

# HELPFUL TIPS FOR NOTCHING 36-HOUR-OR-YOUNGER LARVAE (I)

Notch Must Reach All The Way Down To The Foundation Or Else Bees Will Repair It Back to Worker Brood

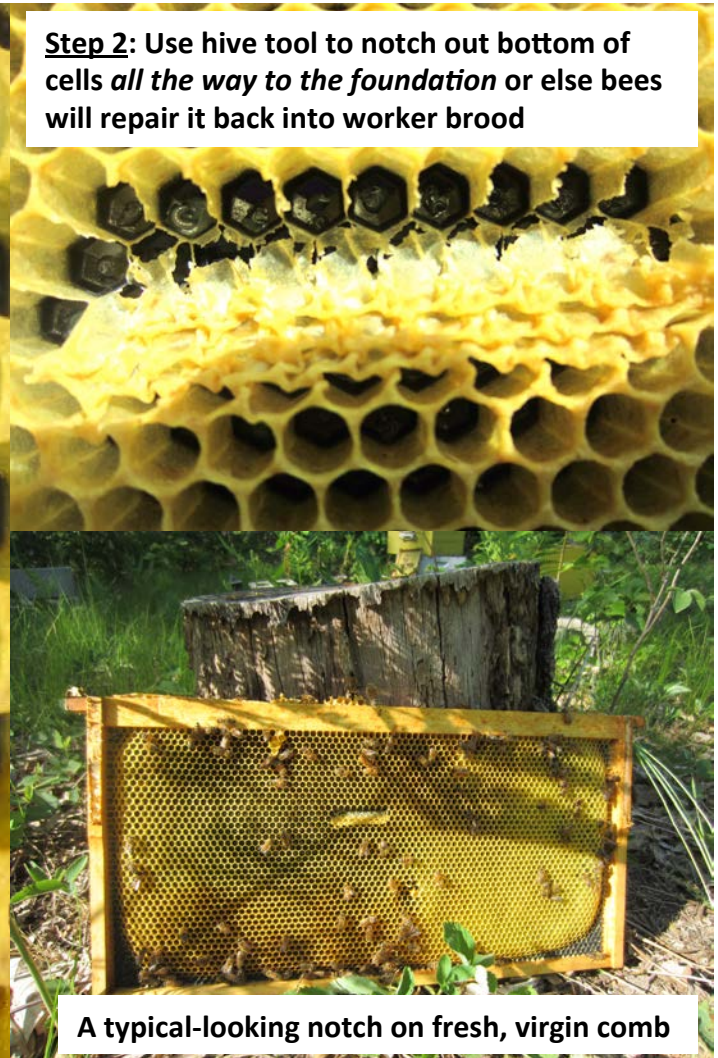
## Techniques for Notching Virgin Comb

Light-colored, virgin comb is the easiest to notch because the 36-hour-or-younger larvae are easy to see and identify and the comb is easy to notch because there are no cocoons in the cells yet so that the bottoms of the notched cells bend down readily and cleanly.

**Step 1:** Identify 36-hour-or-younger larvae



**Step 2:** Use hive tool to notch out bottom of cells *all the way to the foundation* or else bees will repair it back into worker brood



