STANDARDIZATION OF THE BEEKEEPING EQUIPMENT

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The trend to standardize the beekeeping equipment is most welcome. In my opinion it is rational to have only two type hives standardized, namely the 12-frame Dadant modified hive (frame size 448×285 mm) and the Langstroth hive (448×232 mm). The first step to this end was made already in Athens, in 1979. We consider that the 12 frame Dadant hive is the most recommended as standard hive because it meets all requirements of profitable beekeeping and is labour-saving. Brother Adam KEHRLE, of Buckfast, England, known to everybody, has been using the 12-frame Dadant hive for more than 50 years. The results obtained with this type hive are so good that they fully justify its being a standard hive.

The brood chamber in 12-frame Dadant hive meets all requirements of a prolific queen. With 12 frames, the brood chamber is *square* — 505×505 mm, which may be placed on the bottom board facing any direction, with combs either parallel or perpendicular to entrance. The honey supers hold 10-frames (with thick combs) of the same sizes as the brood chamber, but 150 mm deep. The sizes of honey combs are 448×141 mm. As many honey supers will be used as required.

The modified Dadant hive weds the advantage of one single brood chamber which is sufficient. The 12 combs in the brood chamber are equivalent to the brood area of 15.4 Langstroth combs.

One Dadant brood chamber with 12 combs is equal to 2 Langstroth brood chambers holding 8 combs each.

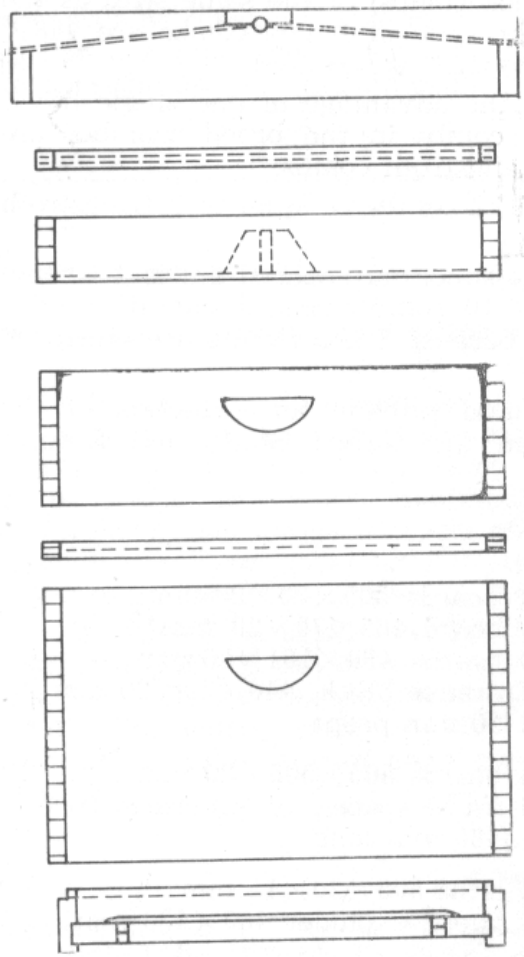
The fact that the combs in honey supers are spaced out is a labour-saving element. A honey super holds 10 combs, spaced out at suitable distance. So they are easier to handle because 2 less frames are uncapped and centrifuged for each super.

Standardization of this type would provide for reduction of the great number of frame sizes both in the United States and Europe.

