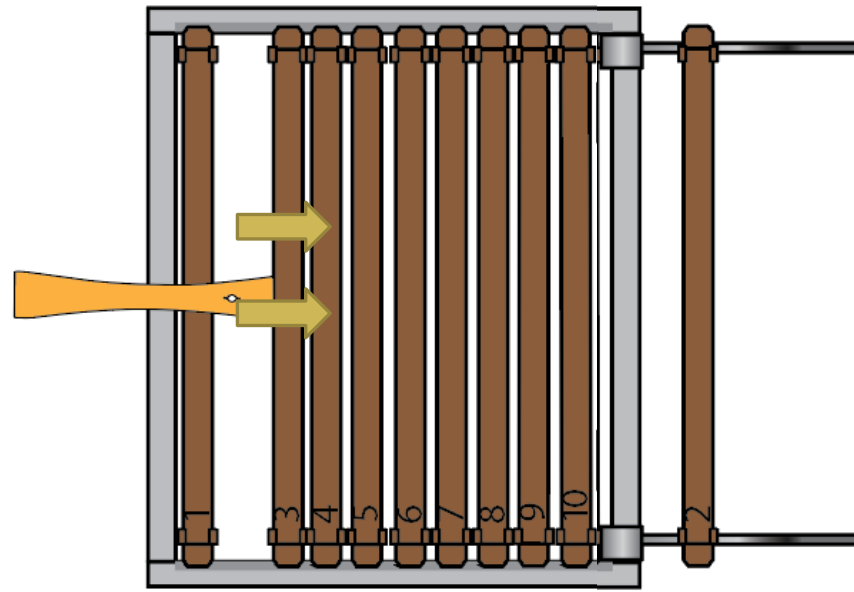
Put #4 back, Pull #5 into the gap and inspect. Continue until done.



Back of the hive

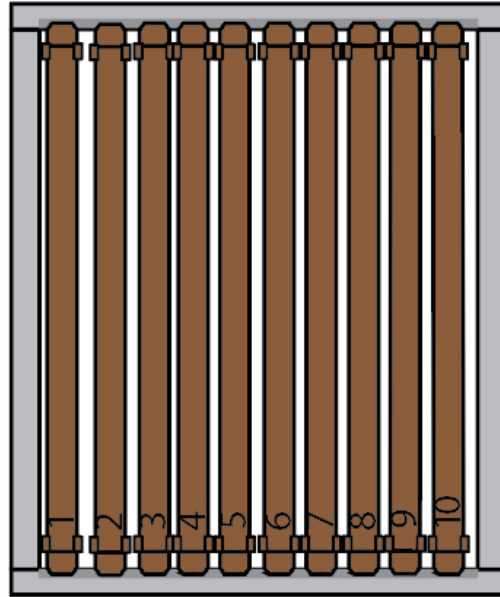


Back of the hive



Back of the hive

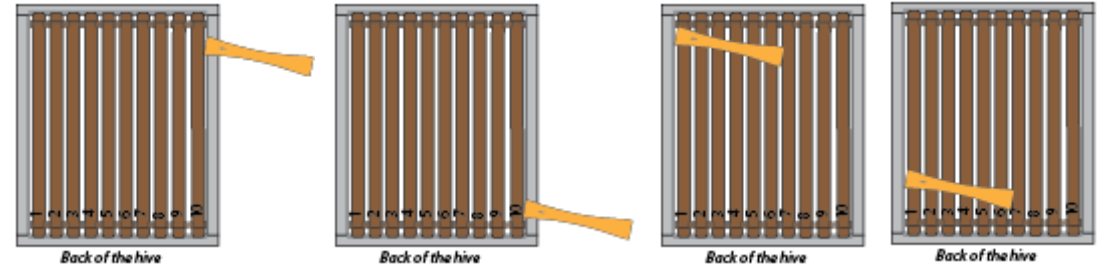
Mind the Gaps!



Back of the hive

All the frames are in the box. One more task to do.