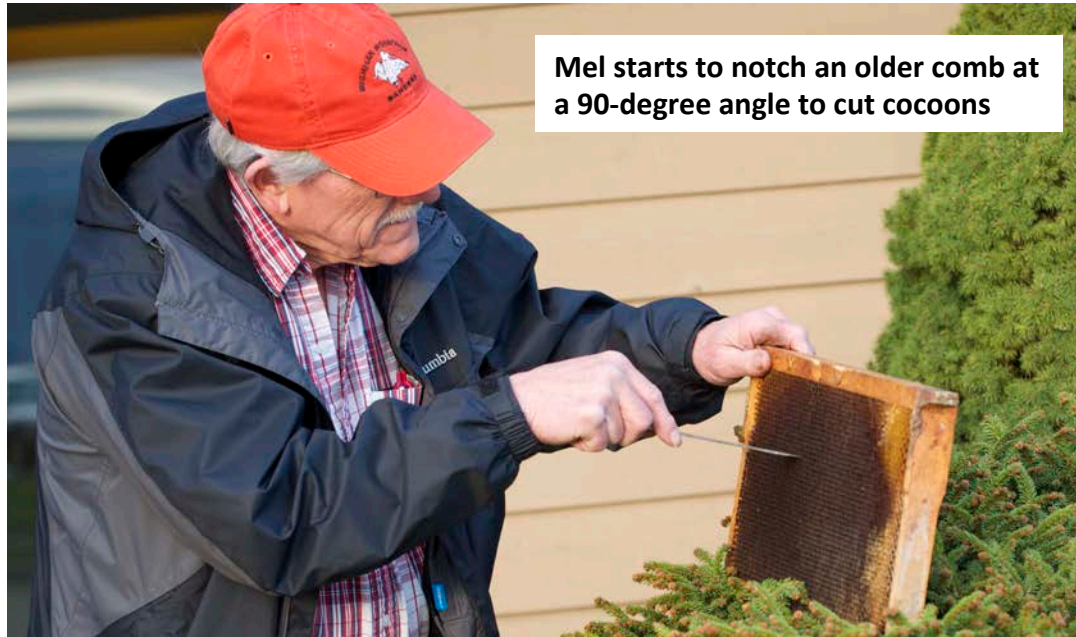


# HELPFUL TIPS FOR NOTCHING 36-HOUR-OR-YOUNGER LARVAE (II)

**Notch Must Reach All The Way Down To The Foundation Or Else Bees Will Repair It Back to Worker Brood**

## Technique for Notching Older Comb

Older, darker, deeper comb is more difficult to notch but still can be used to rear quality queens if 36-hour-or-younger larvae are identified in the cells. The difficulty of notching older comb comes from the fact that the cells are lined with cocoons which makes pulling down the bottom of the cells tougher. To achieve a precise notch in an older comb, the beekeeper can use the sharp edge of the hive tool to drive a cut into the comb at a 90-degree, perpendicular angle and cut the cocoons almost all the way to the bottom of the cells. Then you can bend them down 1/2", aggressively, and they will rip or tear the rest of the way as shown in the illustration below



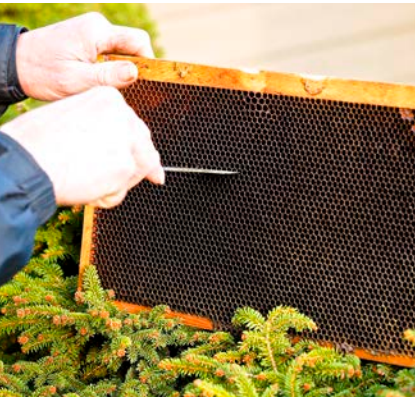
Mel starts to notch an older comb at a 90-degree angle to cut cocoons

1. Hive tool at 90-degree angle

2. Starting the notch by cutting

3. Ripping through cocoons and bending down bottoms of cell walls

4. Successful notches, note pulled-down cocoon tissues





# REARING SUCCESSFUL QUEEN CELLS AND QUEENS REQUIRES PROPER NOTCHING

## Review

**Step 1:** Select 36-hour-or-younger larvae and thoroughly notch cells, cutting through cocoons if necessary



**Step 2:** Evaluate that notch is clear to the base and cocoons folded down. Insert notched frame back into cell builder. Feed by scratching honey cappings or providing cane sugar syrup



**Step 3:** Seven days later, choose best 2 resulting queen cells and eliminate the rest to prevent micro-swarming





# OTS QUEENS ARE TOP NOTCH

## A Time-Tested Technology, Proper Notching Makes All The Difference

Building a log cabin requires proper notching . . .



. . . and proper notching by the beekeeper enables honeybees to build a quality queen cell