



*the*  
PRACTICAL  
WITCH'S  
POCKET  
GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION:  
THE ART OF  
PRACTICAL  
WITCHCRAFT



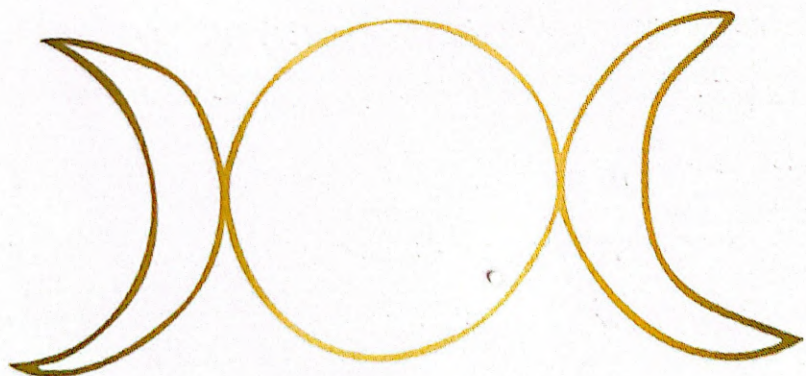
Magic resides inside of us. It is our deepest personal power, and we are all born with it. You can tap into this magic by approaching it in a conscious way through your thoughts and actions. Practical witchcraft is purposeful: to heal a loved one,

to bring about prosperity, and to imbue your home with positivity. This is the energy we draw upon each and every day of our lives.

The goal of this ritual is to bring about needed change and, in the case of practical witchery, it is changes for the better in your life, your home, your family, and your community. It is how we make things better for ourselves, for the people in our lives, and for our world. From an inner place of intention, we are working to usher in a world of peace, love, health, and spirituality.

With life's increasingly frenetic pace, a magical approach to living is more important now than ever before. Think of the spells and rituals in this kit as pagan prescriptions for the twenty-first century, guaranteed to banish stress, ease tension, and add comfort, joy, and enchantment to your daily life.

Blessed be!



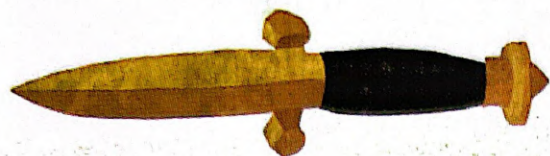
# THE PRACTICAL WITCH'S TOOLKIT



Your magic begins at your sacred space, working with your hallowed tools. To be fully imbued with energy, your tools of magic and ritual should reside on your altar. Always cleanse and purify your newly acquired tools. Think of these

tools as energy conductors that absorb and project the energy of the environment and the ritual work you perform. So, keep them clean, clear, and positive. Let your altar become your personal power center, and your tools will assist you in your magical workings.



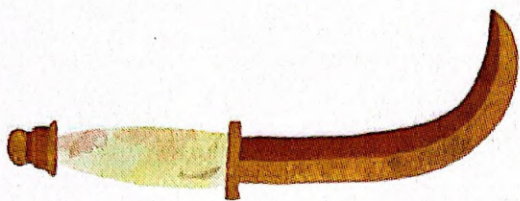


## ATHAME

Pronounced "a-THAW-may," this is your magical knife. It may also be a ritual dagger or sword. The athame represents and contains yang energy, or the male aspect of the Gods. Ritual knives are also associated with the element of fire. For these two reasons, your athame should be placed on the right side of your altar. Because it is not used for cutting, but rather for directing



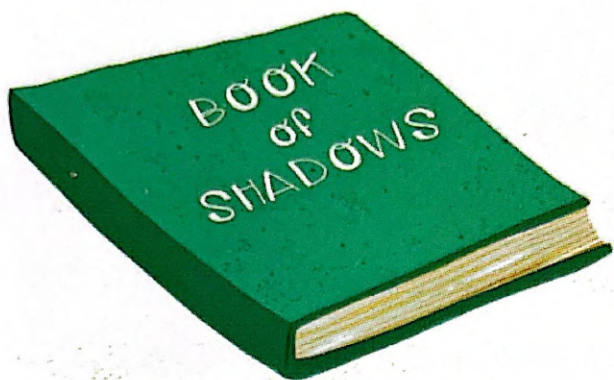
the forces involved in the work of enchantment, an athame is usually a dull blade. Some Wiccan traditions specify that the handle of the athame should be black or very dark in color, since black is the color that absorbs energy. A dark-handled knife thus becomes quickly attuned to the one who wields it.



