



The New Tarot has been unavailable for a number of years. Versions of The Word of One have been published on Internet, largely incomplete. A set of tarot cards has also been produced using the same suites and major arcana names but very different designs for the cards. Some of the original cards have been reproduced on a few websites, but the only complete set I have found has been altered considerably from its original form. Similarly, interpretations and instructions are either absent or greatly modified.

I do not consider any of the modifications to be an improvement on the original – far from it. On the CD that I can provide, I have tried to keep as close to the original as possible. However, not all the documentation is here, the cards have flaws, but at least there is enough to discover what the Book of T is about without being misled.

It is likely that most of this material is still under copyright. John Cooke's children printed a copy a few years ago, but I have been unable to obtain any details of where the copyright resides. I am prepared to acknowledge the rightful holders of this copyright and seek their permission to provide this resource, if contacted.

Availability of the CD:

Cost: about \$40 Australian

Payment: direct transfer

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Contents

The CD file contains scanned versions of the 78 card deck, excerpts from "The Word of One", instructions, meanings of the cards and placements, suggested layouts, etc. Images are mostly JPG and files are PDF. There are two versions of the card back, each with the serpents/infinity symbol. One has the original dark blue background for persons who can accurately place back-to-back printed images, and have plenty of ink. The other has the symbol on a plain e.g. white background.

We do not intend to provide printed versions of the cards or supporting documents. It takes some time to prepare a set of cards by hand, and uses at least half the contents of a colour print cartridge. The cost could be prohibitive.

Printing the cards

My method of printing is:

Obtain at least 22 sheets of plain card, 'letter' or A4, thickness as close to that of a playing card as possible. You will need a printer which is capable of handling at least double the standard weight of paper – say 200 grams/m².

Playing cards have a cellulose acetate finish, but you might find it is impossible to print on pre-finished card. Photo-quality card for reproducing photographs on inkjet printers may be suitable, although this is usually only finished on one side.

Place four images in 2 rows of 2 on a page using Word or similar, or a desktop publisher which allows precise sizing and spacing of images.

Do a second page the same with 4 images of the back.

Set the margins for each identical. Print a test page to ensure that the cards will come out the right size – I use 7.5cm wide by 11.5cm high.

Print a front. When the ink is dry, turn the sheet over and print a back. When you are sure fronts and backs align properly, it might be easier to print a load of cards with backs.

I found that not all the back symbols were exactly centred, but they were close enough to maintain anonymity when face down.

When all the sheets are printed, carefully cut the cards. A drop-blade paper guillotine makes the job easier if you have one or can borrow one. Maybe worth buying one if you do a lot of printing.

Once the cards are prepared, the application of a 'slick' finish will help to make the cards more durable.

There may be many ways of doing this. My method is to apply water-based polyurethane with a brush to both sides of the card. If you use a good brush and work quickly, there should be no running of colours. Allow each side to dry thoroughly of course. This is very economical; the disadvantage is that the surface is likely to be uneven, maybe bubbly. The unevenness wears off during use. The finish remains reasonably durable, and the cards are flexible without cracking.

If you can tolerate a high level of wastage, a better method might be to spray the coating on.

One suggestion I have received is to spray hairspray over the cards before applying the finish, to fix the colours and pre-seal the surface. This didn't work for me. The colours tended to run more with the hairspray. Maybe it was the wrong type, or perhaps the climate – I am doing this in the humid tropics.

Artists may know of much more suitable methods of fixing the colours and pre-sealing the card. One advantage of just using the water-based polyurethane might be that it soaks through the plain card, making it very soft at first, but sealed right through when it dries.

Uneven application inevitably leads to the cards being curved, but they can be straightened out without cracking.

Some of the scanned images in the archive here are slightly crooked – the original cards were that way when purchased forty years ago. I have straightened a few using an image processor, and also lightened most of them as the originals tended to be a bit dark. They are pale when printed by my method, but the varnish restores the colours.

The cards I produced certainly look hand-made, which to me is in keeping with John Cooke's original artwork.

I would be interested to receive comments from anyone who tries producing their own cards – please email: tropo19@gmail.com