



The Managed Mentoring Program on getting started in beekeeping.

Managed Mentoring



Managed Mentoring

Performing a Traditional Split

Lesson | Traditional Split



What is Covered in this Module

Plan your split tactics

Moving the resources from the origin hive to the split

Replenishing the resources moved out of the origin

New Queen Options, if not moving the queen

Make the split defensible

Split Relocation



Plan *Your* Split

□ Build a Plan

- *Prep your hive equipment – traditionally it is a Nuc Box*
 - This often equates to a 5-Frame Nuc Setup. Roof, inner cover, boxes, and bottom board.
 - Additionally, you will need 5 Frames with foundation to put into the origin colony to replace the 5-frames you remove
- *The receiving hive equipment*
 - It does not have to be a 5-Frame Nuc. You could make a split into another 10-frame box and split into two 10 frame colonies.
 - You could, with a very populous hive, technically split to 4 5-frame nucs



Prep the Destination and Transfer

□ Prep the Destination

- *In the traditional approach, a split relocated off property*
 - This is done to keep the migrated bees from returning to the origin colony
 - This will require you to prepare a spot for the hive

□ Prep the Transfer

- *Consider the transportation required to move to another location*
 - Closing for transport, Securing/Strapping the hive, transport process considerations, etc.



In Advance (Inventory)

□ Consider Performing Reconnaissance

- *Pre-Cursor Hive inspection*

- Consider performing a hive inspection for the colony you are going to split
- Take inventory of the hive contents, and where they are located
 - Ensure that the hive has all that you need to make the split
 - Also consider what you will leave behind and how you might rearrange it as you perform the activity

- *Consider your plan*

- A Traditional Split moves the existing queen to the new hive
- Have a plan for a replacement queen for the origin hive – *more on this in a bit*



In Advance (Queen Isolation)

□ Isolation of the queen

- *Assess your ability to find the queen*

- If when performing your pre-cursor hive inspection you discover it could be a difficult task to find the queen consider constraining her
- You could place a queen excluder between the two boxes.
 - This will isolate the queen in one or the other and when you go to perform the split you will know she is in the one that has new brood being produced (eggs are present)

- *Consider the timing*

- If you are going to do this, then you have to plan the timing of the pre-split activities.



Have a Plan for the Existing Queen

□ Move the frame, or move the queen directly

- *Consider how you will move the queen*

- Traditionally you will find the queen and take the frame she is resident on
- Sometimes that is not a desirable frame, and you might want to pluck her from the frame and move here directly – leaving the undesirable frame in the origin hive
 - The need for this is feasible as you will no control on where the queen will be when you make the split.
 - You may or may not be comfortable with picking up a queen. If you are not, consider alternatives to help accomplish the task. There are queen moving devices in catalogs
 - Tip: you can rehearse the action with your device or plucking queens by using drones to practice.

