# How to check the authenticity of disks?

Last updated: 10/09/23, V2.0.3, Kester Teh

#### Notes:

- I am not responsible for any failed judgement, and all decisions made fall solely on the party who makes a said judgement, the guide is only a reference point.
- Japanese disks are not covered in this document.

#### Foreword:

Since the release of the game, there have been countless non-authentic disks flooding the market. This has caused some confusion among players.

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# 1. [Disk] Mold Quality

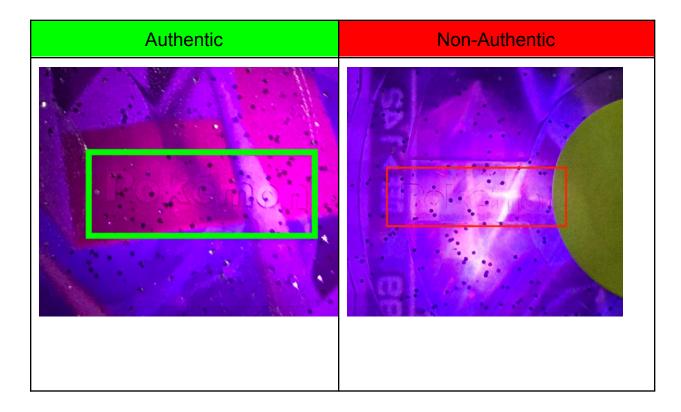
### a. The "Pokémon" text behind the disk sticker [Moderate]

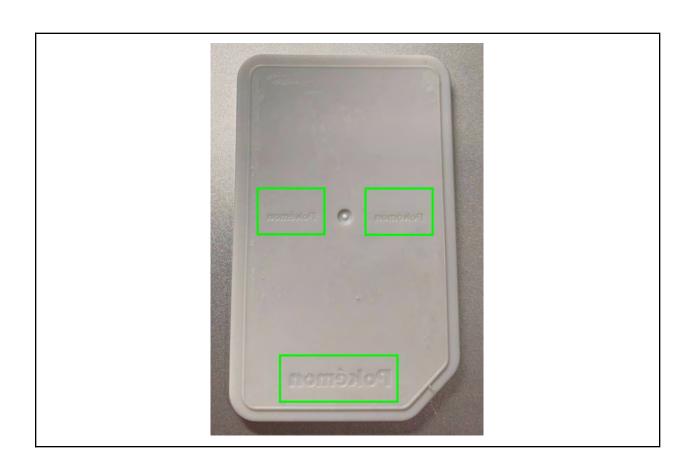
Note: Only from the English Legend 03/Taiwan Rush 01 onwards. **DO NOT PEEL YOUR DISKS!** 

Starting from the English Legend 03 version and the Taiwanese Rush 01 version, all authentic disks now have additional imprints on the physical plastic disks. On inspection, three additional "Pokémon" engravings are etched into the disk, on the side where the paper sticker is pasted.

To identify these markings on a Purple Grade 5 (5 Star) disk, simply shine a torch light on the sticker side and look at the disk from its back top down. You should be able to see the engravings at the highlighted areas

New non-authentic disks now carry this engraving, do be careful.



