

Tina's Dice Digest

July 2020 Edition (#7)

Welcome to no. 7 of my Dice Digest! Here's the latest that caught my eye in the past month or so. Lots of news on the Chessex front in this one.

The 8th Die in the LAB DICE™ Set

From our last Scoop publication, you now know the colors for this release.

However you don't know everything yet! Starting with this release of **LAB DICE™**, each set will include a commemorative 16mm d6 with pips!

This commemorative **LAB DICE™** 16mm die will have the flask logo on the six side and the one side has the words "**LAB DICE**" around the single pip. If we decide to include this color in our normal range in the future, this die will not be included in our normal packaging. This special die will help with future authentication of first-run sets.



Biggest news of the month was probably the much anticipated Wave 4 of the Chessex Lab Dice. All six new colours and designs have now been revealed and just recently hit both online stores and FLGSes.

This wave includes two Luminary Nebula colours, two Gemini colours and two entirely new designs – opaque dice made from heavy material that have an usual heft to them.

The new colours are Nebula Copper Matrix (clear with copper and black swirls), Nebula Supernova (clear with orange and pink swirls), Gemini Black-White w/pink, Gemini Clear-Pink w/white, and the two heavy opaque ones, Heavy Orange w/turquoise and Heavy Turquoise w/orange.

New this time around is also the packaging. They come in tubes to go with the lab theme, and come with an additional piped 16mm d6 that has an Erlenmeyer flask symbol on the face of the 6, and the words "Lab Dice" on the face of the 1.

The extra piped d6 is included to distinguish the initial first run of the Lab Dice from potential later full production runs.

More Lab Dice runs with new designs are planned for the future, though we don't know yet how many.



Talking about Chessex... They have **more new designs** in store!

In a recent retailer newsletter, they announced a new Borealis colour (we don't know yet which – please let it be yellow!), and a new iteration of Borealis Smoke that will look different.

We also want to bring out a different version of Smoke/silver (with a new stock number) and a new color that we have been developing. If we released the restock of the existing colors all at once, then we could bring out these new colors in a more efficient manner. We estimate this to be sometime in **October**, about 2-3 months from now. The current Smoke/silver will be discontinued.

Another issue we are addressing are the Borealis® stock numbers. Over the years, the stock numbers have been spread over a wide range. We prefer to have the stock numbers for materials grouped together. Considering everything, we have decided to assign new stock numbers for all of the Borealis® colors except the existing Smoke/silver (because it will be discontinued) and Maple Green/yellow (because we have plenty in stock). The new stock numbers will happen on release of the restock.

We want to emphasize that the Borealis® colors are coming back.

There is no need to over purchase during this time.

More details were revealed in a [GTS Distribution retailer webinar](#) where they invited Donald Reents, owner of Chessex to talk about dice. Here's the most pertinent information he shared:

- Chessex themselves used the slower sales due to the pandemic to a) redesign their website, and b) give the factories a chance to catch up with production and spend more time on coming up with new designs.
- As already mentioned in a newsletter, production for the new glitter Borealis dice had to be halted for a while because there were supply issues with the glitter during the pandemic. Once all the Borealis lines are going back into production, Chessex will change the product codes, even though the actual dice won't be different from the older new glitter dice. (Someone better document this for posterity so that collectors can draw back on this info in a few years.)
- Borealis Smoke will be remade, so the current new glitter version will be retired, and a newer version will be made that will be lighter in colour. ("We're gonna do a new Smoke, which will be a lighter Smoke, which I think is a lot better looking. It'll be more in the vein of the Purple or the Sky Blue where you can see more into it.") The new version will also get a new product code.
- The product code for Maple Green will not be changed. Supply of the old glitter for Maple will still last for many years. The glitter that was used in Maple was also used in Confetti, but the Maple glitter was just one of the colours in Confetti, and the other colours are no longer available. Once the supply for Borealis Maple Green will run out, this line will be discontinued.



