



Sunshine Hill Farms, LLC

2026 Gadget Garage EAS | July 31, 2026



15+ year hobbyist beekeeper – 15 to 20 hives

EAS Master Beekeeper

Past President – NWNJBA

Day Job > Medical Affairs IT, Bristol Myers Squibb

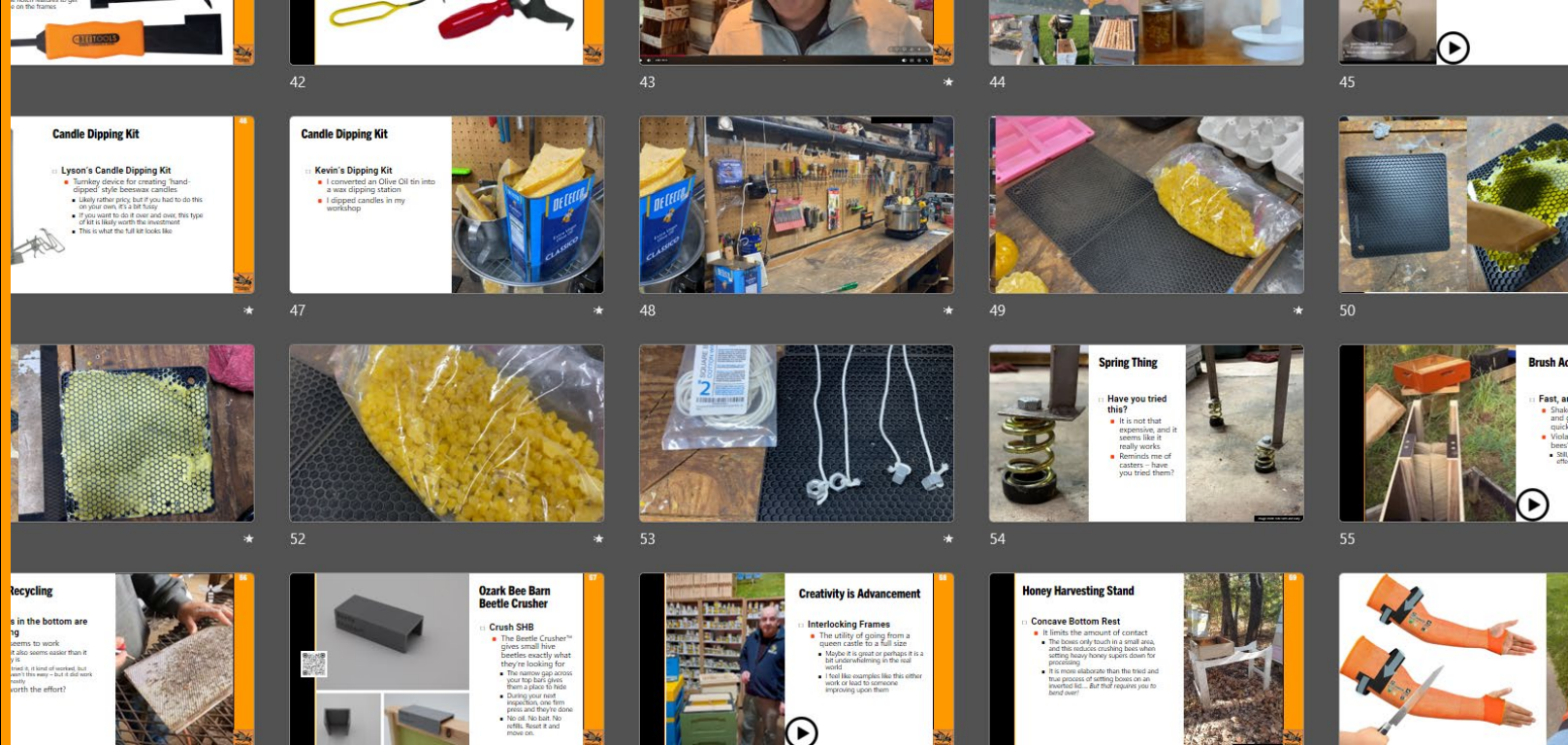
Beekeeping Podcaster

Managed Mentoring Program for Getting Started in Beekeeping

INTRODUCTION
– Kevin Inglin

Our Home Yard





2026 Gadget Garage

Exploring Gadgets in the Marketplace

What is the Gadget Garage?

- **Ingenuity, Craftsmanship, Creativity!**
 - We enjoy the craft and practice of beekeeping
 - But we also enjoy the creative side of gadgets
 - This includes great products in the marketplace



What is the Gadget Garage?

