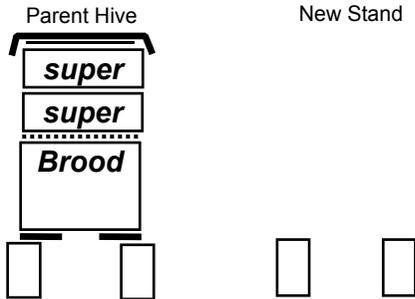


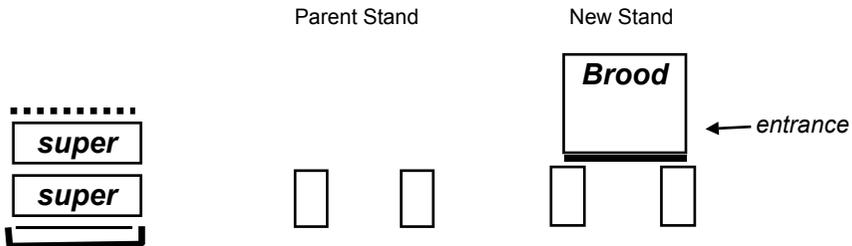
Artificial Swarming Method

How to stop the prime swarm with the old queen from leaving is the first problem.

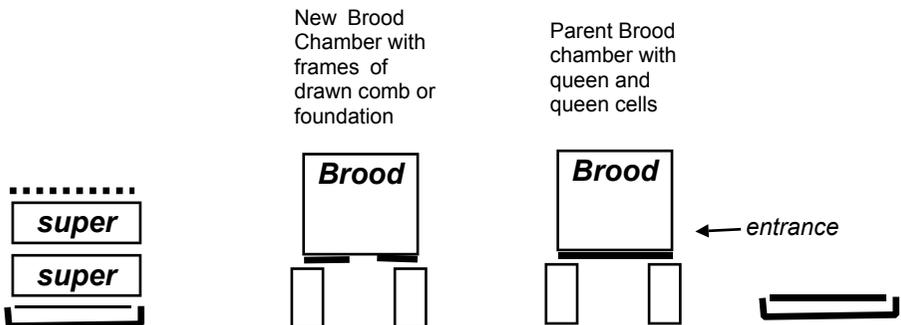
1. Set up a new stand about two feet to one side of the colony.



2. Remove the roof, crownboard, any supers and the excluder and put to one side. Move the floor and brood box containing the queen and queen cells over to this new stand, with the entrance facing out at right-angles to the original.

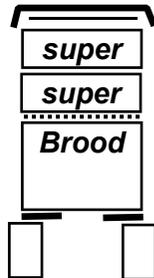


3. Set up a new hive on the old stand with the entrance facing the original way. This hive should contain a full complement of frames, either drawn comb or foundation or a mixture of both. It will also need a floor, crownboard and roof.

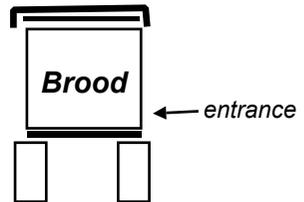


4. Remove two combs from the centre of this new brood box to make space.
5. Find the queen and transfer her with the frame on which she is found to the new hive. Make sure **NO** queen cells are on this frame. Replace the second comb, queen excluder, the original supers, crownboard and roof.

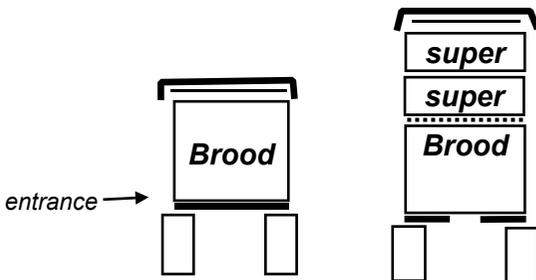
Queen in New brood box on Parent stand with all the flying bees.



Parent Brood Chamber with brood, nurse bees and queen cells.



7. The flying bees will all return to the queen because she is on the parent stand.
8. Go through the old brood box on the new stand and remove all but two queen cells, preferably one open in which you can see a healthy larva and one sealed - mark the top of the frame/s on which the cells are found with a drawing pin for easy identification.
9. Five days later, move the entire new unit to the other side of the parent stand, but swing the brood box round 180° so that the entrance is facing the other way. This will make the bees from the old brood chamber who have started flying since the first manoeuvre was carried out, return to their old parent colony. Remove any new queen cells but make sure two are left in total.



Over the following weeks, the bees with the queen - assuming a good nectar flow - will draw out their new foundation and bring in some honey as well, as they won't have the housekeeping duties with so little brood. There will then be a lull in production as the colony will have to wait for the new eggs to produce foraging bees. Beware as they may try to swarm again if they still feel the queen is getting past it!

In the old brood box, a new young queen should soon be mated and start to lay. This may be as long as four weeks after the artificial swarm was made so don't interfere too soon.