



Be*witched

Independent Witch Program

Module 3

Tools, Altars and
Divination



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Tools, Altars and Divination

Introduction to Tools

Why do we use tools?

- Tools help us focus our _____ during ritual
- Tools help us get in the right _____ of _____ for ritual
- Tools affect the microcosm, helping us connect and affect the macrocosm
- Tools help us connect with spirit (elements, deity, energy)

Do we need tools?

- The ability to do magick is in each one of us- a tool is just a tool
- We can create magick within our minds, using creative visualization

Tools of the Craft

Athame

- A knife used for directing energy and moving energy about on the spiritual plane, as well as drawing the circle and sometimes, calling the quarters
- Traditionally has a _____ wooden handle (symbolizing the dark moon) and a dull, double edged silver blade (symbolizing the full or light moon)
- Decorated with special symbols, magickal writing
- Athame is not to cut anything on the _____ plane (kitchen witches may break this "taboo")
- Most feel that this is the most important witches tool
- Traditionally, no one is to touch a witches athame, except for it's

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- Some use a sword instead of an athame
 - Substitution for an athame: butter knife, letter opener
 - Elemental Correspondence: Air or Fire

Broom or Besom (beh-sum or bee-sum)

- The besom is used to clean your sacred space
- Used to sweep away negative energy from your sacred space
- Traditionally, the shaft is made from Ash, the brush from Birch and the binding by Willow
- The broom as a fertility/ sexual symbol
- "Jumping the Broom" is a tradition done to ensure _____
- To get rid of houseguests, one would

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- Substitution for a besom: any sort of broom
 - Elemental Correspondence: Earth



More Tools of the Craft

Cauldron

- Traditionally, a cauldron is a cast-iron pot that sits on _____ legs
- The _____ legs represent the three-fold form of the Goddess
- The belly represents the womb of the Goddess
- We use the cauldron in many ways:
 - Burn incense
 - Light fires
 - Brew “potions” and other magickal crafts
 - Create holy water
 - Charge items
- Substitution: Deep bowl
- Elemental Correspondence: Water or Fire



Censer / Thurible / Incense

- Thurible is an incense holder that stays flat, on an altar, table, etc.
- Censer is an incense holder that you can carry around, ie: swingin holder

= You will often see censer used interchangeably =

- Incense is a mixture of herbs, oils and resins that when lit, produce smoke with an aroma
- Used to _____ space
- Used to change our consciousness into a relaxed or ritual state of mind
- May represent a combination of the fire and air elements
- Types of incense
 - Stick incense- end of stick is lit (continuous stream of smoke)
 - Cone incense- top of cone is lit (continuous stream of smoke)
 - Loose incense- self-igniting charcoal is lit, incense poured atop charcoal (more smoke, but doesn't last as long as stick or cone)
- Elemental Correspondence: Air



Boline (Bowl-eeen)

- A boline is a knife used to cut things on the physical plane
- Traditionally, the boline is a white handled knife with a curved blade
- A boline is used to harvest herbs, carve symbols into candles, etc.
- Elemental Correspondence: Earth, Air



More Tools of the Craft

Wand

- A wand is simply a stick, dowel, branch or flower stem used in ritual
- A wand may be used to draw and cast the circle or to direct _____
- A wand may be used during initiation to induct a person into a coven, much like one is knighted
- A wand is usually 12-20" in length
- Traditionally, a practitioner's wand should be the length of the distance between the elbow and the _____
- Different woods may be used for different intents
- Priapic wand is an acorn-tipped wand, a symbol of male fertility
- Elemental Correspondence: Fire or Earth



Candles

- Candles are used in most rituals for practicality as well as spirituality.
- Come in many _____, match _____ to rituals intent
- They can be used in several ways, usually to indicate an action:
 - Calling quarters
 - Invoking/evoking deities
 - Asking for guidance
 - Action with intent
 - Magick
 - (or just used to be able to see your ritual script)



- Traditional Taboo: don't ____ your candles out, that's blowing away the magick- instead, ____ them out. Thoughts?
- Candles come in all shapes and sizes, including human figures and 7-day knob/wish candles.
- What kind of candles work best for you?
- Elemental Correspondence: Fire

Statues and Symbols

- Statues are sometimes placed upon the altar to symbolize deities or concepts.
- God/dess statues
- God/dess symbols
- Unisex statues
- God/dess artwork
- Elemental Correspondence: Spirit



More Tools of the Craft

Book of Shadows

- A “Book of Shadows” is a witch’s magickal journal. It holds her notes, her rituals, her spells, and sometimes most important, the results of her rituals and spells
- Each Witch has her own magickal _____
- Usually kept secret
- The word Grimoire probably means “dark night (grim/noir).”
- They are basically the same thing
- Ideas on to how to organize your BOS:
 - Notebook
 - Binder
 - Computer
 - Journals
- Ideas to start your BOS:
 - The Charge of the Goddess
 - The Wiccan Rede
 - Cunningham’s 13 Goals of a Witch
 - Your personal “mission statement”
- Elemental Correspondence: Earth/ Spirit



