

# INSTRUCTION MANUAL ENGLISH



## Pierce Uncapping Knife # 203 Control Box Model



**MADE IN USA**

**Pierce Beekeeping Equipment**  
4685 Runway Street, Unit D  
Simi Valley, CA 93063  
Phone (805) 864-9255; Fax (805) 842-2434  
<https://www.piercebeekeeping.com>

## **INTRODUCTION**

Pierce Beekeeping Equipment has been manufacturing the finest electric uncapping knives in the world since 1947. These knives are used to remove the wax cappings that the bees have sealed their honeycombs with. Your new Control Box Knife is handmade in the USA using the finest components. Note the comfortable, wooden handle and the stainless steel blade. Our knives have a much faster heat response time than most knives on the market. Our heater elements are specifically designed for our knives and made to provide years of service. The manually adjustable controller was designed to let you pick the best temperature for your honeycomb uncapping needs. We also offer the Speed King Uncapping Knife, if you prefer an automatic thermostatic knife for your uncapping needs. Steam Knives, Deluxe Uncapping Tub Kits, and other tools are available for purchase as well at your local beekeeping supply store.

**Please read the complete instructions below before using the knife.**

## **SAFETY**

When using electrical tools, basic safety precautions should be followed including the following:

- The knife gets very hot. Do not touch the blade. The hot blade can cause a severe burn.
- To protect against risk of electrical shock, do not put the cord, plug or knife in water or other liquids. Do not operate the knife in water or under wet conditions.
- The knife's blade is very sharp, so be sure to handle it carefully. Always handle the blade with hands away from the cutting edge.
- Keep the knife away from children. It is not intended to be used by children.
- Turn the knob to the OFF position and unplug the cord from the outlet when not in use and before cleaning.
- Do not use the knife if it is damaged or malfunctioning.

- When the knife is hot, keep it away from all body parts.
- Never leave a hot and/or plugged knife unattended.
- Do not leave the knife on the maximum heat setting. It will cause overheating and will void your warranty.
- Never pry out frames with the knife and avoid hitting or banging the knife against objects to remove anything from the knife.
- Clean your knife before and after each use to avoid burning residue onto the blade.

### **DIRECTION FOR USE**

- This is not a thermostatically controlled knife. This knife lets you select a desired temperature based on your uncapping speed and experience.
- The knob rotates clockwise and counter clockwise to turn ON/OFF. Do not attempt to *push downward* on the knob to turn ON or OFF. This will damage the controller.
- Place the knife in the stand and securely place the control box in your work area.
- Secure the control box by using the mounting bracket of the controller.
- Plug the clean knife into a 110-120 volt, grounded electrical outlet.
- **Preheat the knife for approximately 15 seconds by rotating the controller knob clockwise to “Preheat”. Then IMMEDIATELY turn the knob counter clockwise toward “MED” heat until you reach the desired temperature.**

**We have marked the controller to indicate the location of the ideal temperature for uncapping. After preheating, turn the knob toward marked location. This is a good starting point. Adjust up or down as needed.**

**Note: “Pre-Heat” is too hot for uncapping and should only be used for preheating.**

- **While using the knife do not turn the knob too far counterclockwise below the “ON” position. This will reset the regulator to 0 (Zero) and the temperature will drop rapidly. If you accidentally turn the knob below ON, the next step is to**

**rotate the knob all the way to “Pre-Heat” for a second, then immediately turn toward “MED” to get back to the desired temperature. Turning the knob back to “Pre-Heat” resets the controller to active mode.**

- Now you are ready to uncap. Begin uncapping and adjust the temperature by rotating the knob clockwise for higher temperature and counter clockwise to lower the temperature. Please note a very small adjustment from “MED” will change the temperature dramatically.
- Uncap with either an upward or downward motion. It is safest to use a downward uncapping stroke. Many people uncap with an downward motion and let wax fall away from the blade. Be very careful to keep your other hand and all other parts of your body out of the path of the knife.
- When done uncapping turn the knob to the OFF position, unplug, and clean.
- Clean warm knife with damp cloth. **Do not immerse the knife in water.**

### **USEFUL TIPS**

- Develop an uncapping stroke that will allow you to uncap an entire side of a frame in a single stroke. Use the frame itself as a guide for the knife. Use the entire length of the blade to distribute the heat of the knife evenly across the honeycomb. Move the knife back and forth gently across the frame to help regulate the temperature and easy uncapping. Turn it down if it is too hot.
- To cool knife blade quickly, plunge knife into a pile of your wax uncapping, then adjust the dial.
- Another technique is to carefully uncap the top 2-3 inches of the frame going upward, and then uncap the rest going downward, using the previous cut as the starting point of the downward knife stroke.

- Uncapping honey is a sticky process. Plan in advance how to keep your area clean as you work. You can use damp towels to keep the work tools and uncapping area clean. Keep tools close in reach to avoid hassle. Clean warm knife before and after each use; use damp cloth only (make sure the knife is unplugged before using damp cloth).
- Use a quality uncapping tub to capture wax scraps and honey, such as our Deluxe Uncapping Tub.

### **WARRANTY**

- If your knife fails within one year of purchase due to any manufacturer's defects, we will replace it under our limited warranty provided. You can return the knife at your expense to us. We reserve the right to inspect and verify that the product has not been abused or mistreated and that the knife has not been tampered with. This limited warranty is voided if the product appears to have been used improperly or overheated, immersed in water, or used as a pry tool, such as for prying apart frames.
- Please return warranty card as proof of purchase within 30 days, or visit our website, [www.piercebeekeeping.com](http://www.piercebeekeeping.com), to register your product online.

**Thank you**  
***Pierce Team***