

Well, when I first volunteered to give this presentation I had just thought it would be a quickie on making your own tools, why it's important etc. But, as per the last PSA meeting it became important that people learn about putting together a portable altar kit as well, so.. Here we go.. Once you have decided what it really important to you as far as magickal tools go, and it may not be a whole lot or it could be a bundle, then you have to work on making it portable. Now, the basics are, a pentacle, a chalice or drinking horn depending on tradition or what is easier to carry, and a wand. Usually you will also have a cloth of some kind to use to spread out wherever you are and an incense burner or at least incense. Then you may have a couple of crystals and a fetish or two that fits in your medicine bag and possibly some candles. Maybe a rattle if you wish. This is what I call 'altar to go'.

I have a very nice mini-pentacle that was made as a gift for me by a dear friend (thank you  [vampyrecandy](#)). A drinking horn which due to the curve of it takes less space than a chalice. A couple of wands, some crystals, incense... Does this sound familiar? And I also have a few divination tools too.

If I have to lay them out on a cloth on the ground that's good. Though last year when I was living in a hotel room for four and a half months I spread them out on the dresser.. Oh, did I forget to mention a knife? Well that's up to you as to if you want a fancy ritual knife in your portable altar kit. Personally, I just use a pocket knife. It folds up nicely and gets the job done. If you are going to carry candles in your 'medicine bag' which is what I call my carry around tool kit then you will want

reasonably small ones. At first thought votives would be the thing, but frankly they do take up a bit of space because of how wide they are and they cost a bit much. Unless you need them for 'candle magick' where you are working with a specific color I go for the sabbath candles you can get in almost any KROGERS. A box of about twelve costs around a dollar and they are around four and a half inches long or so. they're white which is good for an 'all purpose' kind of thing and will fit neatly into your medicine bag when you're ready to walk out the door.

It has been pointed out to me that I may not have made myself clear when I was trying to state that the meaning behind the ceremony and what is in your heart are more important than what tools you bring to it when trying to 'select' just the right ones to slip into that 'altar to go' we are talking about.

I honestly think that no matter how much time you spend assembling your medicine bag if you are only putting together ingredients as per a 'formula' and you don't put yourself into the ritual that you are conducting, that is to say there is no reverence for deity no matter which one(s) you worship then all the preparations in the world are meaningless. The reason that we use the things that we do in ritual is to help us separate ourselves from our daily reality, not just as symbols. So, the less that it takes for you to make your space sacred, the better off you are. Eventually you may even be able to 'carry your sacred space with you'. That does not mean you will do away with all the tools which are given to us but that when you do utilize them in ritual they will help you to focus better than before.

I hope that in some small way this has been of assistance to you in making constructive suggestions on what to put in your 'medicine bag'.

Magickal Tools – When To Make Your Own Vs. When To Buy--

1)Finances. Most magickal items of any real quality cost a pretty penny. So, if you are going to have to resort to buying be prepared to pay. Thus, if you have any skill at all and are able to utilize it, it's usually best to make your own tools.

This leads into the point of when is it appropriate to buy your tools. Well, there are going to be things you simply have not yet (and may never depending on your inclinations)developed. The tools that you will be buying will more than likely be very specialized, in these cases you may not have the necessary skills to produce such specialized materials. There is nothing wrong with that in any way shape or form. It's better to get something that has been expertly made by someone who has put a great deal of time and effort into perfecting their craft than to attempt to make a shoddy product that would then cause results you would not even wish to imagine...

2)As the saying goes, "as above so below" it can be true from the other end as well. When we do not put forth our best efforts the energy that reverberates is 'imperfect' and that can cause "unpredictable results". When one is working toward evolution through magick or even just casting a basic spell it is always best to make certain that you have done everything you can so that your results will be exactly what you intended to occur.

3)The intent factor. No matter how pretty and nice something is that you feel 'called to' in a shop. You will always know exactly what the intent was that went into it. The amount of caring and joy permitted into it. Often when someone makes something for 'sale' they may have a lot of technical skill but they may refrain from putting 'too much of themselves' into it because they don't want to part with a part of themselves. While this is wise in one way in another it also leaves out a part of the creation process itself. If one does not intend to 'create from within' then the spark 'fizzles' after a certain point and the product does not necessarily function at full power. There are ways around this which I will discuss with you, however. For example if you have something custom made and you work very hard to earn the money to pay for it the intent that it takes to earn the money for it will make up your 'part' in making the item.