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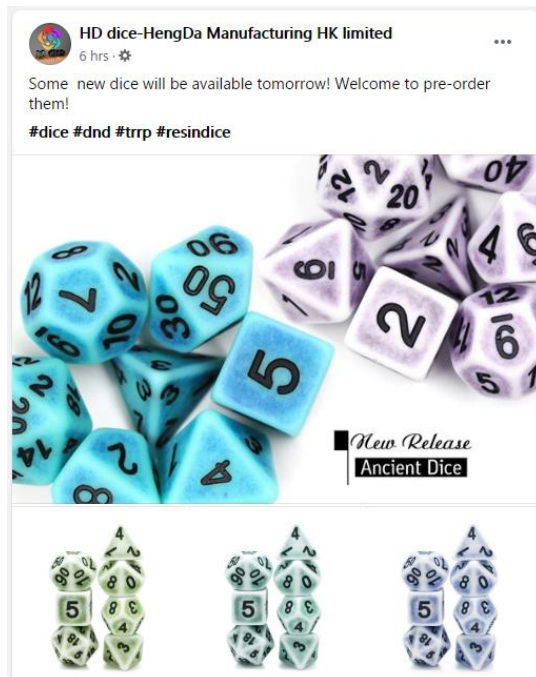
- There will be one new Borealis colour released in October. The colour itself is expected to be revealed probably three to four weeks before it comes out.
- Donald confirmed that Nebula Red, Oceanic, Nocturnal and Wisteria from the previous Lab Dice releases will go into full production, and they're going to do a new version of Nebula Spring. Nebula Spring was, per Donald, "not a bad colour, but it was supposed to have more orange in it." The new Spring will have a little more orange in it. (Exciting!)
- There will be another new Nebula colour for regular release, but no details provided yet.
- They have four new Gemini colours up their sleeve, and another six or eight that they're considering, but the capacity of the German factory is currently not fit to handle this many new designs at once. Donald is hoping that end of this year or beginning of next year, there will be a new Gemini release.
- More Lab Dice will only come out after the new Nebula and Gemini releases. Don mentioned a time frame between January and June 2021, depending on production capacity. It's hard to make accurate predictions on release dates because production times can be unpredictable.
- Travel restrictions due to the pandemic have made it harder to design new colours, because normally Don travels to the factories and they look at designs and samples on location. Sending samples back and forth to make decisions is a lot more tedious and impedes the creative process.
- They have one new colour that's a definite to be released, but they've got five other candidates that still need some work.
- The Opaque and Speckled 34mm d20s had a production shortage because the machine used to make them had some problems. The oversized urea dice need a lot of pressure to get moulded correctly, which can get tricky.
- The factory that makes the opaque and speckled urea dice had to change their paint from oil-based to water-based due to environmental laws. It took a while to refine the new technique for the water-based paint to get it to adhere to the urea material.
- Some recent batches of the 34mm opaque dice were faulty and had a "dusty" look to them. Chessex may consider selling these as one-offs at some point.



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New releases from HD as well!

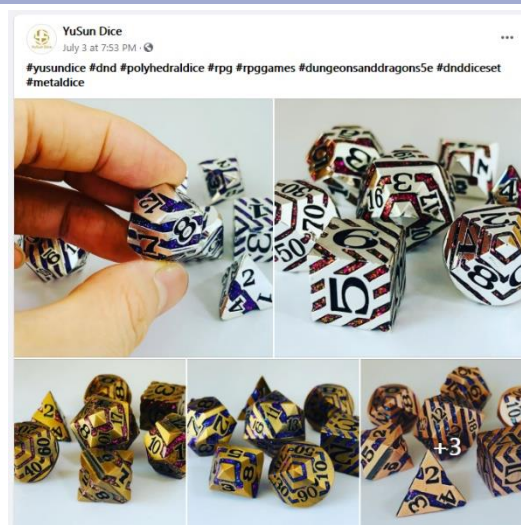


HD is bringing back more colours of their Ancient line. (Yes, I'm excited about this!)

These include a fully light blue colour, and several designs in white with pastel accents (green, teal, blue, purple and pink). There's a few other new colourways of existing designs, such as a teal and puple swirly blend mix, and clear dice with foggy white swirls inside and coloured ink. These all look fabulous, if you ask me!



Yusun released new funky designs – metal dice with stripes in several colours. I'm tempted to call these Zebra Dice.

