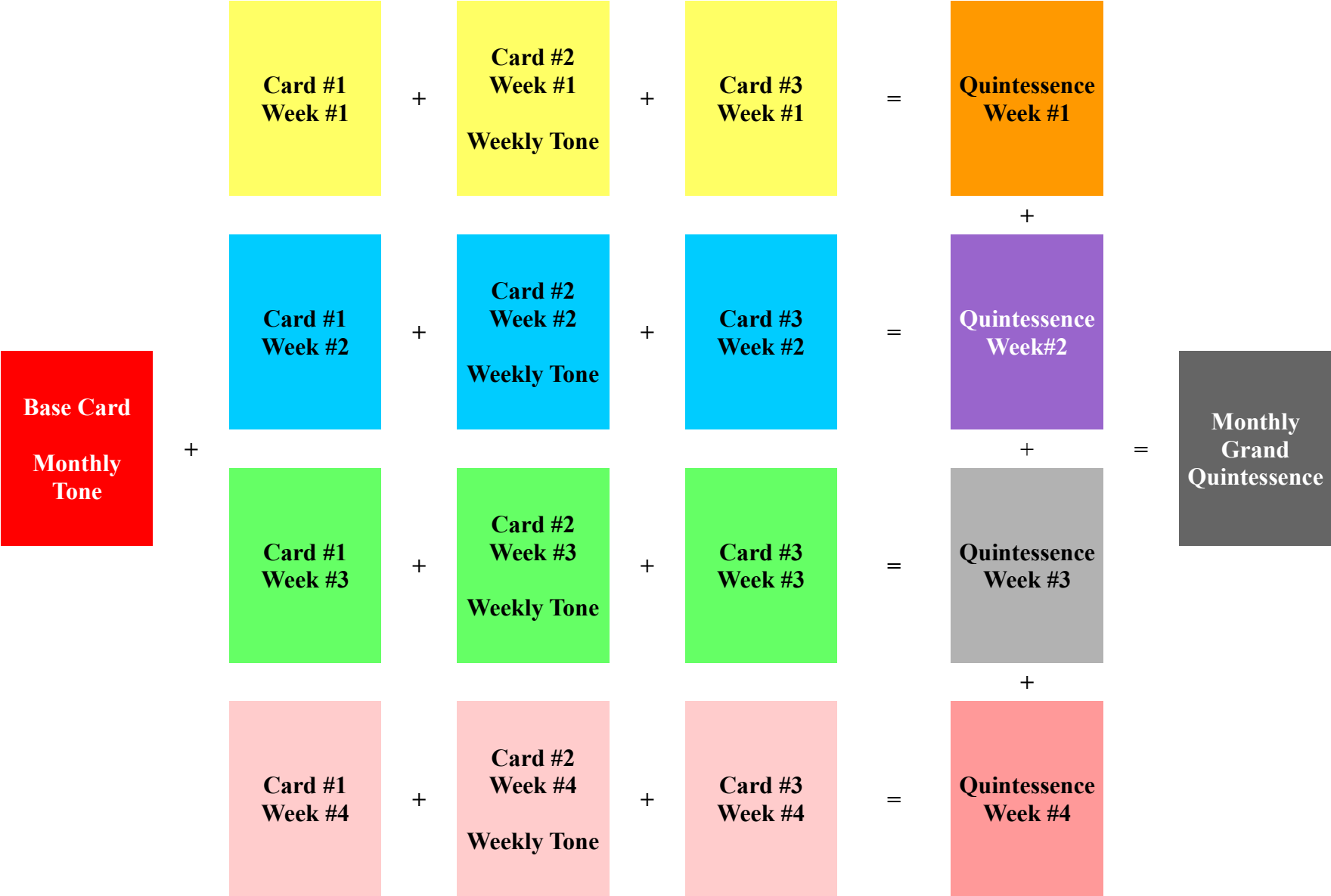


Flavor of the Month Spread



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This is a spread for taking an advance look at the "tone" or "flavor" of the upcoming month. You will need at least two decks as described below. Here's how it works (use reversals or not as you choose):

On the last day of the current month, shuffle Deck #1 and draw a single card for the overall "tone" of the following month. Find this card in Deck #2 and place it to the left as the monthly "base" card.

Put the first card back into Deck #1, reshuffle and draw three cards for the first full week of the next month. Select these cards from Deck #2 and place them in a line to the right and above the "tone" card. If any of the cards from Deck #2 were already used, obtain those cards from another deck to use in the layout. Once again, reassemble and reshuffle Deck #1.

Repeat this for each full week of the month, placing each line under the previous one until all weeks are covered.

Look at the elemental dignities for the center card in each three-card line to see if it is strengthened or weakened by the adjacent cards. This focus card shows the "tone" for its respective week.

Compare each of these center cards to the monthly "tone" card to see if it is supportive or contrary in nature. This will show how well that week will be aligned with the monthly outlook.

If you choose, read each three-card line as a weekly narrative to see if it furthers or resists the purpose of the monthly "tone" card.

Derive a quintessence card for each three-card line, including the monthly "tone" card as part of the calculation for each line. My usual practice is to include court cards as 11 through 14 and subtract reversed card values, allowing for the Fool as "0," not "22."

Read the quint card for each week in connection with the weekly "tone" card to see what it has to say about that week. It will be reinforcing, neutral or diminishing in relation to the weekly "tone."

Create a Grand Quintessence card for the spread by adding together the weekly quint card values.

Read this card in connection with the monthly "tone" card to see what it has to say about the month overall. It will be reinforcing, neutral or diminishing in relation to the monthly "tone."

To address the possibility of the same card from Deck #1 appearing multiple times, you should use two decks, a draw deck that you reassemble and reshuffle for each weekly draw, and a layout deck with which to populate the spread. You may need two or more of the latter depending on how many times a given card shows up in the weekly lines.