



2018 Guide to Baseball Card Variations

Last Updated 7/21/18 - Aaron B

We love variations, and the card manufacturers have realized that. Each set released so far in 2018 contains an increased number of variations. The days of a simple photo variation are long gone! In this guide, I will go through 2018 baseball cards set by set and detail the different types of variations, print run/odds if available, and card codes to help identify variations. The trickiest part of variations is identifying them and making sure they don't get boxed up with commons. This guide will make it easier to identify a variation and how rare that variation is. As cool as it would be to do this project image-based, I don't think anyone wants a nine thousand page pdf. I will incorporate images when I can, but most of this will be bulleted and list information for quick reference. Cardboard Connection is a valuable resource for variation information, this guide will pull that information, along with Beckett's information, and have it all in one spot for you. This project is really to compile the information that is already out there and have all the info in one convenient place. I will update this guide after the information from new sets comes out.

Variation vs Parallel??

First thing to clear up is, what's the difference? A parallel is a card that is identical to the base but with a different color border, refractor, or other patterns. A lot of these can be serial numbered.

Parallels are always easy to spot. A variation will always contain something different from the base card. Usually it's a different image, nickname, or error. These also can be serial numbered, but usually a variation is just a "new version" of the base and are tougher to spot than parallels.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Topps Series 1](#)

[Topps Heritage](#)

[Donruss](#)

[Opening Day](#)

[Gypsy Queen](#)

[Diamond Kings](#)

[Bowman Chrome Mega Box](#)

[Topps Series 2](#)

[Stadium Club](#)

[Bowman Platinum](#)

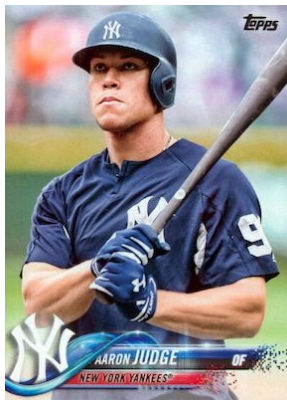
[Donruss Optic](#)

Sets Without Variations: Tribute, Bowman (paper), Tier One, Museum Collection, Topps Finest, Inception, Allen & Ginter

References:

www.cardboardconnection.com

www.beckett.com



2018 Topps Series 1

Release Date: January 31, 2018

Topps Series 1 is pretty simple with variations, in comparison to the other sets. Topps sticks with Short Print (SP) Photo Variations in Series 1, but they seemed to feature more players with variations. 22 players also feature Super Short Prints (SSP). Topps did not include the variations checklist, making the variations more of a mystery and making it up to the collector to identify the different images used for the SPs and SSPs.

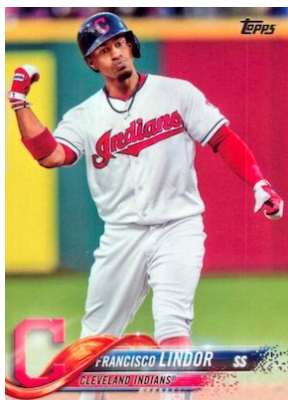
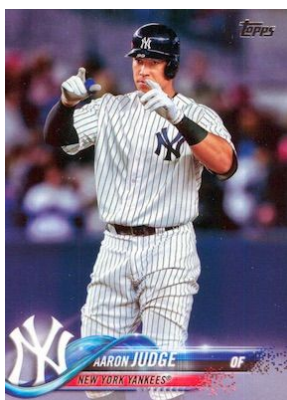
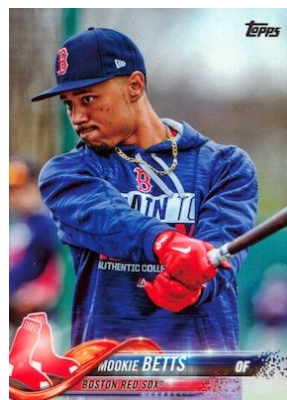
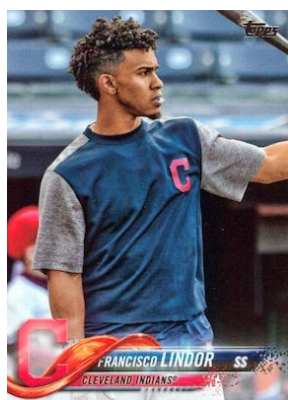
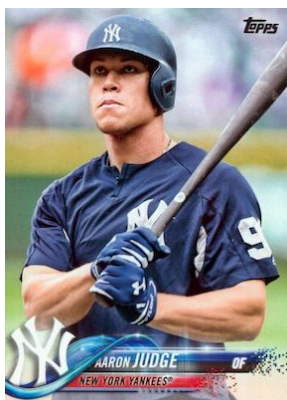
What to Look For?

Topps usually has a theme to their images used for the photo variation. This year the “themes” aren’t very interesting or easy to spot. The SPs show players in batting practice/pre-game settings. Whereas the SSPs show the players using hand signals or gestures during the game. If you don’t happen to catch the photo change, the fail safe way to check is by looking at the CMP code on the back of the card, small print at the bottom.

BASE CARD: end in 87

SP’s: end in 43 - 1:57 Hobby Pack Odds/1:11 Jumbo Pack Odds

SSP: end in 44 - 1:1,619 Hobby Pack Odds/1:324 Jumbo Pack Odds



2018 Topps Series 1 Baseball Variations Checklist

Short Prints (SP)

1 Aaron Judge - New York Yankees
6 Dominic Smith - New York Mets RC
7 Clint Frazier - New York Yankees RC
10 Francisco Lindor - Cleveland Indians
11 Aaron Nola - Philadelphia Phillies
18 Rafael Devers - Boston Red Sox RC
20 Chris Sale - Boston Red Sox
25 Manny Machado - Baltimore Orioles
30 Carlos Correa - Houston Astros
33 Dexter Fowler - St. Louis Cardinals
42 Cody Bellinger - Los Angeles Dodgers
44 Trea Turner - Washington Nationals
50 Anthony Rizzo - Chicago Cubs
58 Ryan Zimmerman - Washington Nationals
63 Amed Rosario - New York Mets RC
68 Billy Hamilton - Cincinnati Reds
81 Adam Wainwright - St. Louis Cardinals
82 Justin Smoak - Toronto Blue Jays
86 Eric Hosmer - Kansas City Royals
88 Michael Conforto - New York Mets
89 Yasiel Puig - Los Angeles Dodgers
90 Miguel Cabrera - Detroit Tigers
100 Giancarlo Stanton - Miami Marlins
102 Wil Myers - San Diego Padres
105 Daniel Murphy - Washington Nationals
110 Carlos Gonzalez - Colorado Rockies
118 Ian Happ - Chicago Cubs
125 Yoenis Cespedes - New York Mets
127 Byron Buxton - Minnesota Twins
130 Brian Dozier - Minnesota Twins
132 Marcell Ozuna - Miami Marlins
140 Mookie Betts - Boston Red Sox
142 Adam Jones - Baltimore Orioles
150 Nolan Arenado - Colorado Rockies
157 Ichiro - Miami Marlins
160 Masahiro Tanaka - New York Yankees
166 Victor Robles - Washington Nationals RC
172 Willson Contreras - Chicago Cubs
173 Mike Moustakas - Kansas City Royals
180 Ryan Braun - Milwaukee Brewers
182 Alex Bregman - Houston Astros
190 Justin Upton - Los Angeles Angels
191 Chris Archer - Tampa Bay Rays
196 Orlando Arcia - Milwaukee Brewers
200 Andrew McCutchen - Pittsburgh Pirates
220 Nelson Cruz - Seattle Mariners
223 Evan Longoria - Tampa Bay Rays
225 Kyle Schwarber - Chicago Cubs
226 Nick Williams - Philadelphia Phillies RC
233 Stephen Strasburg - Washington Nationals
238 Jose Bautista - Toronto Blue Jays
240 Robinson Cano - Seattle Mariners

