Duel Links Free to Play Investment Guide by ACG

Disclaimer: If you are on mobile, set yourself to Print Layout or the guide will look horrible.

Welcome! This guide is to explain how to create good long term investments of your time and resources (Gems, Tickets etc.) while you play Yu-Gi-Oh! Duel Links so you don't make the unfortunate mistake of spending Gems and Tickets randomly and being forced to Start your game over from the ground up!

Q&A

Types of investments

Q: What does it mean to make a long term investment?

A: A **Long Term Investment** is the practice of using your resources (In the case of Duel Links, Gems and Tickets, more specifically Dream Tickets) to achieve the most long term value by achieving multiple goals at the same time. For Example: Using a UR Dream Ticket on the card Cosmic Cyclone, as seen below.

Q: What is a Short Term Investment?

A: A **Short Term Investment** is the practice of getting something you want immediately for immediate payoff. This usually comes in the form of a card meant for a single Archetype. Example: Using a UR Dream ticket on the card White Stone of Ancients for use in a Blue-Eyes deck as seen below.

What type of investment is best?

Q: Which type of investment is best for me?

A: Generally speaking, the **Long Term Investment** is best for a free to play player because as a free to play player you have a limited amount of resources and wasting gems and tickets frivolously will end up with an account with no playable deck, or at best, one that can barely farm PvE reliably and has no chance in PvP.

Q: Is there ever a time where a short term investment is a good idea?

A: In 99.99% of cases, for a free to play player the Short Term Investment is a **bad idea**. This is because of finite resources where it is possible and proven to make your gems and tickets go longer in value through wise spending in correct boxes early on in Duel Links.

Q: Can you give an example of a good Long Term Investment as opposed to a Short Term Investment?

A: For example, a Long Term Investment when building a Dragunity deck would be picking up a copy of Forbidden Lance as opposed to Dragunity Couse, a Short Term Investment, with a UR Dream Ticket. Both cards are ran in most Dragunity decks but Couse is purely for the Dragunity Archetype only while Forbidden lance works in plenty of decks, as filler or otherwise. So Dragunity Couse would be the Short Term Investment while Forbidden Lance would be the Long Term Investment as it is used in more decks.

Goals for Gem and Ticket Investment in Duel Links

So, let's get down to the point of this guide: How to invest gems and tickets wisely when you first start the game. Our goals are as follows:

1. Find out your playstyle (Aggro, Control etc.)

2. Find out what deck you want to build that lends to that playstyle. **Make sure you will enjoy the deck, ask others about it, especially others who play it already. Ask to see it played or even play against it yourself!**

3. Figure out your goal deck's average cost and if it can be reasonably achieved with the starting resources.

4. If step 3 cannot be achieved, find a **low cost starting deck** you can obtain early on that will allow you to **have fun** while also being able to **reliably farm PvE content** and **participate reasonably in PvP content**.

5. **Create a plan** for how you intend to invest your gems and tickets, do not just go "there is x card for the deck I want!" and dump everything into that immediately, there might be a better option to start, or a better path all together! **Again, ask others with game knowledge and experience for help, the more information you have the easier your start in duel links will be.**

6. Make sure that you can always extend your gem and ticket uses into multiple use cards, or achieve 2 or more goals at the same time.

Example Investment Plan

Let's make a sample investment plan:

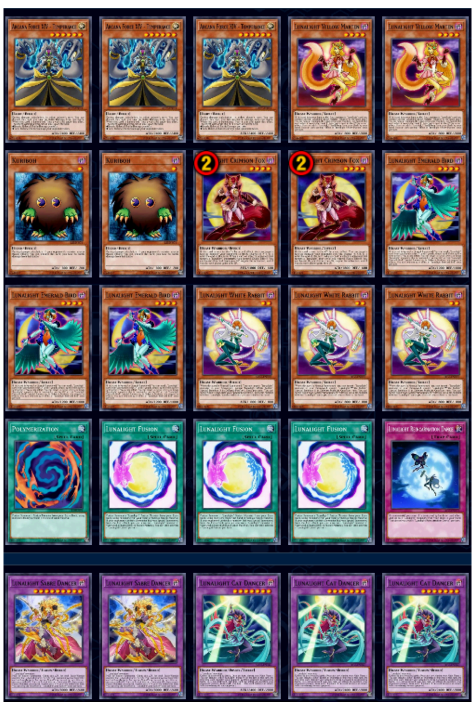
For this example, I will say I am an Aggro style player (high atk monsters, plays primarily revolve around said monsters with high aggression). I decided that Blue-Eyes would be a deck I find fun and would suit my playstyle best. Here is how my start in duel links would look (At time of writing new players have 4 UR Dream Tickets and 3 SR Dream Tickets):

1. Assess the Steps in the goals written above in the Goals section. I have determined my playstyle (1), and a deck I would have fun playing that fits that playstyle (2).