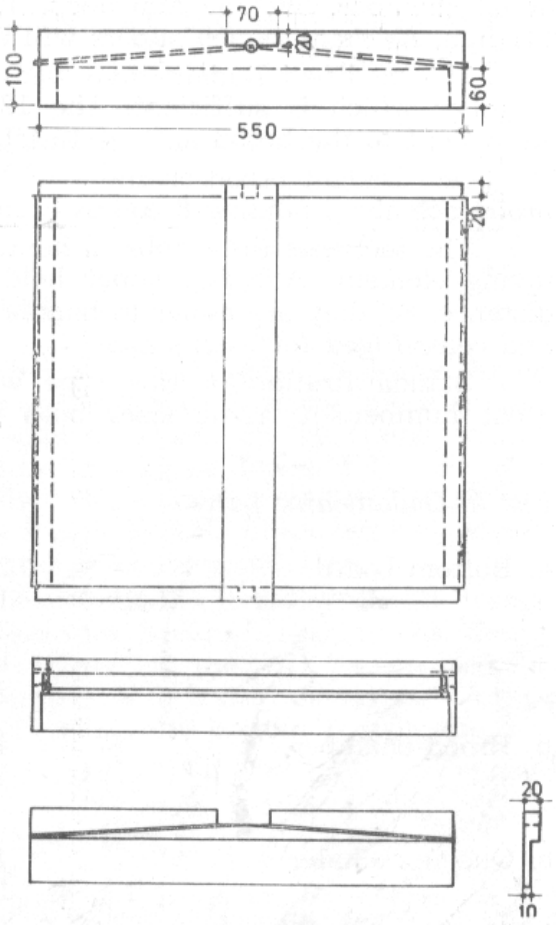
List of Dadant hive parts

a. Bottom board	2 boards 505×70×20 mm 1 board 485×70×20 mm 3 boards 460×161×20 mm Entrance block, 440×22×20 mm 2 20 mm props
b. Brood chamber	4 boards 505×505×20 mm 2 frame spacers of American type, 460 mm long
c. Queen excluder	4 laths 505×20×15 mm 1 queen excluder 480×480 mm
d. Honey super	4 boards 505×150×20 mm 2 frame spacers 15×10 mm

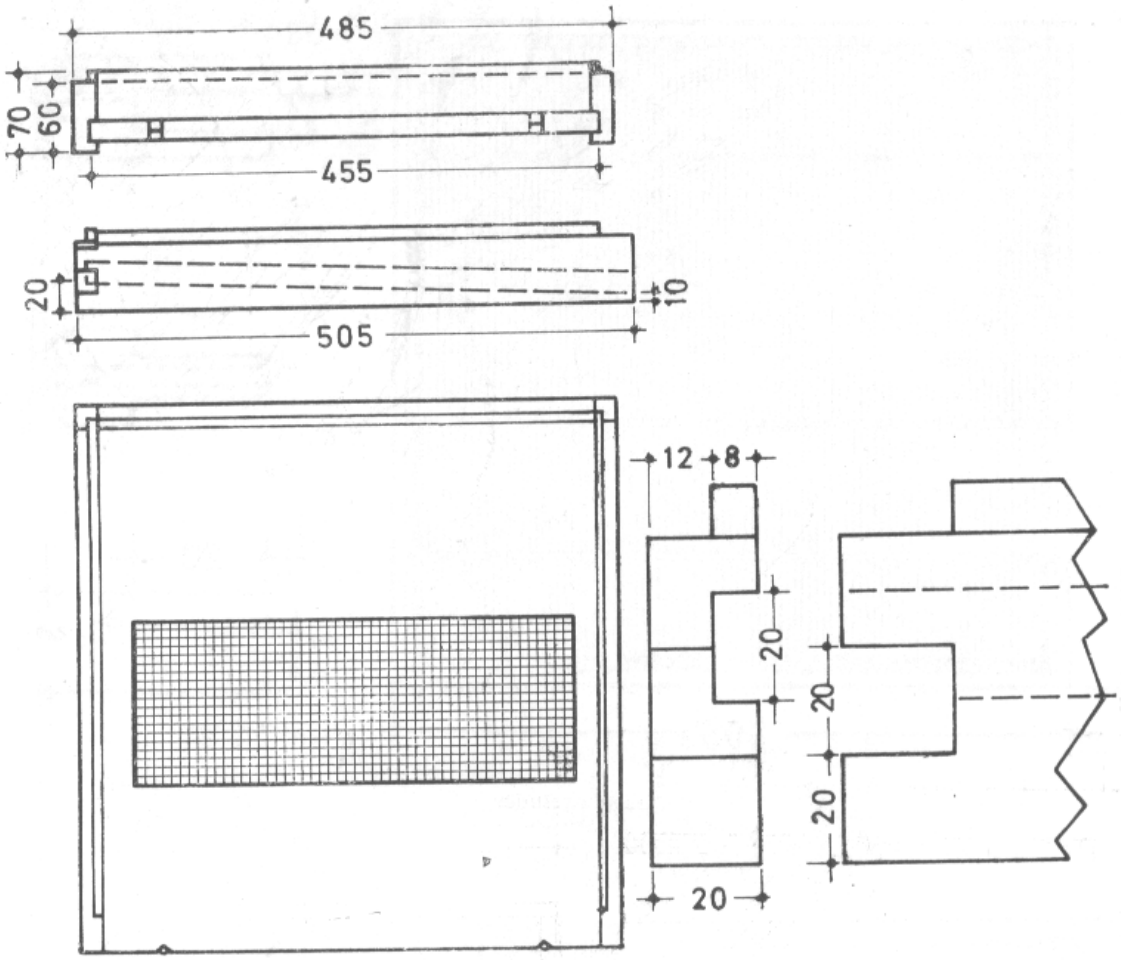
e. Crown board	4 laths 505×20×18 mm 1 plywood panel 1 Porter bee escape Closure for the bee escape
f. Roof	2 boards 550×100×20 mm 2 boards 550× 60×20 mm 1 board 550×70×20 mm 2 Betoplan boards 520×225×4 mm
g. Roof with feeder	4 boards 505× 70×20 mm 1 block 100×100×60 mm 1 playwood panel 480×480×8 mm
h. Flight board	2 laths 450×20×20 mm 4 boards 440×100×10 mm 1 board 440×50×10 mm
i. A tin roof cover for the roof with feeder	Tin sheet 120×120×73×0.5 mm