4)When you make your tools you are able to direct exactly what

purpose it is that you are making the tool(s) for in the first place. For example, if you are making a wand, you may wish to make it as plain or as symbolic as you wish.. carving it into an animal fetish such as a bird's head for example (which I have done) or you may wish to leave it simple and plain depending on your needs. Of course there are far more complex tools that you can concentrate on as well, such as runes...

Now, getting down to particulars. I went on a shopping trip in order to find things for this class that an individual would be hard pressed to make for themselves. For me this was rather difficult because I am something of a Jane of All Trades up to a point. So, I went out with my friend Brian to Mystic Forest Treasures and Feed Your Spirit looking for inspiration.. I talked with Natasha and her suggestion was stones. She of course also suggested to just let my intuition guide me... So I walked around for a bit and looked at things... What I ended up with was a statue of Ganesh.. He is a Hindu god of prosperity as well as knowledge. Ever since I was a child I have had a very close link with him and though I am not a practicing Hindu by any means I felt a desire to have a statue of him for quite some time.. Though statues aren't expensive over all I am pretty picky about what I buy, and I think that is a good thing when obtaining magickal tools. Though some might not see statuary of gods as a magickal tool I honestly feel that anything that allows you a clearer link with deity is a tool and should be encouraged to be brought into your home. So, don't be afraid to wait for exactly what you want instead of feeling that you 'have to have something' right now. In point of fact. There was a beautiful rose quartz point that was in my price range, I have been wanting rose quartz for some time. But I want it in the shape of an egg. For me the fertility symbolism in the egg is very important and so instead of getting the point I ordered an egg. Picky? Yes. But I will get what I need. Rather than filling a 'want', of the moment. Brian did need and want the rose quartz point so he picked it up. We then moved on to Feed Your Spirit. I talked with Sue and she also suggested stones... So, seeing as how she, and Natasha both seemed directed there I took that as an indicator that I probably was lacking something... I looked at some crystals and other stones Sue has had for quite a while and was drawn to a piece of Blue Lace Agate. I asked her if she had information on it and she allowed me to research it. It turns out that on several levels Blue Lace Agate has something to offer me. Due to health concerns it covers two specific areas... You don't really need details I'm sure.. It

also is connected with the birth sign of pisces which I happen to be. So.. Off I went very satisfied that I had made a match for myself that would increase my overall well being. The statue will go in my kitchen to bring prosperity to all my endeavors as I prepare things for people I care for. This is a pretty common practice in India. The Blue Lace Agate can go from altar to medicine bag, it is small and easily transportable... Thus I can benefit from it wherever I go.. Even putting it in my purse should the need arise... When I set out on my shopping expedition I had specifically looked for one 'permanent' place thing and one 'transportable'. The reason for this was so that I could give an overall experience that might benefit others. My purchases were within the \$12-\$14 range so are pretty affordable even for a college student and this also was something I tried to aim for.

Now, getting back into the particulars of what will or will not limit what you purchase. Most individuals will not have the materials or skills to make their own metal statuary. You might carve wooden statues over a period of time.. but that will take dedication to learning the skill of carving/whittling so it will not be something you do overnight. So, if you want a statue that has been made in a particular way you will probably have to buy it. Realize you don't have to spend a fortune if you don't want to. Also, the subject of crystals and other stones as well as resins such as amber. Well, if you had the time and money you could go out and mine them. But, most individuals don't. Also, it takes skill to cut them to points or shape them into balls, or hexihedrons etc. So you will probably be better off purchasing your crystals/stones. You can purchase raw amber, and carve it into objects but again going out and harvesting it is probably impractical. You get the general idea. depending on the amount of time you have to invest will depend on how many of your tools you make. Also, some things are just too specialized to even attempt without learning the skills that go into making them and then obtaining the materials. For example, making a singing bowl, or other such instruments which resonate. That takes a very Specialized Skill. I'm not saying you can't learn it. But it will take training and you will then need to have the materials and tools for making it accessible to you. Again realize that I am generalizing based on my experiences, each individual makes their own decisions as to what is and is not of value to learn. For example, metalwork is not my thing, my brother Ray on the other hand is learning more and more about metalwork every day. So there you have it. Each individual to

their own interests and talents. I hope that this has been of assistance to you in finding what will be practical for you in the future.

