

Welcome to the black magic market.

As a wizard merchant, you're dedicated to selling enchanted curiosities to the most curious enchanters. Life was good (and profitable), but a miscast incantation has caused a mix-up that could spell the end: your precious items have been fractured, hidden, and jumbled up so much that not even Merlin could sort it out.

Even worse, the authorities are now wise to the operation, and they're on the lookout for which crafts are witchcraft.

You could always dump the goods, but that's not the wizard merchant's way. Fortunately, word on the sorcery street is that the inspectors are looking to line their pockets with gold, and the magic number is one hundred. First one to pay them off can get back to illegal business as usual.

You'll need to restock your storehouse, reassemble your items, and sell them as quickly as possible, getting rid of the goods before the alley is inspected.

Get caught with too many infamous items and you'll have to bribe your way out of having your wand confiscated — and that's no respectable way for an unrespectable wizard to make a living.

MADE BY HUMANS



IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

Game by Corwin Riddle
Art by Janette Ramos







Game Overview

In **Arcane Alley**, each player is a wizard merchant, competing to sell items for gold while minimizing the infamy gained from their leftover unsold items during a round's inspection.

Each player starts with a full storehouse of *nine* items. On your turn, you'll try to make sets (*three* identical items in a row) in your storehouse, which awards you gold for the sale and removes those infamous items from your storehouse so you won't get caught with them in the upcoming inspection.

You'll continue selling until a player triggers the inspection and ends the round. Then, each player gains infamy for any items remaining in their storehouse. If you gain too much infamy from those unsold items, you'll fail the inspection and be forced to spend your gold on fines.

To win the game, have the most gold after the third inspection is resolved.

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Components

Game board



6 Player aids



Side A



Side B

139 Item cards



6 Wizard cards



18 Score tokens



Starting player token



1 Round marker



12 Fine markers



Whenever something happens in turn order, it begins at the first player and continues clockwise.

Setup

- Place the game board in the center of the play area and place the **round marker** on the **1**st circle.
- 2 Place the deck and fine markers next to the board.
- In a 5 or 6 player game, include all item cards with the sicon. For 3 or 4 players, remove those extra item cards from the game.
- 3 Each player selects a color and takes the wizard card and score tokens of that color.
- If this is your first game, it is recommended to play without using the wizard powers (use the blank side of each wizard card).
- 4 Each player places *one* of their score tokens on the game board at **25** gold () and *one* at **0** infamy ().
- In a 2-player game, also place **one** score token of any unused color at **1** infamy. This will be used to track the number of turns.
- Give the starting player token to the player who most recently saw a movie that had a wizard in it. You are ready to begin!

Example: Setup for 4 Players



Keeping Score

Each player has two scores to track: gold and infamy.

Gold

Gold is represented by the icon.

- You can never have less than **0** gold.
- If you exceed **100** gold, place *one* of your unused score tokens in the **100** circle on the **game board** to represent **+100** gold.
- You gain gold by selling sets in the Sell and Inspection phases, and from item effects.
- You lose gold from paying fines, and from item effects.

Infamy

Infamy is represented by the vicon.

- You can never have less than **0** infamy.
- You can never have more than 24 infamy. Whenever you would exceed 24 infamy, place your infamy score token on 0 infamy, place one fine marker on your wizard, and continue counting. You can have up to two fine marker on your wizard at any time.
- You gain infamy by having items left in your **storehouse** when the **Inspection** phase begins, and from item effects.
- You lose infamy by bribing in the **Bribe** phase, and from item effects.



Below is a breakdown of an item card.



More on Items

- Side B of the player aid lists item rarity in the deck, as well as each item's gold set value and infamy value.
- Page 17 explains how to resolve item effect activation.
- Page 19 explains each item's effect in further detail.

