

# **The Star Trek Playing Card Compendium**

by

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**Version 2.10, March 2024**

*Star Trek and related marks are trademarks of CBS Studios, Inc.*

# Introduction

What exactly is a "Star Trek Playing Card"?

- For the "Star Trek" part, it includes:
  - cards used in episodes of the show, and
  - cards made to commemorate the show.
- For the "Playing Card" part, it mostly (but not exclusively) means four suits of ace through king.

Interestingly, Star Trek playing cards are almost as old as Star Trek itself. The second episode that was broadcast ("Charlie X, on September 15, 1966) had a scene where playing cards can be seen scattered on a table.

Fifty years later, as I begin to put together what will hopefully become a comprehensive list of all Star Trek playing cards, it is interesting to see that the majority of decks are related to just two of the many Star Trek series and movies: the original series and The Next Generation.

Even though I am making this compendium publicly available, it is not finished: I still need to work my way through every episode of Star Trek to see if there are any cards that need to be added. This will get done sometime :-)

## Request for Information

If anyone reading this has information about:

- decks of Star Trek playing cards not listed in this compendium, and/or
- the stories behind the cards, including info on the companies that made them

please [let me know](#). Also, many of the decks in my collection are new and sealed, and I am unwilling to open them to scan the cards for this compendium. If you have images of Star Trek playing cards you would be willing to share, please send them along and let me know if/how you want credit given to you in this document.

My obsession with Star Trek Playing cards comes from my love of Star Trek and my love of playing cards. Then, years ago, when I discovered the information at [jklm.net](http://jklm.net), I was off and running. I hope you find this result of my years of collecting interesting and useful.

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## I. Cards Used In The Original Series

### 1. Jajaco Round Cards (Date of Manufacture Unknown)

In several episodes of the original series, round cards with red backs can be seen. Episodes include The Naked Time, Charlie X, The Conscience of the King, The Trouble With Tribbles, By Any Other Name, and Mudd's Women. An Original Series scene with these cards can also be seen in the Next Generation episode "Trials and Tribble-ations".

These cards were sold in the 1960's (and maybe in the 1950's and 1970's). The cards are 3 inches in diameter. One of the Jokers displays the text "Jajaco Playing Cards", while the Ace of Spades displays "Ace Playing Cards". The box says "Japan". A bit of research shows that the cards were made by the Ace playing card company in Japan and imported into the USA by Jajaco Imports.





## 2. Unknown

I have not been able to identify the cards used in the episode "A Piece of the Action". The best screenshot I have does not show any detail on the card back.



## II. Cards Commemorating The Original Series

### 1. Tele Banco Cancion (Date of Manufacture Unknown)

The history of these cards is somewhat sketchy, at least when attempting to research them on the internet. It appears that there was originally a blue-back deck showing popular singers of the day, and a red-back deck showing TV stars. But on a later reissue of the cards, the blue backs became green and some of the cards were changed to show different singers, while the red backs became even more red (the red-and-white text on the back was changed to solid red) and some of the cards were changed to show different TV stars.

The suits are swords, cups, suns, and clubs (sticks). There are 48 cards and one joker per deck.

In the original red-back deck, two of the cards commemorated Star Trek, or as it is shown on one of the cards, "La Conquista del Espacio".

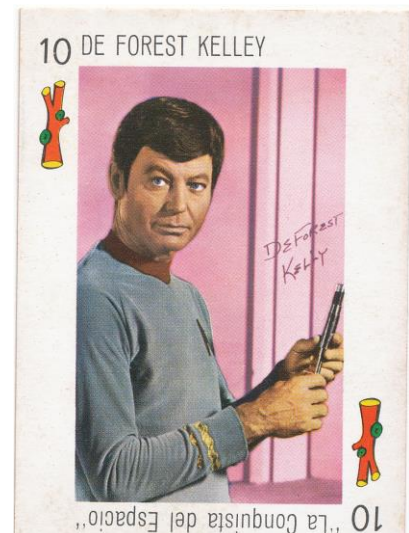
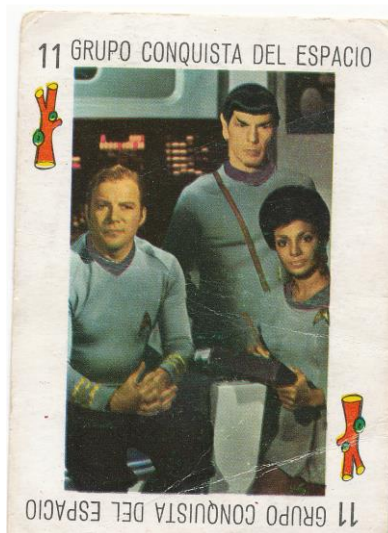
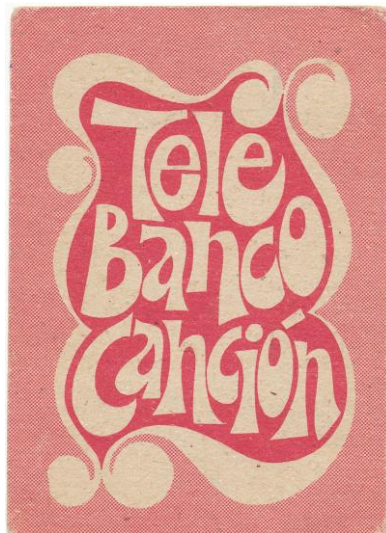


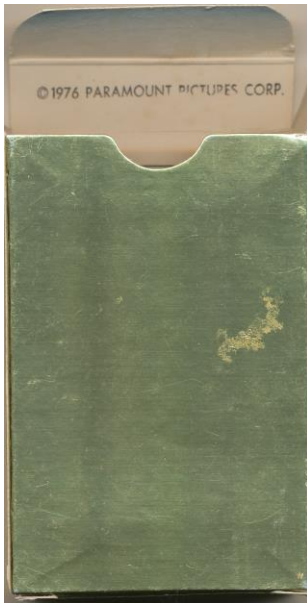
Image at left from  
<http://chicledunkin.blogspot.com/2012/07/cartas-de-telebanco.html>

## 2. Fizzbin (1976)

I don't have any confirmed information about these, other than the box flap has "© 1976 Paramount Pictures Corp." printed on it. It seems that these cards were 10th anniversary gifts to people who had connections to the show. The backs display a scene from the episode "A Piece of the Action" where Captain Kirk distracts and confuses his captors with a made-up card game called "Fizzbin".

Based on the Joker, I'm guessing the faces are regular playing card faces. I have found one unconfirmed source that identifies this joker as one used by the [Gemaco](#) playing card company.

More information about [fizzbin](#) can be found at [Memory Alpha](#).



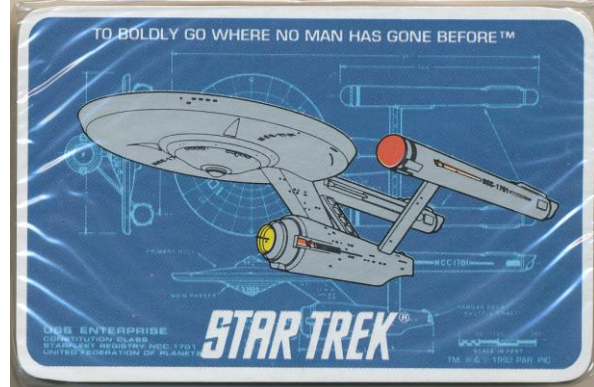
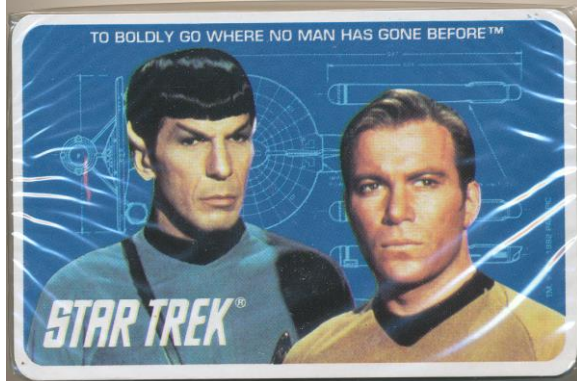
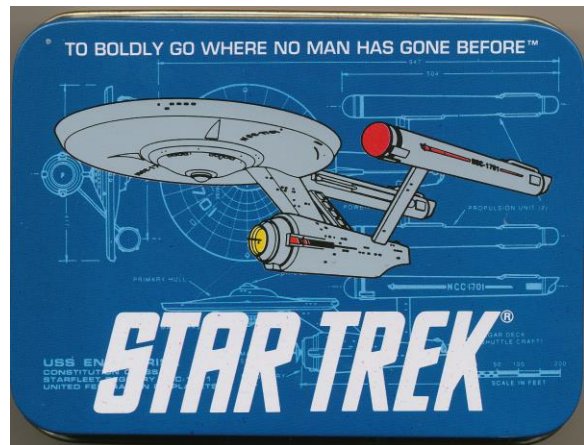


### 3. Enesco / Hamilton Gifts (1992)

This is a tin containing two decks of cards. One deck has an image of Kirk and Spock on the back, while the other deck has a drawing of the Enterprise on the back. The fronts are regular playing cards.

The tin includes the text "TM, ® & © Par. Pic. Hamilton Gifts Authorized User Made In China 913235" along one side. The box says "Exclusively Distributed by Enesco Corporation".

[Enesco](#) still exists, and their website states "Enesco distributes products to a wide variety of specialty card and gift retailers, home décor boutiques, as well as mass-market chains and online retailers." Hamilton Gifts was absorbed into [The Bradford Exchange](#).



#### 4. CIC Video (1996)

In the 1980's and 1990's, Cinema International Corporation (also known as CIC) was the licensed distributor of Star Trek home video in the UK, Germany, Australia, and other countries. In 1996, they created a promotion where they included Star Trek playing cards with the videos. You could also order a personalized tin to hold the cards. The tin was made to look like a movie reel tin, with a rectangular metal tag on the cover.



The backs show an image of a planet with the Enterprise and a Klingon vessel. The fronts show a ship on each of the aces, and characters from the show on the face cards. The two jokers are an Alpha 177 Canine and a Tribble respectively.

