

Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story Unremembered Loss

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Opaque

This month, while I've been waiting for my manuscript to come back from the editor, I've focused on my card game – Opaque.

I redesigned all the match cards, giving them an Art Deco look. I finalized the card back and the shape card. I rewrote the rules to make them clearer and to fit on nine cards.

I then found a printer that would create one deck of cards, almost the way I need. The problem is that no one in the US prints on clear plastic cards. The closest I could find are some translucent cards. I decided to go for it so I could touch, feel and see them.

The cost was a little high at \$42.00 for the 54 paper and 90 plastic cards. I really like how the paper cards came out. I had then printed on their best paper (black-core). Both the fronts and back look good.

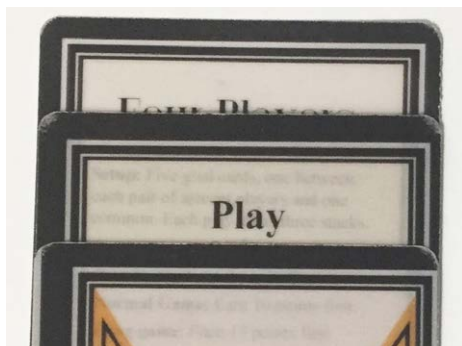


The only issue is that it looks like the die they used to cut out the card is not very sharp and caused the corners to be cut ragged.



The plastic cards are a different story. Besides being more opaque than I thought they would be, the registration (cutting each card in the right place) varied considerably between the cards. The ink was rubbed off of the corners, and some of the cards are warped. Here are the three problems in more detail.

Registration. The cards have to be designed so that there can be some variation in registration. I followed the guidelines provided by the printer. The paper cards were all good, and all the cards have the same registration. Below are three of the plastic cards. The top card has proper registration. The middle card is off by a little, and the bottom one is off so much the entire board is cut off.



The ink being rubbed off the corners is probably the same problem as the ragged edges on the paper cards, a bad die, however, the problem can be seen on the sides as well.



The most disturbing is the bending of the cards. One of the cards is really bent (top), and five or six are warped (bottom) and a few are twisted.



So now the issue is if I get a printer in China to do 3,000 decks, am I going to have these kinds of problems? Because I would consider decks of this quality unsalable. The good news is I've found to printers in China and have started talking to them, and both will print decks for way less money per deck – like 90 to 95% less.

Doug Clarke