

Castle of Magic

The Card Game

Designed by Michael Purcell

Background

Thirty years ago, a group of adventurers journeyed to Castle Bondi to confront a Monster that lurked within. Ultimately, they were able to perform a ritual spell and imprison the Monster.

The adventurers later established a network of twenty-seven shrines to channel the magical energies required to ensure that the Monster could not escape.

Recently, three rival factions of wizards discovered how to corrupt the shrines. As a result, the spell that binds the Monster has begun to falter.

Now, wizards from the three factions have come together to use the shrines to banish the Monster. If they fail, they risk releasing the Monster from its prison and being devoured as it rampages.

Overview

Castle of Magic: The Card Game is a game for 4-6 players that can be played in 30-60 minutes. It is intended for players who are at least twelve years old.

During the game, you will assume the role of a wizard who will try use the shrines to banish the Monster. You will have a set of secret objectives based on what faction you belong to and what country you are from.

To accomplish your objectives, you will manipulate the twenty-seven shrines. Whether you accomplish each of your objectives will depend on the state of the shrines at the end of the game.

The game will end when you cast the ritual spell. The fate of the Monster will depend on which version of the ritual spell you cast.

Your score will depend on how many of your objectives you accomplish. The players with the highest scores will win the game.

Components

- 65 Cards



27 Shrine Cards



13 Character Cards



8 Ritual Cards



8 Outcome Cards



6 Arcana Cards



3 Country Cards

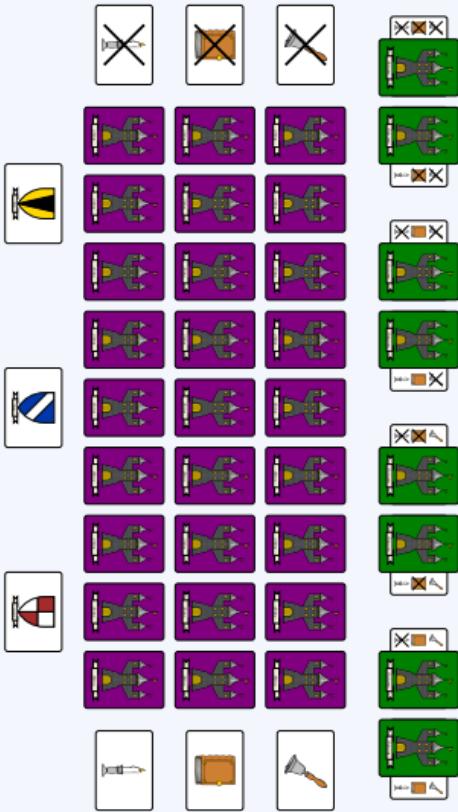
- 6 Player Aids



- 12 Pawns (2 of each color)



The play area after set up is complete.



Set Up

1. Assign each player a color. Give each player the pawns and the player aid that match their color.
2. Shuffle the character cards.
3. Deal a character card to each player.
4. Shuffle the shrine cards.
5. Arrange the shrine cards face down in a tableau consisting of three rows of nine cards each.
6. Place the country cards below the tableau.
 - a) The Kida card should be placed below the second column.
 - b) The Marus card should be placed below the fifth column.
 - c) The Sorrell card should be placed below the eighth column.

7. Place the arcana cards to the sides of the tableau. The cards for the inactive arcana (the ones with an “X” through them) should be placed on the left and the cards for the active arcana should be placed on the right of the tableau.
 - a) The bell cards should be placed next to the top row.
 - b) The book cards should be placed next to the middle row.
 - c) The candle cards should be placed next to the bottom row.
8. Arrange the ritual cards face up in a single row above the tableau.
9. Shuffle the outcome cards.
10. Place one outcome card on top of each ritual card. Ensure that the icons on the ritual cards remain visible.

Playing the Game

The player who has most recently performed a magic trick should take the first turn.

On your turn you must either manipulate the shrines or advance the ritual spell. Each player must manipulate the shrines on their first turn.

Play proceeds to the left (clockwise). That is, when you have finished your turn, the player to your left will take the next turn.

Play continues this way until the ritual spell is cast and the game ends.

After the game ends, you will identify which objectives you accomplished and compute your total score. The players with the highest scores will win the game.

Manipulating the Shrines

To manipulate the shrines, you must pick up at least one of your pawns.

For every pawn that you picked up you must:

1. Flip one shrine card that does not have a pawn on it.
2. Place a pawn that you picked up on the shrine card that you flipped.

Advancing the Ritual Spell

To advance the ritual spell, you must flip one of the face down outcome cards so that it is face up.

Ending the Game

The game ends immediately when the last ritual card is turned face up.

Factions

Three factions of wizards - the Dragon Masters, the Eagle Lords, and the Wolf Mages - have come together to cast the ritual spell. They are also political rivals.

