

Betterbee[®]

Beekeepers Serving Beekeepers

Betterbee Frame Wiring Kit Instructions

Building cross wired wooden frames is part of traditional beekeeping. A cross wired frame is strong and keeps the foundation straight. We feel that using support wire and wax foundation may have the best acceptance by the bees than any other foundation. This kit includes all you will need to begin wiring and installing your wax foundation. Our kit includes these instructions, tools, and equipment to cross wire and install foundation in your first 100 frames. (Frames and Foundation not included)

Kit Items Included:

- Foundation Form Board - Used to support the foundation while embedding bee wire and helps guide the foundation when installing in the wooden frame.
- Bee Wire - Thin wire for supporting foundation.
- Eyelets - These are inserted into the holes in the frame side bars. They keep the bee wire from cutting into the wood.
- Eyelet Punch - For pushing the eyelets into the side bar holes
- Crimper - Used to tighten the crosswire before embedding
- Nails - To secure both ends of the bee wire per frame.
- Embedder - This is used to “push” or embed the cross wire into the wax foundation

Hand Tools Needed:

- Small Hammer
- Diagonal Cutters

Instructions:

Install Eyelets - Starting with an assembled wooden frame, install 2 Eyelets into the holes in each of the side bars using the Eyelet Punch. Be sure to push the eyelets in from the outside of the frame side bars. When using deep frames, eyelets and support wire are only needed in the center two holes of each end bar.

Install Wire - Center one nail between the two eyelets on the narrow side of the side bar and nail in about half way. Thread the end of the bee wire through the eyelets and loop twice around the nail. Gently pull the other end of the wire to tighten it in the frame, and then loop around the nail two times. Hammer the nail down flush to “lock” the wire tight. Snip the spool of wire loose from the frame.

Crimp Wire - Holding the frame vertically, run the wire crimper along the wire to “tighten” the bee wire in the frame.

Install Foundation - Place the wired frame on the foundation embedding board and weave the foundation through the two wires. Slide the foundation into the groove in the bottom bar and install the wooden wedge over the foundation wire hooks on the top bar. Attach the wooden wedge using small nails or staples.

Embed Bee Wire - Lay the wooden frame with the installed foundation flat on the embedding board. Using the spur embedder, gently roll and push the wire into the wax foundation. Embedding the bee wire works best if the foundation is at or above room temperature.

Store wired frames that are completed in an empty hive body or super. If needed you can stack your completed frames, but keep them in the same upright position as in a super.

Bees accept foundation the best during a nectar flow. When installing your new frames in your hive, feed using a light 1:1 sugar syrup. This will help simulate a nectar flow and help your bees produce wax to begin “drawing out” the new foundation.