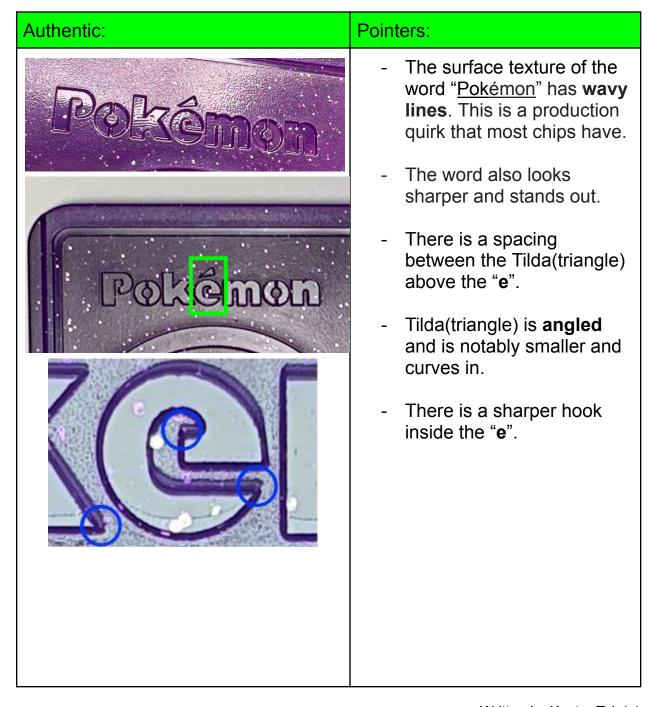


### b. The "Pokémon" text on its back [Moderate]

Looking at the top part of the disk's back, you would notice the words "Pokémon" engraved into the disk.

Non-authentic disks have improved and can easily replicate the "e" and the tilda(triangle) above. However, there are still key differences.

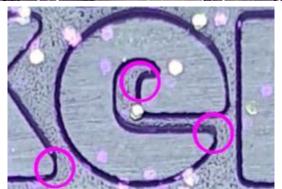
New non-authentic disks now replicate this pretty well, do be careful.



#### Non-Authentic:









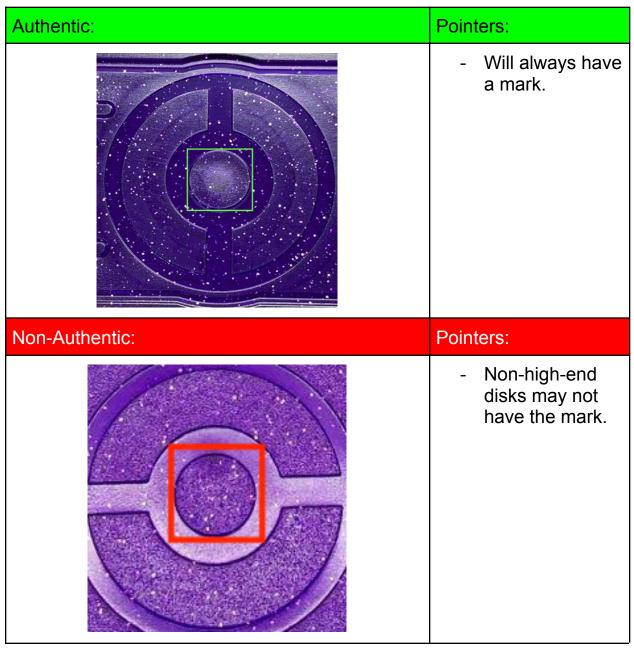
#### Pointers:

- The surface texture of the word "Pokémon" is smooth and lacks wavy lines.
- Tilda(triangle) is slightly bigger.
- There may be no spacing between the Tilda(triangle) above the "e".
- Tilda(triangle) may not be angled properly.
- There is less of a hook inside the letter "e".
- More rounded.
- Latest version is in the bolded picture

#### c. The centre circle [Moderate]

Looking at the middle circle enclosed by the Poké Ball engraving, there is a mark that is left over by the moulding process right in the middle. This mould can now be easily replicated, but it is a key differentiator to disks that do not have a mark or have it not in the middle. Though do take note that every chip is different, and mark identification may not be the best way to identify non-authentic disks.

