

Tarkir Dragonstorm Report: Learned Archetypes, Bombs, and Synergies

MTGNET

March 9, 2026

Dataset Snapshot

This run uses 126,902 unique deck builds and 552,428 game rows. The unsupervised clustering stage produced 7 learned archetypes. The best-performing large shells are Mardu Go-Wide | Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade, Temur | Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale, Temur Beast | Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow, which already tells us that the format is not a single monolithic color table: it separates into distinct deck families with their own signposts, core cards, and build-around incentives.

1 Discovered Archetypes

Archetype	Decks	Games	WR	Top signposts
Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	30,778	137,924	56.61%	Mardu Devotee, Shock Brigade, Bearer of Glory, Salt Road Packbeast, Fortress Kin-Guard
Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	13,648	59,848	56.55%	Temur Tawnyback, Dispelling Exhale, Karakyk Guardian, Temur Devotee, Sibsig Appraiser
Temur Beast Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow	14,195	62,038	54.74%	Temur Tawnyback, Mammoth Bellow, Dragonclaw Strike, Piercing Exhale, Temur Devotee
Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	18,678	79,539	54.53%	Monastery Messenger, Jeskai Devotee, Narsset's Rebuke, Jeskai Monument, Jeskai Shrinekeeper
Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	20,838	89,622	54.45%	Lie in Wait, Sultai Devotee, Gurmag Nightwatch, Ainok Wayfarer, Kheru Goldkeeper
Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	17,338	75,079	53.47%	Abzan Devotee, Trade Route Envoy, Kin-Tree Nurturer, Armament Dragon, Stalwart Successor

Archetype	Decks	Games	WR	Top signposts
Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	11,427	48,378	53.20%	Boulderborn Dragon, Dragonstorm Globe, Dragonstorm Forecaster, Breaching Dragonstorm, Dragonbroods' Relic

2 What Defines the Best Shells

Mardu Go-Wide | Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade

This cluster contains 30,778 decks across 137,924 games and posts a baseline win rate of 56.61%. Its defining cards are **Mardu Devotee**, **Shock Brigade**, **Bearer of Glory**, **Salt Road Packbeast**, **Fortress Kin-Guard**, **Coordinated Maneuver**.

The strongest positive links in the shell are **Frontline Rush + Sage of the Skies**, **Molten Exhale + Sage of the Skies**, **Rebellious Strike + Sage of the Skies**. The build-around detector flags **Bearer of Glory**, **Rebellious Strike**, **Underfoot Underdogs** as true support-dependent payoffs, while the shell-dependence score describes the broader class of cards that rely heavily on the surrounding shell.

Temur | Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale

This cluster contains 13,648 decks across 59,848 games and posts a baseline win rate of 56.55%. Its defining cards are **Temur Tawnyback**, **Dispelling Exhale**, **Karakyk Guardian**, **Temur Devotee**, **Sibsig Appraiser**, **Riverwalk Technique**.

The strongest positive links in the shell are **Dirgur Island Dragon + Jeskai Revelation**, **Molten Exhale + Ureni**, **the Song Unending**, **Dragonback Assault + Temur Monument**. The build-around detector flags **Temur Devotee** as true support-dependent payoffs, while the shell-dependence score describes the broader class of cards that rely heavily on the surrounding shell.

Temur Beast | Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow

This cluster contains 14,195 decks across 62,038 games and posts a baseline win rate of 54.74%. Its defining cards are **Temur Tawnyback**, **Mammoth Bellow**, **Dragonclaw Strike**, **Piercing Exhale**, **Temur Devotee**, **Sagu Pummeler**.

The strongest positive links in the shell are **Dragonback Assault + Sagu Wildling**, **Ainok Wayfarer + Kishla Skimmer**, **Ainok Wayfarer + Karakyk Guardian**. The build-around detector flags **Mammoth Bellow**, **Temur Devotee**, **Undergrowth Leopard** as true support-dependent payoffs, while the shell-dependence score describes the broader class of cards that rely heavily on the surrounding shell.

