

# Helping Folks “Catch the Buzz

## The Observation Hive

In 2019 I received an educator grant from the Alcoa Foundation to purchase and fill an observation hive. After much research, I selected the 5-frame observation hive from Mann Lake, Ltd. The cost for the entire unit was \$199.95.



I have used it dozens of times at schools, museums, and fairs. I continue to be very happy with it. It travels well. This small hive is a temporary home. I maintain an intentionally “small” colony with a well-marked queen in a 5 frame nuc in my home apiary, especially for this purpose. (I transfer the small colony into the observation hive the night before and they are good to go!) It remains closed until I bring it back home.

There are several types of observation hives, from a simple one-frame panes to an elaborate open (to the outdoors) hive that can be viewed inside a classroom or other building.

This temporary observation hive holds two deep frames:



This permanent observation hive has PVC pipes vented outside so the bees come and go at will. Plans for building it can be found here:



<https://www.instructables.com/How-to-Build-an-Observation-Bee-Hive-1/>