

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 (though some hobby beekeepers use 3 medium boxes)
 - Ten deep frames per deep hive body – I prefer wood over plastic – though we are seeing more plastic frames used.
 - 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 – no wiring needed.
 - Inner cover – avoid plastic (they warp easily)
 - Outer cover - wood with metal cover, or plastic
 - Hive stand – You'll most likely want to 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. I sometimes use a couple of concrete blocks on the bottom, and a couple of 4x4, or 6x6 treated timbers for a second layer.
- 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. Use the jars inside an extra hive body, over the inner cover, with the outer cover on top.
- Veil – Sold with zipper or string tie-down. If not using with a zippered jacket or coveralls, you'll need a string type veil, 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.