#### New non-authentic disks now replicate this pretty well, do be careful.

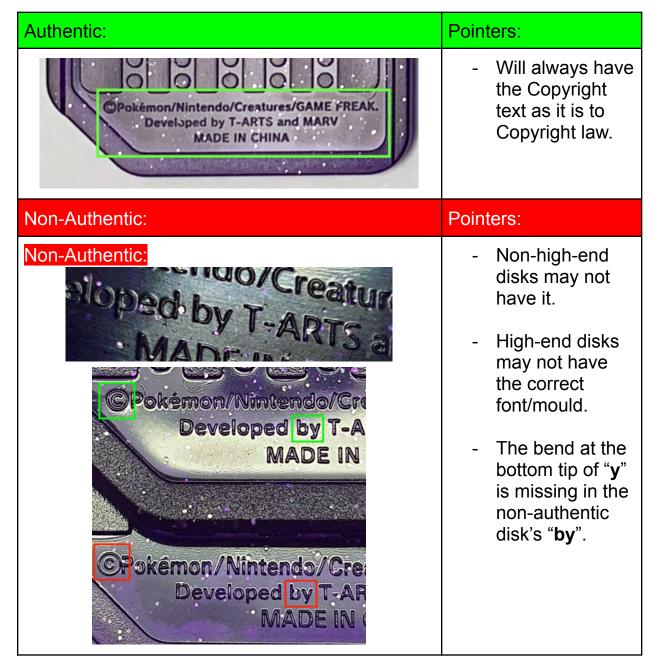


### d. Copyright text on its back [Moderate]

Looking at the bottom of the disk at the back, you will see a few lines of text in regards to the game's Copyright. It reads.

> © Pokémon/Nintendo/Creatures/GAME FREAK. Developed by T-ARTS and MARV MADE IN CHINA

New non-authentic disks now replicate this pretty well, do be careful.



### e. Side width of the chip on its back [Hard]

It is also noteworthy that the edges on an authentic chip on its back are thinner, whereas a non-authentic chip's edges are slightly longer.

This trait is hard to see due to an allowed margin of error and requires precision instruments such as rulers and vernier callipers.

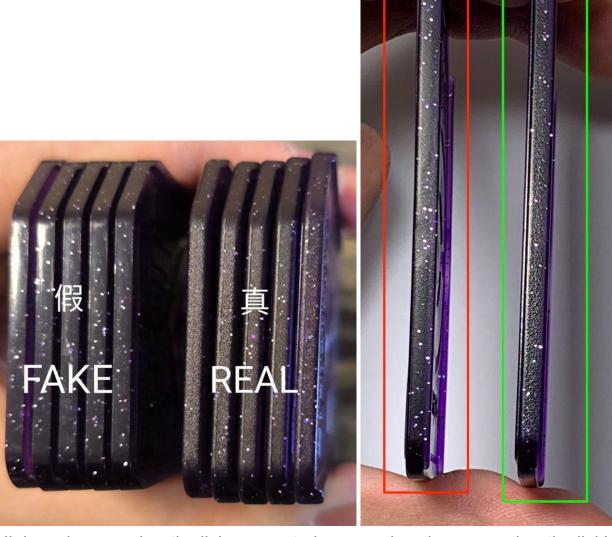
Legend: Red = Non-Authentic, Green = Authentic



### f. Plastic Finishing [Moderate]

It is noted that authentics disks have a rough plastic finish. Anything else would deem the disk non-authentic.

Legend: Red = Non-Authentic, Green = Authentic



High-end non-authentic disks seem to be smoother than an authentic disk's rough finish.

# 2. [Disk] Overall Disk Weight [Hard]

The weight of an authentic chip ranges from 9.6-9.7g, any other weights drastically out of range will deem the disk non-authentic.



## 3. [Graphics] Print Quality

### a. Holographic Foil [Moderate]

Starting from the English Legend 03 version and the Taiwanese Rush 01 version, all authentic disks have a new foil pattern. This is a surprise change from the normal foil pattern, but non-authentic disks have now implemented them.



# Authentic: Pointers: When shone under light, the checkerboard pattern is barely visible and the paper shows off as a plain foil. Non-Authentic: Pointers: When shone under light, the

