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How to Start a Trading Card Collection

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How to Start a Trading Card Collection

You're interested in card collecting, maybe to help your child get started, picking up an old hobby, or just for yourself. Starting a trading card collection can be a hassle on how to start. From supplies, brands, sports, industry terms, and events, it can be an exceedingly overwhelming trying to understand the steps. The good news is there are many ways to collect and can be as simple (or complex) as you want, as well as multiple ways to collect that will fit every budget.

Our industry experts are here to help with our recommendations!

The best way to start thinking about a collection is to consider a few options:

- **What sport cards do I want to collect?**
 - Breaking down your top sports to just a couple can help narrow down other sports you may not be interested in.
 - Example: NFL and NBA
- **How do I want to collect?**
 - Determine whether you want to collect [sets](#) or [singles](#).
 - Do you want to get involved in team focused [case break](#) spots or do you want to buy boxes and open the packs yourself? Or do you just want to buy cards off eBay or through a local card shop of players and/or teams that you want to collect?
- **Break down the type of athletes per sport.**
 - Rated Rookies, Veterans, or by team/player.
- **Budget & consistency of purchasing.**
 - How much and what type of products are you willing to purchase?
 - Blasters and retail products (available at local retailers like Walmart, Target, etc.) are typically more economical.
 - Hobby and local card shop products. These typically are more expensive but have more variety of card autos, memorabilia, and "hits" (see [glossary](#) for definition of "hit")
 - Follow online distributors or Panini's release calendar and "coming soon" to see upcoming releases. This will also help determine budgets and what sports or brand that may work for your collection.
 - Regardless of how and where you want to start your collection, it's important to know your budget and stick with it each month. Sometimes you can chase a card that you really want and overpay, instead of just waiting until another copy comes up - they always do!
- **Storage**
 - Determine your card storage. Visit our resource "[Trading Card Supplies](#)" for more recommendations around card storage and card protection.
 - Almost as important as getting the right supplies for your cards is determining where you are going to store your cards at your home. Keep them away from the sun and preferably up off the floor in case you have a water issue at your house. As you collect more valuable items, you need to consider things like fire safes and Collectibles Insurance to help protect your investment!

- Sign up for email updates from [Panini](#), and other online retailers such as [RoadShow Cards](#), [Steel City](#), [Blowout Cards](#), [Dave and Adams](#) or your local hobby shop to stay up to date on upcoming card releases.
- Find trading card social media accounts to follow that collect similar cards and build a network with users that trade.
- Locate local card shops in your area. Card shops typically will have release calendars, available products, local trade events and supplies for sale. They are also industry experts to help answer questions around card collecting, trading and value of your collection. Attend trading & other events at local card shops to meet other collectors in your area!
- Lastly, HAVE FUN!

Useful links:

[Panini Glossary](#)

[Panini Trading Card Supplies White Paper](#)

[Panini Coming Soon Releases](#)

[Product Checklist](#)

[Panini Blog](#)

Online Trading Cards & Supply Shops

[RoadShow Cards](#)

[Steel City Collectibles](#)

[Dave and Adams](#)

[Blow Out Cards](#)



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