

# The Ultimate Guide to Building a Magic: The Gathering Deck That Wins

Magic: The Gathering is a complex and strategic game that requires a combination of skill, knowledge, and a well-built deck. Whether you're a seasoned veteran or a newcomer to the game, understanding the fundamentals of deck building is essential for success.



## Magic the Gathering Strategy and Deck Building Tips: A Complete Guide to Building a Magic Deck that Wins!

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This guide will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the key principles involved in building a winning Magic: The Gathering deck, including:

- Understanding card advantage
- Maintaining tempo
- Including efficient removal
- Creating a balanced mana curve

- Choosing the right deck archetype
- Testing and refining your deck

## **Understanding Card Advantage**

Card advantage is one of the most important concepts in Magic: The Gathering. It refers to the relative number of cards in your hand compared to your opponent's. Having card advantage gives you a significant advantage in the game, as it allows you to control the flow of the match and respond to your opponent's threats.

There are many ways to gain card advantage in Magic: The Gathering, including:

- Playing cards that draw you more cards, such as Divination or Opportunity
- Trading cards for multiples of other cards, such as using Fact or Fiction or Brainstorm
- Playing cards that allow you to reuse cards from your graveyard, such as Snapcaster Mage or Eternal Witness
- Countering or destroying your opponent's spells, such as using Counterspell or Murder

## **Maintaining Tempo**

Tempo is a measure of how quickly you can develop your board and threaten your opponent. In general, you want to be able to put pressure on your opponent early in the game and maintain that pressure throughout the match.

There are many ways to maintain tempo in Magic: The Gathering, including:

- Playing low-cost creatures that can attack early
- Using burn spells to directly damage your opponent
- Playing cards that grant your creatures haste or unblockable
- Controlling the board with removal spells or sweepers

### **Including Efficient Removal**

Removal spells are essential for dealing with your opponent's threats. In general, you want to play removal spells that are efficient, meaning they can kill a creature or planeswalker for as little mana as possible.

Some examples of efficient removal spells in Magic: The Gathering include:

- Lightning Bolt (kills a creature for 3 mana)
- Doomblade (kills a creature for 2 mana)
- Swords to Plowshares (kills a creature for 1 mana, but only if it's white)
- Path to Exile (kills a creature for 1 mana, but only if it's not black)

### **Creating a Balanced Mana Curve**

The mana curve of your deck is a graph that shows how many cards you have at each mana cost. In general, you want to have a relatively even distribution of cards across the mana curve, with a few low-cost cards, some mid-cost cards, and a few high-cost cards.

Having a balanced mana curve ensures that you will be able to play cards on curve, which is essential for maintaining tempo and card advantage. It also helps you avoid getting mana flooded or mana screwed, which can occur if you have too many or too few lands in your deck.

## **Choosing the Right Deck Archetype**

There are many different deck archetypes in Magic: The Gathering, each with its own unique strengths and weaknesses. Some of the most common deck archetypes include:

- **Aggro decks:** These decks aim to kill their opponent as quickly as possible using low-cost creatures and burn spells.
- **Midrange decks:** These decks are more balanced than aggro decks, with a mix of low-cost and high-cost cards.
- **Control decks:** These decks aim to control the game through card advantage and removal spells.
- **Combo decks:** These decks aim to win the game through a specific combination of cards.

The best deck archetype for you will depend on your playstyle and the format you are playing in. It is important to experiment with different archetypes to find the one that you enjoy playing the most.

## **Testing and Refining Your Deck**

Once you have built your deck, it is important to test it out against other decks to see how it performs. This will help you identify any weaknesses in your deck and make adjustments accordingly.

There are many ways to test your deck, including:

- Playing against friends or family
- Joining a local Magic: The Gathering club or league
- Playing online on platforms like MTG Arena or Magic Online

As you test your deck, you may find that you need to make some changes to improve its performance. These changes could include adding or removing cards, changing the mana base, or adjusting the deck's strategy.

Building a winning Magic: The Gathering deck is a complex and rewarding process. By understanding the fundamentals of deck building, you can create a deck that will dominate your opponents and help you achieve victory.

Remember, the best way to improve your deck building skills is to experiment with different cards and strategies. The more you play, the more you will learn about the game and the better you will become at building winning decks.



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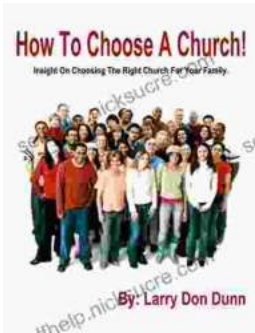
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