

Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, year-end 2017

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!

In this year, our 38th 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 — See our many award-winning designs... something for every age, interest and skill. Our gamepuzzles are treasured gifts, and the pleasure lasts. See also our other entertainment features you can play or read about in our website.

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Read or print out the online "print catalog" version, 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 black-and-white, too.

www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm

For a fancier version, see our Shakespearean catalog with 40 pages of iambic pentameter verses describing our products.

www.gamepuzzles.com/rfcat-2015.pdf



WEBSITE UPDATES

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... Holiday shopping notes _

- Gift shopping made easy, including PayPal: www.gamepuzzles.com/holiday.htm
- About shipping anywhere, costs and deadlines: <u>www.gamepuzzles.com/shipxmas.htm</u>
- How to order: www.gamepuzzles.com/purchase.htm
- Gift-wrap available snowflakes or penguins: www.gamepuzzles.com/giftwrap.htm
- Gift certificates available, in multiples of \$25: www.gamepuzzles.com/giftcert.htm

... Our interactive features of the season _

- Try your hand at our very tricky memory game of matching little teddy bears with different colors and poses on different background colors: www.gamepuzzles.com/memory4/memory4.htm
- Here's an even more confusing memory game with Christmas trees in different colors on varying backgrounds. Maddening! www.gamepuzzles.com/Christmas/christmas.htm

... Newest releases for 2016-2017 ------



MiniMatch-ITM—9 edge-colored squares, all different, make an incredible variety of patterns by matching colors. Form wrap-around solutions, symmetries, enclosed colors. The four colors are not equally assigned; you get 8 triangles of two colors, and 10 of the other two. www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Mim1

MiniTouch-ITM — A contour-matching tile set designed by Elijah Allen, adapted from Kate Jones's MiniMatch-I. This graceful puzzle is especially suitable for the visually impaired. No need to look, just play by touch! Embed circles, diamonds, hexagons, and oct-webs by matching their corresponding sides. www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Mit1





OchominoesTM—invented by Dan Klarskov, a musician, teacher, author, woodworker and puzzle designer from Denmark. We're very excited to be publishing this fabulous set, having its world premiere for Christmas 2016. The 24 octagon dominoes are all unique combinations of octagons and squares. They present a dizzying number of puzzle challenges, each more beautiful than the last. For ages 8 to adult, 1 to 4 players.

www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#Och

Deluxe wood Poly-5TM—Our very popular Poly-5 set is back in a beautiful wooden version crafted by Elijah Allen. Lovingly stained and finished in rich hues, it has an elegant engraved wood tray. A limited edition had its world premiere in our Gamery pavilion at the Maryland Renaissance Festival in 2016. It's too beautiful to be limited to just one season. www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub2.htm#P5w

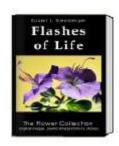




Tricolor Stomachion Monograph—the latest word! A six-month research project with Archimedes' Square (also known as "Stomachion") by Joe Marasco, Kate Jones, and Alex Streif has produced an amazing historical document, new findings after 2200 years of silence about the world's oldest documented puzzle. www.gamepuzzles.com/tsm.htm

... Noteworthy and special -

• Flashes of Life — The Flower Collection is a gorgeous 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





• World's best music — The Caranza Collection. Caranza is the stage name of Patric Hale, a phenomenal Meistersinger who has achieved both tenor and baritone mastery of 12 genres of music in 7 languages, with moving emotional sensitivity and blow-you-away power of delivery. He has a repertoire of hundreds of recorded songs, available on 25 CDs, ranging from Elvis, Sinatra, Tom Jones and Billy Joel to Broadway tunes, German songs, Italian and German opera, and more. Visit our showcase of the entire collection, listen to selected samples for free, and order his CDs to enrich every day of your life.

www.gamepuzzles.com/Caranza/caranza.htm

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• Chasing SquaresTM — This darling set keeps surprising us with its immense variety of symmetry types and themes. New patterns emerge each time you play. www.gamepuzzles.com/cs-designs.htm





- **MiniMatch-I**TM Marvelous wrap-arounds with colormatched edges and one or two enclosed colors and even full symmetry of all colors. Make torus and Klein-bottle matches. www.gamepuzzles.com/mim1-match.htm
- **Hexdominoes**®—One of our bestsellers, Hexdominoes lets us make ever surprising new discoveries. Our talented solver, Alex Streif, has come up with an opulent series of new solutions. www.gamepuzzles.com/hexdom.htm#Alex