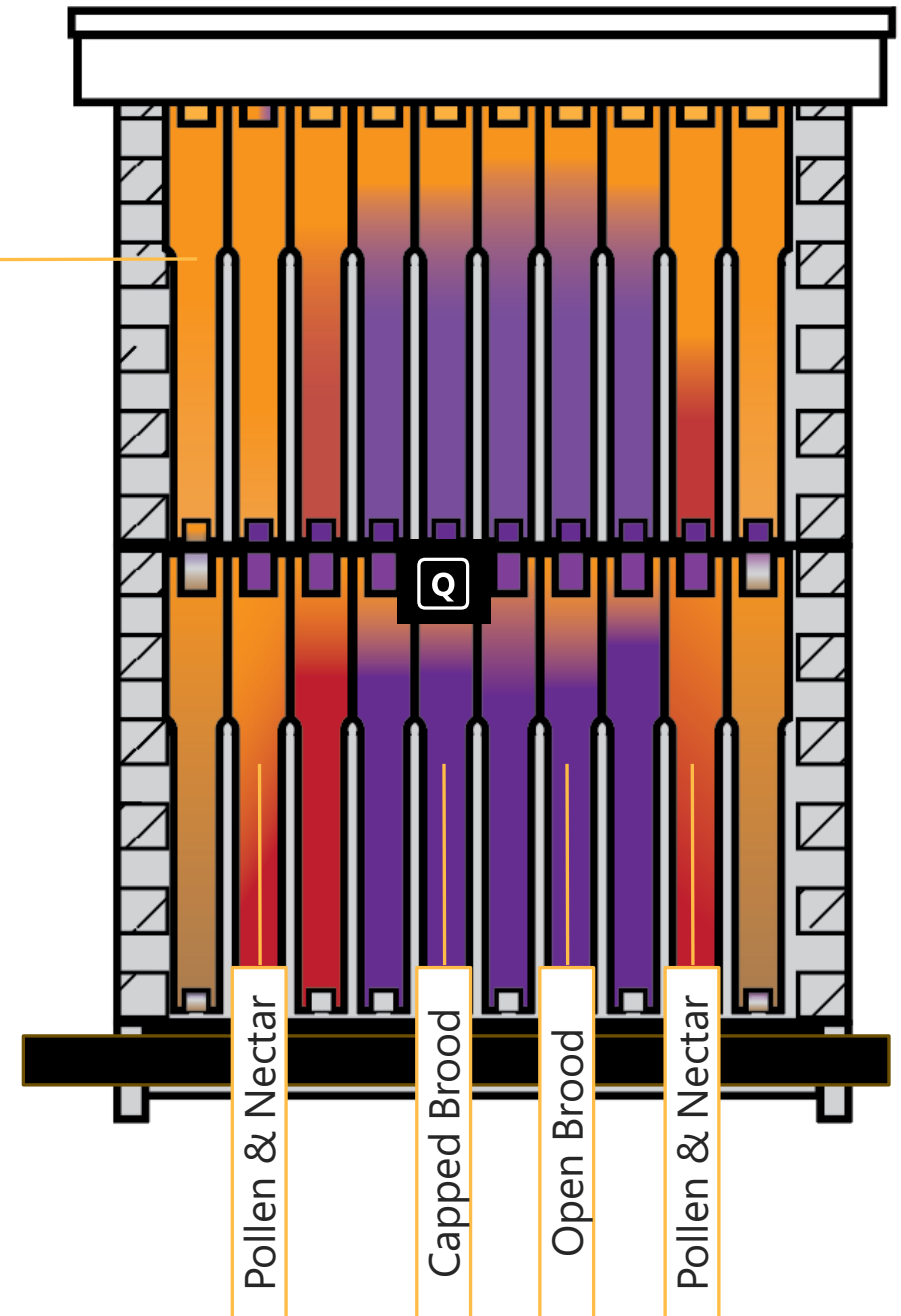


Target Frames

□ Brood Frames

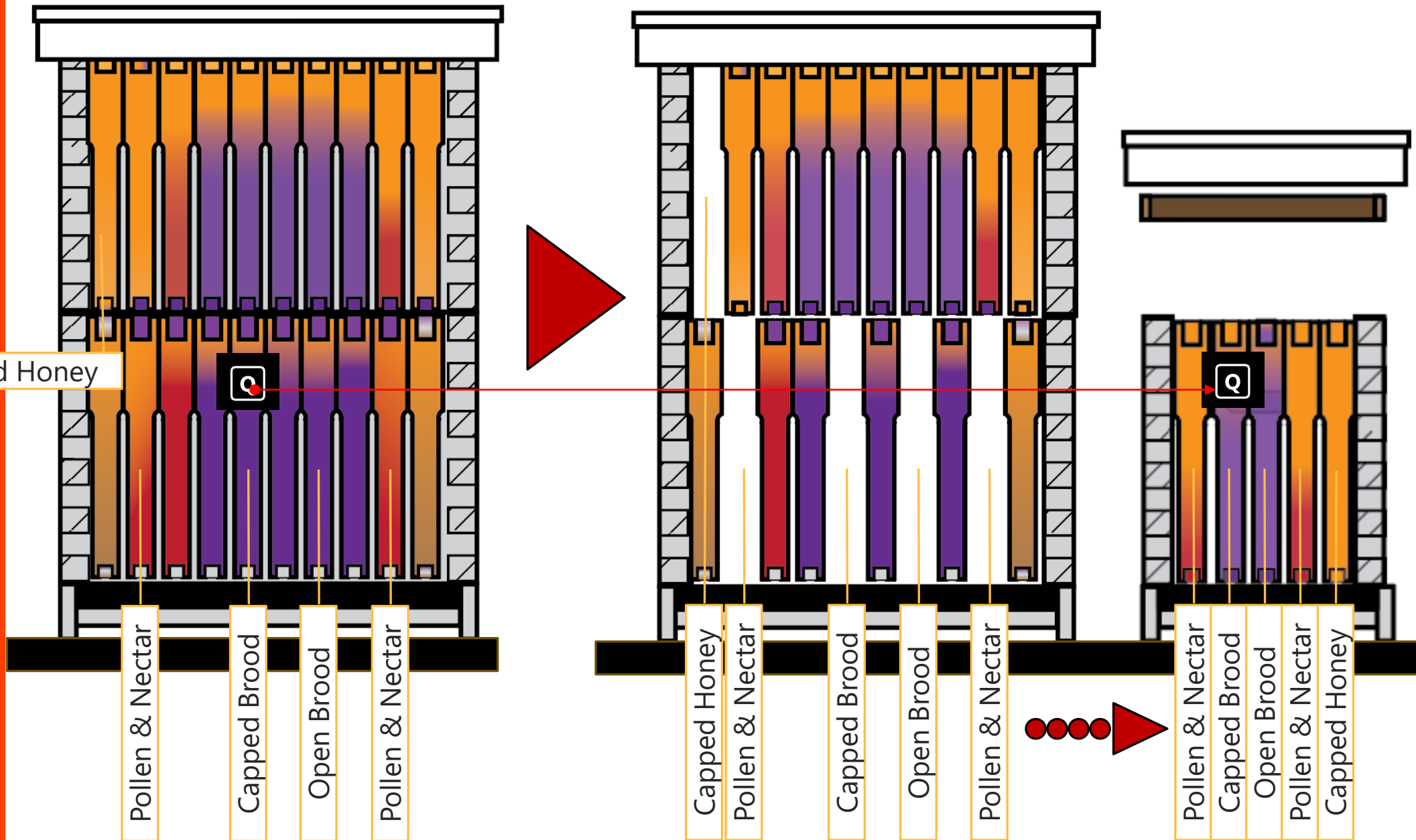
- *At least two brood frames*
 - One with open brood, one with capped brood
- *Two mixed frames (pollen, nectar)*
- *One capped honey frame*
- *The Queen!*

