

Candy Boards:

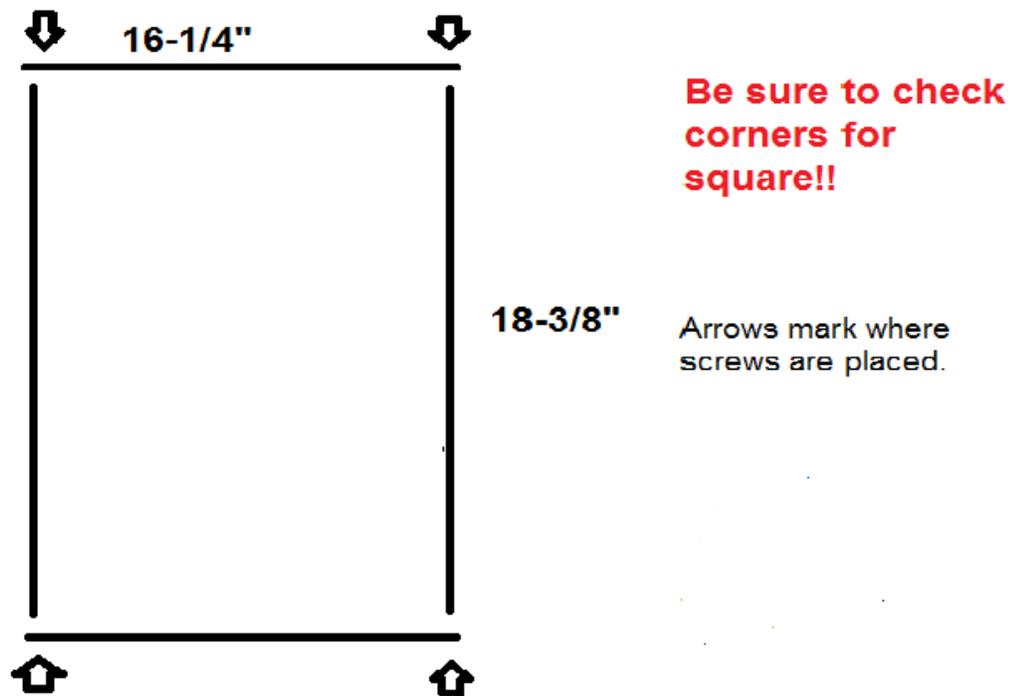
1 x 4 – for a 10-frame Lang you will need:

2 pcs 18-3/8"

2 pcs 16-1/4"

Several pcs of 3/8" x 3" or 4" wood or sticks of approximately this size from trees to use as spacers

Assemble as shown:



If you want an upper entrance, drill 1/2" hole in one of the short sides. This will go to the front of your hive.

Cut 1/2" hardware cloth to approximately 19 x 23".

Cut out the four corners as shown in picture. If you are using an upper entrance hole, be sure to cut a notch for it.

Bend the hardware cloth so it fits tightly in the box.

Staple to the inside walls of the box such that it is approximately 3/8" to 1/2" up from what will be the bottom of the box (think bee space between the candy board and the hive frames).

Mix up your candy. I initially make 8-lb batch. Mix 1 pound white sugar to 1 teaspoon of water. You can mix a feeding stimulate (such as HBH) into water and then measure into the sugar. Mix, mix, and mix!!

Line the box if desired. Suggestions made at meeting for a liner include tissue paper from wax foundation and wax paper.

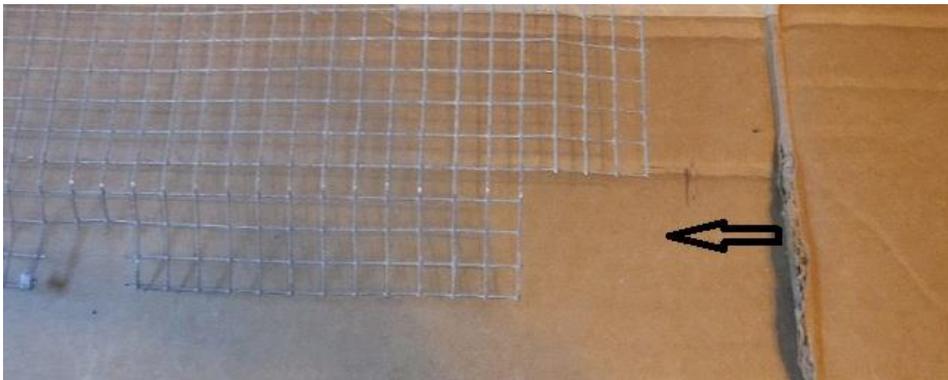
Place something for a form (I use scrap 2x4s) in the middle of the candy board, and another form by the entrance hole if you made one. Press sugar mixture firmly into box, pressing around the forms. Once done, carefully remove the forms and let the sugar dry. If you use the above sugar:water ratio, it should easily dry overnight or within a day, depending on humidity. It will be hard when dry.

