

2021-22 Topps Set of 676

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4 Key Rookie (RC) Stickers

Kirill Kaprizov, Alexis Lafreniere, Tim Stutzle and Bowen Byram.

Sticker History from 2021-22 Topps

This is the Largest (2nd year in a row) NHL Hockey stickers set of all time at 676 stickers in this year's set. Topps in its 3rd year taking over from Panini as the official provider of NHL Hockey Stickers after Panini's 14 year run of producing stickers from 2004-2018. (Panini did not produce NHL stickers in 2007)

Yet again, a large number of sought after foils in a set with 159 different foil stickers to collect.

A mind blowing 23.5% of the set was foils! So Foils for this year were just a little less than 1 in 4 stickers in the set, but were in packs at a ratio of 1 in 5 stickers per pack.

Included in these 159 Foils were: 64 Superstar Foil stickers where two or three star players were featured per team, 29 Foil Team Mascots (welcome Sparky the Islanders mascot for his rookie sticker season here). The teams that did not have a mascot featured were the Red Wings and Rangers. The Wings and Rangers featured an extra superstar instead of a mascot. There were 20 in the Rookie Foil Subset, 9 Trophy Winners, 31 Team Logo Foils and a 6 Piece Stanley Cup Trophy Puzzle. There were also 517 regular paper glossy style stickers (which accounted for 76.5% of the set).

Also of note is the fact that once again, 4 stickers were COMPLETE VARIATIONS of 4 stickers in from the album and ONLY available exclusively as an album insert. Stickers #156, 209, 223 and 478 showed a variant picture on the album panel. I've

“personally” numbered them (667-670). These 4 stickers were NOT available in packs.

In addition to the 4 Variation Exclusive “album only” stickers, there were 6 other SLIGHT VARIANT stickers on this “album panel”. These 6 stickers are :#245, 361, 382, 412, 455 and 462. Stickers #245, 361, 382, 412 and 462 were the exact same picture except the ones on the album panel had a slightly darker hue to them. Sticker #455 on the panel is an enlargement of Logan Couture that was issued in packs, but the same picture was used. It should be noted as well that the variant Logan Couture is #455 in the set where the #455 issued in packs is San Jose rookie Joel Kellman. There are 2 numbered Logan Coutures: #455 available exclusively in album and #449 available exclusively in packs. I've “personally” numbered these as (671-676).

We cracked open 64 boxes (4 cases) of 2021-22 NHL Topps Stickers. Here are the numbers:

Topps inserted ONLY one Foil Sticker in every pack (50 a box). It would take you at least 7-8

boxes to get at least one of each Foil (there are a lot of doubles). Opening over 20 boxes, some stickers I only saw 3 of. It is extremely hard to assemble complete sets from this series.

Considering that the price per box is about \$65 including shipping, realistically, it would take you about 6-7 boxes in order to make a complete set with a TON of doubles. That is a cost of \$325-\$390 for the average collector opening packages.

Topps.com and their reps at the National Sports Card Expo in November of 2019, made it clear that the company DOES NOT provide an opportunity to order missing stickers (as Panini did). They actually recommended I go to the secondary market or open more packs as the only way to complete my set. Realistically, it's more fun opening packs anyway.

This 2021-22 year of Topps celebrates the 3rd Year of Topps getting back into the hockey stickers market. Last seen briefly in 2003 (as a mini stickers set) and then before that, in 1999

and 1997 making NHL sticker re-useable decal sheets, then before that, Topps insert stickers (in hockey card packs) from 1985-1989, then from 1982 and 1983 (Topps made NHL packs of stickers and albums) as they are doing again today!

Sticker Facts

The size of each full sticker is 7.3 cm X 5.3 cm (2.88 in X 2.1 in). There were 50 packages in each wax box, which originally retailed for \$1.50 a pack. Each package contained 5 stickers (which included 1 of the 159 foils per package). The minimum number of packages needed to make a full set (assuming absolutely no doubles) is again, an NHL stickers record of 134. Remember, as noted above, there are 4 Variation stickers ONLY found in the album. There is ONLY one version of the sticker album: the cover features Brayden Point, Connor McDavid, Auston Matthews, Nathan MacKinnon, Connor Hellebuyck and David Pastrnak.

The 2021 Stanley Cup winners were again the Tampa Bay Lightning and Andrei Vasilevskiy won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the NHL Playoffs MVP.

Season Facts

This was the 104th season of operation of the NHL (103rd of play). In 2021, Owen Power was the 1st overall draft pick and played for the Buffalo Sabres in his first NHL season.

From the 2020-21 NHL season: Edmonton Oilers forward Connor McDavid won his 2nd Hart Memorial Trophy, 4th Art Ross Trophy and 3rd Ted Lindsay Award of his career.

Expansion Notes

The Seattle Kraken started play in the 2021-22 season. The Seattle Kraken played in the Pacific Division and the Arizona Coyotes moved to the Central Division in the 2021-22 NHL season.