Capped Honey



Transfer to a 5-frame Nuc

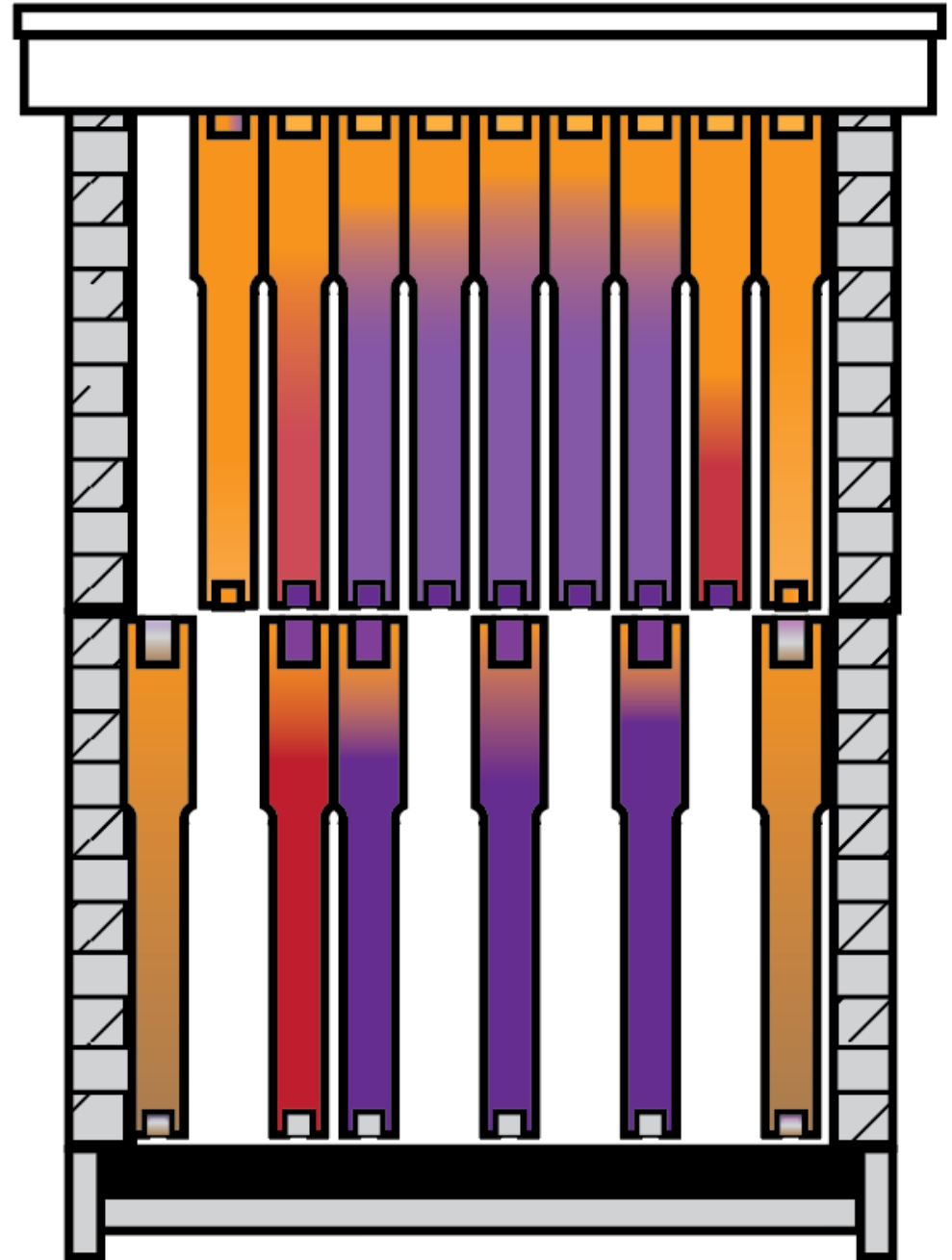
Capped Honey



Handling the Holes

❑ Deciding

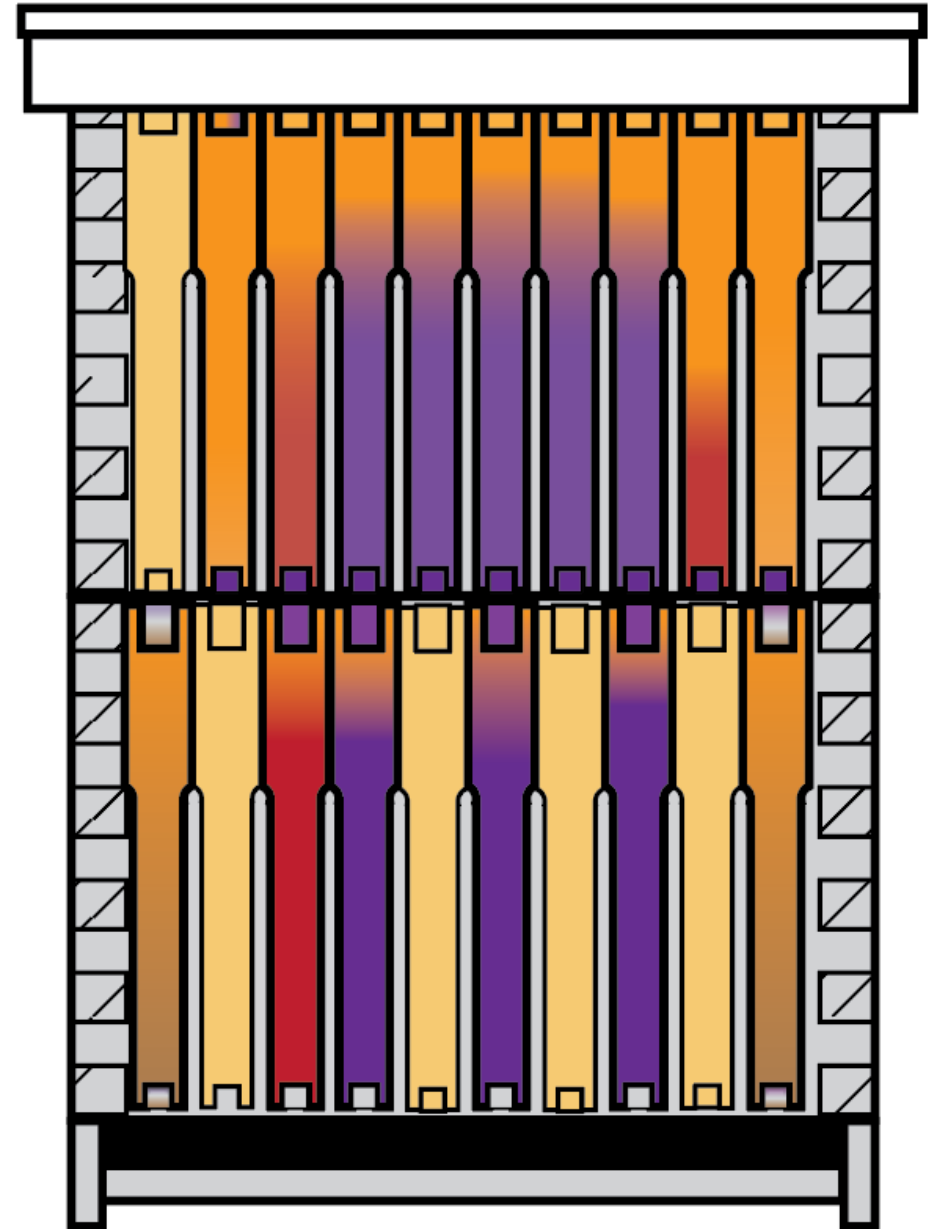
- *As mentioned earlier You could split the colony further*
 - Example: Split the remaining frames into three additional 5-frame nucs (supplying 3 new queens)
- *You can simply fill the holes with frame that have foundation*
- *You can also rearrange*