2. Assess if my Blue-Eyes Deck is easily accessible for a new player. By **asking for help from more experienced players**, I have determined that Blue-Eyes is **NOT a reasonable starting deck** and that it will require some time, resources and a bit of grind to achieve long term (3).

3. Since Step 3 in the Goals section is not achievable, I need to determine a deck that will meet Steps 1 and 2 (if possible) while digging for the necessary Blue-Eyes cards. By talking with other players I learn that the Judgment Force Main Box contains a deck known as Lunalights, another aggro deck. This deck also contains key cards for Blue-Eyes decks, mainly Sage with Eyes of Blue and Blue-Eyes Spirit Dragon. This will be a good place to start digging as I will obtain a playable Lunalight Deck while digging for those Blue-Eyes cards, and others I will need later (4, 5 and 6).

End Result: I currently have a **Reliable PvE Farming deck to farm gems with for my Future Blue-Eyes Deck** but I also have a **completely reliable PvP deck that with some time and patience can even hit King of Games**. This deck has used **ZERO DREAM TICKETS** and has given me a completely playable deck while I hold onto my dream tickets for other Staple cards.



Investment Concepts

How to Invest

Investing Gems is tricky when you are new, especially if you are someone who has played a Yu-Gi-Oh! title previously. You want to get all the cards you enjoyed previously, pick up some of your favorite archetypes and you want to do all of this at once. However, since you are limited to a finite resource system such as gems and tickets it is unwise to try and go for everything at once.

Spending Gems wisely is how you will get the most out of your time in Duel Links as a free to play player. You want to make sure that you always **focus on one deck at a time and one box at a time. Do not try to make two decks at the same time, or dig from two different boxes at the same time**, as you will run out of resources and have little to nothing to show for it.

Focusing on a single goal is key for making new decks in a reasonable time frame in Duel Links, so always make an investment plan before you start spending your Gems or else you will end up with little to show for it.

Q: Why does your gem investment matter?

A: As a Free to Play (F2P) player you want to make sure your gems get as much value as possible as your gems are a **finite resource**, you eventually run out of free sources of large gem amounts through things such as Character Level-ups, Loaner Deck Duels and Duel Quizzes. Eventually you will be at the whim of Konami’s events and what little gems they provide.

