

An Integrative Approach

-To Top Bar Beekeeping-

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Similarities:

What Both Top Bar and Langstroth systems promote

30- frame Horizontal
Top Bar Colonies



Vertical Langstroth Colonies



Removable Comb Systems

Quality Management

- *Skilled Caretakers*
- *Technique*

Provide valuable Community service

Pollination
Food
Education
Livelihoods

Ecological Sustainability

Beekeeping is a dying art!

What's the Difference?

Whether working with a horizontal or vertical system, unforgettable key notions include:



Regardless of container, the beings therein are alive & constitute an organism;
a.k.a. LIVE-STOCK
and should be managed conscientiously.

Boxes are Man-Made :
All organisms operate
within Nature-



Standardization with Conscientious Efficiency



Idea for Standardization:

Following a 19 inch length x 1/2 inch thick top bar



Some Pros and Cons of each system





Top Bar Pros

Appropriate Intermediate Technology
For developing nations

Less Expenditure on mechanical and electrical tools for extraction

Time Trade-Offs: requires more time (which some have)

Some say great for beginners;
requires lots of hands on for establishment

Preferential for
AHB



Top Bar Cons

- ❖Lack of Size Standardization
- ❖Time Trade-Offs: requires more time for less efficiency
 - ❖Honey Production Less-
 - ❖At the cost of wax production
Requiring bees to rebuild from scratch time and again
- ❖Frameless top bars susceptible to breakage/melting
 - ❖Cannot move easily
 - ❖Combs can be irregular- requiring more
"cut and paste" to keep manageable
 - ❖Cannot monitor for diseases well
 - ❖Cannot add more chambers well

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Langstroth Pros

Preservation of honeybees' biggest asset: beeswax honeycomb
Time Efficiency for harvesting and extraction

National and International Industry Size Standards

Some say a more forgiving
system for beginners

Ease of Management



easier to transport

Can be broken
down into
smaller units

Can monitor and
treat for disease
easier



Langstroth Cons

- ❖ Larger Monetary investment in equipment and extraction tools.
Although comb honey can also be produced in
Langstroth not requiring extractor
- ❖ Standard "super-size" of equipment:
Foundation cell size and Deep boxes
(various sizes available allowing for "downsizing" ability)
- ❖ Separation of boxes exposes combs
- ❖ Current agricultural methods rely on
chemical standards affecting industry
-this is slowly changing-

**NOTE: One can keep bees in a
square, vertical box system
WITHOUT using chemicals!!!**