Gameplay

The game is played over multiple rounds, with each round made up of *four* phases played in the following order:

1 Stock 2 Sell 3 Inspection 4 Bribe

Game Round

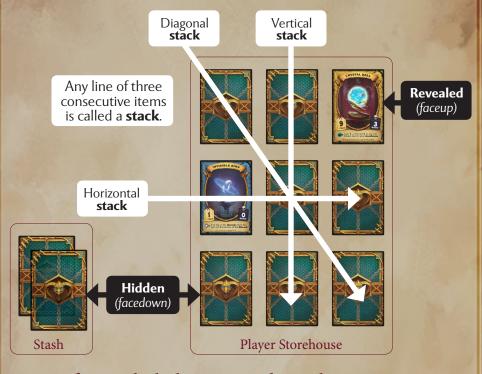
1 Stock

In this phase, each player will stock their storehouse for the round, creating their own personal play area where they will try to make sets of items, as follows:

- **1.** Shuffle the deck (include all items in the **discard**, **stashes**, **storehouses**, and any items set aside during the last round).
- **2.** Deal each player **nine** hidden (facedown) items. Players cannot look at these items.
- **3.** Each player arranges these hidden items into a 3-by-3 grid in front of them. This is their storehouse.
- **4.** Each player chooses and reveals (*turns faceup*) any *two* of the hidden items in their storehouse.
- 5. Deal each player *two* additional hidden items. This is their stash. Players can look at their own stash at any time, but should keep it secret from other players.
- **6.** Reveal the top item of the deck and place it next to the deck, faceup. This is the discard.
- **7.** Begin the Sell phase.
- Besides the **two** items revealed when first creating your **storehouse**, you won't know what your hidden items are until you replace them (or the **Inspection** phase begins), unless an effect allows you to peek.

Example: Stocked Player Area

Below is an example player's area after the Stock phase.



Example: Stocked Player Areas for 3 Players



2 Sell

In this phase, players will continue taking turns (in turn order) to sell sets for gold until the Inspection phase is triggered.

A turn in the Sell phase always consists of the following *two* actions, taken in order (you can not skip either of these actions):

A Draw an Item

Draw either the top item of the deck or the top item of the discard and add it to your stash.

B Play or Discard an Item

Choose any one item from your stash and either play it in your storehouse or discard it.

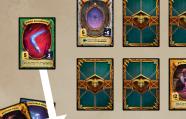
Playing an Item

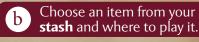
- **1.** Choose *one* item in your storehouse to replace and set it aside. If you choose a hidden item, do not reveal it yet.
- **2.** Choose *one* item in your stash, reveal it, and place it in the vacated storehouse slot, revealed.
- **3.** If the played item has a effect, resolve it (see page 17).
- **4.** If the played item makes a set, sell the set (see page 11).
- **5.** Place the replaced item on top of the discard, revealed. If that item has a relevant effect, resolve it (see page 17).
- **6.** Your turn ends.
- 7. If you ended your turn with no hidden items remaining in your storehouse, you have triggered this round's inspection. Each other player takes *one* more turn in the Sell phase, then the Inspection phase begins.

In a 2-player game, there are different rules for what happens when you replace one of your hidden **storehouse** items. (see page 28 for details).

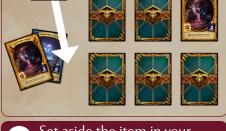
Example Turn: Playing an Item in Your Storehouse







Playing this heré will get us closer to selling a **set**.



Set aside the item in your **storehouse** to be replaced.















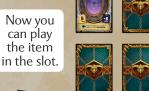








Reveal and play the item from d your **stash** in the vacated slot.











Now you can play the item







The replaced item is then revealed and discarded.



Discarding an Item

If the replaced

item is hidden.

don't reveal it yet.

- Choose one item from your stash and place it on top of the discard, revealed.
- If the item has a relevant © effect, resolve it (see page 17). 2.
- Your turn ends.

Making Sets

A stack is a line of any *three* consecutive items. A set is made when a stack contains *three* revealed copies of the *exact same* item. This can only occur in the Sell and Inspection phases:

- In the **Sell** phase, a **set** is made when you play an item in your **storehouse** in a **stack** which contains **two** other revealed copies of the *exact same* item.
- In the **Inspection** phase, **sets** can be made when revealing your remaining hidden **storehouse** items.