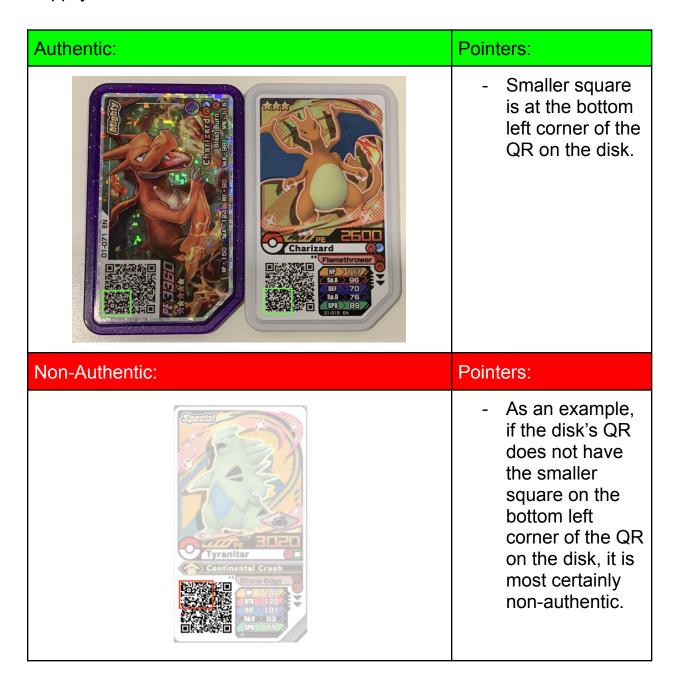
checkerboard pattern is **very** 

visible

### b. QR Orientation [Easy]

All authentic disks will have a QR orientation where the smaller square on the QR will be located at the bottom left of the QR if the disk is in the upright position. (The position you insert your disk face down into the machine)

Most non-authentic disks do follow authentic disk QR standards, but if done sloppily, it is an instant differentiator.



### c. Font [Hard]

All authentic disks use the same font for consistency throughout the series. We will only cover the English version disks here. For the best comparison of the fonts, it is recommended to take a look at the disks you **already own**.

New examples of the new batch of non-authentic disks are **provided below**, can you spot the issues?

### Authentic:





#### Pointers:

- All text is uniform and has the necessary spacing for precise design decisions.
- Card ID (06-059EN) is not bolded
- Note that Part01
   Disks tend to be
   bold in terms of
   Card ID.
- Icons such as "Special", "Legend", and "Mighty" all have equal black borders.

#### Non-Authentic:







#### Pointers:

- Sloppy and do not look as good as authentic disks.
- Text can look oversized or out of place

### Card ID (06-059EN) is notedly bolded.

English disks do not follow their Japanese counterparts, so some elements should be missing.





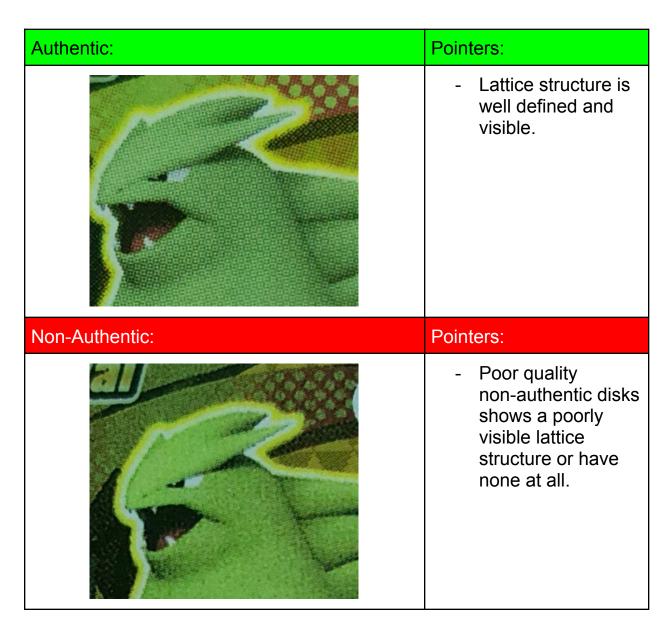


### d. Printing Patterns [Moderate]

To increase difficulty in non-authentic disk production, the game's company has employed special measures when it comes to the printing of disks.

If you look very closely at your disks, you would notice a lattice-like structure of "ninja-stars" or dots. This is a key feature that disks have and takes special machinery to produce.