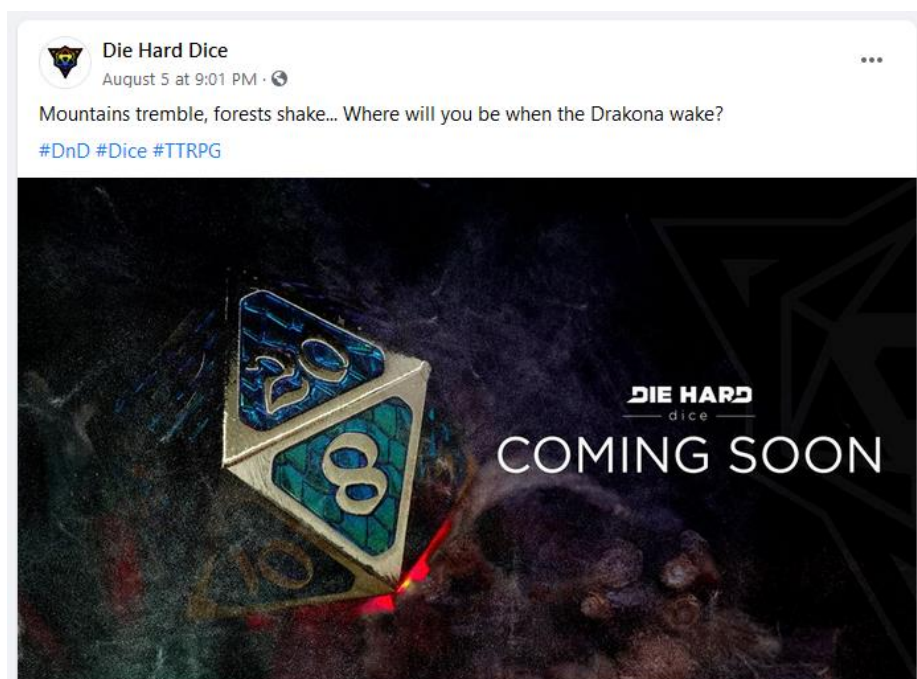


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Maybe this is the month of metal. Haxtec is expanding their metal colour changing line by adding new colours. They now have a set that changes from red to yellow, one from red to pink, and one from blue to purple.



Die Hard Dice is teasing an upcoming new metal design. It looks to have a bit of a dragon scale-like quality with a colour-shifting effect. Will be interesting to see these more close up.

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I may have already mentioned them in the last Dice Digest, but their new sharp-edged clear Avalore line is now available for purchase from the [DHD webstore](#). These are the clear designs with different ink options.

If I remember correctly, they also have a version planned in the future that has glitter inside.



