



Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, Christmas 2012

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!



We thank you for your appreciation of our labor of love in creating, developing and producing our unique collection of playable art – gamepuzzles for the joy of thinking and a celebration of mind. You continue to inspire us in our dedication to excellent content and quality. Visit our online gallery, www.gamepuzzles.com

As you plan your gift shopping, please look through our website’s easy-to-use pages of new and classic beauties, and our many award-winning designs. We offer 256 wonderful games and puzzles to choose from, for every age, interest and skill. Our gamepuzzles are treasured gifts, and the pleasure lasts.

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please scroll down

For a quick overview, see our flippable online catalog where you can virtually turn all 24 pages: www.flipcatalogues.com/flashplayer.aspx?id=69&file=

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

We accept PayPal and all four major credit cards.

This Holiday circular/newsletter goes to all who have emailed us or have ordered from us and provided their email addresses. We never give out our mailing list. If you don't want emails from us, simply reply with REMOVE.

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

Kadon games and puzzles are always much-appreciated gifts. With orders received by December 6, we'll also include a small bonus gift, something nifty not sent before.

... Newest releases for 2011-2012

- **Fractured Fives™** by Kate Jones had its first public release while celebrating its 25th anniversary of creation! Our longest run-up – www.gamepuzzles.com/polycube.htm#F5



- **StarHex-II™** – Created by college-bound student Jacob Lettie, this new polyform set of *polystars* was right up our alley. Its star grid is one of the 17 classic symmetry groups we love so much. Making only concave borders is a beautiful challenge, and separating the colors is a real doozie. New solutions win a prize! – www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling2.htm#SH23

- **Six Disks™** – Our unique number, tic-tac-toe and magic squares gamepuzzle now has a Teddybears theme, with each cheerful bear sporting a number on his chest, from 1 to 6 (only 3 are shown). Playing with numbers is great brain practice for kids and for grown-ups. The set also includes our original "Vertical Tic-Tac-To" strategy game for two players. A fine and enduring entertainment, nicely bagged, with two game mats – www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun2.htm#SDB



- **MemoriQ™** (say "Memory Cue") has 24 inlaid hexagonal tiles in 4 colors to match in intricate ways to form a gallery of interesting figures, a total joy. Created by Zdravko Zivkovic, styled by Kate Jones, and chosen for the *Games 100* list and Buyer's Guide for 2012 – www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#MQ

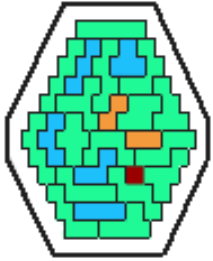


- **A+D+D+D™** (say "add") is portable instant fun with numbers and strategy. The storage pouch is the gameboard. Add numbers on dice for sums that get your pawns on the board in rows of 3, 4 or 5. Invented by Devin Stewart; puzzles by Kate Jones. www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3.htm#Ad

- **Grand Bowties™** – We've added a special gallery page for this superbly versatile set ... match colors in intricate ways – edge to edge, corner to corner, tip to tip, and now on half-edges, too. Take a look. They form the loveliest of patterns with shimmering frosted highlights: www.gamepuzzles.com/b24gallery.htm



- **Tangramion™** – designed by Serhiy Grabarchuk, extended by Kate Jones, this 7-tile square was inspired by the dissection patterns of Archimedes' Square and the classical Tangrams. The square has only 10 solutions, and only 93 convex, 33 mirror-symmetrical and 36 rotationally symmetrical shapes have turned up so far—partly due to the fact that none of the 7 tiles themselves is symmetrical. Prizes for new ones! www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#TGM

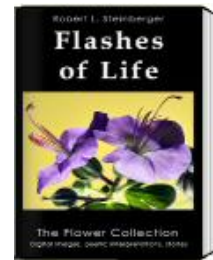


- **Hopscotch™**—created by our own Thomas Atkinson and developed by Kate Jones, has it all: drama, beauty, variety, challenge, mathematical intrigue, and the itch to try it. We make it in a dazzling new marbled acrylic— www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#HS

- **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



- "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



Our other recent releases from the last year, along with other announcements, are listed on the "New Stuff" page: www.gamepuzzles.com/newtopic.htm

... 25th Anniversary editions

This year's 25-year retrospective covers 1987 and the products we introduced that year. That was one heck of a busy year! See "1987: Growing three ways" for historical notes: www.gamepuzzles.com/1987notes.htm

