

Spell Cancellor – Old School YuGiOh Card Reviews

One of the cooler ultra rare YuGiOh cards from Magician's Force was a card called **Spell Cancellor**. This level 5 monster prevents the activation of Spell cards and negates the effects of any Spell cards already in play. Basically, he's an **Imperial Order** – a card banned in tournament play for much of its existence – on a level 5 monster with below average attack and defense stats.

Later reprinted in Dark Revelation Volume 1, **Spell Cancellor** was always an interesting card. [This Machine monster has found its way into many sideboards over the years](#). **Spell Cancellor** and **Jinzo** have also teamed up in control decks. In that deck, **Jinzo** will shut down trap cards, and Spell Cancellor will shut out Spell cards. It's a strategy that has continued all the way into 2019.

Perhaps the most competitive use of Spell Cancellor in Yu-Gi-Oh today is in the retro Goat Format. A deck called [Spell Cancellor Aggro](#) has been of particular interest in top level Goat competition. In fact, this deck archetype existed historically, and first appeared at the Shonen Jump Championship at Houston in 2005, known as "The Answer" deck piloted by Nate Neidelbeck.

The deck that has run Spell Cancellor the most in recent years is Burning Abyss. Starting in 2005, Burning Abyss sideboards would run two or three copies as a way to shut down match-ups that relied heavily on spell cards – and there are many of them. While Burning Abyss has faded from the competitive spotlight, Spell Cancellor still finds itself in a lot of sideboards.

Spell Cancellor VS Pendulum Monsters

The other thing that's made Spell Cancellor more popular in recent years is the invention of Pendulum Monsters. In fact, it was Pendulum Monsters being introduced to the game that created a huge new demand for Spell Cancellor. After all, Pendulum Monsters are treated as Spell Cards when placed in Pendulum Zones, and Spell Cancellor not only negates the effects of Pendulum Monsters already there, but new ones can't be played, either. [Spell Cancellor essentially makes Pendulum monster decks unplayable](#).

As a level 5 monster with only 1800 ATK and 1600 DEF, he doesn't really seem worth Tributing a monster to summon. But, he certainly is, since he can shut down entire decks. Also, with

Synchro, XYZ, and Link Monsters in play today, if he's no longer needed, it's easy to use him as material for another monster.

Spell Cancellor in Thunder Dragon Decks?

In mid-2019, Spell Cancellor returned to sideboards in the Danger! Thunder Dragons archetype. These included Top 8 lists of a [Guardragon build](#) and [Crusadia build](#) of the deck. After banned and restricted lists upgrades gutted those decks, Spell Cancellor continued to see play as a one-of in some [Infernoid deck lists like this one](#) and [this Lunelight Orcust deck](#). In 2023, the Cancellor continued to appear in the side deck of Superheavy Samurai decks before the Scarecrow was banned, crushing the deck's competitiveness.

Clearly, Spell Cancellor is a great example of a monster from many years back that still sees play after over a decade of existence. He was becoming a pretty rare card, too, but Konami has reprinted just about every playable card in existence. The Cancellor now has both a Speed Duel: Battle City secret rare and common printing. It also has the Ultra Rare printing from Duel Devastator a few years back. Still, this is definitely an old-school Yu-Gi-Oh card that you want to keep an eye out for, because you never know when it will see high-level competitive play once again.

~ Amelia Desertsong