Project Dice - Avalore Pure Isa Die Hard Dice
\$11.95



Avalore RPG Set - Isa Sunbeam Die Hard Dice
\$11.95



Avalore RPG Set - Isa Magick Die Hard Dice
\$11.95



Avalore RPG Set - Isa Restoration Die Hard Dice
\$11.95



Avalore RPG Set - Isa Revivify Die Hard Dice
\$11.95



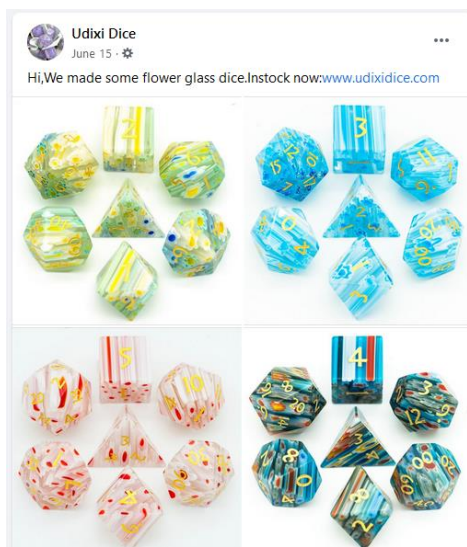
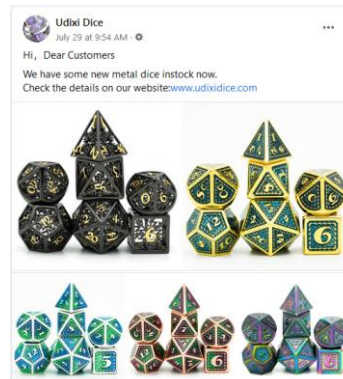
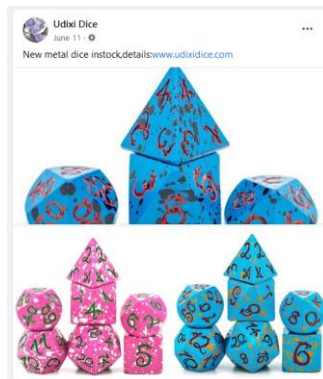
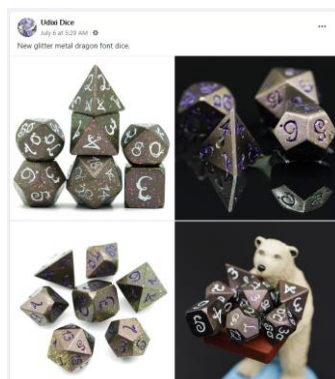
Avalore RPG Set - Isa Lifeblood Die Hard Dice
\$11.95



Avalore RPG Set - Isa Soulbound Die Hard Dice
\$11.95

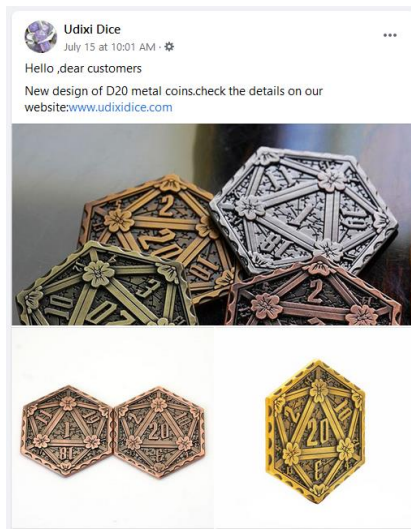
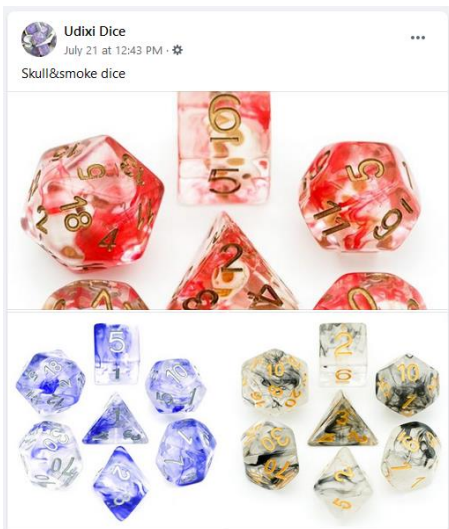
Probably one of the most prolific companies of late, of course we've also seen several new Udixi designs. So many new things!

These include two colour speckled metal dice in their dragon mould, hollow metal snowflake dice, two-colour patterned metal dice, skull dice with coloured smokey wisps, laser engraved glass dice, millefiori glass flower dice, and pretty rad looking dice coins!



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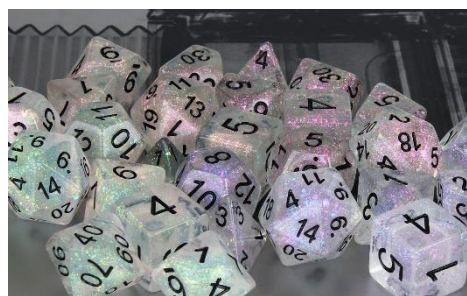
New sharp-edged dice have popped up on Aliexpress recently, in a style that seems to somewhat emulate the Dispel dice. They're not exact dupes, and from what I've heard not always top notch quality, but I suppose at around \$10 per set, you shouldn't have much of a right to complain.

These are available from several Aliexpress vendors, including T&G.

Okay, maybe not exactly brand new information, but can I just tell you how awesome the fairly newly released Bescon Shimmery Dice are?

We often see collectors coming new into the hobby, and asking where to find affordable dupes for the old Borealis dice like Aquerple, Clear and Confetti. And, guys, these are the ones I would hands-down recommend, and I don't say this lightly.