Ganesh

A Popular Deity

On the 4th day of the bright half of Bhadrapad, the great festival of Ganesh or Ganpati is celebrated. This festival marked the birthday of Lord Ganesh. Ganpati is one of the most popular deities. He is worshipped by both Shaivites and Vaishnavites. Even Buddhists and Jains have respect for Ganpati. He is considered to be an avatar of both Shiva and Vishnu.

Ganpati is the god of learning. He is addressed as the "Remover of Obstacles" ("Vignaharta"). His devotees believe that no enterprise will succeed unless he is invoked. The picture of Ganpati is often found on the doors of houses and printed on wedding cards. On the occasion of the Ganpati festival a large number of images are made of all possible sizes, and people buy them to keep in their houses as a divine guest for one and a half, five, seven, or ten days, after which the image is taken out ceremoniously and thrown into the river, sea or well for immersion or "visarjan". When he is immersed in the water, people sing, "GANPATI BAPPA MORYA, AGLE BARAS TO JALDI AA," ("father Ganpati, next year come again.")

Parvati's Bath and Shankar's Ire

The mythological basis of the celebration is found in the Puranas. One day Parvati was taking bath. She wanted someone to watch outside. She got the idea of making an idol out of the dirt that came from her body. She placed the idol outside. Then her husband Shankar came. The idol dutifully did not allow him to enter. Shankar was furious. In an instant he severed the head of the idol.

Parvati finished her bath and came out. She explained to her husband the reason for placing the idol before the door. It was an idol of her own making. In fact the idol was her son ("manas putra"), and consequently also Shankar's son. Shankar felt sorry for what he had done. His servant Gan was standing nearby. Shankar ordered him to go and bring the head of the first living being he would meet. The servant saw an elephant, and he at once cut his head and took it to Shankar. Shankar joined the elephant's head to the body of Parvati's son. "Gaj" means elephant and "anan" means head, so Parvati's son became known as "Gajanan". Shankar made him the deity of his armies and thus his name became Ganesh ("Gan" = army, "Ish" = god) or Ganpati which means "The Lord of Hosts" .

This God of knowledge and the remover of obstacles is also the

older son of Lord Shiva. Lord Ganesha is also called Vinayak (knowledgeable) or Vighneshwer (god to remove obstacles). He is worshipped, or at least remembered, in the beginning of any auspicious performance for blessings and auspiciousness.

He has four hands, elephant's head and a big belly. His vehicle is a tiny mouse. In his hands he carries a rope (to carry devotees to the truth), an axe (to cut devotees' attachments), and a sweet dessert ball -laddoo- (to reward devotees for spiritual activity). His fourth hand's palm is always extended to bless people.

A unique combination of his elephant-like head and a quick moving tiny mouse vehicle represents tremendous wisdom, intelligence, and presence of mind.

Links about Ganesh:

<http://perso.club-internet.fr/ganapati/anglais/indexe.html>

<http://www.lotussculpture.com/ganesh1.htm>

The story of how ganesh got his elephant head:

<http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/manorlh/hinduism/ganesh.html>

http://www.dalsabzi.com/Mantras/mantra_of_lord_ganesh.htm

Amethyst has been known as the most highly prized form of quartz. It is the presence of manganese in quartz that produces the purple color, and iron content varies the coloration. Amethyst may be found throughout the world; specimens are from Brazil and Uruguay.

Amethyst, Mythological Maiden - Bacchus, the god of wine, declared in a rage that the first person he passes will be eaten by tigers. This turns out to be a beautiful maiden named Amethyst. The goddess Diana quickly turned Amethyst into a white stone to save her from the tigers. Regretting his anger, Bacchus poured red wine over the stone as an offering to Diana, so turning the stone purple. Amethyst has long been associated with relieving hangovers, or curing drunkenness, probably as a result of its wine-like color and the Bacchus tale.

