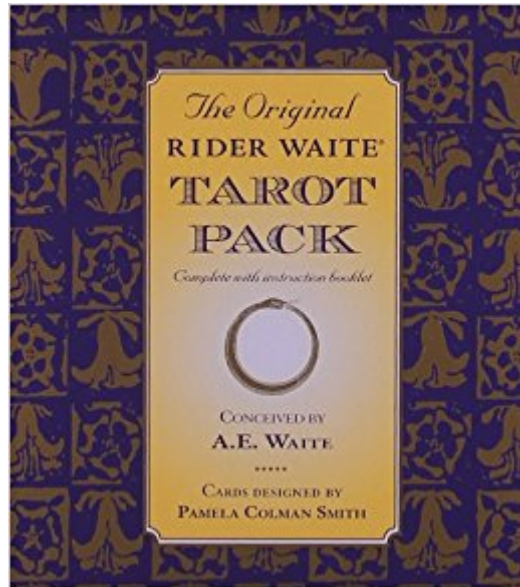


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# The Original Rider Waite Tarot Pack



## Synopsis

Facsimile edition of the Rider-Waite Tarot deck originally printed from plates that were destroyed during the bombing of London during World War II. The deck and book set comes with the Rider-Waite Tarot deck by Pamela Colman Smith with original Tudor Rose back design, Celtic Cross divinatory chart, and The Key to the Tarot by Arthur Edward Waite.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 409 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

In 1909, Arthur Edward Waite encouraged Pamela Colman Smith to produce a tarot deck with appeal to the world of art that would have significance behind the symbols, and thus make the deck more important than tarot packs previously used for centuries. The result was the unique Rider-Waite Tarot deck which has endured as the world's most popular 78-card tarot deck. The innovative cards, including the 56 Minor Arcana, depict full scenes with figures and symbols. This featured, combined with Pamela Smith's ability to capture the subtleties of emotion and experience, has made the Rider-Waite Tarot the basis for the designs of many 20th Century packs. The Original Rider Waite Tarot Pack is a facsimile edition originally printed from plates that were destroyed during the bombing of London during World War II. The deck and book set comes complete and in full-color with original Tudor Rose back design, Celtic Cross divinatory chart, and The Key to the Tarot by Arthur Waite. --Midwest Book Review

I bought this deck for my husband, who is learning Tarot. I am very disappointed in the quality of it. It appears to be a reproduction of a reproduction. The lines are not as neat and detailed. Some

cards have details that appear to be missing (the 5 of Pentacles - the first man's arms are missing or obscured by the poor quality). Almost every card appears pixelated. I could go on with the list of problems but I think I will stop there. The only pros to this deck are the heavy card stock and the mini book that comes with it. I will be uploading pictures of these cards (via Photo bucket since doesn't allow uploads on this item) compared side by side with my Waite/Smith deck so you can see what I am talking about.[...][...]

I am absolutely delighted with this deck. I have some antique books from the late 1800's through the 1930's and I was hoping that these illustrations would capture that feel. These cards are illustrated with the Art Nouveau era's softer, more muted color palette. I find these cards very pleasant to look at with the more original color palette, mezzotints and benday dots. The cards have the same slick, shiny, coated surface rather than a more matte look that I was expecting, but that is really more practical anyway for regular use. The deck also includes a small booklet (seek additional information. This will not be of much help if you are a beginner), and I especially appreciate that there is a card dedicated to Pamela Coleman Smith's bio. One strange thing is that the Six of Cups is colored differently than other Rider decks. The female's hair is WHITE, not yellow. This lends itself to some different interpretations on the subjects of aging, nostalgia, etc. - I actually think it's a better card (for me) this way. The deck's printing is sharp and clear, and the box is printed with a lovely pattern in metallic ink. As a note to those who often focus on each card's strongest colors, the most noticeable difference with this Rider Waite version compared with later versions is that there is no true blue in these cards. It instead is a gentle shift between soft aquas and greens rather than the more intense sky blue range. This subtlety may not be for everyone, however I personally don't care for the brighter, more modern versions. Some look like they've just traced the originals and color penciled them in. There have been several comments regarding the US Games copyright mark on the cards. The type is an extremely small and thin font appearing in the lower right margin. It's probably 3 point type. I personally didn't even notice it or register an annoyance at first seeing it. In my opinion, not all corporations are "beasts" and I think US Games, Inc. should be credited for keeping the art of tarot alive and readily accessible to us. If you are that offended by their corporate status, buy tarot card designs from another company so you don't feel that you are supporting "the Beast". Also, it may not have been mentioned by anyone that on the box it states "Copyright 1993 The Estate of A.E. Waite", so the original creators are still actively in ownership, which I am happy about. If anything bothers me, it's "Printed in China" on the box.

This by far the best Rider Waite Tarot in existence. This is the only Rider deck that I use, it has a nice gloss and comes with the Tarot Key by Waite which is essential for a deeper understanding of the symbology involved.

This deck has beautiful colors, thick cardstock, and has not bent or faded with time. I use this deck professionally on a daily basis and I am an aggressive shuffler. The deck has been able to stand up to that test of time. Despite this, the card stock is extremely thick, heavy, and difficult to shuffle. After two years of use, it has still maintained that sense of stiffness. After reading at an 8 hour event, I actually got muscle soreness in both of my thumbs- incredible! Muscle soreness from card shuffling! Everything else about this deck is truly lovely- the lack of fading, the durability. The shuffle-ability is where it is lacking, which is a damn shame. Otherwise, if used as a deck to photograph on instagram or for marketing purposes, this would be perfect.

This is a fantastic reproduction of the 1910 edition of the Rider-Waite tarot deck. I have several versions of the Rider-Waite, and this is my favorite. I waffled a bit between this one and U.S. Games's Smith-Waite Centennial edition, which has that great "old" feel, but at the end of the day, I keep going back to this one. This set also includes Waite's book (let) that he wrote for this deck. It swings from obtuse to obfuscatory, but it's...pretty? Read it. Then get a different book. For those new to Tarot, my only advice is to be aware of the differences in all the editions of the Rider-Waite. U.S. Games offers several "Rider-Waite" decks. The "Rider" deck is not quite as brightly colored, has a thinner card stock, and a "tarotee" back design (diagonally crossed black lines). The "Original Rider Waite Tarot Pack" listed here is a beautiful version of the original with bright colors and a blue "Tudor Rose" design on the back. The "Pamela Colman Smith Commemorative Set" includes the Centennial edition (along with a lovely book and extra material about the artist) which appears to be a copy of a well-scanned original deck, on excellent card stock, with a new back design that includes the rose and Pamela Colman Smith's initials as they appear on the cards. The "Smith-Waite Centennial Edition" is the deck only from the Commemorative set (sans book and extras). As an aside, U.S. Games also offers the Albano-Waite deck. Initially published in 1968, this groovy edition is a trippy, garishly colored version of Smith's original images. And this list is certainly not exhaustive; there are other "Rider" (publisher) or "Waite" (author/supervisor) or "Smith" (artist) decks out there from every publisher imaginable. In addition to the images themselves, many (if not most) modern decks use this deck as a basis for their own designs. O.K., so this wasn't much of a "review" of this product specifically, but if someone intends to

read tarot, he or she should own a version of the Waite deck. It is one of the cornerstones of esoteric tarot in general and a foundation for the proliferation in tarot publishing today. And if that isn't enough to sell one, it is also a pleasant example of early twentieth-century English popular illustration. Enjoy.

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