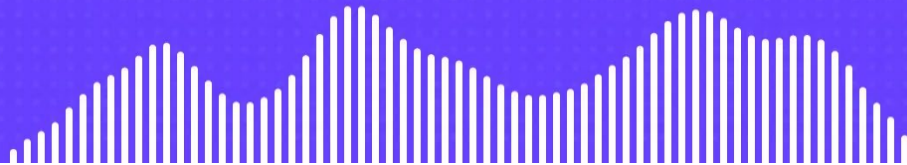
- **Ingenuity, Craftsmanship, Creativity!**
 - We enjoy the craft and practice of beekeeping
 - But we also enjoy the creative side of gadgets
 - This includes great products in the marketplace
- **A diverse mix of items**
 - Many homemade
 - Some store bought
 - Some creative ideas for using non beekeeping things...



The Truth about Hacks & Gadgets



The Truth About Gadget Spending



Mueller Honey Bee · Subscribe

Mueller Honey Bee · Original audio

The Truth about Gadgets



- **What she says is gospel**
 - Gadget spending can get serious
 - Incidentally, this is an abbreviated clip for the purpose of brevity
 - I might suggest that you take the time to scan the QR code and enjoy the rest of her reflection – *which is spot on...LOL*
 - Still, I say it costs nothing to dream and admire so let's have a little fun looking at the things that the marketplace and items creative beekeepers have to offer
 - And, well, here and there, we can make or buy some of these on our "Power of Acquisition" list
 - **Power of Acquisition** > This is the list of things to lust after.... *for the fun of the hunt*