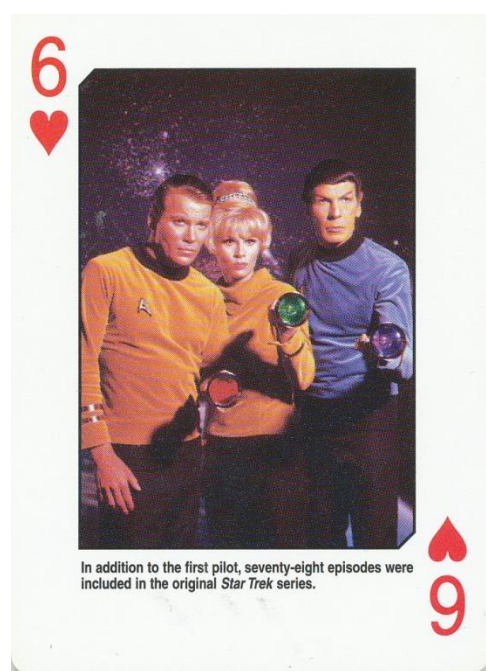
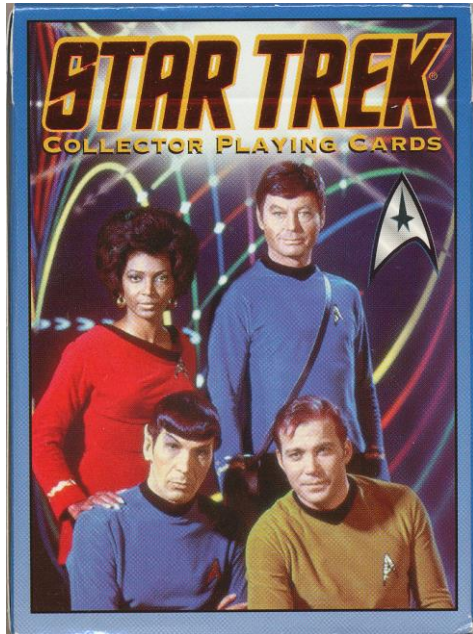


In 1998, CIC offered complete decks of these cards. The box includes the text "Only Available Through CIC Video For Promotional Use. Not For Resale."



## 5. Hoyle (1998)

In 1998, [Hoyle](#) released a deck of Star Trek cards featuring images from the show. It is possible that these cards were released in conjunction with the opening of Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton - if anyone knows for sure, please [let me know](#).



## 6. Pava (2009)

In 2009, Pava Ltd. released a deck of Star Trek cards that interestingly use the same image as the Hoyle cards released in 1998.



The cards came in a tin. On the bottom of the tin is a sticker that says "Playing cards featuring a variety of images from the Star Trek Original TV series".



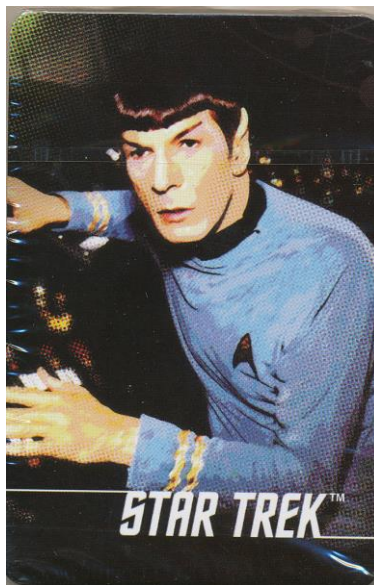
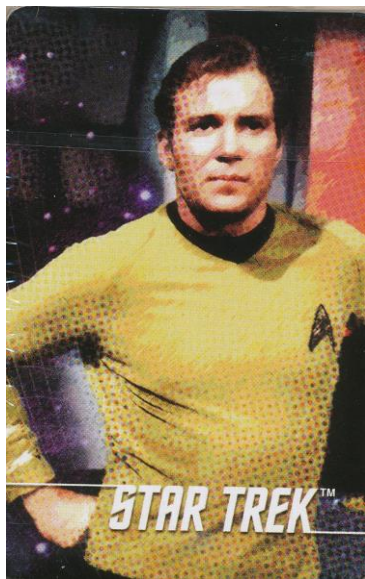
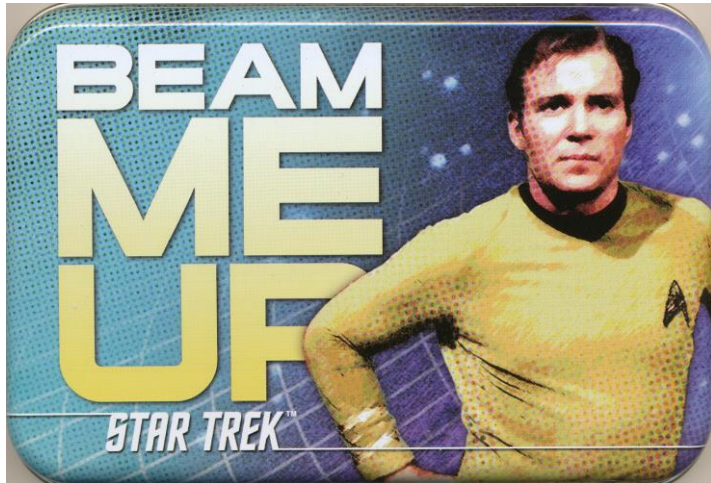
Additional card images can be seen on [jklm.net](http://jklm.net).



## 7. Vandor (2009)

Sold in a tin with an image of Captain Kirk and the phrase "Beam Me Up", these two decks featured images of Kirk on the back of one deck and Spock on the back of the other. The faces are regular playing cards.

The bottom of the tin includes the text "Vandor, LLC \* SLC, UT" and "www.vandorgifts.com". That website appears to be defunct, but there is a [Vandor Products website](http://www.vandorproducts.com) with Star Trek merchandise.





## 8. Aquarius - Single Deck (2013)

Designed in Canada and manufactured in China, the backs of these cards show the Star Trek insignia while the fronts show character images.

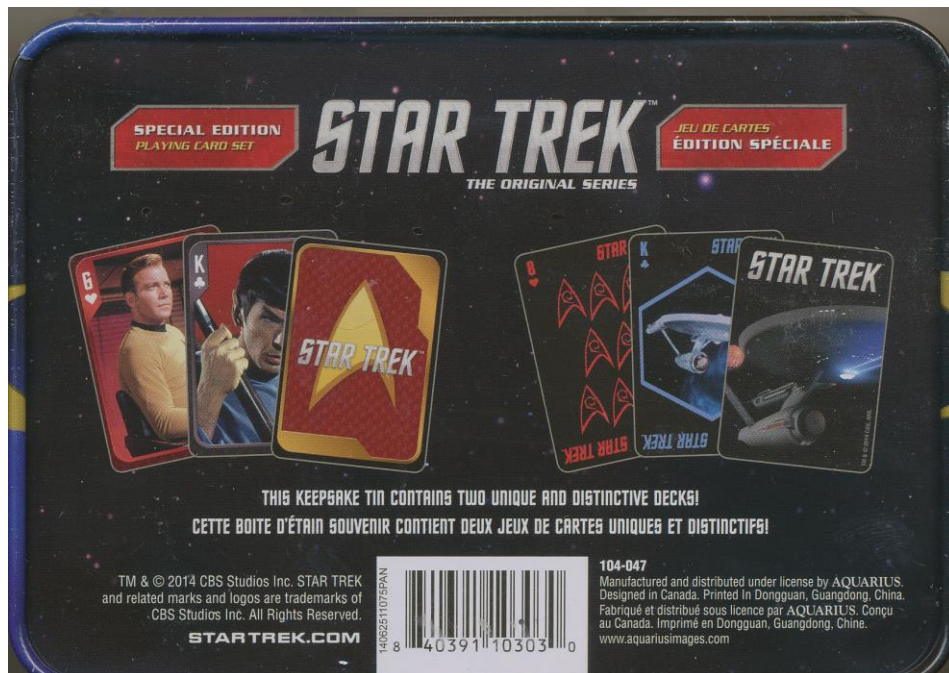
The website link on the deck, [www.aquariusimages.com](http://www.aquariusimages.com), redirects to [nmrdistribution.cameoez.com](http://nmrdistribution.cameoez.com), which bills itself as "purveyors of pop culture". The site sells [various Star Trek merchandise](#).



More card images can be seen on [jklm.net](http://jklm.net).

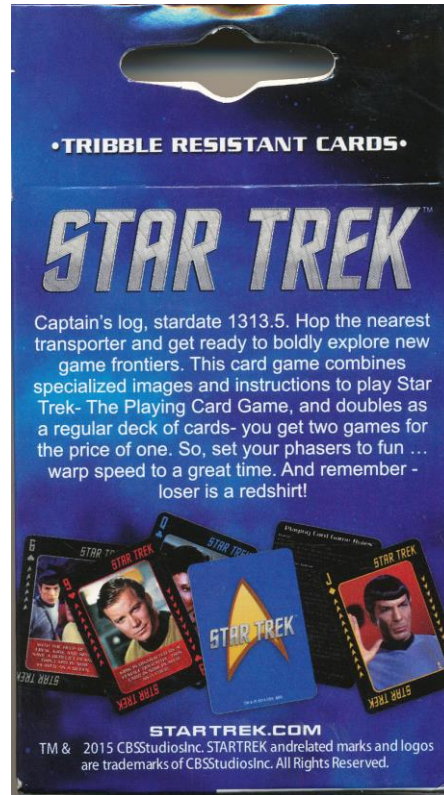
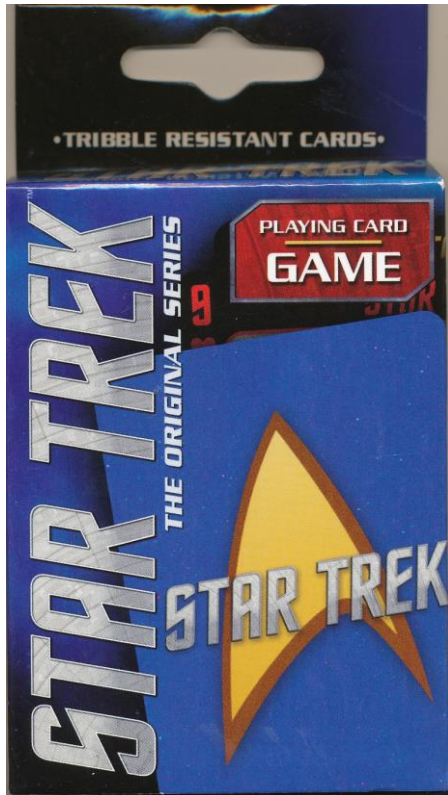
## 9. Aquarius - Double Deck Tin (2014)

The year after introducing their 2013 deck, Aquarius produced a two-deck tin with one of the decks being the 2013 deck. The second deck shows the Enterprise on the back and various ships and insignias on the faces.



