GOOD4BEES

USER MANUAL FOR THE GOOD4BEES PROTECTIVE DEVICE FOR BEEHIVE V1 & V2



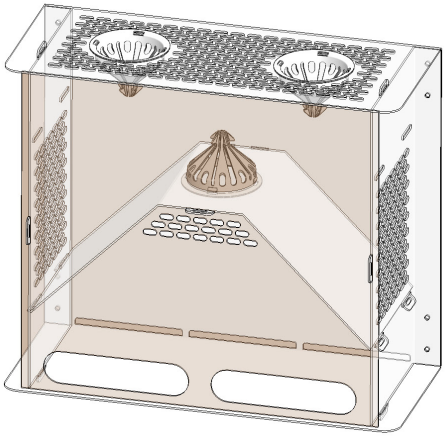
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A shared mission to protect the bees



The GOOD4BEES protective device for beehive was born from a close collaboration with beekeepers from Switzerland, France and Belgium, all sharing the same goal: to help protect bee colonies by giving them a fair chance against attacks from the Asian hornet.

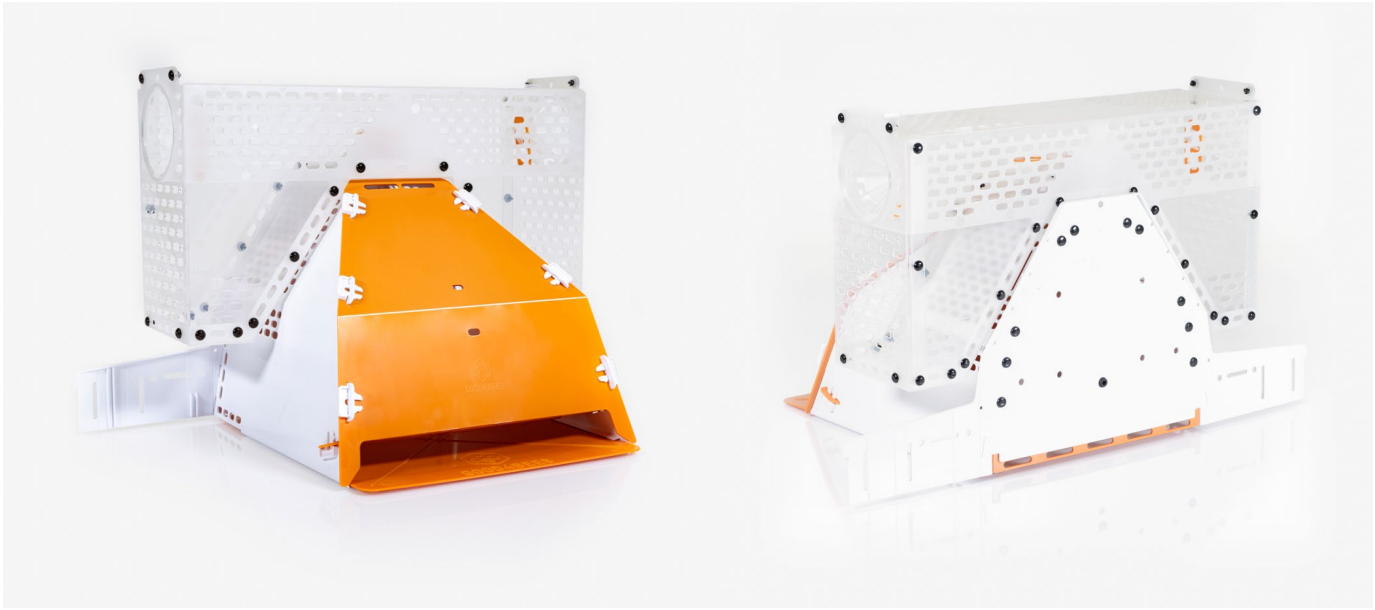
The journey began in May 2025 with the first design sketches. After many discussions with experienced beekeepers, around thirty plexiglass prototypes were manufactured and tested under real field conditions in July 2025.



A race against time then began to produce the first batch of 5,000 injection-moulded V1 protective devices for beehive, which were delivered to beekeepers facing severe Asian hornet attacks in September 2025.

The valuable feedback gathered from these first users enabled us to develop the new V2 version. Produced in a run of 50,000 units, it incorporates numerous practical improvements designed to make installation easier and provide even better protection.

This progress would not have been possible without the honest feedback from our users. **Now it's your turn! Help us shape future generations of GOOD4BEES by sharing your experience and suggestions with us at** hello@good4bees.com



Acknowledgements:

The development of the GOOD4BEES protective device for beehive would not have been possible without the support, commitment and valuable expertise of beekeepers Olivier Savary, Benjamin Dumoulin, Philippe Tasseele, Fred Petit, Jean-François Bessire, Pascal Crétard and Diego Van der Velde. Thank you! 🐝💛

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Why install the GOOD4BEES protective device?

