

POKEHUDD MAGAZINE

#3 APRIL 2022

CARD PROTECTION
GUIDE

AN INTERVIEW WITH
HEYITSNICOLA_



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POCKET CARD GRADING

**A LOOK AT SOME
AMAZING PRODUCTS**

APRIL 2022

POKEHUDD MAGAZINE

This month's issue features an interview with the amazing heyitsnicola_

My review of Slab Sentinel's graded binder page along with a look into the company which talks you through some of the products they have and their journey so far.

There is also a guide on the essentials for getting started with protecting your cards.



POKEHUDD

TRAINER SERIES



Thanks for all the support over the past 10 weeks since I released my first print run in collaboration with Pocket Card Grading. There are still a small number of sketch variants left as well as at least 1 copy of each colour variant.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY YOURS TODAY](#)

AN INTERVIEW WITH HEYITSNICOLA_

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE TCG?

Of course, it has to be Pokémon! I have always loved collecting trading cards since I was a kid! Really used to be in to buying movie/tv cards like Buffy, Heroes, LOST and Harry Potter years ago. But Pokémon is my favourite!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COLLECTING?

I used to collect when I was a kid but stopped. But a few months before the pandemic I was buying packs before community days on Pokémon GO and haven't looked back!

DID YOU COMPLETE ANY MAJOR COLLECTING GOALS LAST YEAR?

Last year I was so obsessed with opening Shining Fates. I remember watching the trailer for the 25th Anniversary and seeing that beautiful shiny Charizard, and remember thinking I would love to pull that card. Shining Fates is a set I would love to complete one day! But of course, the Charizard would be the hardest card to get. I was having so much bad luck, not even pulling any good cards for weeks. It was a running joke each week how bad my luck was. I brought one last Pikachu box, and pulled the Charizard on a live. I couldn't believe it. That was such a goal to achieve, and I'm looking forward to completing the set one day!

DO YOU HAVE ANY COLLECTING GOALS FOR THIS YEAR?

I would very much like to pick up some of the beautiful alt art Sylveon cards that have come out recently. I haven't had much luck, so purchasing or trading is a goal for this year! Also, I'm still working on my personal Pokédex for Gen 1!



@heyitsnicola_

1,417 posts 10.1k followers 1,140 following

WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT COLLECTING?

I think sometimes you can get annoyed with not pulling the cards you really want. Or pulling the same cards over and over. But let's be honest it's all luck, it's all random, and we have to remember that and be grateful for the cards we do have!

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT COLLECTING?

One of my favourite things to do at the end of a long day is pick up one of my binders and just flick through it. Looking through those pages brings so much joy. Building your collection and taking time to appreciate it is the best. That's why I love trading too, you get to add the cards you want in your collection, but you also know you helped someone else with theirs.