## 10. Aquarius - Single Deck with Game (2015)

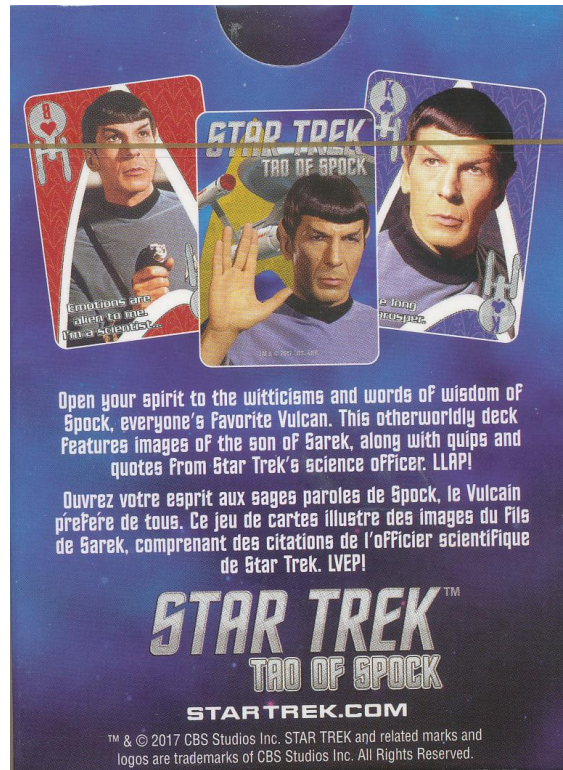
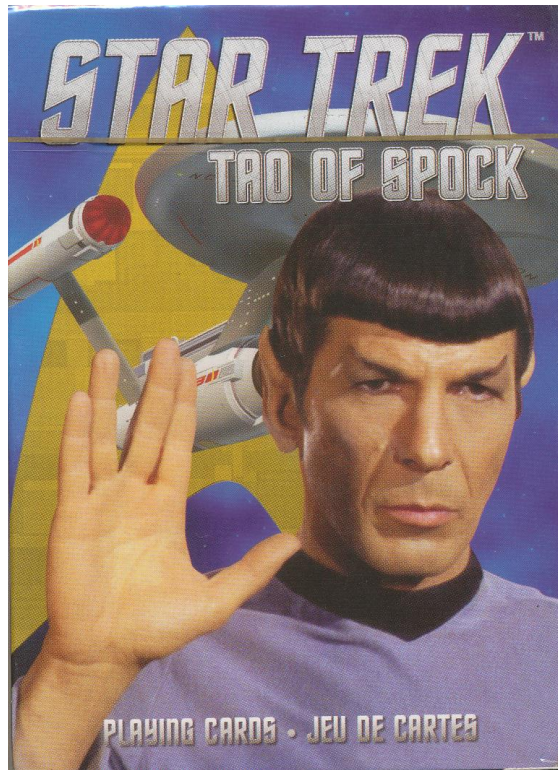
This deck, with the Star Trek insignia on the back and character images on the front, also includes instructions for a custom game. In addition to suits and numbers, some cards display additional information for the custom game. This lets you use the deck as a regular deck, but also as a custom deck.





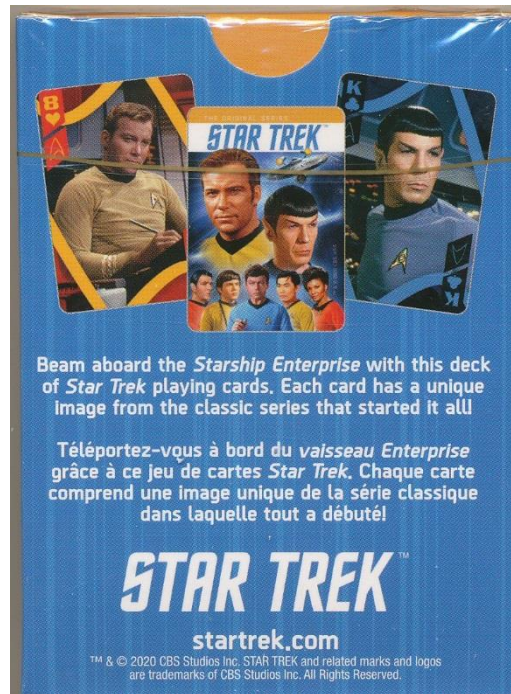
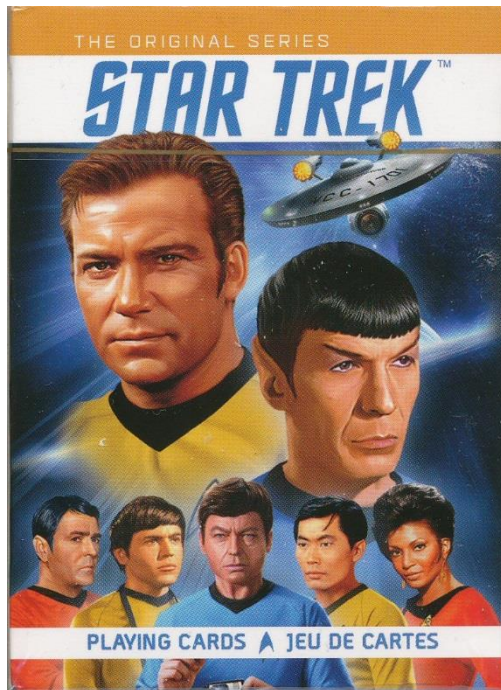
## 11. Aquarius - Tao of Spock (2017)

This deck shows images of the Leonard Nimoy Spock on the back and front.



## 12. Aquarius – The Original Series (2020)

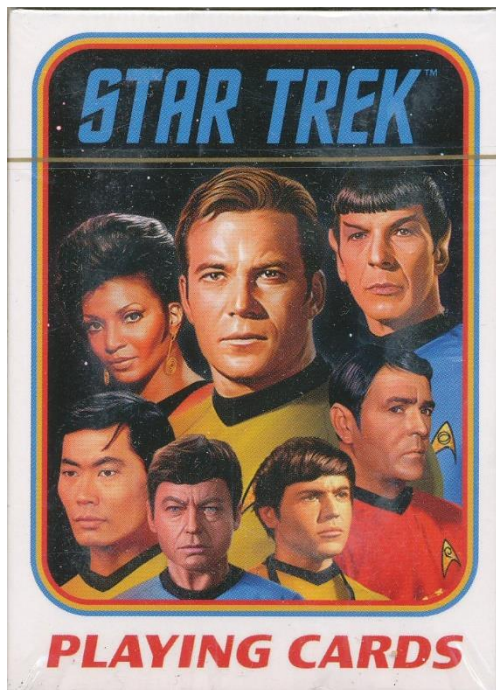
This deck shows images of TOS characters.



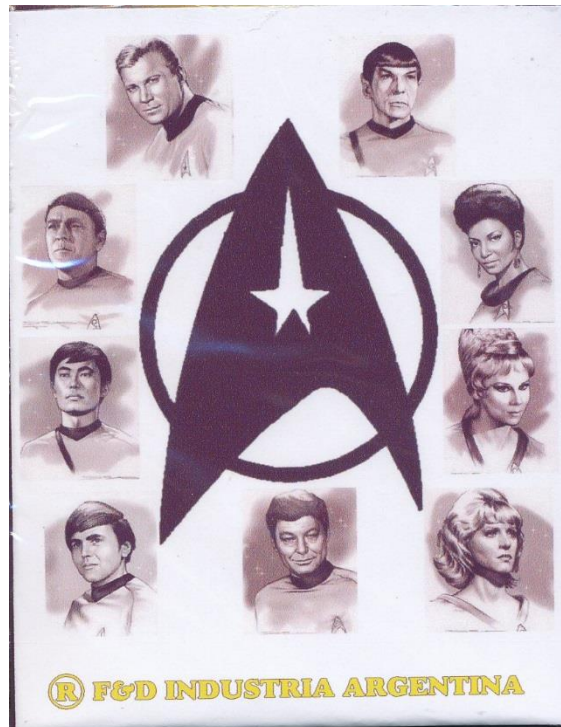


### 13. Aquarius – The Original Series (2023)

This deck shows images of TOS characters.



These cards are from Argentina. I have no other information about them.

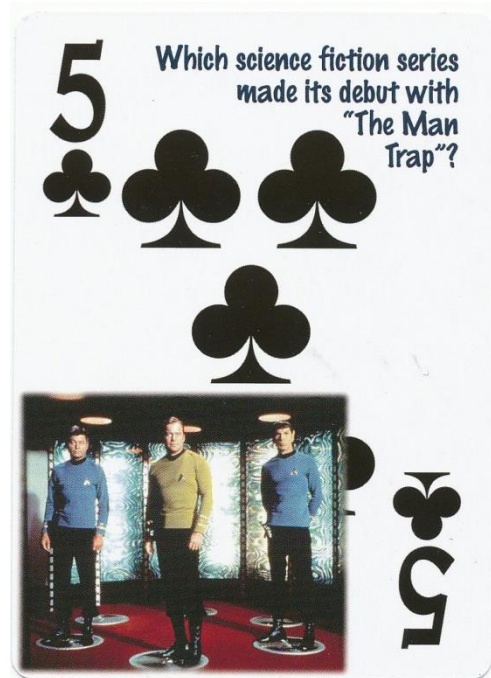
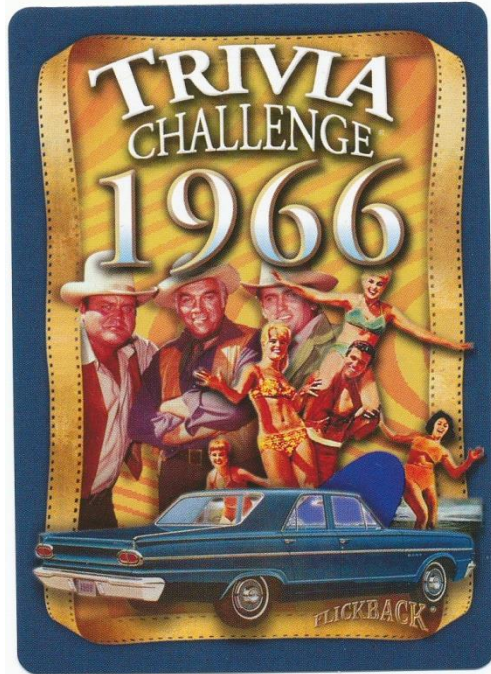




**15. Flickback - 1966 Trivia Challenge Playing Cards (date of manufacture unknown)**

Made in China, this deck has a trivia question from 1966 on each card. The five of clubs is Trek.

[www.flickback.com](http://www.flickback.com)





### III. Cards Used In The Next Generation

#### 1. Kem Kent

The blue back deck of [Kem Kent](#) cards can be seen in the episodes "All Good Things" and "The Best of Both Worlds". The red back cards appear in "Lower Decks".



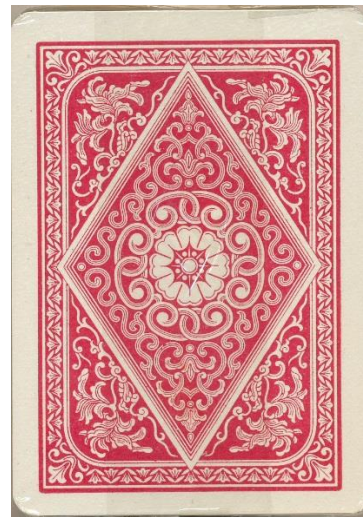
## 2. Kem Arrow

A blue back deck of [Kem Arrow](#) cards can be seen in the episodes "Cause and Effect", "Lower Decks", "Descent (Part 1)", and "Liaisons".



### 3. Tiger 565

These cards used in "Time's Arrow" are Tiger 565 cards made in China in the 1970's.





#### 4. Unknown

I have not yet been able to identify the deck of cards used in "Measure of a Man".



