

Tina's Dice Digest

Feb 2020 Edition (#2)

On we go with edition no. 2 of my Dice Digest, and huge thanks to everyone who left me feedback on Facebook!

Please note that this is a personal compilation of things I ran across and felt worthy of sharing. It will not be an exhaustive list of all new recent dice releases, and it will also not feature releases of companies that I don't like to support for personal reasons.

Lab Dice Wave 3 Ahoy!

Chessex officially released wave 3 of the Lab Dice on Feb 3, 2020. Many stores are now carrying the new Gemini lines, so grab your sets while you still can, if you haven't done so already.

It seems that, from this lab release, the Gemini Copper-Turquoise and the Translucent Red-Yellow are getting the most attention.



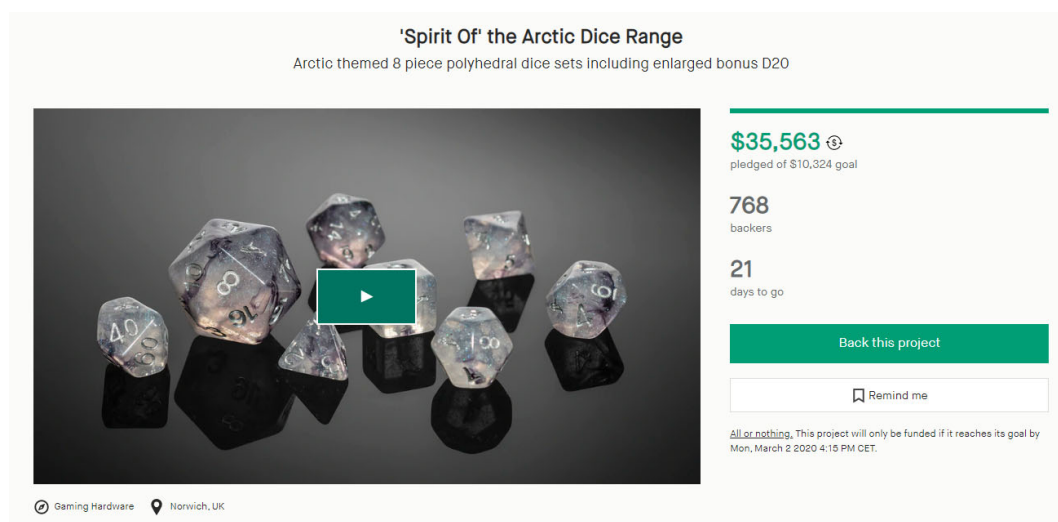
Die Hard Dice released a new line exclusive to them, called Divination, that everyone is gushing over. They are said to be very close to the out of print Crystal Caste Moonstone Maple, with glitter that shifts from green to red in a somewhat milky-clear die base.

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One of Level Up's latest stone designs: Layers of several different stones that create a rainbow colouring. Looks great!



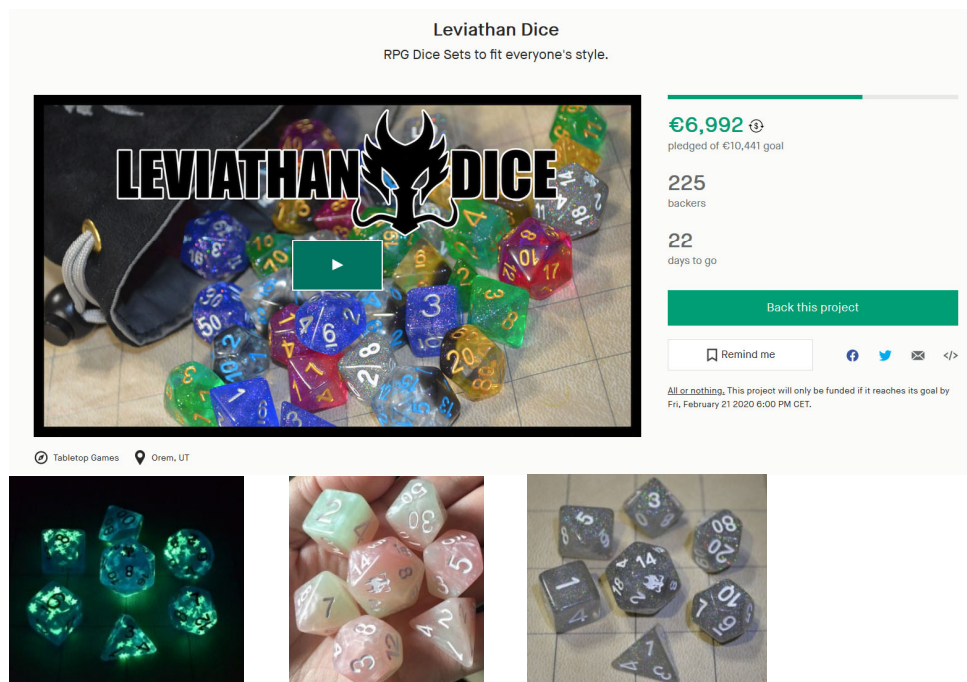
The ['Spirit of the Arctic' Kickstarter](#) from Critic is now live. You can pledge for one or more of these glittery and wispy sets with logos until March 2, 2020. Lowest tier begins at £11 for one set. The Kickstarter is already fully funded with the Puffin stretch goal unlocked.