Fill the Frames

□ Place frames in the gaps

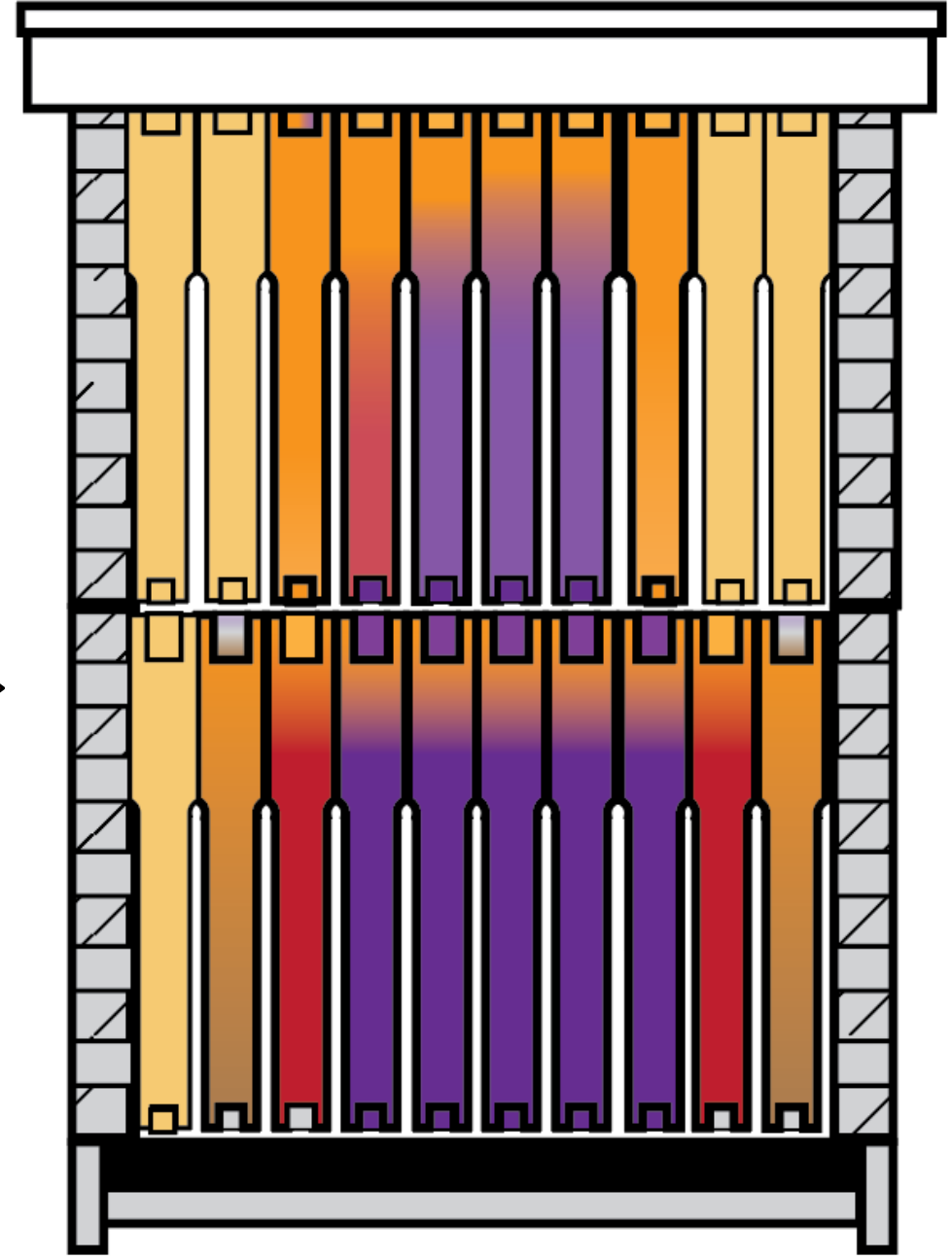
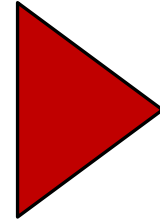
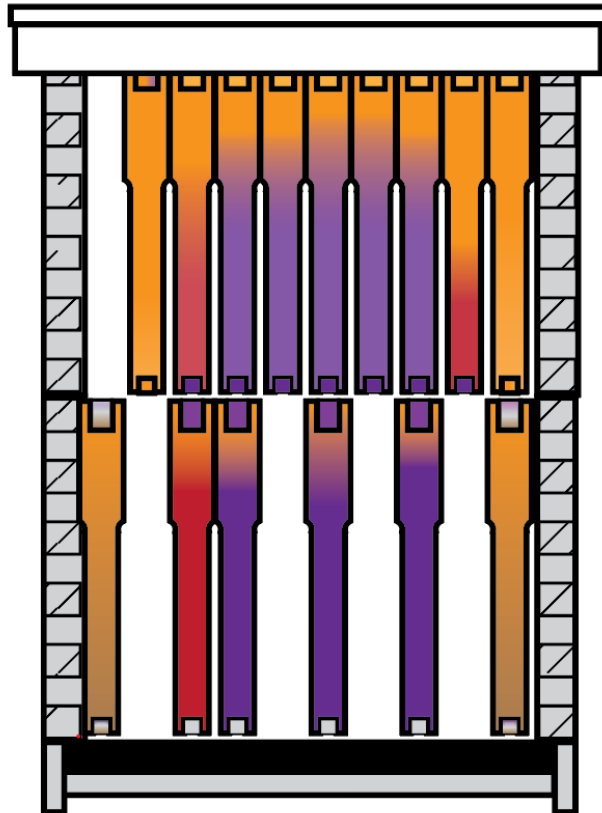
- *The frames could be drawn comb, if you have that available*
- *The frames could be basic undrawn foundation*
- *Consider that what you choose has implications on how fast the hive rebuilds*



