



PolyHive Sublimation Tray

When sublimating, I normally use the underside of the varroa tray to place the vaporiser. However, this cannot be done with a Paynes PolyHive as there is insufficient space between the hive and the tray. To get round this, I built a dedicated tray which is not only simple to use, but it keeps the hot plate away from any polystyrene.

Materials:

5.5mm plywood – 1 piece 457mm x 417mm
– 1 piece 605mm x 360mm

20mm x 20mm stripwood – 1 piece 360mm in length
– 2 pieces 450mm in length



Method:

If you have a spare floor:

- Insert the shorter section of ply in the varroa runners.
- Remove the mesh floor then mark around the internal edges of the floor onto the plywood.

If you don't have a spare floor, then follow this procedure:

- Mark a line 50mm from the top edge.

- Repeat 50mm from each long edge (sides).
- Mark a line 90mm from the bottom edge.

In both cases, remove the plywood and cut out the marked 'square'.

- Glue and pin the two longer sections of stripwood along the sides of the cutout starting level with the top of the cutout and extending to the bottom edge.
- Glue and pin the shorter section of stripwood across the top of the cutout pinning to the side strips and ply. Make sure you apply a liberal amount of glue, especially on the cutout edges, as you will want a good seal. Sand down all cutout edges to align with the stripwood.



- Apply more glue along the top faces of all of the stripwood and then place the larger section of ply on top. Align the edges of the ply with the outer edges of the stripwood then pin firmly in place.



- Wipe off all surplus glue then sand down all plywood edges. Try to 'round off' the side edges of the shorter piece of ply as this will make it easier to move along the hive runners.
- The next stage is optional; glue a small piece of stripwood across the middle of the box to help put the vaporiser in the correct position. Alternatively, you could just wrap some tape around the vaporiser rod to get the correct depth. Both methods are shown below:



Note that the larger piece of ply extends beyond the 'box'. Without this, the weight of the handle and cable tends to tilt the hot plate risking spillage of the soda crystals and contact with the mesh floors.

Finally, all finished and in position showing the location of the hot plate and the entrance closed off with foam.



NOTE: This tray works well with the standard vaporiser but, if you have purchased the new Gas-Vap, a slight modification is needed.

Gas-Vap has an extension tube which is designed for use on polyhives. However, if using it through the front entrance, there is a chance the front guard will contact (and melt) the landing board. I found that, by reducing the tray extension to form a 'handle' this enabled me to use either vaporiser.

