

Reading the cards.



To use this guide, the reader will need to purchase a complete set of 78 Tarot cards. This includes 22 Major Arcana and 56 minor Arcana that one also finds as a normal deck of playing cards. Please note that the minor Arcana adds a “Prince” to the court cards and that the “Page” is the usual Jack. In order to simplify things, I strongly recommend purchasing a deck with illustrated meanings for the minor Arcana, not just numbered cards. It is also advisable to correct the cards with a fine permanent marker when there is a discrepancy between these and the booklet.

Reading the cards.



The layout schemes for Tarot readings are numerous and varied indeed. In this booklet, I present not only the most common, but also little known innovations and adaptations. Still, no one book can present every scheme in existence since every reader must adapt and use them according to her/his own predilections. Moreover, every other form of divination borrows from the classic Tarot spreads and Tarot readers adapt principles from every other form of divination. The best layouts are inspired because they create a direct link with the spirit that transmits its inner (intuitive) wisdom vital for divination. Nor is it to the advantage of the learner to compile every spread in existence. It is better to present the learner with a general kernel which will teach the basics allowing her/him to adapt and invent his/her own spreads.

Reading the cards.



Attributions concerning Angels, elements & suits as well as numbering remain a controversial philosophy. I have chosen, and I use with success, those that I present following intense and comparative research and also for multiple historical reasons.

In all spreads, the centre card (flower) is optional and is either the sum of the other cards or a supplementary card. It represents the synopsis summary and key around which revolves the rest of the reading.

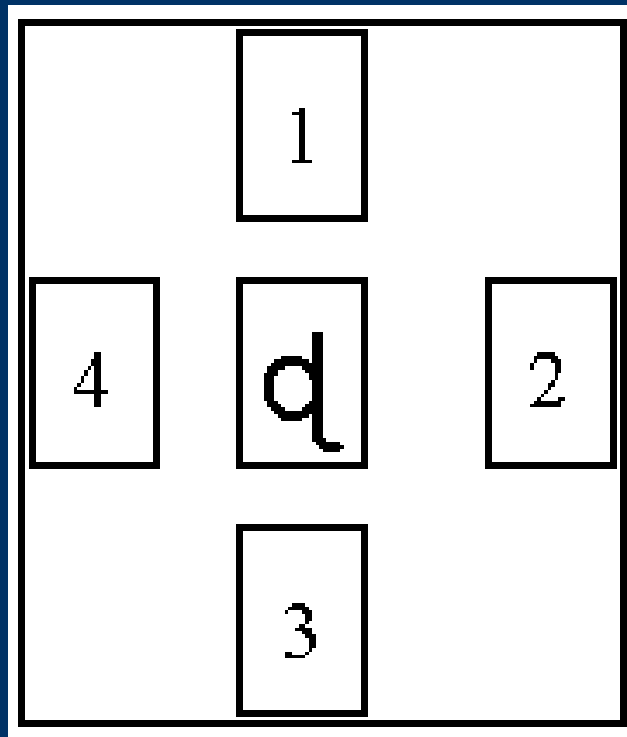
3 packs on dresser.



A very handy and quick spread consists of dividing your deck into 3 packs: 1-court cards, 2-major Arcana and 3-numbered cards (including the aces). Keep all cards upright and simply shuffle each pack individually and turn the top card. Do this whenever you feel like it (with or without a question) and the simple answer is (respectively) 1-who is involved, 2-what is the issue of the matter, 3-what is to take place. You only need to shuffle and turn the top card of each pack whenever you feel like it.

This spread is also very useful to simply toy with when learning a new deck of cards with its new picture / attributions.

Lesser Celtic Cross.