Key information about the problems the GOOD4BEES protective device for beehive is designed to solve:

- Asian hornets visible to bees = colony stress
  - ✓ Use opaque side walls to prevent bees from seeing Asian hornets when they land on or underneath the protective device.

- Hovering hornets = vibrations and colony stress
  - ✓ Create a protected buffer zone with solid side walls to prevent vibrations from reaching the hive entrance and disturbing the colony.

- Asian hornet attacks in front of the hive = defensive behaviour, panic and blocked hive entrance
  - ✓ Increase the distance between the hive entrance and the entrance of the protective device so that bees feel safe when leaving the hive.
  - ✓ Allow bees to enter the protective device quickly and at high speed.
  - ✓ Add a capture box to trap Asian hornets and reduce the pressure on the colony.
  - ✓ Each live Asian hornet captured attracts the attention of other hovering hornets, encouraging them to focus on the capture box rather than on the bees.

Objectives of the GOOD4BEES protective device for beehive:

- ✓ The protective device for beehive must be compatible with all hive types, easy to install and remove, simple to maintain, and built to provide long-lasting durability.
- ✓ The hive entrance is protected from wind, bad weather and Asian hornets.
- ✓ Bees feel safe inside the protective device. They can move freely, take off easily and return with pollen to feed the colony.
- ✓ Most bees are attacked while flying back to the hive carrying pollen. The aim is to allow them to enter the protective device quickly and easily, slow down safely inside the protected area, and then return calmly to the hive.
- ✓ The queen remains unstressed and continues laying eggs, allowing the colony to grow stronger.
- ✓ Asian hornets often miss their target, become exhausted, land on the protective device, and then attempt to enter it to continue hunting.
- ✓ Once inside the protective device, Asian hornets cannot enter the hive. The calibrated rear door allows bees to pass through freely while preventing hornets from entering.
- ✓ Unable to pass through the rear door, hornets are naturally drawn upwards by the light and enter the capture box through the transparent, flexible one-way cone.
- ✓ Captured hornets attract other hornets, encouraging them to fly towards the capture box and their trapped nestmates, thereby reducing hovering activity in front of the hive.

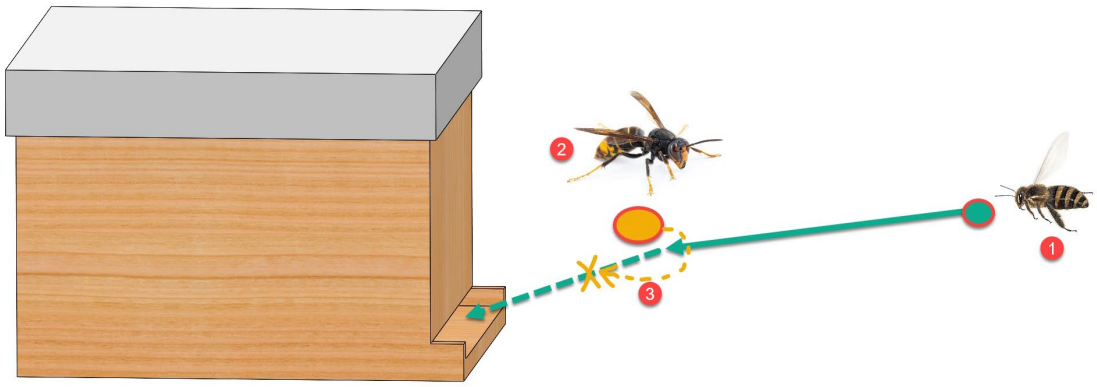
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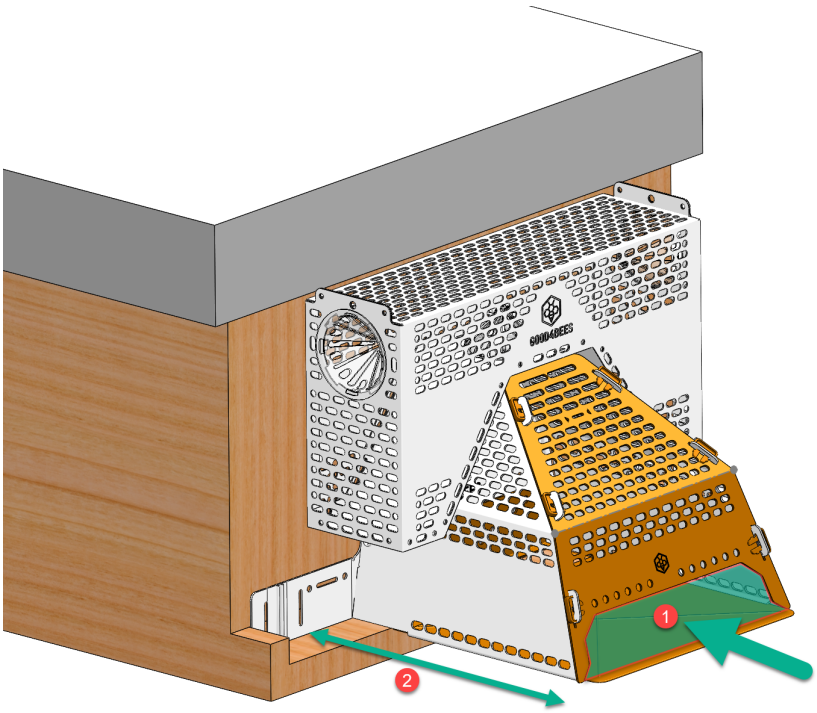
No protective device: Hovering Asian hornets at the hive entrance

