

Notes From Planet Cray



March
2025

March's "IMAGE"

Canvas

It's been busy (this is becoming more the norm than anything else) this month again but I'm back from Toronto BCS, finishing out this BCS season with a visit to see many good friends on the other end of the continent. Brought my clan tags to a Toronto regionals for the first time and it seems they were well received.

Came back home and started working on a project I've planned for ages now: VG unit plushies of my favorite charcaters! I'm starting off with the Ripple units because I love them and I want to take them with me everywhere I go. I'm going to be so obnoxious about this. I need these guys to be known for more than just 'a deck'.

I also want to tell everyone how I made em, and what materials you need, and where you can buy em. Because I want everyone to make VG unit plushies for themselves. That is the world I envision, maybe.

- Tempest
@dragon8blade

SOUL FRONTS? A NEW SPIN ON A CLASSIC?

DZ-BT06 gave us a new batch of effect fronts for each clan; this time they go to soul after you guard with them.

Let's take a look at the card, break it down, see what kinds of decks they go in, what implications it has for trigger lineups...

(It was a set later for them, but yes Lyrical Monasterio was not forgotten!)



The 2nd effect front?

Not only is this the 2nd effect front we are getting in Standard Format (barring character fronts with '2 names' and the Bang Dream and Ragnarok 'run up to 8'), it is actually also the 2nd effect front we have gotten at all, given the general absence of effect fronts in V.

The general implication for deckbuilding in standard is that non-effect fronts have seemingly lost their purpose??.....or not, since these fronts have a unique trait of having 0 power (becoming relevant in a pinch where you may need to call a trigger, or in a dominate effect scenario). If you see a non-effect front in a premium deck on the other hand, it's time to ask why (in my world, the implication is that more than 8 fronts may be in play)

The last time we got something similar to this was in G era:

Not quite the same, but Werkatze came very close.





Situation has gotten better for 'Undercover' after we got Genics, but soul fronts can still be considered.

Group B + C

Examples based on a surveying of players + deck lists found online. Usage rates vary by a lot.





LION'S BLADE

- 1 oz limoncello
- 1/3 oz Grand Marnier
- 1/4 of a fresh lemon (chopped)
- 2 dashes of aromatic bitters
- 3.5 oz tonic water

1. Muddle the chopped lemon in a tall glass.
2. Add ice.
3. Pour in Grand Marnier and limoncello.
4. Add the chilled tonic water.
5. Add 2 dashes of bitters on top.
6. Garnish with lemon peel.



I made a Vanguard unit nuigurumi!
Here's a what I used/did so you can too:



Obtaining patterns/books/instructions:

Here's 2 books with patterns/instructions I like. You can probably buy them online somewhere if you search up the titles.



Useful youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@piyopicco/videos>

A site where many books/supplies and even ready made nui bases can be bought:

<https://shop.nuigurumi-fabric.com>

The following assumes you have some basic sewing skills. If not, first obtain basic sewing skills (expected learning time ~3 hours?)

Naturally, the more well practiced your sewing skills are, the better your finished nui will look, but you CAN get by with even rudimentary knowledge/skills.

Some materials/tools:

1. Sewing/embroidery needles
 2. Marking pens (the frixion erasable ink markers are nice)
 3. Scissors (small, sharp, is best)
 4. Pins (for pinning fabric together while sewing)
 5. Embroidery hoop (choose a small one)
 6. Rounded stick for turning stuff inside out
 7. Glue gun (some parts of clothes/hair can be glued)
 8. Tweezers
 9. Seam ripper
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- A. Minky or doll skin fabric
 - B. Dissolvable stabilizer (if doing embroidery)
 - C. Sewing and embroidery thread
 - D. Poly-fill
 - E. Fabric scraps for clothing
 - F. Snaps / doll velcro / elastic / tiny buttons



Find supplies at local sewing stores, amazon, etsy, etc.

For fabric search "minky plush fabric"

Sometimes DAISO carries some plush fabrics



F.



D.

Basic steps (for specifics, check out the books/youtube videos recommended in the beginning):

1. Transfer pattern to fabric by tracing onto backside.
2. Do face embroidery/detailing.
3. Cut out pieces.
4. Sew together basic body. Leave gap in back unsewn to add filling.
5. Stuff the nui, add hair pieces.
6. Prepare/modify patterns for clothes and sew together.



Some helpful tips:

- Pre-made bases are available out there, like this one <https://shop.nuigurumi-fabric.com/items/104750593>
- Similarly, pre-embroidered patches for eyes can be bought in some places.
- Pick fabrics that do not fray easily. Also you can fray check some fabrics by running a lighter flame over the edge.
- Patterns for nui hats can be made by taking a human hat pattern and just shrinking it proportionally.
- Neat embroidery is difficult. Takes a lot of practice. Your first try looks ugly? Yeah that checks out. Keep practicing, it'll get better.
- For things like horns/wings, you can use stiffened felt sheets, then glue them onto the nui.
- Theres this iron on adhesive called Heat n Bond, and it is very useful in the realms of stiffening, preventing fraying, and firmly fusing 2 fabrics together with no seams.
- If you have any specific questions, feel free to ask me on twitter/discord server/bluesky!



Sealing Methods of Dragon Empire

Seal Dragons

- Sealing methods derived from the seal that Crossorigin (cloth origin?) placed on himself many years ago.
- Sealed and imprisoned in Magna Prison for various reasons (criminals, etc).



Target of seals is the prisoner's own power/form.

Cloth based naming scheme.



Dungaree

- He himself controls the power of demon and dragon seals (the reason he was sealed was because the previous king feared those powers)
- The seal placed ON him and the circumstances of his imprisonment are similar (but not the same) as the Seal Dragons.

Sealed Blaze Dragons

- Cloth strips inscribed with spells + sometimes chains.
- Seals the blue flames conferred by Bavsargra (acting as a sort of 'limiter' to contain the flames).
- Visually similar to the Seal Dragons' but no direct lore connection is established thus far (aside from both being from Dragon Empire).





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