

Beekkeeping techniques

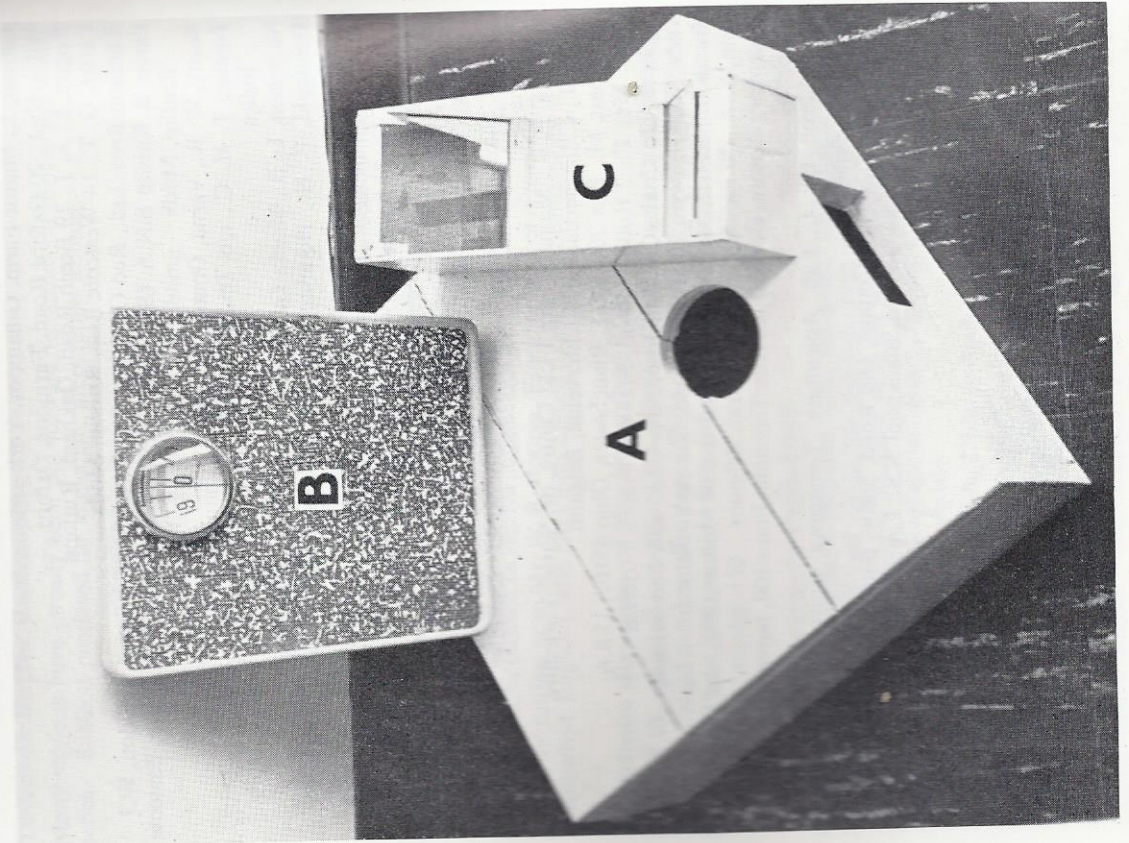


Fig. 1. The three component parts of the hive scales

Simple Hive Scales

A cheap and easily made device for weighing hives consists of three parts (Fig. 1). A is a stout box (16 x 16 x 6 inches, 40 x 40 x 15 cm) capable of supporting the weight of a hive (an old super is easily adapted); a hole is cut in the top to house the lens of the bathroom-type scales B. A light-box C (12 x 4 x 4 inches, 30 x 10 x 10 cm) holds two small mirrors set at about 45°, making a periscope which enables the scale reading to be seen easily from the back of the hive.

The bathroom scales are placed face downwards on the box (Fig. 2), and the hive stands on the base of the scales.

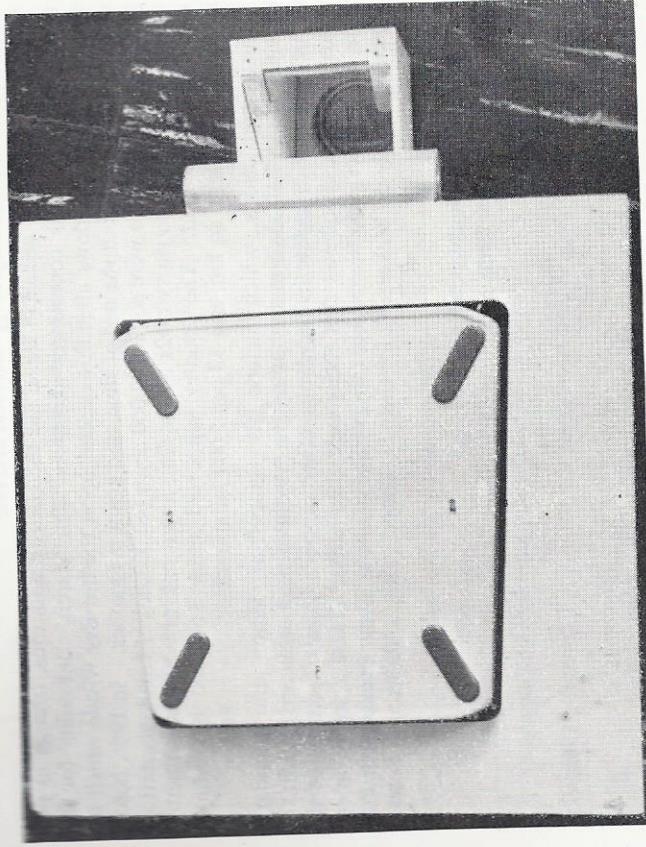


Fig. 2. The three parts fitted together, viewed from above

Our own scales have remained continuously in use for 3-4 months, supporting hives weighing up to 240 lb (110 kg), without deterioration. A waterproof flap to keep rain off the periscope is helpful, and also drainage holes in both scales and periscope.

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