Storage Tubs

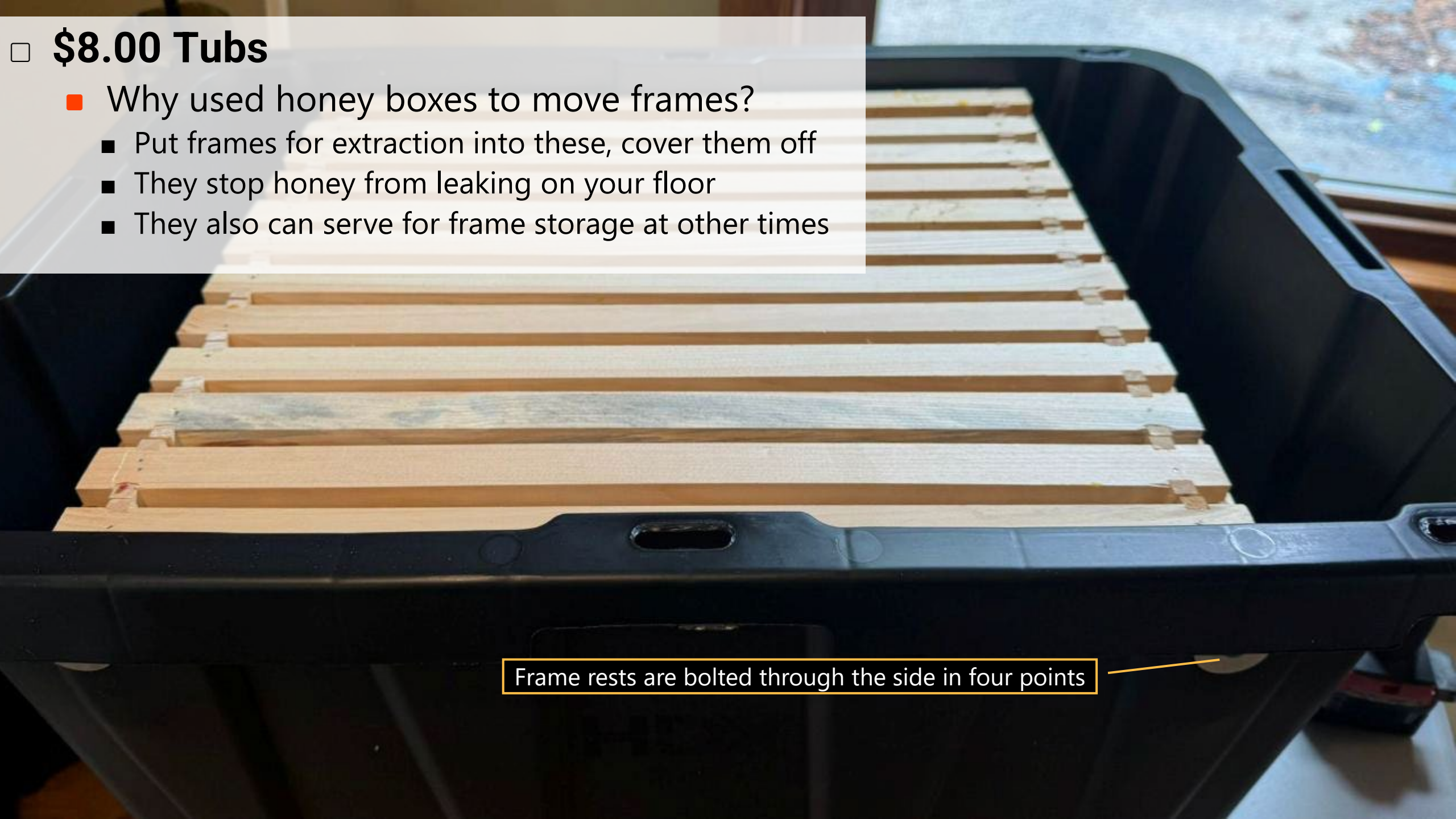


Simple Frame Rests Added

□ **\$8.00 Tubs**

- Why used honey boxes to move frames?
 - Put frames for extraction into these, cover them off
 - They stop honey from leaking on your floor
 - They also can serve for frame storage at other times

Frame rests are bolted through the side in four points

A black plastic tub is shown, filled with numerous wooden frames. The frames are stacked horizontally, with their ends visible. The tub has a thick, black plastic rim. A yellow text box with a black border is positioned at the bottom center of the image, containing the text "Frame rests are bolted through the side in four points". A yellow line points from the right side of this text box to a bolt on the side of the tub's rim.



Honey Harvesting

□ Harvesting Deeps (and mediums)

- Pull each frame individually, brush and place into a reusable cardboard four frame nuc
- The entrances are taped shut and with the top on it keeps the robber bees out while harvesting
- Easier to lift and handle, compared to dealing with full honey supers



For More Long-Term Storage



In 50+ people's carts

Overall pick

Ezy Storage

Ezy Storage 19.8 Gallon Large Gasket Tote, IP68 WaterProof Plastic Storage Bin with Lid, Gasket Seal and Durable Latches, Gray

★★★★☆ (4.5) | [24 ratings](#)

Volume Capacity: 20 gal

5 gal
\$12.98

12 gal
\$19.98

20 gal
\$24.98

■ **\$19.98 – Medium**
■ **\$24.98 - Deep**

Key item features

- Heavy-Duty Construction: Built tough to withstand everyday use in garages, sheds, vehicles, and outdoor environments
- Polycarbonate Lid: Strong, durable lid adds extra protection and long-lasting performance
- Large 75L / 20 Gallon Capacity: Provides ample space for tools, outdoor gear, emergency supplies, or household items
- Secure Lid Design: Keeps contents protected from dust, moisture, and debris
- Versatile Storage Solution: Ideal for home organization, outdoor activities, travel, or utility storage

[View all item details](#)

Specs

WALMART

Frame Storage

12

Fits 10-12 Medium Frames

Fits 12-14 Deep Frames

Image credit: Melissa Colucci Dowd



Baker's Rack Hanger

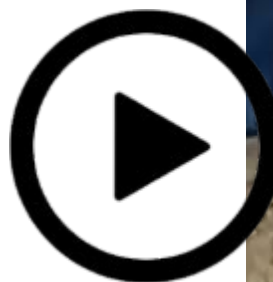
□ Comb Holder

- Hold frames during honey extraction
- Storage long term
 - Keeps frames in the open (air and light)
- Holds deep and/or medium frames
 - Accommodating to the different sizes
- Efficient – Portable
 - High density of storage in a vertical format
 - Wheels are boss



Frame Shaker Tool

- **Modified Jig Saw**
 - Custom made frame grasp
 - Shakes the bees off, clearing the frame
 - Use for shaking bees into a box
 - Use for clearing bees off a frame during honey harvesting
 - Now in the US Market.



1 秒抖蜂 太快了!

Hexagon Bucket Insert

- **Landing Pad for Bees**
 - Designed to Sink
 - But... when placed in a bird bath or shallow bucket, it can let water through
 - This makes a safe place for the bees to land and take a sip of water
 - Harbor Freight
 - These are also available in many place, many formats



Bee Rafts



Using a multi tool, you can trim these to be whatever length you need them to be



Mood Ring for Bees



Washing Soda

❑ Cleaning Hive Tools



Image credit: P April DeVito

Washing Soda

☐ Cleaning Hive Tools



50CC Containers

- **Liquid Stevia**
 - Walmart Brand
 - Use for delivery of Oxalic Acid Dribble
 - The size is the exact Dose





50CC Containers

- ❑ **Api Bioxal RTU**
 - Pair these reusable squirt bottles with Betterbee's RTU
 - They happen to be the exact size required for a single dose
 - Make a bunch up; take them out into the bee yard

Broodminder BTV

□ Broodminder Bee TV

- A camera inside your beehive
 - Films bees walking inside on the comb
 - You see bees in operation – top and bottom – as they walk past and on the camera
 - Has a similar experience to watching a webcam when watching the video captured or seeing an observation hive