Colony stress is at its highest. Bees are on the front line, and their natural defence is to form a protective cluster that blocks the hive entrance. Asian hornets wait with their backs to the hive, intercepting returning bees. Beekeepers have observed that this hunting strategy allows them to capture a large number of bees.



1. Bees fly at high speed, then slow down before entering the hive.
2. The Asian hornet hovers facing away from the hive, then targets a bee as it slows down.
3. The hornet turns around and catches the bee in flight with a high success rate.

Wide Entrance. Safe Flight. Effective Capture.



1) Bees enter the protective device at high speed through the wide entrance (following the same principle as Norma protective devices and tube entrances). They then slow down safely inside the protective device before entering the hive.

2) The 23 cm depth of the protective device creates a protected buffer zone, helping the colony feel safe. Bees are shielded from the vibrations caused by hovering Asian hornets.

3) Asian hornets become exhausted and enter the protective device to continue hunting. Attracted by the light, they move towards the top of the protective device. Once they pass through the one-way cone into the capture box, they are unable to escape.

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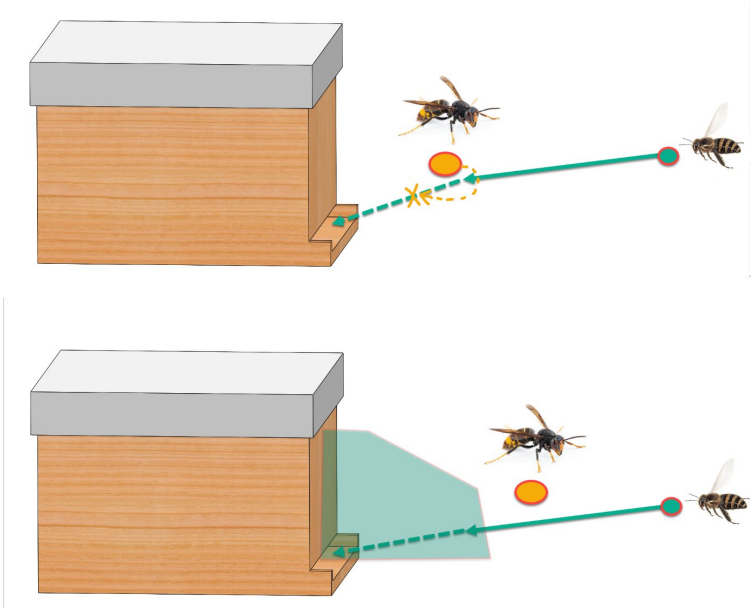
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Comparison with and without the protective device

Bees enter the protective device at high speed and slow down safely inside. This high-speed approach makes it much harder for Asian hornets to catch them, causing the hornets to miss more often and become exhausted.

Top: Without the protective device / Bottom: With the protective device



Result: Hornets miss more of their attacks, become exhausted, and eventually enter the protective device, where they are trapped in the capture box. As more hornets are captured, the pressure on the colony gradually decreases.



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How to install the protective device on your hive?

Compatibility with different hive types

The system can be easily fitted to the front of the hives shown below:



Wooden hive
10–12 frames



Wooden hive - 10 frames
Nicot bottom board



Full Nicot hive - 10 frames
(new version)



Polystyrene hive
Mini Plus, Segebergers



High-quality polystyrene hive (10–12 frames, e.g. Abelo, Lyson)



Polystyrene nucleus hive
Mini Plus or Quadri



Wooden nucleus hive



Wooden nucleus hive
with Nicot bottom board

Installation on this type of hive requires the front roof to be removed or the front of the hive to be modified.



