

The Easi-steam

This equipment quickly and efficiently renders old comb down into its component parts of beeswax and cocoon.

The equipment consists of:

- Steam generator (4 litre capacity, 1800W, 3m length of electric cable)
- A galvanised steel cover and 3 metre length steam hose
- A steel tray and grid set in a British National standard floor, and an eke

To assemble:

- Place the steel tray and grid in the standard floor, and put the eke on top
- Place your box of old comb over the eke
- Fit the steel cover over your box of old comb, ensuring the steam inlet is not directly over a frame
- Connect one end of the hose to the brass coupling on the steel cover and the other end to the steam generator

Place the assembled unit on level ground outside or somewhere with excellent ventilation. It will need to be raised enough to fit a collecting tray under the outlet, and tilted forward slightly.

To use:

- Fill the water reservoir in the steam generator leaving some head space. Ensure the screw top is tightly closed. Plug into the mains electricity.
- Switch on the steam generator and wait for the water to boil. After about 20 minutes wax and water will run from the outlet into the collecting tray.
- Leave running for 15 minutes and then, wearing gloves, carefully remove the steel cover and see if the frames are clear of comb. If not, replace cover and steam for a further 5-10 minutes.
- When frames are clear of comb, remove the box of frames and place the steel cover over the eke (which now contains cocoons) for a further five minutes to remove any residual wax.
- Switch off the generator and leave the wax and water mixture to cool. The wax will float on top of the water produced by the condensed steam.

The empty frames can now be scraped of any remnants of cocoon, wax and propolis. The cocoon remaining on the mesh base and can be discarded or composted.

E. H. Thorne claims that the Easi-steam extracts 90% of the wax and also sterilises the frames with temperatures up to 105°C.

CAUTION

- The steel cover and other equipment will get very hot – use gloves.
- Do not allow the water reservoir to boil dry

ENSURE THE EQUIPMENT IS CLEAN BEFORE RETURNING