Jeskai | Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee

This cluster contains 18,678 decks across 79,539 games and posts a baseline win rate of 54.53%. Its defining cards are **Monastery Messenger**, **Jeskai Devotee**, **Narset's Rebuke**, **Jeskai Monument**,

Jeskai Shrinekeeper, Riverwheel Sweep.

The strongest positive links in the shell are Jeskai Revelation + Monastery Messenger, Jeskai Brushmaster + Jeskai Revelation, Jeskai Revelation + Narset's Rebuke. The build-around detector flags Highspire Bell-Ringer, Monastery Messenger, Jeskai Brushmaster as true support-dependent payoffs, while the shell-dependence score describes the broader class of cards that rely heavily on the surrounding shell.

3 Bombs: Cards That Are Good Alone

Card	Best cluster	Standalone lift	Drawn-game WR	Games
Ugin, Eye of the Storms	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	20.30 pp	73.51%	736
Jeskai Revelation	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	20.22 pp	73.42%	760
Ureni, the Song Unending	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	18.53 pp	71.74%	881
Marang River Regent	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	16.81 pp	73.36%	1978
Elspeth, Storm Slayer	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	14.73 pp	68.19%	698
Dragonback Assault	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	14.45 pp	71.00%	1507
Sonic Shrieker	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	12.01 pp	65.21%	3001
Sage of the Skies	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	11.80 pp	66.33%	2477
Roar of Endless Song	Temur Beast Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow	11.71 pp	66.45%	3395
Revival of the Ancestors	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	9.64 pp	63.11%	3399
Betor, Kin to All	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	9.55 pp	63.02%	1644
Defibrillating Current	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	9.13 pp	63.58%	162

4 Build-Arounds and Shell Dependence

Card	Best cluster	Shell dependence	Support delta	Supported games
Bearer of Glory	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	10.0 / 10	2.55 pp	17726
Temur Devotee	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	10.0 / 10	14.46 pp	8085
Mammoth Bellow	Temur Beast Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow	10.0 / 10	10.54 pp	6686
Highspire Bell-Ringer	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	10.0 / 10	18.24 pp	3869
Reputable Merchant	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	10.0 / 10	8.22 pp	5517
Yathan Tombguard	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	10.0 / 10	7.83 pp	3698
Trade Route Envoy	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	9.5 / 10	7.15 pp	6801
Abzan Devotee	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	9.4 / 10	5.29 pp	8002
Abzan Monument	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	9.3 / 10	7.18 pp	3542
Delta Bloodflies	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	9.3 / 10	6.22 pp	3447
Roamer's Routine	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	9.1 / 10	17.21 pp	2133
Rebellious Strike	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	8.7 / 10	6.23 pp	10890

5 Dependency Cards

Card	Best cluster	Dependency	Standalone lift	Games
Unending Whisper	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	0.961	3.78 pp	10852

Card	Best cluster	Dependency	Standalone lift	Games
Mardu Devotee	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.897	0.38 pp	23596
Sonic Shrieker	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.896	4.60 pp	8813
Humbling Elder	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	0.815	2.16 pp	5548
Bearer of Glory	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.799	-1.88 pp	20180
Focus the Mind	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	0.764	2.07 pp	11520
Highspire Bell-Ringer	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	0.759	0.13 pp	4255
Salt Road Packbeast	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.591	2.13 pp	24345
Molten Exhale	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	0.511	5.18 pp	13467
Gurmag Nightwatch	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	0.475	1.68 pp	10156
Ainok Wayfarer	Temur Beast Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow	0.433	1.98 pp	9025
Ugin, Eye of the Storms	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	0.428	20.30 pp	736

