



Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, Christmas 2014

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!



In this year, our 35th anniversary of creating, developing and producing our unique collection of playable art – gamepuzzles for the joy of thinking and a celebration of mind – we extend our deepest thanks to all of you who have helped us along the way. You continue to inspire us in our dedication to excellence. For a complete look, please visit our online gallery, www.gamepuzzles.com

As you plan your gift shopping, please look through our easy-to-use website for new and classic beauties, and our many award-winning designs... something for every age, interest and skill. Our gamepuzzles are treasured gifts, and the pleasure lasts.

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For a quick overview, see our flippable online catalog where you can virtually turn all 24 pages: www.flipcatalogues.com/flashplayer.aspx?id=459&file=

Or print out some or all of its pages from the online "print catalog" version, www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm

WEBSITE UPDATES

... Holiday shopping notes

The holiday season is upon us, with only a few weeks until Christmas. Every year we do our utmost to ship your orders to arrive in time for the holidays. Please refer to our special holiday messages:

- Gift shopping made easy, including the convenient PayPal option:
www.gamepuzzles.com/holiday.htm
- About shipping to anywhere in the world, costs and deadlines:
www.gamepuzzles.com/shipxmas.htm
- Gift-wrapping available; choose a style (snowflakes or penguins):
www.gamepuzzles.com/giftwrap.htm
- Gift certificates available, in multiples of \$25:
www.gamepuzzles.com/giftcert.htm

... Newest releases for 2013-2014

- **Chasing Squares™** – invented by Jerry Farrell, developed by Kate Jones, this attractive small puzzle has a unique gambit: form from 1 to 24 "traceable" squares with just 16 pieces. A virtuoso tiling challenge!

www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#CS



- **L-Sixteen™** – where the holes mean a lot. This little brother to our Fill-Agree uses L-tetrominoes with every combination of 0 to 4 holes. You wouldn't believe what they can do with patterns of holes. Easy to extremely hard challenges.

www.gamepuzzles.com/polycube.htm#L16

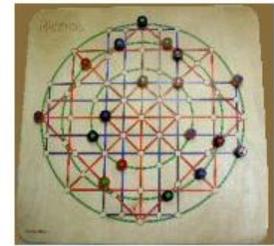


- **Trio-in-a-Tray™** – For their 25th anniversary, we put our three 4-piece Tiny Tans mini-puzzles into a single silver tray, with lots of new challenges plus all the classic symmetries.

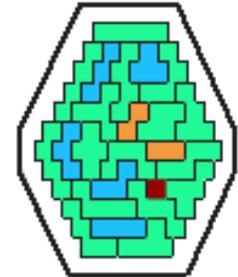
www.gamepuzzles.com/ty25-trio.htm



- **Brace™ deluxe wood gameboard** – After 15 years, our fascinating strategy game, Brace, originally produced as a jazzy tapestry, now has a wonderful new look as a large (24") wooden board, beautifully finished, laser-engraved and handpainted.



- **Hopscotch™** – created by our own Thomas Atkinson and developed by Kate Jones, has it all: drama, beauty, variety, challenge, mathematical intrigue, and the itch to try it. And it's on the Games 100 list for 2014! We make it in a dazzling new marbled acrylic –



www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#HS

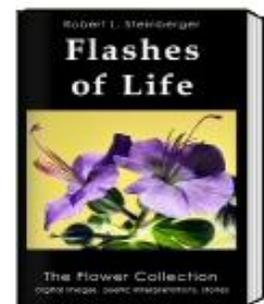
- **RunnuRound™** – Joe Marasco's ingenious gambit: What are the chances that in rows of randomly scrambled ten numbers, a run of three will turn up, in forward or backward order? Or even wrapping around the ends of rows? Find 'em fast, outguess other players. Unique bidding feature for bonus points.