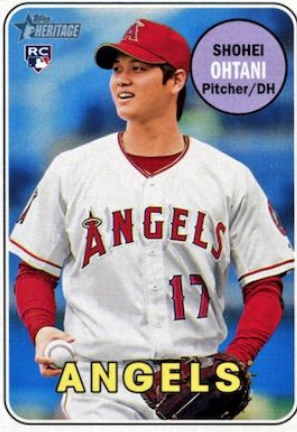
245 Willie Calhoun - Texas Rangers RC
248 Jake Lamb - Arizona Diamondbacks
250 Buster Posey - San Francisco Giants
254 Adrian Beltre - Texas Rangers
257 J.D. Martinez - Arizona Diamondbacks
259 Rhys Hoskins - Philadelphia Phillies RC
264 Carlos Rodon - Chicago White Sox
265 Javier Baez - Chicago Cubs
267 Yoan Moncada - Chicago White Sox
275 George Springer - Houston Astros
276 Ozzie Albies - Atlanta Braves RC
280 Jose Abreu - Chicago White Sox
288 Miguel Sano - Minnesota Twins
290 Salvador Perez - Kansas City Royals
297 Kevin Kiermaier - Tampa Bay Rays
300 Mike Trout - Los Angeles Angels
303 Luis Severino - New York Yankees
306 Nicky Delmonico - Chicago White Sox RC
325 Khris Davis - Oakland Athletics
326 Joey Gallo - Texas Rangers
330 Ian Kinsler - Detroit Tigers
340 Gary Sanchez - New York Yankees
350 Clayton Kershaw - Los Angeles Dodgers

Super Short Prints (SSP)

1 Aaron Judge - New York Yankees
6 Dominic Smith - New York Mets RC
7 Clint Frazier - New York Yankees RC
10 Francisco Lindor - Cleveland Indians
18 Rafael Devers - Boston Red Sox RC
20 Chris Sale - Boston Red Sox
25 Manny Machado - Baltimore Orioles
30 Carlos Correa - Houston Astros
42 Cody Bellinger - Los Angeles Dodgers
50 Anthony Rizzo - Chicago Cubs
63 Amed Rosario - New York Mets RC
100 Giancarlo Stanton - Miami Marlins
140 Mookie Betts - Boston Red Sox
150 Nolan Arenado - Colorado Rockies
157 Ichiro - Miami Marlins
200 Andrew McCutchen - Pittsburgh Pirates
225 Kyle Schwarber - Chicago Cubs
226 Nick Williams - Philadelphia Phillies RC
240 Robinson Cano - Seattle Mariners
250 Buster Posey - San Francisco Giants
259 Rhys Hoskins - Philadelphia Phillies RC
265 Javier Baez - Chicago Cubs
276 Ozzie Albies - Atlanta Braves RC
300 Mike Trout - Los Angeles Angels
350 Clayton Kershaw - Los Angeles Dodgers

2018 Topps Heritage

Release Date: February 28th, 2018



Heritage seems to be a favorite when it comes to variations, due to the retro layout and how they mimic the original set. With that said, Heritage also might be the most frustrating of the sets when identifying the variations and SPs. A highlight of Heritage was the true photo variation of Shohei Ohtani. By true variation, I mean that this card actually replaces a base card in the set with the same card number. In this case it is Zach Davies, Card #17, A throwback to how variations started.

What to Look For?

Lots of things to look for in the Heritage set. There is a base card short print. These cards are easy to find because they are card #'s 401-500. They also do error cards that usually mimic the same errors from the original set that they are throwing back to. These are tougher to find, so it might be better to search the codes for the error variations. Throwback variations are usually a fun card to get. Easy to find by the image on the front with the player in their teams throwback uniform. Heritage cards throwback to an old set, most of those sets had still images of the players, Topps does a variation with an action variation. There are also team color swap cards, where the card design has a different color scheme as the other team cards in the set. This year they did an All Star rookie trophy variation where the year says 1969. There is also a rookie variation where a player who was on a dual rookie card, has a stand alone variation. Lastly, the nickname variation, which displays a players nickname on the front of the card.

BASE CARD: end in 65

BASE SP's (#401-500): end in 85

ERROR: end in 98

TRADED: end in 99

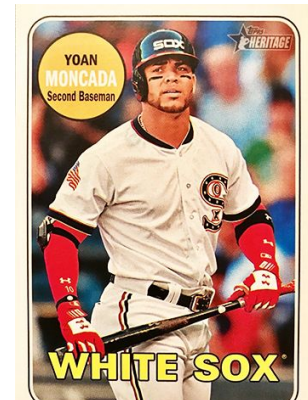
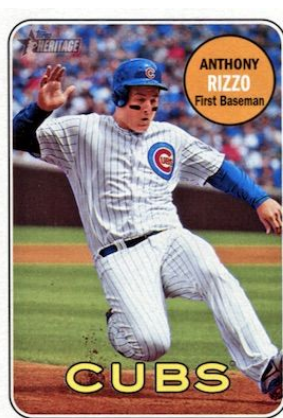
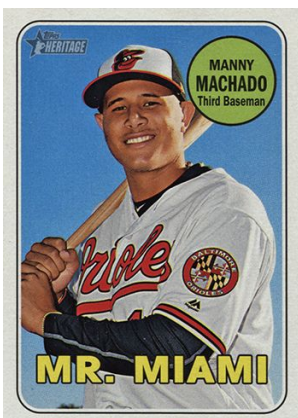
THROWBACK: end in 00

ACTION IMAGE: end in 01

TEAM COLOR SWAP: end in 02

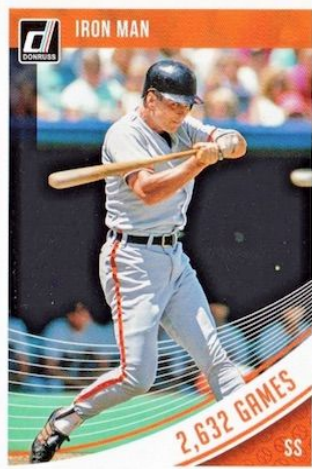
RC CUP YEAR ERROR: end in 03

NICKNAME: end in 04



2018 Topps Heritage Baseball Variations Checklist

17 Shohei Ohtani - Action Image RC	151 Manny Machado - Color Swap
20 Anthony Rizzo - Action Image	151 Manny Machado - Nickname
20 Anthony Rizzo - Color Swap	151 Manny Machado - Throwback
20 Anthony Rizzo - Throwback	159 Jay Bruce - Traded
22 Bryce Harper - Action Image	161 Yu Darvish - Traded
22 Bryce Harper - Color Swap	176 Corey Kluber - Throwback
22 Bryce Harper - Error	177 Sonny Gray - Traded
22 Bryce Harper - Nickname	180 Jordan Montgomery - RC Cup Error
25 Aaron Judge - Action Image	189 Rafael Devers - Action Image RC
25 Aaron Judge - Color Swap	189 Rafael Devers - Color Swap
25 Aaron Judge - Nickname	189 Rafael Devers - Nickname
25 Aaron Judge - Player Name Error	189 Rafael Devers - RC Cup Error
25 Aaron Judge - RC Cup Error	191 Gary Sanchez - Action Image
31 Amed Rosario - Action Image RC	191 Gary Sanchez - Color Swap
31 Amed Rosario - Color Swap	201 Yoan Moncada - Throwback
35 Jose Altuve - Action Image	206 Rhys Hoskins - Action Image RC
35 Jose Altuve - Throwback	206 Rhys Hoskins - Color Swap
45 Corey Seager - Action Image	216 Clayton Kershaw - Action Image
50 Andrew McCutchen - Nickname	216 Clayton Kershaw - Color Swap
58 Justin Verlander - Traded	216 Clayton Kershaw - Nickname
60 Justin Upton - Traded	232 Yadier Molina - Color Swap
63 Ian Happ - RC Cup Error	250 Trey Mancini - RC Cup Error
67 Max Scherzer - Color Swap	275 Mike Trout - Action Image
70 Joey Votto - Action Image	275 Mike Trout - Color Swap
70 Joey Votto - Color Swap	275 Mike Trout - Error
74 Giancarlo Stanton - Color Swap	275 Mike Trout - Nickname
74 Giancarlo Stanton - Error	275 Mike Trout - Throwback
74 Giancarlo Stanton - Traded	284 Victor Robles - Action Image RC
80 Kris Bryant - Action Image	284 Victor Robles - Color Swap
80 Kris Bryant - Color Swap	293 Buster Posey - Action Image
80 Kris Bryant - Nickname	293 Buster Posey - Color Swap
80 Kris Bryant - Player Name Error	294 J.D. Martinez - Traded
80 Kris Bryant - Throwback	305 Josh Bell - Throwback
90 Noah Syndergaard - Nickname	315 Sean Doolittle - Traded
101 Salvador Perez - Color Swap	320 Paul DeJong - RC Cup Error
101 Salvador Perez - Throwback	330 Mookie Betts - Action Image
109 Chris Sale - Color Swap	330 Mookie Betts - Color Swap
114 Clint Frazier - Action Image RC	330 Mookie Betts - Throwback
114 Clint Frazier - Color Swap	348 German Marquez - RC Cup Error
114 Clint Frazier - Nickname	351 Nolan Arenado - Action Image
118 Cody Bellinger - Action Image	369 Paul Goldschmidt - Action Image
118 Cody Bellinger - Color Swap	369 Paul Goldschmidt - Nickname
118 Cody Bellinger - Nickname	381 Carlos Correa - Action Image
118 Cody Bellinger - RC Cup Error	381 Carlos Correa - Color Swap
119 Alex Bregman - Throwback	381 Carlos Correa - Nickname
126 Jose Quintana - Traded	381 Carlos Correa - Throwback
130 Andrew Benintendi - Action Image	406 Ryan Braun - Throwback
130 Andrew Benintendi - Color Swap	454 Shin-Soo Choo - Throwback
130 Andrew Benintendi - Nickname	472 Brandon Phillips - Traded
130 Andrew Benintendi - RC Cup Error	
145 Francisco Lindor - Action Image	
145 Francisco Lindor - Color Swap	
145 Francisco Lindor - Nickname	
145 Francisco Lindor - Throwback	
150 Josh Hader - RC Cup Error	
151 Manny Machado - Action Image	



