

Choose Play, Art, or History Before Buying

A one-page anniversary route through sealed product, exact cards, legality, protection, and a finite collection.

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Give the anniversary one job

WHAT YOU WANT	CHOOSE	STOP RULE
A playable first deck	A complete learn-to-play or Battle Deck product	Do not ask randomized packs to build the deck
One anniversary opening	One exact 30th Celebration sealed product	No named card or treatment is guaranteed
Thirty Pikachu artworks	A checklist, then exact singles	Every booster has one of the thirty, but duplicates remain possible
The classic-card history lane	Exact classic reprints	Classic reprints are not legal in Standard
First Partner promos	The numbered three-of-nine series	Choose a series before chasing all nine

The finite collection route

- Write the finish line**
Play set, thirty Pikachu cards, classic reprints, or one favorite page are different collections.
- Open a bounded amount**
Treat sealed product as the experience, not an efficient search engine for one card.
- Inventory before buying again**
Record collector number, treatment, condition and duplicates.
- Switch to exact cards**
Once the missing list is known, singles replace hope with a finishable plan.

Before checkout or trade

- ☐ **Confirm the exact box** — Check the pictured promos, language, seller and stated contents on the live page.
- ☐ **Separate legality from beauty** — A foil treatment does not change the current format rules.
- ☐ **Protect by use** — Sleeve active cards, use a side-loading zip binder for the collection and rigid holders only for isolated display pieces.
- ☐ **Trade by collector number** — Names alone can hide different prints and treatments.
- ☐ **Enjoy the celebration** — The opening should still feel good after assuming the headline card does not appear.

Sources. The Pokemon Company International 30th Celebration media alert and official card assets, checked September 7, 2026.
Accuracy. Every figure on this sheet was read from the sources above on September 7, 2026. Prices and availability change; rules do not. Where this sheet and the rulebook disagree, the rulebook is right.
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