

How I Made a Wax Press.

DEAR SIR,

In the November Journal I endeavored to describe how I melted old combs. I will now try to give a description of my press. I made a frame like a small table, 18x18x15 inches high, out of $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch pine, with cross bars morticed into each leg about 4 inches from the bottom, and two bars $2\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ x20 inches long are morticed and fitted on top of the legs on opposite sides, projecting over 1 inch on each end. To this I nailed the top 20x20x1 inch of tongued and grooved lumber; on the under side of this I nailed a piece of hardwood 18x4x23 inches long across the centre, leaving $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch projecting from each side; then to the frame a piece of hardwood 3x4x23 inches long for the top box of press to hold the screw, which is a carpenter's bench screw, and it requires to be nicely and tightly adjusted in the centre with a hole say $\frac{3}{8}$ inch at each end to hold side rods and holes in the centre piece on under side of table to correspond. I procured from a blacksmith two side rods $\frac{1}{2}$ in. round iron about 16 in. long with a shoulder 4 in. from the end and a screw nut on the end to hold the 3x4 top bar, with an eye on the other end, and another short piece 12 in. long, also with an eye and screw nut, attached to the long rods, these also with hinges, the short pieces to screw to the bar on lower side of the table. By making them this way they can be ver-
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complete. I have a box 15x15x3 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep made of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. board, without top or bottom; I next have a board 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ x17 $\frac{1}{2}$ x1 in., and then another piece 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ x12x1 in. screwed on to the other piece the contrary way of the grain, to make it strong; a block of wood on top of that and all is complete. When my combs are melted and all ready for work, I turn the side rods down and lay on the table the tin pan with one rack inside of it; next the box, take a piece of canvas 30 in. square (a piece of bran sack will do very well) and lay corner ways over the box, push down in the centre and pour into it out of the steamer the refuse, or wax altogether, which ever suits you best, and fold one corner over the other, and secure with a 2 in. nail, pour on a dipper or two of hot water, take off the box, and lay on top the other rack, the double board top on that, and the block, turn up the side pieces and screw down. It requires a dish pan or some vessel to catch the wax. When the board is taken off if any little wax is on the outside of cloth, scrape off, take out the nail and shake out the refuse, put on the box and cloth again and you are ready for another lot. It works much better to have a movable button on the end of the screw. I took mine to a machinist and he put one on for 35 cts. The iron work altogether cost me one dollar and five cents. The woodwork I did myself.

J. T. C.

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It is yet early to say much about the new seasons prospects; clovers have had a good start and the winter so far has been favorable and keen observers tell us that the condition of the basswood in August last would indicate a profusion of bloom. Leading bee-keepers are certainly on the alert for early supplies. [Ed.]