2018 Donruss

Release Date: March 7th, 2018

Donruss jumped on the variation bandwagon this year with the amount of variations included in this set combined with how easy they were able to pull. Collectors have gotten used to variations holding their value, not in the case of 2018 Donruss. Too many variations in this set to seem like a special pull. Variation “subjects” doubled from the previous year. A great entry set for beginners in the hobby, or folks looking to come back and not spend a lot. Obviously the big drawback here is the no logos.

What to Look For?

One fun thing about the Donruss variations is that they are easier to identify than the competitors. Though the value may not be there, the instant gratification of pulling a variation might be. One thing I learned from Cardboard Connection was a “Variation Trick” for Donruss (image below). On the back of the card, there is a baseball graphic on the top left-hand corner. Variations will feature a black filled-in baseball graphic. The base will have a white filled in baseball. This shouldn’t come in handy too much because of the other easy identifiers of the front of the cards. There are no codes to search on the back but here is the list of variations to look for.

PHOTO VARIATION

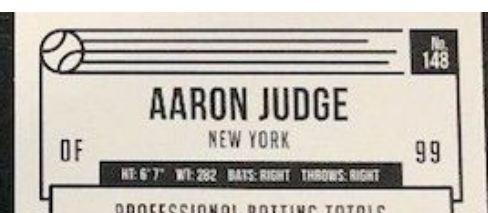
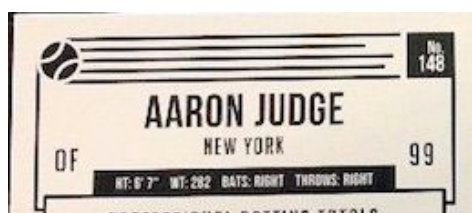
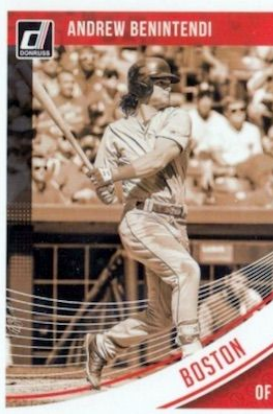
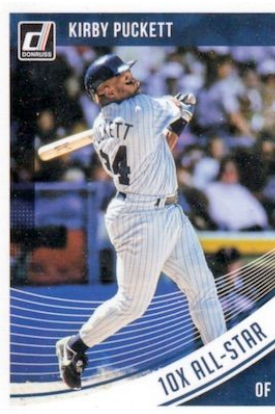
NICKNAME VARIATION

NOTABLE STATS VARIATION - printed on front

BLACK & WHITE VARIATION

1984 RETRO PHOTO VARIATION

MULTIPLE VARIATION - multiple changes on one card



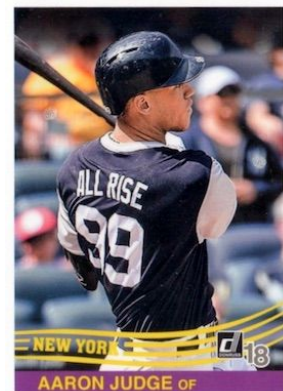
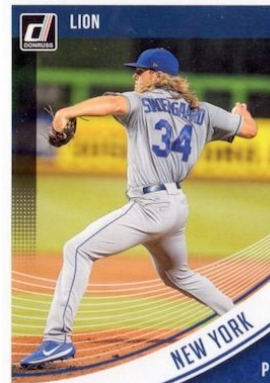
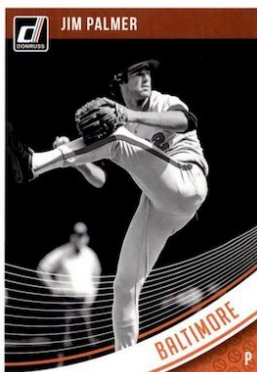
*** VARIATION “TRICK” - black shaded baseball is variation (opposite for 84 retro)

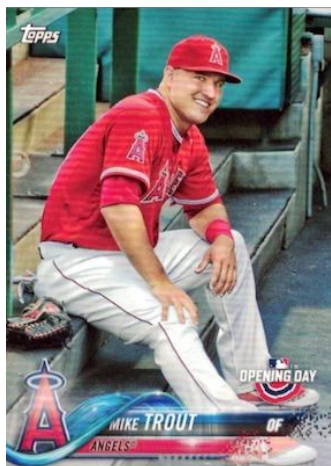
2018 Donruss Variations Checklist

59 Eddie Mathews - Stat
 64 Cal Ripken - Nickname
 65 Jim Palmer - Black & White
 69 Jackie Bradley Jr. - Nickname
 86 Jose Abreu - Black & White
 87 Frank Thomas - Nickname
 92 Joe Morgan - Team Nickname
 100 Roberto Alomar - Nickname
 104 Charlie Blackmon - Image
 108 Reggie Jackson - Image
 110 Al Kaline - Nickname
 120 George Brett - Black & White
 123 Rod Carew - Black & White
 134 Marcell Ozuna - Image
 141 Anthony Rizzo - Image
 142 Kirby Puckett - Stat
 143 Giancarlo Stanton - Nickname
 144 Noah Syndergaard - Nickname
 148 Aaron Judge - ROY
 148 Aaron Judge - Nickname
 149 Cody Bellinger - ROY
 149 Cody Bellinger - Image
 150 Gary Sanchez - Nickname
 153 Corey Kluber - Nickname
 154 Clayton Kershaw - Nickname
 155 Mike Trout - Nickname
 157 Francisco Lindor - Nickname
 158 Corey Seager - Image
 159 Andrew McCutchen - Nickname
 162 Alex Bregman - Image

163 Carlos Correa - Nickname
 165 Tony Gwynn - Nickname
 166 Jose Altuve - Nickname
 167 Buster Posey - Nickname
 167 Buster Posey - Image
 169 Andrew Benintendi - Black & White
 169 Andrew Benintendi - Nickname
 172 Nolan Arenado - Image
 173 Jose Ramirez - Image
 175 Ken Griffey Jr. - Nickname
 176 Yadier Molina - Nickname
 183 Kris Bryant - Nickname B/W
 183 Kris Bryant - Image
 187 Nolan Ryan - Nickname
 189 Manny Machado - Image
 191 Mookie Betts - Nickname
 191 Mookie Betts - Nickname / Image
 192 Bryce Harper - Nickname
 195 Chipper Jones - Nickname
 200 Mickey Mantle - Nickname
225 Anthony Rizzo - Retro 1984 Image
227 Andrew Benintendi - Retro 1984 Image
228 Kris Bryant - Retro 1984 Image
230 Yoan Moncada - Retro 1984 Image
234 Francisco Lindor - Retro 1984 Image
242 Mike Trout - Retro 1984 Image
243 Cody Bellinger - Retro 1984 Image
253 Aaron Judge - Retro 1984 Image
254 Mickey Mantle - Retro 1984 Image
256 Nolan Ryan - Retro 1984 Image

***** The Retro 1984 cards feature the REVERSE of the Variation Trick that I mentioned prior about the baseball graphic on the back - These variations have the white baseball**





2018 Topps Opening Day Release Date: March 14th, 2018

Opening Day has come a long way in the last few seasons. This set is a very inexpensive set to go after, and looked at as a beginner set, but they have been sneaking more and more variations and rare inserts into the sets. There are autos and relics in Opening Day, but they aren't what drive the set. They have added some really nice, and rare, insert sets to go with the SSP variations to give the set some nice things to chase.

