

Step-by step instructions for making a swarm-stopping split using a Double Screen Board

1. Open the hive and remove the supers.
2. Remove all the boxes from the base and add an empty box.
3. Add a frame with some nectar and fresh pollen.
4. Fill the rest of the box with empty drawn comb leaving two places in the center, empty.
5. Select two frames of brood from the removed boxes. These frames should have eggs and very young larvae. Inspect each frame very carefully to make sure the queen is not on either of them. Remove every queen cell from these two frames
6. Install the queen excluder if you use one.
7. Add supers.
8. Place the double screen board on the hive. Put the end without any doors on the front end. Open an upper door on one side.
9. Place the box (or boxes, if there is more than one) containing the rest of the colony on top of the board. All the frames should be closely inspected and any queen cells removed. The queen will presumptively be among the bees in this section, because she wasn't on the two frames installed in the lower part. You don't actually have to see her. Add two frames of empty, drawn comb in the middle of the box to make up for the two frames placed in the lower section.
10. Close the hive up, and double check to make sure you have one upper door open on one side of the hive.
11. Four or five days later, close the upper door and open the one leading to the lower section just below it. Open the upper door on the opposite side.
12. Repeat the door changing section on the 8th or 9th day after the split, ending up with the upper door at the rear of the hive open.
13. Any day after the 7th, but no later than the 10th, you need to move on to the second stage. Open the hive and locate the queen in the upper part. By now she will be back to laying and easier to find. And there will be fewer bees to crowd the frames. Set her, and the frame she's on aside in a closed nuc box. Select another frame of brood, and add it to the nuc box.
14. Remove the boxes of the upper section, the double screen board, the supers and the queen excluder.
15. In the lowest box, locate the two frames that had brood on them at the time of the split. There should be capped queen cells on them. Move these two frames to the upper box to replace the frame with the queen on it and the other frame of brood set aside in the nuc box.
16. Move the two frames from the nuc box into the now-empty positions in the bottom box. Make sure the queen is on one of those frames, and not left behind in the nuc box!
17. Install the queen excluder, and the supers.
18. Reinstall the double screen board, leaving the doors as they were.
19. Put the upper part back on the double screen board.
20. Close the hive up.
21. After the 10th day from the split, make no more door changes.
22. About four weeks after the split, you can inspect the upper part for signs of a newly mated, laying queen. Once you've confirmed that, simply move the upper part to its own base.

Meanwhile in the lower part, the colony - newly re-united with the queen who is once again in laying form - will usually stay out of swarm mode. The two infusions of flying bees resulting from the door changes will have provided a steady boost of bees to keep the field force strong while the population rebuilds.

The only critical thing is the 10th-day deadline for making the switch of the frames. If you get past the 11th day, you risk that one of the emergency queens hatches out in the lower part before you can return the queen and move the developing queen cells to the upper part to finish the process.