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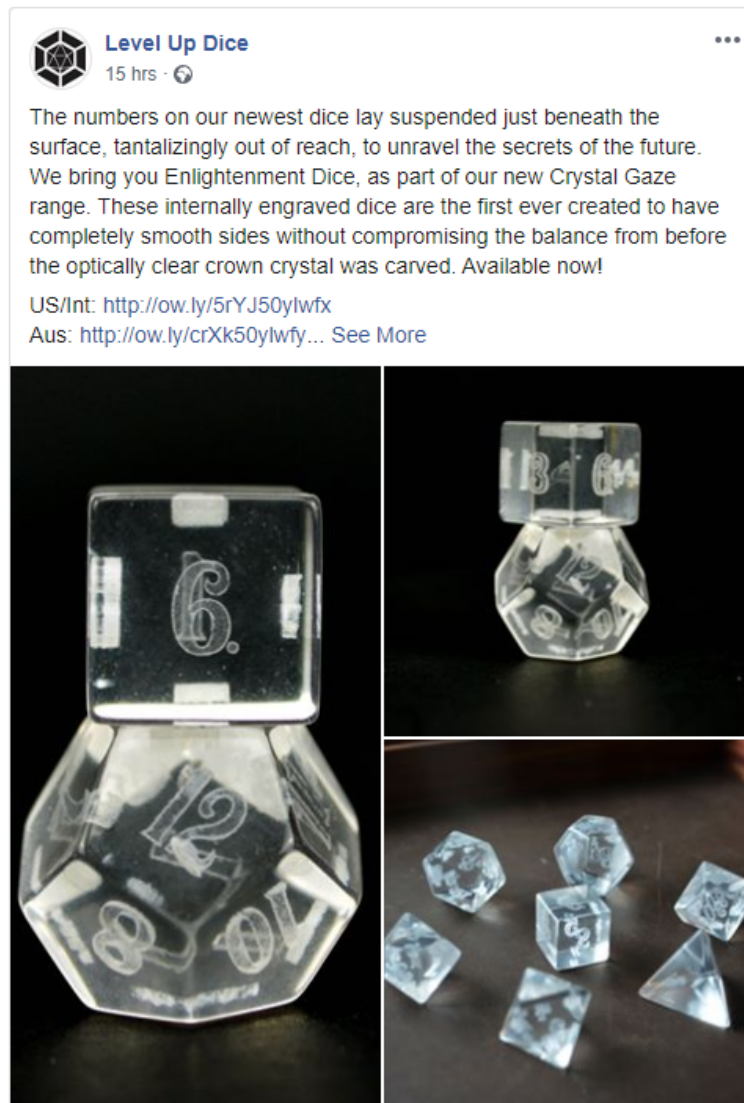
Gate Keeper Games is releasing a new Halfsies line named Glamour. Black and deep pink as part of their pearly opaque range.



Uber Dungeon has a [Kickstarter running called Leviathan Dice](#) that has some nice colours and designs. There's still a chance to back and help them reach their funding goal.

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More new, innovative stuff from Level Up Dice! Their Enlightenment set from the new Crystal Gaze line has numbers that are engraved on the inside of the dice, which makes the faces completely smooth. These dice are made from crown crystal, which is said to be harder than glass due to minerals in the material that add strength.

Koplow is releasing a limited edition 55mm rainbow layered polymer countdown d20, but the price point is very steep—suggested retail price is \$75.

Bryce from Bryce's Dice has opened a thread on his Facebook page to gauge interest as he will only stock them if enough people would buy one from him for \$50.

If you're interested, [this is where you can comment](#).



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Norse Foundry

10 hrs · 🌐



One of our favorite gemstone collections is the Cats Eye and pretty soon it'll be available in red, here's a sneak peek! #dnd #dungeonsanddragons #norsefoundry #norsefoundrydice #roleplayinggames #tabletopgames #sundayfunday #diceporn #dicecollection #dicecollector #gemstone #gemstonedice



Norse Foundry showed us a sneak peek at their red version of the Cats Eye gemstone dice that will soon be available for purchase.