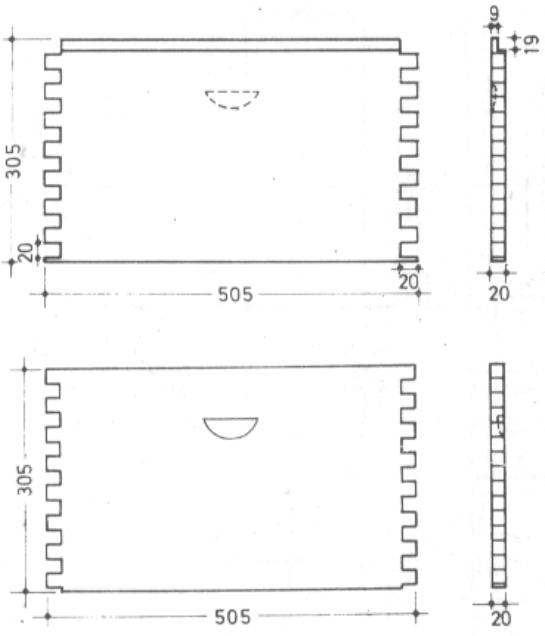
Hive parts (from top) : cover (roof), inner cover (crown board), feeder, honey super, queen excluder, brood chamber, bottom board



