Oxalic Acid Sublimation Tube.

[simple constructional aid]

This is the top view with the copper pipe vaporiser positioned through the side of 460 x 460 mm x 50mm deep eke, which is positioned above the brood boxes. The Perspex allows one a view of when the vapour starts & ends.
A crown board with a piece of glass over the feed hole would be suitable alternative.

Side view.

I have since simplified the vaporiser tube to just a 100mm length of 15mm copper pipe + an end cap, thus doing away with the right angle brass compression fitting, as shown above. I found this simpler arrangement much quicker to heat up.

Unfortunately the copper pipe is only available in 3m lengths so it is best to use any off cuts of pipe you may have lying around, either in 15mm of 20mm sizes. Two end caps are available from Wickes for a few pounds.

You will need 2 x 1 gm tablets [or powder] per colony. Tablets are easier to handle though.
I f you use 20mm pipe simply drop the 1gm tablets in the open end of the pipe. If you use 15mm pipe you will need to cut the 2 tablets in half.
Heat the tube and end cap with a blow torch for 4/5 minutes or until you see the vapour appear at the lower entrance/exit. or through the open mesh floor.

100 x 1gm tablets are available from Park Beekeeping SE10 8BA or Maisemore Apiaries, Gloucester GL2 8HT for £7.85.

Use a Butane Blow Torch, when there is little wind, to heat the copper tube + end cap and wait until the vapour ceases being emitted from the lower exits of the hive.

I used a Progas 2350 Butane Gas Mix available from B&Q with this GB2070H Gosystem Blow Torch.

With the Thornes electric alternative costing £100 and no heavy car battery to lug about, what could be simpler?

John Farrow 2016