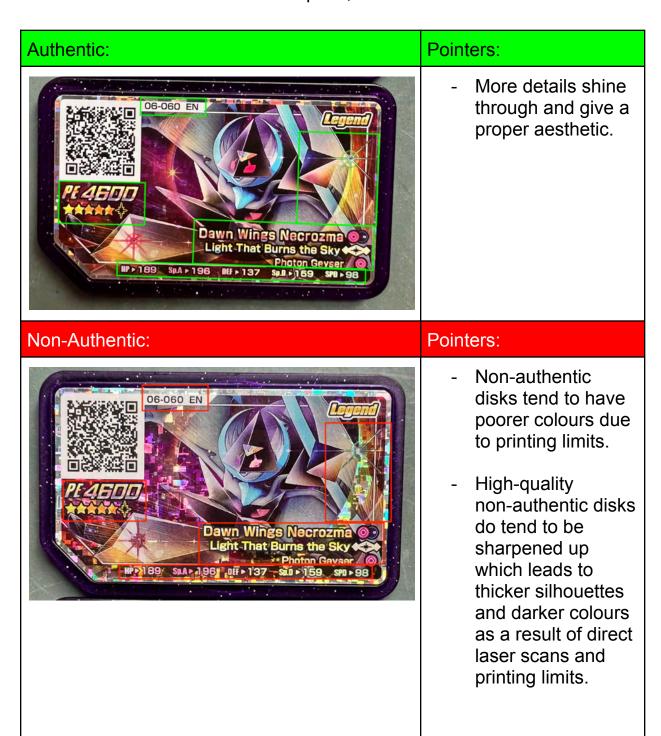
As an important note, high-quality non-authentic disks have been reported to have a well-defined lattice structure, so take note!



#### e. Colour [Moderate]

Authentic disk graphics tend to have a lighter gradient and are not too boldly sharpened when it comes to the silhouette lines of a monster.

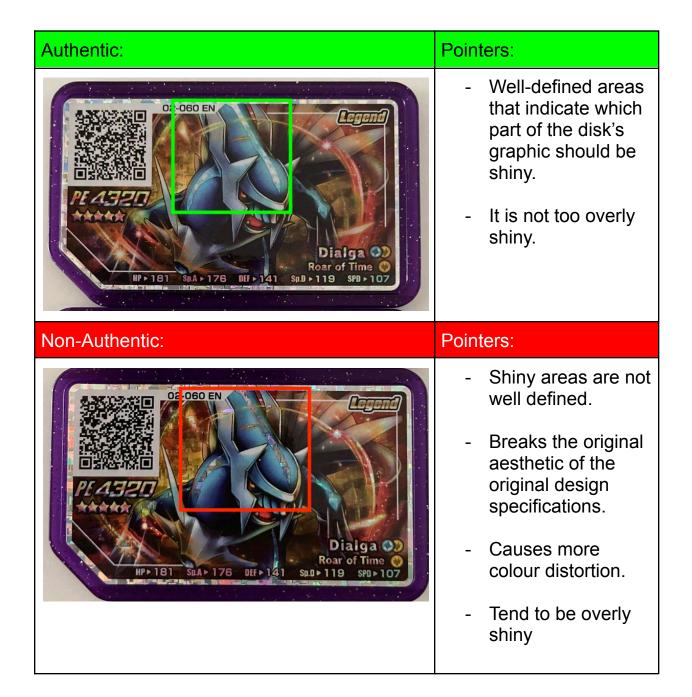
Take note that without a reference point, it is hard to derive an outcome.



### f. Foil (The shiny parts) [Moderate]

See the shiny parts on 3 Star disks and above and promotional disks? It is a result of a foil layer being applied to the disk's sticker. Authentic disks have clearly defined areas that indicate which part of the disk should be shiny or not. As for non-authentic disks, they tend to not have a well-defined definition or are outright foiled entirely. Additionally, authentic disks will also have graphic features that pop through light reflection only.