• **Dezign-8**[™] — We've added Alex Streif's newest solutions, the embedded pentominoes, to the gallery. Shown here is our W logo. *Plus*--we keep finding ever more beautiful challenges of symmetry.

www.gamepuzzles.com/d8til2.htm

... Vanishing species -----

Last chance to acquire our ball pyramid puzzles — after 32 years, they're out of print, gone forever. www.gamepuzzles.com/pyr-mem.htm



... 25th Anniversary editions --



In 2017 we celebrated these games on the 25th anniversary of their first publication. They have been continuously in print, 1992-2017. After 12 years of introducing 6 or more new products a year, in 1992 we settled for just two. In fact, in all of Kadon's 38 years, only twice did we release just two sets in a year. See more of their stories in our historical notes, *Diamonds forever*, www.gamepuzzles.com/1992notes.htm

• **Hexmozaix, Jr.**TM — 24 hexagons with 4 luminous colors match cleverly. Includes a game for up to 4 players. www.gamepuzzles.com/edgemtch.htm#H]



• **Rombix**® —16 tiles elegantly define rhombic circle tilings in a 16-sided tray. Invented by mathematician Alan Schoen, who also discovered that the number of unique rhombuses that a dissection makes can be formed into paired "twin" tiles and reconstitute the original polygon in thousands of possible arrangements. Rombix was chosen by *Games Magazine* as one of the 100 best games of 1993. www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#RB

... The GAPE Awards

Our latest Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence awards are:

2016 — "Pent-Words" to Grant Fikes for his pentomino-filled crossword puzzle in a 10x10 square (*Games* Magazine, October 2016). His award was built out of the 12 pentominoes, each filled with a word plus overlapping horizontal words. www.gamepuzzles.com/gape16.htm. A digital version available here: https://www.zinio.com/www/browse/issue.jsp?skuId=416391413#/

2017 — "73 Symmetries", a great research project by Livio Zucca and a team of five international puzzle wizards to find all the non-hole 4-way symmetrical solutions with the 12 pentominoes. The award showed all 73 solutions and the names of the team members. www.gamepuzzles.com/gape17.htm



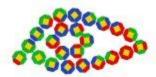


... Other awards we presented --

Kadon occasionally sponsors awards to First-Place winners of certain puzzle-solving competitions, particularly those that use Kadon products, and for other extraordinary merit in the world of puzzles and games. Here is the winner from 2017:

2017 Doris Championships

The 7th Annual Festival of Mind and Doris Championships, organized by Zdravko Zivkovic, took place in many high schools in 7 countries, building creativity our Doris puzzle (www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Dor). "The Eye" (right) by Ambra Rossi won first place.



www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2017champ.htm

... Distinctions we received this year ----

The Bridges Conference -- http://bridgesmathart.org/home -- at the University of Waterloo in Canada was held July 27-30, 2017, dedicated to a celebration of math, art, architecture, education, culture, music and poetry with a mathematical theme, with a great slate of international speakers presenting talks on a mind-stretching variety of topics, innovations and research. Kate presented a short paper on "The Surprising Versatility of Edge-Matching Sets" about our new little MiniMatch-I puzzle. See it as a PowerPoint slide show (www.gamepuzzles.com/Bridges-2017.ppt) or read the formal proceedings entry (www.gamepuzzles.com/The Surprising Versatility with Mega.pdf). Kadon's Rhom-Antics (www.gamepuzzles.com/tactile2.htm#RA) and Bear Hugs, representing the theme of Latin Squares (www.gamepuzzles.com/fyplayer.htm#BH) were among the pieces chosen for display in the general Art Exhibition. On Bridges' mathematical poetry day, Kate read "Stomachion, the Quest" about the sixmonth research project (www.gamepuzzles.com/tricolorstomachion.pdf) by Joe Marasco, Alex Streif, and Kate Jones, analyzing the 1072 solutions of the Tricolor Stomachion (our Archimedes' Square puzzle -- www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun.htm#AS).