What to Look For?

The Opening Day set is the identical design as the flagship Topps but with the Opening Day logo in a lower corner. The images are usually the same as the Topps set but in some cases they will use a new image. The SSP variations are all image variations and can be tough to spot if you don't know what the images are supposed to be. Like the flagship Topps, you can also spot the codes on the back of the card to identify a variation.

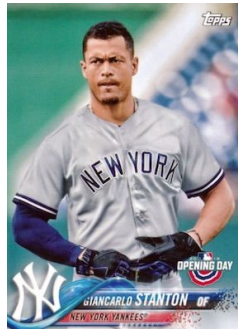
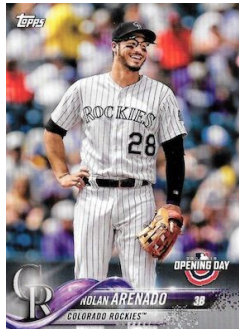
BASE CARD: end in 17

VARIATION: end in #95 - 1:477 pack odds

2018 Topps Opening Day Variations Checklist

1 Clayton Kershaw - Dodgers - Staring
3 Kris Bryant - Cubs - Smiling
4 Mike Trout - Angels - Sitting in Dugout
5 Buster Posey - Giants - Black Jersey
7 Carlos Correa - Astros - Smiling
16 Manny Machado - Orioles - White Jersey
30 Jose Abreu - White Sox - Pulling on Jersey
39 Francisco Lindor - Indians - Sitting
41 Nolan Arenado - Rockies - White Jersey
46 Miguel Cabrera - Tigers - Laughing
55 Mike Moustakas - Royals - White Jersey
60 Giancarlo Stanton - Yankees - No Helmet
63 Jonathan Villar - Brewers - Dugout
64 Byron Buxton - Twins - Smiling
70 Amed Rosario RC - Mets - Smiling

71 Aaron Judge - Yankees - Smiling
82 Rhys Hoskins RC - Phillies - High Five
83 Andrew McCutchen - Pirates - Black Jersey
87 Hunter Renfroe - Padres - Diving Catch
93 Felix Hernandez - Mariners - Holding Box
99 Chris Archer - Rays - Laughing
100 Joey Gallo - Rangers - Sunglasses
107 Josh Donaldson - Blue Jays - Blue Jersey
112 Max Scherzer - Nationals - Red Shirt
139 Joey Votto - Reds - White Jersey
142 Paul Goldschmidt - D-Backs - Black Jersey
143 Freddie Freeman - Braves - Creepy Stare
150 Andrew Benintendi - Red Sox - Navy Jersey
179 Matt Olson - A's - In Dugout
187 Matt Carpenter - Cardinals - High Five





2018 Gypsy Queen

Release Date: March 21st, 2018

Gypsy Queen looks to continue the variation craze that Heritage took to a new level, but with an added twist. They are offering new parallels to the base and the short print variations. Along with 20 Base Short Prints, collectors were a bit overwhelmed when the set released for all the goodies to look for. Mixed with a nice Ohtani base rookies, this set sky-rocketed in prices from its original release price.

What to Look For?

Short Prints. Parallels. Variations. And there's a lot to look for! The set features a Base SP that are card numbers 301-320. GQ features FOUR different parallels to track down. In addition, There are THREE official variations. It's easy to sort out if you know everything to look for. One thing GQ did make easy was that most of the variations come in the pack facing a different direction as the rest of the cards.

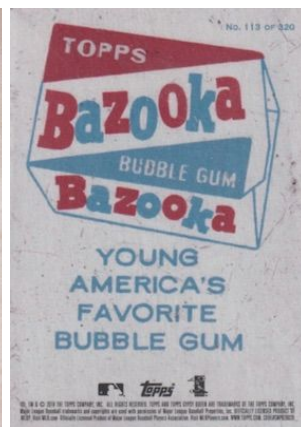
PARALLEL BREAKDOWN

MISSING BLACKPLATE PARALLEL - worn out, vintage look. Odds not posted. Not rare.

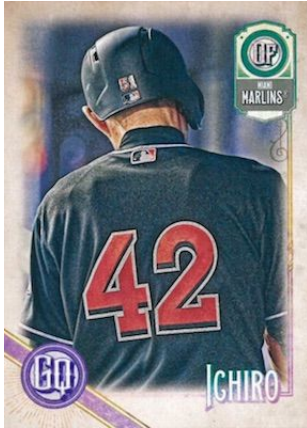
MISSING TEAM NAMEPLATE PARALLEL - removes full team name in upper corner.
1:16 pack odds base - 1:422 pack odds for SP

GQ LOGO SWAP PARALLEL - GQ logo is replaced with an sketch type logo. 1:22 pack odds for base, 1:843 pack odds for SP

BAZOOKA BACK PARALLEL - card back will feature a vintage Bazooka Gum ad. 1:43 pack odds for base, 1:1,263 pack odds for SP



VARIATION BREAKDOWN



JACKIE ROBINSON DAY IMAGE VARIATIONS

- 1:106 pack odds
- With GQ Logo Swap 1:422 odds
- 1-of-1 Black Parallel 1:41,298 odds
- Code Ends in #64



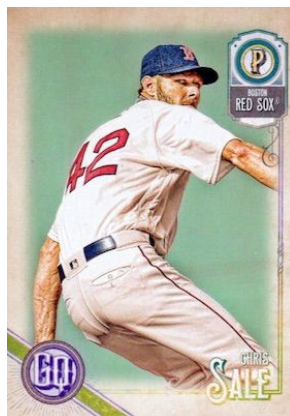
CAPLESS IMAGE VARIATIONS

- MLB top players without a hat on
- 1:121 pack odds
- With GQ Logo Swap 1:303 odds
- 1-of-1 Black Parallel 1:28,898
- Code Ends in #67



TEAM SWAP ERROR VARIATIONS

- Wrong MLB team listed on front
- 1:843 pack odds
- No Listed Parallels
- Code Ends in #70



2018 Topps Gypsy Queen Baseball Variations Checklist

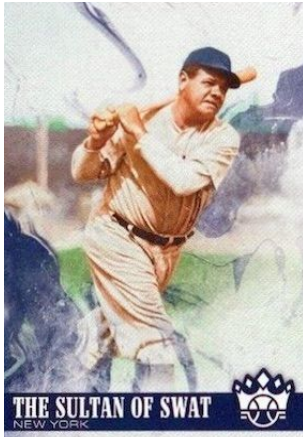
1 Mike Trout - Team Swap Error
 8 Eric Hosmer - Jackie Robinson Day
 14 Yoenis Cespedes - Jackie Robinson Day
 22 Amed Rosario - Capless
 23 Francisco Lindor - Capless
 23 Francisco Lindor - Jackie Robinson Day
 25 Carlos Correa - Jackie Robinson Day
 25 Carlos Correa - Team Swap Error
 27/260 Scooter Gennett - Capless
 35 Ichiro - Capless
 35 Ichiro - Jackie Robinson Day
 42 Adam Jones - Jackie Robinson Day
 50 Bryce Harper - Capless
 50 Bryce Harper - Jackie Robinson Day
 50 Bryce Harper - Team Swap Error
 53 Rafael Devers - Team Swap Error
 65 Trevor Story - Jackie Robinson Day
 74 Noah Syndergaard - Team Swap Error
 79 Jose Altuve - Capless
 79 Jose Altuve - Jackie Robinson Day
 81 Buster Posey - Capless
 86 Ervin Santana - Jackie Robinson Day
 98 Manny Machado - Capless
 98 Manny Machado - Jackie Robinson Day
 100 Chris Sale - Capless
 100 Chris Sale - Jackie Robinson Day
 118 Eric Thames - Jackie Robinson Day
 123 Alex Bregman - Jackie Robinson Day
 125 Corey Seager - Jackie Robinson Day
 125 Corey Seager - Team Swap Error
 133 Lance McCullers Jr. - Jackie Robinson Day
 146 Carlos Martinez - Jackie Robinson Day
 148 Josh Donaldson - Capless