Yes, MDG's Unicorn Ice and LHD Sparkle Sparkle Dream Sand have been quote as pretty good emulations, but until I got these Bescon dice, I have always said nothing quite comes close.



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The glitter in these is hard to capture in photos, which is perhaps why they haven't gotten quite as much attention as they should, and the golden and silver ink they come with wasn't the best choice to let them shine. Polish them and reink them to black, and they will honestly be your best Chessex Borealis Confetti dupe to date, even though the glitter colours don't correspond a 100% to the old Chessex Borealis.

It's a little difficult to tell, but I'd say they're using different glitter flakes in the four sets that are available. Two of them look very similar, but I had no trouble sorting them all into four matching sets after throwing them all together in a pile, which seems to indicate they are all subtly but intentionally different.

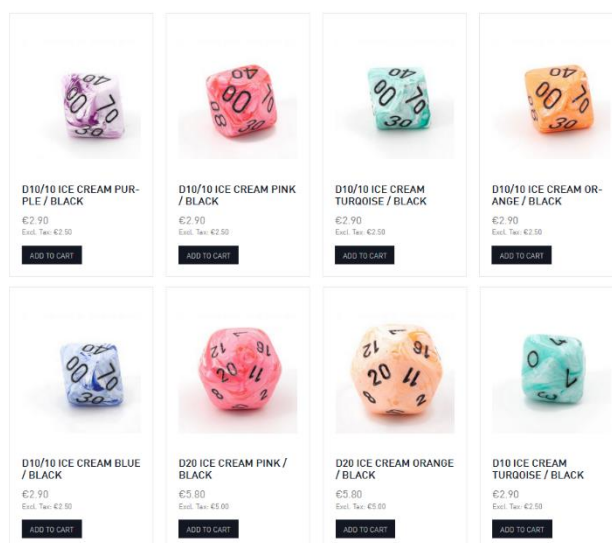
WE ♥ DICE

Still looking for Crystal Caste Ice Cream singles? This may be your chance to complete your partial sets. The newly opened German store [We Love Dice](#) has several of these out-of-print dice still in stock for very affordable prices.

Please note that they are limiting the purchase to one out-of-print die for each type per order (i.e. you can only buy one Pink d%, one Orange d20, one Turquoise d10, etc. per order) to avoid collectors buying these up and reselling them with profit. I think it's pretty awesome that they want to make as many collectors as possible happy!

The rest of their store is also worth a look, they have the new Chessex Lab Dice in stock, as well as several unusual pips. Click on the little England flag at the top right of the page to get to their English language page. International shipping is available to several countries, including US.

Looks like they're also planning to add more out of print stuff later, like dice from the Crystal Caste Porcelain lines. Bookmarking this one might be worth your while.



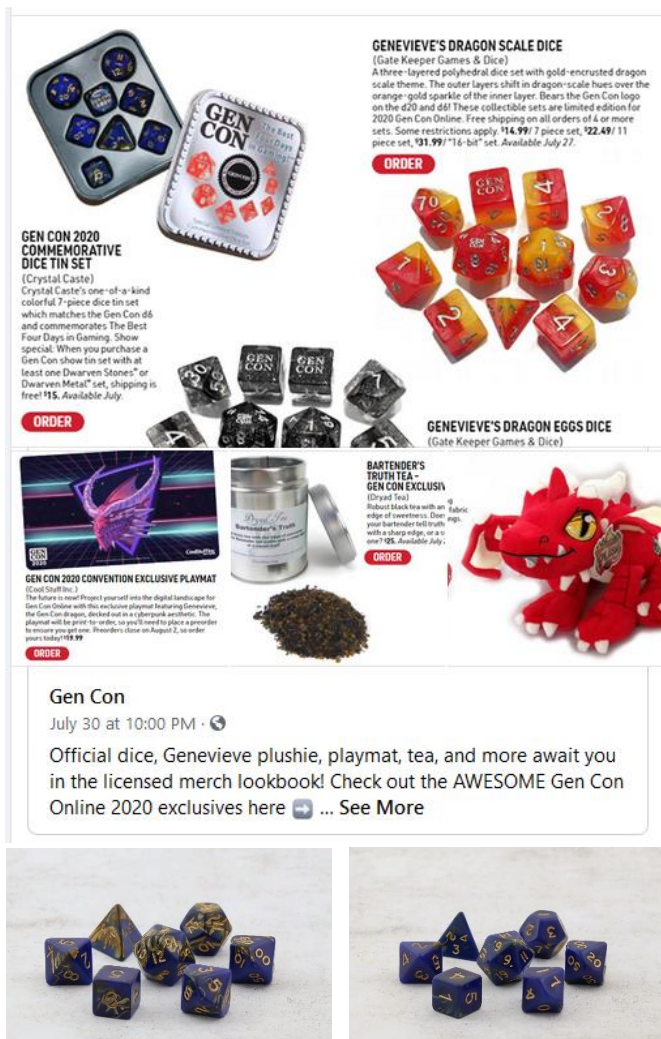
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With GenCon cancelled this year, naturally the con exclusive merchandise could not be sold to con attendees. Instead, a lot of companies have made their products available online, including Crystal Caste and Gatekeeper Games.