When placing on your hive, be sure to place spacers across hive frames in the middle so bee space is maintained between frames and candy board.

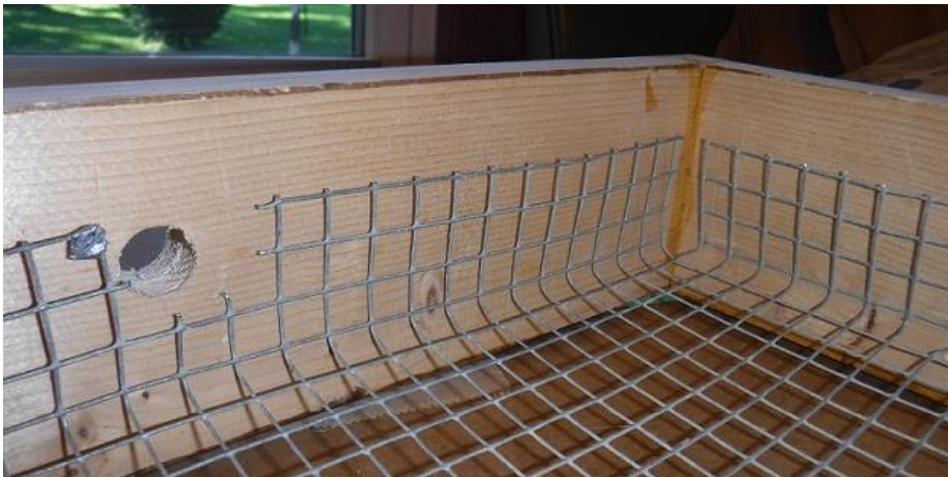
Once the bees know the candy is up there, you can keep candy replenished by making candy bricks and slipping them in to where the bees are currently eating the candy.

Remember: It is never too cold to feed your bees. You may lose a few bees to cold temps to place the candy board or to replenish it. But you will lose your entire colony if they have no food.

Here you can see the corner of 1/2" hardware cloth cut out.



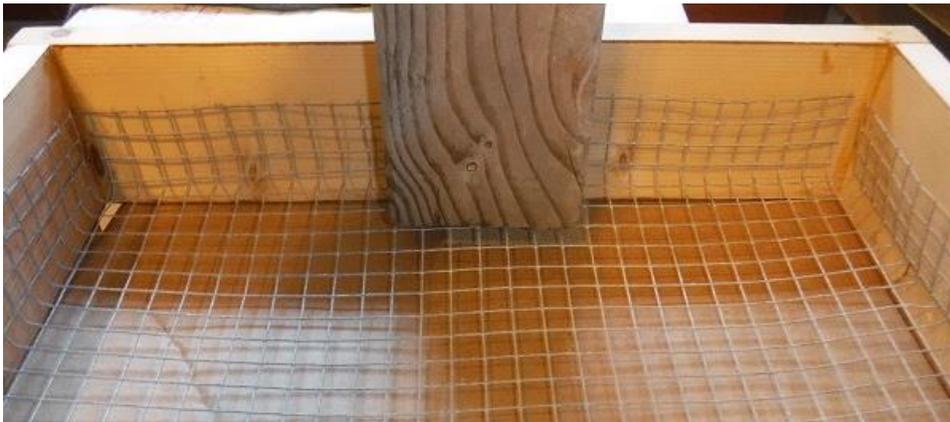
Here see how cutting the corner out allows it to not get bunched. Also note the cut out for the upper entrance if you choose to have one.



Here I use a board in the middle to create a passageway for the bees to climb up into the candy board. This also serves as a chimney to allow excess moisture to reach the moisture quilt.



If you make an upper entrance, place a scrap of board over it so sugar does not block it.



Either place cardboard under the box so the sugar does not squash through the hardware cloth or place a liner on the hardware cloth. Pack the lightly moistened sugar mixture into the candy board, gently remove the wooden forms and let dry.

I usually place candy boards in mid-December, above top bee box and under moisture quilts. If you place it early, do not be alarmed if your bees cart off grains of sugar as waste.