Nestle the frames together and center in the box



Back of the hive

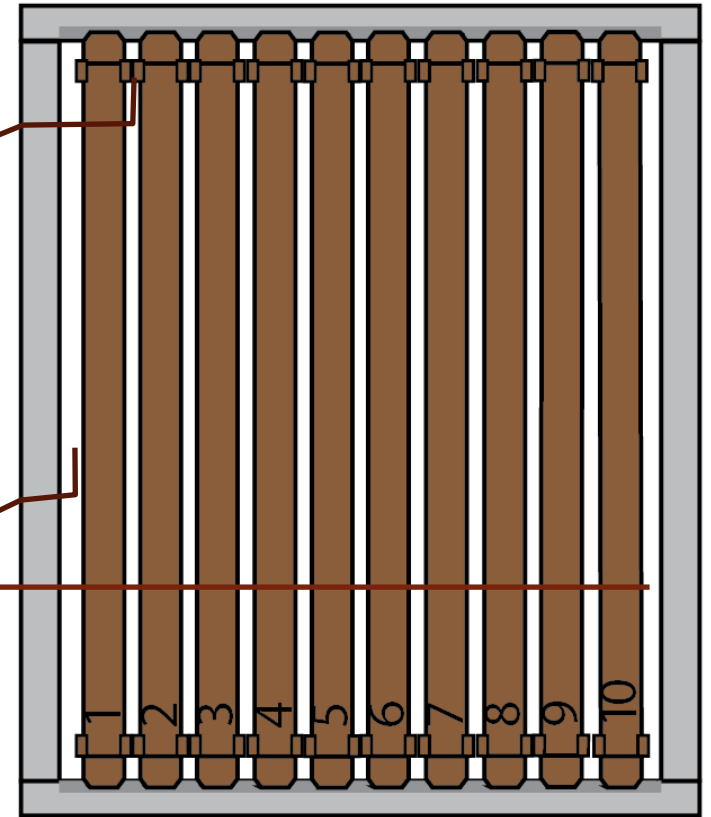
Back of the hive

Back of the hive

Back of the hive

Shoulders Touching