Megistian Aenigma Agon -- This 1st annual puzzle competition was held September 1-3, 2017, on the Greek island of Kastellorizo, organized by Pantazis Houlis, a world-class designer and collector. Kadon's entry was our little MiniMatch-I, and it won the *Apollo Award* in the aesthetic category. Read all about it here: www.gamepuzzles.com/megistian.htm



... 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
- **Archives** you can still track back to see what's been happening with us for the last 38 years by browsing through our archives, especially the annual newsletters that sum up our year's doings. Here's the Archives index. www.gamepuzzles.com/archives.htm
- Blooper Bounty 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
- Children's Stories—Charming original tales, some interactive, by authors Warren Fahy and Robert Vermillion: www.gamepuzzles.com/stories/childs.htm
- **Puzzle Parlor** of a dozen Kadon puzzles, each with 3 levels of difficulty; works with Flash www.gamepuzzles.com/pparlor/ppscreen.htm
- 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 it out: www.gamepuzzles.com/buyfor25.htm
- Entertaining features All our interactive, online-playable games, amusements, and interesting features 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 www.gamepuzzles.com/resource.htm www.gamepuzzles.com/faq.htm www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm

• Mini-Quiz — 8 installments to date of tricky questions to figure out, with the answers sneakily concealed right before your eyes. Send in your solutions and win a prize. All questions remain open, and solvers' names join the winners' list.

Quiz archives: www.gamepuzzles.com/quizarch.htm
Current quiz: www.gamepuzzles.com/quizarch.htm

- ... Our challenges open to the World (you may win a prize) ------
- **Arc Angles**TM— form one closed matched loop of all 25 tiles, with minimum enclosed area. www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#AA
- The 25-Hole Challenge fit thirteen Vee-21™ tiles (V-trominoes) rigidly into their tray... www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm
- The Alphabest Challenge use the 26 letters of the alphabet once each to form a crossword puzzle in the smallest grid. Beat 81 and win a prize.
- 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
- Ochominoes™ put all 24 tiles in a row with each adjacent pair symmetrical: www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#Och
- The Octo Clock arrange 8 numbers as a clock face to meet goals... www.gamepuzzles.com/g8-clock.htm
- The Maximum-Squares Challenge arrange the 16 Chasing Squares™ tiles to form 24 or more "traceable" squares. Exceed 25 and win a prize. www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#CS
- 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... <u>www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm</u>
- **Rhombiominoes**TM find a new solution to connect all pieces of the same color... www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#RO
- **L-Sixteen**TM— build a double maze of connected holes and continuous flagstones. New solutions win a prize... www.gamepuzzles.com/L16-holes.htm
- **Ten-Yen**TM— minimum and maximum perimeters of one color enclosed by the other two. This challenge is still open for new solutions. www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-enc.htm
- **Triangule-8**TM **Sprouts** form 25 sprouts or prove that 24 is the maximum possible. www.gamepuzzles.com/t8-20.htm
- **Trio in a Tray**[™] separate all three colors, and completely separate (not even corners touching) any two colors. www.gamepuzzles.com/ty25-trio.htm
- **Vee-21**™: **the Three-Color Problem** the search for more solutions of maximum color separation. <u>www.gamepuzzles.com/3color.htm</u>

See also our formal Contests page, www.gamepuzzles.com/contests.htm#Kadon

IN THE MEDIA

... Videos on YouTube ------

Our friend Donald Kern has created 4 slick videos showing the 35 one-sided pentacubes forming amazing solutions by Don. Music is 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

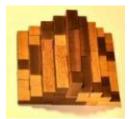
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPJLq358Ds&feature=relmfu

• 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



... See us on Facebook ------

"Like" us at www.facebook.com/gamepuzzles, see our latest news and stories. Post your comments, questions and answers.

... A Proteus® applet for mobile devices ------

Created by Paul Nord. Play Proteus against a fairly smart computer. 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 program to play classic Blockout on Windows Phone versions 7.5 and up. Get your copy from the Windows store, Blockout for Windows Phone. http://www.windowsphone.com/en-us/store/app/blockout/3992f6cc-6c4c-4d4d-bfe6-bd24b936e455

... Kate's Blogs and Social Media -----



- Blogspot, http://kates-takes.blogspot.com
- PuzzleLady's journal, https://puzzlelady.dreamwidth.org/
- Facebook, www.facebook.com/puzzlelady
- Twitter, http://twitter.com/gamepuzzlelady
- LinkedIn, www.linkedin.com/in/puzzlelady
- Flickr, www.flickr.com/photos/puzzlelady/
- Meme Hunter, <u>www.memehunter.net</u>

... Our domains -----

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















GATHERINGS

... Celebration of Mind

In 2017 the last weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival coincided to the day with Martin Gardner's birthday, October 21, and our theme for the annual Celebration of Mind was "Dissection Puzzles: The Art of Combinatorics". Record crowds of visitors learned about Martin Gardner, recreational math, polyform puzzles, strategy games, playable art, problem-solving (www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2017gardnercom.htm).