- Royal Game of the Goose/Game of the Labyrinth – a Renaissance icon in handcrafted wood— www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun.htm#GL

- Grand Tans®—handcrafted wood set going portable in drawstring pouch—www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzl2.htm#GB
- Hexmozaix™—this year with silver and frosted colors, more splendid than ever — www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch2.htm#HM
- Hexnut™, with brilliant new colors and silver touches (rule book under construction) www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#HN
- Iamond Ring™—delicious complexity in gorgeous new colors, daring to be difficult — www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly.htm#IR
- Leap®—a huge repertoire, with 32 games and hundreds of puzzles in new softpack style— www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct2.htm#LS
- Proteus®—our most complex strategy game in new portable roll-up version— www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct6.htm#PR
- Renaissance Playing Cards—“short deck” from Hungary, with our booklet — www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun2.htm#RC
- Scoozie®—football simulation game by Rich Maiers, limited edition, very few remaining— www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct2.htm#SZ
- Surprising Pyramid™ — a visitor from the past, in limited number for this year only, handcrafted wood — www.gamepuzzles.com/surpyr.htm
- Triangoes™ — one of our grandest productions, with 80 tiles and wall-hanging 2-sided gamemat — www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#TR
- Triangoes™ Jr. — the two-color subset, this year with silver touches, always a bestseller— www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#TJ
- Void™—an old favorite strategy game goes portable in drawstring pouch — www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct2.htm#VD

... The GAPE Award

For year-end 2011, Kadon presented the Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence award — www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm#bestow — to Derrick Niederman for his ingenious wordsearch puzzle series, **PathWords™** — www.thinkfun.com/shop/product/pathwords,69,9.htm — where each word is a polyomino shape. His award— www.gamepuzzles.com/gape11.htm — was itself a playable word puzzle. Read Kate’s review of PathWords on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/gp/cdp/member-reviews/A3GTDORKQ1YAZH/ref=cm_cr_pr_auth_rev?ie=UTF8&sort_by=MostRecentReview

... 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 held in Europe in 2012:

- The **50th Pentomino Challenge** on a Belgian website for topnotch solvers – www.gamepuzzles.com/odette50.htm
- The **Second Annual Doris Championship**, 2012, organized by Doris inventor Zdravko Zivkovic and involving students in Serbia, Romania and Hungary – www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2012champ.htm

... Distinctions we received this year

- In April 2012, in a small art show in Warm Mineral Springs, Florida, the Kadon booth won Best in Show, with a big purple ribbon.
- Gabriel Fernandes has a great blog for reviewing puzzles, and for his 200th blog he selected his "Top 10" puzzles of the previous 100 reviewed, including our Trifolia™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch4.htm#TF. You can read Gabriel's full and well-illustrated review of Trifolia here – <http://mypuzzlecollection.blogspot.com/2012/05/trifolia.html> – and a glowing review of Cubits™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling2.htm#CU – at <http://mypuzzlecollection.blogspot.com/2012/06/cubits.html>
- We were thrilled that the December 2012 issue of *Games Magazine* selected **Manoover™ Plus** and **Fractured Fives™** for inclusion in their list of the 100 best games of the year 2013. See the reviews: www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg3.htm#MVP
www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg3.htm#F5

... 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. We've recently added some new items here: www.gamepuzzles.com/search.htm

- Additions and upgrades—This year we added PREV buttons and shopping basket icons on all product pages and fixed codes to work with other browsers. 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
- A whole page of long-secret links leads to goodies and surprises:
www.gamepuzzles.com/balloons.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 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
- And check occasionally for interesting new links added on our Resources pages, especially in "the game of ideas". Nothing to buy, just eye and mind candy: www.gamepuzzles.com/resourc6.htm

... Our interactive features of the season:

- Try your hand at our very tricky memory game of matching little teddy bears— 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
- Ten Yen™—find new congruent shapes with all 3 colors... www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#Ten
- 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. We are curious and curiouser... www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm

SPOTLIGHT – THOMAS ATKINSON

Thomas G. Atkinson came on board on Labor Day, 2004, through a serendipitous meeting with Kate at the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston. Turns out he'd known of us and been buying our puzzles for at least 10 years.

From the first moment, he fit like a hand in a glove, and we wondered how we had managed all those years without him. He looks wonderful in costume at our Renaissance Festival booth, and his familiarity with our products quickly made him a fine teacher. His many talents involve him in every facet of our designing, wood and laser production, presentation and logistics.