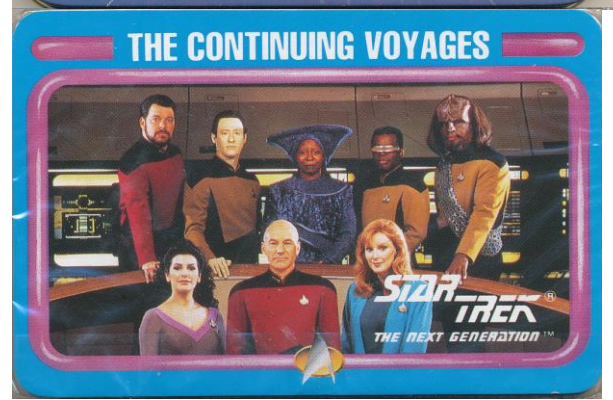
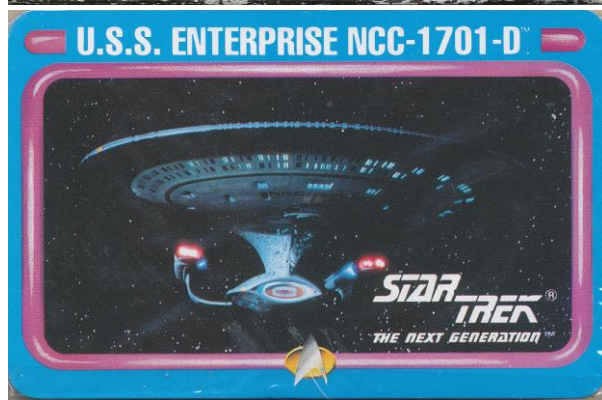
## IV. Cards Commemorating The Next Generation

### 1. Enesco / Hamilton Gifts (1992)

This is a tin containing two decks of cards. One deck has an image of eight crew members on the back, while the other deck has an image of the Enterprise on the back. The fronts are regular playing cards.

The tin includes the text "TM, ® & © 1992 Paramount Pictures. All rights reserved. Hamilton Gifts Authorized User Made In China 913227" along one side. The box says "Exclusively Distributed by Enesco Corporation".

[Enesco](#) still exists, and their website states "Enesco distributes products to a wide variety of specialty card and gift retailers, home décor boutiques, as well as mass-market chains and online retailers." Hamilton Gifts was absorbed into [The Bradford Exchange](#).



## 2. Bensons (1995)

Showbags are a common item sold at carnivals/fairs (called shows) in Australia. Bensons is a company that creates showbags, and in 1995 they sold a Star Trek: Next Generation bag that included a deck of playing cards. (Image of card backs by Jenny Fullerton; images of card faces by Andrea Beeston.)

The Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences in Sydney has a webpage displaying the STNG showbag and its contents at <https://collection.maas.museum/object/11864>.

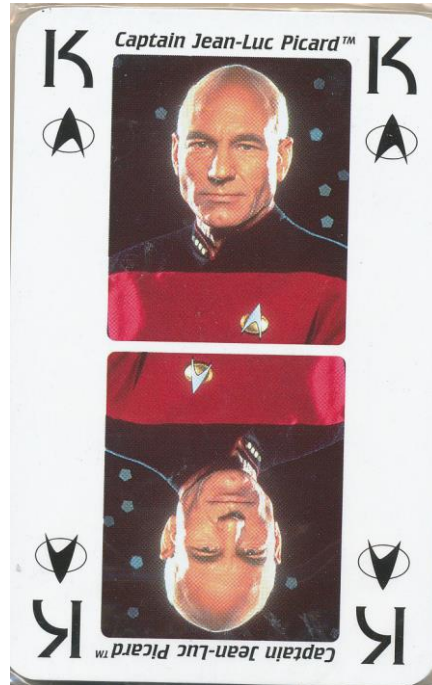
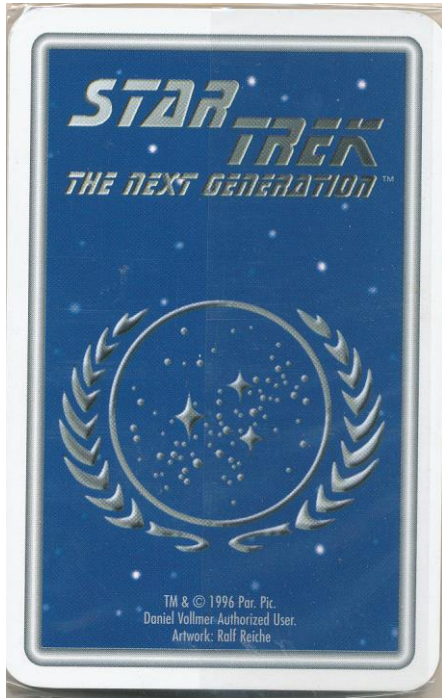




### 3. Daniel Vollmer - 32 Card Deck (1996)

[Daniel Vollmer](#) licensed these cards to Paramount. The 32-card deck includes 7 through K of all four suits and is used for playing games such as [Piquet](#) and 32-Card Poker.

The box includes the following text: "Thanks to: Stefan Vollmer, Elke Nagengast, Merchandising Munchen KG, Artwork: Rolf Reiche". The back of the box refers people to [Tricorder Records](#).

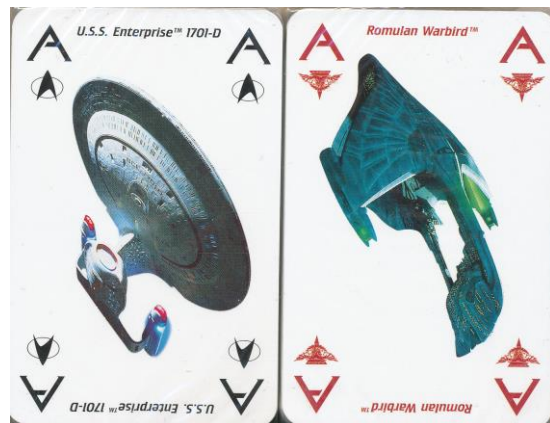
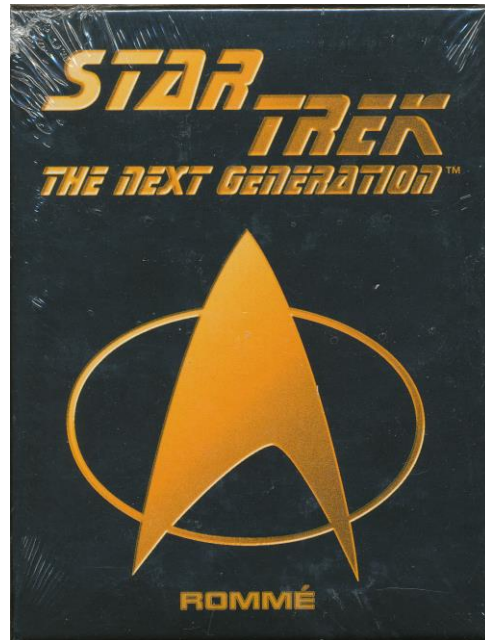
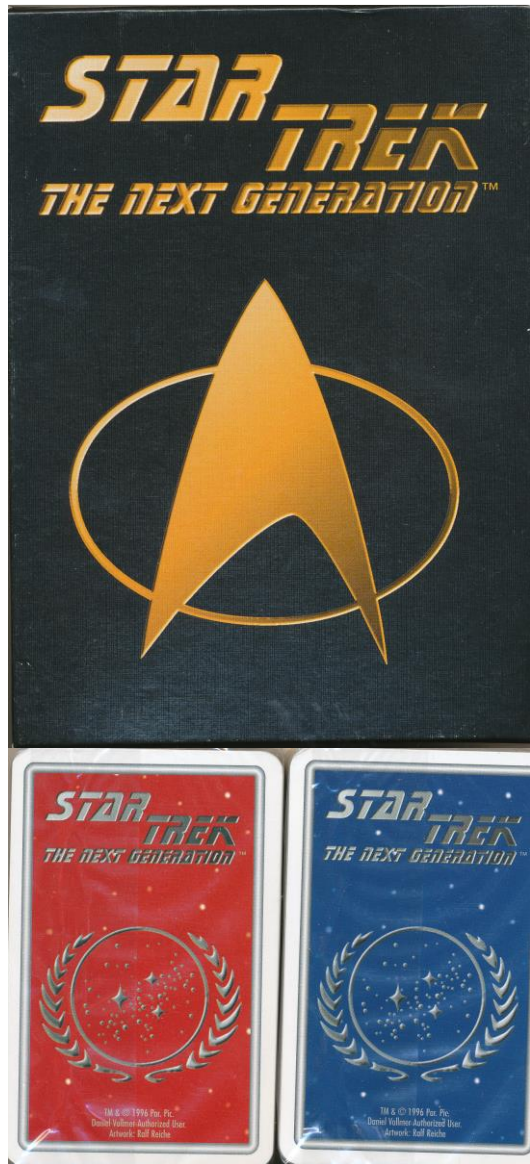


#### 4. Daniel Vollmer - 52 Card Decks (1996)

[Daniel Vollmer](#) licensed these cards to Paramount.

There are at least two different boxes that these decks come in. The large box is 4 x 6 1/4 inches, while the small box is 3 3/4 x 4 7/8 inches. Both boxes have the same design, but not the same exact text. For example, the small box has the word "Rommé" (German for Rummy).

The box includes the following text: "Thanks to: Stefan Vollmer, Elke Nagengast, Merchandising Munchen KG, Artwork: Rolf Reiche". The back of the box refers people to [Tricorder Records](#).





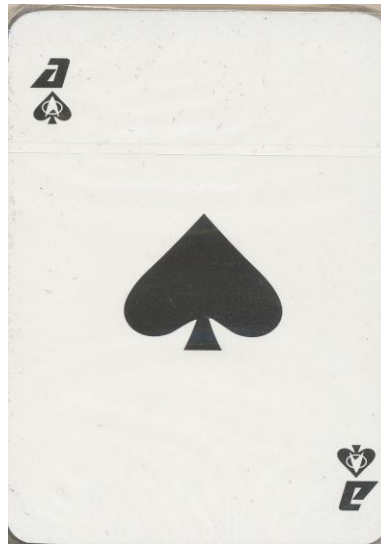
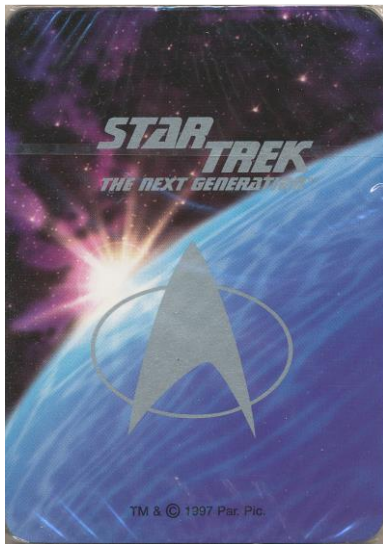
## 5. Franklin Mint (1997)

The Franklin Mint produced a Senior Officers Poker Set that included a case, chips, and two decks of cards.



