

Phil Craft's basic beekeeping equipment list for the beginner – all you need to get started

- The hive (It is nice to start with two, but one is fine), will basically be constructed of wood, but plastic outer covers, bottom boards, & foundation are okay
 - Bottom board – wood or plastic (not sure if plastic very common)
 - Two deep hive bodies
 - Ten deep frames per deep hive body – wood, not plastic
 - Foundation – one sheet for each frame, can be beeswax or plastic, wax foundation should come with vertical reinforcement wires & beekeeper should add 2 runs of horizontal reinforcement, thus plastic is simpler for beginners.
 - Inner cover – avoid plastic (they warp easily)
 - Outer cover - wood with metal cover, or plastic
 - Hive stand – You'll most likely construct this, not buy it. Two concrete blocks work, or timbers. I like the hive about 20-24" off the ground, so one concrete block high is a bit low, but it works.
- Feeder: Entrance feeder very inexpensive, top feeders have an advantage, but costlier, however fruit jars (or any large jar) with holes punched in the lid will work fine.
- Veil – Sold come with zipper or string tie-down. You'll need a string type, if not using with a zippered jacket or coveralls. String veil will also work with zippered coveralls.
- Bee gloves – leather (not cloth). Cow, goat, pig, they all work, compare prices. If you're opposed to leather, buy best canvas you can find.
- Smoker – I suggest a larger size, sometimes called a jumbo, they stay lit better. Cost a few dollars more.
- Coveralls or a jacket/veil combo – However, if you are bold, a long sleeve shirt (or two if only slightly bold) will work. I never owned coveralls until I became the Kentucky state apiarist, and went in search of grumpy bees (and the government purchased them for me).
- Hive tool – two styles, both work, with frame lifter handy, but costs twice as much.

I hope you need honey supers the first year, but you may not. If a good buy with a starter kit, purchase, or you can purchase later.

- Shallow honey supers with 10 frames & foundation (suggest two per hive)
- Queen excluder: 1 per hive
- Honey processing equipment & jars – if you make honey, ask me then.