www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3.htm#Run

... Noteworthy and special

- *Flashes of Life – The Flower Collection* is a magnificent book of photography by Bob Steinberger, with haikus by Kate Jones. A museum-quality coffee-table book to treasure forever. A perfect gift. While not a new release, its magnificence deserves repeated mention:



www.gamepuzzles.com/flashes.htm

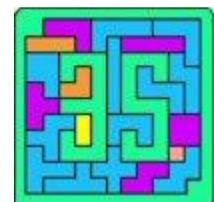


- **Octiamond Stack™** – We're offering a special and very limited edition of the 66 octiamonds, styled as 6 separate "petals" that stack, each in a little tray. Only while they last. And only for the hardest puzzle lovers and collectors –

www.gamepuzzles.com/oct-stack.htm

35th Anniversary Commemorative! We're celebrating all year, and, as in years past, our incredibly versatile Poly-5 puzzle in a jade-colored tray and with Lucite pieces embeds the number 35. If you already own Poly-5, just request a free grid for this challenge.

www.gamepuzzles.com/35poly5.htm



... New discoveries for old friends

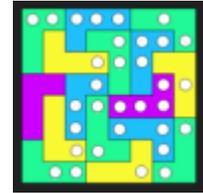
- **Chasing Squares™** – This darling set keeps surprising us with its immense variety of symmetry types and themes. New patterns emerge each time you play. We're still expanding this collection:

www.gamepuzzles.com/cs-designs.htm



- **L-Sixteen™** – You won't believe the variety of patterns the holes can form, connected as mazes, forming symmetries with the flagstones while keeping colors separate and L's from making boxes.

www.gamepuzzles.com/L16-holes.htm



- **Ten-Yen™** – Congruent quads question solved! Of the 1285 enneominoes (shapes made of 9 squares), these are the only three you can build in 4 copies, verified in October 2014 by Robert Vermillion. See the solutions:

www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-4quads.htm



... 25th Anniversary editions

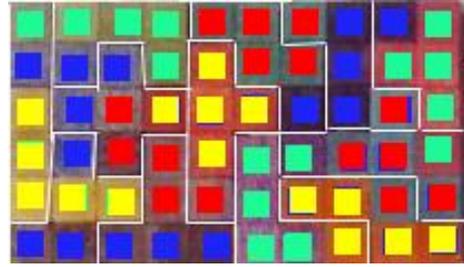
We're celebrating these games on the 25th anniversary of their first publication. They have all been continuously in print, 1989-2014. See more of their stories in our **historical notes**, "Grand Visions", www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm



- **Combinatorix™** – from singularity to infinity, how forms combine and grow
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Hexmozaix gallery edition™** – wall-mountable art piece in your colors
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Multimatch I®** – 24 edge-colored matching squares
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Multimatch II®** – 24 corner-colored matching squares
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Multimatch III®** – 24 edge-colored matching triangles
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Octominoes** – the 369 all-different shapes of 8 squares joined, in showcase tray
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Super Deluxe Quintillions®** – all 30 pentacubes in wooden combo box
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm
- **Tiny Tans™** – in new colorful acrylic and the Trio-in-a-Tray
www.gamepuzzles.com/1989notes.htm

The 2014 GAPE Award: “DoubleEntendre Pentominoes”

For 2014, Kadon is presenting the **Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence** award to inventor “LordMinimal Impossible” for an ingenious double-decker solution of a pentomino rectangle where a second solution is painted on the surface, in which each piece is a different color and overlaps at least two other pieces. Mix up all 12 pentominoes and try to solve the painted solution with an arrangement of the actual pieces.



LordMinimal’s award, with solid wood pieces in a nice wooden case, is just a little more complicated, with a third solution painted on the reverse (heh heh heh) and just 4 colors. A handsome certificate accompanies the prize itself. The figure above is only a simulation, as we don’t want to give away the actual solution. More description here:

www.gamepuzzles.com/gape14.htm

LordMinimal is the puzzling pseudonym of an Italian puzzle aficionado who posts frequently on the IPP Facebook page.