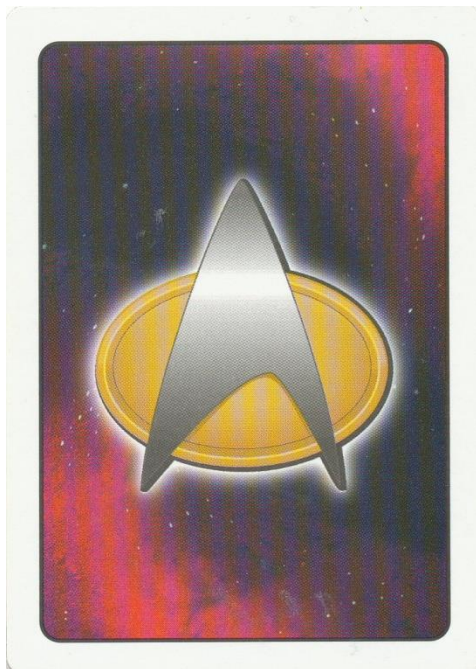
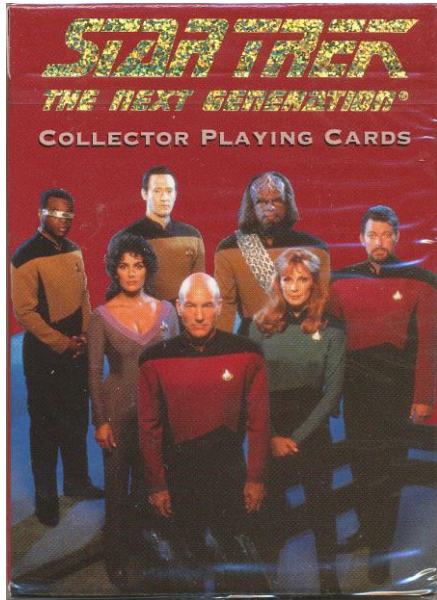
(Image above from [jklm.net](http://jklm.net). Used with permission.)

The silver-edged cards have a Star Trek back design and Star Trek Next Gen character images on the face cards.



## 6. Hoyle (2000)

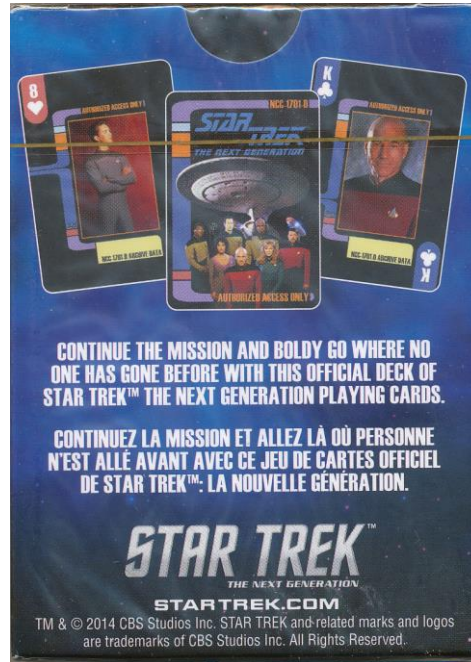
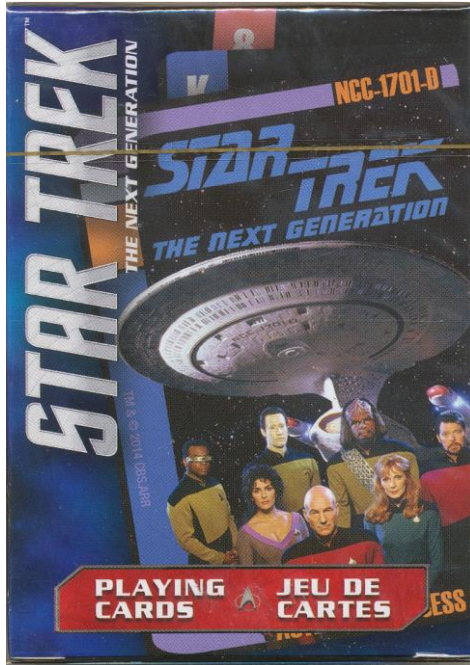
In 2000, [Hoyle](#) released a deck of Star Trek cards featuring images from the show. This deck was a sequel to the Original Series cards released in 1998.



## 7. Aquarius (2014)

Designed in Canada and manufactured in China, the backs of these cards show the Enterprise and multiple characters from the show while the fronts show character images.

The website link on the deck, [www.aquariusimages.com](http://www.aquariusimages.com), redirects to [nmrdistribution.cameoez.com](http://nmrdistribution.cameoez.com), which bills itself as "purveyors of pop culture". The site sells [various Star Trek merchandise](#).

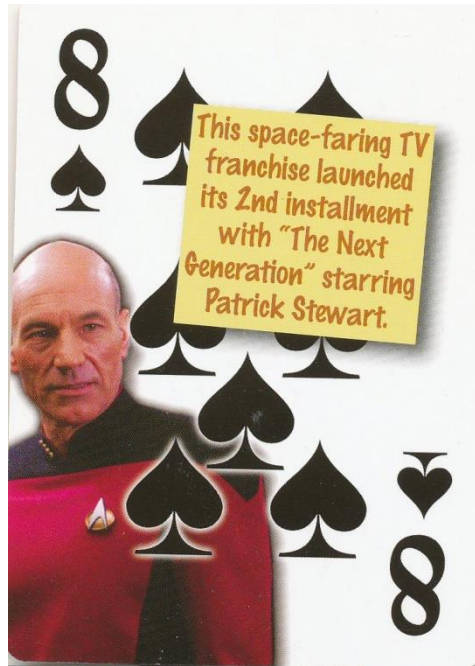
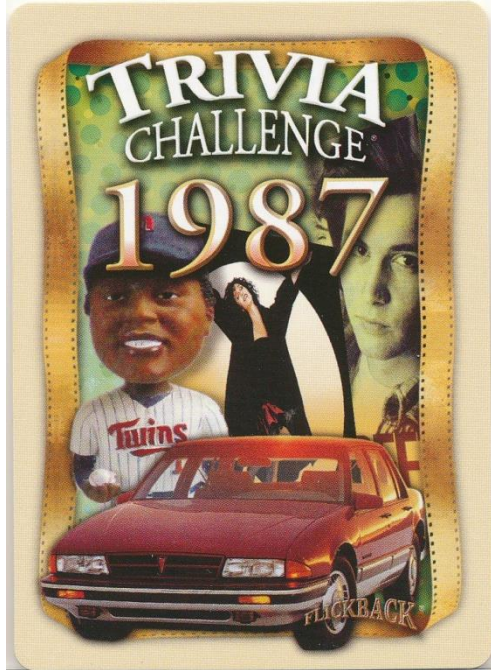




**8. Flickback - 1987 Trivia Challenge Playing Cards (date of manufacture unknown)**

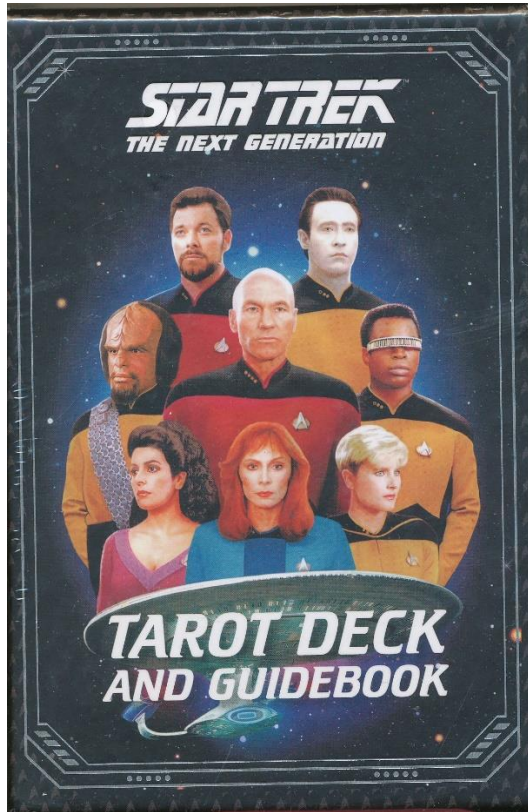
Made in China, this deck has a trivia question from 1987 on each card. The eight of spades is Trek.

[www.flickback.com](http://www.flickback.com)



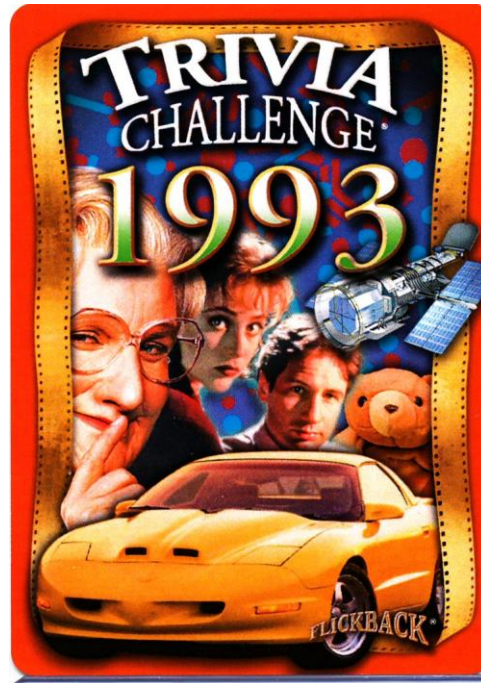
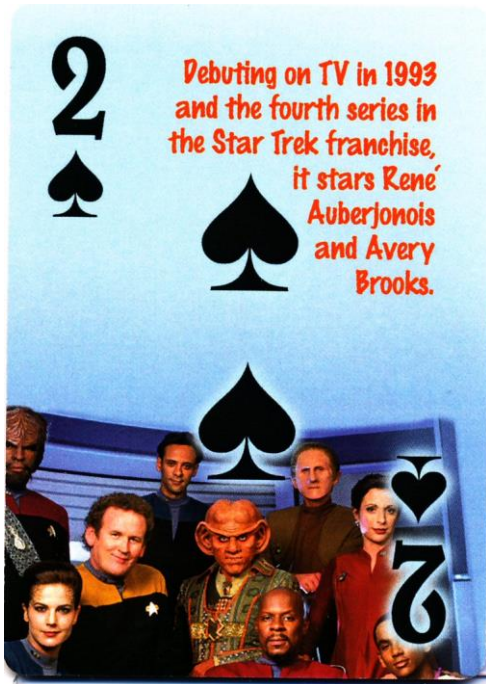
## 9. Insight Editions – Next Generation Tarot Cards (2022)

Includes 78 cards and a guidebook. <https://insighteditions.com/>.