Even Space Both Sides



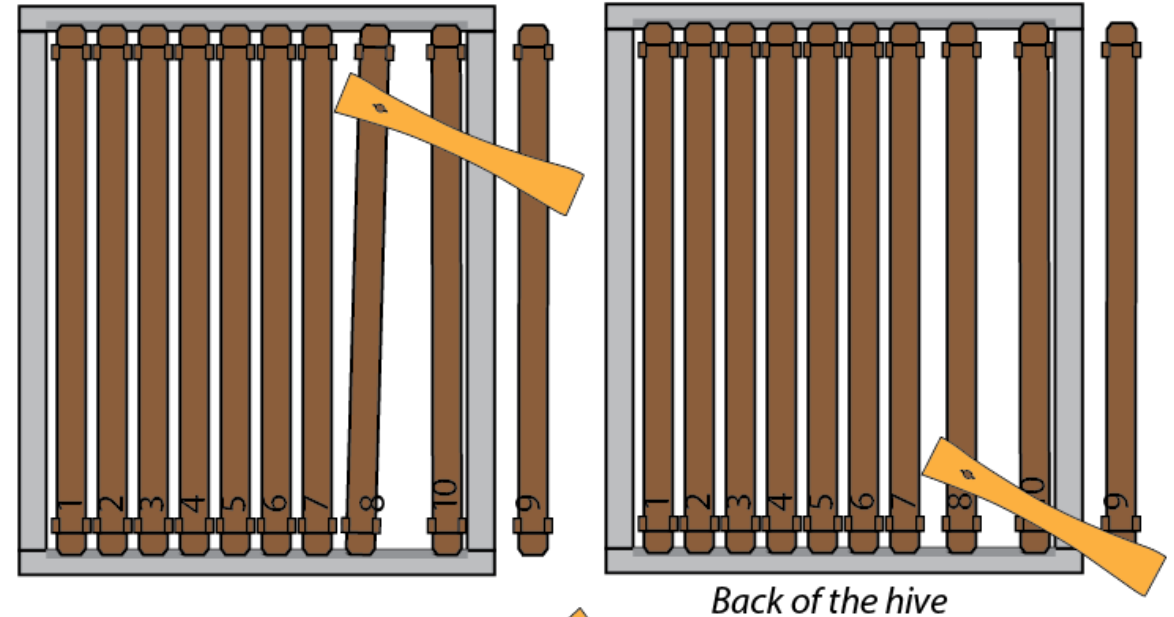
Back of the hive



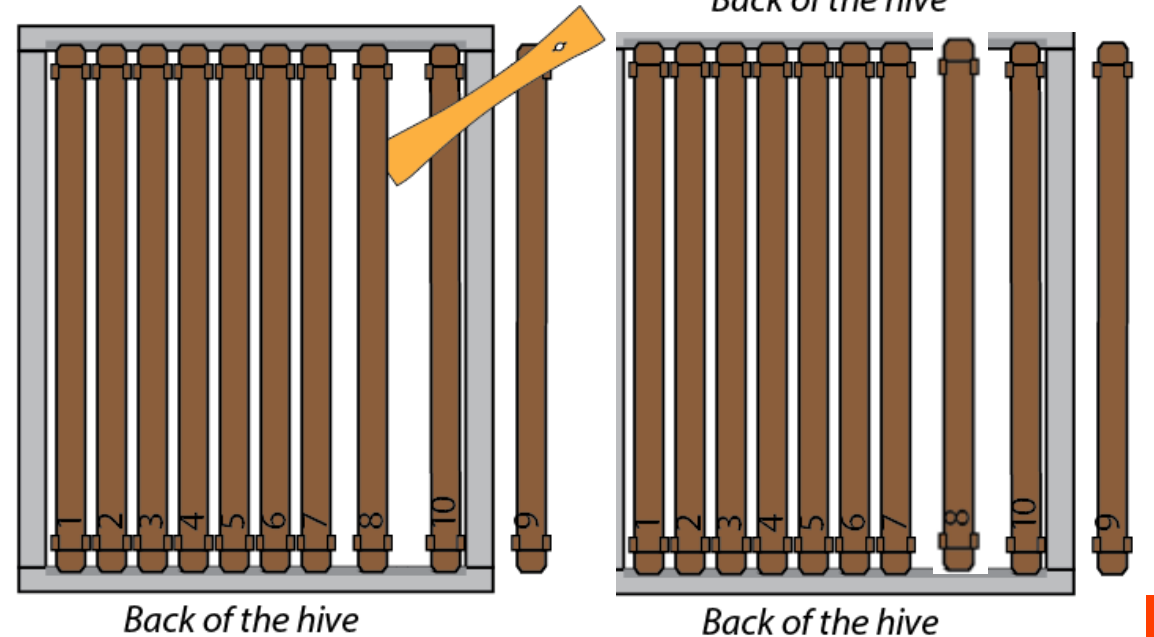
If you work
the hive from
the other side