Metaphysical Attributes: Physical representative of the Violet Ray. Cuts through illusion. Enhances psychic abilities. Excellent for meditation. Aids channeling abilities. Sedative, protective. Enhances feeling of contentment, and a connection to one's spirituality. Stone of peace and strength. Activates crown chakra.

Amethyst is the birthstone for February, and is associated with the signs of Pisces, Virgo, Aquarius, and Capricorn.

This agrees a great deal with what I read earlier today.

Traditional Birthstone:

None

Zodiac Association(s):

Pisces & Gemini

Numerical Association(s):

5

Associated Chakra(s):

Heart, Throat, Third-Eye & Crown

General Description:

Blue Lace Agate displays bands of light blue and white in widely varying widths.

Metaphysical Properties:

Blue Lace Agate contains the energies of flight, air, grace and movement. It is especially attuned to those with light blue in their auras. It is said to have been used in the past to purify water. Blue Lace Agate is often helpful in the treatment of broken bones, capillary blockages, and aid in digestion.

Blue Lace Agate variety is a semi-translucent, pale sky blue to pale periwinkle blue semi-precious gemstone. The characteristic white banding resembles lace. Mystical Properties: Blue Lace Agate is an important gemstone in relief of stress and tension. It's thought to bring peace and harmony to its wearer.

Blue Lace Agate, surrounded by burning light blue candles is thought to reduce household tensions and quarrels.

Thought useful in aiding biofeedback and meditation.

It is said to be important to the 5th and 6th Chakras.

According to Edgar Cayce, one of the most famous Psychics of our day, agate is "an incense to the finer self that makes for an awakening, an opening of the inner self for the receptiveness. An attunement is made through such vibrations."

Agates have long been thought magical, curing everything from thirst, the evil-eye, the bites of scorpions (Sicilian Agate), insomnia, bad dreams, intestinal troubles, skin diseases, and increase fertility (green varieties).

Bishop Marbodius of Rennes in the 12th Century said Agates make

their possessors more eloquent, prudent and amiable.

Ancient Moslems believed powdered agate drank in water, would cure insanity.

Western Astrology associates Agate with the Moon and Cancer.

Considered lucky for men named "Albert" and women named "Agnes".

Chakras associated with blue lace agate are:

6th - "3rd Eye"

Ajna Clairvoyance

Intuition

Psychic Senses

and

5th - "Throat"

Vishuddha Communication

Creativity

Healing

and

4th - "Heart"

Anahata Love

Hope

Compassion

Moldavite is a green translucent silica meteoric glass created by a large cosmic velocity meteorite which vaporized when it struck the earth in Nordlingen, Germany, creating the Reis Crater. A small percentage of that vapor was propelled into the ionosphere by the impact explosion through the hole punched in the earth's dense atmosphere. When this silica vapor reached the cold of outer space, it condensed then solidified and fell back to earth creating a strewn field of lime green tektite, several hundred miles away in the Moldau River Valley north of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Thus the name Moldavite. There are several location names for different areas of the valley where Moldavite is dug from the ground. The finest specimens are the Besed Nice, valued for their color, texture, and beauty. Moldavite is one of the rarest varieties of tektite.

Metaphysical Properties: Stone of communication. Stimulates cooperation and transfer of energies between those of extra-terrestrial origins and those inhabiting earth.

Moldavite works well with the third eye, throat and crown chakras. It corresponds to all astrological signs.

Quartz is often referred to as "Rock Crystal" and is the crystal clear transparent variety of crystalline quartz. There are many varieties, "Herkimer Diamonds" are a form of very clear, doubly terminated quartz crystals. Mystical Properties: Quartz has a long and lengthy history with regards to spiritual uses.

It has been used throughout the centuries to divine the future and commune with spirits--this belief spans many cultures including Western, Chinese, Medieval European and Celtic. The stone's ability to align one's psychic self with the cosmos is often ascribed to the stone's piezoelectric properties (becomes electrically charged under pressure). Quartz is not only piezoelectric, but pyroelectric--in that heating quartz also charges the stone electrically. Esoterics believe that in the same way quartz is used in computer chips to transmit information, it can also be used to commune with the spirit world, higher spirits and angel guides. It is often said to "amplify" psychic power.

