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Hive Assembly – May 2008

1. Open Mesh Floor (OMF)
 - a. The open mesh floor consists of 3 components
 - i. The floor itself – galvanised mesh sheet with 2 nails/screws on the top to locate the entrance block and 4 nails/screws on the bottom to locate the insert
 - ii. The entrance block – a piece of wood 18mm square and 460 mm long with a slot in it
 - iii. The varroa insert – a flat piece of ply or correx which you only use when measuring varroa.
 - b. Assembly
 - i. Place the floor (4 nail/screws side down) on top of a hive stand – this should be a minimum of 4" off the ground. I prefer 12" – 15" which prevents too much bending when manipulating the bees.
 - ii. Insert the entrance block snugly against the 2 top locating nails/screws
2. The brood box
 - a. This is the large box containing frames and foundation
 - b. Place this box on the Open Mesh Floor. You will find the floor is slightly larger than the brood. This is designed – the mesh is exactly the size of the brood so all the mite fall is through the grid. If the OMF is the same width as the box then it is very weak on the back corners and tends to break.
3. The slotted steel Queen Excluder
 - a. Place this over the brood box
4. The Super box
 - a. This is the small box containing frames and foundation
 - b. Place this box over the queen excluder
5. The crown board
 - a. This is the ply sheet with 2 holes in it
 - b. Place the crown board on top of the super
6. Place the roof on top of the crown board

Have a nice cup of tea!

We recommend not using the varroa insert unless you want to check Varroa drop when treating the bees since it just causes wax moth build up and negates the effect of the OMF. The varroa insert sits on top of the 4 nails/screws underneath the galvanised mesh of the OMF.