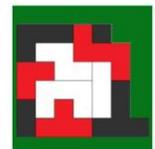
... Other awards we presented

Kadon occasionally sponsors awards to First-Place winners of certain puzzle-solving competitions, particularly those that use Kadon products. Here are some winners of contests in 2014:

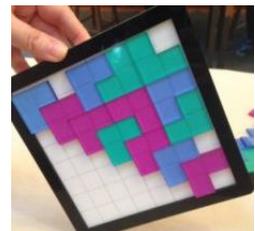
- **The Fourth Annual Doris Championship** and Festival of Mind, 2014, organized by Doris inventor Zdravko Zivkovic, involved thousands of students in 8 countries. The top winner was Maja Gubić from Serbia, and she received a special Doris set as one of her prizes. See finalists, reviews and pictures here:

www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2014champ.htm

- **Ten Yen™** – Minimum enclosure of one color by the other two was an open question. Our best results had a perimeter of 28 for two color groups, with a 26 for the third. Robert Vermillion is the first solver of all three with the minimum of 26 perimeter edges. The challenge is still open for new solutions. www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-enc.htm



- **Vee-21™** – the 25-holes problem. Two more solvers have won a prize for new solutions this year, and the competition is still open: www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm



... Distinctions we received this year

- We were thrilled that Games Magazine selected Hopscotch for inclusion in their list of the 100 best games of the year 2014. This may be the last "Games 100" list to be published, as Games has changed its format and eliminated the extensive reviews. See the review of Hopscotch by John McCallion from last December: www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg5.htm#HS
- We won a nice ribbon and prize money at the Akron Arts Expo in July this year. Akron had given us awards in 1993, 1994 and 1995, so it was a sweet surprise to win again after almost a decade.

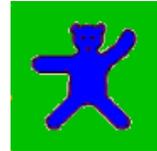
... Other website features you may have missed:

- Our Search index is a useful page for finding games by type or by special category, cross-referenced from our regular sections. Some unique items are listed only here, not found elsewhere in our website. www.gamepuzzles.com/search.htm
- Additions and upgrades – Each year we add new features and surprises, new products and new activities to the website. Here's a standing offer - a bounty to the first person to find and tell us of any bloopers we made! A separate gift for each mistake found. Email: <mailto:kadon@gamepuzzles.com?subject=BlooperBounty>
- All our interactive, online-playable games and amusements are listed here, some with hidden links to make a game even out of finding them:
www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#icons
www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#memory
www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#amuse
- What You Can Buy for \$25 Dollars – this playful "Chinese menu" page of 12 special items has some surprising goodies for the price-conscious. Check out www.gamepuzzles.com/buyfor25.htm
- Our printable full-color catalog has been updated; read or print its 24 standard pages from three .pdf files. Its condensed descriptions and small illustrations make for a compact portable reference. You'll need Adobe Reader to view it. Prints OK in gray, too. Includes a printable order form – www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm

... Our interactive features of the season:

- Try your hand at our very tricky memory game of matching little teddy bears with different bear colors and poses on different background colors:

www.gamepuzzles.com/memory4/memory4.htm



- Here's an even more confusing memory game with Christmas trees:

www.gamepuzzles.com/Christmas/christmas.htm



... Our challenges open to the World (you may win a prize):

- **Arc Angles™** – form one closed matched loop of all 25 tiles, with the minimum enclosed area.

www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#AA

- **The 25-Hole Challenge** – fit thirteen Vee-21 tiles (V-trominoes) rigidly into their tray with no slipping or sliding...

www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm

- **The 7 Congruent Shapes problem** – divide the 24 Hopscotch pieces to form 7 identical areas of 12 unit squares. A new shape wins you a prize:

www.gamepuzzles.com/hopscotch.htm

- **The Octo Clock** – arrange 8 numbers as a clock face to meet goals...

www.gamepuzzles.com/g8-clock.htm

- **The Mini-Quiz series** – we've published 8 so far, all still open. No one has fully solved Quiz No. 6, though one player came close. We are curious and curiouser...

