

# ASTG

## GRADING ASPECTS



# CARD IDENTIFICATION 101

PLAYER NAME

QR TO CHECK POP REPORT

CARD SET NAME

ASTG GRADE



TEAM NAME

MANUFACTURER

# TERMS TO KNOW:

## CENTERING ASPECT

From a grading standpoint, one important factor to keep in mind is the centering aspect. Centering is **the only grading standard that has a mathematical value to it**. It is the percentage of the border on each side (e.g left side vs. right side). For example a 60/40 card could be 60% of the border on the top and 40% of the border on the bottom. Essentially, the centering aspect can be accessed by measuring the edge of the card to the end of the bordered area where the picture begins on the left and right side of the card, as well as the top and bottom.

## CORNERS

Another cosmetic aspect to be noted is the corners of the card. Are they sharp? Free of any dings or other damage?

## EDGES

Are the edges smooth? Are they wavy? Do the edges have a coarse/rough surface? Are there any signs of chipping, which means loss of colors, (predominantly common with many black-bordered cards)

## SURFACE

One of the most intensive factors in card grading is accessing the surface. This can be performed in several different ways, depending on the type of card being evaluated. This type of evaluation requires an in-depth magnified view of the card to note any flaws of the card. We have the ability to view a card from 2x-500x magnification, and can take highly detailed scans of a card over 5,000 d.p.i. In addition, we use a variety of light spectrums that helps us to notice any small scratches, indentions or other elements that might get glossed over during the inspection review.

We rinse, wash and repeat on the back side of the card, factor all of those details and assign a grade according to our grading standards.

# GLOSSARY:

▶ **BASE CARD:**

The main cards that comprise a sports card, or non-sport product's base set. The cards are typically numbered on the back of the card.

▶ **CENTERING:**

A Mint condition card is considered to have perfect centering, which is conveyed as being 50/50 Top to Bottom and 50/50 Left to Right. The values adjust with the larger number, indicating more border on one side than on the other, as in 70/30, 60/40, etc.

▶ **CREASE:**

A visible wrinkle in the card stock.

▶ **EDGE WEAR:**

A condition that causes the edge of trading cards to appear fuzzy or shows layering of the paper.

▶ **NOTCHING:**

Indentions on the edge of a trading card often caused by a group of cards being held together by a rubber band, which was quite a common storage technique by kids in the 1950s and 1960s.

▶ **SOFT CORNERS:**

A condition in which the corners of a card display fraying or layering, causing the card to have the appearance of a rounded corner.

▶ **CONDITION SCALE:**

A series of terms used to describe an item's condition in a decreasing scale of quality.

▶ **QUALIFIER:**

Condition issues that would otherwise render a card with a specific grade on its own merit.

▶ **OFF-CENTER:**

When the centering of a card falls below the minimum standard for that grade it is designated as "OC."

▶ **STAINED/STAINING:**

Cards with staining below the minimum standard for grade are designated "ST."

▶ **OUT OF FOCUS:**

Cards with the focus of the photograph below the minimum standard are designated "OF."

▶ **MARKS:**

Cards with writing, ink or pencil marks, or evidence of an impression left from having been written on are designated "MK."

▶ **MISCUT:**

Cards that are cut in any manner in that they do not meet the standard dimension for that particular set are considered "MC."

▶ **ISSUE:**

Used in reference to a trading card set and usually in conjunction with a manufacturer.

▶ **MASTER SET:**

An entire print run of cards from a product including all base, parallel and insert cards including autographs and memorabilia.

▶ **ON-CARD:**

A term used to describe an autographed card whose signature is directly on the card and not on a sticker label affixed to the card.

▶ **STICKER AUTOGRAPH:**

An autographed trading card that has a sticker or label signed by the card subject affixed to the card as compared to being signed "on-card" or "hard-signed."

▶ **PARALLEL:**

A card that is similar in design to its counterpart from a base set but offers a distinguishing quality. This can be in the form of border color, texture, card material and printing technology.

▶ **SET:**

Usually referred to synonymously with Base Set.