Each faction has corrupted eight of the twenty-seven shrines. They will use these shrines to vie for control of the kingdom.



Dragon Masters



Wolf Mages



Eagle Lords

Sigils of the three factions of wizards.

Countries

Three countries - Kida, Marus, and Sorrell - comprise the kingdom and are where the twenty-seven shrines are located. Nine shrines are in each country.

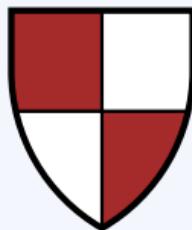
When the ritual spell is cast, each country will be controlled by the faction with the most active shrines in that country.



Kida



Marus



Sorrell

Coats of Arms for the three countries.

Regalia

Three pieces of regalia - the amulet, the crown, and the scepter - were originally used to control the Monster. Each piece of regalia was interred within one of the twenty-seven shrines when the Monster was imprisoned. Now, the regalia are treasures that the wizards can claim to further their personal ambitions.

When the ritual spell is cast, any character who has claimed a piece of regalia may draw the attention of the Monster. They may be able to use the regalia to dominate the Monster but risk being devoured if the Monster is released.



Amulet



Crown



Scepter

Arcana

Three arcana - the bell, the book, and the candle - were originally used to summon the Monster. Now, the wizards will harness the power of the arcana to cast the ritual spell.

The nature of the ritual spell will depend on how each of the arcana are used when it is cast. Each of the arcana can be used in one of two ways:

- The bell can be either ringing or silent.
- The book can be either open or closed.
- The candle can be either lit or unlit.

So, there are eight possible outcomes when the ritual spell is cast.



Bell



Book



Candle

The Twenty-Seven Shrines

The twenty-seven shrines were built to channel the magical energies required to imprison the monster. Each shrine is attuned to one of the three arcana and is located in one of the three countries.

Each shrine is represented by a shrine card. If a shrine card is face up, the corresponding shrine is active. If a shrine card is face down, the corresponding shrine is inactive.

Corrupted Shrines

Most of the shrines have been corrupted by one of the three factions. Only the shrines in which the regalia are interred have not been corrupted.

The factions can use the shrines that they have corrupted to exert control over the countries in which those shrines are located.

The Tableau

The shrine cards will be arranged in a tableau consisting of three rows of nine cards each.

Each row of the tableau will contain the cards that represent the shrines that are attuned to one of the arcana.

- The top row is for the bell.
- The middle row is for the book.
- The bottom row is for the candle.

The columns of the tableau contain the cards that represent the shrines that are located in one of the three countries.

- The first three columns are for Kida.
- The next three columns are for Marus.
- The last three columns are for Sorrell.

The Ritual Spell

The game ends when the wizards cast the ritual spell. The nature of the ritual spell depends on how each of the arcana are used when it is cast.

How each each of the arcana is used depends on the state of the shrines that are attuned to that arcanum.

- If the majority (five or more) of the shrines in the top row of the tableau are active, the bell is ringing. Otherwise, the bell is silent.
- If the majority (five or more) of the shrines in the middle row of the tableau are active, the book is open. Otherwise, the bell is closed.
- If the majority (five or more) of the shrines in the bottom row of the tableau are active, the candle is lit. Otherwise, the candle is unlit.

Determining the Outcome

There are eight possible ritual spells. The ritual spell that is cast depends on how the arcana are used. Each ritual spell is represented by a ritual card.

Each outcome describes what happens when one of the ritual spells is cast. Each outcome is represented by an outcome card.

The mapping between outcomes and ritual spells changes from game to game. The outcome cards specify which outcome corresponds to which ritual spell.

Casting the Ritual Spell

At the beginning of the game, all of the outcome cards will be face down. During the game, players will have the opportunity to turn the outcome cards face up.

The ritual spell is cast immediately when the last outcome card is turned face up.

Outcomes

There are eight possible outcomes when the ritual spell is cast.

1. The character who claimed the amulet dominates the Monster.
2. The character who claimed the crown dominates the Monster.
3. The character who claimed the scepter dominates the Monster.
4. The character who claimed the amulet is devoured by the Monster.
5. The character who claimed the crown is devoured by the Monster.
6. The character who claimed the scepter is devoured by the Monster.
7. The Monster is released. Everyone is devoured as the Monster rampages.
8. The Monster is banished outright.



Outcome 1.



Outcome 2.



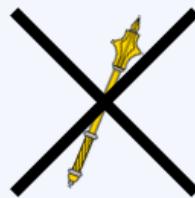
Outcome 3.



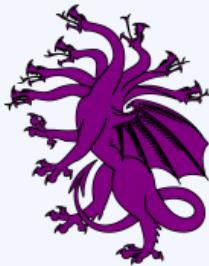
Outcome 4.



