

Betterbee's

Quick Guide to Installing Wax Foundation

1. Remove Wedge Bar

Wedge is located here.

Run your hive tool along this groove to cut free the wedge. Be careful not to snap the wedge in two!



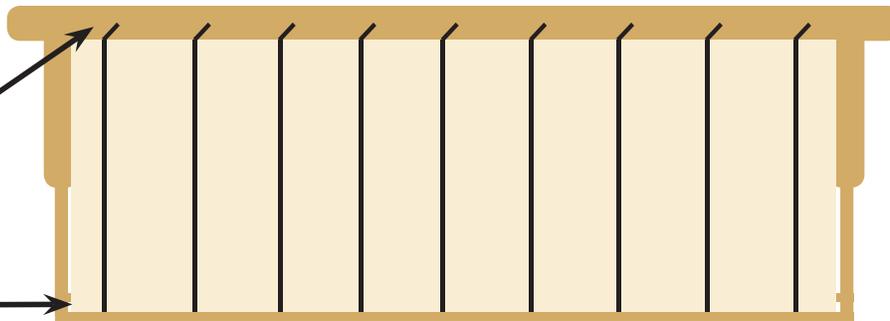
1 a. After you assemble your frame and the glue is dry, remove the wedge bar. The wedge is that piece of wood that pops out of the top bar of your frame. Note: If you are using bee wire as your cross support, wire prior to installing foundation.

1 b. Use your hive tool to carefully remove the wedge and remove any splinters of wood from the frame.

2. Install Foundation

Have the hooks face toward you (or facing up) so they easily accept the wedge you are about to insert!

Make sure the foundation rests between the groove in the bottom bar.



2 a. Take one sheet of crimp-wired foundation and place the long side without metal hooks in between the gap of the bottom bar. Then rest the hooks in the groove left by the removed wedge.

2 b. Make sure the wax rests freely and is as straight as possible. (If the wax bows even slightly this could cause the wax to be drawn out unevenly by the bees.)

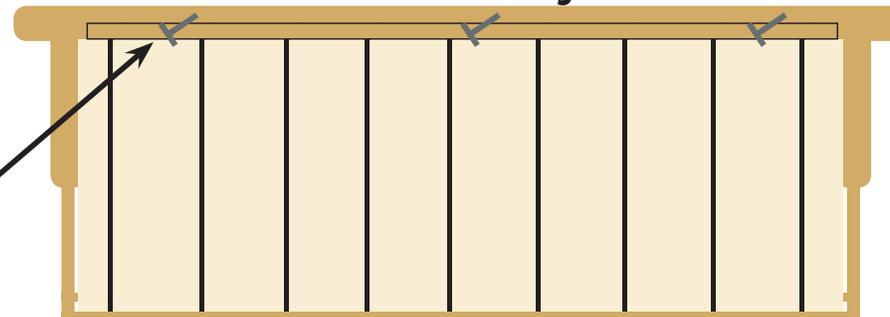
3. Insert & Nail Wedge Bar

Nails go in at an angle. Tip: To nail, once wedge is wedged in place, turn frame so top of top bar is resting down on a solid surface. This provides a better angle to nail the wedge nail so it connects to the top bar.

Shown here is a diagram of the plastic support rods. One goes on either side of the foundation; bees build comb around them and they are easy to install.

Not Shown: Support Pins. These are inserted into the side bar. The split in the pin supports either side of the wax.

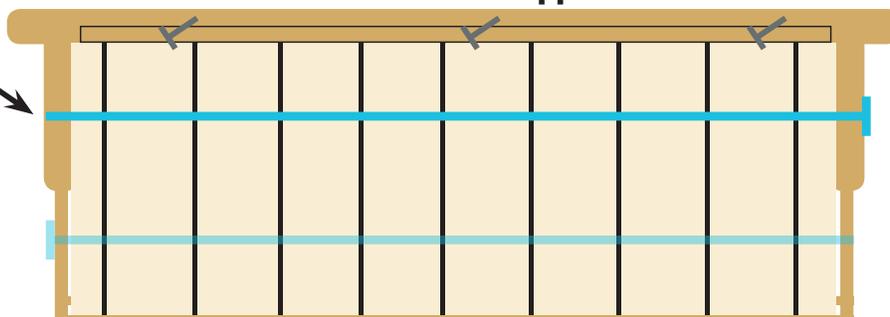
Bee Wire. Wire is wound through the side bars prior to inserting wax foundation. It's then embedded into the wax with a spur embedder.



3 a. Now insert the wedge back into place. You may need to rotate the wedge for the tightest fit. Often this means the original inside of the wedge faces out.

3 b. With the wedge wedged, nail three wedge nails (5/8") through the wedge into the top bar. This is tricky with a regular hammer; you have to hammer at an angle to ensure the nail catches in the top bar.

4. Install Cross Supports



4 a. Almost done! Now you need to provide a cross support to your frame. These include (in order of ease):

- support pins
- plastic support rods
- cross wiring with bee wire