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# The Red Zone

Magic Arcana  
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The phrase "Red Zone" has almost become vernacular for **Magic** players, referring to attacking with creatures. But what is the Red Zone?

When **Magic** was being aired on ESPN2, the people in charge wanted a playmat that would make the card layout easy to understand on television. The solution came to be known as the Red Zone, a mat that marks off where each players' lands and non-lands should go, as well as a large red central area for spells on the stack, and - more importantly - for combat.



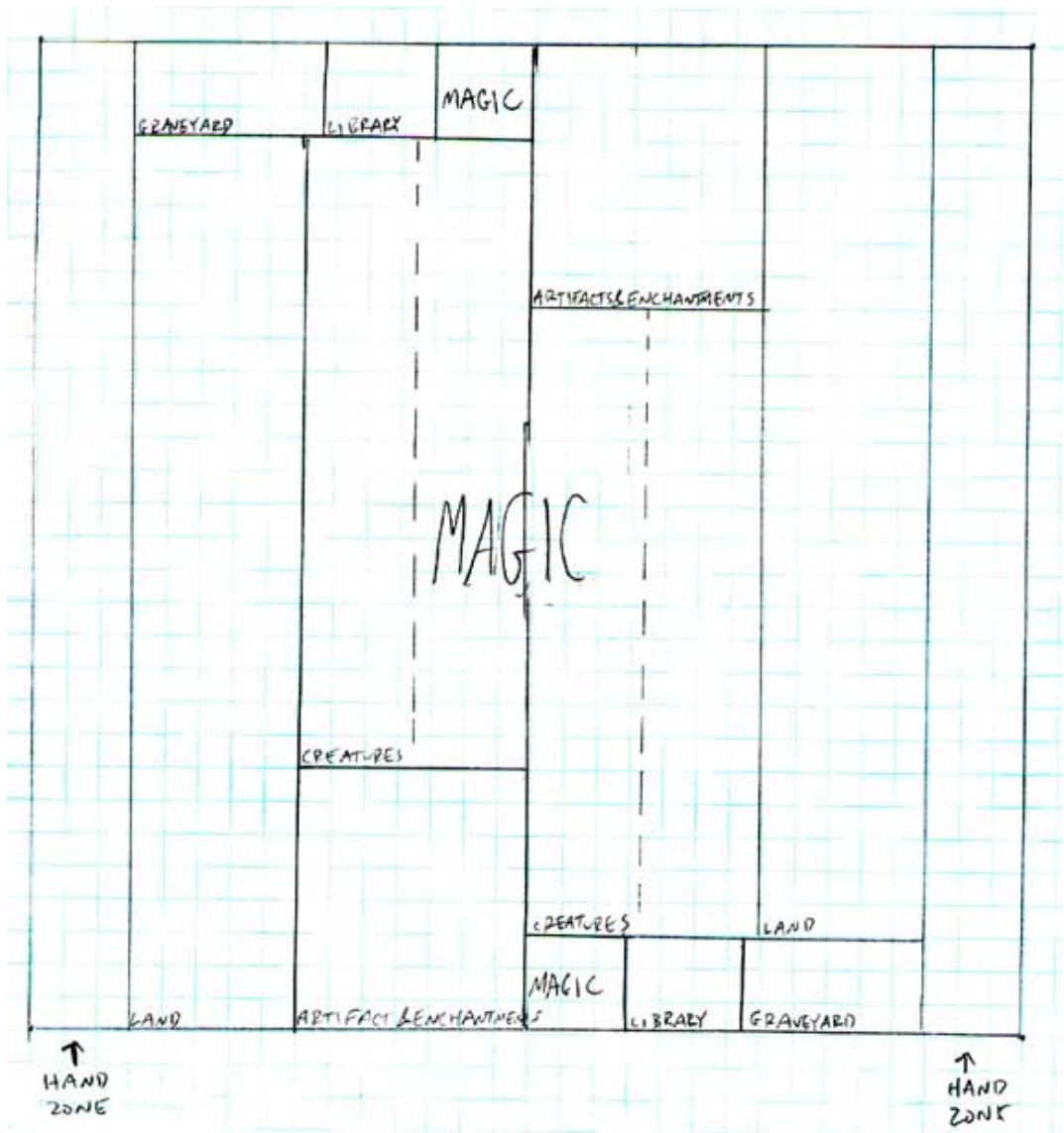
Pro Tour winner Marco Blume and the Red Zone playmat.

After the ESPN stint was over, the Red Zone remained a staple of the finals and feature match area. You can see it in pictures of all the coverage of PT-level events on the [Sideboard](#).

An overview of the Red Zone playmat:



The playmat was not quite as elegant when it was conceived, however. This drawing shows the first idea for a playmat for use on camera, and it includes many extraneous zones like the "Hand Zone" and the "Artifact & Enchantment" zone. Much too confusing!



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