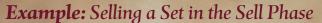
Sellings Sets

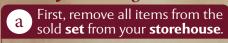
When a set is made, you must immediately sell it. You can never choose *not* to sell a set or not to gain gold for a sold set.

Selling a Set

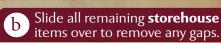
- 1. Remove all *three* items in the set from your storehouse and set them aside for the rest of the round.
- **2.** If necessary, slide remaining items in your storehouse to remove any gaps between stacks (for diagonal **sets**, you choose how to slide remaining items—vertically or horizontally).
- **3.** Gain the amount of gold shown on the set's item.
- **4.** If the set's item has a ffect, resolve it. Ignore this step in the Inspection phase.

Each time you sell a set, your storehouse size is reduced by three items for the rest of the round. This lasts until the next Stock phase. It is possible (and good) to end the Sell or Inspection phase with zero items left in your storehouse.











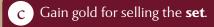
If there is a gap between stacks, slide items over.













shown on the set's item. Here, you sold a **set** of Dragon's Eggs. worth **20** ...















2 and **15** ...











Rules for Selling Sets

- If you can sell two **sets** at the same time, first resolve the sale of *one* **set**, then sell the other **set**, if still possible.
- When you slide items in your **storehouse** together after a sale to remove gaps, do not rearrange the position of items within their stacks-slide all items as a group, in a single direction (for a diagonal gap, you choose the direction).
- If the example **set** shown above was made during the **Inspection** phase, you would skip step (d).

3 Inspection

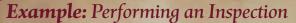
In this phase, players will reveal all items remaining in their storehouse from the Sell phase and gain infamy for each.

The Inspection phase is triggered by the first player who ended their turn in the Sell phase with no hidden items left in their storehouse, and begins on that player's next turn.

In a 2-player game, the inspection can only be triggered by a player on turns 15 to 20, then it is triggered automatically (see page 28 for details).

Performing the Inspection

- 1. In turn order, each player reveals all hidden items in their storehouse. If this makes any sets, that player must sell those sets, ignoring a effects.
- **2.** Each player gains infamy equal to the total of *all* infamy on *all* items remaining in their storehouse. It is possible to end with a total of *negative* infamy, in which case you would lose that amount of infamy instead of gaining any.
- **3.** If the player who triggered the inspection did *not* gain the least (*or tie for least*) amount of infamy in Step 2, they gain an additional **10** infamy.
- **4.** A player with any fine markers on their wizard has failed inspection. Each player removes all fine markers and loses gold based on the number of markers removed:
 - One fine marker: lose 25 gold.
 - Two fine markers: lose 50 gold.
- **5.** If this was not the 3rd inspection, advance the **round marker** to the next spot and begin the **Bribe** phase.
- **6.** If this was the 3rd inspection, then the game is over! The player with the most gold wins (if there's a tie, the player with less infamy wins—if there's still a tie, play rock-paper-wizard).



Reveal any remaining hidden items left in your **storehouse**.

You had already sold a **set**, so your storehouse had six items left when the inspection begins.



b

21 🐯

Reveal these hidden items





If revealing these hidden items

makes a **set**, then sell that **set**.

Gain the infamy on every item remaining in your storehouse.



Penalize triggering player if they did not gain the least infamy.



Any player with fine markers must spend gold to pay fines.



Total

8

1 fine marker: Lose **25** gold.

+1 🐯



Check the game end condition.

are penalized with +10 ...



4 Bribe

In this phase, players can spend gold to reduce their infamy.

In turn order, each player may choose to bribe or pass.

If a player bribes, they can spend any even amount of gold to reduce their infamy by *one* for every *two* gold spent. When bribing, players can't spend gold they don't have, and they can't reduce their infamy below 0.

If a player passes, it is the next player's turn to bribe.

After each player has gone once, the round ends and a new round begins. Pass the starting player token to the left, then begin a new Stock phase.

FAQ

Read on for handling some common gameplay situations.

