

Suggestions for using your Pocket Oracle.

Each pocket oracle is unique in shape and design. Every wood has its own inherent energy and this is matched to the designs that are placed upon it.

Most of the pocket oracles carry the symbols of either the Elder Futhark runerow of 24 characters, or its final expansion in the Northumbrian, (Anglo-Saxon or English), runerow of 32 characters. For those familiar with the Germanic rune row you will see that the Anglo-Saxon (or English), rune row has the same first twenty-four runes, (though some have a slightly different shape), but there is an additional eight runes that allow a more subtle and detailed focus.

Every rune represents an aspect of universal energy, so that the whole row reflects all aspects of creation. The shape of each rune contains the energy it represents, therefore it is possible to work with them effectively even if you do not know the traditional meanings. This then allows the oracle to be 'fine-tuned' to suit every situation.

Some runes have more than one form, and these may be used if the design requires. As well as the standard rune shapes, I often use coded runes. These are simply a numerical form of each rune, which has a fixed place within the rune row as a whole. The rune row is traditionally divided into sections of eight runes (called an "aett"), so FEOH, the first rune of the first aett has the numerical value 1:1. BEORC is the second rune of the third aett and so numerically is 3:2. These will usually be represented by a central vertical stave with the appropriate number of strokes to left and right. If the coded runes are an integral part of the divination used in the pocket oracle I will usually place a reminder of how the system works somewhere in the design!

Most of the design elements of a pocket oracle will reflect in some way the numerical placement of the runes. As the reader, it is up to you to determine how each of these can be best used.

The main elements are 3, 4, 8, 24, 32.

3 represents the three aetts ($3 \times 8 = 24$) of the Elder Futhark. A division of three can also be ascribed to values of time: past, present, future, or psychological areas: physical, emotional, mental.

4 represents the four aetts of the English Futhorc ($4 \times 8 = 32$). A division of four can also represent the directions of space (north, south, east, west), or the four elements (fire, earth, air, water).

Both 3 and 4 divisions of an area can be used to designate the quality of events. The midline can thus represent the present time, the left is the past, the right is the future. The area below a horizontal line can be physical, apparent, manifesting, practical, energies. The area above a horizontal line can be potential, subtle, conceptual, mental energies.

8 designates the placement of each rune within its section of the runerow. (So, the second aett begins with HAEGLE, so its number is 1 of 2, usually shown as 1:2. The next rune is NYD. So that is 2:2, and so on. In branch runes the lines to the left of the central vertical usually represent the rune number (1 - 8) and the lines to the right are the aett number (1 - 3, or 1- 4, depending on which runerow is being used).

24 represents every rune of the Elder Futhark. Very often you will be able to count 24 lines in a design that touch the edge or outer line of an area. You will just need to decide which end represents the first rune FEOH and which the last rune DAG.

32 represents every rune of the English Futhorc. The same patterns can be seen here, though sometimes the extra aett of this rune row is added into a design of 24 by a slightly different design, (For example, if the 24 runes are shown as branches reaching a border, the extra 8 may be included as branches or spirals that do not touch the outer line. This means you can choose to work with either or both rune rows)

So, if you are wanting to identify a particular rune energy from a coded pattern, select one that can give you information on both aett and placement. It does not really matter in what order you do this as long as you are clear yourself. I tend to find the aett first and then the rune placement within that aett.

Try the following:

With a situation or issue in mind, close your eyes and then gently run a fingertip slowly over the rune symbols.

If you pay attention you will probably notice that at some places you will notice a difference in how you "feel". This is an indication of those energies that will be helpful or balancing to your situation. Simply visualise the runes becoming lively in some way. You can imagine them in front of you so that with each breath you absorb their balancing qualities. Or you can imagine them within your body. Find whichever way is best for you.

This process can be used for many different purposes. Before quietening down for meditation visualising the appropriate runes for you at that time will make the process more effortless; if are using the wand for healing work it will activate the most helpful energies; if you are needing help in a difficult situation it will smooth any obstacle or negativity.

As well as the runes themselves there are often other symbols and patterns on each oracle. These are the patterns representing the spiritual energy of the tree, its chant or mantra, and words or verses that embody the qualities of the wand or its wood. These patterns and symbols can be used in the same way as the runerow for activating and focusing your work.