## BOLLINE

The bolline is a knife, preferably white-handled, that is used for creating other tools and for cutting equipment, such as candles, ribbons, cords, and herbs, within the magic circle. You can create your magical wand, for example, by cutting off a tree branch with your bolline. This increases the energy held within it and creates a magical tool through the use of another

magical tool. You should also use your bolline for carving symbols and names into your candles and wands, as well as on your other tools. A bolline generally has a curved blade and a white handle to distinguish it from the athame. It is similar to the athame in that it also embodies the yang—or male—energy.



## BOOK OF SHADOWS

Your Book of Shadows is your record of ritual work. At its finest, it should be a history of all your rituals, energy management work, circles, spells, and all the magic you have manifested. Document everything here, and you will be building a practice that you can use as a reference so you can bring

this wisdom to future rituals. This should also be a book of inspiration, filled with your thoughts, verse, and observations. Most importantly, it should be a record of results, a book you turn to again and again. It can be a gorgeous, handcrafted volume of handmade paper and ribboned bookmarks or a simple three-ring binder. Just make sure it appeals to *you* so that you will use it often and well.



## BROOM

As a magical tool, the use of the broom was born of the practical magic of sweeping the ritual area clean before and after casting a spell. With focus and intention, you can dispel negative influences and bad spirits from the area and prepare a space for ritual work by sweeping. Your broom is an essential tool for energy management. Obtain a handmade broom from a craft fair, not a machine-made

plastic one from the supermarket. A broom made of wood and woven from straw will be imbued with the inherent energies of those natural materials. Over time they will become deeply charged with magical energy through exclusive use in your workings.



## CAULDRONS

Though they are important tools used in magic rituals, cauldrons are typically iron kettles. You can make a symbolic cauldron, however, out of any concave or bowl-like object, such as a large stone or a crystal geode. Usually, cauldrons stand on three legs for practicality and



mobility. You can place a cauldron on your altar if there is room, or on the floor to the left of the altar. Cauldrons are very useful for mixing your herbs and essential oils, though you must be sure to clean them before and after each use. You can scry with a cauldron full of water to foresee the future by reading images on the surface of the water. You can also use this magical tool to burn paper upon which you have written your intentions or spells. In doing this, you can send your wishes to the Gods and Goddesses through the flames.



## MAGIC CORD

This rope binds magic to you and is ideally made from strands of red wool or ribbon. Nine feet long (measured after braiding), the magic cord is braided and tied into a loop at one end to represent feminine energy and left loose or frayed at the opposite end to

signify the complementary male energy. Crystal beads woven onto the strands of the rope can enhance its magical quality. You can use clear quartz crystal beads, which are energy amplifiers, or special stones for various effects: rose quartz for love, amber for grounding, jade for prosperity and success in work, lapis lazuli for creativity, and amethyst for improved intuition and psychic ability.



## BLESSING BOWL

While a bowl is not a tool in and of itself, you can utilize bowls in your spellwork often and any time you are inspired to do so. Three simple ingredients—a red rose, a pink candle, and water—can bestow a powerful blessing. The rose signifies beauty, potential, the sunny seasons, and love for yourself

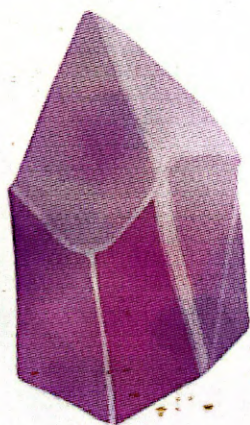
and others. The candle stands for the element of fire, the yellow flame of the rising sun in the east, harmony, higher intention, and the light of the soul. Water represents its own element, flow, the direction of the west, emotions, and cleansing.



## WANDS

There are many gorgeous, crystal-encrusted wands for sale in metaphysical shops that are surely superpowered, but it is a wonderful thing to make your own wand. Start with a tree branch that has fallen to the ground on its own. Sand and polish the rough edges, as it is a wand, not a weapon. Then give it a good smudging. Hot-glove a large quartz crystal onto the wand near the handle, and hot-glove on

any crystals that have properties that will complement your magic. Citrine makes an excellent pointer tip for your wand and aligns your self-identity with your spirit.



