

Standard Simplified Artificial Swarm:

1: you find uncapped queen cells in a colony [if they are capped then chances are the bees have gone – you will still need to deal with the situation – [if you are sure they've swarmed then simply reduce QC's to two, preferably adjacent to one another, and preferably one sealed and one unsealed so you can see larvae and royal jelly in cell and leave colony to raise a new queen - check for eggs in around 18 days]

2: if not certain that they have swarmed, move the hive more than 3 feet [6 feet is good] away from present position

3: put a new hive on old site, [floor, brood box, coverboard and roof].

4: From the original hive that you've moved over, take 2 frames of food, one frame of sealed brood and one frame of brood at all stages **plus the Queen [don't drop her]** and put in middle of new hive on old spot, fill the remaining space with frames of foundation [drawn preferably but new otherwise). **Make very sure** there are no Queen Cells on frames you've moved from old to new hive.

4: Reduce QC's in original hive down to either one, or if two then preferably next to or facing each other, and with nice fat, white larvae, surrounded by royal jelly in one and preferably the other one capped. Destroy all others. Share any Supers between the two hives.

5: Leave alone for a minimum of 18 days [approx. 8 days for QC to hatch, 2/3 days for Queen to sort herself out, 5 days [depending on weather] for mating and 2/3 days to get sorted for laying] and then inspect only to see if you can see eggs = new Queen there, mated and laying.

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So in the original hive on the new location you have the brood, plenty of food and the majority of the house or "nurse" bees and hopefully, a couple of Queen cells and subsequently a new Queen on her way.

At the original site you have the old Queen, some brood and some food, together with plenty of new foundation to be drawn, and the flying bees.

This emulates largely what would have happened if the bees had swarmed naturally.

If you don't have Supers then you may need to feed both colonies, the one with mostly new foundation as they will need to draw it out and the other as it will not have many flying bees to collect food but will have plenty of mouths to feed.

NB: I haven't mentioned swapping hive positions after a period, or recombining to keep just one colony or retaining the sealed QC's together with some workers in a two frame Nuc for insurance but these are options for you subsequently, but one step at a time!