Rearranged

□ Brood Consolidated

- *Some frames shifted around to compact the resources (pyramid)*

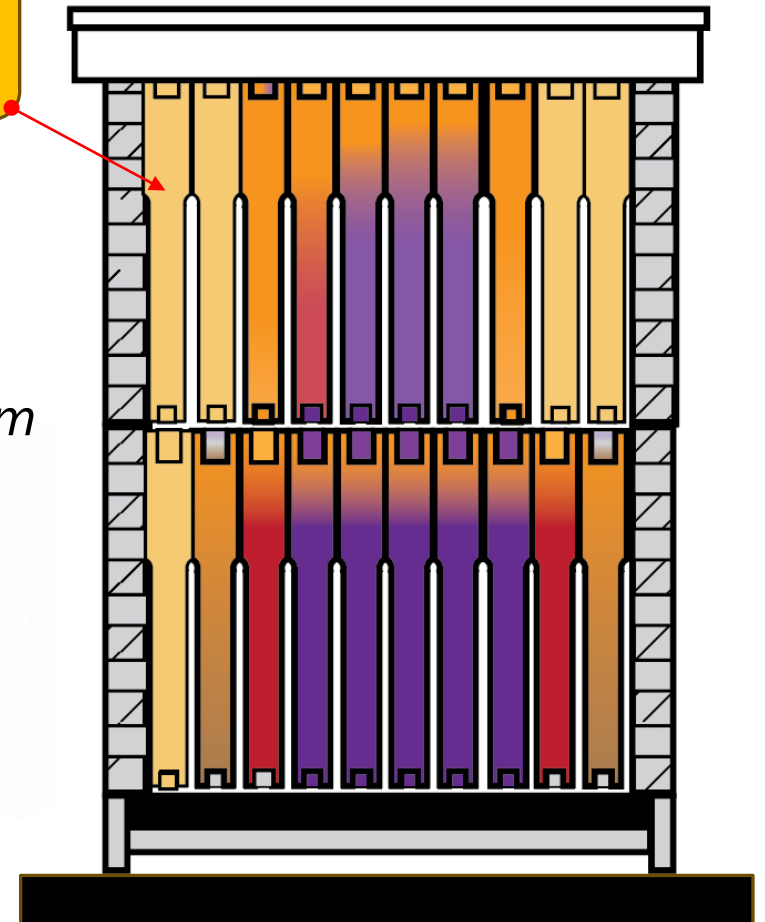


New Queen Arrangement for the original colony

❑ Decide how to requeen

- *Let the colony raise swarm queen cells?*
- *Install a purchased replacement queen?*
- *Harvest queen cells from other hives and put them in for the colony to raise?*
- *Install grafted queens that you rear?*

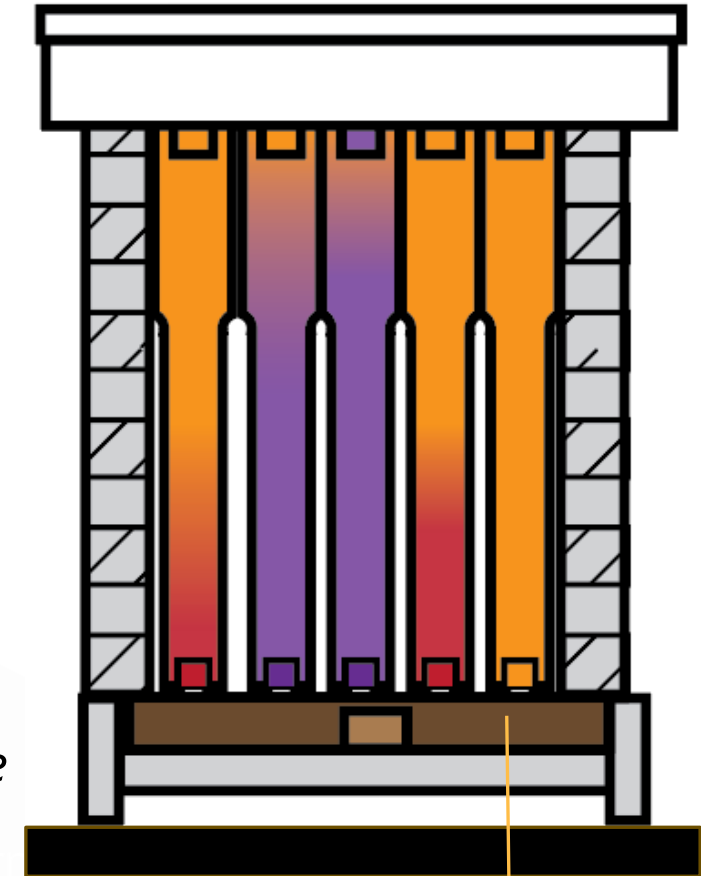
All are possible options....