Butane Torch

<\$20 - Amazon

□ Culinary Torch

- Tired of butane lighters that take twenty clicks to light?
- Fill this torch with butane...
- Once loaded, it is a single click to light your smoker
 - It has a lock button on the top that locks the firing mechanism
 - No inadvertent mistakes for setting things on fire in storage while it is knocking around in your truck





Mainstays Blue Pop-Up Mesh Laundry Hamper

Walmart
In stock

\$9.28 Visit

Instacart
In stock online

\$9.28 Visit

Follow up

What to know

Laundry Hamper Bags: Walmart

□ Pretty Good Idea

- Different options available – this is just one example
- Zippers are better than cinch ties if you can find them
- Look for devices that collapse to flat for storage





Pro Nuc Boxes

Incidentally, these are pretty good

- I got to use some this year and I like the utility of them
- Light, stack well, can be closed, and they are quite sturdy
- Not inexpensive, but they are not throwaway...

Image credit: CNC Farms

Heated Uncapping Tub

- **Remove your cappings**
 - The device at the bottom heats water and moves it through the bar
 - The warmed bar aids in helping the cappings come off



Heated Uncapping Tub

□ Remove your cappings

- The device at the bottom heats water and moves it through the bar
- The warmed bar aids in helping the cappings come off



Gerd Koch Fork Uncapper

- **Uncapping Fork for the Win**
 - Taking the uncapping fork to the extreme
 - Expanding on the idea as well as using mechanical advantage



Uncapping Stands

- **Meant to aid in uncapping**
 - Does not have any heated elements or fancy slicing action which makes it a less expensive option
 - Does hold a frame at an angle for uncapping
 - You would probably use an uncapping fork with this



Varroa Mite Sample Collection Device

- **Frame Inserted in the Chamber**
 - Bees are shaken down to the bottom, and then tipped into the collection device



Varroa Mite Sample Collection Device



This plastic container originally held powdered drink packets. It is marked with a pre-measure capacity of $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup for collection

Extra Width for accommodating a frame loaded with Bees

Frame Holder

- **Honey Frame Holding Device**
 - These devices are often seen at hotel or restaurant buffets in Europe
 - They offer a fresh honeycomb presentation for breakfast buffets



Frame Holder



□ Honey Frame Holding Device

- These devices are often seen at hotel or restaurant buffets in Europe
- They offer a fresh honeycomb presentation for breakfast buffets
- They place a spoon on a plate
- The patron digs into the comb and dollops a fresh section of comb to have with their breakfast
- This is for sale on eBay

GUARD-X Temperature/Theft Sensor

□ Anti-Theft Device

- Consists of a GPS tracker, battery, SIM card with 1-year data is included in price
 - WiFi, GSM-2G and GPS
- Can be mounted within a frame (31.5 mm box thickness) or to the internal wall of the hive
- Concealed: cannot be detected or removed without opening the hive
- Built-in USB-C battery charger with easy user access.



Double Stack Bottom Board



☐ Screened over Solid

- A screened bottom board is affixed to a solid bottom board that is facing the opposite direction

The premise is for Oxalic Acid
Vaporization Access & Mite Counts



Portable Swarm Box

- **Clever, lightweight, compact portable swarm box**
 - Well ventilated
 - Locking clasp so it can be closed in transport

Portable Swarm Box

- **Clever, lightweight, compact portable swarm box**
 - Well ventilated
 - Locking clasp so it can be closed in transport
 - Top accessible so you can dump bees into it
 - If you build it well, it could hold a colony for a period, until you get a moment to transfer them into something more permanent



A Quick Poll

By Show of Hands

What is your favorite?....

Honey Uncapping...

- Uncapping Fork?
- Heat Gun?
- Heated Knife?
- Bread Knife, Turkey Carver?
- Magic Uncapping Tool?
- Perferated Rolling Wheel?



Long, Serrated, Flexible Bread Style Knives: Uncapping

☐ Very Popular

- Next to the uncapping fork, a bread style knife is a popular tool
- Blade long enough to reach across the frame
- Serrated – or at least thin kerf
- Flexible – Moderate Flexibility

☐ Handle Design

- Straight in line?
- Slight Offset?