For healing and balancing:

Try holding or placing the pocket oracle on your body as you relax comfortably. Passing the pocket oracle through your energy field around your body (the aura), can be equally, if not more effective, than placing upon the body - especially if you remember to activate the most helpful rune energies for each purpose.

Wood does not absorb energies or become 'tired' as crystals do, so your piece will not require regular energetic cleansing. If you like, you can pass it through incense smoke before and after use.

As an organic, flexible material, your pocket oracle may be affected by temperature and humidity. Occasional polishing with a little beeswax polish or wood oil will clean and protect it, though regular handling will usually supply enough.

A pocket oracle can be used in a variety of ways. Experiment to find which is the most effective for you. In the traditional world-view, all things are intimately connected. There can be no random events, no mistakes, no accidents. If you approach the oracular process with the right attitude it will always provide a useful perspective.

Method One

Whether you have a pressing need or not, sitting comfortably and quietly holding the pocket oracle between your hands and relaxing will encourage a clarity of mind and the opportunity for your deep mind to offer creative ideas and insights.

Because the rune row represents every aspect of Universal energy, settling down in a receptive way allows the body and mind to begin to balance themselves by absorbing the qualities that are lacking.

Method Two

When there is conflict, indecision or a lack of clarity about a situation the pocket oracle can be used to determine which rune energies are the best for understanding or improving your position.

First, take a few deep breaths, quieten yourself and take your attention to the problem. Don't try to think of solutions, simply review the circumstances you find yourself in. It is helpful to clarify what you need to know. Is it understanding (that is, a revealing of hidden factors), or resolution (a means to improve the situation), that you need? In general, we can never be fully aware of all significant factors, so whatever the scenario it is often more useful to simply ask for which energies (runes) will resolve or improve the outcomes, or will help you to manage the situation in the best possible way.

Now we can take our attention to the runes and symbols, because the unconscious mind will be sensitive to the energy they represent and will naturally be drawn to those of the most use to us. There are different ways that can be used to find the "active" runes.

1) with your eyes closed or relaxed in a slightly unfocused gaze, run your fingertip lightly over the rune symbols. You will notice that there is a different "feel" to some of them. Allow your finger to come to a halt wherever it wants -the unconscious mind uses the body's own responses to make its preferences known to the conscious mind. You may find there are several different runes that are active.

2) use a small wand or stick as a pointer and follow the same process as in 1).

Make a note of the rune or runes that have been selected on a piece of paper. If you want to interpret the possible meanings of the runes, remember to do so in the context of the situation.

To make use of the rune energies chosen, they need to be used in some way. The simplest is to draw them out on a piece of paper and carry them with you. Alternatively, you can place them where you can see them often, or by your bedside, so that the helpful energies will be absorbed during rest.

Remember to keep your enquiries simple and focused. Build up a complex picture step by step. Use a conversational, question and answer style. If you need clarity, ask for more information. Clarity is

to do with your interpretation, not with the rune selection. If you cannot make sense of what runes are selected, do not try to force a meaning. Just use those runes that have come up. That is why one of the best questions is always:

"What energy /energies are needed to resolve/help/balance this situation?"

If you are looking for a set of energies to work with, rather than a single rune, check first how many runes you will need to find. (use a count of eight to do this - anymore, and the clarity will become diluted). Once you have found out how many runes will be needed, find each one by one.

Practice regularly with your pocket oracle. Use it, but do not necessarily live your life by it! Take time to get a feel for how it works and how it relays information to you. Rather than asking specific questions that need interpretation, begin by simply using the oracle to improve and support your energies through the day, particularly when under pressure.

For a more detailed interpretation and analysis of the runes read as widely as you can and build up a broad set of meanings for each rune. Most books do not cover the 32 runes of the full runerow, and most do not offer much creative analysis, but rather tend to be prescriptive and derivative. Take with a pinch of salt any writer who says they have revealed the 'true meanings' of the runes, and counteract the more fanciful writings by knowing the archaeological and historical realities of the runes.

For more information on the systems and methodologies I use, please see my book: "Rune Equations" available direct from my Etsy shop, TreeSeer. (www.etsy.com/shop/TreeSeer)

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