6 Best Draft Priorities

Card	Best cluster	Pick score	Draft win lift	Rarity
Jeskai Revelation	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	10.0 / 10	5.97 pp	mythic
Marang River Regent	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	10.0 / 10	5.61 pp	rare
Roar of Endless Song	Temur Beast Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow	10.0 / 10	3.76 pp	rare
Revival of the Ancestors	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	10.0 / 10	2.76 pp	rare
Ureni, the Song Unending	Temur Beast Temur Tawnyback / Mammoth Bellow	9.9 / 10	4.51 pp	mythic
Jeskai Shrinekeeper	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	9.9 / 10	1.05 pp	uncommon

Card	Best cluster	Pick score	Draft win lift	Rarity
Fangkeeper's Familiar	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	10.0 / 10	2.21 pp	rare
Sage of the Skies	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	9.9 / 10	3.47 pp	rare
Riverwheel Sweep	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	9.9 / 10	0.99 pp	uncommon
Awaken the Honored Dead	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	9.9 / 10	1.61 pp	rare
Sibsig Appraiser	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	9.8 / 10	1.17 pp	common
Sonic Shrieker	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	10.0 / 10	1.45 pp	uncommon

7 Most Striking Positive Pairs

Pair	Cluster	Quality	Pair WR	Games
Jeskai Revelation, Monastery Messenger	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	3.17	79.73%	597
Lie in Wait, Ugin, Eye of the Storms	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	3.06	86.87%	99
Sagu Wildling, Ugin, Eye of the Storms	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	2.49	84.78%	138
Sultai Monument, Ugin, Eye of the Storms	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	2.05	82.91%	117
Dirgur Island Dragon, Jeskai Revelation	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	1.86	82.22%	180
Betor, Kin to All, Skirmish Rhino	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	1.82	75.52%	143
Molten Exhale, Ureni, the Song Unending	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	1.79	83.25%	191
Champion of Dusan, Ugin, Eye of the Storms	Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	1.75	81.54%	130
Sibsig Appraiser, Ureni, the Song Unending	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	1.60	82.01%	139
Lie in Wait, Pummeler	Sagu Sultai Lie in Wait / Sultai Devotee	1.32	65.64%	1464

Pair	Cluster	Quality	Pair WR	Games
Aggressive Negotiations, Revenant	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	1.25	72.03%	143
Dragonback Assault, Temur Monument	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	1.22	79.50%	161
Dragonstorm Globe, Ureni, the Song Unending	Temur Temur Tawnyback / Dispelling Exhale	1.20	80.87%	183
Jeskai Brushmaster, Jeskai Revelation	Jeskai Monastery Messenger / Jeskai Devotee	1.20	77.03%	148

8 Anti-Synergies Worth Respecting

Pair	Cluster	Anti-score	Pair WR	Games
Dalkovan Packbeasts, Reigning Victor	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.43	51.46%	859
All-Out Assault, Rally the Monastery	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.40	51.92%	104
Bearer of Glory, Shocking Sharpshooter	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.38	52.72%	1413
Fortress Kin-Guard, Zurgo's Vanguard	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.35	51.98%	1414
All-Out Assault, War Effort	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.35	52.10%	119
Embermouth Sentinel, Roamer's Routine	Five-Color Dragons Boulderborn Dragon / Dragonstorm Globe	0.33	46.32%	190
Descendant of Storms, Reigning Victor	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.32	51.18%	893
Inevitable Defeat, Zurgo's Vanguard	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.32	52.36%	233
Coordinated Maneuver, Underfoot Underdogs	Mardu Go-Wide Mardu Devotee / Shock Brigade	0.31	52.12%	1531
Abzan Monument, Formation Breaker	Abzan Counters Abzan Devotee / Trade Route Envoy	0.31	48.18%	220

9 Bottom-Line Reading

This report treats the format as a deck ecosystem rather than a flat card ranking. The strongest cards show up in the bomb table because they win on their own. The cards that pull a cluster together show up in the build-around and dependency tables because they need a shell. The pair

and anti-synergy sections then explain which combinations reinforce a winning plan and which combinations look attractive in draft but underperform together.