

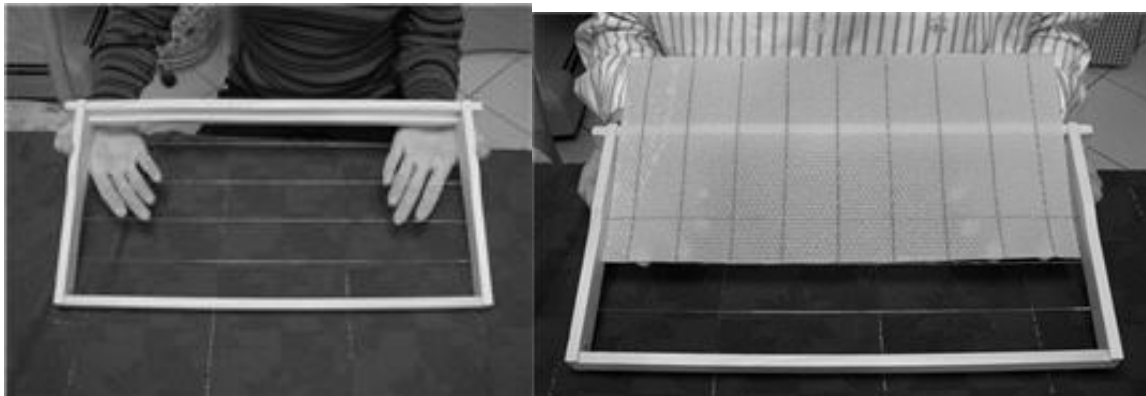
Directions for Installing Wax Foundation

<http://www.essexcountybeekeepers.org/>

Wax Foundation

After the frame is assembled and wired you are ready to install the wax foundation. When wax is cold it is easy to break, so try to work in a warm room and let the wax come up to room temperature. Finally your hands leave an odor on the foundation that the bees can detect, so try to handle the wax as little as possible. The goal is to weave the wax through the wires.

1. Lay the frame in front of you with the top bar toward you and the bottom bar away. The frame should have the side that had the “wedge” (you remember the wedge from assembling the frame) removed facing up.
2. Arrange the wax foundation with the wire hooks in the up position and toward your stomach.
3. Ease the wax over the top of the top bar and the first wire. Now go down between the first and second wire. This will be easy to do.
4. The more tedious task is to now guide the wax so that it goes over the top of the third wire. Gently using your finger tips lift the edge of the wax up so it will go over the third wire and by pulling the frame toward your stomach. Your stomach will push the wax foundation into the frame. Your fingers will be lifting the edge of the wax, while your thumbs will be on the outside of the frame side bars pulling the frame toward you.



5. Weave the wax up and down through the wires until the wax is inserted into the groove of the bottom bar.
6. At this point you should be able to tuck the edge of the wax with the wire hooks into the space where the “wedge” was removed. When everything is smooth and neat put the wedge bar back into the frame securing the wax foundation in place. Using some $\frac{3}{4}$ ” brads (or small nails) tack the wedge into place.
7. The last step is to embed the wires into the wax. Using a piece of 1 X 8 dimensional lumber cut small enough to fit inside the frame, you can lay the frame on this platform and run an embedding tool along the wires. This crimps and embeds the wires into the wax. You can also use a 6volt transformer connected to the ends of the wire for a couple of seconds to heat up the wires and melt them into the wax. **YOUR DONE!**