# CHARGING YOUR RITUAL TOOLS WITH MAGIC



You should consecrate each of your magical tools. In essence, in this ritual you are dedicating yourself and your tools, and setting a foundational intention for your good magic workings. Every time you acquire a new tool or treasure, perform this rite. As you grow in experience, you can embellish the ritual.



You will need an object to represent each of the four elements—air, fire, water, and earth. For example, you could use incense for air, a candle for fire, a cup for water, and a bowl of salt for the earth. Take the new ritual tool and pass it through the scented smoke of the incense and say:

*Now inspired with the breath of air.*

Then pass the tool swiftly through the flame of the candle and say:

*Burnished by fire.*

Sprinkle the tool with water and say:

*Purified by water.*

Dip the tool into the bowl of salt  
and say:

*Empowered by the earth.*

Hold the tool before you with both  
hands and imagine an enveloping,  
warm white light purifying the tool.

Now say:

*Steeped in spirit and bright with light.*

Place the cleansed tool upon your  
altar and say:

*By craft made and by craft charged  
and changed, this tool [fill in the  
actual name—boline, Book of  
Shadows, etc.] I will use for the  
purpose of good in this world*

*And in the realm of the Gods and Goddesses. I hereby consecrate this tool  
[fill in tool's name].*

Your altar should be a place of peace and meditation, where your spirit can soar. Adorned with your treasured objects and the tools of your practice, it is a place of focus where you can enrich your life through ritual. Using your tools and your altar, you can create a wellspring of spirit so you can live an enchanted life every single day.

# SETTING UP YOUR ALTAR



With a personal altar, you can reach the heights of your spirituality and grow higher in wisdom. You construct an altar when you assemble symbolic items in a meaningful manner and focus both your attention and your intention.

An altar is a physical point of focus for the ritual, containing items considered sacred and essential to ritual work and spirituality,

and can be anything from a rock in the forest to an exquisite antique table. You can also create more than one altar if you have the room or have multiple, specific needs, such as healing your body, your heart, or your spirit. You might even have altars dedicated to specific deities, if you desire to go deep into the energies of those Gods or Goddesses.

Tradition usually places the feminine Goddess space on the left-hand side of the altar and the masculine God space on the right.

Once you are comfortable and experienced with ritual work, you can begin to customize the altar.



# THE PRACTICAL WITCH'S HERBAL HEALING GUIDE



Plants carry potent energy you can use to amplify your magical workings. Be sure to make use of your own astrological chart in working with these plants so you maximize the healing potential and get the full benefit of their inherent magic.

# Aries

(March 21-April 19),  
ruled by Mars:

Carnation, cedar, clove, cumin, fennel,  
juniper, peppermint, pine



# Taurus

(April 20-May 20),  
ruled by Venus:

Apple, daisy, lilac, magnolia,  
oak moss, orchid, plumeria, rose,  
thyme, tonka bean, vanilla, violet



## Gemini

(May 21–June 20),  
ruled by Mercury:

Almond, bergamot, clover,  
dill, lavender, lemongrass,  
lily, mint, parsley



## Cancer

(June 21–July 22),  
ruled by the moon:

Eucalyptus, gardenia, jasmine, lemon,  
lotus, myrrh, rose, sandalwood

## LEO

(July 23–August 22),  
ruled by the sun:

Acacia, cinnamon, heliotrope, nutmeg,  
orange, rosemary



## virgo

(August 23–September 22),  
ruled by Mercury:

Almond, cypress, bergamot,  
mint, mace, moss,  
patchouli

## Libra

(September 23–October 22),  
ruled by Venus:

Catmint, marjoram, mugwort,  
spearmint, sweet pea, thyme, vanilla



## SCORPIO

(October 23–November 21),  
ruled by Pluto:

Allspice, basil, cumin,  
galangal, ginger

## sagittarius

(November 22–December 21),

ruled by Jupiter:

Anise, cedar wood,  
honeysuckle, sassafras,  
star anise



## capricorn

(December 22–January 19),

ruled by Saturn:

Mimosa, vervain, vetiver

# AQUARIUS

(January 20–February 18),

ruled by Uranus:

Almond, acacia, citron, cypress,  
lavender, mimosa, peppermint, pine



# PISCES

(February 19–March 20),

ruled by Neptune:

Anise, catmint, clove, gardenia, lemon,  
orris, sarsaparilla, sweet pea



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