

Cloake Board Checklist

Cells from queenless starters have the greatest acceptance.

Cells finished under crowded and queenright conditions are fed the best (and result in largest cells).

This method allows you to have both features in one hive unit, and it does not require movement of cells between a starter and a finisher (which interrupts feeding by the nurse bees, etc.).

Procedure

1. Several days before graft, put queen and older capped brood and 1 or 2 empty combs into bottom hive body.
2. Position excluder-bottom board on top of this hive body and place second hive body above it. Be sure to bring 1 or 2 combs of young, uncapped brood from the bottom hive into the top box. Provide frames with nectar, young capped brood, foundation, and a nice frame of pollen placed near the center of the combs. Insert a feeder.
3. Pivot the bottom board on the lower hive to face the opposite direction; block that lower entrance. This forces bees to fly to the top entrance.
4. Feed syrup and pollen patty.
5. **1-day before graft:** Insert metal divider. Open lower entrance. Remove all uncapped brood from top hive body.
6. **Day One:** Graft worker larvae into queen cups and insert into top hive body with minimal disturbance.
7. **Day Two:** Remove slide. Close the rear entrance.
8. **Day Four or Five:** Queen cells will be capped and can be gently separated and moved to an incubator (or nursery colony).
9. **Day 10:** Queen cells should go into mating nucs.