

izzet murktide deck guide

Izzet Murktide Deck Guide: The Izzet Murktide deck has emerged as one of the most powerful archetypes in Modern, blending aggressive strategies with powerful card advantage. This guide will delve into the intricate details of building, playing, and mastering the Izzet Murktide deck, highlighting its strengths, weaknesses, and some tips for piloting it effectively.

Understanding the Izzet Murktide Archetype

The Izzet Murktide deck is primarily a Tempo deck that seeks to control the game while applying pressure through efficient creatures and spells. It combines elements of control and aggression, utilizing a suite of spells that provide card draw, removal, and disruption, while also deploying aggressive threats that can end the game quickly.

Key Components of the Deck

1. Core Creatures:

- Murktide Regent: The namesake of the deck, Murktide Regent is a massive threat that can be cast early in the game thanks to the deck's ability to fill the graveyard quickly. Its flying ability and the ability to gain power through Delve make it a formidable adversary.
- Dragon's Rage Channeler: An efficient one-drop that can grow in power while providing early aggression and card selection through its Surveil ability.
- Consider: Although not a creature, it's important to mention this card. Consider helps filter through your deck while filling your graveyard, setting up your Murktide Regents.

2. Efficient Removal and Counterspells:

- Lightning Bolt: A staple in any Izzet deck, providing both removal and direct damage to the opponent.
- Spell Snare: Excellent for countering many key spells in the Modern format, making it a versatile choice.
- Unholy Heat: A powerful removal spell that can deal with threats efficiently, especially when you have delirium.

3. Card Advantage and Filtering:

- Expressive Iteration: A game-changing card that allows you to dig through your deck while providing card selection and potential card advantage.
- Faithless Looting: Great for filling the graveyard and digging for threats or answers.

4. Lands:

- Scalding Tarn and other fetch lands: Essential for mana fixing and enabling the deck's ability to play multiple colors efficiently.
- Steam Vents and Spirebluff Canal: Provide the necessary red and blue mana sources.

Building Your Izzet Murktide Deck

Building the Izzet Murktide deck requires careful consideration of the metagame and your personal playstyle. Below is a general outline for constructing the deck.

Deck List Example

1. Creatures (12-16):

- 4 Murktide Regent
- 4 Dragon's Rage Channeler
- 3-4 Ledger Shredder (for additional synergy and tempo)

2. Spells (24-26):

- 4 Lightning Bolt
- 4 Unholy Heat
- 4 Spell Snare
- 4 Expressive Iteration
- 3-4 Consider
- 2-3 Faithless Looting

3. Lands (18-20):

- 4 Scalding Tarn
- 4 Steam Vents
- 4 Spirebluff Canal
- 1-2 Fiery Islet
- 2-3 Island
- 1-2 Mountain

4. Sideboard (15):

- 2-3 Abrade (for artifacts and creatures)
- 2-3 Mystical Dispute (for control matchups)
- 2-3 Aether Gust (against green and red threats)
- 2-3 Engineered Explosives (for token strategies)
- 1-2 Pithing Needle (for planeswalkers and activated abilities)

Playing the Izzet Murktide Deck

Mastering the Izzet Murktide deck involves understanding when to be aggressive and when to play a more controlling game. Here are some strategies for effective gameplay.

Early Game Strategy

- Establish Board Presence: Start by deploying aggressive threats like Dragon's Rage Channeler or Ledger Shredder. Use your spells to control the board, removing blockers and dealing damage directly

when possible.

- Fill Your Graveyard: Utilize spells like Consider and Faithless Looting to fill your graveyard early, setting up for a powerful Murktide Regent later in the game.

Mid to Late Game Strategy

- Deploy Murktide Regent: Once you have a substantial number of instants and sorceries in your graveyard, cast Murktide Regent to apply pressure. Remember, its flying ability can bypass ground-based blockers.
- Counter and Remove: Use your counterspells and removal to deal with key threats from your opponent while maintaining board presence with your creatures.

Tips for Success

1. Know Your Meta: Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the decks in your environment will help you tailor your sideboard and gameplay strategy.
2. Resource Management: Be mindful of your life total and manage your resources effectively. Sometimes it's better to hold onto a removal spell for a more significant threat than to use it on a smaller creature.
3. Utilize Surveil Effectively: With cards like Dragon's Rage Channeler and Ledger Shredder, you can filter your draws and keep your hand full of impactful spells.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the Izzet Murktide deck will help you navigate the Modern format more effectively.

Strengths

- Powerful Threats: Murktide Regent is a game-ending creature that can come down early and swing the game in your favor.
- Versatile Spells: The deck contains a mix of removal, counterspells, and card draw, allowing for flexibility in different matchups.
- Speed: With low-cost creatures and spells, the Izzet Murktide deck can apply pressure quickly.

Weaknesses

- Life Total Management: The aggressive nature of the deck can lead to a precarious life total, making it vulnerable to burn strategies.
- Graveyard Hate: Cards like Tormod's Crypt or Leyline of the Void can severely hinder your ability to utilize Murktide Regent to its fullest extent.

- Reliance on Key Cards: Losing critical cards like Murktide Regent or Expressive Iteration can significantly impact your game plan.

Conclusion

The Izzet Murktide deck is a compelling choice for players seeking a balance between aggression and control in Modern. With its powerful threats, versatile spells, and tempo-oriented strategy, it can dominate a wide range of matchups. By understanding its intricacies, strengths, and weaknesses, you can become a proficient pilot of this exciting archetype. Whether you are a seasoned player or looking to break into Modern, mastering the Izzet Murktide deck can provide you with a rewarding and competitive experience. Happy brewing and good luck at your next tournament!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the core strategy of the Izzet Murktide deck?

The core strategy of the Izzet Murktide deck is to utilize efficient spells and threats to control the game while applying pressure with large flying creatures like Murktide Regent. The deck aims to maximize the tempo advantage by using cheap instants and sorceries.

What are the key cards to include in an Izzet Murktide deck?

Key cards include Murktide Regent, Delver of Secrets, Expressive Iteration, Lightning Bolt, and Counterspell. These cards provide a mix of threats, card advantage, and disruption.

How does the Izzet Murktide deck deal with control matchups?

Against control decks, the Izzet Murktide deck relies on its ability to generate card advantage through spells like Expressive Iteration and can pressure life totals with threats like Murktide Regent. Additionally, counterspells help protect your threats and disrupt their game plan.

What are some common sideboard options for Izzet Murktide?

Common sideboard options include Mystical Dispute for counter wars, Pithing Needle for artifact and planeswalker hate, and Damping Sphere for combating combo decks. Additionally, you may add more aggressive threats for grindy matchups.

How does the mana base of an Izzet Murktide deck look?

The mana base typically consists of a mix of shock lands like Steam Vents, check lands like Sulfur Falls, and mana-producing basics. The inclusion of Fastlands like Spirebluff Canal can also improve early-game consistency.

What is the role of Expressive Iteration in the deck?

Expressive Iteration serves as a powerful card selection tool that allows you to dig deeper into your deck, finding key spells or threats while also providing card advantage by letting you play an additional card from the top three.

How does Izzet Murktide handle aggressive decks?

Izzet Murktide handles aggressive decks by using cheap removal spells like Lightning Bolt and Spell Snare to deal with early threats while deploying its own quick threats like Delver of Secrets to race them. Additionally, gaining life or stalling with counterspells can help mitigate damage.

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