Case 1: 5 Star Disks



#### Case 2: 3 Star / 4 Star / Promotional Disks

## Authentic: Pointers: - Well defined areas that indicate which part of the disk's graphic should be shiny. Hidden features are less visible without light reflection. (The triangles) Non-Authentic: Pointers: More colour distortion. Hidden features are more visible without light reflection. (The triangles) HP > 125 ATK > 120 DEF > 84 Sp.D > 84

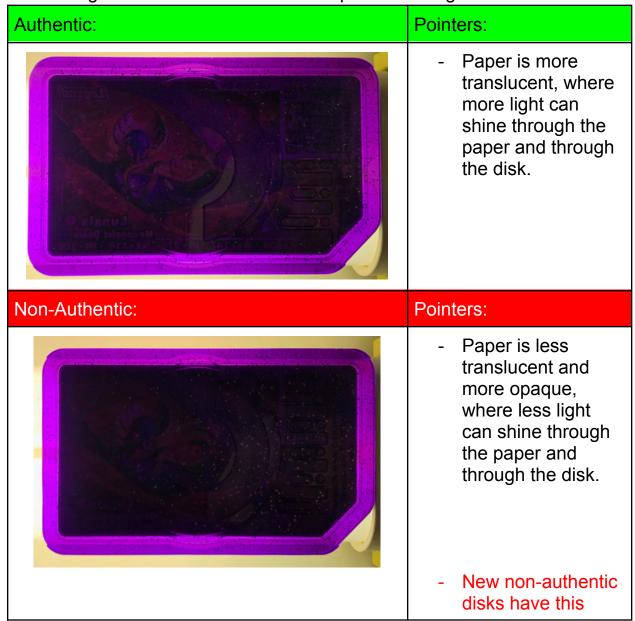
### g. Paper Thickness [Moderate]

The thickness of the paper stuck onto the disks can also determine whether a disk is authentic. By shining a bright light underneath the disk and inspecting the back, you will be able to derive whether a disk is authentic.

However, this takes a strong light source, a dark environment, and only works on disks that are Grade 5 (5 Star) or are of a selection of promotional disks that have a black translucent disk plate.

### New non-authentic disks now replicate this pretty well, do be careful.

Note: Images were taken with the same picture settings.





## rectified

## 4. [Disk] Promotional Disk Releases

Promotional disks are disks released internationally through campaigns and events. Promotional disks come in two languages, English and Chinese. Take note of the origins of these languaged disks:

Languages	Countries
Chinese	China
English	Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Taiwan
Korean	Korea
Japanese	Japan (Ended and not included)

If the graphic does not match the language released, it would mean it is not authentic based on a graphic standpoint.

Below is a collation of the promotional disks released thus far by language. (Updated as of 10/09/23)

No.	Name	English Chip Image	China Chip Image	English	Chinese	English Source	Chinese Source
1	Pikachu		1	Released	Released		https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)

1	Pikachu			Released		https://pokemongaole. co.kr/html/news_view. php?k_id=48		
2	Pikachu	No Release	度卡丘 (1) (2) (2) (3) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4	No Release	Released	-	https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)	
3	Raichu	PE 1820  Aldian Raichu  Thursterburt  La 1 50  La 1 50  La 1 70  L	HEDER CONTRACTOR	Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/18 76	-	
4	Raichu		ROTE STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE	Released		com/p/Cwj	https://www.instagram.com/p/Cwj4R-SO_nx/?mg_index=2	

4	Mimikyu	Mimikyu  Special PE 2000  Mimikyu  Shadow Claw  W	MINE 2 2000	Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/62 8	https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)
5	Charizard	Charizard Chariz		Released	No Release [Later date]	https://ww w.faceboo k.com/Seg aTaiwan.C ardGame/ photos/33 56945477 757133	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg
6	Tyranitar	Tyranitar  Continental Coult  Fig. 22  Fig. 22  Fig. 22  Fig. 23  Fig. 24  Fig. 25	日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日本の日	Released	Released	aTaiwan.C ardGame/	https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)
7	Lapras	PE 2800   PE 2	No Release	Released	No Release	https://ww w.faceboo k.com/Seg aTaiwan.C ardGame/ photos/36 81232628 661748	-

8	Solgaleo		Released	Released		https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)
9	Lunala	To gradus	Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/20 41	https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)
10	Ho-Oh		Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/23 14	https://over seas.weibo .com/6048 193311/Kz QIRfU9X
11	Lugia		Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/23 14	https://over seas.weibo .com/6048 193311/Kz QIRfU9X
12	Groudon	Control of the contro	Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/31 44	https://weix in.qq.com/r /rRyKkpHE CMx3rdXx 90m- (Access using wechat app)