156 Yasiel Puig - Jackie Robinson Day
 163 Ozzie Albies - Team Swap Error
 164 Hunter Renfroe - Team Swap Error
 165/74 Justin Turner - Capless
 166/224 Ben Gamel - Capless
 176 Jacob deGrom - Capless
 176 Jacob deGrom - Jackie Robinson Day
 187 Matt Olson - Team Swap Error
 191 Andrew McCutchen - Jackie Robinson Day
 194 Corey Kluber - Jackie Robinson Day
 199 Rhys Hoskins - Capless
 199 Rhys Hoskins - Team Swap Error
 200 Cody Bellinger - Capless
 202 George Springer - Jackie Robinson Day
 208 Khris Davis - Capless
 208 Khris Davis - Jackie Robinson Day
 217 Joey Votto - Jackie Robinson Day
 233 Robinson Cano - Team Swap Error
 242 Daniel Murphy - Jackie Robinson Day
 253 Jose Ramirez - Team Swap Error
 256 James Paxton - Jackie Robinson Day
 259 Edwin Encarnacion - Jackie Robinson Day
 260 Kris Bryant - Team Swap Error
 265 Justin Verlander - Jackie Robinson Day
 268 Rougned Odor - Team Swap Error
 280 Yuli Gurriel - Capless
 287 Charlie Blackmon - Capless
 287 Charlie Blackmon - Jackie Robinson Day
 292 Nolan Arenado - Jackie Robinson Day
 297 Nelson Cruz - Capless
 300 Aaron Judge - Capless
 300 Aaron Judge - Team Swap Error



All GQ CODES

- BASE (#1-300) - ends in #29
- BASE SP (#301-320) - ends in #59
- Jackie Robinson Variation - ends in #64
- Capless Variation - ends in #67
- Team Swap Error - ends in #70



2018 Diamond Kings

Release Date: April 11th, 2018

Diamond Kings offers just about every kind of variation we have seen in the past and it makes for a really fun box to rip open. This season the big variation draw was that of Shohei Ohtani and his 8 different variants between hitting and pitching images, nicknames, and color changes. DK continues to offer a number of parallels to their set, all of the variations will come with the same selection of parallels.

What to Look For?

Fifty Short Print variations that feature Black & White Images, Sepia Images, Image Swap Variations, and Nicknames. These are pretty easy to spot, aside from the Image Swap Variation. Panini indicated a second trick to finding variations on the back of the card. Base cards will feature an oval frame around the players image on the back. Variations will feature a square frame around the players image. This is NOT confirmed to be the case for all variations yet, though.

Parallels

Artist Proof Red

Blue Frame

Red Frame

Artist Proof Gold /99

Gray Frame /99

Brown Frame /49

Artist Proof Blue /25

Green Frame /5

Artist Proof Masterpiece

1/1

Black Frame 1/1

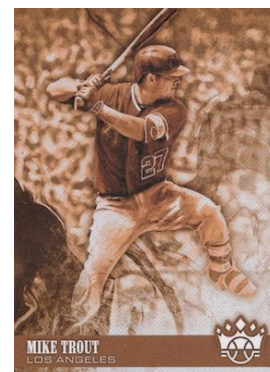
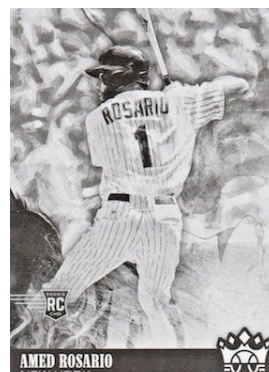
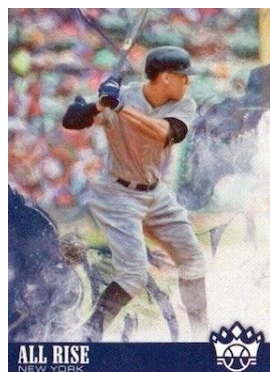
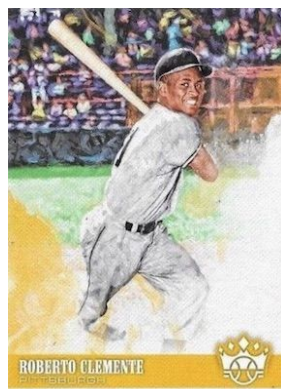
Variations

Photo Variation - Other than Ohtani, Photo Variations all feature legends.

Nickname Variation - Also features an Ohtani with Japanese script on the card

Black & White Variation - Different Photo, Black & White Image and color scheme

Sepia Variation - Different Photo, Sepia Image and color scheme

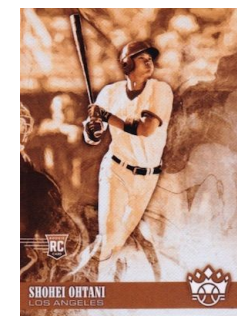
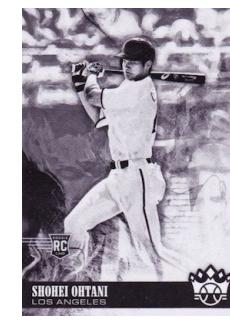
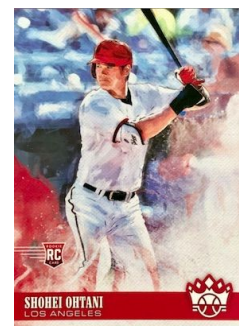
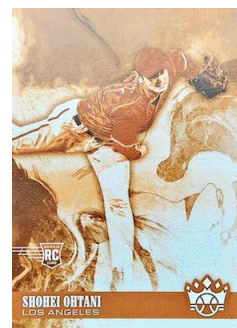
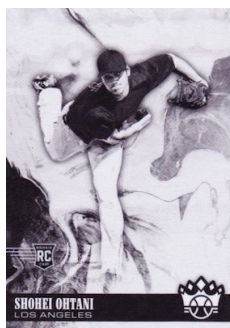
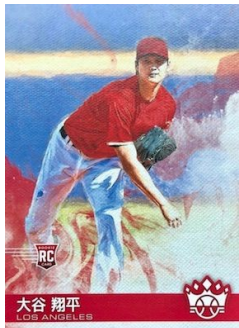
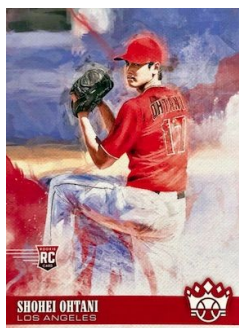


2018 Panini Diamond Kings Baseball Variations Checklist

1 Babe Ruth - Name
 2 Honus Wagner - Name
 2 Honus Wagner - Photo
 3 Stan Musial - Photo
 4 Lou Gehrig - Photo
 7 Mickey Mantle - Name
 7 Mickey Mantle - Photo
 8 Harry Hooper - Photo
 9 Ted Williams - Name
 9 Ted Williams - Photo
 10 Joe Cronin - Photo
 11 Joe DiMaggio - Photo
 13 Lloyd Waner - Photo
 18 Paul Waner - Photo
 19 Roberto Clemente - Photo
 20 Roger Maris - Photo
 23 Pee Wee Reese - Photo
 25 Ernie Banks - Name
 25 Ernie Banks - Photo
 27 Lefty Gomez - Photo
 28 Jackie Robinson - Photo
 30 Joe Jackson - Photo
 35 Ty Cobb - Photo
 49 Frank Thomas - Name
 65 Francisco Lindor - Sepia

69 Jose Altuve - Sepia
 70 Mike Trout - Sepia
 73 Shohei Ohtani - Black and White
 73 Shohei Ohtani - Name
 73 Shohei Ohtani - Photo
 73 Shohei Ohtani - Sepia
 76 Shohei Ohtani - Black and White
 76 Shohei Ohtani - Name
 76 Shohei Ohtani - Photo
 76 Shohei Ohtani - Sepia
 78 Bryce Harper - Sepia
 79 Buster Posey - Sepia
 80 Aaron Judge - Name
 80 Aaron Judge - Sepia
 81 Andrew Benintendi - Sepia
 82 Cody Bellinger - Sepia
 100 Victor Robles - Black and White
 104 Rafael Devers - Black and White
 105 Francisco Mejia - Black and White
 108 Walker Buehler - Black and White
 116 Amed Rosario - Black and White
 117 Clint Frazier - Black and White
 118 Miguel Andujar - Black and White
 121 Rhys Hoskins - Black and White
 136 Nolan Ryan - Name

Just for fun - let's look at all the Ohtani Variations





2018 Bowman Chrome Mega Box

Release Date: May 23, 2018

Bowman and their Chrome product have never been one to over-do it with the variation checklist. This year is no different, they choose a couple key prospects and issue a Super Short Print (SP) photo variation in the chrome set through the Bowman Mega Box. This year, they have selected 10 prospects to give Base SSP to. Brenden McKay has two variations in this set. There are two card numbers for him, but only one that has a base version. No quirky themes in Bowman with the variations, just some good ol' fashioned image variations.