Swarm Indicator Device



□ Alternative Exit

- When bees swarm, they will all try and exit the hive wherever they can – ‘in abundance’
- This specially designed device with its lightweight transparent cover draws bees towards the light and the curved angle allows them to observe outside the hive
- When they exit the hive ‘in abundance’ during a swarm event, they push off the plastic cover – and this indicates a swarm has occurred





Hive Tool Innovation

- Check out the design on these hive tools
 - No grinding the hook,
 - They feature aggressive hooks, and little notch features to get leverage on the frames

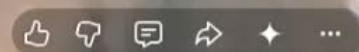
- You can buy them with or without the rubber grip in two different designs



Frame Scraping Tools

- **Special tools that clean groove in frames**
 - Frame scraper (Yellow Handle) – Available in some bee catalogs
 - Gearwrench Window Molding Remover (Red Handle)





TechBee Smoker

□ On Kickstarter Now

- Sort of like VAPE technology

Launch Special

\$165

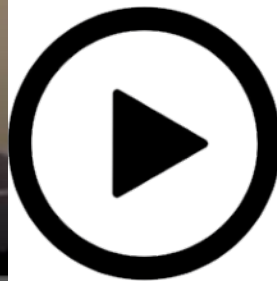
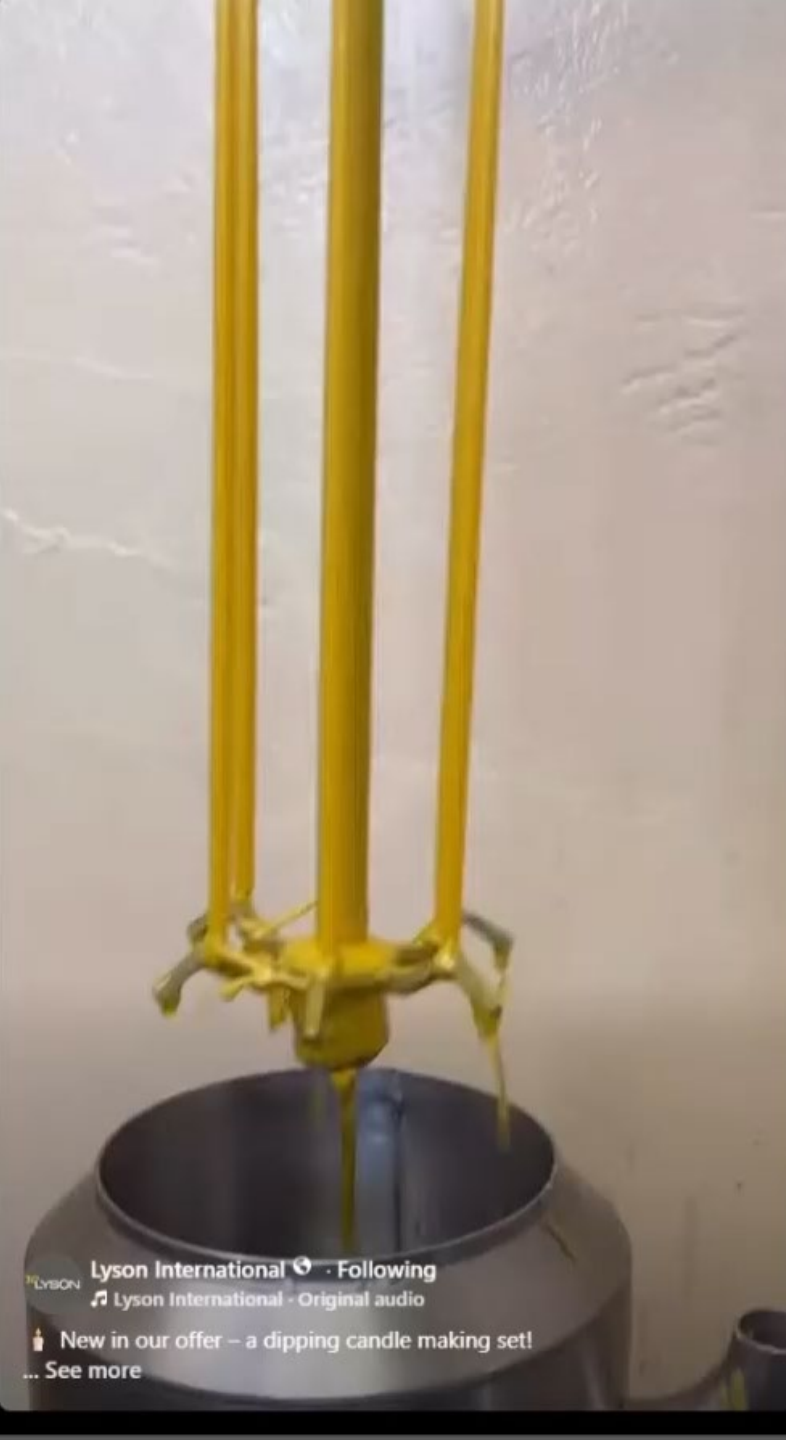
Get 1x TechBee Smoker for \$80 off!
You save 32% off of our MSRP. (Offer expires at 11:59 PM CT on Launch Day.)