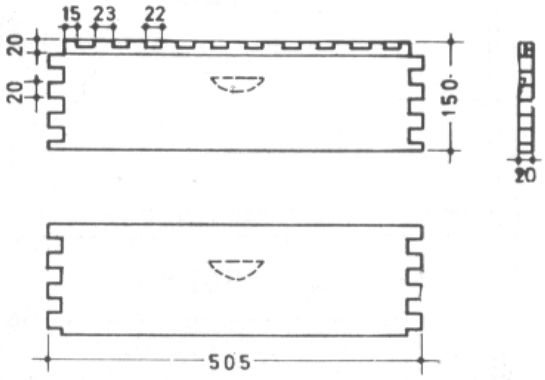
Roof



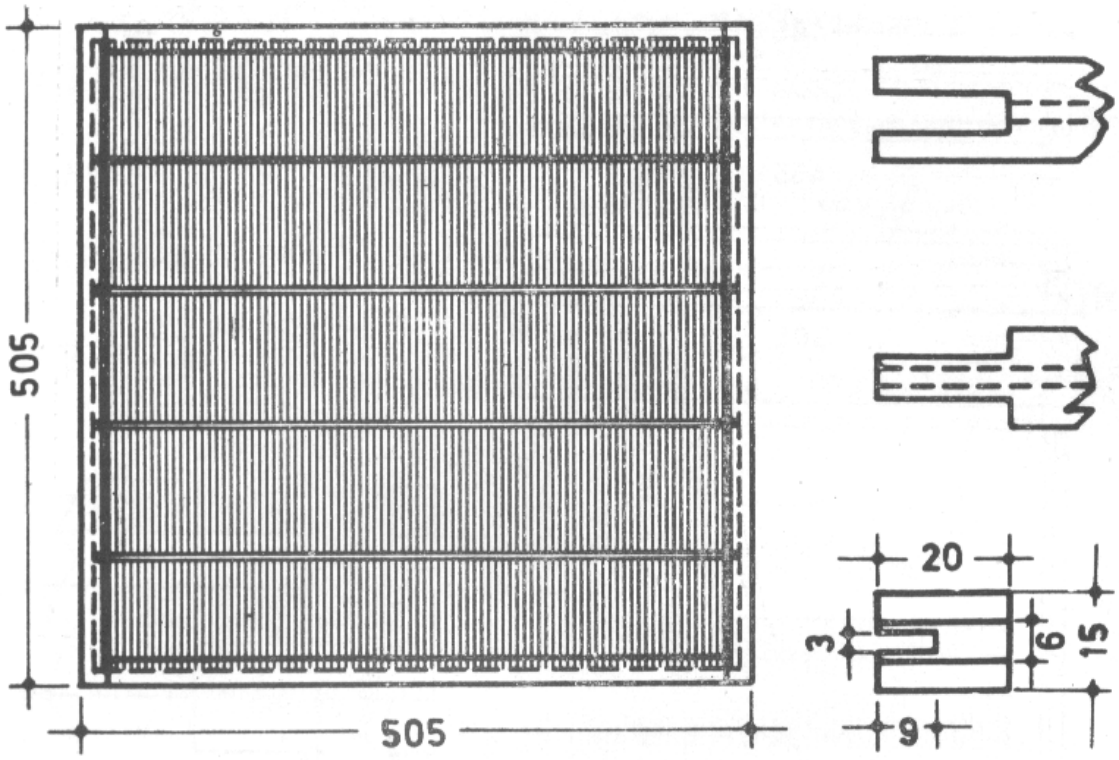
Bottom board



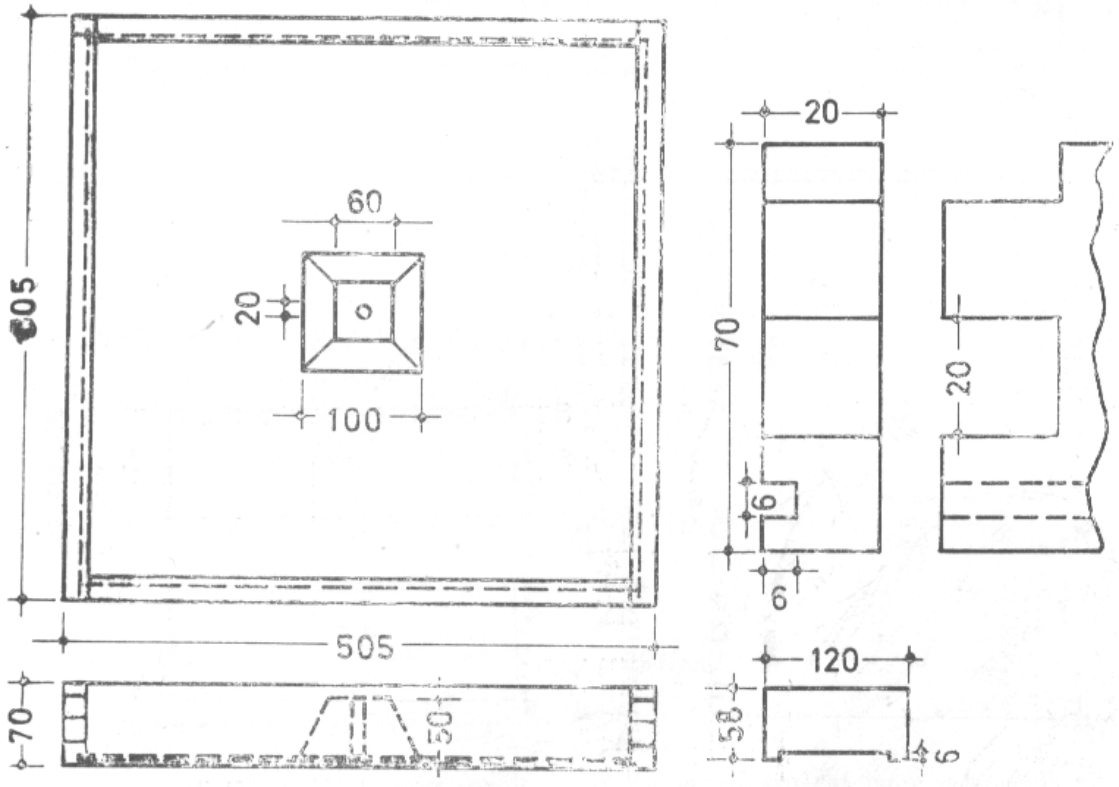
