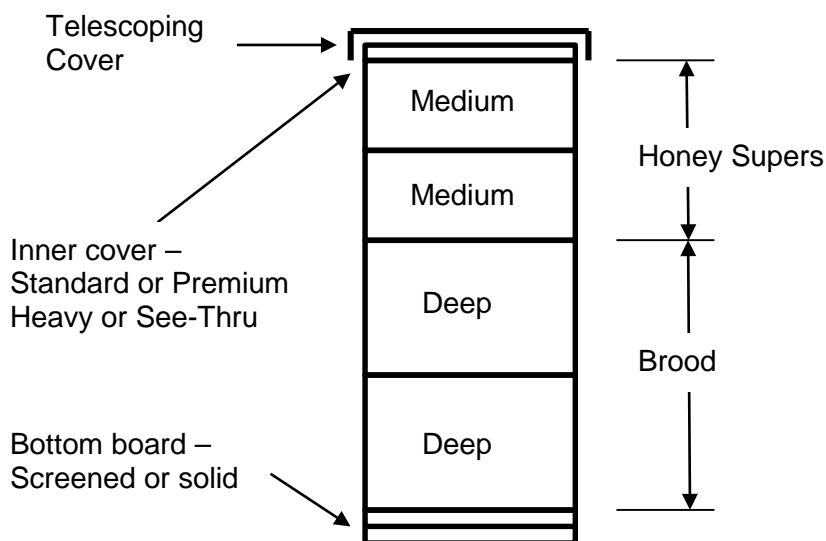


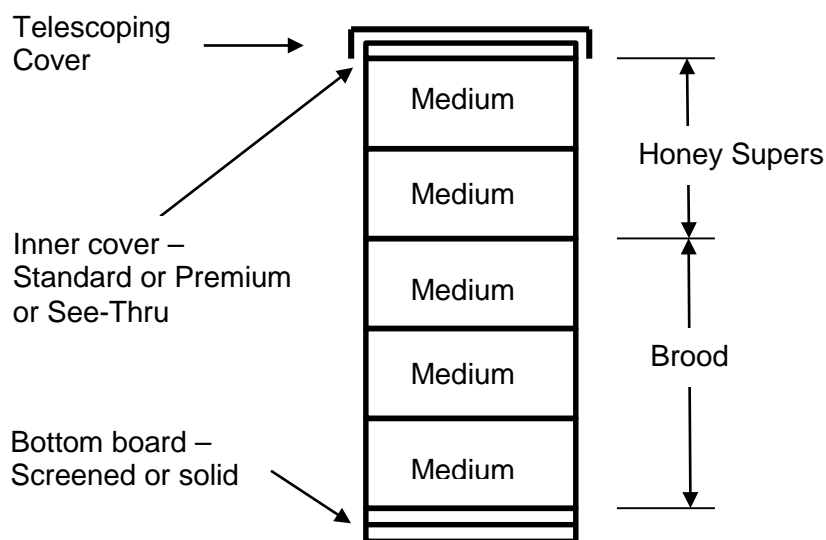
Hive Configuration Options

2 Deeps - 2 Mediums



The **2 deep – 2 medium** hive configuration is widely used by backyard and hobby beekeepers. Package bees are installed in one deep hive body and as the colony fills out and occupies the space the beekeeper adds the second deep hive body to provide space for the colony to expand brood production. As the floral season progresses the beekeeper adds medium hive bodies as needed to provide space for the honeybees to store surplus nectar and honey.

5 Mediums



The **5 medium** hive configuration is gaining in popularity among backyard and hobby beekeepers. There are two advantages to this configuration. First, medium hive bodies tend to be lighter and therefore easier for the beekeeper to handle. Second, the frames are interchangeable between the various boxes. In general, three medium hive bodies are equivalent in volume to two deep hive bodies. However, some argue that larger brood boxes (e.g. using deep hive bodies for brood instead of mediums) are better than smaller because it results in less interruption in the queen's laying. When a queen encounters the edge of the comb and finds wood instead of cells, this disturbs her and she tends to retrace her steps and go the opposite way rather than cross the between hive bodies. A second issue is the area of comb. The chart below illustrates the differences between a 2 deep and a 3 medium configuration.