- Players cannot trade items in their **stashes** or **storehouses**.
- If the **deck** runs out, leave the top item of the **discard** as is, and shuffle the rest of it to recreate the **deck**.
- Items that are set aside (such as sold **sets** and used special items) are not considered in play, can't be used or targeted by any players or effects, and aren't shuffled back into the **deck** during that **Sell** phase if the **deck** runs out during play.
- Players can look through the **discard** at any time, but they can't rearrange the order of any items in it.
- It's possible to have less or more than *two* items in your **stash**, from selling **sets** of **FLOATING CARPETS** or being a target of **SACRED CHALICE**. This lasts only for the current round and resets to *two* items in the next **Stock** phase.
- If multiple players end the 3^{rd} **Inspection** phase tied for gold and infamy, they both win.
- If a player ends their turn in the **Sell** phase with **0** items left in their **storehouse**, they trigger the inspection.

Item Reference

Read on for details on resolving item effects, followed by a reference with more clarification on each individual item.

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Resolving Item Effects

Each item will have at least one effect that can activate.

• The icon on an item determines when the effect activates:



- If multiple item effects would activate at the same time, resolve them *one* at a time in the order shown above.
- You can never choose *not* to activate an effect, or only to activate part of an effect.
- For items with more than *one* icon, treat each as a separate effect and resolve each when it would activate, as normal.
- Page 19 explains each item's effect in further detail.



Special item: if an item with this effect is in your stash, you can choose to activate the special item on your turn instead of playing an item, as follows:

- 1. Before activating the special item's effect, you must first have drawn an item for your turn in Step (see pa 9).
- 2. Instead of playing an item this turn, reveal the special item from your stash and set it aside.
- **3.** Activate and resolve the special item's effect.
- **4.** If the effect directs you to play an item in your storehouse, follow the steps for *Playing an Item* specified in Step **B**(see page 9).
- **5.** Your turn ends. The special item remains set aside for the rest of the round.



When played: activates immediately after you play the item in your storehouse on your turn.

- If playing the item makes a **set**, resolve this effect first, then resolve selling the **set**.
- This effect does not activate when "revealing" an item—it must be "played" in your **storehouse**.
- This effect can activate as a result of other effects which direct you to "play" an item in your **store-house** (such as Magic Boomerang or special items).
- This effect does not activate when swapping items.



When sold: activates immediately after you sell the item's set on your turn.

- This effect activates after you remove the **set's** items from your **storehouse** and gain your gold.
- This effect activates once per **set** (not per item).
- This effect does not activate if the **set** is sold by revealing items during the **Inspection** phase.



Always active: the effect is always active as long as the item is revealed and the conditions are met.

- Ignore this effect on all hidden items and when replacing hidden items, unless the item specifically states that it activates (such as MAGIC BOOMERANG).
- This can be a one-time effect that occurs once a condition is met (*such as* Invisible Ring), or a continuous effect that is ongoing while the item is revealed (*such as* Sovereign Sword).
- Ignore this effect on items while in your **stash**.

BOTTLED FAIRY

A portable take on the best-selling Terrariumed Mothman.

- The effect activates only if the **BOTTLED FAIRY** is revealed in your **storehouse** when you replace it.
- You can't choose not to lose the infamy.
- **Tip:** If you have nothing else to do on your turn, play this, then replace it next turn for some easy infamy loss.



BUBBLING CAULDRON

Includes a pre-bubbled concoction based on a popular recipe from a trio of sisters (contains frogs and gluten).

• You must choose an option.



CRYSTAL BALL

Technically an Artificially Created Synthetic Gem Sphere, which allows for the highest resolution future viewing.

- Don't reveal the item to other players when you peek.
- **Tip:** Don't forget the item! It's up to the other players to allow you to re-peek if you can't remember what the item was.



CURSED MIRROR

Once we added the evil, golden skulls, a curse was pretty much inevitable.

- Only items sharing a side count as adjacent—not diagonal.
- In an inspection, each Cursed Mirror in your storehouse reduces your infamy gained by 5. It is possible to end an inspection with less infamy than you had beforehand.



