Kenyan Top-Bar Hive

Material List

1. 1 - 10' x 2" x 4" pressure treated (legs)
2. 1 - 4' x 4' x 3/4" sheet of plywood (sides and ends)
3. 1 - 8' x 2" x 10" (top-bars)
4. 1 - 4' x 4' x 1/2" sheet of plywood (roof)
5. 1 - 1" x 3" x 10' (bottom clean out door)
6. 1 - 1" x 3" x 10' (roof structure)
7. 1 - 8' x 2 x 4 to make the ridge pole of the roof
8. 2 linear feet of 36" wide #8 hardware cloth for the screened bottom
9. 4 - Hinges and 2 - latches for the clean out door
10. 8 - bolts, washers, lock washers and nuts to attach the legs
11. screws, nails, staples, and wood glue
12. roofing material
Exploded View
Kenyan Top-Bar Hive
based on topbarbees.wordpress.com plans
March 15, 2010

Part List
1. Leg
2. Bottom - front, back
3. Bottom - side
4. Front/Back
5. Side
6. Roof Structure - front left
7. Roof Structure - front right
8. Roof Structure - side
9. Roof Top
10. Roof - centered beam
11. Bar Ledge
12. Top Bars
13. Follower Board
Legs
Scale: $\frac{3}{8}'' = 1'$

1 1/16 "
2' - 2 1/2 "
5 1/2 "

10'-0"
3 1/2 "

Note: Cut all four legs out of one 2 x 4.

Bottom
Scale: 3" = 1'

2 1/2 "
11 3/16 "
2 1/2 "
2 1/2 "

Note: Cover bottom frame with hardware mesh and attach to hive body with exterior rated hinges. Latch with exterior rated clasps.

Use decent (knot free) lumber. The door has to fit tight enough to keep other bees out.

Glue (exterior wood glue) and clamp.
* I'm going to cork the first two until the hive is strong. I put the holes at one end to encourage the bees to keep the brood at that end.

According to Cornell Research the swarming bees prefer a 1-1/4" hole at the bottom.*

Ventilation hole (two or three might be good in hot clients)

I cut a 3/4" x 4-1/2" hole for a feeder. I figured that when they didn't need the food, I could use the feeder for water, plug it or use it as a second entrance.

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A couple of 1½" galvanized screws to hold the sides on is plenty.

Lap Joint makes a strong joint with nice mitered look. Use plenty of exterior wood glue.

Exterior grade wood glue and small nails all the way around the roof panels.

I used an angled screw from the back to hold the center beam. There are handy little jigs for it.

Scale: 3" = 1'
It made enough bars with a few extra.

I cut the top bars from a single 8' x 2" x 10" board. I cut one side at 45°, flipped it over and cut the other side at 45°, then cut it off square, then repeated. It made enough bars with a few extra.
Top Bar Hive

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Top

Front

Side

Cover with screen

1'-7"

1'-6 1/16"

0 7/8"

0 3/4"

2 1/4"

1'-1 7/8"

11 5/8"

0.34"

3"

10 5/16"

6"

9 5/8"

4 1/4"

0.34"

5/8"

13 - Follower Board/Bee Escape

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Note: I've added a bee escape feature so that I can use the follower board at harvest time, but isn't necessary.