

Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead Beekeepers' Society

HONEY EXTRACTOR #2 on a low white metal stand & stabiliser board.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The Society has recently refurbished this extractor and had it electrically tested. It is important that it is looked after and used correctly by those members who hire it.

1. Currently the Equipment Coordinator in charge of the extractor hire is Simon Jagger in Maidenhead. When you collect the extractor for your hire period, if necessary, please ask for a quick demonstration to check it is serviceable & clean. When you return the **cleaned** extractor to him he will inspect it for usability & cleanliness. Any damage found upon handover will be charged to you.
2. A handover signature sheet will be provided in a folder that will be kept with the extractors and these instructions.
3. When moving the extractor be very careful not to knock the honey tap or the speed controller - they stick out!
4. Before use make sure the wing nuts on each side at the top of the extractor are tight and securing the metal work. Also check the honey tap is turned off! This extractor is fitted to a wooden stabilising board with three metal ball bearing castors underneath. This is very efficient at preventing extractor wobble but be aware that the ball bearings vibrate and have the potential to mark the floor underneath. An offcut piece of kitchen lino is provided with the extractor to be put under the stabiliser board when in use. It is recommended that you consider also putting an old rug / blanket underneath the lino to protect your floor. The Society accepts no liability for any damage caused in the use of this equipment!
5. It is still important when loading the extractor to balance the frames. The easiest way to do this is to find the 3 lightest frames in the super, usually the outer ones, and place one in the first slot of each of the 3 sections in the cage.
6. Make sure the frame lug fits into the slot in the bottom of the cage.
7. If there is any granulated honey in the frames it will not extract and will make the whole extractor unbalanced and vibrate wildly. When granulated you will need to cut out the comb and melt it down.
8. Turn the power switch on and then start the cage spinning manually with your hand. Whilst it is still moving gradually turn the speed dial until the motor is slowly moving the cage - about 1/4 power.
9. As soon as you see the honey hitting the walls you can increase speed gradually working up to full speed. Take your time doing this. Too fast, too soon, will cause comb to break or the extractor to unbalance.
10. This extractor is not designed to hold a large quantity of honey in the tank underneath the cage. If you let the honey come up to the level of the lowest metal screw, which goes through the tank side and holds the bottom metal bar in place, you will find honey will likely leak out around the screw hole. You will also find that if you let the honey level rise any further the white plastic

bushing at the bottom of the central spindle of the cage will drag in the honey. This will have the effect of slowing the motor and put it under severe strain, giving you the impression of a burnt out / failing motor. **Make sure you do not let the level of honey build up in the tank.** It is suggested you extract one super and then lift the extractor up onto a low table / bench, tip the extractor and drain off the one super's worth of honey into a bucket. Then do another super and repeat. A benefit of doing this is you will find you have different colour honeys from different supers and additionally you don't wreck the extractor! If you can't manage to lift it then get a family member / friend to assist.

11. When cleaning the extractor undo the wing nuts on either side at the top of the tank. Remove the bolts and do not lose the washers & nuts. Lift out the metal cage and motor out of the tank completely. Remove the white plastic bushing that the spindle sits in through the bottom metal bar and keep it safe. Ensure that no water goes anywhere near the motor & speed controller - place them out of the way of the tank whilst cleaning.

12. **Do not** unscrew the metal screws fixing the white metal stand to the tank or the metal honey valve tap. They have plastic O Rings creating a seal and if over tightened the sealing rings will break. The body (plastic tank) of the extractor is easily washed with a hose pipe on the outside and on the inside with a **non-abrasive** kitchen cloth. Start by using cool water which will aid in the removal of wax and propolis. Then use warmer water to dissolve any remaining honey. Detergent is not really necessary but if any is used please ensure that it is well rinsed off.

13. The cage needs wiping down with a kitchen cloth or plastic scourer to remove wax and especially propolysis. Pay special attention to the lug holders where propolysis typically collects.

14. Drain, dry with kitchen roll and reassemble the extractor, putting the white bushing back into the bottom metal bar first, and leave it absolutely clean for the next hirer.

15. If anything goes wrong **DO NOT** attempt a fix yourself or tamper with it. Instead notify Simon Jagger or any member of the committee and we will deal with it. Any damage caused by a hirer will need to be paid for.

If you have any doubts or questions regarding the above procedures then please call Simon Jagger (mobile 07800 662208), or any committee member, for advice.