

## The Beequip NZ Cloake Board.

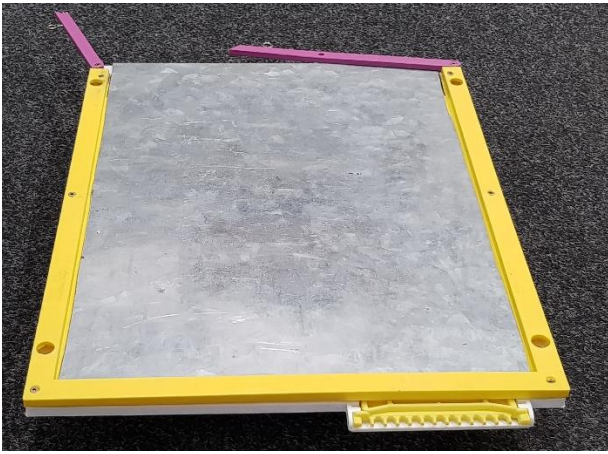


Fig 1. Set up for queen cell starter hive.

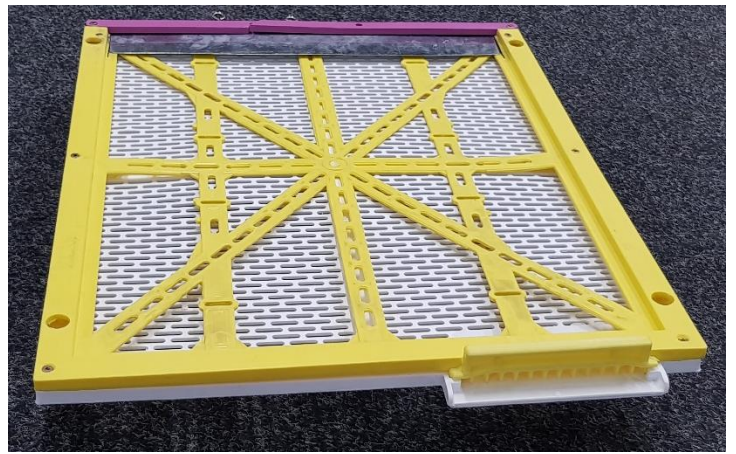


Fig 2. Set as queen cell finisher or just queen exclusion.

### Beehives set up as starters. They have been rotated on the stand 180 degrees.



Fig 3. Queen is in bottom box. Most field bees in top.



Fig 4. The main entrance at rear. Excluder entry blocked.



Fig 5. Front of hive. Set up as finisher.



Fig 6. Rear of hive when set up as finisher.



## Cloake Board Instructions.

1. Choose some strong 2 storey beehives to build queen cells. A syrup feeder should be fitted. A good queen in its 2<sup>nd</sup> season can give the best results when using this supersedure method for building the cells.
2. Check there are plenty of frames of brood in top box and the queen is kept in bottom box.
3. Fit Cloake board as shown in figure 2 and figure 5. Feed syrup. Leave for 6 to 7 days.
4. Fit Cloake Board galv plate and turn beehive around 180 degrees. See figures 1, 3 & 4. It is easiest to do this early in the morning before many bees are flying. Open the purple cloake board entry doors. Add a ramp to encourage the bees to go to the new entrance. Block the excluder entry.
5. Leave for 3 to 4 hours (so they all know they are queenless in top box). Graft into queen cell cups and add the queen cell frames to the top box. Feed sugar syrup. Feed a protein supplement if they don't have a good natural source coming in.
6. Between 24 and 36 hours later, remove the ramp and turn the whole beehive around 180 degrees to its original location. Remove the galv plate. Close the purple entry doors. Open the excluder entry. Top up feeders if required.
7. 5 days after grafting, the queen cells should be capped and can be carefully removed and placed in a Beequip NZ Incubator.
8. Steps 3 – 7 can then be repeated.

### **FYI. Temperature and Humidity in a beehive.**

Figure 5 shows the humidity reading at 70%. The probe is next to the queen cells in the beehive. Over several weeks, the reading tends to fluctuate between 58% and 70%, with 62% being a common reading.

The photo below shows a temperature reading of 35.6 degrees. The probe is sitting on the middle section of the queen excluder. Over a period of a week, it fluctuates between 33.8 degrees and 35.7 degrees.