Wooden hive with front roof
Solution: Remove the front roof



Full Nicot hive (older version)
Solution: Cut off the plastic strip

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Attaching the protective device and capture box to the hive

Follow these steps to adapt the protective device to your hive:

1. Measure the width of your landing board (e.g. Nicot bottom board or wooden bottom board).





2. Mark the sides of the rear plate. For 12-frame Dadant hives, proceed directly to step 4.



Caption (right-hand image):
1. 12-frame Dadant hive (maximum width) | 2. 10-frame Dadant hive with Nicot bottom board | 3. 10-frame Dadant hive with wooden bottom board 4. 6-frame Dadant hive with Nicot bottom board | 5. 6-frame Dadant hive with wooden bottom board

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3. Découper les côtés de la plaque arrière de la muselière à l'endroit du marquage en fonction de ton plancher

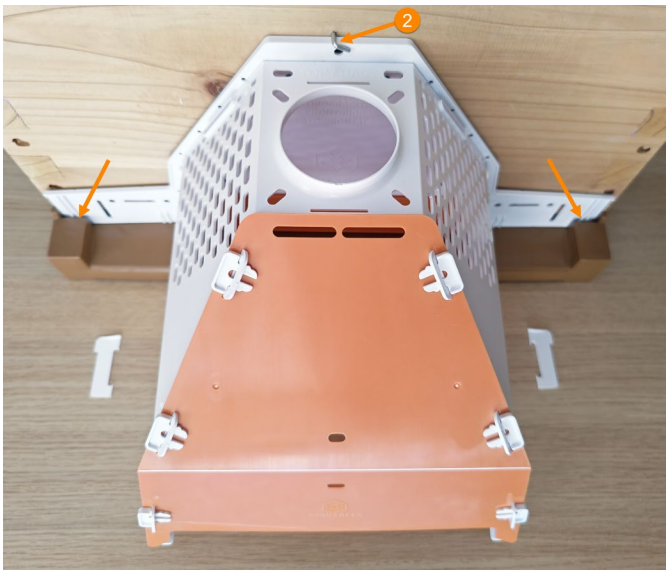


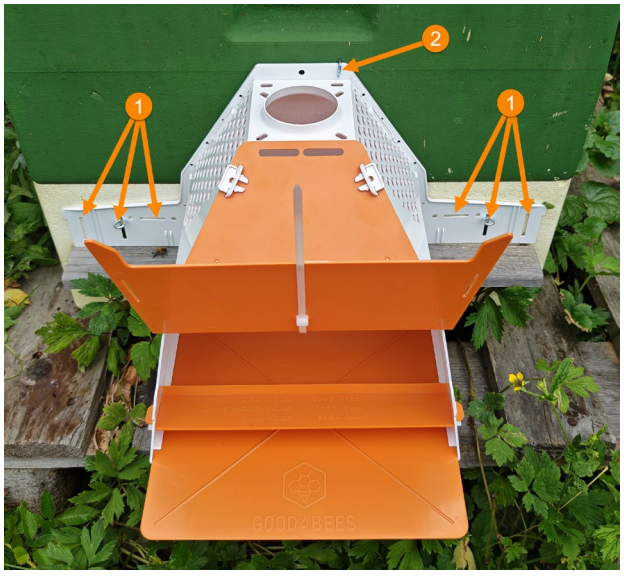


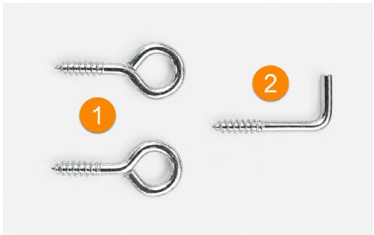
4. **Nicot bottom boards (left-hand image):** No screws are required to secure the lower part of the protective device, as the sides of the rear plate clip directly into the bottom board. Only fit one L shaped screw at the top.

   Full Nicot hives: See the installation instructions on the next page.

