Aug. 9, 1932. G. B. BARKER 1,870,704

BROOD FRAME

Filed July 5, 1928

Fig. 1.

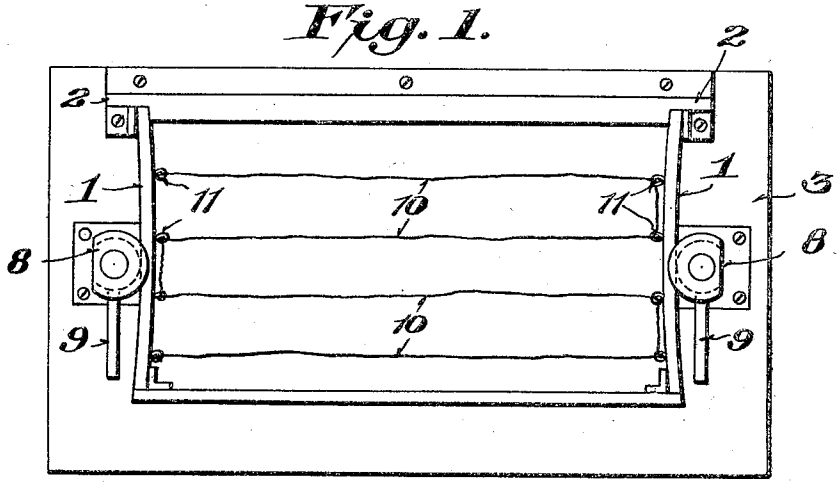


Fig. 2.

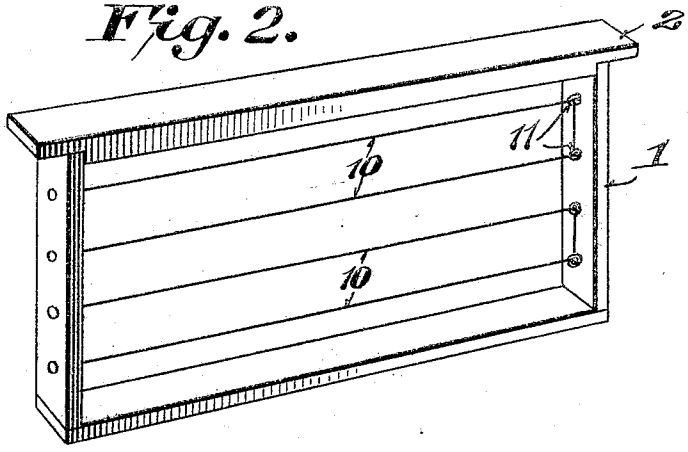
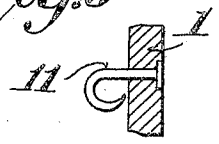


Fig. 3



Inventor

George B. Barker,

By D. P. Wallace

Attorney

Witnesses:-

Emily L. Wolff

Chas. L. Greenbauer

Patented Aug. 9, 1932 1,870,704

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

GEORGE B. BARKER, OF SPARKS, NEVADA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO MELVIN E. JEPSON, OF RENO, NEVADA

BROOD FRAME

Application filed July 5, 1928. Serial No. 290,638.

This invention relates to bee culture and more particularly to improvements in brood frames.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide an improved brood or extracting frame having a plurality of tensioned comb supporting wires extending across the same, said frame being formed of a material which will permit flexing while the wires are being placed in position, and in assuming its normal position, will automatically place said wires under tension.

With the above and other objects in view which will more readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated and claimed.

A preferred and practical embodiment of the invention is shown in the accompanying drawing, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a frame flexing apparatus showing a frame held in flexed position therein;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the brood frame.

Figure 3 is a detail sectional view illustrating the bent nail which forms a hook for supporting one of the brood frame wires.

Similar reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawing.

In the bee industry it is desirable to provide the brood or extracting frames with cross wires to assist in supporting the weight of the comb when filled to prevent sagging thereof from the weight of the honey, and also to prevent the comb from sagging due to the high temperature in the hive. It is to overcome the sagging of the comb, that the wires are placed in the frames, since the bees will not often deposit the honey if the combs sag, but will prefer to swarm around the same.

According to the present practice, the comb supporting wires are positioned in the frame so that they invariably become loosened. Perhaps the most common practice is to utilize holes bored in the sides of the frame to thread the wire through, but even in this instance the wire embeds itself in the wood and soon becomes loosened. It would be impractical to use staples or other forms of eyes on the inside of the frame because aside from the sagging of the wire proving a deficiency in the frame, the fastenings would eventually pull out from the wood because the pull or strain thereon is exerted from the same side from which they are driven.

In carrying the present invention into effect it is proposed to use headed fastenings 11, Fig. 3, which are driven through from the outside of the frame and formed with a hook or eye portion at the inside of the frame for receiving the brood wire or wires. Preferably a single wire is used because it is only necessary to anchor one end of the wire to one of the hooks and then thread or string the same on the remaining hooks and anchor its other end after the interior of the frame has been spanned sufficiently by a proper number of strands of wire, according to the weight of the combs to be supported by the frame.

Brood or extracting frames 1 are usually formed substantially rectangular in shape with oppositely extending shoulders 2 which are adapted to support the same in position within a hive.

While the frame having the characteristics referred to may be made with the use of various types of apparatus, reference may be made to Fig. 1 which shows how the sides of the frame may be flexed inwardly so that the fastenings 11 may receive the wire or wires 10. As previously indicated a single wire is used the same being anchored only at its ends and is loosely strung over the fastenings 11 so that when the sides of the frame spring back to their normal position, the wire will be placed under tension.

In Fig. 1 the frame consisting of the parts 1 and 2 is preferably placed between a pair of cam members 8 which may be moved by the handles 9, the said cam members 8 being mounted on a base 3. When the handles 9 are turned, as shown in Fig. 1, the sides of the frame are pressed inwardly so that the wire may be strung on the hooks or fastenings 11. When the handles 9 are turned so that the flat sides of the cams are brought

adjacent the sides of the frame, the said sides will spring back to their normal position and place the supporting wire under tension.

From the foregoing it will be apparent that the present invention contemplates the provision of a novel brood frame possessing special features and characteristics which make it particularly efficient in use, and that the novel steps for making the brood frame constitute one of the important and distinctive features of the invention.

Without further description it is thought that the features and advantages of the invention will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and it will of course be understood that changes in the form, proportion and minor details of construction may be resorted to, without departing from the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. A brood frame including side and end members, said end members being of resilient material whereby the same may be flexed inwardly, hook elements carried by the end members and having their hooked portions positioned at the inside of the frame, and a continuous wire adapted to be passed over said hook members while the end members are flexed inwardly whereby said wire will be drawn taut when the end members assume their normal position.

2. A brood frame provided with flexible end members, top and bottom members, spaced hook supports carried by said end members, and comb supporting wires held under tension by and between the flexible end members.

3. A brood frame including flexible wire supporting elements adapted initially to be displaced from their normal position, and a wire mounted between said wire supporting elements, whereby when the said wire supporting elements resume their normal position the wire will be placed under tension.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

GEORGE B. BARKER.