



Card Counting: Numerical Assignments in the Major Arcana

Supplementary Guide

Where do the assigned numbers for the tarot Majors come from?

The numerical assignments for the cards used in the card counting technique are based on the Golden Dawn's reinterpretation of the attributions between numbers, Hebrew letters, and the *Sepher Yetzirah* (or *Book of Creation*) superimposed with the tarot structure.

What is the *Sepher Yetzirah*?

The *Sepher Yetzirah* (*Sēpher Yāṣîrâh*, ספר יצירה) is one of the earliest Kabbalistic texts on esoteric Judaism. In brief, the text declares the divinity of the one Almighty God's Name, creating our world from a trinitarian principle, or three holy derivatives, ten calibrations of holy space (corresponding with the ten sephiroth of the Tree of Life), twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet (which happen to correspond with the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana in tarot), and of those twenty-two, there are three principal letters (in tarot, the elements minus Earth), seven double letters (the seven sacred planets), and twelve ordinary letters (the twelve zodiac signs).

Every one of these principles is incorporated into the Opening of the Key.

Note on Golden Dawn revisions

You'll see that the Golden Dawn attributions deviate from the *Sepher Yetzirah* attributions. While the Golden Dawn derives its 12 zodiac attributions and 3 elemental attributions from the *Sepher Yetzirah*, the 7 planetary attributions have been revised to follow their own theosophical system of planetary attributions. Note Keys 1, 2, 3, 10, 16, 19, and 21 where the Golden Dawn astrological attribution deviates from the *Sepher Yetzirah* attribution of fundamental properties.

Key #	Trump Name	Hebrew Letter		Sepher Yetzirah Attribution (Fundamental Property)		Golden Dawn Attribution
0	The Fool	Alef	א	Mother Letter (3) Element (Spirit)	Air	Air
1	The Magician	Bet	ב	Double Letter (7) (Wisdom)	Moon	Mercury
2	The High Priestess	Gimel	ג	Double Letter (7) (Health)	Mars	Moon
3	The Empress	Dalet	ד	Double Letter (7) (Fertility)	Sun	Venus
4	The Emperor	He	ה	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Speech)	Aries	Aries
5	The Hierophant	Vav	ו	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Mind)	Taurus	Taurus
6	The Lovers	Zayin	ז	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Movement)	Gemini	Gemini
7	The Chariot	Het	ח	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Sight)	Cancer	Cancer
8	Strength	Tet	ט	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Hearing)	Leo	Leo
9	The Hermit	Yod	י	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Labor)	Virgo	Virgo
10	Wheel of Fortune	Kaf	כ	Double Letter (7) (Life)	Venus	Jupiter
11	Justice	Lamed	ל	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Sexual Desire)	Libra	Libra
12	Hanged Man	Mem	מ	Mother Letter (3) Element (Mute)	Water	Water
13	Death	Nun	נ	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Smell)	Scorpio	Scorpio

14	Temperance	Samekh	ס	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Sleep)	Sagittarius	Sagittarius
15	The Devil	Ayin	ע	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Anger)	Capricorn	Capricorn
16	The Tower	Pe	פ	Double Letter (7) (Power)	Mercury	Mars
17	The Star	Tsadi	צ	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Taste)	Aquarius	Aquarius
18	The Moon	Qof	ק	Simple Letter (12) Zodiacal Constellations (Mirth)	Pisces	Pisces
19	The Sun	Resh	ר	Double Letter (7) (Peace)	Saturn	Sun
20	Judgement	Shin	ש	Mother Letter (3) Element (Hissing)	Fire	Fire
21	The World	Tav	ת	Double Letter (7) (Beauty)	Jupiter	Saturn