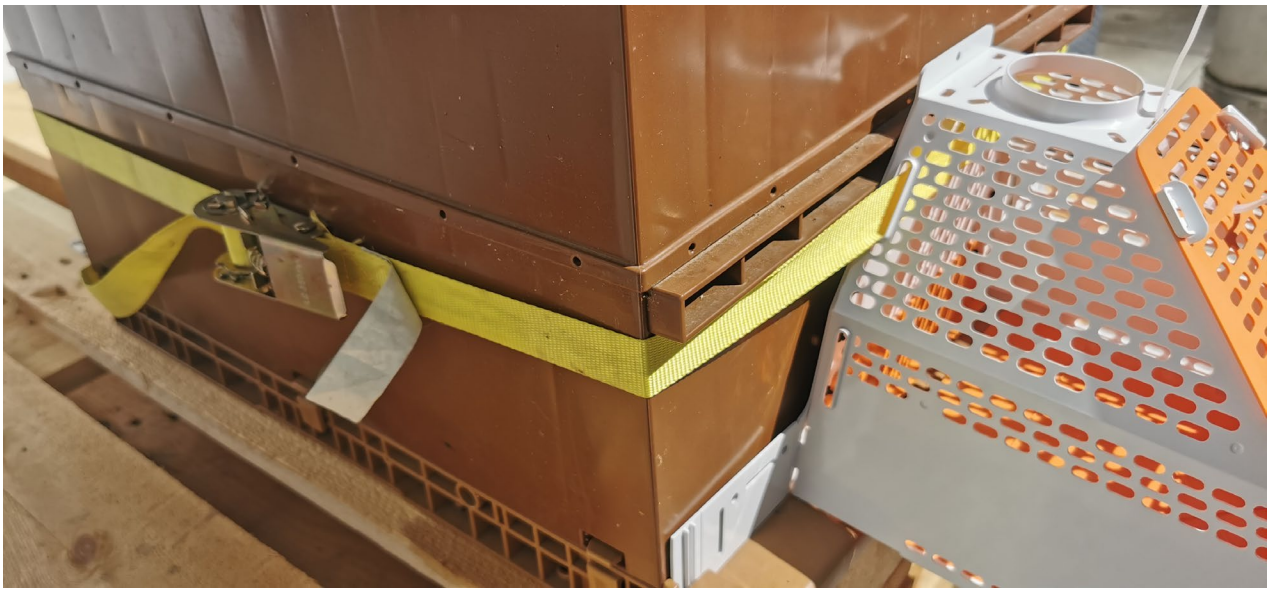
   Other bottom boards (right-hand image): Position two eye screws (1) at the bottom so that they engage with the corresponding holes in the rear plate. Fit one L shaped screw (2) at the top.







4. (Continued) Installation using tension straps (e.g. Nicot hive body):

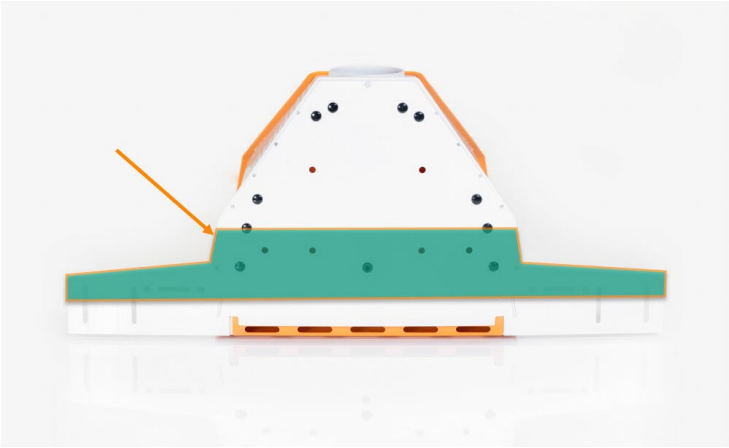


If the protective device for beehive does not fit flush against the hive body, we recommend using a flexible foam (e.g. polyurethane foam) to seal any gaps. This ensures that the bees can only enter and leave through the front of the protective device.

For a Nicot hive body, the recommended application area is highlighted in green in the illustration below. The aim is to seal the area behind the protective device so that bees cannot enter it from above or from the sides but can only enter and leave through the front of the protective device.



Flexible white polyurethane foam
Recommended thickness: 10, 15 or 20 mm

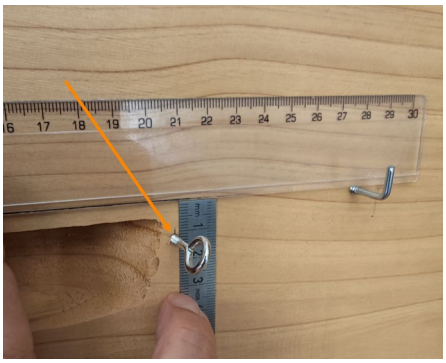
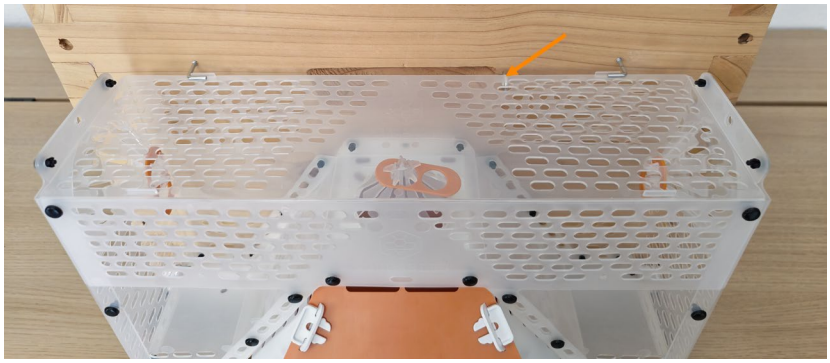


Recommended foam area for a Nicot hive

5. Install the capture box on the protective device. Insert the L-shaped screws into the capture box and mark their positions on the hive body. **Warning:** Screw the L-shaped screws in only 3–4 mm, no further!