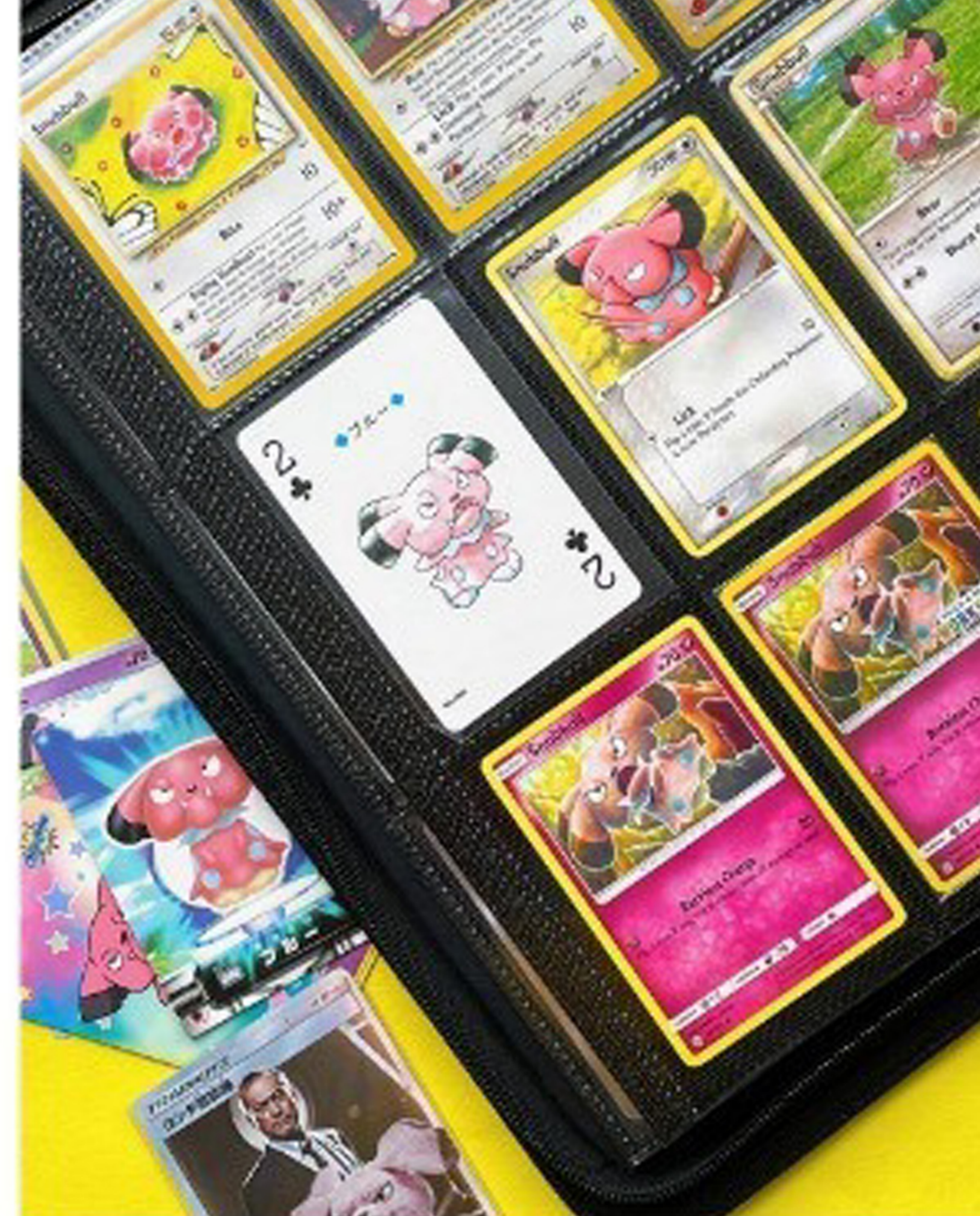
I'm just grateful to have a hobby that continues to make me smile every day.

IS THERE ANYONE THAT INSPIRES YOU WITHIN THE HOBBY?

Having female creators in the community always inspire me. I'm so lucky to have so many supportive friends in this hobby. @frostedpokebou has inspired me to really learn how to play the TCG because of the passion she has! And @krystalkollectz is also a huge inspiration as her knowledge on different language cards is amazing!

DO YOU COLLECT TCG'S, PLAY TCG'S OR BOTH?

I learnt to play the TCG again at the Evolving Skies pre-release after my local card shop did a great job helping people learn. I'm still learning, but excited to keep getting better! But I am a collector at heart.



DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE FROM YOUR TIME COLLECTING?

Each week myself and my pal @charceus do a weekly live over on Instagram called #pokepickswithpokepals. We choose 5 categories and have to choose a card that represents that category. It all started because we felt it was important to celebrate the cards we do have, rather than worry about the cards we don't have. The pressure to create content with the newest cards can be overwhelming, so we felt this was a great reason for people to look back through their collections and make content with the cards they have. One week a lovely chap called @poke_gamer_gary was watching our live. He offered to send me the alt art Chansey card because he knew how much I was chasing it. I couldn't believe someone wanted to help me out with my collection purely because they knew I would enjoy that card in my collection more than them. I'm so grateful for the amazing friends I have made through this hobby.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PURCHASE, TRADE OR SALE YOU'VE COMPLETED?

I recently purchased nearly all the standard character rares from VMAX Climax. I just need to pick the Charizard up. They are beautiful to look at all together.

IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE GRADED CARDS OR BINDERS, WHICH WOULD IT BE?

I have started getting into grading cards, but as I have said before looking through your collection in binders is so relaxing for me. The cards look so good next to each other. So, I would say binders!

DO YOU PREFER JAPANESE, ENGLISH OR ANOTHER LANGUAGE AND WHY?

I really enjoy opening up Japanese cards because they always feel so special. The holos are beautiful! Let's be honest opening VMAX Climax was the best experience as you knew you were going to pull something great!

DO YOU KEEP SEALED PRODUCTS?

I like the idea of a sealed collection; however, I can't deal with the wondering what's inside the packs. I tried, I really did, but they didn't stay sealed.

HOW MANY PACKS OF CARD DO YOU THINK YOU'VE OPENED IN YOUR TIME COLLECTING?

Oh gosh what a question! I couldn't even imagine what that answer would be! A LOT INDEED.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY AS A COLLECTOR?

