The species of wood used to make a beehive can vary depending upon what is available in your area. The minimum thickness should not be less than 3/4". If you are using standard dimensional lumber, you can use 1x8 (3/4" x 7-1/4") for both shallow and medium super, and 1x12 (3/4" x 11-1/4") for the deep hive body.

Start by cutting the boards to length. For fronts and backs, cut them a smidgen over 16-1/4". For sides, cut a smidgen over 19-7/8". Cut to exact size before assembling. At this point, cut box joints on all the board ends. Rabbet joints are an acceptable alternative.

Now that you have the joint cut and the boards cut to finished size, cut the 5/8" x 3/8" rabbet on the 16-1/4" boards stopping just short of the box joint pin at each end. (Chisel these square after the boards are assembled). Note detail of frame rest at left. Pre-drill holes for nails in each pin.

Assemble boxes with glue and nail each pin with a 6d galv. nail. Attach 1x2 handholds with screws and glue. Attach metal rabbets on the frame rest notch. Fill any holes and paint all exterior surfaces, both top and bottom edges, with primer and finish top coat.