DELUXE TOP BAR HIVE KIT

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Beekeeper photo thanks to Eileen Thompson

Gold Star Honeybees®

ASSEMBLY
INSTRUCTIONS

You will need these tools to assemble your Gold Star Top Bar Hive:

- Philips head screwdriver or screw gun
- Staple gun with ¼" (6.35) staples

It is also helpful to have:

- A pencil
- A hammer

1. BUILD THE HIVE BODY

1. Locate the two **Follower Boards**. Stand them upside down – that means they will be standing on the top of the "top bar" part, with their bottom edges pointing straight up. Put them about 3 feet apart, and parallel to each other. The ends of the top bars will stick out like little square "feet".

   Locate the **Hive Front** and **Hive Back** (the back contains the window) and the four push pins from the hardware bags. Set the Hive Front and the Hive Back on top of the "feet" of the Follower Boards, so that they rest against the edges of the Follower Boards. Then use the four push pins to hold them in place.

Note: If you have this set up right, the bottom edges of these four pieces will create a flat surface. You can probably see already how it will soon be a "box". All the round entrance holes should be uppermost – near what appears to be the top, (while everything is upside down), and the glass window should be flush with the inside of the hive back.

2. Now locate the two End Panels. The countersink of the pre-drilled holes should face the outside. Start each of the six 1 5/8" (41mm) sheet rock screws (the long ones) into the six countersunk holes on each End Panels

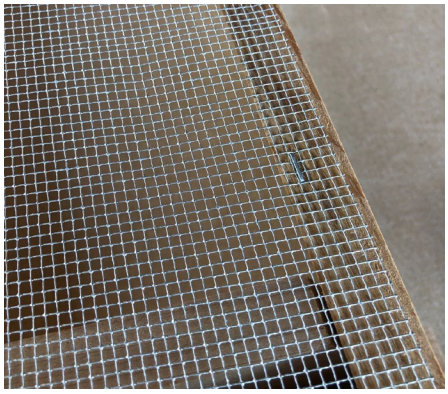
   Set the End Panels against the ends of the Hive Front and Back. Making sure that the edges of the Front and Back line up with the screws you've set into the End Panels, screw the End Panels onto the Hive Front and Back.

Note: If you are working alone, it helps to push one End Panel up against a wall or other solid surface.

3. Now you can remove the push pins, but keep them handy, you will need them again!

ASSEMBLY
INSTRUCTIONS

2. ATTACH THE SCREENED BOTTOM



While you've got the box upside down - take the piece of **Hardware Cloth** and flatten it out. Align it on the bottom of the Hive Body

Note: For a finer finished edge, the edges of the Hardware Cloth can be folded over and gently pounded flat. It can also be cut with heavy scissors to fine-tune the fit, if need be. But do be Careful— its pointy little edges are quite sharp!

Use the four pushpins (again!) to hold the screen in place. Then using your staple gun, staple the Hardware Cloth all along the perimeter. A staple every couple of inches should do it. Take care not to staple through into the entrance holes, where the bees will travel. If needed, tap the staples in with a hammer.

3. ATTACH THE BOTTOM BOARD

Take the four **Angle Brackets** and the twelve **3/4" (19mm) sheet metal screws**. Locate the **Bottom Board**, and rest it on the bottom of the hive body. Set 2 Angle Brackets on each end of the board with one leg of the bracket on the Bottom Board, and the other end going over the edge of the board, pointing at the ground. Attach the brackets to the bottom board using the sheet metal screws.

Note: The bottom board is shown here in the closed position. You can remove the bottom board for cleaning, or to offer more ventilation by removing the screws on the end panels, lowering the board, and re-attaching the screws.

4. INSTALL THE OBSERVATION WINDOW SHUTTER HARDWARD

Locate the O**bservation Window Shutter** and set it in place in the window slot. Find the two **Offset clips** and their **1/2" (12.7mm) screws** and attach the clips in the pre-drilled holes along the bottom edge of the Observation Window as shown.

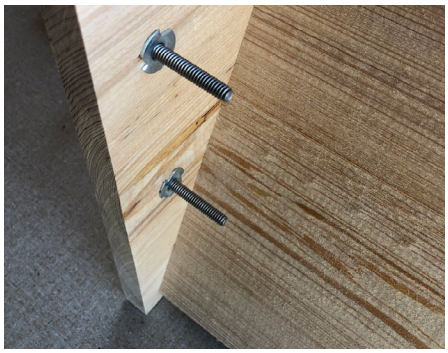
Take the two **thumb tabs** and their **1" (25mm) screws**, and install in the pre-drilled holes along the top edge of the Observation Window (the edge furthest from the screen bottom). Tighten these just enough so that they will stay put when you turn them, but not so tight that they can't be turned using your fingers.