Candle Dipping Kit

□ **Lyson's Candle Dipping Kit**

- Turnkey device for creating 'hand-dipped' style beeswax candles
 - Likely rather pricy, but if you had to do this on your own, it's a bit fussy
 - If you want to do it over and over, this type of kit is likely worth the investment



Lyson International · Following
Lyson International · Original audio

🕯️ New in our offer – a dipping candle making set!
... See more

Candle Dipping Kit

□ Lyson's Candle Dipping Kit

- Turnkey device for creating 'hand-dipped' style beeswax candles
 - Likely rather pricy, but if you had to do this on your own, it's a bit fussy
 - If you want to do it over and over, this type of kit is likely worth the investment
 - This is what the full kit looks like



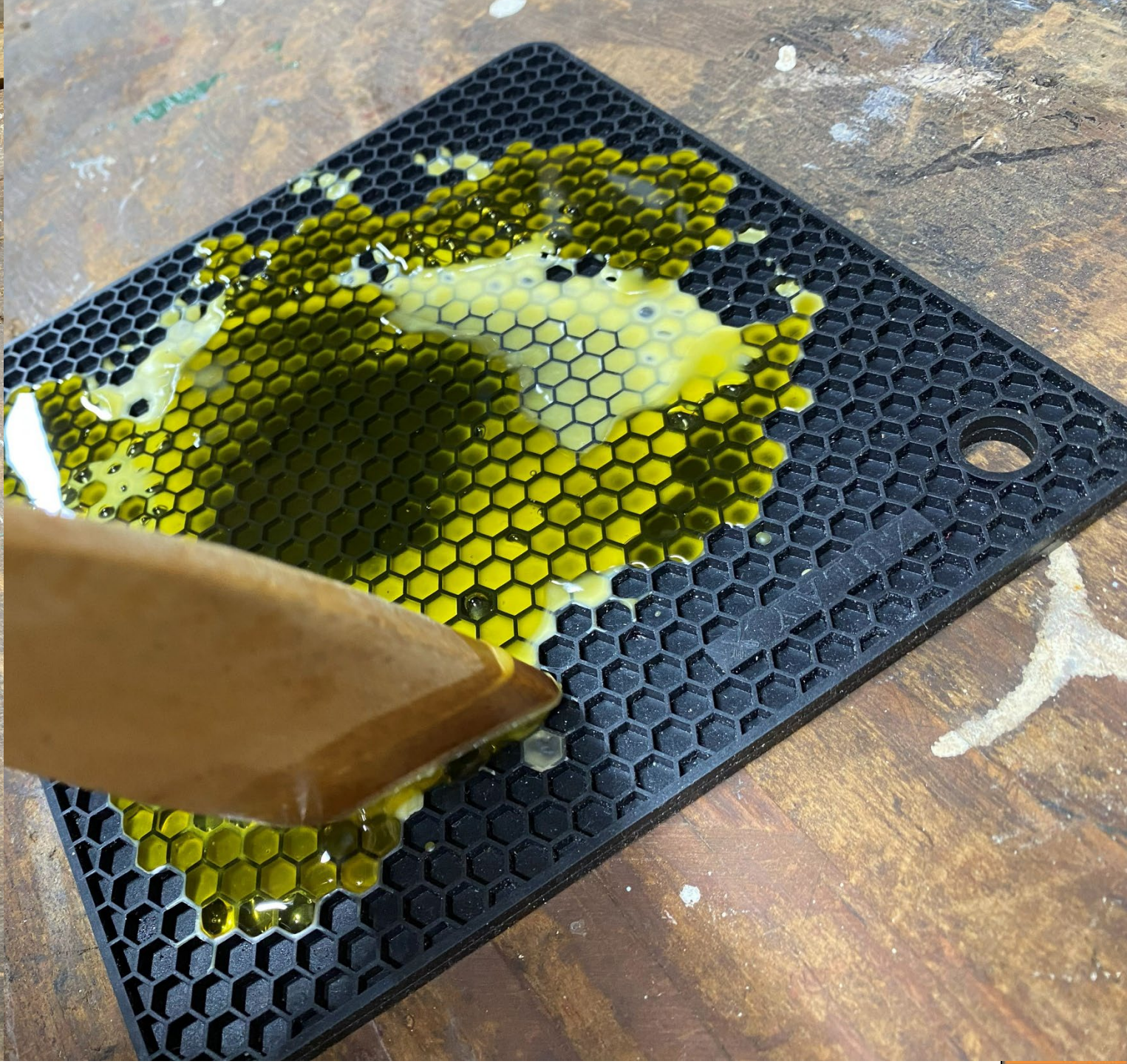
Candle Dipping Kit

- **Kevin's Dipping Kit**
 - I converted an Olive Oil tin into a wax dipping station
 - I dipped candles in my workshop













#2 SQUARE Braid COTTON WICK

Square-braid wicks were designed for the viscosity of beeswax candles but they can still be used with other types of waxes too. Our wicks are raw, untabbed, and lead-free. For use in large diameter beeswax candles.

