

[54] BEE KEEPING APPARATUS

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[52] U.S. Cl. 6/10

[58] Field of Search 6/2 R, 10, 11, 12 R, 6/12 F

[56] References Cited

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[57] ABSTRACT

Disclosed herein is a bee keeper frame for use as a brooding area within a beehive including a wax brooding foundation fastened to a framework formed from a substantially rectangular grid. The wax brooding foundation is deployed within the frame by means of a guide which has a substantially U-shaped configuration in which one of the leg portions has a greater length than the other. A handle is provided on the guide to assist in removal of the guide when the wax brooding foundation has been properly affixed to a back rail support which forms a portion of the framework.

9 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

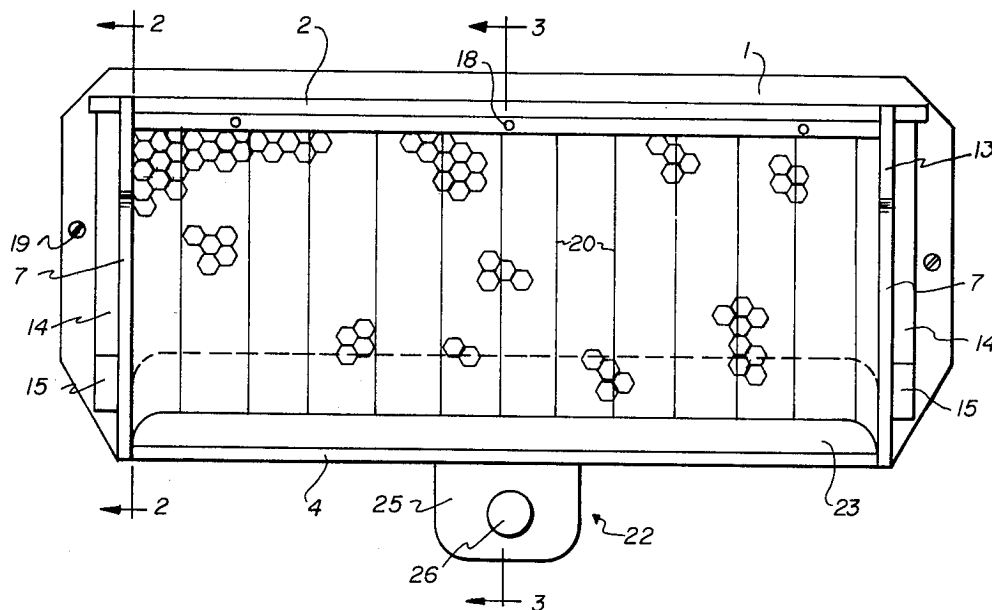


FIG. 1

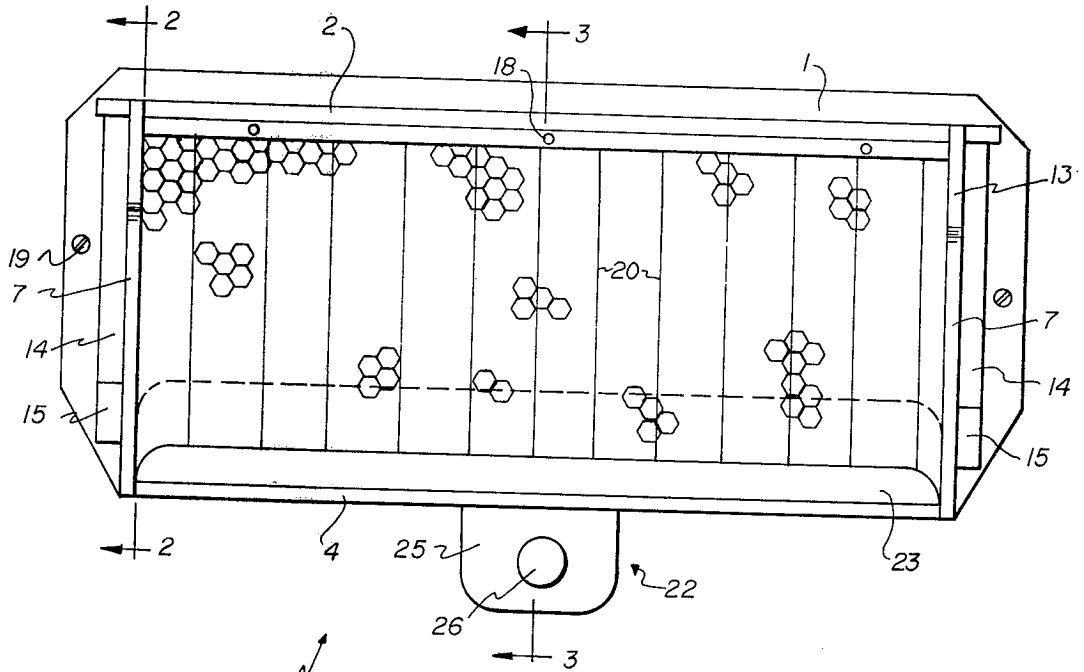


FIG. 2

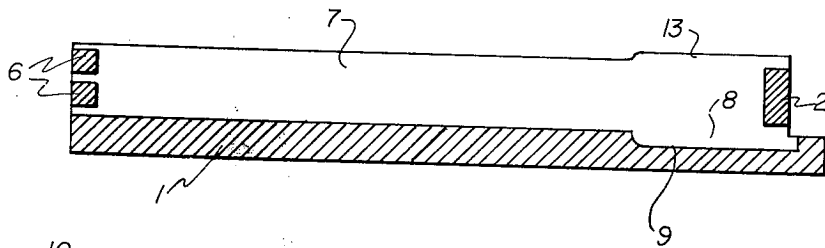


FIG. 3

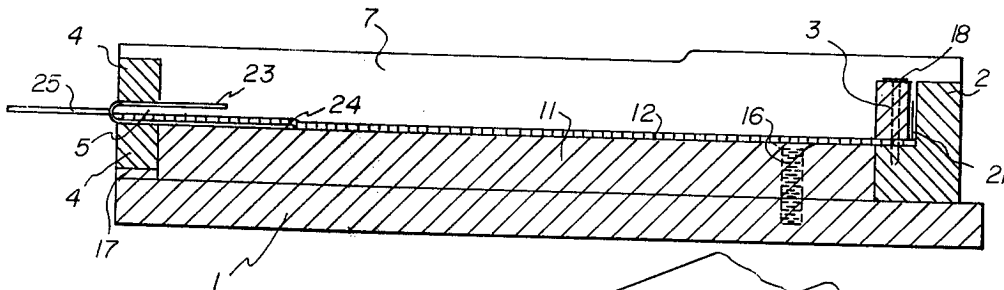


FIG. 4

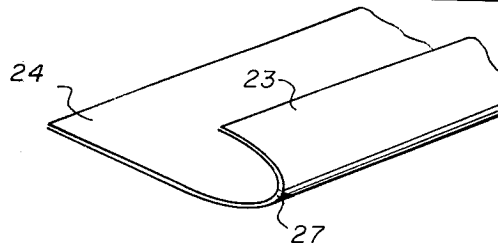


FIG. 1

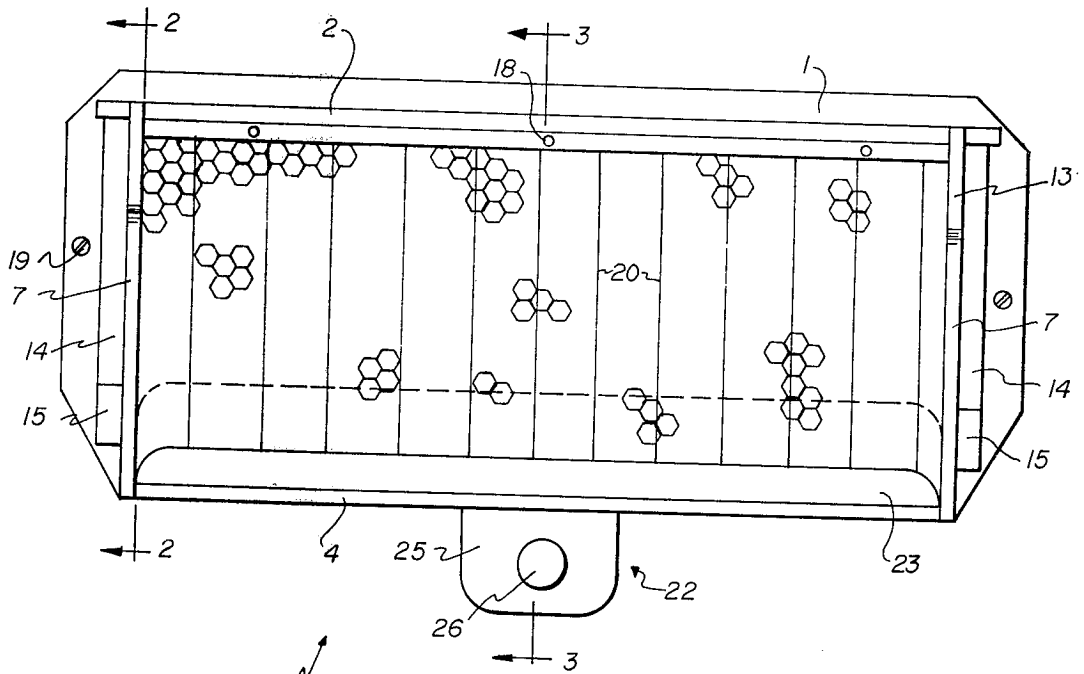


FIG. 2

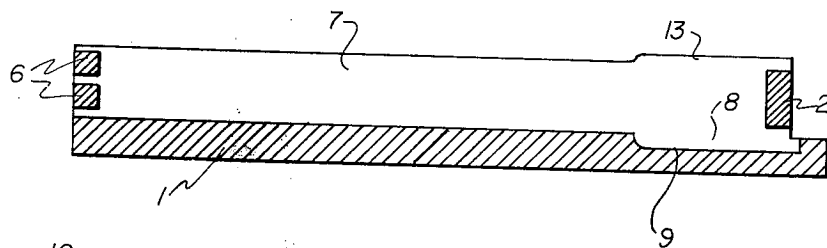


FIG. 3

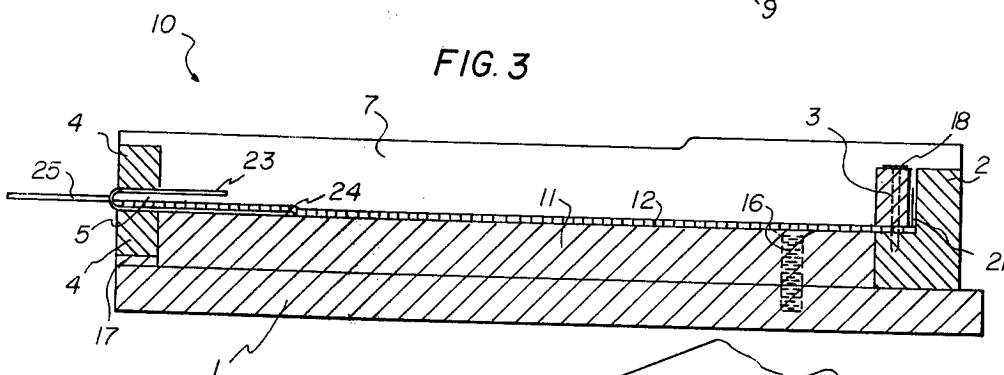
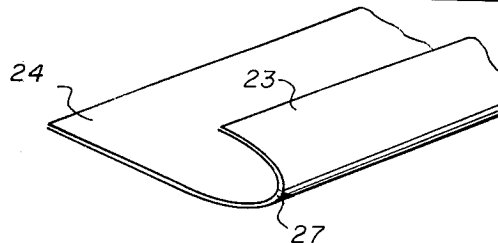