## V. Cards Commemorating Deep Space Nine

### 1. Flickback - 1993 Trivia Challenge Playing Cards (date of manufacture unknown)





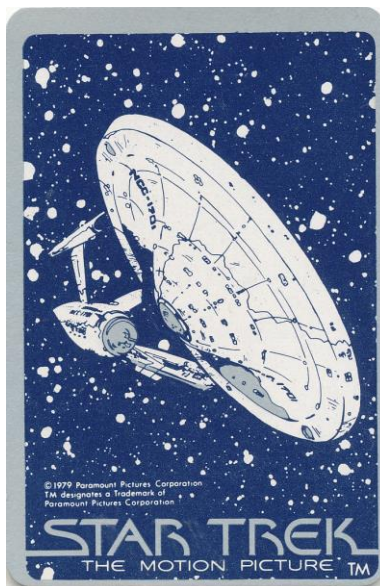
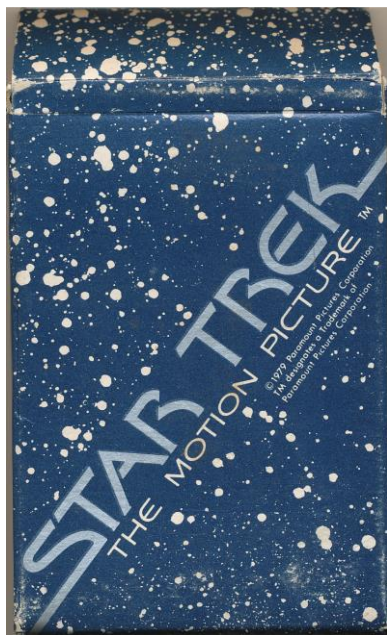
## VI. Cards Commemorating The Movies

### 1. Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979)

Distributed by Aviva, the back shows the Enterprise 1701A. The fronts are regular playing cards.

Based on the Ace of spades design, these appear to be one of many different decks (over 6,000!) produced by Nintendo: [https://nintendo.fandom.com/wiki/Western\\_playing\\_cards](https://nintendo.fandom.com/wiki/Western_playing_cards).

The mystery here is, why the letter “H” in the middle of the ace? Nintendo would print to the customers specifications, and there are tons of these aces with different designs in the ace of spades. But what does “H” have to do with Aviva or with Star Trek? The only possible answer I have is that the Creative Director at Aviva was John Hardgrove. So maybe H for Hardgrove?



## 2. Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982)

Manufactured by Movie Players, Inc., these cards display the movie title on the back and images from the movie on the faces. Additional information about these cards is available on [startrek.com](http://startrek.com).

There are two variations of these cards. The original box and cards display "Star Trek The Wrath of Khan". The revised box and cards change "Star Trek" to "Star Trek II".

If anyone has any information about Movie Players, Inc., please [email me](mailto:email me).

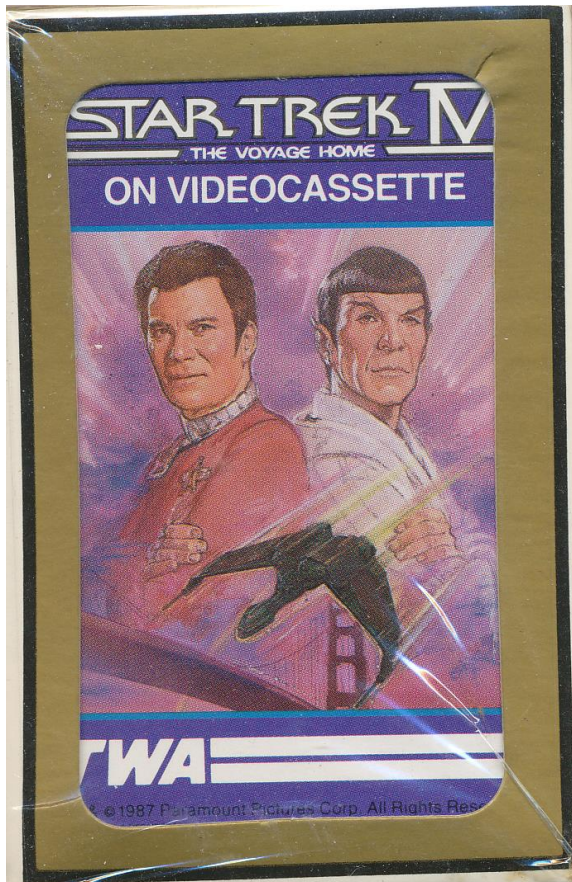




### 3. Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1987)

Back in the 1980's, airline passengers could ask their flight attendant for a deck of cards to help pass the time.

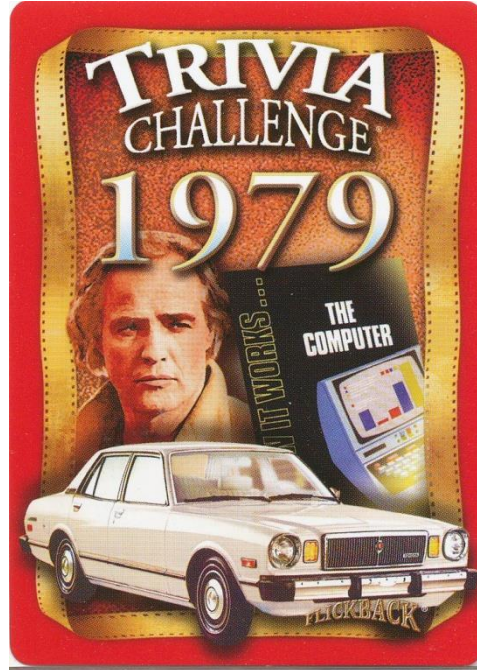
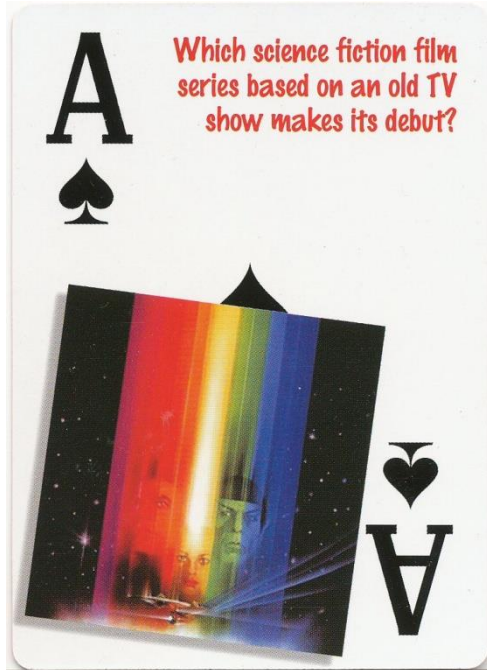
On September 30, 1987, Star Trek: The Voyage Home was released on VHS and Beta. To help promote the video release, Paramount partnered with TWA. If a passenger asked for a deck of cards, they received a Star Trek IV deck.



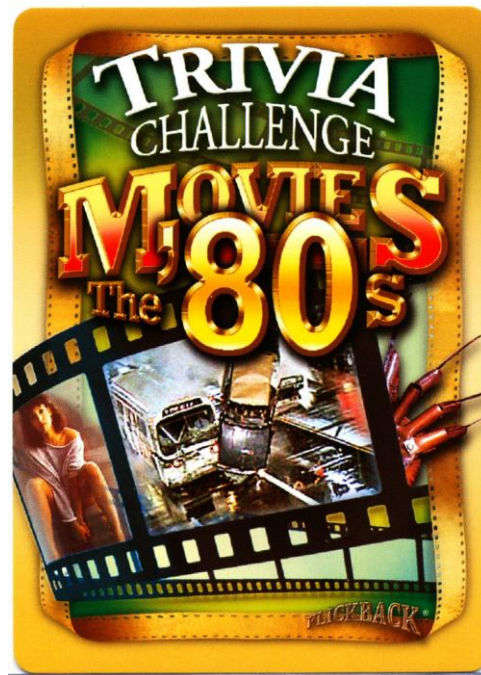
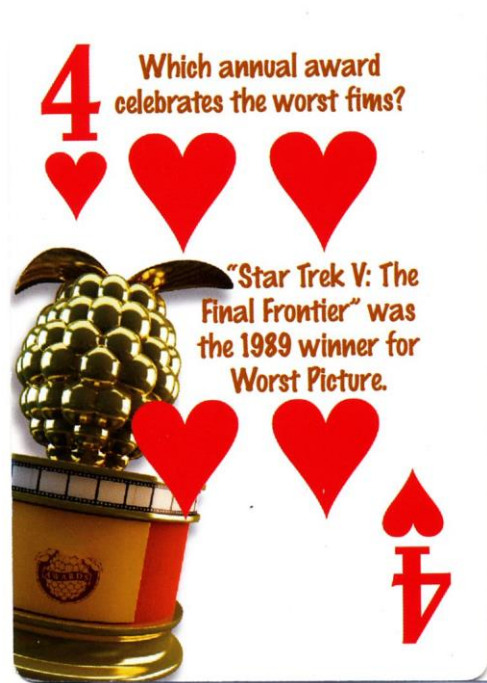
4. Flickback - 1979 Trivia Challenge Playing Cards (date of manufacture unknown)

Made in China, this deck has a trivia question from 1979 on each card. The ace of spades is Trek.

[www.flickback.com](http://www.flickback.com)



4. Flickback – 1980's Movie Trivia Challenge Playing Cards (date of manufacture unknown)



## VII. Miscellaneous Cards Commemorating Star Trek

### 1. Starfleet Academy (Date Unknown)

From [Gemaco](#), these are regular playing cards with a United Federation of Planets logo and the text "Starfleet Academy" on the back.

If anyone has any additional information about these cards, please [email me](#).



### 2. Four Star Trek Back Designs (Date Unknown)

These are custom print jobs available from [Starsonstuff.com](#).



Front



Back



Front



Back



Front



Back



Front



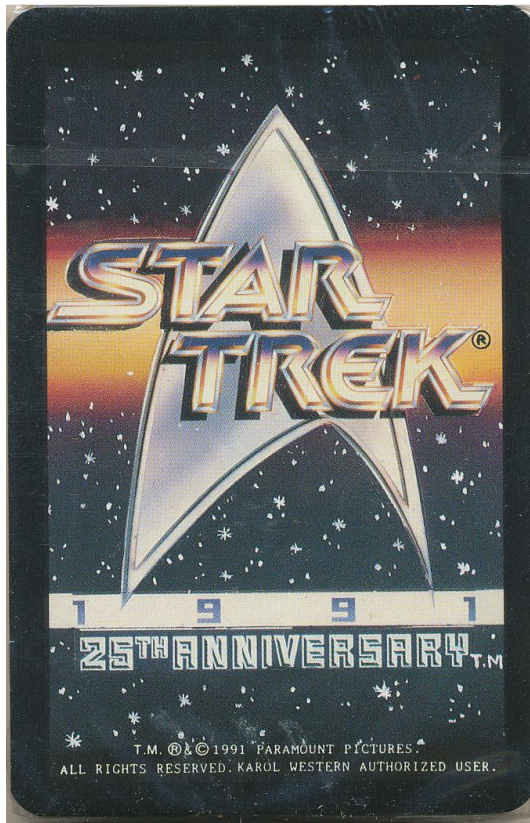
Back



### 3. Star Trek 25th Anniversary (1991)

Produced and/or distributed by Karol Western, a giftware company located in Commerce California. The faces are regular playing cards and the back is a Star Trek design.

If anyone has information on how Karol Western came to produce these cards, please [email me](#).