For more information, visit us at www.PremiumCraftUSA.com

Results may vary. Experiment to find the best combination of candlemaking products. Using wax blends or waxes other than beeswax with this product will impact wicking requirements.

INSTRUCTIONS: Before use, soak the wick in molten wax of your choice. This process prepares your wick for use in candle making. Soak in molten wax until but the stop ring to the surface.



X000CW6IEJ

PremiumCraft Square Braid Cotton Candle Wick - #2
New



Spring Thing

- **Have you tried this?**
 - It is not that expensive, and it seems like it really works
 - Reminds me of casters – have you tried them?



Brush Action

- **Fast, and efficient**
 - Shake the bees off and give them a quick sweep
 - Violates the 'flick the bees' action
 - Still, seems quite effective



Plastic Recycling

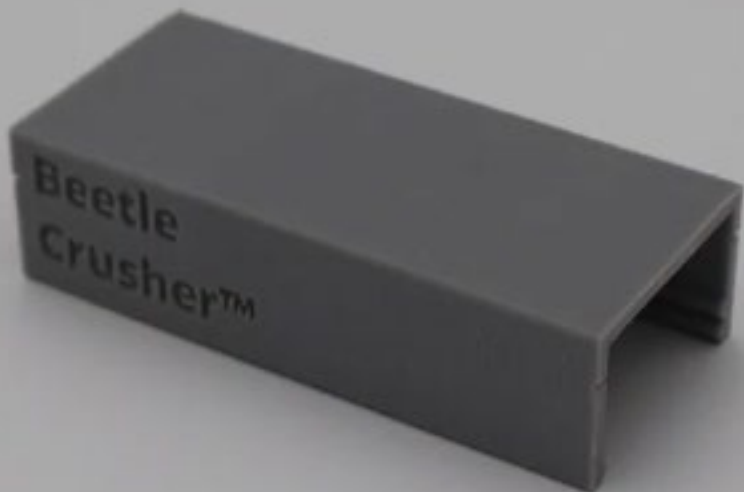
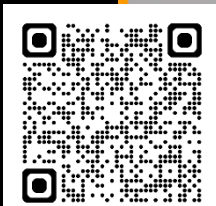
- **The bits in the bottom are annoying**
 - This seems to work
 - But it also seems easier than it likely is
 - I tried it, it kind of worked, but wasn't this easy – but it did work mostly
 - Is it worth the effort?



Ozark Bee Barn Beetle Crusher

□ Crush SHB

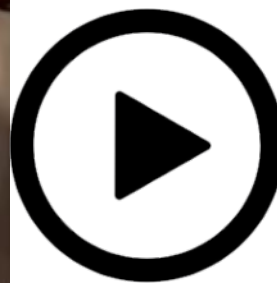
- The Beetle Crusher™ gives small hive beetles exactly what they're looking for
 - The narrow gap across your top bars gives them a place to hide
 - During your next inspection, one firm press and they're done
 - No oil. No bait. No refills. Reset it and move on.



Creativity is Advancement

□ Interlocking Frames

- The utility of going from a queen castle to a full size
 - Maybe it is great or perhaps it is a bit underwhelming in the real world
 - I feel like examples like this either work or lead to someone improving upon them



Honey Harvesting Stand

□ Concave Bottom Rest

- It limits the amount of contact
 - The boxes only touch in a small area, and this reduces crushing bees when setting heavy honey supers down for processing
 - It is more elaborate than the tried and true process of setting boxes on an inverted lid.... *But that requires you to bend over!*



Image credit: Lloyd Ziegler







Schwer PRO-SKIN ANSI A9 Cut Resistant Arm Sleeves for Men & Women S904, Puncture Resistant Arm Protectors for High Risk Work, UPF50+ UV Protection Cooling Gardening Sleeves, Bulk Orders Available

[Visit the Schwer Store](#)

4.5 ★★★★★ (508) | [Search this page](#)

Amazon's Choice

100+ bought in past month

\$17⁹⁹ [Price history](#)

High-Risk Cut Protection

Provide the most reliable protection

**TOP
LEVEL**

ANSI/ISEA:105



*Weight (grams) needed to cut through material

Impromptu Hack

If you forget to put on real shoes!

This industrious person repurposed nitrile gloves to cover their feet





Impromptu Hack

If you forget to put on real shoes!

This industrious person repurposed nitrile gloves to cover their feet



Bucket Feeder



Bucket Feeder







Image credit: Edward Lutman



Hive Lifter

- **Moves boxes up and away**
 - Requires specific cleats fastened to the sides of the hive
 - Would it ever topple over?
 - Have you seen the Hive Lift from the inventor of Flo Hive?