NEW Metal Dice Sets Launching Thursday Jan 23rd @ 9PM EST!



GOLEM'S GLARE™



WEREWOLF'S BANE™

Attention all metal dice fans! Two new sets were released by SkullSplitter Dice at the end of January — Golem's Glare and Werewolf's Bane.

In Other News

Corona Virus



The corona virus outbreak in China has been and will likely be causing delays for the gaming industry. Most factories temporarily stopped production and/or shipment of goods. Chinese New Year was extended by the Chinese government until Feb 2, but not all businesses opened back up on Feb 3. Some reports seem to suggest that most businesses will stay closed until Feb 16, and there are prognoses that the spread of the virus may continue until March or April.

It's hard to say how long the delays in production and delivery will actually be, and this will likely vary on a case-by-case basis, but could be as long as one to two months. Customer service availability in China may also be affected. For instance, Eclipse Dice has already been informed that delivery of her Starstruck Kickstarter dice will be delayed.

In terms of infection risk, it is highly unlikely that the virus will survive outside of a living host or a special growth medium for longer periods of time, so the risk of getting infected by handling shipments from China is negligible. If you're personally concerned, you can always use disinfectant spray on any dice you recently ordered directly from China.

More News from Kraken

Kraken Dice announced at the end of January that all new future dice designs will be single runs only with no more than 1000 sets, effectively going back to their FOMO (fear of missing out) tactics.

Also new is a limited lifetime warranty on their dice ("Kraken will replace any dice or dice set that ever breaks due to normal wear and tear or manufacturing defect"), with the caveat that shipping costs for replacements have to be covered by the buyer, and if replacements are no longer available, they will send something new. Kraken will also offer a so-called courtesy replacement of single dice that were damaged or lost by customers, but they state the decision whether to replace is at Kraken's discretion, though said to be generally heavily in the customer's favour.

Erratum

Last edition I talked about the opaque matte Critit Pastel Pop dice and said I wasn't sure who manufactured these. They're actually a Critit exclusive, so they will only be available from them directly. (Thanks to Becky Griffiths for clarifying.)



Busting Dice Myths

King Cards Dice

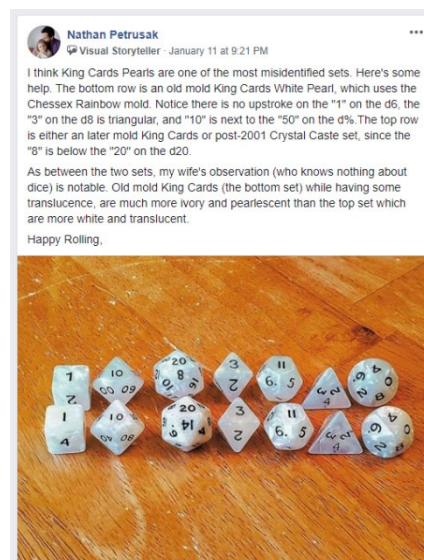
Not all pearly dice that use the D&G/Crystal Caste mold are King Cards Pearl, but admittedly it's often difficult to tell them apart. [Nathan Petrusak made a post about it](#) in DMC not too long ago.

However, with King Cards having closed down years ago and not a lot of documentation and historic information available today about their and Crystal Caste's dice, it's almost impossible to verify which exact moulds and colours were used by them, seeing how they had their dice made by the same factories as other companies.

The general consensus is that the King Cards Pearl lines have more depth to their shimmer and pearl effect, but there are some colours where it's almost impossible to say if they are really King Cards dice, or maybe Crystal Caste or Dice & Games. For instance, King Cards made a light purple line that collectors like to call Lavender. Crystal Caste or D&G had a pearly purple line in a similar colour, but you can tell by the effect of the pearl swirls that they are not the same if you look very closely.

The moulds aren't always a good indicator either. There are some dice that match the King Cards colouration but whose d6s have an upstroke on the 1. No one really knows if King Cards used two different moulds, or if they were sold by different companies.

Noteworthy is also that King Cards sold several lines of dice that were also sold by Crystal Caste, D&G and Chessex. One good example is the Chessex Rainbow line. King Cards sold them as 'Marble', but the King Cards mould seems to always have an upstroke on the 1 on the d6. They also sold the Crystal Caste Ice Creams, Crystal Caste Satins, Crystal Caste Silks, etc. It muddies the waters quite a lot where dice ID is concerned.



No hook on the 7, this can't be a Chessex die

Wrong.

While the modern Chessex dice all use moulds that have a hook on the 7, some of their older lines did not. There are several older Chessex lines that used moulds which didn't have hooks on the 7, such as Chessex Rainbow, Sparkle, Glo-Dice or their 10+ years old translucent lines.