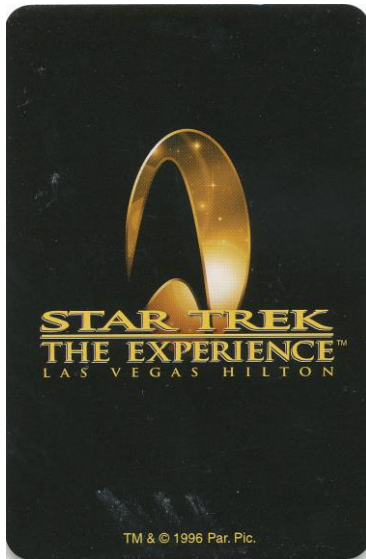


#### 4. Star Trek: The Experience (1996/1998)

[Star Trek: The Experience](#) was an attraction at the Las Vegas Hilton. They sold souvenir playing cards with regular faces and a [Star Trek: The Experience](#) design on the back.

According to multiple sources, the attraction opened in 1998. This is interesting because there are two slightly different decks of cards from the attraction, and while the second is dated 1998, the first is dated 1996.

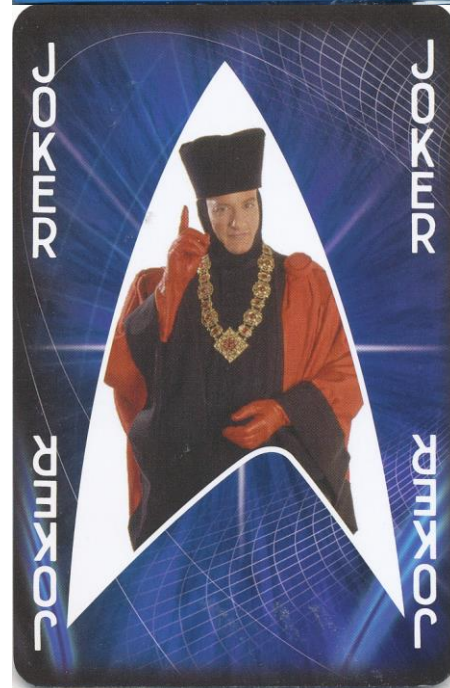
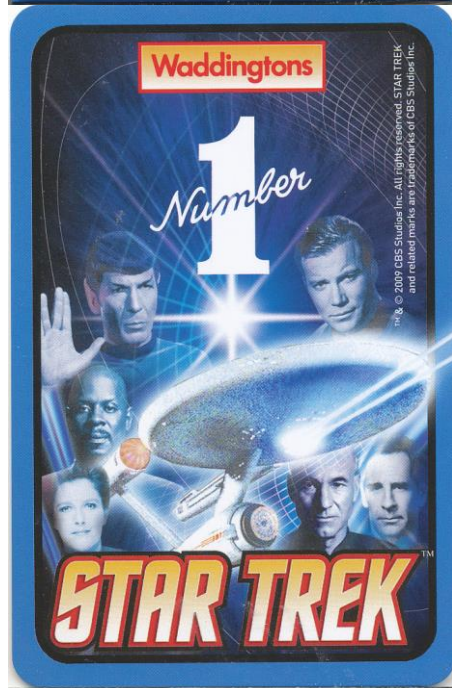
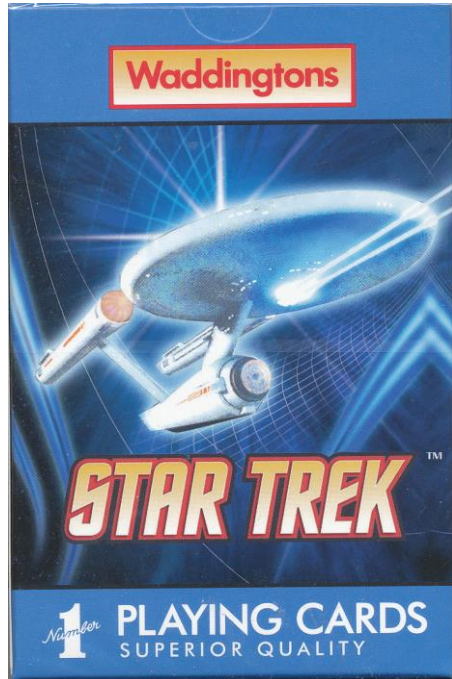
I don't have any information on what company made the cards, although they do say "Made in China". I will include images of the joker and ace of spades and hope someone can identify the manufacturer.



## 5. Waddingtons (2009)

These cards feature images from multiple series on the faces and an image of the captains (and Spock) with the Enterprise on the back.

[John Waddington Limited](#) produced cards in the UK from 1922 to 1994. Hasbro bought Waddington's in 1994 for [\\$78 million](#) (£50 million). [Winning Moves](#) bought the brand from Hasbro.



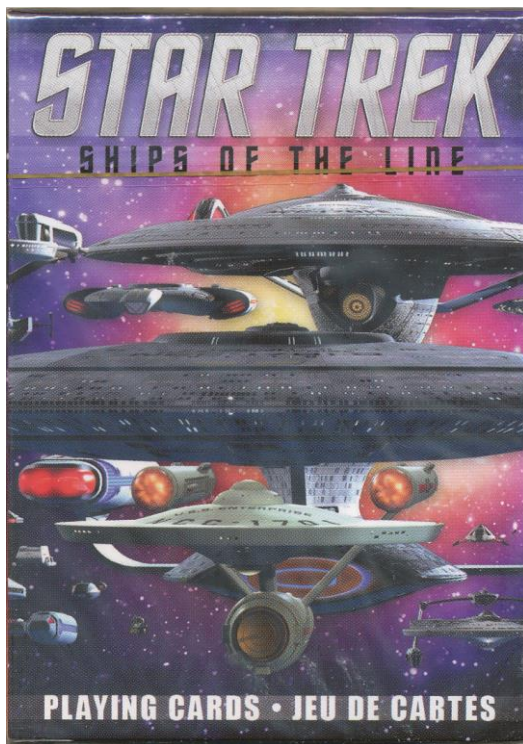


## 6. Ships of the Line (2015)

Designed in Canada and manufactured in China, the backs of these cards show various Star Trek ships while the fronts show (mostly) individual ships.

[Star Trek Ships of the Line](#) began as a 2001 calendar designed in 2000, showing images of Star Trek ships. A [book of the images](#) was released in 2006, and an updated version was released in 2014, edited by [Doug Drexler](#) and [Margaret Clark](#). The "Ships of the Line" images are also available on a jigsaw puzzle, a poster book, and maybe other merchandise as well.

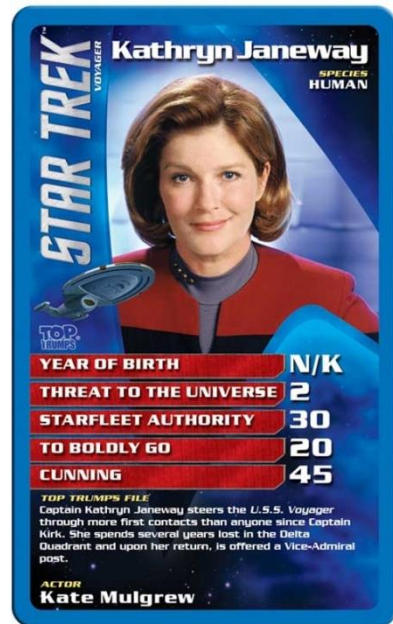
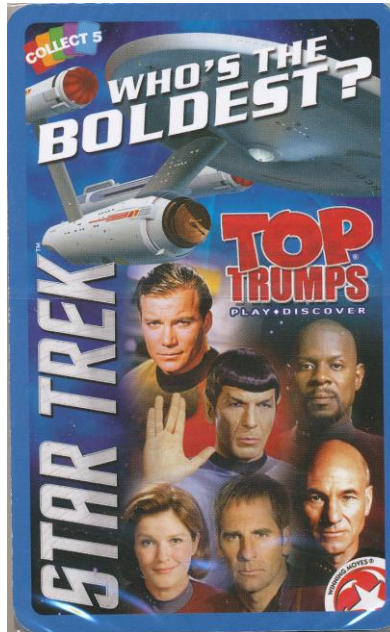
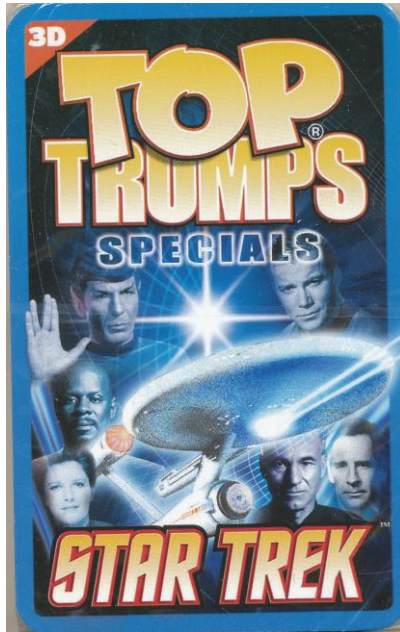
The website link on the deck, [www.aquariusimages.com](http://www.aquariusimages.com), redirects to [nmrdistribution.cameoez.com](http://nmrdistribution.cameoez.com), which bills itself as "purveyors of pop culture". The site sells [various Star Trek merchandise](#).



## 7. Top Trumps

Top Trumps cards contain categories and values. A player chooses a category; the player who plays the card with the highest value in that category takes the trick. One Star Trek deck was released in 2009, and another in 2017.

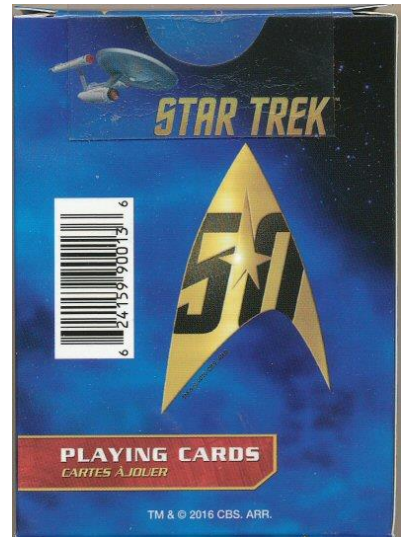
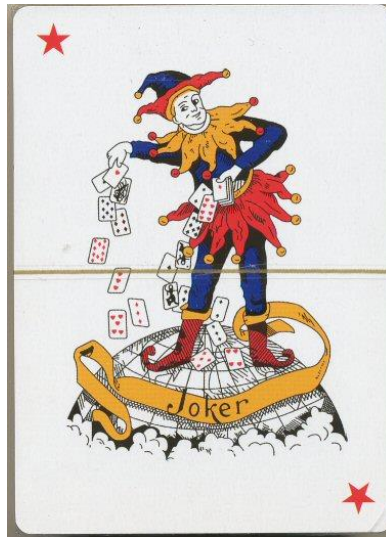
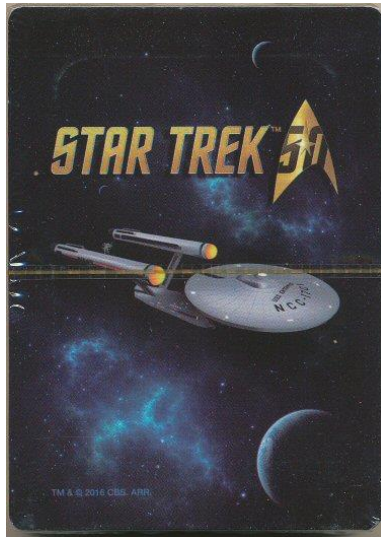
The original Top Trumps was launched by a company named Dubreq in 1978. Dubreq was taken over by Waddingtons in 1982, and they made decks until the early 1990s. In 1999 the game was purchased by Winning Moves UK, who currently makes Top Trumps decks with a variety of themes.