*Simply reverse
the order*

Separate 8
from 7, move
into the gap



Once Free, pull
8 and inspect,
when done, put
back in the hive



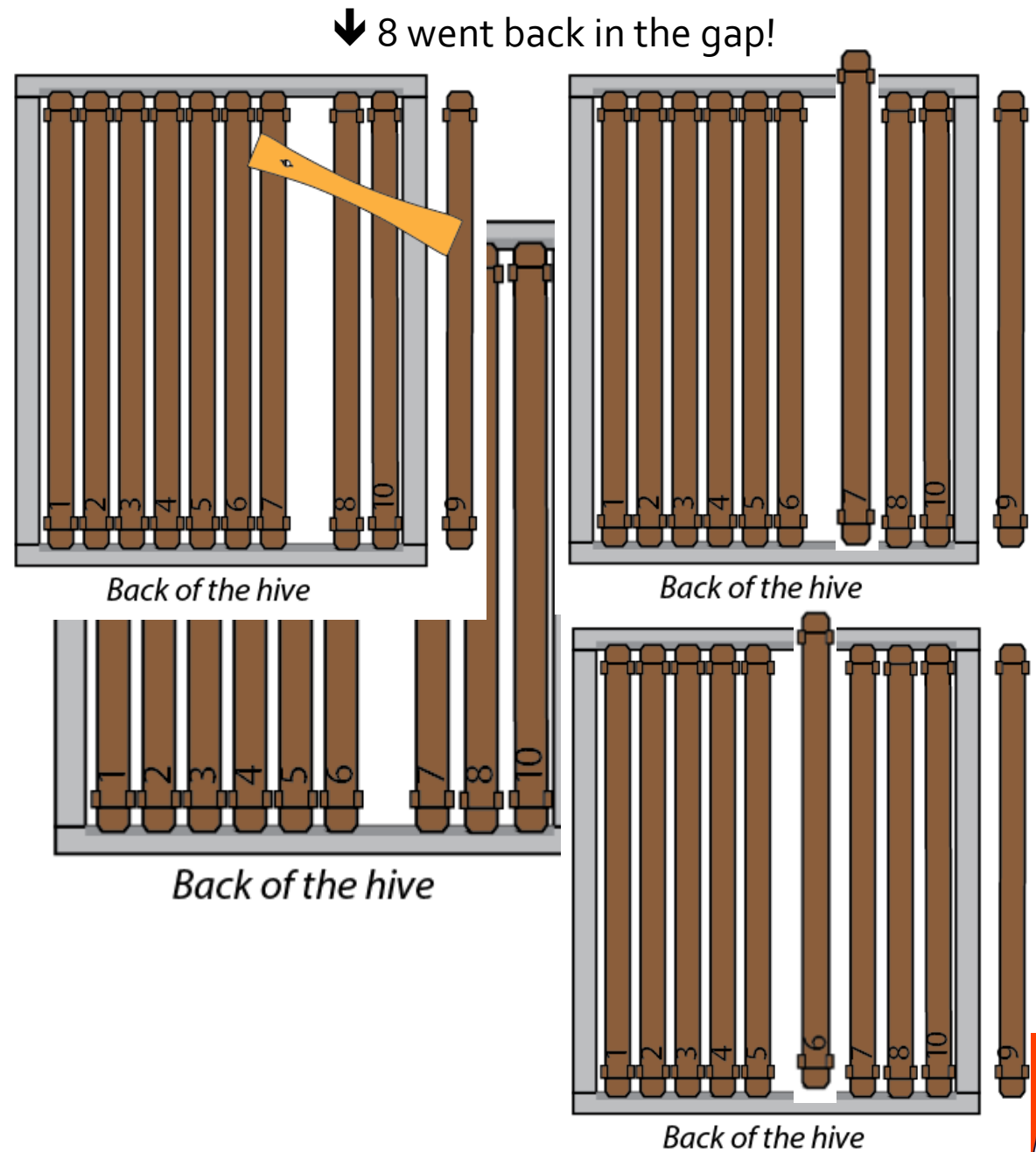
Freeing up #7 and #6

Put 8 next to
10. With 8
back in the
hive, separate 7
from 6, move
into the gap

Inspect 7

Put 7 in the
gap, Pull 6

Keep going

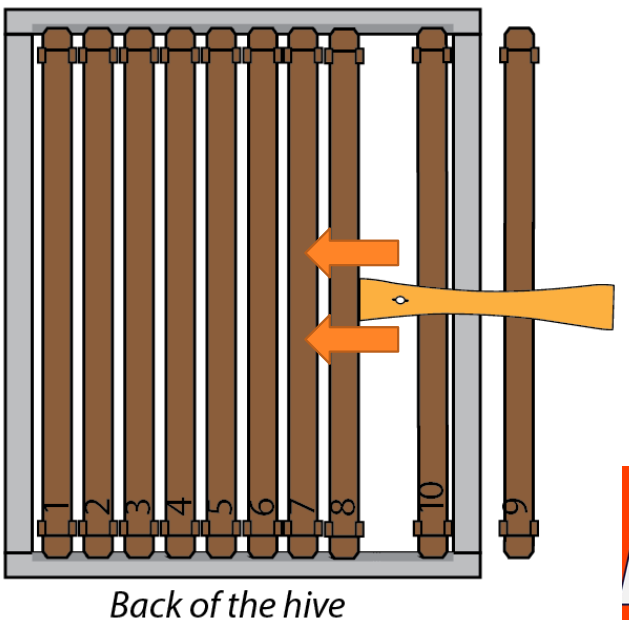
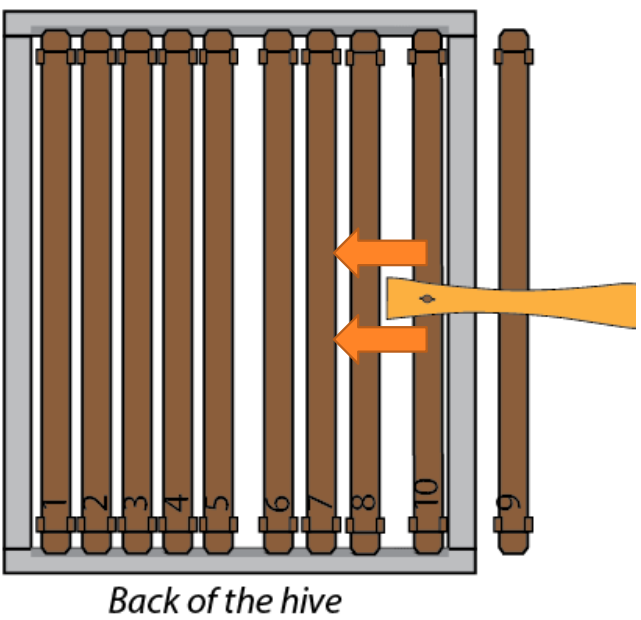
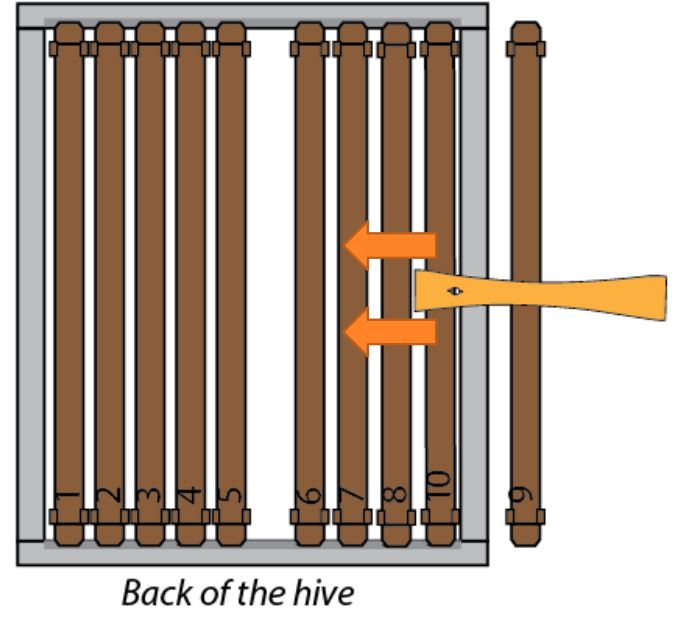
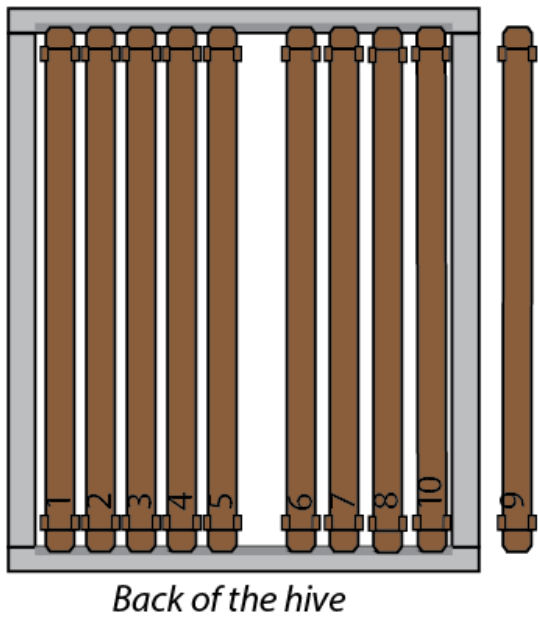


Returning Frames to their original position

Put 6 and keep going until done.

When done, use your hive tool to push the frames back into position

You can save time by pushing multiple at a time as depicted.



Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
 - Where we stand, where we are going...
 - *This module closes out some of the philosophical baseline topics*
 - *Our next topic moves to the preparatory steps for getting started:*
 - Feeding New Colonies
 - Record Keeping
 - Equipment Prep for Future
 - Things you will See – Reading the hive
 - Graduating from one box to two



Q&A

- **What Questions did we not anticipate?**
 - If you have feedback, you can leave a constructive comment; but be nice.
 - You could also send an email to comments@managedmentoring.com
 - *Please refer to this video in the subject so we know what the reference is.*

