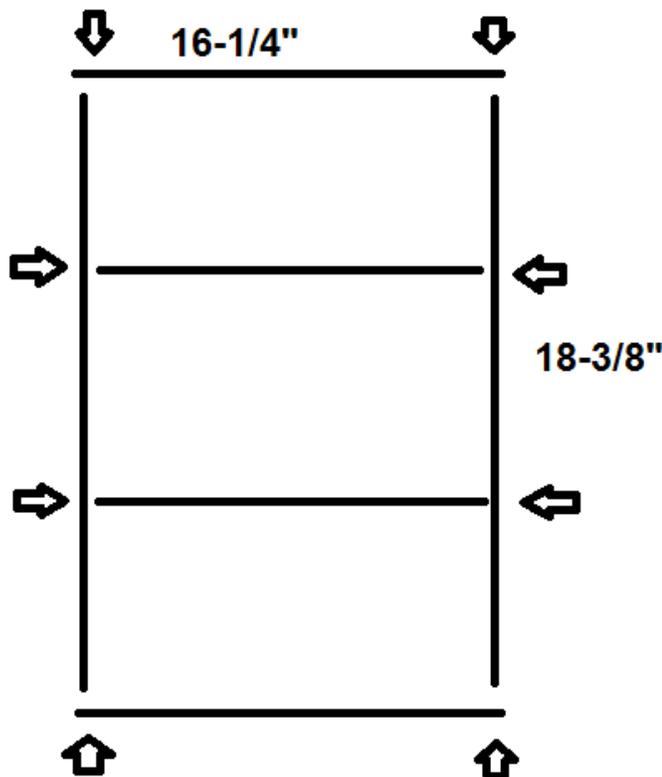


Moisture Quilts by Alice Craig Oct 2018

Materials:

1 x 4 – for a 10-frame Lang you will need:
2 pcs 18-3/8"
2 pcs 16-1/4"
2 pcs 14" (for cross support members – see below for alternative)
1/8" hardware cloth
Wood Chips (pine or cedar) and unbleached muslin/cotton

Assemble as shown in picture below:



Be sure to check corners for square!!

Arrows mark where screws are placed.

Drill two 1-inch holes on long sides of frame. Cover these holes by stapling window screen or similar over them. I usually place the screen on the inside, but not sure it makes a difference.

The cross support members should be placed 3/8 to 1/2" up from what will be the bottom of the box (the part that will be facing down on your hive). I find something the right thickness to set under the cross members as I screw them into place.

Cover the bottom of the box with some type of material that does not have holes in it and will not harm your bees. I use non-bleached natural muslin, but there are other possibilities. I stretch the cloth over the edges and staple to the outside of the box.

I then use small pieces of wood to staple the cloth to the cross support members so the material does not rip at the staples.

I create a "basket" with 1/8" hardware cloth to help support the wood chips that will go into the two biggest quilt box sections to keep the material from sagging down onto the hive frames.

NOTE: Another WCBA member had a great idea of using a queen excluder between the bees and the quilt to keep the material from sagging. If you use an excluder, you can eliminate the cross support members and the hardware cloth! I do not know how well this would work with a plastic excluder, but for my wood frame/wire excluders this works great.

Fill with wood chips such as pet bedding. I use all natural kiln-dried cedar bedding, but pine works fine. If you have a planer you could make your own.

This is a picture looking from the top of the box. The hardware cloth makes cradles in the two larger sections. I did not place the hardware cloth all the way to the edges so I can dump out the old wood chips next spring without removing it. I was in a hurry and put the window screen on the outside of this one, so I'll find out if it makes a difference this year.



Here is a view of the bottom. You can see that the cross support members are recessed about 1/2" from the bottom. Again, an unused queen excluder should work great and eliminate the need for cross members and the hardware cloth baskets.



Cloth attached, no entry points for SHB into the moisture quilt box. The small pieces of wood are stapled to the cross support members to hold the cloth up of the hive frames.