## 8. Star Trek 50th Anniversary

Based on the box design, I'm guessing these were designed in Canada. The backs of these cards show the Enterprise and the Star Trek 50 logo while the fronts show regular card faces.

The box includes the text "HUNTER" and "[www.huntercanada.ca](http://www.huntercanada.ca)". However, that website seems to be an SEO firm.

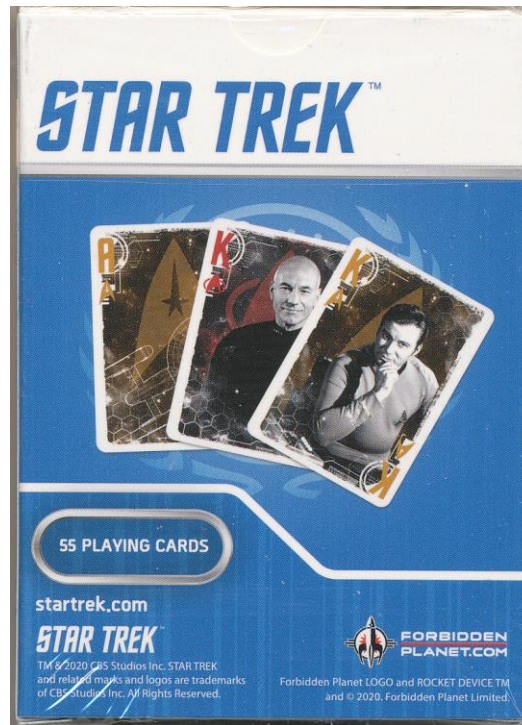
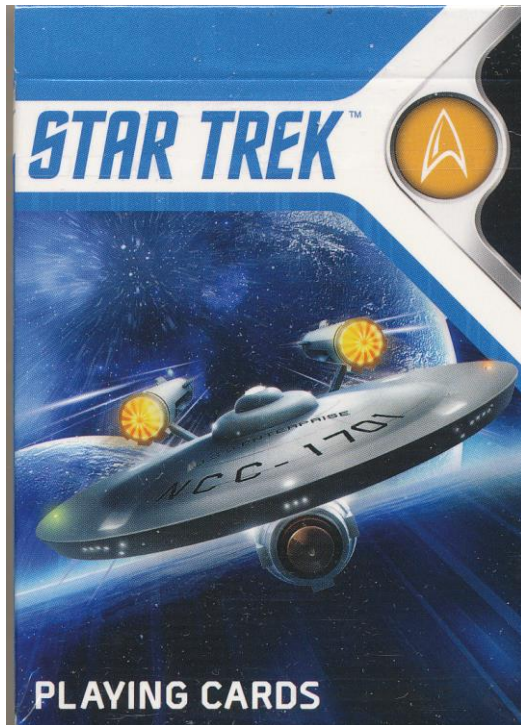




## 9. Forbidden Planet (2021)

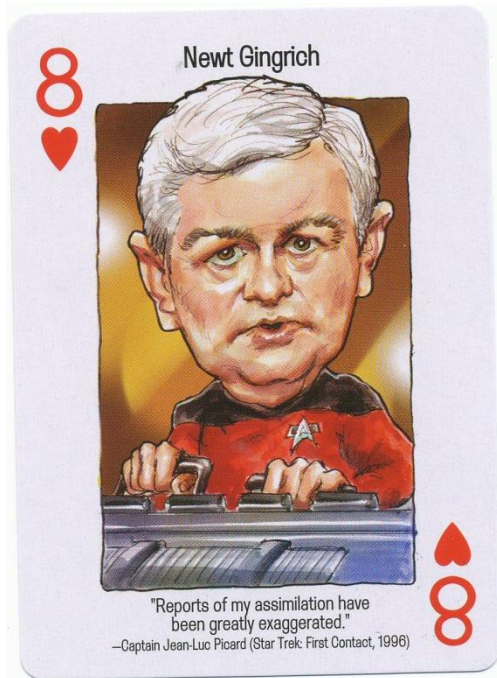
A limited edition from [Forbidden Planet](https://www.thetrekcollective.com/2020/03/the-best-star-trek-playing-cards.html), this deck contains one suit for each of four Star Trek franchises: TOS, Next Generation, Deep Space 9, and Voyager. The face cards are characters from the show while the number cards show the series delta. Three jokers are included: Q, Garak, and Quark. The Trek Collective wonders if this is the best deck of ST playing cards:

<https://www.thetrekcollective.com/2020/03/the-best-star-trek-playing-cards.html>



#### 10. Newt Gingrich Politicard (2008)

Politicards are political parody playing cards produced by artist Peter Green. The 2008 deck was movie-themed, and the card for former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich featured a Star Trek theme.



### 11. Enterprise Back (2023)

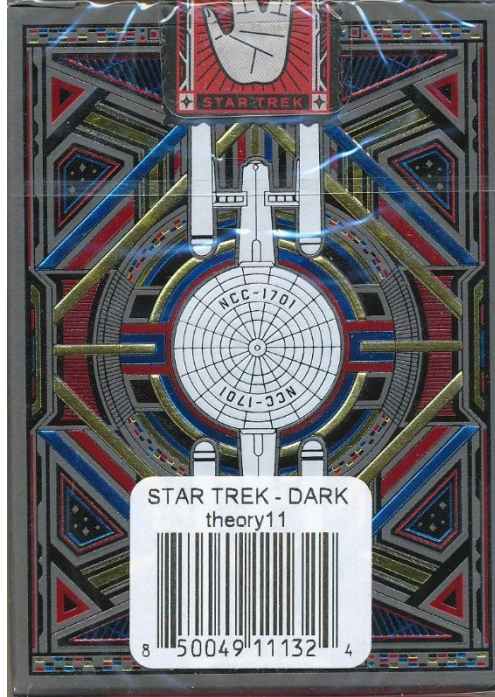
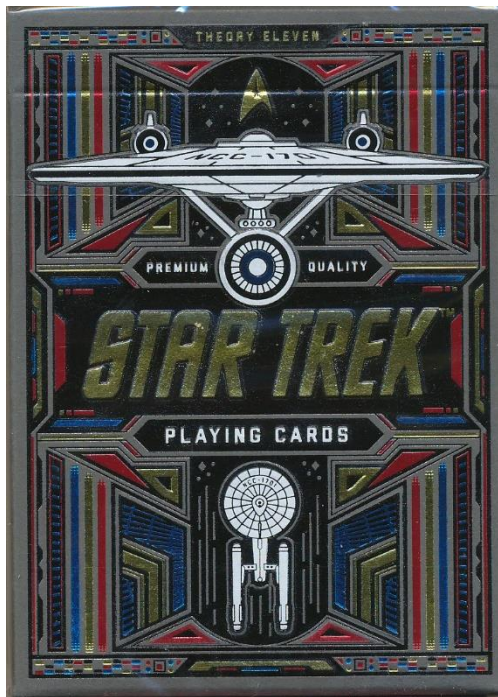
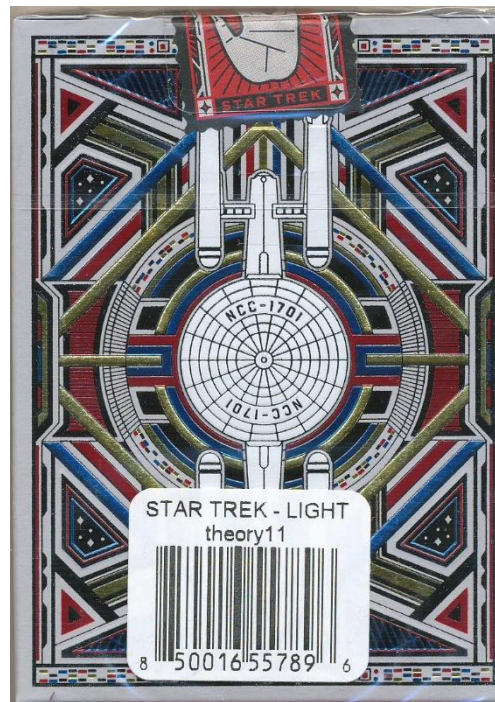
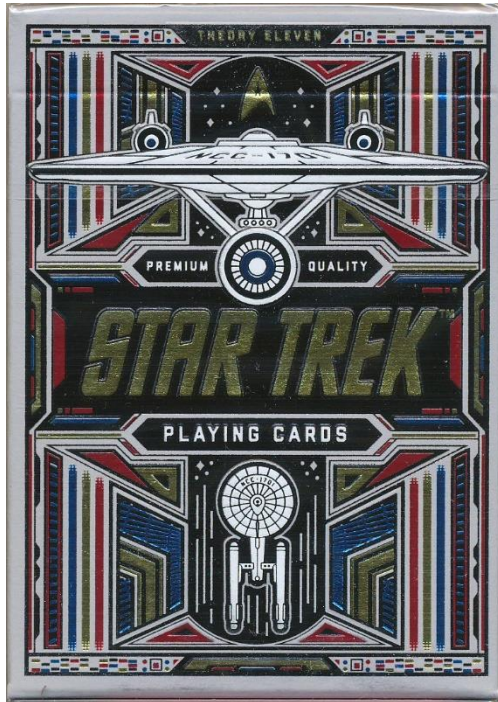
From initial investigation, it appears as though these cards were distributed to people who purchased a Star Trek Loot Crate.





## 12. Theory 11 (2023)

Commemorating multiple shows/movies, these cards come in a “light” deck and a “dark” deck.



## VIII. Star Trek Playing Card Concepts

Several talented folks have designed Star Trek Playing Cards. I don't think any of these have actually been printed, but you never know...

### 1. Kail Tescar

Kail Tescar has a website commemorating Star Trek: The Animated Series. On this site is a page showing [artwork for a deck of playing cards](#).

### 2. Camika Blackwell

[Camika Blackwell](#) created [four different Star Trek Playing Card designs](#) (Captain, Science Officer, Chief Engineer, and Chief Medical Officer) as a personal project.

### 3. Dashiell M. Silva

[Dashiell M. Silva](#) made a deck of Star Trek playing cards as a personal project. The back design is [here](#).

### 4. Amy Bauld

Amy Bauld made a diamond suit of Star Trek playing cards as a personal project. The design is [here](#).