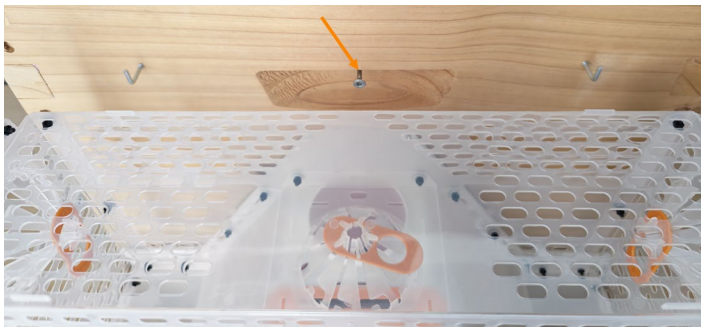



6. To stabilise the protective device, screw an additional screw into the hive body 12–15 mm below the two L-shaped screws. This screw acts as a stop, preventing the capture box from lifting.

As shown above, the handle obstructs the support screw. However, the screw still provides reliable support. Alternatively, use a 35 mm screw to position the support point centrally, as shown below.





The installation of the GOOD4BEES protective device is now complete! If you have any questions or need assistance, please record a video of the situation and send it to us via WhatsApp at +41 76 204 46 01. This will help us better understand the situation and work with you to find the most suitable solution.

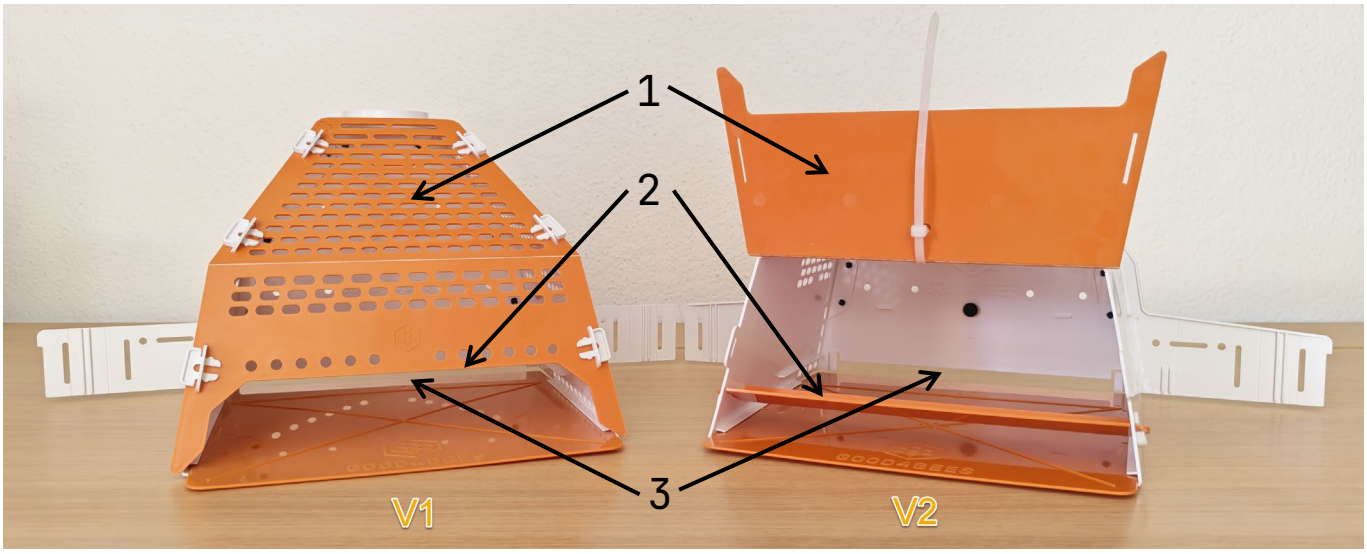
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Adjusting the GOOD4BEES Protective Device V1 & V2

From February to July: Learning phase and peak traffic



1 - Orange front panel

- ✓ V1 - Front panel folded down
- ✓ V2 - Front panel folded up and secured with the white clip

2 - Orange front door (entrance to the protective device)

The aim is not to restrict the bees' movement and to help them become accustomed to using the front entrance of the protective device at an early stage. This allows them to adapt to their new flight path before the first Asian hornet attacks begin.