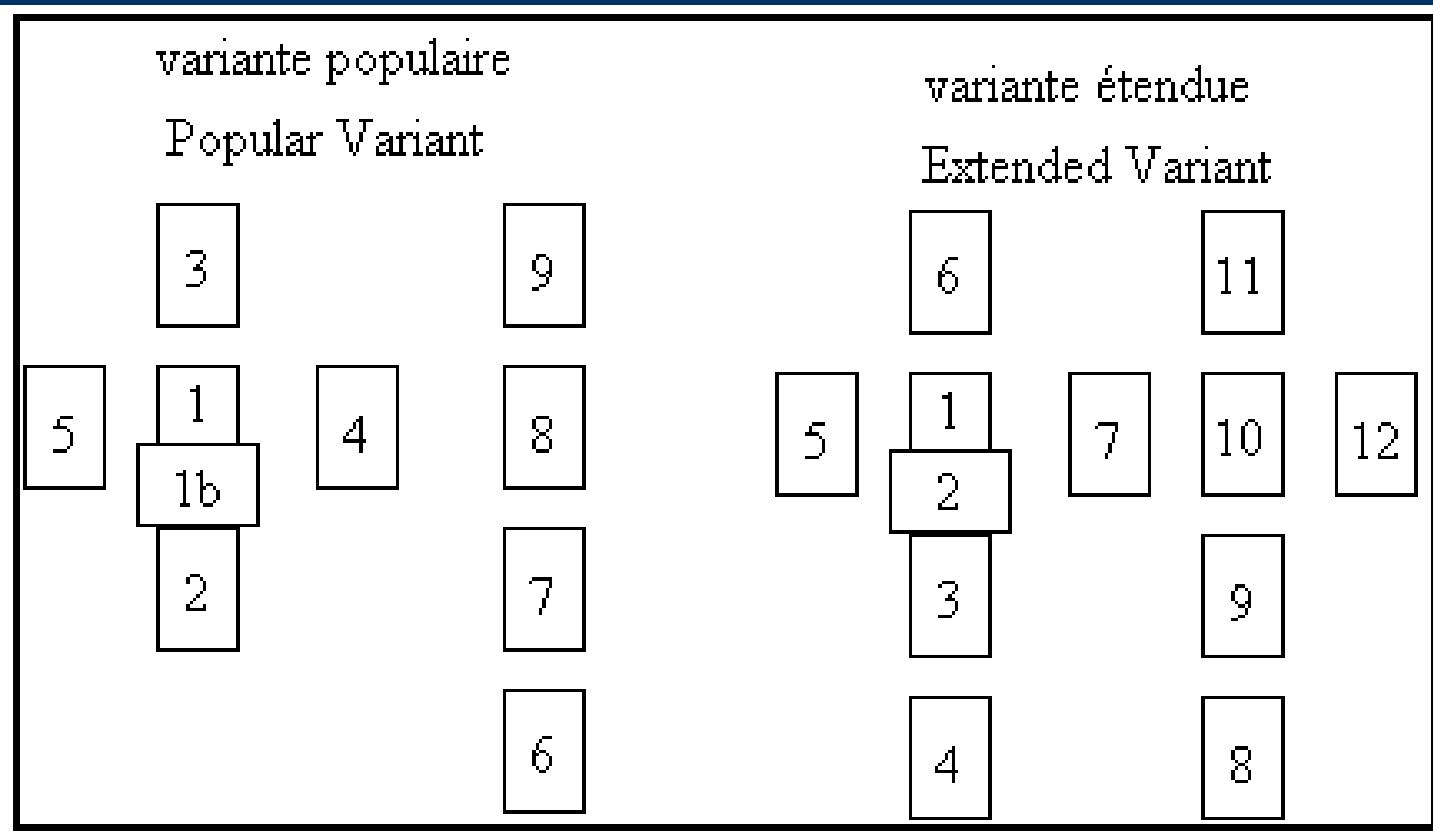


Small Celtic Cross

Single using all cards or only one suit. Double by using major Arcana first, and placing minor Arcana (after reading the major) from the suit corresponding to the nature of the question (swords: health/intellectual matters - wands: projects/work - cups: emotions/relationships - pentacles: money/material comfort).

	variant 1	variant 2	variant 3
1-	past	help	positive factor
2-	present	opponent	positive factor
3-	obstacle	deciding factor	beware of
4-	future	future outcome	beware of

Greater Celtic Cross.



Greater Celtic Cross.



This scheme is doubtless the most commonly known and has a number of variants. If there is an "all-purpose spread", it is certainly the Grand Celtic Cross. The layout presents generally a cross which represents the fundamental essence of the question (person or situation), that is to say the inner causes and predispositions; and a line that describes the ego, or mundane manifestation (superficial elements that are easily recognized as occurrences in daily life), that is to say, precise events that must occur. It is really not necessary, but it is custom to turn over the cards of the cross to the left and completely interpret them before turning over the cards on the line to the right. There are advantages to understanding the foundations without being influenced by apparent events and it adds a dramatic effect for the querent. Here are two variants, probably the simplest and the most complex:

Greater Celtic Cross.



