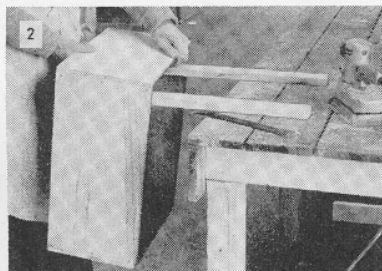


1 and 2—Securely fix two lengths of timber to the work bench or similar object. They need not project more than about 9 in. and should be spaced so that the outside edges are about 13 to 14 in. apart. The two arms make a good support for the super on its side or end. The arrangement allows the beekeeper to renovate a super in a fixed position and at a height at which painting is not too fatiguing. It also allows the operator to turn the super round easily with one hand so that the paint brush can still be held in the other.



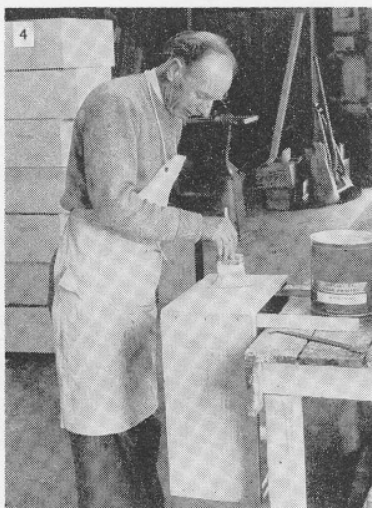
3—Paint adheres best to a good clean surface, so that when old supers are being repainted a good sandpapering is well worth while. The orbital sander, if available, can be used for this job.



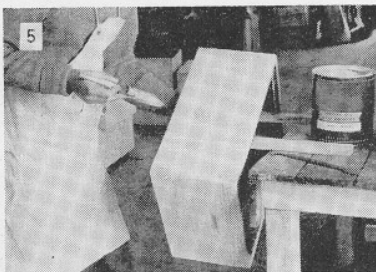
Simple Method of Holding Bee Supers during Painting

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AS timber treated with some of the usual timber processes is toxic to bees, beekeepers rely for maximum protection and preservation of hive bodies and supers on paint and its proper application.



4 and 5—It is best to paint the bottom edge of a super before placing it on the wooden supports with the painted edge next to the bench. The four sides, the top edge, and the inside corners can now be done. It is simple to turn the super over with one hand each time a side is painted.

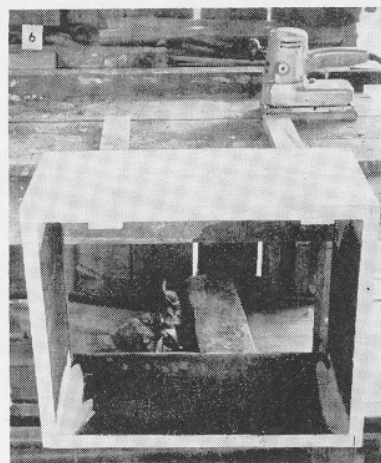


MANY methods for the quick painting of supers have been devised, but it seems impossible to get away from the sound practice of treating and painting each super individually. Painting always becomes a messy job, as so many parts of the super require painting. Each year the beekeeper will always have a few new supers to paint thoroughly in addition to the normal repainting of working supers, as deterioration of these is rapid unless they are adequately protected against weather.

Choice of Paint

A good paint should always be used. A slightly different shade can be used each year as a means of telling how long supers have been painted and as a way of checking up on the wearing qualities of different brands of paint.

A. W. Bennett, Apiary Instructor, Department of Agriculture, Hamilton, in the accompanying photographs, shows how this work can be carried out most effectively and with the minimum of inconvenience.



6—The greatest amount of deterioration in a super is at the corners and on the bottom edge. Deterioration round the corners is very much reduced where the ends are painted before assembly of the super. Therefore when painting the supers make sure the bottom edge and even $\frac{1}{2}$ in. up on the inside is carefully done, not forgetting to run the brush down the inside corner.