- ✓ V1 - Without front door
- ✓ V2 - With front door installed to reinforce the front of the protective device

3 - Orange rear door (hive entrance)

Do not install until the drones have left the colony. This corresponds to the brown Nicot entrance reducer setting. For even faster bee access, the entrance reducer can also be left off completely.

4 - Transparent capture box

Do not install the capture box until the drones have left the colony.

Objective: Help the bees become accustomed to the protective device. With the rear door left open, bees can move freely, large pollen loads can be brought into the hive without obstruction, and drones can leave the colony freely.

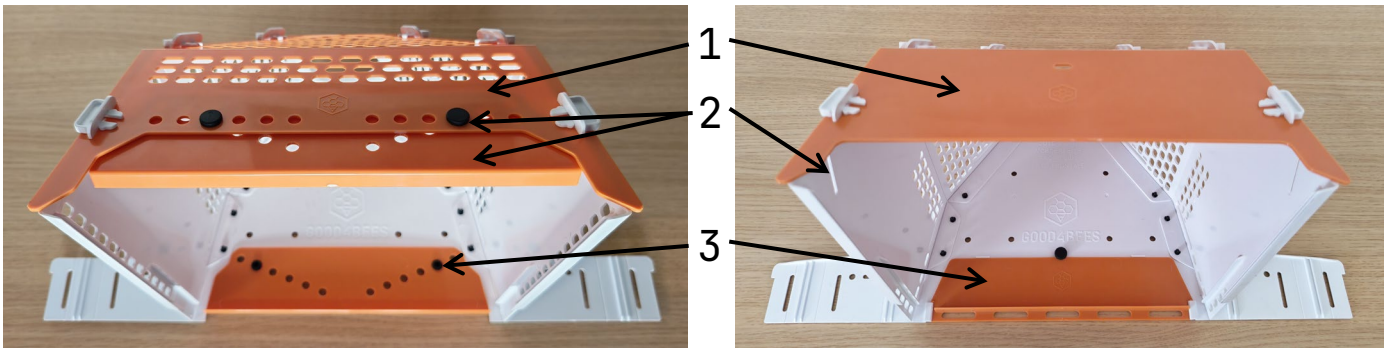
Notes: 1. If Asian hornet pressure becomes high, prioritise the health of the colony and install the transparent capture box, even if this results in some drones being trapped. The colony will eventually expel these drones anyway. **2.** During periods of high outdoor temperatures, if bees begin to form clusters outside the hive, temporarily open the protective device to improve hive ventilation and reduce the internal temperature.

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From August to September: Active protection phase (peak hornet season)



Note: The lower landing board has been intentionally removed to make the adjustment settings easier to understand.

1 - Orange front panel

- ✓ V1 - Front panel folded down
- ✓ V2 - Front panel folded down

2 - Orange front door (entrance to the protective device)

Objective: Reduce the amount of light entering the front of the protective device so that Asian hornets do not escape through the front but are guided into the transparent capture box instead.

- ✓ V1 - Set the front door to a 17 mm opening (3rd position, see image above), then gradually reduce it to 12 mm and 7 mm.
- ✓ V2 - Leave the front door off initially. Install it only if Asian hornets escape.

3 - Orange rear door (hive entrance)

Install once the drones have left the colony. This corresponds to the white Nicot entrance reducer setting.

- ✓ V1 - Set the rear door to 4.6 mm, or 4.9 mm for Buckfast colonies (1st or 2nd position, see the left-hand image above).
- ✓ V2 - Install the rear door and secure it with the rubber stopper (5.0 mm opening).

4 - Transparent capture box

Install the capture box once the drones have left the colony.

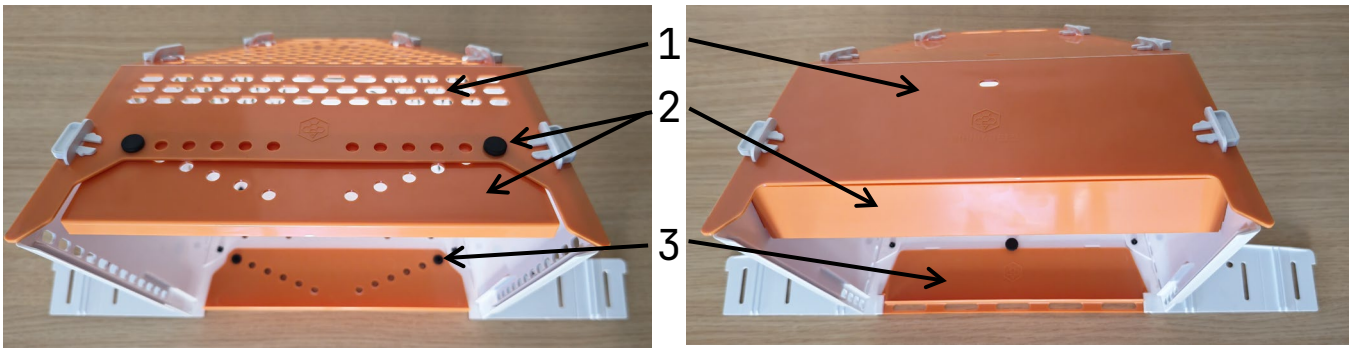
Seasonal recommendations: This is the peak of the Asian hornet predation season. At the front, the fixed opening disrupts the hornets hovering flight and guides them into the capture box. At the rear, reducing the opening to 4.6 mm or 4.9 mm (4.9 mm for Buckfast colonies) protects the worker bees. At this time of year, drones are naturally expelled from the colony by the worker bees and no longer need to pass through the rear entrance, but they may accumulate behind the rear door. **Check the entrance to the protective device regularly** and remove any dead insects or accumulated drones if necessary.