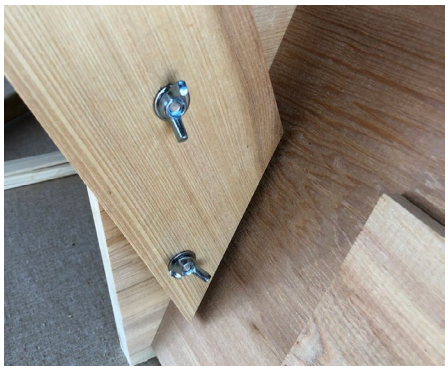
5. ATTACH THE ROOF RESTS

Locate the two **Roof Rests**. Use one roof rest along the top of the End Panel and draw a line in pencil along its edge. Do the same on the other End Panel. Align each Roof Rest along that line, closer to the hardware cloth than your table. Use three **1 -1/4" (32mm) sheet rock screws** (the short ones!) for each Roof Rest.

ASSEMBLY
INSTRUCTIONS

6. PUT THE LEGS ON





Take one **2 1/4" (57mm) bolt**, put it through one **flat washer**, then insert it through each of the leg holes in the End Panel. Be sure to insert it from the outside of the hive pointing in toward the center of the hive.

Thread one of the **Tee Nuts** onto the bolt, with its sharp prongs facing toward the head of the bolt. Check that the bolt is centered in the hole and tighten —FIRMLY— so that the prongs bite into the wood and the tee-nut draws up quite flat to the wood of the End Panel. Repeat with the seven remaining bolts, the flat washers, and the tee nuts.

Next, fit a leg over each pair of protruding bolts. Add a second **flat washer,** then a **Wing Nut**. Tighten. Repeat for the other three legs. Turn the hive over and it will now stand on its own four feet!

Note: The Tee nuts will hold the leg bolts securely in place so that you can easily attach/ detach the legs by using only the wing nuts - for easy storage or transport.

7. ASSEMBLE THE ROOF

1. Locate the two **Roof Gable Ends** and the two **Roof Gable Rails**, and lay them out to make a rectangular frame.

Start eight **1 5/8" (41mm) sheet rock screws** (the long ones) into the pre-drilled holes in the Roof Gable Ends, line them up with the Roof Gable Rails so that the tops of the rails are flush to the tops of the Roof Gable Ends, and screw them together. (This is another time when having something like the wall to push against will be helpful, if you don't have a live helper.) Now you have the rectangular frame of the roof.

Note: Be sure that the beveled edges of the Roof Gable Rails are up, and turned so that the tallest edge is in the center. The angle should match with the angle of the Roof Gable Ends. Be sure that the counter sink holes on the Roof Gable Ends face out

2. Locate the two **Roof Planks**. Set one Roof Plank on the rectangular frame you just built. The ends of the Roof Plank should line up flush with the outer edges of the Roof Gable Ends, the center line should match the peaks of the Roof Gable Ends, and the pre-drilled holes along the outer edge of the roof plank should align with the long Roof Gable Rails.

Set a **1 5/8" (41mm) (long) sheet rock screw** into the pre-drilled hole at the peak on one end of a Roof Plank, re-check the alignment, and drive the screw.

Repeat at the peak on the other end, checking that the Gable Roof frame and the Roof Planks are "square" with each other. If they are not, apply pressure at the corner(s) of the frame where needed to cause them to square up. Drive the screws at the bottom corners of the roof planks, checking for "square" each time and adjusting if necessary.

Insert the rest of the **1 5/8" (41mm) (long) sheet rock screws** into the pre-drilled holes along the outer edges of the Roof Planks. Before screwing these in, check the alignment of the screws with the wood beneath them.

Repeat for the second Roof Plank.

3. Now locate the **Roof Ridge Board** and center it down the peak of the roof, aligning the "V" on the underside of the Ridge Board with the peak of the Roof Planks. Set the remaining ten **1 1/4" (32mm) (short) sheet rock screws** into the pre-drilled holes and screw them down. Be careful not to over tighten them, as this can split the Roof Ridge Board.