Brood chamber, front and rear walls



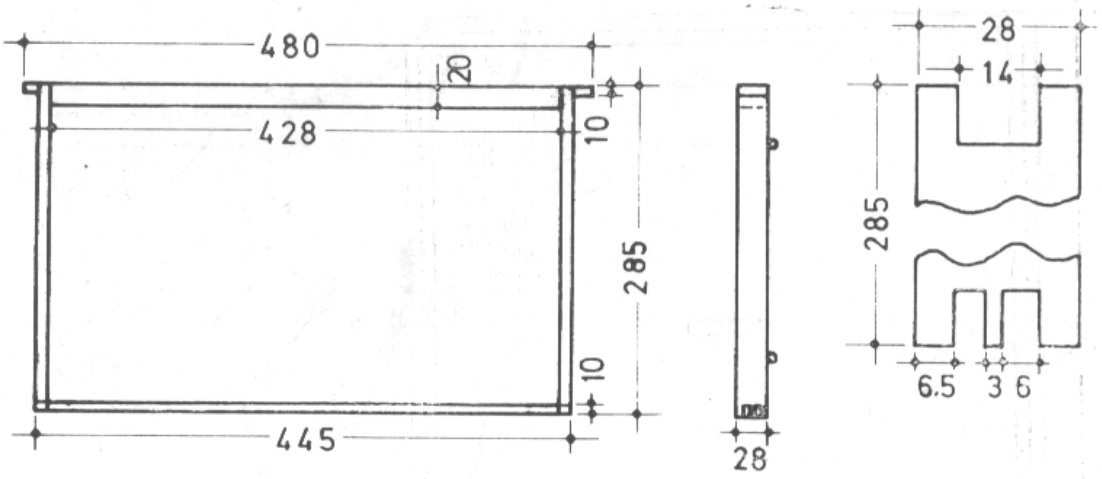
Honey super, front or rear wall, and side wall