Make Nucs Defensible

❑ Add an entrance reducer

- *Do not forget to protect the colony by closing the entrance down*
 - A smaller entrance closed the exposure and provides a small entrance for the guards to patrol
- *Be sure to monitor the colony growth and open the entrance as the colony grows*



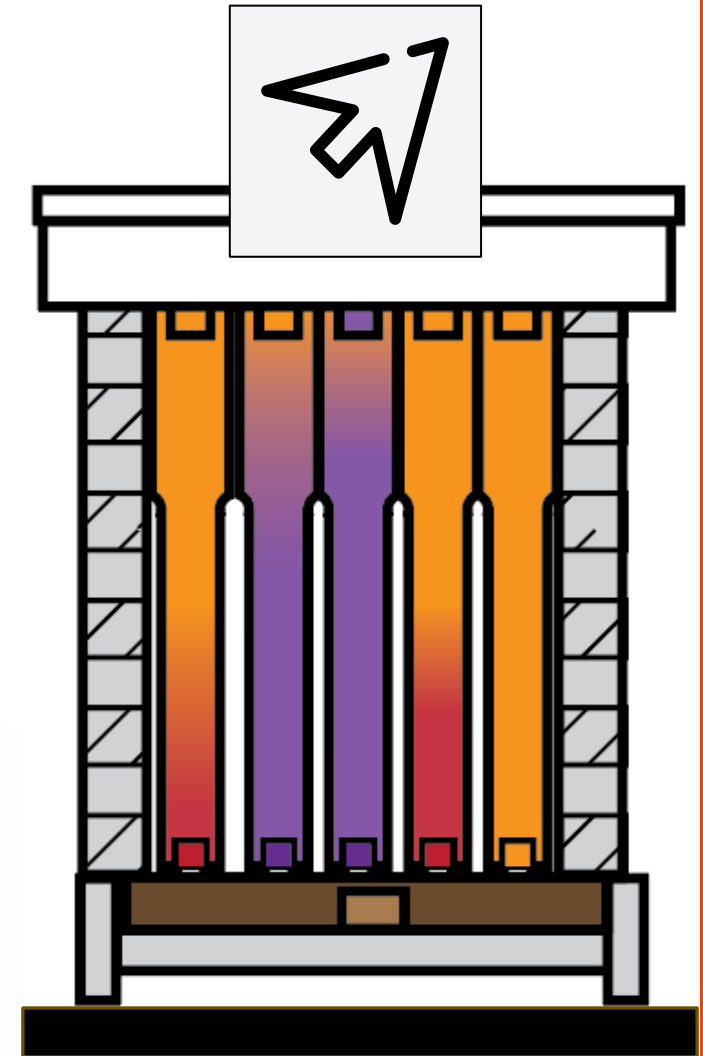
Add an Entrance Reducer



Execute Transportation Plan

□ Temporary Move

- *Execute the move to a temporary holding area to let the colony coalesce*
 - Close the hive – transport it 3+ miles away
- *Leave it there for a week plus*
 - When it is oriented to the spot, you are safe to move it back in
- *Return to Apiary*
 - Return at night, and close the hive, bring it home



Closing Comments

- **Customary Close**
 - Where we stand, where we are going...
 - *This module walked through details of how to perform a split*
 - *Our next topic covers alternative tactics for making splits*
 - Specifically:
 - A walkaway style split
 - And a Demaree Procedure
 - When the split lessons are finished, we will cover how to capture swarms and an introduction to swarm traps
 - A honey harvesting series will follow these lessons.



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.*