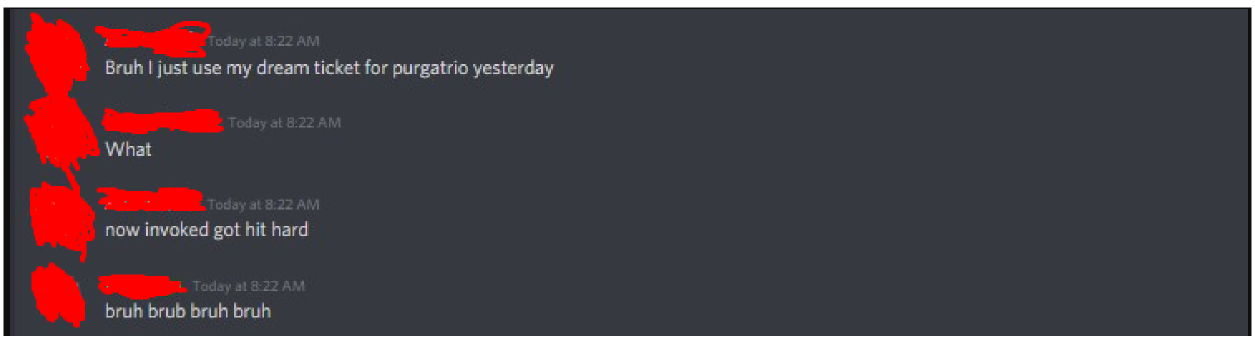
When to Invest

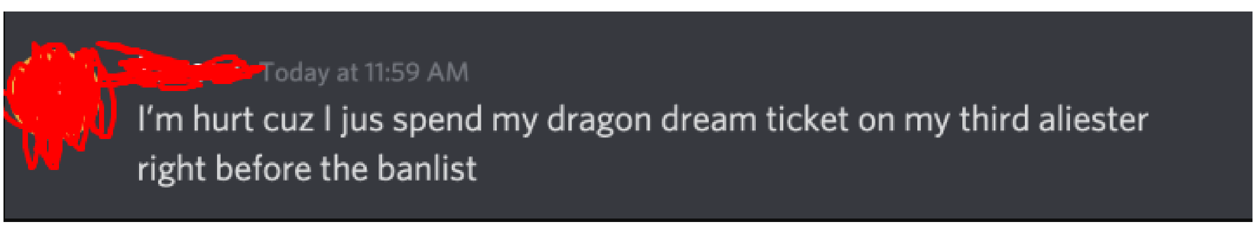
Q: When is the best time to invest in a deck/card with your gems or tickets?

A: The best time to invest is generally when a fresh banlist has already been implemented and then waiting around 2 weeks for people to establish what is good, bad, broken etc.

Q: Is there a bad time to invest?

A: Yes! The worst possible time to invest is right as a **KCC cup has been announced** as usually within a week or so after the tournament, new banlists are announced which can drastically change or destroy a meta. Investing during a KCC into known meta/rogue decks that have been deemed problematic can be deemed **insanely risky** as best case, you get to abuse a broken strategy/card for another banlist cycle, while at worst case you get **the example below**.





Another bad time to invest in something specific would be when a deck has been **meta relevant for an extended period of time** (6 months or longer generally) as they are now **high risk to be hit by a future banlist, possibly ruining your investment**.

Structure Decks

Q: What are Structure Decks?

A: A **Structure Deck** is a Pre-Made Deck of 20 cards that are meant to be able to be bought and picked up immediately to start playing with your friends! They cover all sorts of archetypes and playstyles and are a quick way to get started dueling with your friends without needing to deeply invest in boxes or use tickets just for some out of the box fun. They can be purchased for 500-1000 Gems for their first copy then most times after they cost Real Money. The Oldest Structure Decks do not have a Gem price and always require Real Money.

Q: Are Structure decks a worthwhile investment?

A: Strictly speaking, a Structure Deck is in 99% of cases **NOT** a worthwhile investment **unless you are willing to spend money to purchase 3 copies of the structure deck.** This is because most decks that revolve around a structure deck generally focus on 1 or 2 cards from said Structure Deck, while almost all of the other cards are used at less than 3 copies or not used at all.

Do NOT invest in a Structure Deck unless you intend to spend real money on multiple copies if you intend to use it for competitive PvP.

Restarting Your Account

Restarting your account can be something to consider when you have spent your gems and tickets unwisely and ended up with nothing of value, such as a playable PvE or PvP Deck.

In the event you need convincing, I will describe a concept used in modern economics that can directly translate to Duel Links, this is known as the **Sunk Cost Fallacy**.

Individuals commit the **Sunk Cost Fallacy** when they continue a behavior or endeavor as a result of previously invested resources.

For example, individuals sometimes order too much food and then over-eat just to “get their money’s worth”. Similarly, a person may have a $20 ticket to a concert and then drive for hours through a blizzard, just because they feel that they have to attend due to having made the initial investment. If the costs outweigh the benefits, the extra costs incurred (inconvenience, time or even money) are held in a different mental account than the one associated with the ticket transaction.

This example above can be directly translated to Duel Links. When you invest time, gems, tickets and in some rare cases real money, you can feel tied to the account as you have already invested yourself in it. The hardest part of defeating this Fallacy of logic is to know when to **let the account go and start fresh, so you have more resources such as tickets and gems available to you** so you can have a playable deck and enjoy the game right out of the gate.

It is generally wiser to start an account over fresh and lose a small amount of progress than to try and “tough it out” with gem grinding, as this is akin to trying to run a footrace but shooting yourself in the foot before the race started. **You will spend more time grinding for the lost gems than the time you already spent on the account plus the free tickets and gems *combined***.

If someone tells you to restart your account fresh, **take this into consideration** if they are a reputable source of game knowledge as this can possibly save large amounts of time.