The Japanese revered rock crystal as the crystallized breath of the White Dragon (dragons represent powers of creation). The purity of the gem impressed them as unattainable, but desirable perfection.

Hindu Astrology assigns Rock Crystal (Quartz) as a secondary gem of Taurus and Libra.

Quartz is an important stone in subduing the 2nd or Sacral Chakra and for opening the 7th or Crown Chakra.

American Indians and Aboriginal Indians believed rituals with quartz crystals could bring rain. Quartz has also had a large part in ritual initiations of Shamans.

An Aztec solid rock crystal skull weighing 475 troy ounces, resides in the British Museum.

The Chinese decorated the entry ways to religious temples with Rock Crystal to allow the light to shine in.

As late as the 1700's many Europeans believed quartz was fossilized ice.

Traditional gift for a 15th Wedding Anniversary.

Said to favor men named "Robert".

Said to be a lucky for Japan and Switzerland, and those of Japanese or Swiss descent.

Healing Properties: Increase the body's natural healing abilities, remove aches and pains. Rutilated quartz is said to have anti-aging properties.

Scientific Properties: Clear Quartz crystals are composed of Silicon Dioxide with very few impurities. Impurities change crystalline quartz to a citrine (yellow), amethyst (purple), smoky quartz (gray/brown), green/peach/blue aventurine.

Doubly terminated quartz crystals are referred to as "Herkimer Diamonds".

Found around the world, known localities include India, Pakistan, Japan, Brazil and Arkansas, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and West Virginia USA. Hardness: 7.0 on the Moh's Hardness Scale

Charkras it is associated with are: 7th - "Crown"
Sahasrara Understanding
Cosmic Consciousness
Enlightenment

And

2nd - "Sacral"
Svadhithana Emotions
Sexuality
Intimacy

boy did I hit a landmine on quartz:

Healing Properties of Quartz, Mental, Physical and Spiritual from the New Age and Medical Science

Quartz mental, physical and spiritual healing qualities and uses from Medical Science, New Age, Holistic Healing and history.

The use of Crystals for crystal healing or gem healing, has

been linked to mental, physical, spiritual health, charkas' energy, whose Healing Power followers of the New Age, Psychic Healing and Atlantis and Crystal Healers have long revered for relieving pain, stress, depression, anxiety in the mind, body and spirit. Spiritual Healers believe this approach to alternative medicine is essential for ensuring health.

For Spiritual Healers, no stone is as essential to their craft as quartz. Embodying all the qualities they seek, it is the quintessential healing crystal. Part of this faith they place in Quartz comes from its scientific properties that make it useful in electronic devices. From this one truth, Crystal Healers make huge leaps in logic. They believe that its crystal formation can align the harmonies within the human body, that they can "program" the crystal easily, that acupuncture needles coated with quartz are more effective, and that it has the ability to receive and send energy. There are countless varieties of Quartz, but JewelrySupplier.com has chosen to focus on four major types for this investigation into Quartz Healing myths, Clear Quartz, Rose Quartz, Rutilated Quartz and Smoky Quartz. The healing myths associated with other Quartz varieties, usually considered different enough from Clear Quartz to warrant their own discussion are Amethyst, Carnelian, and Citrine.

Quartz Use in Physical Healing

Clear Quartz-One of the traditional healing stones believed to draw out pain and amplify healing energy. Crystal Healers use clear Quartz in rituals meant to treat convulsions, diarrhea, dizziness, exposure to radiation, general pain, hemorrhages, headaches, hypochondria and kidney diseases.

Rose Quartz-They use Rose Quartz for treating cardiovascular health, fertility, headaches, kidney disease, migraines and sexual dysfunction, as well as those disorders occurring in the throat, ears, nose and sinuses.

Rutilated Quartz-Believed by New Agers to have the power to regenerate the body's tissues, aid in the assimilation of nutritional elements, bolster the immune system, and slow the advancement of aging diseases. They also credit it with treating respiratory illnesses and being able to uncover the true cause of an illness.

