



This is my Warré inspired beehive. In this photo there are 2 boxes with the quilt box and roof on top. The blue entrance has a winter reducer installed. The handles are cedar wood and the rest of the boxes are pine. I spent less than \$50 to construct 10 boxes, 2 bottoms and 2 tops, including the concrete pads. Most of the wood was mill ends or recycled from our stash or the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The exterior is coated with a linseed oil, gum spirits turpentine, and paraffin wax mix. There will be 2 fence posts in the ground next to the hive to tie it down.



In this photo, I've added another box to the stack – there can be 5 boxes in the stack if needed. The blue entrance is now in summer mode as the winter reducer has been removed. Each box can be fitted with the entrance or closed off. My plan is to place empty boxes on the bottom of the stack in the spring when the hive is fairly lightweight and move the entrance down to whatever box the bees are actively building in as the season progresses.



Here's the underside of the roof made of cedar paneling scraps with a ceramic tile glued on the outside to shed rain.



This is the quilt. The eaves are screened to keep out wasps. The cedar paneling is removable – this is what it would look like in winter. The panels can be removed in summer to improve ventilation when the bees are putting up honey. There will be clean wool combings from our sheep for insulation under the cedar.



Here's the quilt box with 2 of the cedar panels removed. You can see the nails protruding inside the box that the cedar panels rest on. Stapled into the bottom of the box is a piece of needlepoint canvas to keep the bees out of the wool insulation. I think I'll also need a piece of cloth between this canvas and the box below to keep the quilt from being glued down by the bees.



This is what the bars look like. You can see on the 2 that are removed and placed upside down that there are oversized holes near the ends that rest on the heads of small finishing brads that stick up very slightly from the boards that the bars rest upon. The bars are removable but don't slide around. The bars rest on the boards that make up the front and back of the box and are closed in on the ends by the cedar handles. I still need to wax the bottoms of the bars to encourage comb building, but I don't care if the bees necessarily build straight or not as I will be managing this using Warré techniques.



Here's the screened bottom board. A sticky cardboard will be slid in on top of the concrete pad. In winter this space will be closed in with 2 wood strips but I'll probably leave them open in summer as it is quite hot and humid in the Midwest. The concrete pad is grooved so water won't pool up on it.



These are the entrance blocks as seen from a couple of angles. The one on the left shows the small insert portion. The one in the middle is sitting on its face with the insert portion sticking up. On the right is the blue entrance with the winter reducer next to it. The other hive has a yellow entrance.



This is where the entrance blocks go. Each box is made the same and can either be closed off entirely or fitted with the colored entrance block. This will be my access to blow in powdered sugar, or peek to see if comb is being constructed (using a small mirror and a flashlight). Fondant can also be slid into this slot if necessary. Other than annual harvest, which I plan to do in the spring given our severe winters, this is the only planned invasion into the hive once established.