DARK LOTUS

Guaranteed to make three cups of any-flavored tea.

• Tip: If you play this when you have no gold, you won't lose any!



DRAGON'S EGG

It's true what they say, you're never really ready to raise an all-powerful giant fire-breathing flying lizard.

- You must pick another player, you can't choose yourself.
- **Tip:** Choose the player in last place! They're probably not a threat to you and if they do win you can claim credit for it.



FACSIMILOUS FELINE

Might not get along well with your CLONING CANINES.

- This isn't a wild card—having two Facsimilous Felines along with another item in a **stack** does not sell that **set** (unless the **stack** contains three Facsimilous Felines).
- If this sells a **set**, remove this item from your **storehouse** and set it aside with the other sold items.



FLOATING CARPET

Won't show any whole new worlds, but might play fetch.

- Don't reveal the item when you add it to your **stash**.
- Your **stash** will have one additional item in it for the rest of the round—this will reset back to two in the next **Stock** phase. If you sell multiple sets of **FLOATING CARPETS** in a round, your **stash** will grow by one each time.



HAUNTED DOLL

She's a haunted doll, in a haunted hall; life in porcelain, it's ritualistic origin.

- Haunted Dolls can be replaced while hidden.
- When activating the (effect:
 - Choose and replace one hidden item in each other player's storehouse with one of your sold HAUNTED DOLLS, revealed.
 - If there are more other players than HAUNTED DOLLS, you choose which **storehouses** to place them in (one per **storehouse**). If there are more **HAUNTED DOLLS** than other players, set the extras aside.
 - You can't target players with no hidden items left in their **storehouse**.

HYPNOTIC TOAD

It's also quite large, but mind control seems like a more popular selling point.

- You can choose yourself..
- **Tip:** It is useful to **keep HYPNOTIC TOADS** in your **storehouse** with no intention of selling their **set**, to lower infamy gained in the upcoming inspection.

Invisible Ring

It's not a fashion statement, it's a passion statement.

 Activates as soon as the Invisible Ring is placed in the discard, whether discarded from your stash or replaced in your storehouse.

Magic Boomerang

These are flying right off the shelves... and then flying right back onto the shelves.

- Activates as soon as it's replaced, whether hidden or revealed.
- If the item you replace a Magic Boomerang with has an effect or sells a **set**, resolve those actions first.
- When activated, you must play it in your **storehouse**—you can't choose to discard it instead.
- If you have no items left in your **storehouse**, discard it instead (this can happen if you replace this item while selling your last **set**).









Mystical Lamp

The djinn within the lamp has been known to consider a few suggestions, depending on his mood that millenia.

- Special items: See page 17 for details on activating these.
- You must play one of the revealed items in your storehouse (you can't choose to discard it instead).



OLDER WAND

Given as a gift from Death to one of three brothers—rumor is everything worked out just fine for all parties involved.

- Place the item on top of the **deck** *before* you send the replaced item to the **discard**.
- **Tip:** Before you play this item, make sure you won't be putting an item on top of the **deck** that helps the next player complete a **set!**



PANDORA'S LOCKBOX

It is at all times both bigger than, smaller than, and the exact same size as a breadbox.

- **Special items:** See *page* 17 for details on activating these.
- If a swap isn't possible (you don't have a hidden item, or no other player has a revealed item), then gain the infamy and end your turn without resolving the rest of the effect.
- The swapped items don't trigger any effects.



SACRED CHALICE

Comes with unlimited free refills, which really starts to pay off after a few centuries.

- Special items: See page 17 for details on activating these.
- You must play one of the items from the player's stash in your storehouse (you can't choose to discard it instead).



SKELETOMICON

The inside cover is filled with well-wishes for a great summer from Undeath High's class of 1432.

• **Tip:** It's a good idea to collect a couple of **SKELETOMICONS** before playing any in your **storehouse**, as they're a difficult **set** to sell and you'll end up with a whole lot of infamy if you don't get it.



Sovereign Sword

No longer guarantees the throne, but helps in the election.

