THE CONTINENTAL OR ‘PIQUET’ CARD DECK MEANINGS

The Continental or ‘Piquet’ deck consists of only 32 cards. Cards 2 through 6 and the Jokers are omitted from the ordinary playing deck, and only the Aces, Sevens, Eights, Nines, Tens, Jacks (or Knaves), Queens and Kings are retained in the Continental/Piquet deck. Originally intended as a ‘trick-taking’ deck for casual play, it eventually (inevitably?) was made to serve double-duty as a fortune telling deck.

Before going into the meanings of each individual card, there are some general principles to keep in mind when divining with a Piquet deck:

- Many diamonds in a reading show that financial matters are uppermost in the inquirer’s mind, and of the most importance right now.
- Many hearts in a reading show that love affairs, friendships and all matters of the heart are uppermost in the inquirer’s mind, and currently of the most importance.
- Many clubs in a reading show that matters of work and business are the chief concern and of the greatest importance to the inquirer.
- Many spades in a reading show incidents of fate, trouble, disagreements, and things the inquirer cannot avoid.
- The court cards stand for people.
- Queens are all women of any age.
- Kings are mature or elderly men.
- Jacks (or Knaves) are traditionally young men, although these days they could occasionally be young women.
- Some diviners who use the Piquet or Continental deck consider the Kings to represent all men, and the Jacks (or Knaves) as depicting the thoughts or intentions of the King.

DIAMONDS

Ace: A ring, or paper currency.
Seven: Rather unfavorable; either a small monetary loss, or unfriendly gossip.
Eight: A late marriage, bringing ups and downs along with it.
Nine: A surprise connected with money. Or, if next to a Heart card, a surprise about a love affair.
Ten: A good sum of money.
Jack: A near-relative of the inquirer; likely a rather selfish man.
Queen: A good-looking, flirtatious woman, who enjoys society and likes being admired.
King: A good-looking or white-haired man. He might be rather fickle, obstinant, and unfriendly.
HEARTS

Ace: Generally shows the inquirer’s home or residence, and what happens there. Of course, the surrounding cards will give the specifics. If other hearts, love and friendship. If diamonds, money comes to the home or news of distant friends. If clubs, happy social or domestically-based events. If spades, quarrels, misunderstandings or difficult times and challenges in the home.

Seven: A false friend who may make mischief.

Eight: Good food and pleasant society.

Nine: The wish card. If this is favorably-placed, the inquirer’s wish will be granted. This card also brings money luck and luck in social affairs.

Ten: General good luck; strong enough to wipe out the evil of any bad cards on either side of it.

Jack: Either male or female, usually the inquirer’s best friend. Some Piquet readers consider this card to represent Cupid and his activities.

Queen: A lovable, rather good-looking woman, with a greatly-faithful nature.

King: A kind, affectionate man of medium-coloring; he is enthusiastic, but indiscreet.

CLUBS

Ace: Wealth, prosperity and a peaceful home atmosphere.

Seven: Happiness and good fortune, especially through those of the inquirer’s own sex.

Eight: Love of money and a hankering for to gamble or speculate.

Nine: Friction caused by opposing the wishes of friends.

Ten: Money comes in suddenly as the result of a death.

Jack: A generous and reliable friend who will do much to help the inquirer.

Queen: An affectionate woman with plenty of sex-appeal and something of a man-chaser.

King: A man of medium-dark coloring; he is honorable and faithful.
**SPADES**

Ace: A death, or some other kind of misfortune.

Seven: The loss of a dear friend, bringing grief in its wake.

Eight: A caution to the inquirer to be careful in connection with any enterprise going on right now.

Nine: Illness, family quarrels, or a monetary loss. But none of these will necessarily prove serious, though.

Ten: Bad luck of some kind, sufficient to rob any neighboring favorable cards of their good ‘mojo.’ It will bring grief or confinement in its wake.

Jack: A friend who means well, but often makes mischief or creates further difficulty.

Queen: A brunette, often a widow, but not necessarily. She is an unscrupulous vamp.

King: A man of dark coloring. He is successful and ambitious.