Image credit: Nasro Apiculture



See Through Covers

- **Thes are great**
 - I have several of these in my apiary
 - I like them for showing hives to visitors
 - I keep on the first hive as you walk in the apiary
 - For a quick walk in / preview, these are great to open a hive and show the guests without many bees fluing around



Hinges to
close the
entrance

Very clever



Observation Hive

- **How Cool Is this Thing!**
 - Thornes out of England
 - Antique Style Observation Hive
- **Observations Hives**
 - There is a whole world of designs
 - Some very clever cartridge styles
 - They use concepts like the 'saw a women in half' dividers
 - You slide a shim into a slot and you can pull out



THORNES



□ Acrylic Hives

- Full Hive and Frame Cage



Hop Style Filter

- **Strain into a hops filter**
 - The depth of the hops filter, sitting in the bucket will not clog
 - This is the alternative to using no filter and letting it settle
 - Could be messy but
 - Several accounts of using this this approach encountered over time seem to extol its value



Hop Style Filter

- **Strain into a hops filter**
 - The depth of the hops filter, sitting in the bucket will not clog
 - When it comes time to strain the honey...
 - Set it over a grid placed over a bucket
 - It eventually flows out and holds the debris in the strainer



- Easy to Fill
- Long Spouts
- Good Control
- High Capacity
- No Spills... *but*
- Food Safe?



□ Fill with Precision

- This is for the internal feeder crowd
- These automotive devices are meant for filling windshield fluids and motor oils
 - Sizes vary for the job at hand



FILLING FLUIDS

Homemade Wax Melter



Image credit: Brad Marshall

23:49 27% www.amazon.com.au

Outlet Store
Shop thousands of discounted items

Brand: Sunbeam ★★★★★ 16

Sunbeam DF4500 Multi Cooker Deep Fryer with Lid | 5L Capacity | 1600W | Stainless Steel Basket | Boil, Roast, Casserole, Braise, Stir Fry & Deep Fry |, Charcoal



RRP: ~~\$79.95~~ Details
Price: **\$51.75**
FREE Delivery
You Save: **\$28.20 (35%)**

Arrives: **Thursday, 7 Jan**
Fastest delivery: **Tuesday, 5 Jan**
Order within 23 hrs and 55 mins

In stock.

Qty: 1 ▾

23:50 27% www.bunnings.com.au

FIX-A-TAP 13mm 1/2" Tap N Snap Quarter Turn Garden Tap

I/N: 4900146 ★★★★★ No reviews yet



\$22.15

Feedback x kinetic

\$4.50

23:49

27%

23:50

27%

23:52

26%

23:51

26%



www.amazon.com.au



www.bunnings.com.au



www.bunnings.com.au



Outlet Store

Shop thousands of discounted items

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16

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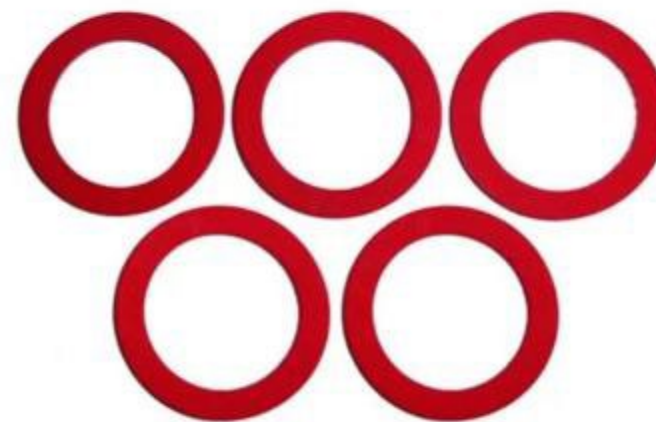


\$22.15

Kinetic 15mm Fibre Body Washers - 5 Pack

I/N: 4920308

★★★★★ No reviews yet



Feedback x

kinetic



\$4.55

Kinetic 15mm Brass Threaded Back Nut



Feedback x

kinetic



\$1

Feedback x

Walk In Cooler?

□ \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

- Keeps the container at 40°F
- Small **insulated** out building
 - Some suggest an insulated shipping container

□ Mid Sized Operation?

- Maybe this is a good way to go
- Costs and approaches are all over the map
- Surplus units of old trucking coolers are a popular hack



Paint Station – Multiple Boxes



☐ **Painting the Smart Way**

Image credit: Flight Line Bee Farm

- Paint the handholds with a brush; use roller on the side
 - Brush the joints double – make sure they are well covered
- Then Rotate the box to the next side and do it again

Heart Frames

- From last years EAS honey show
 - Someone made a heart frame device
 - Bees build honeycomb in pre-defined shapes
 - Sometimes you can find kits offered on Amazon.com



In this day of AI generated tropes, I ask...



Real or Fake?

It is Real!



Credit: Richard Beaudet

Kevin@bkcorner.org