

Monster Countdown Deck

This deck of playing cards is primarily designed to be used with fantasy roleplaying games and settings, but can also be used for horror, or even for science fiction. It offers the following special features:

1. Four jokers instead of the usual two, each with a suit.
2. Prominent “countdown numbers” at the top of each card. These can be used for initiative: deal each character a card, then count down from highest to lowest to determine turn order. Fast characters can draw 2-3 cards and keep the highest, while slow characters might draw 2-3 cards and use the lowest.
3. A unique “monster symbol” at the bottom of each card. This symbol can be used as an improvisational prompt—for example a “web” might indicate a literal trap, or a sticky situation, or a social connection, or a network of spies, and so on.

The monster symbols can be used to generate adventures, to determine random complications, or for any number of other purposes. However they are mainly intended for generating monsters: draw 3-6 cards and use the symbols to reveal a monster’s characteristics and abilities. You can also use the monster illustrations for further inspiration.

Credits and Legalese

Monster Countdown Deck © 2018 Richard Woolcock.

Cover artwork by Tan Ho Sim, provided by Sine Nomine Publishing.

Card textures by Lord Zsezse Works.

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