Smoky Quartz-In the world of spiritual healing, this stone

treats problems associated with the area of the lower torso including, the sexual organs, kidneys, abdomen, pancreas, where healers use it to treat everything from STDs to kidney disease, menstrual cramps and fertility. Further uses include strengthening the adrenal glands and regulating bodily fluids.

Quartz Use in Mental Healing

Clear Quartz-For emotional healing, spiritualists believe this crystal to be an important self-esteem stone. They credit it with having the ability to treat the traumas of a neglectful or abusive childhood, to balance chaotic emotions and to increase emotional energy and motivate for action. Other mental healing uses for those who follow the New Age cult include increasing insight and intuition, helping a person to avoid the traps of self-pity, helping one to achieve the ultimate potential and easing meditation and harmony.

Rose Quartz-For believers, Rose Quartz is the essential stone for increasing love and for times of extreme emotional turmoil, such as divorce, bereavement or career set backs because it helps to remind the wearer of the importance of self-love. It stimulates the body's love centers and can result in peace and fidelity in committed relationships. As one of the most important crystals for attracting love it does emotional maintenance clearing out emotional baggage, converting negative emotions, and calms hot tempers, all of which prepare us for love. The stone is also recommended for improving mental discipline and making one more responsible, and for meditation and mental tranquility.

Rutilated Quartz-This is an important stone for uncovering the root of mental hang-ups, strengthening resolve, easing the pain of loneliness and improving communication. It is also has the effect of unburdening the mind of guilt, which can lead to a state more conducive of happiness and inspiration. It can help get the wearer out of ruts where he or she is given over to sloth or wantonness. Its needles are said to attract love and to help with mental focus.

Smoky Quartz-Crystal healers believe it will help the wearer reach personal and business goals, by bringing pure emotions of patience, perseverance and innocence. As a stone of purity, it can calm the mind, ease depression, and cure addiction and obsession, as well as removing negative feelings of jealousy,

anger, burnout and fear. It also helps with prioritizing wants and needs, transitioning into new stages of the life cycle, and creativity.

Quartz Healing and the Chakras

Clear Quartz-According to healing myths, Clear Quartz is essential for all Chakra healing but it is especially important in Chakras associated with mental and spiritual energies, such as the Third Eye and the Crown Chakras, where it increases mental function and opens up the Spirit to holy communication.

Rose Quartz-Associated with the Heart Chakra as a crystal of Love. It attracts love and helps the wearer prepare emotionally for Love.

Rutilated Quartz-Opens the Third Eye Chakra, for spiritual communication in dreams and meditation and for stimulating the immune system. When healers do Chakra layouts, they place it near energy areas they think are sluggish.

Smoky Quartz-They believe it can channel the light of the Crown Chakra into the Base Chakra to provide grounding and relaxation help.

Links:

Quartz mythology:

http://www.jewelrystore.com/2_quartz/quartz_mythology.htm

physical properties of

quartz:http://www.jewelrystore.com/2_quartz/quartz_properties.htm

The role of quartz as per sleep/dreaming:

http://www.jewelrystore.com/2_quartz/quartz_sleepdreams.htm

Beliefs about quartz around the world:

http://www.jewelrystore.com/2_quartz/quartz_spirituality.htm

Corresponding birth&astrological signs:

http://www.jewelrystore.com/2_quartz/quartz_symbolism.htm

for wholesale quartz jewelry:<http://www.1accessorios.com/>

Tektite is a type of natural glass, chemically and structurally unique, of meteoric origin. Tektites are found on earth within a narrow equatorial belt 80 degrees wide. They have been found in Thailand, Australia, Viet Nam and the Phillipines. Tektites usually have a heavily pitted surface. Many have the appearance of being stretched while in a molten state. They appear black, but when held up to the light, you can sometimes see a golden tint in translucent areas around the edges. The exact origin of Tektites is still debated today. Two basic theories are:

- 1.) It is meteoric glass from deep space.
- 2.) It is a type of impactite produced by crater forming meteorites on the surface of the moon or earth.

Metaphysical Properties: Assists one in attaining knowledge and learning lessons throughout the travels of life. Balances the feminine/masculine, provides insight, strengthens one's energy field. Can stimulate thought transmissions.

Corresponds to the astrological signs of Aries and Cancer.