FIG. 4



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tion while being worked upon. The rectangular frame is positioned on the support base and the wax brooding foundation 12 is placed upon the foundation platform. The guide 22 is threaded through the split front rail support as shown in FIG. 3 and the wax brooding foundation 12 is laid thereon and aligned so that the entire grid of the framework is covered. A terminal portion of the wax brooding foundation 12 lies upon the ledge of the back rail support 2 and at that time the wax foundation is nailed thereon with the wedge 3. The guide 22 is provided with a tab element 25 substantially at a medial portion thereof having an opening 26 therein which defines a handle for the guide 22 so that an easy purchase thereon may be afforded and the guide may be removed so that the wax brooding foundation is solely contained and perfectly aligned within the framework. Thereafter, the upper and lower portions of the split front rail support can be tacked together so that the wax brooding foundation is clearly affixed within the framework and can not be displaced. Given the forked end portions 6 of the split front rail support 4, it is necessary or desirable to provide a shim 17 under the lowermost rail so that when tacking the upper and lower split portions, the frame does not deform or deflect unduly.

In view of the foregoing, it can be seen that a device has been provided which securely affixes a wax brooding foundation to a framework without the problems associated with the prior art. This is important, since excessive manipulation of the wax brooding foundation 12 has been shown to have a deleterious effect on the strength of the substance, and since a queen bee which will lay her eggs upon portions thereof will place approximately one thousand eggs upon even a medium sized wax brooding foundation along with the associated food and honeycomb network to be supported thereon, any excessive and undue handling of the wax brooding foundation could cause ruptures to appear which would have a negative affect upon the process of the queen bee.

Further, it should be apparent that although a specific structure has been delineated hereinabove numerous structural modifications are contemplated as being a part of this invention as suggested hereinbefore, and as defined hereinbelow by the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A bee keeping frame for forming a brooding area, said frame comprising in combination:
a pair of spaced parallel side rails interconnected by a back rail support which extends beyond terminal portions of said side rails and further interconnected by a split front rail support which termi-

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nates at ends of said side rails remote from said back rail support,
said back rail support having a ledge portion facing into said frame,

a wax brooding foundation extending from said ledge portion covering an inner area of said frame and terminating substantially along the length of and between outer faces of said split front rail support; a guide for securing and orienting said wax brooding foundation to said frame defined by:

an elongate strip of substantially U-shaped configuration having a top guide portion and bottom guide portion interconnected by a curved bent portion between which said wax brooding foundation is interposed and wherein said guide has a handle extending from said bent portion away from the "U".

2. The device of claim 1 wherein said handle has a gripping hole extending therethrough.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein said top guide portion is shorter than said bottom guide portion.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein said back rail support and said side rails interconnect through joints defined by a raised top portion on said side rail which extends over said back rail support and terminates flush with an outer face of said back rail support, and a raised aligning key opposite from and similarly configured as said raised top portion.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein said split front rail support terminates in said side rails in forked end portions.

6. The device of claim 5 in which a wedge nails said wax brooding foundation to said ledge of said back rail support, and when said guide is removed said split front rail is nailed together fastening said wax brooding foundation therebetween.

7. The device of claim 6 wherein said frame rests on a support base through a foundation platform screwed to said support base, said support base having grooves under said aligning keys of said side rails, said platform further having side rail supports extending upwardly therefrom against outer faces of said side rails.

8. The device of claim 7 in which said side rail supports have a tapered bottom portion, screws are provided through said support base to affix same to a workbench, and a shim is provided between said front rail support and said support base.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein said wax brooding foundation is wire reinforced and terminal portions of said wire extend between said wedge and said back rail support.

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