

## CZ0540 - LTR "ELVEN COUNCIL" PRECON UPGRADE GUIDE

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### \*\*\*CLAP AND SLATE\*\*\*

- 1) INTRO JAKE AND RACHEL

**@JakeBossMTG - @wachelreeks - @commandcast**

*Lord of the Rings is here! It's time for our upgrade guide for "Elven Council," the Simic (blue, green) elven and voting Commander precon deck. We've gonna go over the STATS and suggest 10 cards to add and 10 to take out! BUT FIRST:*

**\*\*CARD KINGDOM\*\* \*\*ULTRAPRO #1\*\* \*\*PATREON: SCOTT FRYER\*\***

- 2) MAIN TOPIC: **"ELVEN COUNCIL" PRECON - BUDGET UPGRADE GUIDE**

*The rules: 10 cards in, 10 cards out. Total budget of \$50. We'll leave the mana base as-is.*

### **NEW COMMANDERS**

**GALADRIEL, ELVEN-QUEEN** (primary commander)

- *Galadriel is an interesting elf commander. Pretty good value. You expect the deck to be full of elves and maybe some +1/+1 counter payoffs.*

**GANDALF, WESTWARD VOYAGER** (secondary commanders)

- *This is powerful, but pretty slow. I'd expect the deck to be full of ramp and high-CMC spells to trigger Gandalf as much as possible. Maybe even cards with multiple card types to guarantee you hit. Seems a little strange at the helm of an elf deck?*

**CÍRDAN THE SHIPRIGHT** (other commander)

- *I'm obsessed with this card. I don't know how you're supposed to vote, which makes it the perfect voting card. I want to build this card. I want to play against it. I have no idea what the 99 of this commander looks like, But I'd expect it to be WILD.*

**ELROND OF THE WHITE COUNCIL** (other commander)

- *Another powerful ETB. If your opponents don't want to give up a creature, they put counters on all your creatures! This could put a TON of power on the board. Notably you vote Aid every time so your creatures are getting buffed for sure.*

### **ERESTOR OF THE COUNCIL** (other commander)

- *Ok. So this is a more specifically voting themed commander that rewards your opponents for voting with you. I'd expect this 99 to be FULL of voting cards and maybe payoffs for your opponents using those treasure tokens.*

### **RADAGAST, WIZARD OF WILDS** (other commander)

- *This seems like another deck entirely... similar to Gandalf but a little bit less of a payoff. I'd expect the 99 to be full of Beasts and Birds in addition to spells 5 or greater.*

### **"ELVEN COUNCIL" DECK STATS**

- Ramp - 18
- Card Draw - 11
- Single Target Interaction - 11
- Wipes - 2
- Lands - 38
  
- Elves - 23
- Anthems - 6
- Defense - 5
- Voting - 8

### **WHO SHOULD YOU RUN AS THE COMMANDER?**

#### *Elrond of the White Council*

I wanted to stay with Galadriel, but the effect would only fire two to three times per game and would force me into elf upgrades. I like the more powerful ETB that only needs a couple of resolutions to be effective. Erestor would be a cool engine that'd generate value, but it's not a deck I can turn into a winner with just ten cards. Cirdan is really cool, but needs a build from the bottom. Radagast is on a different planet, strategy-wise.

### **REPRINT VALUE**

*This only takes into account the value of the reprints (49) NOT the new cards. It is really difficult to compare this to other decks because it has twice as many new cards as recent precon (which means fewer cards included in the value) and has a higher shelf price. However, it has significantly fewer new cards than the Warhammer precon (closer to 40 new cards each).*

**Total Reprint Value is \$144.50**

#### **(Average Reprint Value)**

**Commander 2020 Ikorra - Average Reprint Value \$96**

**Commander 2021 Strixhaven - Average Reprint Value \$88**

**Commander 2021 Forgotten Realms - Average Reprint Value \$115**

**Kamigawa Neon Dynasty - Average Reprint Value \$72.89**

**NOTABLE REPRINTS** (all cards worth MORE than \$2)

9 card that is \$5 or more, and 5 cards between \$2 and \$5

**\$5 OR MORE** (there is 9)

- Heroic Intervention \$23.00
- Swan Song \$17.00
- Rejuvenating Springs \$15.00
- Asceticism \$14.00
- Lightning Greaves \$11.00
- Elvish Piper \$8.50
- Genesis Wave \$6.75
- Overwhelming Stampede \$6.00
- Flooded Grove \$5.00

**\$2 TO \$5** (there are 5)

- Hinterland Harbor \$3.25
- Elvish Warmaster \$3.00
- Whispersilk Cloak \$2.75
- Beast Within \$2.50
- Sol Ring \$2.25