What to Look For?

These are tough to find simply because there are only two packs of the exclusive packs that feature the variations. The odds don't seem too rare at 1:69 packs, but it breaks down to 1:35 box odds since there are two packs per box. To take it a step further, they also do a Base SSP Autograph version of these variations. Those can be found at 1:853 pack odds.

BASE CARD: end in #7722

VARIATION: end in #7738

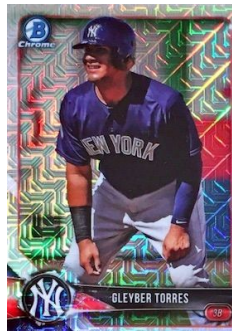
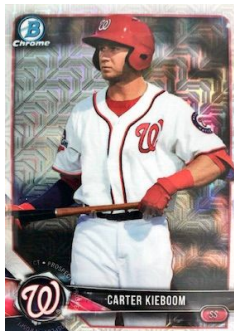
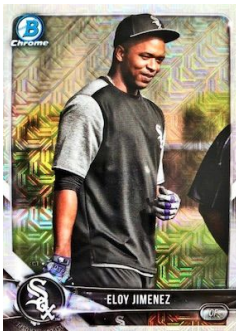
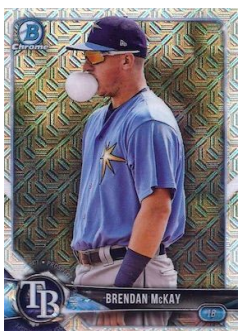
2018 Bowman Chrome Variations Checklist

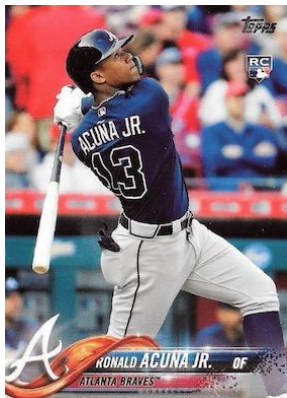
Base SSP - 1:69 packs

BCP1 Ronald Acuna - Atlanta Braves
BCP7 Carter Kieboom - Washington Nationals
BCP14 Kyle Wright - Atlanta Braves
BCP38 Mitch Keller - Pittsburgh Pirates
BCP50 Eloy Jimenez - Chicago White Sox
BCP61 Brendan McKay - Tampa Bay Rays
BCP68 Brendan McKay - Tampa Bay Rays
BCP93 Royce Lewis - Minnesota Twins
BCP100 Gleyber Torres - New York Yankees
BCP150 Vladimir Guerrero Jr. - Blue Jays

Base SSP Autograph - 1:853 packs

BCP1 Ronald Acuna - Atlanta Braves
BCP7 Carter Kieboom - Washington Nationals
BCP14 Kyle Wright - Atlanta Braves
BCP38 Mitch Keller - Pittsburgh Pirates
BCP61 Brendan McKay - Tampa Bay Rays
BCP68 Brendan McKay - Tampa Bay Rays
BCP93 Royce Lewis - Minnesota Twins
BCP100 Gleyber Torres - New York Yankees





2018 Topps Series 2

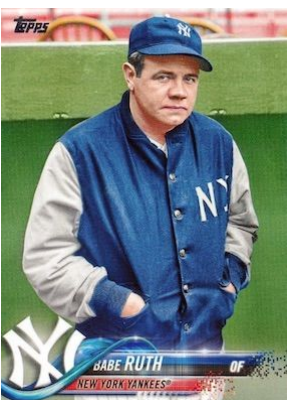
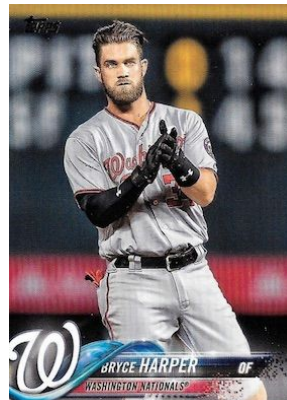
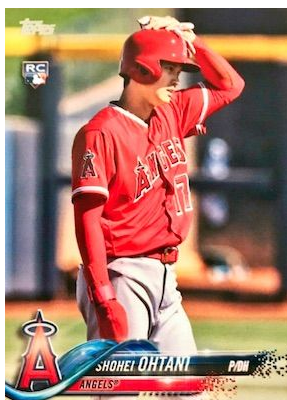
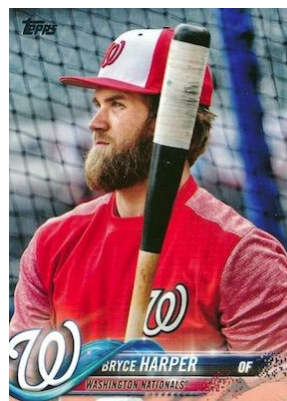
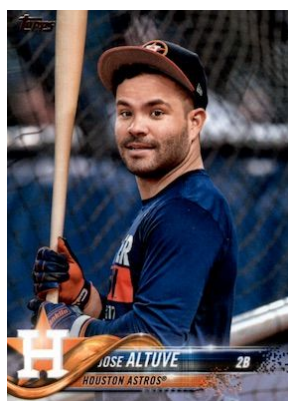
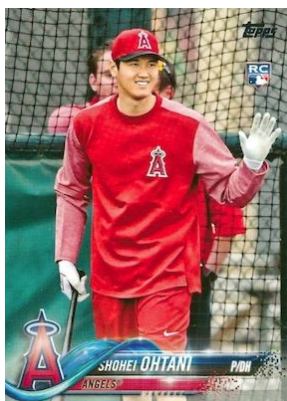
Release Date: June 13, 2018

Topps Series 2 is pretty similar to Series 1 with variations and layout. They are still featuring players in pre-game routines. Topps sticks with Short Print (SP) Photo Variations in Series 2, but they added two "Late RC SP" variations of Torres and Acuna. these cards are replacing a player's card number (always my favorite). The final tally includes 75 SP Cards, 25 SSP Cards, and 2 Late RC SP. One other wrinkle to the SP variations of this series are the Legend Variations that are replacing current stars. I.E Ty Cobb #351 variation is replacing the Bryce Harper #351. These end in the same codes as a general SP. One cool thing about the Legend Variation, is there seems to be a tie between the legend and the star that they are replacing on the card. IE Don Mattingly replaces Greg Bird. Examples Below.

What to Look For?

As I mentioned, Topps did not change the "theme" of the variations from Series 1 to Series 2. This year the "themes" aren't very interesting or easy to spot. The SPs show players in batting practice/pre-game settings. Whereas the SSPs show the players using hand signals or gestures during the game. If you don't happen to catch the photo change, the fail safe way to check is by looking at the CMP code on the back of the card, small print at the bottom.

SP's: end in 412 - 1:30 Hobby Pack Odds/1:6 Jumbo Pack Odds
SSP: end in 414 - 1:886 Hobby Pack Odds/1:177 Jumbo Pack Odds
Late RC SP: end in 249 (odds not confirmed yet - one per case?)



