

Counterfeit Triage: Five Steps, Zero Damage

Preserve provenance, compare the exact printing, combine signals, then stop when uncertainty remains.

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The safe ladder

- 1. **Preserve provenance**
Save the listing, seller, packaging, and order record.
- 2. **Identify exactly**
Match game, set, number, language, and treatment.
- 3. **Use known-good references**
Compare more than one exact genuine printing.
- 4. **Combine observations**
Print, dimensions, edges, surface, and seller story.
- 5. **Escalate**
A reputable store, marketplace, or grader handles unresolved value.

Never use

- ☐ **Rip test** — It destroys the evidence.
- ☐ **Bend test** — It can permanently crease a genuine card.
- ☐ **Soaking** — Water damage is not authentication.
- ☐ **One-tell certainty** — Printings and treatments vary.

Sources. Official card databases, publisher records, marketplace evidence procedures, and authentication guidance cited in the guide.
Accuracy. Every figure on this sheet was read from the sources above on 2026-08-24. Prices and availability change; rules do not. Where this sheet and the rulebook disagree, the rulebook is right.
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