Notes: 1. If Asian hornet pressure becomes critical, prioritise the health of the colony and install the capture box, even if this means sacrificing a few drones, as they will eventually be expelled from the colony anyway. **2.** During periods of high temperatures, bees may form clusters outside the hive. In this case, it is recommended to leave the protective device temporarily open to improve hive ventilation and reduce the internal temperature.

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From October until wintering: Safety and wind protection phase



Note: The lower landing board has been intentionally removed to make the adjustment settings easier to understand.

1 - Orange front panel

- ✓ V1 - Front panel folded down
- ✓ V2 - Front panel folded down

2 - Orange front door (entrance to the protective device)

Objective: Reduce the amount of light entering the front of the protective device so that Asian hornets do not escape through the front, but are guided into the transparent capture box instead.

- ✓ V1 - Front door set to 7 mm (see image above)
- ✓ V2 - Front door installed

3 - Orange rear door (hive entrance)

Install once the drones have left the colony. This corresponds to the white Nicot entrance reducer setting.

- ✓ V1 - Rear door set to 4.6 mm or 4.9 mm for Buckfast colonies (1st or 2nd position, see the left-hand image above).
- ✓ V2 - Rear door installed and secured with the rubber stopper.

4 - Transparent capture box

Install the capture box. To empty it, immerse the captured Asian hornets in water at 80–90°C, then remove one of the cones from the capture box to dispose of them safely.

Seasonal recommendations: Bee traffic decreases significantly. At the front, the fixed door acts as a windbreak, helping to protect the colony from the cold. At the rear, the 4.9 mm setting is the ideal compromise for Buckfast colonies: it allows worker bees to leave the hive during their occasional winter cleansing flights without damaging their thorax, while permanently preventing late-season Asian hornets, mice and shrews from entering.

Recommendations for Buckfast colonies: The **4.6 mm** setting, which corresponds to the former **green Nicot entrance reducer**, has been deliberately omitted from this adjustment guide because it is too narrow for Buckfast bees and may block or injure them.

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Wintering: Remove the protective device completely

During wintering, removing the protective device makes oxalic acid trickling treatments easier to carry out. It also prevents dead winter bees from accumulating behind the rear door and completely blocking the hive entrance.

The ABS plastic used for the protective device becomes brittle at very low temperatures. Handle the protective device with care in cold weather and, if possible, store it in a frost-free location during winter. Avoid temperatures below freezing whenever possible.

The design also allows for compact storage. After removing the front and rear doors (V2) and the bottom board (V1 and V2), the protective devices can be nested inside one another to save space.

Warning: Towards the end of the season, feeding syrup becomes particularly attractive to Asian hornets due to the shortage of natural nectar sources. It is therefore important to check that hives are properly sealed. If in doubt, completely close the entrances of weaker colonies, as Asian hornets will preferentially target them.

Maintenance and adjustment of the front and rear door

To keep your protective device in perfect condition for many seasons, simply follow these three recommendations:

- **Check the entrance to the protective device regularly** and remove any accumulated dead bees, other insects or drones, especially after installing the rear door. This check is particularly important because the protective device partially obscures the hive entrance. For quick and easy inspection, we recommend using eye screws and L-shaped screws.
- **Use a blunt tool:** A butter knife with a rounded tip or a wide flat-blade screwdriver is ideal. Never use a sharp kitchen knife, as it may scratch or damage the plastic.
- **Insert the tool flat:** Slide the blade flat along the landing board beneath the orange rear door. Gently twist the tool to lift the rear door until the propolis seal breaks. The rubber stopper will compress and slide smoothly out of the opening without friction.
- **Avoid adjusting in cold weather:** At low temperatures, the plastic becomes brittle and fragile. Whenever possible, adjust the front and rear doors during summer or autumn (during the transition periods in July, August and October), when the plastic retains its natural flexibility.