

Subject: Playing Card Variation Selectors
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Unicode unifies the playing cards; thus they can have very different presentations. For example, U+1F0A1 () PLAYING CARD ACE OF SPADES can be represented with a variety of symbols for the spade:



See, for example, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jass>






We document this in the names list and core spec. The unification means, however, that the composer of text does not know which of the possible images will appear for the recipient. While for any Unicode character the composer doesn't know the exact resulting appearance, in this case the variations are sufficiently large that people will not typically recognize the alternate images as being the same card.

While it would be theoretically possible to add more characters, that also has disadvantages, as discussed before. The simplest approach is to provide a set of variation selectors that pick among the most common forms. The following is a strawman proposal for discussion at the UTC.

Proposal: *We provide variation sequences for the following distinctions:*

- VS0 : French-style (Spade, etc. For Trumps the Bourgois Tarot style)
- VS2 : Latin-style (Sword, etc. For Trumps a "classic" style s.a. Tarot of Marseilles or Rider-Waite)
- VS4 : German-style (Leaf, etc. Doesn't apply to Trumps)
- VS6 : Swiss-style (Shield, etc. Doesn't apply to Trumps)

The odd-numbered VS characters are for the same style, but with a colorful presentation. Here are some sample presentations:

Base Code	VS0	VS1	VS2	VS3
1F0F2+...	 <p style="text-align: center;">...</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">...</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">...</p>	  <p style="text-align: center;">...</p>

It is explicitly *not* a goal to provide for variations in letters or text on the cards, such as “R” for King in French, or “La Lune” for 1FoF2. These are not necessary for recognition of the cards.

Open issues:

1. Do we also allow these to apply to U+1FoAo () PLAYING CARD BACK? (I don't see a reason to, but someone may have one.)
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Playing Cards

Playing Cards — *Spades or swords*

[U+1FoA1](#) () PLAYING CARD ACE OF SPADES

...

[U+1FoAE](#) () PLAYING CARD KING OF SPADES

Playing Cards — *Hearts or cups*

[U+1FoB1](#) () PLAYING CARD ACE OF HEARTS

...

[U+1FoBE](#) () PLAYING CARD KING OF HEARTS

Playing Cards — *Diamonds or pentacles*

[U+1FoC1](#) () PLAYING CARD ACE OF DIAMONDS

...

[U+1FoCE](#) () PLAYING CARD KING OF DIAMONDS

Playing Cards — *Clubs or wands*

[U+1FoD1](#) () PLAYING CARD ACE OF CLUBS

...

[U+1FoDE](#) () PLAYING CARD KING OF CLUBS

Playing Cards — *Trumps*

[U+1FoE0](#) () PLAYING CARD FOOL

[U+1FoE1](#) () PLAYING CARD TRUMP-1

...

[U+1FoE5](#) () PLAYING CARD TRUMP-21

Playing Cards — *Joker*

[U+1FoBF](#) () PLAYING CARD RED JOKER

[U+1FoCF](#) () PLAYING CARD BLACK JOKER

[U+1FoDF](#) () PLAYING CARD WHITE JOKER

Playing Cards — *Back of card*

[U+1FoAo](#) () PLAYING CARD BACK