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16	Buzzwole	No Release		No Release	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/uywlq USfat_Qoo pMdVjHO Q
17	Celebi	Control of the second of the s	No Release	Released	No Release	https://ww w.4gamer s.com.tw/ news/deta il/50637/p okemon-a nimation-fi lm-2021	-

18	Dialga Palkia		No Release No Release	Released	No Release No Release	w.pokemo n.co.jp/ex/ bdsp/tc/lin eup/2108 18 2l 02/ https://ww w.pokemo n.co.jp/ex/ bdsp/tc/lin eup/2108	-
20	Arceus	Party and the party of the part	No Release	Released	No Release	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/14 92	-
20	Arceus 2	Constitution of the second of	No Release	Released	No Release	https://ww w.pokemo n.co.jp/ex/ legends_a rceus/tc/li neup/210 818_2I_01 /	-
20	Arceus 3	A SECTION OF THE REST	No Release	Released (Korea, May 2023)	No Release	https://ww w.faceboo k.com/Pok emonCoK r/photos/6 30440589 2932059	-
21	Giratina (Korean)	72174 FEB 103	01 - 12 C1 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11		d (Korea, 2022)	https://poke co.kr/2022 154	

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29	Articuno	Arthur Co.		Released	Released	https://ww w.faceboo k.com/pho to.php?fbi d=656922 74977888 1&set=pb. 10006383 4863992 22075200 00.&type= 3	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/DL4u mzkiciTjG v-Kxzjwg
30	Moltres	Selection of the select		Released	Released	k.com/Seg	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/FAV6 0H3H62BF Bveqltx7J w
31	Zapdos			Released	Released	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/M11 U5E2IueT 84rTK2F2i Hw

32	Eevee	No Release	THE STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE P	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg
33	Pikachu	No Release	CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg
34	Lucario		HINTER THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	Released	Released	https://ww w.faceboo k.com/pho to.php?fbi d=642437 71456071 8&set=pb. 10006383 4863992 22075200 00.&type= 3	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg
34	Lucario	### 2950 ### 2950 ### 2950 ### 127 ANEL 117 BNI-73 ANEL 93		Korea, February 2023,		https://pokemongaole. co.kr/html/news_view. php?k_id=42	
35	Sylveon	No Release		Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg

36	Espeon	No Release		Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg
37	Umbreon	No Release		Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/i4UK BoKn7Ma PxMxzxlc1 Cg
38	Charizard		No Release	Released	Not released	-	https://ww w.facebook .com/photo /?fbid=604 172335053 923&set=a .50711782 4759375
39	Eevee	No Release		No Release	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/ZmH b4jjBFyCe hd2DnO1T IA
40	Tapu Koko	TO THE PARTY OF TH		Released	Released	w.faceboo k.com/pho	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/AJcX w50xZE9T bHnc9meh Fw

41	Keldeo	No Release	Not released	Released soon	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/Pgtw CE9DpkKp iHQUro_v7 g
42	Dusk Mane Necrozma	No Release	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/RC3 Yy2A7NAv JIrLBa1w4 ag
43	Dawn Wings Necrozma	No Release	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/byLf- Dr-74ZKxN fSVRPNVA
44	Giratina	No Release	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/SNcY mNrYzCBfy XRxDDnCh g
45	Dusk Lycanroc	No Release	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/RC3 Yy2A7NAv JIrLBa1w4 ag

46	Aggron	No Release		Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/byLf- Dr-74ZKxN fSVRPNVA
47	Pikachu	No Release		Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/y-xkv fR7pxZbX Aq9Ra26o Q
48	Metagross	No Release	THE CONTRACT MAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/takrvF EqIR_y20yK KuKkuQ
49	Zygarde	Angeres of the state of the sta		Released	Unknown	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/42 31	No official release noted
50	Zygarde	Zygarda and an armina and a series and a ser	No Release	Released	No Release	https://pok emongaol e.com.tw/ events/42 31	-

51	Zeraora	No Release	TO SECURITY OF THE PARTY OF THE	Unknown	Not released [Later Date, China Legend 4]	No official release noted	No official release noted
52	Mewtwo	No Release	GHE THE STATE OF T	Not released	Released	-	https://mp. weixin.qq.c om/s/RZpfO IFsd68OPtQ 7j5axDA

## 5. Conclusion

In all, there are multiple ways to differentiate a non-authentic disk from an authentic one.