And for good measure, in 2011 he dreamed up a brand-new polyform puzzle set that Kadon has now published by name of **Hopscotch**. See its full write-up here: www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#HS

Thomas has been making costumes since shortly after his birth (his "Baby With Bib and Carrots" was voted "Best Use of Roots and Tubers" at GerberCon '64). He attended his first Con in 1976 and has been a permanent fixture since. His costumes include "The Empire State Building," "Chernobyl Clean-Up Crew," "2010 Pajamas," "Winter's End (Potted Plant)," "Spaceman Spiff," "Lot's Wife," and a score of re-creation outfits, including Star Wars and Star Trek. His "Fridays at 10" group presentation at the Millennium PhilCon 2001 masquerade won best in show. Since 2007 he has been Masquerade director at Shore Leave, Hunt Valley, Maryland.



Thomas is one of the world's greatest Star Wars fans. He started collecting Star Wars toys and memorabilia when the first movie came out in 1976, and he has not stopped since. His collection forms the basis of The Star Toys Museum, of which Thomas is Curator. In 2007, a portion of his collection was on exhibit for several months at the Geppi Museum in Baltimore. See a lot more about the Star Toys Museum here: www.readersadvice.com/museum/museum.html

Thomas's car is instantly recognizable by the Star Wars designs painted on it, and it participated in the Star Wars 2012 Celebration in Orlando, FL.

Thomas has a great affection for the classic tangrams puzzle and creates designs for book covers and costumes with the seven geometric pieces. He is also very fond of hamsters. The resident hamster has a habitat that ranges over several rooms and floors of the house.

Thomas lives at Meerkat Meade in Maryland with his spouse, writer Don Sakers.

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.

... **Top Puzzlers** – A webpage on the Grabarchuk puzzle family's Pinterest site is dedicated to the most renowned puzzle designers of the world, past and present. Kate is included – <http://pinterest.com/grabarchuk/top-puzzlers/>

... **The Games 100, a thrilling honor!** *Games Magazine's* annual list of the 100 best games for 2013 includes our **Manoover Plus** in the abstract games category – www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg3.htm#MVP – and **Fractured Fives** among the puzzles – www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg3.htm#F5 – bringing to 50 our historical record of this honor since 1980.

... **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.

- 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>

... **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

GATHERINGS

... **The Tenth Gathering for Gardner** – March 2012, Atlanta

Fans of Martin Gardner gather every two years to celebrate their achievements in the fields of math, magic, science and philosophy that Martin Gardner's writings inspired over a 70-year career. Many of the dozens of presentations were on the theme of "10". Kate's 5-minute talk took the form of 10 couplets of iambic pentameter to encapsulate 10 stages of the cycles of infinity, in **Ten Powerful Thoughts Iambically Defined** – www.gamepuzzles.com/g4g10pres.htm – with a bit of humor and embedded references to Martin Gardner's work. The presentation was illustrated with ten of Kadon's puzzles having an aspect of 10, such as 10 pieces or 10x10 grids or 10-fold symmetry.

... **Double Festival of Project Renaissance**, May 2012, Maryland

At Project Renaissance's annual conference – www.winwenger.com/df20.htm – Kate Jones spoke on "Minds of the Future", which traced the evolution of consciousness and projected a possible future. The colorful PowerPoint presentation, adapted from the Atlanta talk, was illustrated with puzzles – www.gamepuzzles.com/mindsofthefuture-DF2012.ppt .

... **The Atlas Summit**, June 2012, Washington, DC

In June 2012, at the annual Atlas Summit of The Atlas Society – www.atlassociety.org – Kate gave a poetic presentation on "Singularity to Infinity" – www.gamepuzzles.com/atlas2012.htm – which traced the cycles of existence from being to the evolution of consciousness to infinity, one of her favorite recurring themes customized for several venues. See also the PowerPoint version – www.gamepuzzles.com/atlas2012.ppt .