- You gain the full amount of gold for selling this **set**, as items are removed from your **storehouse** before gaining gold (unless you have a fourth SOVEREIGN SWORD revealed).
- The gold you gain is reduced by half, rounded down.
- This affects gold gained through any means, including Three-Headed Coins and wizard powers (Byros).



THREE-HEADED COIN

Between this and the flocks of golden geese, inflation is getting out of control.

- Gain gold for every other revealed Three-Headed Coindon't gain any for the one you play.
- Count other Coins in all **storehouses**, even yours.



WIZARD'S WATCH

Also features a stopwatch, timer, and alarm, and the battery charge will last either forever or never.

- Special items: See page 17 for details on activating these.
- You must play one of the items in your storehouse (you can't choose to discard it instead).
- Don't reorder the items in the discard.
- Tip: Look through the discard before activating this item to make sure there's something there you want to use!



Wizard Powers

Each wizard has a special power which gives that player a unique ability they can take advantage of during each game.

GLYNNA GOODSPELL

No other merchant benefits more from the benefit of the doubt.

- Choose and remove the hidden item *before* revealing items in the inspection.
- If you have no hidden items remaining in your **storehouse**, ignore this power.
- The item is considered set aside—you do not gain the infamy from it and cannot use the item to sell a set.



MASTER MAGUS MEEBLEMORE

Said to be as old as some of his items, but twice as infamous.

- You can choose not to use this power.
- You cannot use this power to ignore only part of an effect (when playing a CRYSTAL BALL, for example, you cannot choose to ignore the infamy gain but choose to peek at an item).



CORVUS THE COLLECTOR

Not the most inconspicuous seller, but his inventory is never lacking.

• Corvus is dealt four items as his stash, not in addition to a normal stash.



LADY DAFANA

The most effective illegal shop is the one most don't even know exists.

- You can only use this power once per **set** sold (you can't spend 6 gold to lose 4 infamy, for example).
- You can use this power when players sell sets in the Inspection phase.



NINX OF NETHERNIGHT

To her, an inspector is just another customer who doesn't know it yet.

- If you choose an item with negative infamy, you instead lose that much gold.
- If you have no items remaining in your storehouse, ignore this power.



Byros Bankhouse

Many wonder where the gold comes from, but all know better than to ask.

- Byros gains the additional gold even on sets that would be worth 0 gold.
- Byros gains the additional gold on sets sold when revealing items during the **Inspection** phase.
- This additional gold is affected by other effects, such as the **SOVEREIGN SWORD**.



Playing a Two Player Game

A two player game has the following rule changes:

Tracking the Number of Turns

- During game setup, when adding player score tokens to the gold and infamy tracks, add one score token of an unused color to the infamy track at 1 infamy. This is the turn tracker.
- At the end of each of Player 2's turns in the **Sell** phase, advance the turn tracker *one* space on the infamy track.

Triggering the Inspection

- In a two player game, the inspection cannot be triggered by a player unless the turn tracker is 15 or higher.
- If either player would trigger the inspection before turn 15, ignore it and continue taking turns in the **Sell** phase, even if one or both players have no hidden items in their **storehouse**.
- If a player has not triggered the inspection by the end of turn 20, then the inspection is triggered automatically when the turn tracker would be advanced to 21. In this case, neither player can be penalized for triggering the inspection.
- At the end of each **Bribe** phase, reset the turn tracker to 1.

Replacing Hidden Items

- Normally (in a 3+ player game), whenever you replace an item in your **storehouse** (whether hidden or revealed), that item is immediately sent to the **discard** (see page 9).
- In a two player game, whenever you replace a hidden item in your **storehouse** and would send it to the **discard**, instead—without revealing that item to the other player—add it to your **stash**, then choose **one** item from your **stash** to **discard**.
- This applies only to replaced <u>hidden</u> items—if you replace a <u>revealed</u> item, it is immediately sent to the **discard** as normal.
- If you replace a hidden Magic Boomerang, it must be played immediately as normal (if you use that Magic Boomerang to replace another hidden item, that hidden item is sent to your stash before you choose which item to discard).