Bowl of Water

- Represents the element of water on your altar
- May be used to cleanse sacred space
- May be used for _____
- Elemental Correspondence: Water



Bowl of Salt

- Represents Earth on your altar
- Salt as a protector
- Can create holy water when added to water
- Elemental Correspondence: Earth



Altar Tile / Peyton

- Flat disk on altar
- Usually has symbol(s) on it
- Items may be placed upon it to “charge” them
- Lore: Peytons used to be made of wax so they were easily melted down when thrown into the hearth-fire
- Elemental Correspondence: Earth



More Tools of the Craft

Altar Bell

- Pleasant sounding bell
- Used to call in spirits, deities, etc.
- Also is used to separate parts of the ritual, sometimes to begin and end the ritual
- Elemental Correspondence: Air



Other Items

- Altar cloth
- Offering dish
- Nature objects: flowers, crystals, herbs
- Specific candle to represent fire
- Seasonal food, especially for Sabbat circles

Altar

Traditional Wiccan Altar



- Faces north (or east)
- Tools are placed in the direction / element that they are associated with (incense = air = east)
- One big reason this altar set-up might be a pain is:

All About Altars

Your Wiccan altar should:

- Include all of the Wiccan tools that you will be using in ritual
- Include a representation of each of the four elements: earth, water, fire, air
- Include any catalysts that you'll be using in ritual (crystals, herbs, etc)
- Include anything else that you'll need during your ritual
- Be attractive
- Make you feel happy or accomplished when you look at it
- Make it easy to reach everything that you'll need
- Be safe - no fire near curtains, paper, etc.
- Leave a candle-free space to place your Book of Shadows / ritual script
- Leave space for working if needed

This is closer to what my Wiccan altar looks like:



- Space for decorations / what I'm going to work with
- Not likely to catch myself on fire
- Added an offering dish

Consecration

Consecrations 101

What happens once I get a tool?

Cleanse the item- make it clean

- Running water
- Out under full moon
- Smudge with sage or other herbal smoke
- Visualization

Consecrate the item- make it sacred

- Bless with each of the four elements
- Ask the Goddess to aid you
- Create a little piece of prose to go with it

Charge the item- make it work

- Visualize energy flowing into it
- Make a statement of intent like "I charge this athame with the blessing of Brighid, goddess of the forge, so that it will aid me in my magickal workings. With harm to none, and for the good of all, so mote it be."



Choose your tool / item / object:

Cleanse the item- make it clean

Consecrate the item- make it sacred

Charge the item- make it work

Consecration Example : Athame

Say: Blessed Be, tool of my craft!

<visualize all negativity released from the athame>

I cast from thee, all impurities and malevolent energies residing within your steel blade.

Banish any negativity clinging to your wooden handle.

In the name of the Lord and Lady, I do cast these out and pronounce thee clean.

I consecrate this athame with the power of the four elements:

I bless and imbue thee with the power of air, with knowledge and swiftness of the wind.

<pass through incense>

I bless and imbue thee with the power of fire, with the passion and ferocity of the flame.

<pass through candle flame>

I bless and imbue thee with the power of water, with the tidal emotions and insight of the sea.

<sprinkle with water>

I bless and imbue thee with the power of earth, with the grounding and stability of stone.

<sprinkle with salt>

I bless and imbue thee with the power of spirit, without this, life would not be.

<blow lightly across it>

<visualize a bright white light entering the athame>

I consecrate this tool on the physical plane,

So that it will aid me in my ritual work.

So that it will direct energy as an extension of my body,

So that it will ground me along with my breath,

So that it will contribute to my good works,

In perfect trust, and perfect love,

So do I state, and so mote it be.

Divination

Most commonly utilized types of divination

- Tarot (cartomancy)
- Oracle cards
- Runes
- Pendulum
- Scrying

Tarot cards

- Come from European culture (Italy, France, German)
- Originally used as playing cards
- Set of 78 cards- minor arcana and major arcana
- Minor arcana are broken into four suits. Each is numbered 1-10 and have four court cards
- Major court cards are standalone cards- The Fool, Death, The Tower, The Sun
- Usually have a similar symbolism to one another

Oracle cards

- Can be any number
- Can use any symbolism
- Goddess cards, animal spirit cards

Runes

- Come from Germanic/Norse culture
- Usually made of stone (sometimes cards)
- 24 rune stones- sometimes 25- counting a blank
- Broken into three Aetts

Pendulum

- A weight suspended on a string is “programmed” by the user
- Yes no questions are asked, the answers are denoted by the way it swings

Scrying

- Usually using a black mirror, or dark bowl of water
- Gaze into the mirror and take note of symbols