Some visitors arrived just to partake of the Celebration and stayed for hours, exploring all our games and puzzles, and choosing just the right items to buy for



their families. Our gifts and handouts for visitors included a fact sheet about combinatorics (www.gamepuzzles.com/gcom2017.pdf), highlighting the world's oldest documented puzzle, the Archimedes' Square (www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun.htm#AS) and its latest research, the monograph (www.gamepuzzles.com/tsm.htm), and copies of attractive literature about Martin Gardner supplied by the Gathering for Gardner Foundation.

... International Puzzle Party

Dick and Kate attended IPP37 in Paris, France, in August 2017. Recalling the French Revolution, Kate designed the "Let them eat cake" puzzle to tease the collectors, including a little story about Marie Antoinette. It's a tough one, even though it's just 5 pieces (and 25 cakes). Try it yourself.

www.gamepuzzles.com/ipp37.htm



ON THE ROAD

... From the East Coast to the Midwest, and on to Canada and France

We had our usual Florida tour of shows from January to April, with help from Meshele Merchant and Eric Bare. Then Dick and Kate took on NJ, PA, OH and back to NJ and VA. In the meanwhile our resident math pro, Elijah Allen, represented us at a gaming convention, GEX-Con, in Virginia. Kate soloed at the SIAM conference in Pittsburgh, then Dick, Kate, and our supergeek, Alex Streif, drove to Waterloo, Canada, for the Bridges conference. Dick and Kate flew to Paris for the 37th annual International Puzzle Party before plunging into the Maryland Renaissance Festival, our wonderful home show and our 34th season in the 16th century, with the Celebration of Mind (see above) as its grand finale.

Thanks and kudos to our great Renaissance crew: Thomas Atkinson, Elijah Allen, Arthur Blumberg, Adam Criswell, Eileen Shaivitz, Alex Streif, Hans and Katrina Weidig, Steve Zeve, and to our seasonal and standby helpers, Seth Bonder, Sue Bare, Ken Isbell, and John Wright.

... Indoor Shows

Leaving the 16th century, we plowed into our last shows of the year in Richmond and Fairfax, VA; Greensboro, NC; and finally Baltimore — all indoors! As of this writing, the Baltimore Christmas Village is commencing, in a heated tent down by the Inner Harbor, our fourth year of being in this month-long daily show, from Thanksgiving through Dec. 24. Here's our display, which also entertains and



challenges around forty students a day for their class projects. Thanks to the stalwart crew of Sue Bare, Alex Streif, and Elijah Allen for their stints in the booth, and to any other hapless helper we may snag to pitch in. If you're in the area, do come in and visit. It's on Light Street. Plenty of expensive parking is available in the area.

... Show Schedule

From mid-January through April, gamepuzzles appear in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months we travel to the Midwest, and in the Fall the Maryland Renaissance Festival runs nine weekends, with the Christmas Village filling the rest of the year. Confirmed upcoming show dates for 2018 are already posted on our calendar page. We add new shows as we're accepted and confirmed. If you're in the area, please do stop by and say hello. www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm

Many thanks to our spunky booth helpers who meet whatever happens with good humor and energy. 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.

CONNECTING

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



... Ordering

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.

A special welcome to Sue Bare

Sue is Kate's daughter, and in late 2017 she moved from Minnesota to Maryland to help run the business. We can't thank her enough for bringing her talents and spirit to this venture. Her work experience and skills in management, crafts, organization, marketing and problem-solving are a priceless boon to our enterprise. The adventure begins!





In Memoriam...

We are mourning the passing of Eric Bare (1962-2017), beloved son of Kate Jones. He was 54, stricken with a virulent brain tumor that killed him in 3 months. www.gamepuzzles.com/helpers3.htm#Eric

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