2018 Topps Series 2 Baseball Variations Checklist

Short Prints (SP)

351 Bryce Harper - Washington Nationals
351 Ty Cobb - Detroit Tigers
351 Reggie Jackson - New York Yankees
369 Chris Taylor - Los Angeles Dodgers
384 Addison Russell - Chicago Cubs
384 Ernie Banks - Chicago Cubs
392 Marcus Stroman - Toronto Blue Jays
393 Corey Kluber - Cleveland Indians
397 Dallas Keuchel - Houston Astros
400 Jose Altuve - Houston Astros
400 Honus Wagner - Pittsburgh Pirates
413 Trevor Bauer - Cleveland Indians
416 Matt Olson - Oakland Athletics
418 Jose Ramirez - Cleveland Indians
430 Manny Margot - San Diego Padres
431 Charlie Blackmon - Colorado Rockies
431 Rickey Henderson - Oakland Athletics
436 Yu Darvish - Chicago Cubs
436 Greg Maddux - Atlanta Braves
439 Dustin Pedroia - Boston Red Sox
450 Joey Votto - Cincinnati Reds
450 Johnny Bench - Cincinnati Reds
454 Kyle Seager - Seattle Mariners
462 Paul DeJong - St. Louis Cardinals
462 Ozzie Smith - St. Louis Cardinals
469 Sonny Gray - New York Yankees
471 Josh Harrison - Pittsburgh Pirates
484 Kenta Maeda - Los Angeles Dodgers
499 Justin Bour - Miami Marlins
500 Kris Bryant - Chicago Cubs
500 Ryne Sandberg - Chicago Cubs
502 Xander Bogaerts - Boston Red Sox
503 Josh Donaldson - Toronto Blue Jays
503 George Brett - Kansas City Royals
506 Jose Berrios - Minnesota Twins
507 Zack Greinke - Arizona Diamondbacks
510 Freddie Freeman - Atlanta Braves
510 Chipper Jones - Atlanta Braves
515 Greg Bird - New York Yankees
515 Don Mattingly - New York Yankees
544 Yadier Molina - St. Louis Cardinals
544 Roberto Clemente - Pittsburgh Pirates
545 Nicholas Castellanos - Detroit Tigers
550 Cal Ripken Jr - Baltimore Orioles
550 Corey Seager - Los Angeles Dodgers
550 Jackie Robinson - Brooklyn Dodgers
555 Jacob deGrom - New York Mets
556 Andrew Benintendi - Boston Red Sox
556 Ted Williams - Boston Red Sox
567 Felix Hernandez - Seattle Mariners
576 Didi Gregorius - New York Yankees
576 Derek Jeter - New York Yankees

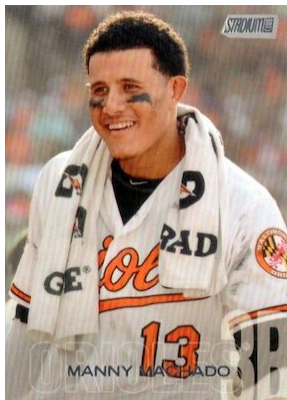
582 Albert Pujols - Los Angeles Angels
582 Hank Aaron - Atlanta Braves
585 Brandon Crawford - San Francisco Giants
585 Willie McCovey - San Francisco Giants
589 Adam Duvall - Cincinnati Reds
593 Luke Weaver - St. Louis Cardinals
599 Justin Turner - Los Angeles Dodgers
600 Noah Syndergaard - New York Mets
600 Tom Seaver - New York Mets
605 Lucas Giolito - Chicago White Sox
605 Frank Thomas - Chicago White Sox
611 Max Scherzer - Washington Nationals
615 Eric Thames - Milwaukee Brewers
618 Paul Goldschmidt - Arizona Diamondbacks
618 Lou Gehrig - New York Yankees
629 Sandy Koufax - Los Angeles Dodgers
632 Edwin Encarnacion - Cleveland Indians
650 Justin Verlander - Houston Astros
650 Bob Gibson - St. Louis Cardinals
652 Matt Carpenter - St. Louis Cardinals
665 Tommy Pham - St. Louis Cardinals
700 Shohei Ohtani - Los Angeles Angels
700 Babe Ruth - New York Yankees

SSP Variations

351 Bryce Harper - Washington Nationals
384 Addison Russell - Chicago Cubs
393 Corey Kluber - Cleveland Indians
400 Jose Altuve - Houston Astros
418 Jose Ramirez - Cleveland Indians
431 Charlie Blackmon - Colorado Rockies
436 Yu Darvish - Chicago Cubs
439 Dustin Pedroia - Boston Red Sox
450 Joey Votto - Cincinnati Reds
469 Sonny Gray - New York Yankees
500 Kris Bryant - Chicago Cubs
503 Josh Donaldson - Toronto Blue Jays
510 Freddie Freeman - Atlanta Braves
544 Yadier Molina - St. Louis Cardinals
550 Corey Seager - Los Angeles Dodgers
555 Jacob deGrom - New York Mets
556 Andrew Benintendi - Boston Red Sox
567 Felix Hernandez - Seattle Mariners
576 Didi Gregorius - New York Yankees
582 Albert Pujols - Los Angeles Angels
600 Noah Syndergaard - New York Mets
611 Max Scherzer - Washington Nationals
618 Paul Goldschmidt - Arizona Diamondbacks
650 Justin Verlander - Houston Astros
700 Shohei Ohtani - Los Angeles Angels

Late RC SP

698 Ronald Acuña Jr. - Atlanta Braves RC
699 Gleyber Torres - New York Yankees RC



2018 Topps Stadium Club Release Date: June 13, 2018

The photography in this set is always amazing and [Cardboard Connection](#) makes a good point that Stadium Club may not need the variations because of it. This makes a lot of sense when going through the cards, I find myself checking the code on any "interesting" image and it's always just base. They include some true variations here where a specific card is replaced with a different player but with the same number. I.E Cal Ripken replaces Cam Gallagher on card number 100.

There is a nice Ohtani variation featuring him pitching rather than his press conference image. Acuna is featured in this set as a variation only. He replaces Hank Aaron's base card #223

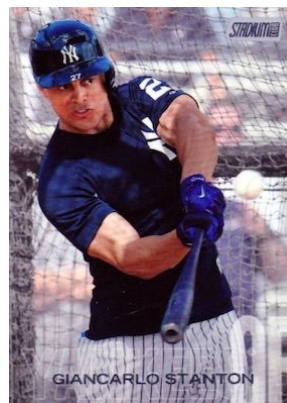
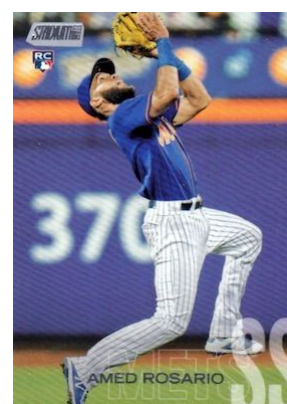
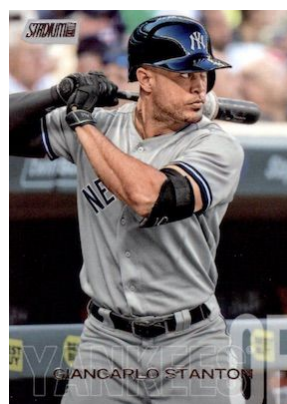
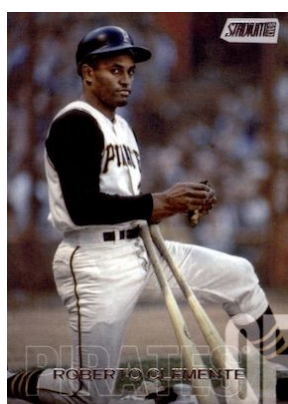
What to Look For?

No method to the variation madness in this set. I highly recommend simply checking the codes if you don't have the list memorized of what's a variation and what's not.

Base Cards: end in 31

Variations: end in 67 - 1:109 packs - 1:7 boxes - 2:1 case odds

Top row are the base card, bottom row are image variations

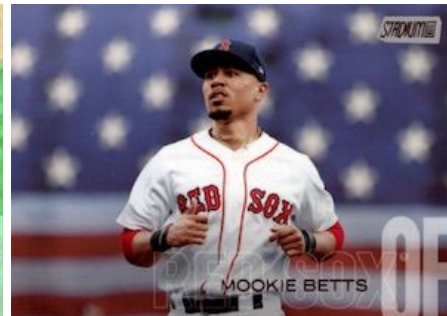
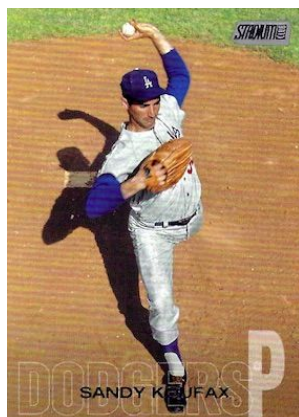
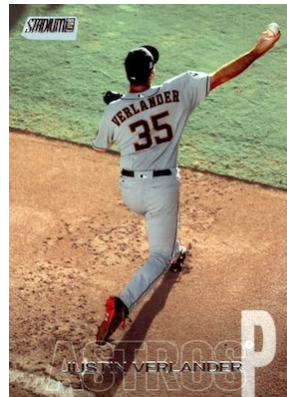
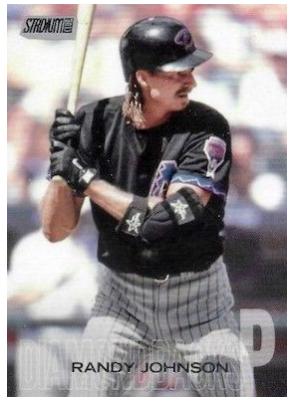
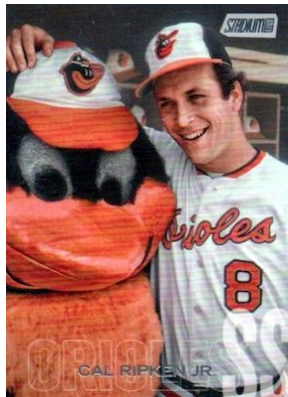