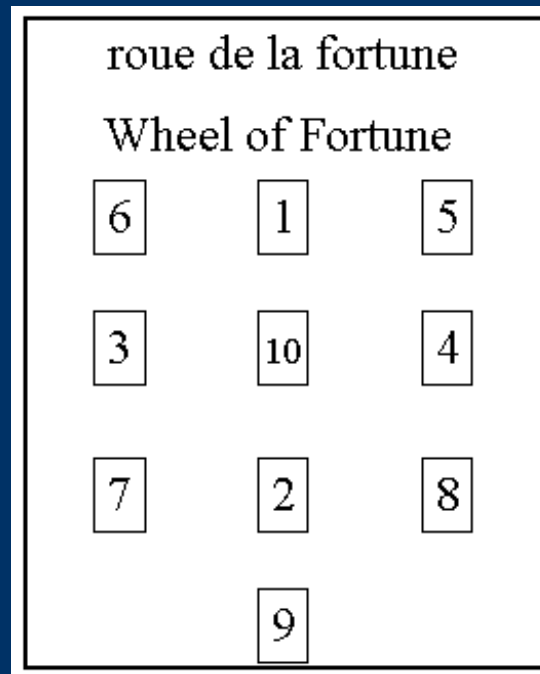
Popular Variant	Extended Variant
1- Atmosphere: situation, events, present environment which leads the querent to seek an answer.	1&2- Nature of the question: essence of the question or the querent. These are the apparently contradicting forces (which the querent feels) causing confusion and prompting the question,
1b- (optional) Influence: often forming an obstacle, it acts on the atmosphere and helps or hinders the querents actions. The card is sideways and crosses Atmosphere to show the exterior and affecting nature. I often place it diagonally to get a clearer idea of upright or upside-down.	3- Shadow: what the querent tries to evade in terms of discomfort, unpleasantness or obstacles to her/his goal.
2- Destiny: signifying the querent, the best that can result from the situatin as a final purpose.	4- Cause for the present situation (question) in the present (recent past).
3- Cause in the distant past: event that marks the necessary preconditionning to the situation and/or dilemma.	5- Cause of the situation (question) in the past: doutless the person's or the situation's childhood (beginning of the relationship etc.)
4- Cause in the present: or recent past, which manifests or allows the manifestation of the situation or dilemma.	6- Mirror: what the person or situaton reflects of the querent. Unknown part of the querent unveiled by the question.
5- Immediate future: accumulating influences in the querent's atmosphere which will affect the final outcome of the question. Though the future is never carved in stone, because of its nearness, these influences change less than the distant future.	7- Future in design: the future is the direct consequence of our actions/decisions. Alter the course of these actions/decisions and the outcome must of necessity change as well.

Greater Celtic Cross.



Popular Variant	Extended Variant
6- Situation of the querent: her/his position and/or attitude. This card places the querent in an appropriate perspective, not always the one suspected.	8- Present identity of the querent: how the querent appears, feels and/or acts in the present situation.
7- Environment: querent's characteristics or factors by which she/he influences the surroundings (people and situations).	9- Environment: how others react to and affect the querent's identity.
8- Emotions: secret desires and fears, wishes and perversions the querent may not even admit to her/himself.	10- Reason to act: querent's hopes and/or fears in light of the present situation.
9- Final outcome: the story's culmination and the consequence of all surrounding influences as described in the reading.	11- Result: events in response to the querent's actions, attitudes and decisions as described in the reading.
-----	12- Key: summary of the whole layout; keyword to keep in mind as a rule of thumb.

Wheel of Fortune.



A compromise between Greater Celtic Cross and Otz Chiim offering more direct and less spiritualistic answers than those two. The Wheel of Fortune provides practical answers giving a material outlook on things.

Wheel of Fortune.



- 1- Present: activities underway that occupy the subjects's attention
- 2- Under control: field of activities that will present no surprises, not to many problems
- 3- Past: event marking the past few months
- 4- Future: strongest influence for the coming few months
- 5- Hearth: dominant climate at home

Wheel of Fortune.



- 6- Motivation: hopes and fears of the subject
- 7- Surprise: unforeseen event to come
- 8- Precisions: further explains card 4
- 9- Immutable: what is inevitable, depending on attitudes and gestures; what remains changeable is the perception of the event and, as a consequence, how well or ill the event will mark a person or a situation
- 10- Consultant: present state of the subject