

A stack of playing cards is shown, fanned out slightly. The cards have a light-colored background with a dark, ornate, repeating decorative border. The text is overlaid on the center of the stack.

# PROPER PLAYING CARD CARE

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# Introduction

There is truly no worse feeling than spreading, dribbling, or fanning a deck of playing cards that is in bad shape. Whether the deck has become soft from too much use, dirty from the time you accidentally dropped it, or just handled worse and worse due to one reason or another, this is something we all don't like. On the other hand, you may have just bought your favorite deck of cards, only to discover that it developed a click for one reason or another. These are just a few examples of the way a deck of cards can become damaged. Whether you're looking for a solution to a deck's "click" or ways to increase the lifespan of your decks of cards, this eBook will walk you through the steps.

Before going any further, you need to know that a normal deck of playing cards is usually made out of paper coated in a finish. Just like any other paper product, when playing cards are used, the stock is slowly being degraded. This eBook serves the purpose of teaching you to maximize the deck's potential. Even with all these tips, a deck will not last forever, but you will notice a definite improvement in the condition of your cards.

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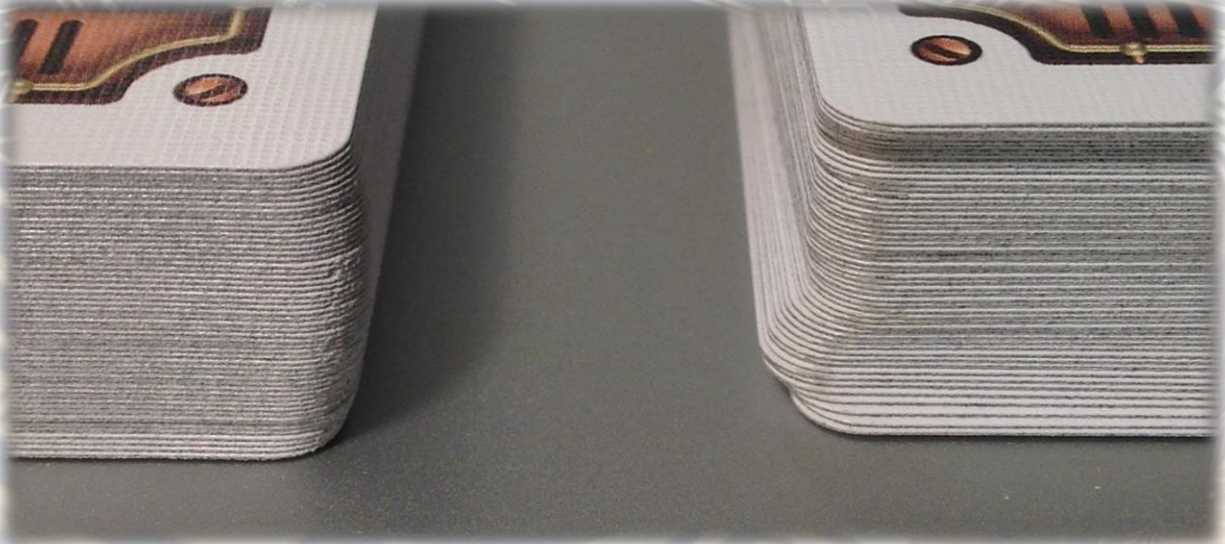
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## 1.1 - Before you Handle the Cards

Before you even pick up a deck of cards, there are certain actions you **must** take to ensure that the deck's longevity is maximized. In short, without proper conditioning to use the deck, you might even cause a click to develop, and at the very least, you'll make the cards dirtier. Without further ado....

### **Tip #1: Wash your Hands**

This is a tip that I cannot overstate enough. Being that a deck of cards is made up of paper, they are also highly absorbent of anything from water to oils to dirt. If you're hands are too dirty, oily, or sticky, this will transfer over to the deck. Not only is this bad for the handling of the cards, it definitely doesn't make the deck look good. This is especially evident if you look at the corners of the deck of cards. In short, dirty hands using a deck equates an uneven spread, and the sides of the deck look gross. Below is a comparison of a before and after shot of a deck used without any hand cleansing. I think you'll agree, clean hands are very important.



### **Tip #2: Make sure your hands are at a happy medium between too dry and too moist.**

If you're hands are not at the right level of moisture, you'll be changing the moisture levels of the deck of cards.

- When your hands are too dry, they begin removing some moisture from the deck of cards, and if this continues, a click will develop.
- When your hands are too moist, they will add moisture to the deck, and as with dry hands, a click will develop.