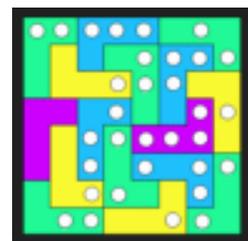
www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm

- **Rhombiominoes™** – connect all pieces of the same color...

www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#RO

- **L-Sixteen™** – build a double maze of connected holes and continuous flagstones. New solutions win a prize...

www.gamepuzzles.com/L16-holes.htm



See all 11 of our formal contest questions in the Contests page, though others are scattered throughout the site...

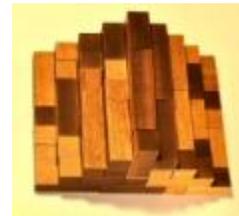
www.gamepuzzles.com/contests.htm#Kadon

IN THE MEDIA

... **We're on Facebook!** "Like" us at www.facebook.com/gamepuzzles and see our latest news and stories. Post comments, questions and answers.

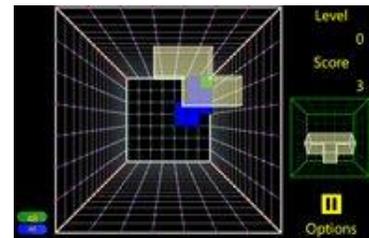
... **Videos on YouTube** – Our friend and fellow polyomino lover, Donald Kern, has created four delightful and impressive videos showing the "complete" set (35 one-sided pieces) of pentacubes forming amazing and difficult solutions by Don. You'll want to see these more than once. The lively musical backgrounds are original compositions by one of our favorite pianists, Sergei Novikov (www.speakingmusic.com).

- Regular 5x5x7 Block
www.youtube.com/watch?v=odnc60SBLnk&feature=relmfu
- Two-Sided Staircase
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPJLq358Ds&feature=relmfu
- Jagged-Edge Block
www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKqi4E-k-TY&feature=relmfu
- Chichen Itza Pyramid
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_5aZyAQJ90&feature=relmfu



... **A Proteus® applet for mobile devices** – A Proteus fan, Paul Nord, put his genius to work creating an app for your mobile devices so you can play our Proteus meta-game against a fairly smart computer. Get it at the Apple store for under a dollar:
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/michael-waitsmans-proteus/id525544204>

... **Blockout® applet for Windows Phone** – Under license from Kadon, Paul Thomann in Switzerland has written a great new program to play classic Blockout on Windows Phone versions 7.5 and up. Get your copy from the Windows store, [Blockout for Windows Phone](#).



... **Play The Game of Y free online** – Thanks to Anand Babu Periasamy and his skillful programming, there is now a creative commons facility for playing this fine connection game online. Let us know how you like it! Then come back and order our beautiful deluxe wood set for hands-on enjoyment. <http://y.hyperbotics.org/>

... Kate's Blogs and Social Media

- Blogspot, <http://kates-takes.blogspot.com>
- Live Journal, www.livejournal.com/users/puzzlelady/
- Facebook, www.facebook.com/puzzlelady
- Twitter, <http://twitter.com/gamepuzzlelady>
- LinkedIn, www.linkedin.com/in/puzzlelady
- Flickr, www.flickr.com/photos/puzzlelady/
- Meme Hunter, www.memehunter.net

... Our domains

- www.gamepuzzles.com
- www.gamepuzzles.US
- www.memehunter.net
- www.tactilegraphics.us
- www.playable-art.com
- www.polyformpuzzles.com
- www.hexdominoes.com
- www.thelifeofgames.com



GATHERINGS

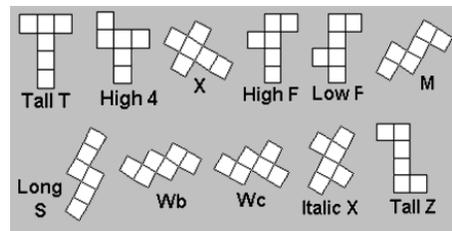
... 11th Gathering for Gardner – <http://gathering4gardner.org/> – Atlanta, GA

