

WITCH TOOLS

Many witches prefer to work naked. Nudity is a symbol of freedom from the mundane world, because clothing tends to hinder the growth of psychic and magical power and the Goddess said to be naked as a sign of freedom and equality. Other witches, however, prefer to wear robes as a sign of equality. That depends upon the tradition of the witch and their training and preferences. As in every technology, wicca requires certain tools to properly perform the Rites and the Magics. The witch has rules of her/his own regarding her/his physical tools (there are also male witches). They are consecrated, made, adapted, made holy, stored, cleaned and a number of other things, to make them proper objects for the religion. It cannot be emphasized enough that a witch's most important tool is her/his mind - that is what summons and directs magical power. Physical tools are only external aids, which enable you to focus better. Without focus, you can have all the tools in the world and they will do you no good. Some of the tools can make your spells more effective because they increase your concentration and help you to visualize. The spells that work are the ones that have intense concentration and emotion behind them. I will describe some of the physical tools and the purposes they serve.

The Altar

For spell-casting purposes, the altar is the surface on which the spell is worked. It symbolizes the centre of the self and the centre of the universe. It is the focus and support for the magical energy you raise.

Amulet

An item that, when worn, protects the wearer from evil.

Athame

Athame is witch's magical knife. This usually double-edged dagger with a black handle (black absorbs energy) is highly personal tool of The Craft and represents the witch's magical identity and will. It is used for drawing the magic circle, making ritual objects and projecting power. It

is normally never used to cut anything physical and should never have “tasted blood”. When an athame has been in use for some time it becomes palpably charged with magical energy.

Bell

It is sometimes used in rituals for summoning spirits and because of the magical properties of certain vibrations of sound that it starts. Bells can either be rung by the witch or by the spirits she summons. It is believed that spirits and fairies will ring bells when they enter the room. Bells are rung to ward off bad spirits or to signify the beginning or end of a ritual, sometimes even to alert the four quarters.

Book of Shadows

It is the witch’s journal of rituals, prayers, meditations, charms, recipes, invocations, spells and other bits of magical information. It contains a complete record of the witch’s magical working. Witches should regard and treat their Books of Shadows with esteem and honour. When they aren’t using it, they wrap it in silk or velvet and keep it in a safe place. Nobody else should have the access to it because it is a repository for one’s magical energy.

Broom

Witches use brooms in magic and rituals. They begin rituals by sweeping the area in which the circle is to be cast clean and visualising as they do so all the negative energy being swept outward and away. The magical broom should only be used for ritual purposes (never to do one’s housework).

Bolline

This white-handled knife is a tool of cutting and working. It is used for cutting herbs, wands, plants, inscribing candles...

Bowls

They are used for holding the salt, water and other things. They can be any type, as long as they are practical.

Candles and candlesticks

There are different kinds of candles. Long tapers can be substituted for wands in most rituals, white votives and tea lights may be left on the altar, and figural candles (hands, hearts...) are common in candle magic. In these rituals, a candle of the appropriate colour is anointed with magical oil and burned as a part of a spell. Candlesticks are used to hold the candles. One is normally placed at the south for the old (ever burning) flame. Two are either matching or have a symbolic meaning of male and female (Goddess and God). Use of others depends on the ritual.

Cauldron

This quintessential witch's tool is the one that most people associate with a witch. The cauldron is for mixing potions and brews and symbolizes fertility.

Censer

The censer is an incense burner. Burning incense cleans and purifies your sacred space. It is often placed before the images of the deities on the altar.

Chalice

Chalice or cup is one of the four elemental tools because it represents the Element of Water in Calling of the quarters. It is placed on the altar. It is generally used to hold the ritual wine but it can also be used for holding water or other ritual purposes. It can be made of any substance. Some legends state that a normal human can gain magical power by drinking holy water, blood, or nearly anything from a white chalice but they are generally rumours.

Crystal sphere

It is used to contemplate divination. It can be used on the altar.

The Cord

It is used for binding things and for performing cord magic.

Dip pen and inks

These are used for writing out your desires during workings. Dove's Blood ink and Dragon's Blood ink are generally used.