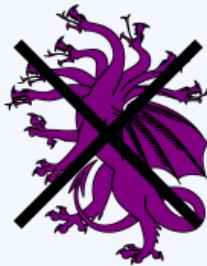
Outcome 5.



Outcome 6.



Outcome 7.



Outcome 8.

Icons that represent each of the eight possible outcomes of the ritual spell.

Characters

There are three kinds of characters: wizards, cultists, and the Monster.

Wizards

Each wizard is affiliated with both a faction and a country. Each wizard's affiliations are represented in the form of a coat of arms.

The shield in a wizard's coat of arms indicates the country that they are from. The supporters in a wizard's coat of arms indicate their faction.

Cultists

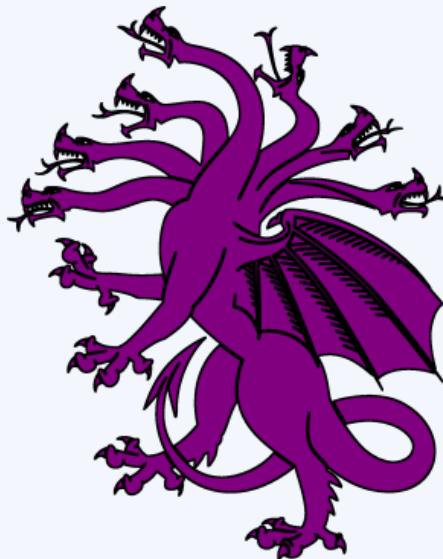
Each cultist is affiliated with a faction. Cultists are not affiliated with any country. Instead, cultists worship the Monster. Each cultist's affiliations are represented in the form of a coat of arms.

The shield in a cultists coat of arms bears the image of the Monster. The supporters in a cultist's coat of arms indicate their faction.

The Monster

The Monster has the ability to disguise itself as a wizard. If you are the Monster, then you can manipulate the shrines and the ritual cards as normal.

The only mechanical difference between the Monster and a wizard or a cultist during the game is that they have different objectives.



The Monster

Objectives

There are four types of objectives that you (or others) may be trying to accomplish: controlling countries, claiming regalia, dominating the monster, and feeding the Monster.

Controlling Countries

To control each country, you will need to ensure that your faction has the most active shrines in that country. If two or more of the factions are tied for the most active shrines in a country, then none of the factions will control that country.

Claiming Regalia

To claim a piece of regalia, one of your pawns must be on its shrine card when the ritual spell is cast. You can claim a piece of regalia regardless of whether its shrine card is face up or face down.

Dominating the Monster

To dominate the Monster, you must first claim a piece of regalia. Then, you must ensure that the outcome of the ritual spell allows you dominate the Monster.

Feeding the Monster

To feed the Monster, you must ensure that the outcome of the ritual spell indicates that the Monster devours at least one character.

Scoring

Each type of character scores points based on what objectives they are able to accomplish.

Wizards

Each wizard scores:

- 1000 points for every country that their faction controls.
- 1000 points for their faction controlling their home country.
- 1000 points for every piece of regalia that they claim.
- 1000 points for dominating the Monster.

A wizard who is devoured by the Monster cannot claim any of the regalia.

Cultists

Each cultist scores:

- 1000 points for each country that their faction controls.
- 1000 points for each piece of regalia that they claim.
- 1000 points for feeding the Monster.

A cultist who is devoured by the monster cannot claim any of the regalia.

The Monster

The Monster scores:

- 6000 points for devouring at least one wizard or cultist.

The Monster can claim regalia but will not score points for doing so. The Monster cannot devour itself.

Playtesters

The design of Castle of Magic: The Card Game has been vastly improved by the feedback provided by the following playtesters throughout the design process:

- Dannielle Harden
- Farzana Choudhury
- Luke Purcell
- Keydan Bruce
- Kira Purcell
- Brett Witty

Design Tools

The following tools were used to create the art, layout, and graphic design for this game:

- LuaLaTeX: Typesetting and layout.
- TikZ: Diagrams and art.
- GIMP: Image manipulation.

The fonts used in this booklet are Charter and TeX Gyre Chorus.

The art used throughout the game was adapted from illustrations by d3verro.

Disclaimer

This game is a modern reimagining of a classic board game of magic and intrigue.

The original Castle of Magic game was designed by Rick Smith and published by Cloud Kingdom Games (née RiddleMaster Games) in 1991.

It was later augmented by two expansions: The Castle Cursed in 1992 and The Fall of Castle Bondi (which includes a reprint of the earlier expansion) in 2002.

Castle of Magic: The Card Game was designed by Michael Purcell. It is an original design that aims to maintain the flavor of the original while simplifying it for a more streamlined experience.

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