This invitation-only biennial event in March honoring Martin Gardner (1914-2010) brought together hundreds of world-class mathematicians, magicians, puzzle makers, computer scientists, philosophers, and admirers of Martin Gardner, whose writing career on all those subjects spanned 70 years. This year's themes were the number 11, the concept of parallel, and John Horton Conway. The 105 presentations on these themes kept the audience spell-bound by day, and a super cast of magicians entertained by night. Kate's illustrated talk in verse was on "11 Unexpected Parallels":

www.gamepuzzles.com/g11-11parallels.htm

Kate had designed a souvenir gift, "11 Magic Cubes", for the guests. You can print out, cut, solve, tape and play it, too: www.gamepuzzles.com/g4g11cubes.pdf
It was at this Gathering that we formally presented our GAPE13 award to Solomon Golomb on the 60th Jubilee of his introducing pentominoes to the world.

www.gamepuzzles.com/gape13.htm



... Project Renaissance Double Festival – May 2014 – Pasadena, MD

For this 21st annual conference, Kate spoke on the subject of "Breakthroughs in Method, Ours and Theirs, in Teaching, Learning, and in Enhancing Human Development". Her talk included parts of two earlier presentations, enhanced with the latest insights in meme theory. You can see it in PowerPoint here (5.2MB):

www.gamepuzzles.com/breakthroughs-DF2014.ppt

... Atlas Summit – July 2014 – Manchester, NH

This is the annual conference of The Atlas Society founded by David Kelley, a group of philosophers, libertarians, thinkers, artists, writers and one puzzle maker. Attendees, both children and adults, had four glorious days of participating in workshops and presentations, and then exploring our gamepuzzles for a whole new way of thinking.

<http://www.atlassociety.org/as>

... Celebration of Mind and Gardner Centennial – <http://celebrationofmind.org/>

For the last weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival season, October 18-19, 2014, our pavilion, Ye Olde Gamery, hosted one of hundreds of official Celebration of Mind events held worldwide honoring the 100th anniversary of the birthday of Martin Gardner. Here's the story:

www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2014gardnercom.htm

We created a special souvenir puzzle for visitors and customers that you're welcome to print out and solve for yourself:

www.gamepuzzles.com/100number.pdf



... Girl Scout Puzzle Party -- Pasadena, MD -- November 11, 2014

We hosted a group of 10 girls and their two leaders for an afternoon of exploration. These young ladies, ages 11-13, were amazing. They worked their way through a variety of challenges with a dozen different puzzles, delighted with each success. Kate had designed a special puzzle for them as take-home gifts, a sort of Sudoku using the letters in the word GIRLSCOUT. Try it, too:

www.gamepuzzles.com/9x9girlscout.pdf



... **The big 35th Anniversary Party of the Century** – Pasadena, MD -- May 11, 2014
To celebrate Kadon's 35 years of puzzle-making and Kate's milestone birthday, we threw a major party for our closest friends, helpers, neighbors and family in our spacious ballroom. Full write-up with lots of pictures is here:
www.gamepuzzles.com/2014party.pdf



ON THE ROAD

... **From the Midwest to Europe, June-August 2014**

Our summer shows were all over the map, with Kate Jones and Meshele Merchant handling Annapolis, MD, and Pittsburgh, PA, in June. Then Dick and Kate were off to Akron (won a prize) and the philosophy conference in Manchester, NH (see above). Meshele and Kate then tackled shows in Wayzata, MN, and Wyandotte, MI, before Dick and Kate flew to London for the 34th International Puzzle Party. Our display (at right) was highly condensed, and Kate's exchange puzzle was a bit macabre: www.gamepuzzles.com/ipp34.htm

While in Europe, Dick and Kate visited friends in England, The Netherlands, France, Switzerland and Germany, traveling mostly by train. The full story and pics will be posted on the website soon. Check back later on:
www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm#IPP34



