**The “Upstairs Downstairs” Split:**  [**www.beespace.XYZ**](http://www.beespace.XYZ)



The simplest way to split an established colony

**Additional equipment needed**

1. **New BB** with 3 UD Intrances and ventilated bungs fitted
2. full of frames
   1. It is important to have frames that do not have full foundation. The foundation limits the young bees in chaining as well as the formation of the necessary drone comb.
3. Queen Excluder
4. Super

**Process**

1. Remove frames from centre of **New BB**
   1. Open hive and remove frames as per point 4.
      1. of Brood including
         1. new eggs
         2. Grubs (larvae)
         3. any bees on the frames
         4. There should be at least one full frame of stores (if not then there must be a super under this brood box) and preferably 2 frames that are packed with pollen/beebread. This is essential.
   2. Place in new BB
2. Reorganise frames in original box keeping the nest structure and replace the removed frames
3. Put a QE and a super with UD intrance (if have one) on top of original colony
4. Put **New BB** on top and replace original supers/crown board/roof.
5. For 24 hours close up all Intrances in the **New BB** then open up as weather/season permits and wait.

Queen cells will be created in one of the boxes and the Intrance will allow a new queen to exit to mate if the weather is fair.

1. When the colony is established remove the new BB first thing in the morning or last thing at night and set up the new colony in its own hive. Fit the ventilated plugs for 24 hours and then open up the new colony.

**Notes:**

It does not matter which box the queen is in but it is simpler to manage if she is in the original one as the new queen cells will be more easily seen in the new BB

On inspection, if you find several viable queen cells, you can:

1. add another QE/super and BB on top of the original two and
2. repeat the process of moving some brood.

Foraging and hence honey production will not be impinged and very soon foragers will be seen going in and out of both entrances.

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