I remember going on a summer holiday with my parents and sister to Bournemouth when we were kids. We found Japanese Pokémon card packs for sale. I remember they were so expensive, and my parents kept asking us if we really wanted to spend our holiday money on them. We did, and it was the first time seeing these brand new Pokémon from Gen 2! I still have those cards to this day, and they are extremely special.



@heyitsnicola_

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BINDER PAGE REVIEW



I remember seeing the Slab Sentinel binder pages on an Instagram post and thought they may just be the solution to a problem I've had for a while.

I've been trying to find a way to store some of my graded cards for a while now. I had considered frames and padded cases but I always came back to the issue of still wanting to look through my cards on a regular basis and the cost of storing large amounts of cards.

As soon as I got some cards into these binder pages I was sure these were going to be a really solid option for storing some of my small sets of graded cards.

The graded cards feel very secure once inserted. The binder pages also stack together really well. So far I've tried them with PSA, MGC, TFG and CGC slabs, all of them fit with no issues. I even left the sleeves on some slabs, you do get a bit of a crinkle with the sleeve, but that's to be expected if you want that extra layer of protection.

When it comes to binders, I only had a smaller binder to try these pages with. I managed to fit all 4 pages in the binder with no issues. They felt very secure and sat nicely on my shelf with my other binders. The only thing I would recommend is using a zip binder if you can, which is just a preference of mine when it comes to the type of binders I use. Any protection from dust or potential damage is a bonus.

I would definitely recommend this product and will be using them myself going forward. At just £2.99 a page with bulk discounts available, it's hard to find a better storage option that seems to be the perfect compromise between price, optimising space and still having a strong aesthetic.



FROM THE TEAM AT SLAB SENTINEL

What products do Slab Sentinel offer?

Slab Sentinel Ltd is a small independent business based in the UK that provides storage solutions for your graded trading cards ("Slabs").

Our first product, the 'Slab Sentinel binder page' was launched in January 2022 to offer an ideal way to securely store, organise and view graded trading card collections in a binder album, just like a raw card collection!

Each binder page holds 4 Slabs. The tab design means that Slabs simply 'click' into place and can easily be removed should you wish to rearrange your collection.

Our binder pages are now available in 2 colours (transparent and black) and are manufactured here in the UK from at least 50% recycled materials.

We deliver to customers across the UK and internationally (note: if you have a non-UK postage address please DM us on Instagram or email admin@slabsentinel.co.uk for an up-to-date postage quote).

What cards do Slab Sentinel binder pages hold?

Slab Sentinel binder pages have been designed to securely hold PSA, CGC and equivalent Slab sizes such as MGC, Pokegrade, GetGraded, Universal Grading, etc

Our binder pages offer an ideal way to organise your Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh, Magic the Gathering, Weiss Schwarz, Dragon Ball Super, Sports, Digimon, Final Fantasy, Flesh and Blood, Harry Potter, MetaZoo, World of Warcraft, Star Wars (and more) in style!

What other products do Slab Sentinel offer?

In early April 2022 we were proud to announce that we are going to be an official UK retailer for Slab Strong USA Protective Bumpers. Read below for more info!

We are also branching out into more storage solution products throughout the year – so watch this space!



What products are in the pipeline for Slab Sentinel?

We endeavour to become a known name for Slab related products, and our ambition is to expand into other areas of TCG collecting in the future!

We have a few products in our pipeline (listed below) and hope to showcase some of these at the London Card Show on April 30th - please come and say hello! Unfortunately not all products will be available for sale at the show, however will be released in the upcoming months.

We are slowly revealing products in the pipeline through our Instagram and Facebook pages so be sure to follow to us to stay tuned! Here's what we can share with you at this time:

Slab Strong Protective Bumper; Early April 2022 we announced that we are going to be an official UK retailer for Slab Strong USA Protective Bumpers. These bumpers go around the edges of your Slab and protect from accidental drops at trade shows. They are also an aesthetically pleasing way to showcase your collection to your friends or display your collection on your shelf while knowing it is protected. The Slab Strong Protective Bumpers come in a variety of colours so you can colour match or organise your collection! These products have been showcased by [@sportscardinvestor](https://www.instagram.com/sportscardinvestor) where you can see a video of a \$2,000 Slab in a Slab Strong Protective Bumper being thrown across a hall on to hard flooring..and it survived! Phew.

Just to note: Slab Strong Protective Bumpers do not fit in our Slab Sentinel Binder pages but they will fit into the protective hard storage case that we will be launching in the upcoming months! Keep reading for more info.

