



A Witch's Primer

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Lesson 2: A Witch's Tools

One of the first practical steps to take on the path will be the collecting and consecrating of your basic tools. The tools of a witch are very ancient symbols that aid us in unlocking centers of power that are deep within our minds.

Although the tools are powerful in use, it's very important to understand that, in and of themselves, tools hold little power. They do augment the power of the mind, as well as aid us in training our minds.

Conversely, the adept is able to produce remarkable results with absolutely no tools at all. As a beginner, it's very advantageous to obtain and consecrate your tools properly.

Your witch's name:

A name that you choose that really reflects your powerful, free, healthy, happy witch aspect. Your magical name is like a little button that you push in your consciousness. every time you speak it, that opens up a gate to your magical self.

Once you discover your name, just say out loud to the cosmos: "I am – state your craft name – I am a beautiful, powerful witch and I deserve happiness and success on my path!"

The Athame:

The witch's blade, corresponds to fire in Ariel's tradition, used to direct your will and energy in magic, to draw magic circles, to charge amulets and talismans, to sever unwanted ties, for choreographing elemental energies in our circles and more.

The Chalice:

The cup, represents water, a feminine tool, representative of the womb of the Goddess. Used for ritual libations, potions, and for holding salt and water used to purify a space before a circle is cast.

The Thurible (Censer, Brazier):

Corresponds primarily to air, but secondarily to fire. Simply a large, fireproof bowl with a thick layer of sand or earth at the bottom for insulation, to prevent scorching of surfaces upon which it is placed. Used for burning incense, and stoking up small, contained fires.

Note: I no longer burn smoke indoors. My thurible now is a candle-heated oil burner. This creates vapor rather than smoke. If any of my rituals require burning things other than candles, I do that outdoors only.

The Pentacle:

The symbol of earth. Any flat, round plate of natural material onto which is painted or carved a five-pointed star. Used for consecrating items, charging, and adding power to spells and candle rituals.

The Cord:

Often used as a system of degree or rank. As a practical tool, used for measuring and binding.

The Wand:

An instrument of devotion. Attributed to the element of air in our tradition. A masculine tool like the athame but whereas the blade is commanding and willful, the wand is compelling and thoughtful. Used during the invocation of deities or angels, devotions, petitions, and prayers.

Note: I tend to use my Spell wand (see Lesson 16) as my only wand.

The Book of Shadows (Grimoire, Witch's Workbook):

Holds spells, ceremonies, recipes, and incantations.

Other optional tools and supplies:

A bell, altar – 2 white candles, God and Goddess candles, quarter candles: (green – north – earth, yellow – east – air, red – south – fire, blue – west – water), an altar cloth, broom/besom, pen and ink of art, incense charcoal ***DO NOT USE BARBECUE CHARCOAL***, salt, pen and paper, a robe, acrylic paints and brushes, stencils, drawing paper...

***Listen to the lecture for details on these tools.**

Consecrating:

All of your basic magical tools should be consecrated before you use them. Steps to consecrating your tools can be found in the handouts.

Homework: Keep working with the elemental purifications and add Grounding and Centering (Lesson 2 Meditation) – The first, and most important, exercise that you should become familiar with before doing any magic.

Remember that the only tool consecrated during the waning moon is the Athame.