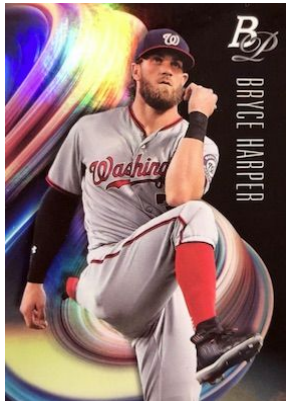
2018 Stadium Club Baseball Variations Checklist

3 Clint Frazier - New York Yankees RC
 32 Carlos Correa - Houston Astros
 37 Victor Robles - Washington Nationals RC
 48 Mike Trout - Los Angeles Angels
 70 Noah Syndergaard - New York Mets
 71 Chris Sale - Boston Red Sox
 81 Will Clark - San Francisco Giants
 83 Joey Votto - Cincinnati Reds
 100 Cal Ripken Jr. - Baltimore Orioles
 111 Cody Bellinger - Los Angeles Dodgers
 117 Rafael Devers - Boston Red Sox RC *
 129 Manny Machado - Baltimore Orioles
 133 Nolan Ryan - Houston Astros
 138 Shohei Ohtani - Los Angeles Angels RC *
 145 Giancarlo Stanton - New York Yankees
 150 Justin Verlander - Houston Astros
 169 Trea Turner - Washington Nationals
 171 Don Mattingly - New York Yankees
 175 Mookie Betts - Boston Red Sox

178 Andrew Benintendi - Boston Red Sox
 179 Bryce Harper - Washington Nationals
 181 Roberto Clemente - Pittsburgh Pirates
 192 Buster Posey - San Francisco Giants
 197 Rhys Hoskins - Philadelphia Phillies RC
 200 Jackie Robinson - Brooklyn Dodgers
 201 Kris Bryant - Chicago Cubs *
 223 Ronald Acuña - Atlanta Braves
 228 Frank Thomas - Chicago White Sox
 241 Aaron Judge - New York Yankees
 248 Mariano Rivera - New York Yankees
 260 Amed Rosario - New York Mets RC
 262 Randy Johnson - Arizona Diamondbacks
 271 Jose Altuve - Houston Astros
 275 Derek Jeter - New York Yankees
 276 Clayton Kershaw - Los Angeles Dodgers
 282 Mark McGwire - Oakland Athletics
 288 Sandy Koufax - Los Angeles Dodgers

Some other cool variations from Stadium Club





2018 Bowman Platinum

Release Date: Early July

To add a little more fun into an already fun set, There are 10 Super Short Print Variations of Stars and Key Rookies to look for. They are tough to get, but that just means they hold their value. A lot of the other sets with variations can't boast the same. Since there are only 10 players on this checklist. All images will be listed below!

What to Look For?

Like Topps did with flagship Topps product, the theme to these variations seem to be players in "pre-game, casual, non-play" photos. The background colors of the card are also different as well based on the photo. Otherwise, I recommend getting an idea of the ten players and just keep an eye out and check the code.

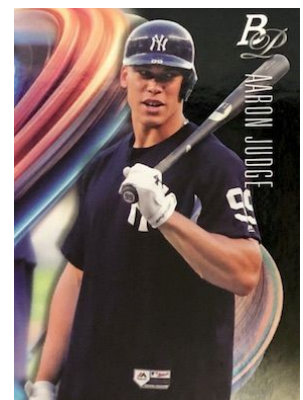
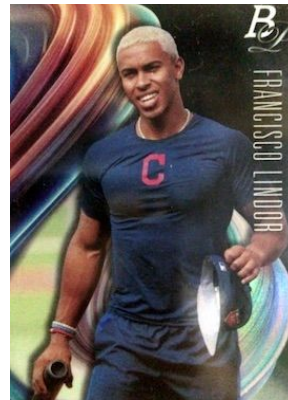
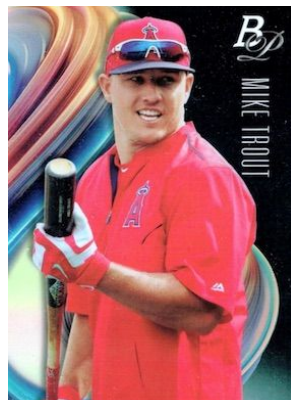
Base: end in 264

Variation: end in 303

1:391 packs - 1:20 boxes - 1:163 fat packs

2018 Bowman Platinum Variations Checklist

- 1 Kris Bryant - Chicago Cubs
- 2 Rafael Devers - Boston Red Sox RC
- 23 Clayton Kershaw - Los Angeles Dodgers
- 32 Cody Bellinger - Los Angeles Dodgers
- 34 Shohei Ohtani - Los Angeles Angels RC
- 49 Mike Trout - Los Angeles Angels
- 54 Jose Altuve - Houston Astros
- 80 Francisco Lindor - Cleveland Indians
- 86 Aaron Judge - New York Yankees
- 100 Bryce Harper - Washington Nationals





2018 Donruss Optic

Release Date: July 18, 2018

Optic is a "chromed" version of the base Donruss product, and usually it's a lot of fun to open. This set mimics the base Donruss set in a lot of ways but with the higher quality card. There are a lot of different types of variations to look for, but they should be pretty easy to spot and aren't that rare. There isn't really a method to how the variations are rolled out. They feature many different changes such as: Team Nickname, Player Nickname, Image, one Image/Nickname Variation and there is one Back Text Variation. Back Text Variation and Team Nickname are both cool ideas to put in there.

What to Look For?

Donruss helps collectors a lot when it comes to identifying variations with their "Variation Trick". Simply check the back of the card and check the baseball that is above the card number. **White Ball = Base. Black Ball = Variation.** They do this instead of doing the different codes on the bottom. Thank you Panini! Here are the types of variations to look for in Donruss Optic. Ohtani features two card numbers. They list #176 as a variation, though there is no base card with it. Seems more like a bonus or extra card for the set. Not doing two variations of the #56 is interesting.

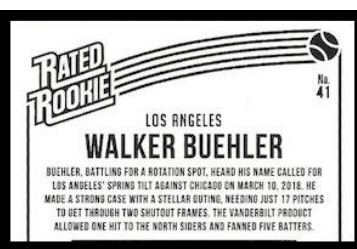
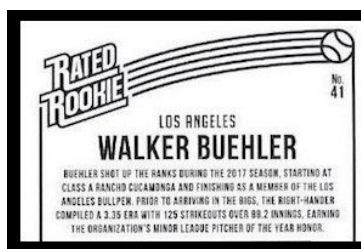
PHOTO VARIATION

NICKNAME VARIATION

TEAM NICKNAME VARIATION

BACK TEXT VARIATION (Walker Buehler #41)

IMAGE/NICKNAME VARIATION (Giancarlo Stanton #109)



*** VARIATION "TRICK" + Buehler Back Test Variation (opposite for 84 retro)

2018 Donruss Optic Variation Checklist

31 Miguel Andujar – Team
32 Nick Williams – Nickname
33 Clint Frazier – Nickname
35 Rafael Devers – Nickname
36 Ozzie Albies – Team
37 Amed Rosario – Team
38 Rhys Hoskins – Nickname
39 Ryan McMahon – Photo
40 Willie Calhoun – Nickname
41 Walker Buehler – Back
42 Victor Robles – Photo
51 Chance Sisco – Team
56 Shohei Ohtani – Photo
65 Gleyber Torres – Nickname
109 Giancarlo Stanton – Team
114 Aaron Judge – Photo
115 Cody Bellinger – Photo
121 Mike Trout – Photo
122 Miguel Cabrera – Nickname
123 Francisco Lindor – Team
125 Andrew McCutchen – Nickname
135 Andrew Benintendi – Photo
148 Adrian Beltre – Team
165 Mickey Mantle – Nickname
176 Shohei Ohtani

Here are some other variations from Optic