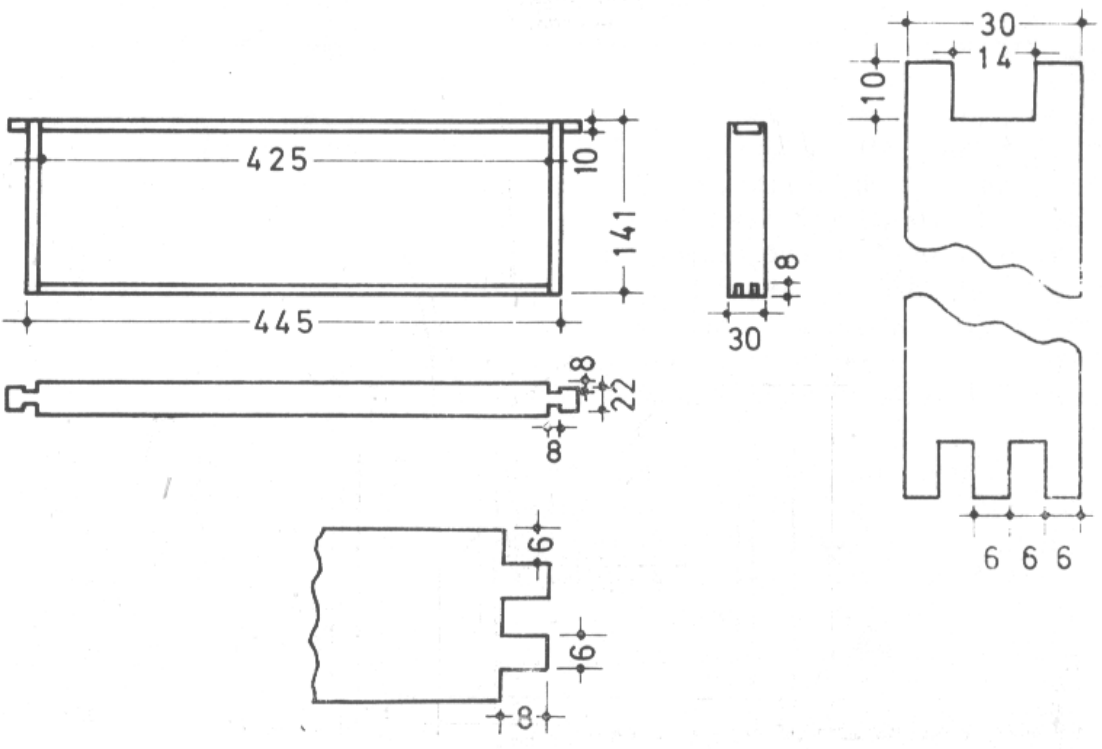
Queen excluder



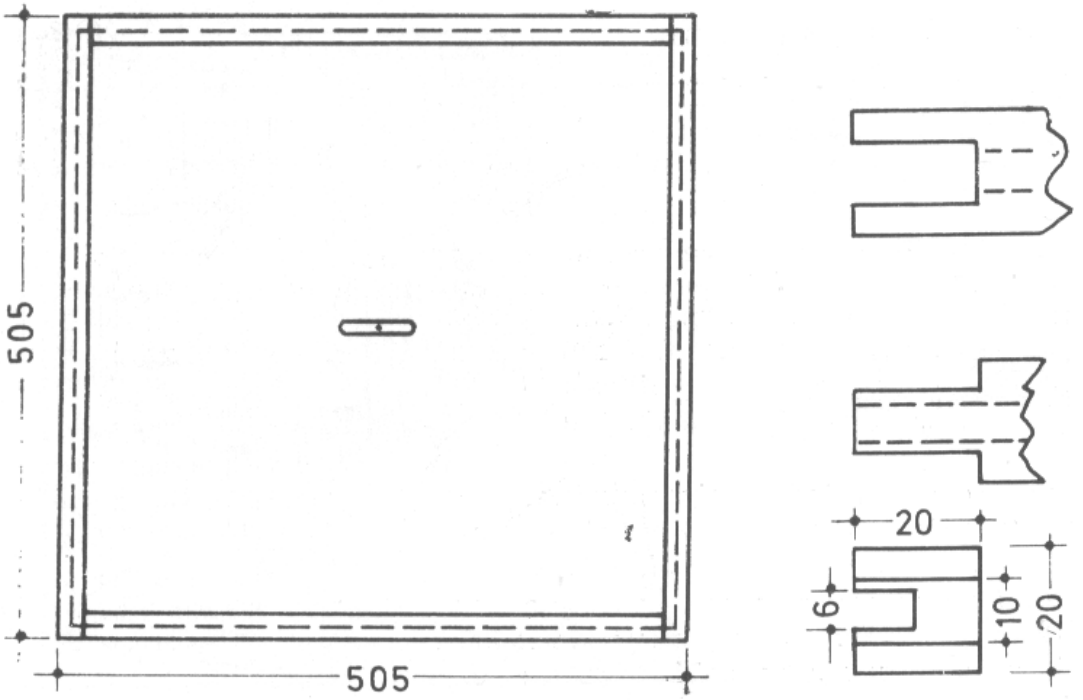
Feeder ; bottom right : the protection cover of tin sheet



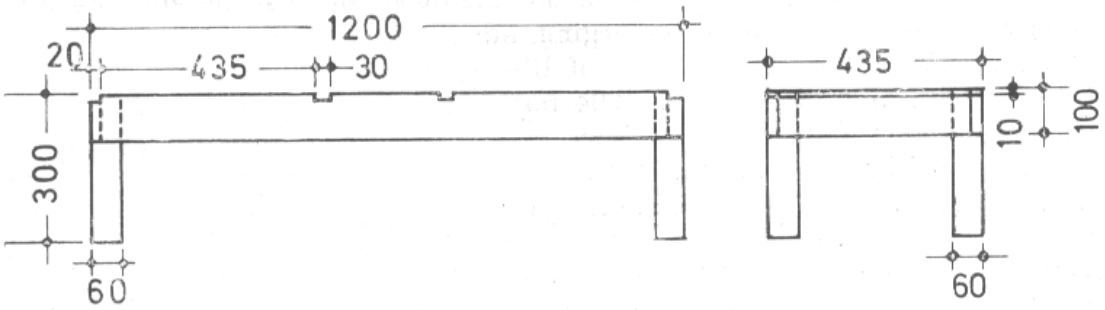
Brood frame



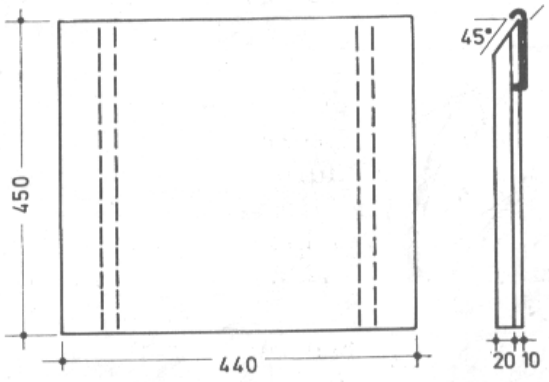
Super-frame ; bottom : the bottom bar



Crown board with bee escape



Stand for 2 hives



Flight board with hook of metal