Mortar and Pestle

They are used for grinding herbs and mixing other ingredients.

Parchment paper

This kind of paper is used for writing your desires on for particular workings.

Pentacle

Of all the symbols and tools used in witchcraft, this is probably the most misunderstood, due to its extensive use in the dark arts. The pentacle is usually a flat piece of metal (gold or brass is often preferred) or wood inscribed with a pentagram, a five-pointed star with a single point on top. The points are for elements air, water, earth and fire. The fifth point is for the element spirit and it governs the rest. It is used to consecrate objects such as amulets and charms or to invoke spirits. The pentacle is also a traditional symbol of protection and is one of the official symbols of many witch traditions. The pentacle, used by good witches, is not to be confused with the version commonly associated with demonic summoning rituals, which is inverted (two points up).

Salt

Salt is another one of the four elemental tools and it represents the Element of Earth. It is placed on the altar.

Staff

It is the larger version of the wand and it has the same attributes and uses. It is used in covens for calling meetings to order. The person who is holding the staff has the floor.

Sword

A witch sometimes uses sword in much the same way as an athame or wand. It projects power and invokes and compels spirits.

Wand

Wand can be used to direct energy, scratch magical symbols in the ground or to stir contents of a cauldron. It is made of wood and many witches carve special symbols into the wood to personalize the wand. Different woods have different meanings.

There are some other tools that are also used by witches. For a few of the tools it is believed that they are a direct result of the persecution of witches over the centuries. Tools are simply a way to direct and focus energy for magical workings. They have no power except for what the witch gives them. They should be consecrated or cleaned before use to clear them of any lingering negative energies.

mundane - not interesting or exciting

to hinder - to make it difficult; ovirati, zadrževati

robe - halja

preference - a greatest interest in or desire for sb/sth; prednost, posebna nagnjenost

to consecrate - to state officially in a religious ceremony that sth is holy and can be used in religious purposes

to adapt - change sth in order to make it suitable for a new use or situation; prilagoditi, prikrojiti, usposobiti, predelati

emphasised - given special importance to; poudarjeno

summon - to order sb to come to you; pozvati, sklicati, poslati po

aid - help that you need to perform a particular task; pomoč, podpora

visualise - to form a picture of sb/sth in your mind

intense - very great, very strong, extreme; močan, ognjevit

spell - words that are thought to have magic power or to make a piece of magic work; urok

to cast a spell - use the words that are thought to be magic and have the power to change or influence sb/sth; izreči urok

dagger - a short pointed knife that is used as a weapon; bodalo

palpable - easily noticed by the mind or the senses; otipljiv, razumljiv

fairy - a creature like a small person, who has magic powers; vila

ward sb/sth off - to protect or defend yourself against danger, illness, attack etc.

to signify - to be a sign of sth, to mean sth

to alert - to make sb aware of sth

to charm - to control or protect sb/sth using magic, or as if using magic; začarati
invocation - the act of asking for help, from a god or from a person in authority; the act of referring to sth or of calling for sth to appear; prošnja, zaklinjanje
regard - respect or admiration for sb/sth; častiti, spoštovati
velvet - žamet
repository - a place where a large number of things can be kept or stored; a person or book that is full of information; skladišče, shramba
taper - a long thin candle; tenka voščena sveča
votive - zaobljuba
anoint - to put oil or water on sb's head as a part of a religious ceremony; maziliti, namazati
deity - a god or goddess; božanstvo
brew - zvarek
contemplate - to think carefully about and accept the possibility of sth happening
divination - the act of finding out and saying what will happen in the future
bind - povezati, zvezati, zavezati
dove - golob, golobica
grind - mleti
brass - medenina, bron
attribute - a quality or feature of sb/sth; lastnost, karakteristika
compel - to cause a particular reaction; prisiliti, izsiliti
stir - to move a liquid or substance around, using a spoon or sth similar, in order to mix it thoroughly; pomešati
lingering - slow to end or disappear; odlašujoč, zavlačujoč
cord - vrv
parchment paper - pargamentni papir
staff - palica, drog