... **Celebration of Mind** – October 21, 2012

World-wide, Martin Gardner's fans and admirers organize events to honor his memory (October 21, 1914-May 22, 2010) on his birthday, celebrating this great

writer's life of bringing math, magic, puzzles and reason to the world. This year his birthday coincided with the closing weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival, so we dedicated October 21, 2012, as a Celebration of Mind to Martin, whose writings directly inspired Kadon's work in recreational mathematics. This birthday tribute was just one of hundreds held around the globe. See details on www.g4g-CoM.org and our reports at www.g4g-com.org/2012-mg-com-blog/ and www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2012gardnercom.pdf. Kate's talk at the 2010 Celebration of Mind is here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZZwc-Bj67Y>

... International Puzzle Party, August 2012, Washington, DC

The 32nd annual International Puzzle Party (by invitation only) was held in August 2012 in Washington, DC, area. For the puzzle exchange, Kate designed a Washington Monument puzzle made of 7 cubes inscribed with the letters L-I-B-E-R-T-Y, a kind of towering 3D Sudoku challenge plus wistful political statement – www.gamepuzzles.com/libcubes.htm. When solved so that all four vertical walls contain all 7 letter, a secret additional word can be found within the tower. For the Puzzle Party the next day, a mini-display of Kadon's prettiest and most difficult puzzles tempted attendees.

ON THE ROAD

... Midwest Tour, June 2012

Kate Jones and Meshele Merchant tackled four big shows in a row – Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and Wayzata – and got the set-up and take-down of the display down to a fine art. Bravo, Meshele! It was fun meeting new people in new places and seeing how they took to our puzzles. And we were grateful for the existence of motels, gas stations, restaurants and highways that allow us to take our goodies where the people are.

... Chicago Tribune/North Michigan Avenue Art Festival, July 2012

This show set a new high-water (and high wind) mark for hazardous weather in which to attempt to set up tents and booths. Chicago's reputation as the Windy City outdid itself as the sudden storm blew out all stops, lifting booths off their footings, knocking them into each other like an eggbeater in whipped cream. Kate, soaked to the skin, held on with all her weight and strength to keep her partially assembled tent from shifting more than 4 feet. No damage here, but, oh,

the poor artists whose work blew down across the plaza, drenched in rain. Many a tent pole bent like straws, leaving crippled exhibits. It was heart-warming how artists pitched in to help each other, to collect, repair, resurrect once the storm subsided. Hardy folk, these outdoor artists. The show must go on! And one more for the memory books of disasters survived. We've done gale-force battles before, but this one outscored them all. Yet two hours later all was bliss, as though Nature's rampage had never happened, and the weekend was fine.

... Amish Acres, Nappanee, IN, August 2012

This 4-day show was having its Golden Anniversary in an idyllic setting on a farm around a picturesque pond. The Pletcher family's long experience has made this event a state-wide treasure. Set-up was easy, camping on the grounds was convenient, folks were friendly with lots of country folk art, so our exhibit looked a bit like an alien spaceship by comparison. Saturday night a storm was predicted, so many closed early and fortified their booths. We just made it to our van, snug behind a thick hedge, and then all hell broke loose. Tornadoes in the area just barely missed the show, but whole aisles were taken out, booths swept away. Ours held up well. Watched the storm raging from our sheltered nook, with lightning and thunder deafening us. Next day many artists packed up their broken goods and left, and the show went on with the survivors. Here are some photos: www.gamepuzzles.com/amish2012.htm

... Maryland Renaissance Festival, August-October 2012

The rainiest season in decades, including the hurricane that shut down most of the opening weekend, may have dented our income but not our spirits. Thanks and kudos to our great crew: Eileen Shaivitz, Arthur Blumberg, Richard Grainger, Thomas Atkinson, Steve Zeve, Rolinda Collinson, Dick Jones; and to our seasonal and standby squires: Seth Bonder, Elijah Allen, Eric Bare; and our lovely assistant, Meshele Merchant. Even the King and his entourage stopped by to play The Royal Game of the Goose. It was a hoot. Some photos are here: www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm.

... Show Calendar

From mid-January till end of April, Kate appears in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months find her in the Midwest. We post upcoming show dates for 2013 in our calendar as they are confirmed. If you're in the area, do stop by and say hello, and see our new stuff: www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm

CONNECTING

You can reach us in all these ways: www.gamepuzzles.com/contact.htm

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

We also honor checks and money orders, payable in U.S. dollars to: Kadon Enterprises, Inc., and occasionally cash and bank transfers. Order online, by mail, school purchase orders, phone, email, 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.

OUR HOLIDAY MESSAGE

We can't improve on how we said it before, so we send these words again...

"Thank you 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, 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 Space and Time.

"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. www.gamepuzzles.com/xmascard.htm

– Kate Jones