*\*NOTE\* Every card in all of these decks is "in the world" of Lord of the Rings. They didn't include a single card in any of these decks that has its old/regular Magic art from before. If it's a reprint, it's new artwork in the world of Lord of the Rings.*

**BEST CARDS IN THE DECK** (\*denotes a reprint)

- **Mystic Confluence**  
*Bounce 'em with the commander trigger on the stack*
- **Heroic Intervention**  
*Save the stolen gang!*
- **Elvish Warmaster**  
*Go wiiiiide.*

**\*\*\*MIDROLL BREAK\*\*\***

*Quick discussion about our evaluation of the deck right out-of-the-box and what the goal of the adds/subtractions were going into the "cards to add" section:*

**CARDS TO ADD**

*(remember: our total budget is around \$50 for this exercise)*

## COUNTERS

- **Fathom Mage \$0.50**  
*Counters into cards. It's a miracle. Suddenly, giving me one of your creatures is a lot more appealing when the other choice is to give me power and cards.*
- **Rishkar, Peema Renegade \$0.50**  
Counters into mana. It's a miracle. Early game, it helps us get to the commander and late game it turns a board full of countered creatures into a ton of mana.
- **Marwyn, The Nurturer \$2.00**  
*Seems like a bunch of great cuts didn't make the cut because of their names. She grows on her own, but turns the power from our commander into even more mana.*
- **Herald of Secret Streams \$8.00**  
Not an elf. Another reason we don't mind swapping the face commander. Unblockable beefies are good.

## GOOD STUFF

- **Beast Whisperer \$5.00**  
*Strange that this isn't already in the deck. We like that it isn't just elves. Lots of great elf payoffs, but this lets us be more diverse.*
- **Expropriate \$22.00**  
*Best voting card... ever?*

## COMMANDER SUPPORT

- **Croaking Counterpart \$0.75**  
*This is a sample of a clone package you could add in. Get more ETBs and let the body die. Alternatively, you can use this on the good stuff you steal and it won't have the "no attacks" clause.*
- **Essence Flux \$1.75**  
*Flickering our commander is another way to get that ETB*
- **Illusion of Choice \$0.75**  
*There are shockingly few ways to interact with the vote in UG. This is our chance.*

## BOARD IN A BOX

- **Avenger of Zendikar \$8.00**  
*Going super wide instantly with the ETB, plus the power from our commander represents a LOT of damage.*

Total = \$49.25

## SPLURGE CARDS

- **The Great Henge \$65.00**
- **Rhystic Study \$45.00**

## CARDS TO TAKE OUT

- **Gandalf, Westward Voyager**  
*This is quite slow. Feels like the deck needs to be more bent around him.*
- **Radagast, Wizard of Wilds**  
*This is quite slow. Feels like the deck needs to be more bent around him.*
- **Opt**  
*We're not doing the scry thing and Opt is just taking up a card slot*
- **Learn from the Past**  
*Not worth a card slot.*
- **Mirror of Galadriel**  
*We're cutting a number of legendaries and without a dedicated legendary theme, this risks being VERY expensive*
- **Seeds of Renewal**  
*The deck has plenty of recursion without this piece.*
- **Song of Earendil**  
*Some powerful effects here, but very slow.*
- **Sylvan Offering**  
*That's a LOT of blockers to give my opponents.*
- **Travel Through Caradhras**  
*Just too expensive*
- **Whispersilk Cloak**  
*Seems a little strange in this deck. Elrond is more go-wide than sneak through.*

## HOW THE DECK PLAYS

The deck has a lot of value built in and has no problem getting off the ground and into the game thanks to the generous ramp and card draw pieces. That leaves plenty of room for silly voting shenanigans.

### 3) TO THE LISTENERS

What do you think of the "Elven Council" precon? Any cards we missed? Any cards we suggested to take out or add that you disagree with?

**\*\*CARD KINGDOM OUT\*\* \*\*ULTRA PRO #2\*\***

### 4) THE END STEP

Something cool outside the world of Magic.

- Tyler Childers
- Red Baraat
- Randy Newman
- Sesame Street
- Mandolin Orange

### 5) CLEAN-UP STEP

Big thanks to our amazing team here at The Command Zone! **Craig Blanchette, Damen Lenz; Arthur Meadowcroft; Ladee Danger; Manson Leung; Josh Murphy; Jordan Pridgen; Sam Waldow; Gaurav Gulati; Jamie Block; Mitch Trafford; Evan Limberger; Gabriel Pozos; Megan Yip; Eric Lem; Josh Lee Kwai; and Jimmy Wong.**