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Lyson 8/9 Polystyrene Hive System Information

This information sheet explains the 8/9 hive components and how to assemble 8/9 hive boxes. Depending on your purchase details, some parts of this document may not apply. If you are only interested in assembling hive boxes, please skip to the last section.

8/9 Hive Component Summary



Pictured above are the LYSON 8/9 hive components:

- Screened bottom board with removable varroa tray
- Hive body (deep shown), mediums do not have vent hole
- Outer cover
- Adjustable entrance reducer/closure
- Deep hive body/outer cover plugs and vents

The 8/9 system has a unique interlocking bottom board/hive box/outer cover “rabbet or shiplap” joint. This joint keeps the components aligned making it harder for the hive to be dislodged. The outer cover and bottom board have a recess to secure a strap around the hive to provide more stability.

The outer cover also has recesses for the bottom board feet. This improves the stability of the hives while they are stacked, strapped and transported.



The 8/9 entrance reducer slides into slots in the bottom board and aligns against the lower hive box. It has a sliding plate to adjust the opening size and it can be flipped over to close the entrance completely.

The outer cover and deep hive bodies have trapezoidal holes for solid plugs or vent plugs. The solid plugs are white while the venting plugs are black with a screen. The deep hive body holes also fit the Lyson Hive Swarm Alert.



The 8/9 interlocking feature will not perform as well with wooden hive components however 8 frame woodenware can be used. There will not be any outside openings for bees to escape or defend. It is recommended that the hive be strapped together when wooden components are used. Bee space may not be ideal but wooden inner covers, cloth inner covers, and plastic queen excluders will work to help manage your hives.



We recommend painting all exterior surfaces with a good quality exterior latex paint to provide additional protection from the elements. Please follow the paint manufacturers surface preparation instructions. Typically a light sanding and dust vacuum before painting.

Hive Box Assembly Instructions:

You will need:

- Sturdy work surface or bench
- Drill with Phillips head bit or Philips head screwdriver
- Exterior latex paint and painting equipment

Each hive box contains the following components:

- 2 x long flat sides with handles
- 2 x shorter sides with handles and built in plastic frame rests
- 12 x 3.5" screws

The 8/9 hive system has an interlocking “rabbet or shiplap” style joint for holding the hive bodies in alignment. The top edge of the box pieces have the raised portion on the inside edge of the box. This then mates to the bottom edge of the next box. It is important to remember this when the box is being assembled. If the pieces are flipped, the ship lap joint will not work.

These instructions are written with the box “standing” on one short end and the bottom edge of the box nearest to you. We find that this is the most comfortable way to assemble the bodies and gives good control when holding the pieces in place. It may be better to assemble them on a lower work surface.

Some people prefer to assemble the body resting on the bottom edges. This works fine and these instructions can still be referenced to maintain alignments and steps to complete the assembly.

Instructions:

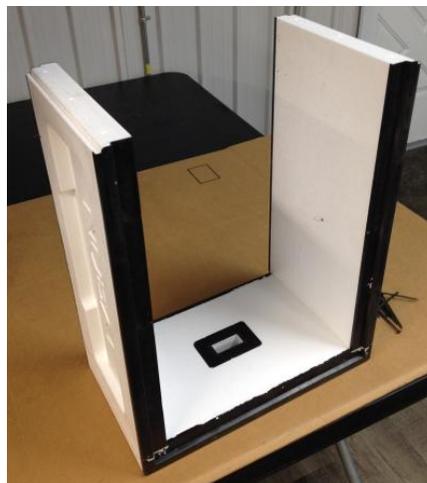
1. Gather all the components.



2. Make sure the screws and drill/screwdriver are near the work area. You will need to pick them up with one hand while holding the box together at first.
3. Lay one short (frame rest) side on the work surface. Orient so that the frame rest is away from you and is facing up (away from the work surface). The handle side should be against the work surface.



4. Fit the long sides into the pockets in the piece laying on the work surface. Take care to place the long sides with the handles out and the logo being "upright". This ensures the top and bottom plastic "ship laps" line up with the end piece on the work surface. If the sides are not placed in this manner, the interlocking boxes will not work.



5. While fitting the sides, make sure the top and bottom edges of the pieces are aligned to give the smoothest possible joint on the top and bottom of the box.
6. With the sides in place, lay the second end piece on top of the two sides. The frame rest should be away from you and facing down at the work surface. The handle should be facing up and the logo should be readable (not upside down). Make sure top and bottom edges are aligned to give the smoothest possible joint on the top and bottom edge of the box.
7. While supporting the box with one hand, slip the six screws into their countersunk holes.



8. Using one hand, hold the box together with slight pressure on the box end. Take care to keep the box square with this pressure also. Too much pressure and the box may fall apart or go out of square. Using the drill/screwdriver smoothly drive the screws through the end holes and into the sides. Maintain the screw direction so that it goes straight into the center of the side piece. Do not over tighten the screws as they may strip in the sides. A slow smooth screw installation will cause the threads to bite and seat/stop the screw. The screw should pull the plastic countersink insert a short distance (approx 1/8") into the end to complete the joint.



9. Holding the loose end (resting on the work surface) against the sides, lift and rotate the box so that the loose end is facing up. Check the edge alignment, slip the six remaining screws in the end holes and secure the screws into the ends.
10. The body is ready for painting. Paint all surfaces that are exposed to outside weather. Use exterior latex paint and be creative! Often beekeepers will use lighter colors in warm climates and darker colors in cooler climates. Make sure to allow your hives time to thoroughly dry before using.