



Ask Rose Ariadne
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How To Use Magick Wands

The wand has been in use for many thousands of years as a magickal tool. Some of the earliest wands found were Egyptian and dated approximately 2800 B.C. The primary magickal uses of these wands appear to have been to return evil sent and to create order out of chaos.

Nowadays, the wand primarily has two applications. The first is invocation and the second is directing energy. During circle casting, the witch uses invocation to call the quarters (North, East, South and West) and to invite the Goddess and God to be present at the rite. During Magick work, the energy that is raised is concentrated in the wand and then directed at the appropriate moment at the 'item' to be charged with the spell's power and intent.

Allow me to illustrate:

1. Calling the Quarters

Stand facing North, on the inside edge of the circle. Raise the wand to point upwards. Say: "Hail, Spirit of the North, Element of Earth. I call upon you to attend this Circle and to protect this sacred space." Visualize the point of the wand glowing green, indicating the presence of the Earth Spirit. Lower the wand and visualize the green projecting from the tip of the lowered wand as a green mist. See this green mist settling in the northern quarter.

Walk with the wand lowered, to the East. Raise the wand to point upwards. Say: "Hail, Spirit of the East, Element of Air. I call upon you to attend this Circle and to protect this sacred space." Visualise the point of the wand glowing yellow, indicating the presence of the Air Spirit. Lower the wand and





visualize the yellow projecting from the tip of the lowered wand as a yellow mist. See this yellow mist settling in the eastern quarter.

Walk with the wand lowered, to the South. Raise the wand to point upwards. Say: "Hail, Spirit of the South, Element of Fire. I call upon you to attend this Circle and to protect this sacred space." Visualise the point of the wand glowing red, indicating the presence of the Fire Spirit. Lower the wand and visualize the red projecting from the tip of the lowered wand as a red mist. See this red mist settling in the southern quarter.

Walk with the wand lowered, to the West. Raise the wand to point upwards. Say: "Hail, Spirit of the West, Element of Water. I call upon you to attend this Circle and to protect this sacred space." Visualise the point of the wand glowing blue, indicating the presence of the Water Spirit. Lower the wand and visualize the blue projecting from the tip of the lowered wand as a blue mist. See this blue mist settling in the western quarter.

2. Invoking the God and the Goddess

Stand in the centre of the circle, facing the altar. Raise the wand above your head using your dominant arm. Look at the tip of the wand. Say:

"Goddess, Gracious Lady of Love and Light. I invite Thee to bless this Rite by being present here tonight." Visualize a Silver Light streaming through the tip of the wand, thus entering the circle. Lower the Wand and say: "I thank Thee for Thy presence".

"God, Gallant Lord of the Beast and Sun. I invite Thee to bless this Rite by being present here tonight." Visualize a Golden Light streaming through the tip of the wand, thus entering the circle. Lower the Wand and say: "I thank Thee for Thy presence".

3. Directing Energy

During spell work, a cone of power is raised. The Witch will stand with her wand raised and "draw" the power into the wand. Once the wand is saturated and the power reaches a crescendo, she will lower the wand, pointing it at the object to be charged with her Magickal intent. She will then release this concentrated power on the object.

In Wicca, the Wand is generally associated with the element of Air. In Ceremonial Magick, it represents the element of Fire. Wands in the Tarot, is also representative of the Fire element.





The length of the Wand should be from the elbow to tip of the forefinger. How the Wand is obtained also varies from tradition to tradition. In some, a branch is cut by using a golden sickle (Kerfan). In others, only fallen branches are used and then cut to length.

Most traditions concur that the Wand should be made of wood. Different types of woods confer different powers on a wand. So, during a witch's lifetime he or she may collect quite an array of wands made of different types of wood to suit diverse occasions. Here are some examples:

- Apple – Love, healing and immortality
- Ash – Protection, prosperity, health and the sea
- Birch – Protection, banishing and purification
- Cherry – Divination and love
- Chestnut – Love, strength, money and healing
- Elder – Prosperity, sleep, protection and banishing
- Elm – Love
- Hawthorn – Fertility and love
- Maple – Love, money and longevity
- Oak – All purpose (Many "standard" staffs are made from Oak or Rowan)
- Poplar – Money, success and personal riches
- Walnut – Health, mental powers and riches
- Willow – Divination, love, protection and healing

With the continually increasing New Age consciousness, the Wand is receiving some renewed attention. As a result some really beautifully hand-made wands are available today. I personally have a wand roughly made hewn from a length of Rowan with a clear quartz crystal fitted to the tip, which I tend to use most of the time. My other wands are made of Birch, Cherry and Maple.

The secret to choosing a wand is to pick it up and to 'feel' if you are comfortable with it. If you are, it will quickly be infused with energy and power. Remember to offer a gift to the tree should you opt to make your own wand. On a more practical level and in addition to the gift, use tree seal on the area where you cut the branch to ensure that the tree will not suffer later on. Even better, look for a fallen branch, instead. That really works just as well.

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