To summarise the best methods, please refer to the table below where the usability difficulty has been sorted. Methods highlighted in yellow are recommended by the guide's author.

[Disk] Mold Quality				
a. The "Pokémon" text behind the disk sticker	Moderate (Be aware of new high-end disks!)			
b. The "Pokémon" text on its back	Moderate (Be aware of new high-end disks!)			
c. The centre circle	Moderate			
d. Copyright text on its back	Moderate (Be aware of new high-end disks!)			
e. Side width of the chip on its back	Hard			
f. Plastic finishing	Moderate (Be aware of new high-end disks!)			
[Disk] Overall Disk Weight				
[Disk] Overall Disk Weight	Hard			
[Graphics] Print Quality				
a. Holographic Foil	Moderate (Be aware of new high-end disks!)			
b. QR Orientation	Easy			
c. Font	Hard			
d. Printing Patterns	Moderate			
e. Colour	Moderate			

f. Foil (The shiny parts)	Moderate
g. Paper Thickness	Moderate

I hope this guide has provided you with good insight into differentiating non-authentic disks from authentic disks.

Do feel free to share it to spread the message.

## To a safer Ga-Olé community!

Note: This document is community-based. All copyright belong to their respective owners.

If you'd like to contact me, I am available at:

Email: kesterteh@gmail.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/kester.teh

Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/tehdrink">https://twitter.com/tehdrink</a>

Telegram: @TehTarikk

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### **Check out GaOleGuide!**

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https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tehdrink.GaOleGuide

### Apple App Store:

https://apps.apple.com/sg/app/oleguide/id1616686003

### Support me via ko-fi!

https://ko-fi.com/tehdrink

Update log:

V1.0.0: Initial Release

V1.0.1: Latias is now available in English

V1.1.0: Inclusion of Reshiram and Zekrom Promotional disks debut

V1.2.0: Inclusion of Kyurem and Latios Promotional disks debut

V1.2.1: Updated Reshiram, Zekrom, Kyurem and Latios release to released

V1.3.0: Inclusion of Korean Giratina disk debut

V1.4.0: Inclusion of Articuno disk debut

V1.4.1: Articuno disk update

V1.4.2: Updated Articuno disk release to released

V1.5.0: Update of 1c Copyright Text and 3b Font, and Raichu China release

V1.6.0 Inclusion of Moltres disk debut

V1.7.0 Inclusion of Zapdos, China-released [Eevee, Pikachu, Charizard, Lucario, Sylveon, Espeon, Umbreon] disk debut. Updated some disks to have Chinese releases.

V1.8.0 Inclusion of Mega Charizard X, Eevee, Buzzwole, and Zeraora disk debut. Updated some disks to have Chinese releases.

V1.9.0 Major update to identification traits. Update on China disk releases. (Credits: Beng)

V1.9.1 General updates and "Pokémon" text identification update.

(Credits: Lawson)

V1.9.2 Promos: (No.36) Korean Lucario added, (No.40) Mega Charizard X fix, (No.5) Charizard fix.

V1.9.3 Updated Buzzwole Promo release.

V1.9.4 Updated (No.36) Lucario EN release, (No.40) Mega Charizard X fix.

V1.9.5 Inclusion of Tapu Koko, English and Chinese Zapdos & Moltres disk debut respectively.

V2.0.0 Major disk foil and mold identification added.

V2.0.1 New non-authentic disk identification methods added, new promos added.

V2.0.2 New Dusk Lycanroc, Dusk Mane Necrozma and Pikachu promos added to promo list.

V2.0.3 New Korean Alolan Raichu, Dawn Wings Necrozma, Aggron, Mewtwo, Giratina, Metagross promos added to promo list.