Protective Hard Storage Cases; we will be launching a variety of hard cases to store Slabs and other products such as toploaders, semi rigids etc. As we mentioned, Slab Strong encased slabs will also fit! Keep an eye out on social media for future images. This product will enable collectors to store, organise and transport Slabs to tradeshows/events in an organised and secure fashion!

Two more products are to be revealed - we aim to hopefully reveal one product around the end of April 2022!

FROM THE TEAM AT SLAB SENTINEL

Proud Moments

Slab collections mean a lot to us and our customers personally, therefore we're extremely proud to have helped so many customers store and view their Slab collections in such a short amount of time! We managed to sell out of our initial batch of Slab Sentinel Binder Pages within 1 week! When storage for your cards is this easy, it's no wonder that since product launch we've already we've shipped over 200 orders across 8 countries!

We have received excellent customer feedback on the quality of our binder page product, here's what our customer's have to say (all reviews can be found on the product page of the [website](#)):

"Honestly an amazing concept always hated having my slabs stacked up somewhere but here I can pop them in a binder and adore them in a safe way!"

"These pages are amazing! My slabs were always hidden away in a box where I couldn't appreciate them but now I've fallen back in love looking at them in these pages. Brilliantly made and packaged well for shipping. Top company!"

"These binder pages provide a super alternative option to safely and securely store your collection, while allowing you to flick through and admire your favourite slabs all together at a moment's notice. I've bought two lots of these now, and couldn't recommend the service and quality of product more!"

We love to see all photos/videos of customer's using our product to store their collections! We share these on our Instagram and website wall if you fancy a peak [click here](#). If you're already a customer, please email any pictures to admin@slabsentinel.co.uk to be featured on our site!

Additionally, we have received great feedback from some influencers in the hobby (sorry to name drop!) such as [Pokehudd](#), [PokiChloe](#), [PokeGirlRach](#), [ShinyNightFury](#), [TopsonGoku](#) and many more! (apologies if we missed you!)

So, who are Slab Sentinel Ltd?

Shameless plug... I (@[Legendary_mewchu](#)) am a Pokémon collector, and started Slab Sentinel with my other half after identifying a need for a Slab storage product that I knew would solve a problem but that I could not find readily available. Thus, after some serious thinking, business planning and user research, we founded Slab Sentinel Ltd, and launched our first product: Slab Sentinel Binder Pages.

I love to collect Japanese Pokémon cards, especially Full Arts and exclusive Promos. This often means I'll have to buy already graded cards due to scarcity and lack of good condition raw cards, or for modern cards I enjoy the chase of finding 'perfect' raw cards to grade myself. If you check out my Instagram you'll see me post my collection and grading returns, and occasionally raw pickups and pre-grading in my stories!

I do occasionally dabble in vintage English but primarily for binder sets. I grew up with the original Pokémon series, games and cards due to an older brother, but must admit it was Gen 2 (Gold and Silver) that I would call my era and what I spent most of my (parents) money on!

Key Links

Website - www.slabsentinel.co.uk

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/slab_sentinel

Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/Slab-Sentinel-100610185808325/>

Personal Collection Account - https://www.instagram.com/legendary_mewchu/

Please do use our hashtags in any social media posts! #SLABBINDERGANG
#SLABSENTINEL



AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO CARD PROTECTION

Here's a look at 5 products which are perfect for getting started when it comes to protecting your trading cards. This guide is more suited to collectors who are just getting started. I will be looking at more products for collectors who have been in the hobby longer in next month's issue.

1. CARD SLEEVES

The very first protective item every card collector should start with is card sleeves. They offer a basic level of protection from dust, moisture and potential surface scratches.



2. TOPLOADERS

Toploaders are a rigid plastic card sleeve which offer a lot more protection than a standard card sleeve. When using a toploader you have the added protection from potential bends or dents. You can also use these in combination with a standard card sleeve. Toploaders are perfect for posting or storing cards.



3. SEMI-RIGID CARD SAVERS

Semi-rigid card savers are an alternative to toploaders where the card is more securely fixed within the holder. They are significantly thinner than a toploader but you still get improved card protection when used with a standard sleeve while also saving on storage space. These are perfect if you still want to inspect the cards condition as they give you a much clearer view of the card.



4. INDEX TABS

Index tabs are great when you remove a card from a toploader or semi-rigid card saver. They help minimise the chances of damage. You just need to stick the index tab to the standard sleeve before adding it to a toploader or semi-rigid card saver.



5. BINDERS

Binders are also a great way to store a lot of cards. When using a side loading binder in conjunction with a standard card sleeve you get protection along all the cards edges. My personal preference is the Tycoon 12 pocket zip binder, having a zip adds the extra level of protection from dust and moisture.



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