... Maryland Renaissance Festival, August-October 2014

A fine season, with only a few days of rain, and mild right up into October, was also our 35th anniversary of creating gamepuzzles. We displayed a huge banner left over from the Festival's own 35th. The "King" and his royal companions stopped in on a rainy day to play the Royal Game of the Goose. Here are pics:

www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king

The last day of the season we dedicated as a "Celebration of Mind" in honor of the birthday of Martin Gardner (1914-2010). More story and pictures here:

www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2014gardnercom.htm



Thanks and kudos to our great crew: Thomas Atkinson, Arthur Blumberg, Dick Jones, Meshele Merchant, Eileen Shaivitz, Steve Zeve; and to our seasonal and standby helpers: Eric Bare, Seth Bonder, Rolinda Collinson. And a warm welcome to our vivacious new recruit, Robin Kane, who has been a Kadon fan for 20 years and knows our stuff. She came to our rescue for the last two weekends and expects to join us for the full season in 2015.

... Indoor Shows

Leaving the 16th century, we plowed into our last four shows of the year in Virginia, North Carolina and Baltimore – all indoors! Well, the Baltimore Christmas Village is actually in a heated tent, our first foray into a month-long daily show.

This year was our fullest show schedule ever, covering 102 days in 33 shows from Miami to Minnesota, including one entire month in Baltimore's Christmas Village, which is open every single day from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve. We're still testing whether working smarter, harder and longer will let us at least keep breaking even. After 35 years of doing this, our best reward is still the creative process and meeting customers who value what we do. Many thanks to our spunky booth helpers

who meet whatever happens with good humor and energy. Thanks, Meshele and Eric and Dick, who took turns hitting the road in any weather.

We also appreciate the art show organizers and promoters who are our direct connection to the market. It's a dynamic symbiosis that benefits all: organizers, artists, and customers.

... Show Schedule

From mid-January through April, Kate appears in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months she travels to the Midwest, and in the Fall the Maryland Renaissance Festival runs 9 weekends. Confirmed upcoming show dates for 2015 are posted on our calendar page. We add new shows as we're accepted and confirmed:

www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm

If you're in the area, do stop by and say hello. Our booth looks like this:



CONNECTING

You can reach us in all these ways:

www.gamepuzzles.com/contact.htm

Phone: 410-437-2163
Email: kadon@gamepuzzles.com
Mail: Kadon Enterprises, Inc.
1227 Lorene Dr., Suite 16
Pasadena, MD 21122

We accept American Express, Discover/Novus, Visa, Mastercard and PayPal. Simply make your PayPal payment payable to: kadon@gamepuzzles.com

We also honor checks, money orders, bank transfers, and occasionally cash. Order online, by mail, school purchase orders, phone, and in person at shows. See all ordering details here: www.gamepuzzles.com/purchase.htm

Please let us know when your email address changes, and keep us on your Safe Senders list. We'll never spam you nor give out your private information. You'll just receive our very rarely issued memos and newsletters on matters of interest to you. Of course, if you don't ever want to hear from us, please ask to be removed.

OUR HOLIDAY MESSAGE

We still can't improve on how we have said it before, so we send these words of wishes for the holidays once again...

"Thanks for your continuing support, and best wishes to all of you from all of us at Kadon! By any name that you celebrate these days, and wherever on the planet you may be, let there be a spirit of love and kinship, and the light of understanding.

"In times of turmoil, let us hold fast to truth and honor, to our love of life and liberty, that someday there will be "Peace on Earth" among all of us who share this planet, so small and fragile and beautiful, and unique in all the vastness of Time and Space.

"Intelligent life, infinite possibilities, infinitely precious... keep that flame alive."

You can see this message with a nice picture of our Christmas tree on our website. The tree was hand-built from plywood, assembles like a puzzle, and features live candles during our traditional Christmas Eve ceremony. Each candle embraces a wish and illuminates a hope. At the very top is a crimson rose, symbolizing love.

<http://www.gamepuzzles.com/xmascard.htm>

-- Kate Jones