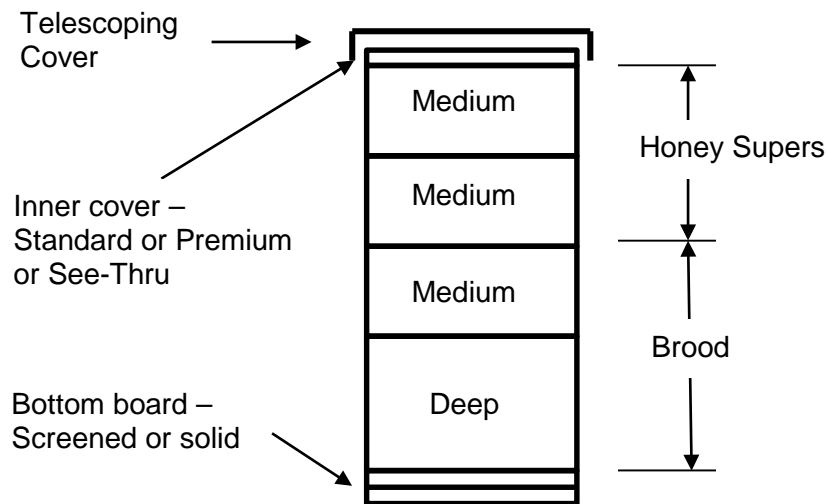


608-444-1493
www.capitalbeesupply.com

| Ten Frame Box | Number of Potential Brood Frames | Area of Comb per Frame (in ²) | Cells per frame | Total Comb Area (in ²) | Total Number of Cells |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 deep | 20 | 263.8 | 7290 | 5276 | 145800 |
| 3 medium | 30 | 171.7 | 4536 | 5151 | 136080 |
| Eight Frame Box | | | | | |
| 2 deep | 16 | 263.8 | 7290 | 4221 | 116640 |
| 3 medium | 24 | 171.7 | 4536 | 4121 | 108864 |

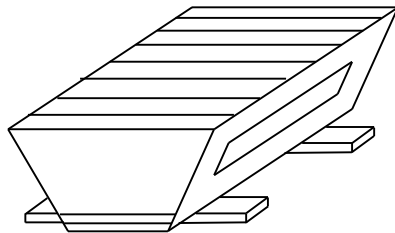
Package bees are installed in one or two mediums, depending on the size of the package and as the colony fills out and occupies the space the beekeeper adds an additional medium(s) hive body(ies) to provide space for the colony to expand brood production. As the floral season progresses the beekeeper adds additional medium hive bodies as needed to provide space for the honeybees to store surplus nectar and honey.

Story and a half



The **Story and a half** hive configuration is more commonly used by commercial beekeepers. In this configuration the brood nest size is compressed and represents a compromise between brood production and honey production. This configuration requires additional management and is not the best configuration for new beekeepers to start out with.

Top bar hive



The top bar hive concept has a long history. While top bar hives have been widely used in non-industrialized countries, there has been an increase in interest in top bar hives and top bar beekeeping in the United States in recent years.

Top bar hives can be found in many different types of configurations, however, the two primary types of commercially available configurations are the Kenyan and the Tanzanian top bar hive. Kenyan top bar hives are characterized by their tapered sides which closely match the natural shape of combs built by honeybees in the “wild”. The Tanzanian top bar hive has vertical sides.

Usage of top bar hives has generally been limited to temperate and tropical climates, however, there are a number of top bar beekeepers in the northern states. It is generally thought that honeybees in top bar hives have a more difficult time making it through the northern winters due to the horizontal nature of the hive. Winter clusters in northern climates typically have much more trouble moving horizontally to food stores than vertically, as they do in a Langstroth hive.