Crystal Caste is offering their con exclusive dice in the GenCon and Origins tin in [their online store](#). Gatekeeper Games is [doing the same](#).

Personally, I found the Crystal Caste dice a bit bland this year. While they have nice gold swirls on one side of each die, the other side looks pretty much just opaque blue. I have not seen the GKG Halfsies in person, so I can't speak to them.



GEN CON 2020 COMMEMORATIVE DICE TIN SET
(Crystal Caste)
Crystal Caste's one-of-a-kind colorful 7-piece dice tin set which matches the Gen Con d6 and commemorates The Best Four Days in Gaming. Show special: When you purchase a Gen Con show tin set with at least one Dwarven Stones™ or Dwarven Metal™ set, shipping is free! \$15. Available July.

GENEVIEW'S DRAGON SCALE DICE
(Gate Keeper Games & Dice)
A three-layered polyhedral dice set with gold-encrusted dragon scale theme. The outer layers shift in dragon-scale hues over the orange-gold sparkle of the inner layer. Bears the Gen Con logo on the d20 and d6! These collectible sets are limited edition for 2020 Gen Con Online. Free shipping on all orders of 4 or more sets. Some restrictions apply. \$14.99/7 piece set, \$22.49/11 piece set, \$31.99/16-bis set. Available July 27.

GENEVIEW'S DRAGON EGGS DICE
(Gate Keeper Games & Dice)

BARTENDER'S TRUTH TEA - GEN CON EXCLUSIVE
(Dried Tea)
Robust black tea with an fabric edge of sweetness. Don't your bartender tell truth with a sharp edge, or a one? \$25. Available July.

GEN CON 2020 CONVENTION EXCLUSIVE PLAYMAT
(Card Staff Inc.)
The Gen Con 2020 Convention Exclusive Playmat is a digital landscape for Gen Con Online with this exclusive playmat featuring Genevieve, the Gen Con dragon, decked out in a cyberpunk aesthetic. The playmat will be great for your table, so get it now to play a preview to ensure you get it. Preorders close on August 2, so order yours today! \$19.99

Gen Con
July 30 at 10:00 PM · 🌐

Official dice, Genevieve plushie, playmat, tea, and more await you in the licensed merch lookbook! Check out the AWESOME Gen Con Online 2020 exclusives here ➡️ ... See More



Lindorm dice
July 29 at 7:14 PM · 🌐

Some of you have seen a little peek of this lovely Jötun before, but today we are happy to present the entire set of Skade!

Skade is the god of the snow and mountains, and so also gave name to the entire Scandinavia! There, she hunts with bow and arrow. Wolves were her companions. Though once married to Njord, the god of the ocean, she couldn't stand the sound of the sea birds, and missed her mountains dearly. The relationship only lasted 9 days, but after all they met through a blind date where Skade got to choose her partner only from viewing their feet!

#dice #lindormdice #skade #norsemythologydice2 #vikingsaga

- SKADE -

Lindorm Dice is really knocking it out of the park with these teaser photos for their upcoming Kickstarter dice.

I can't wait for this one to go live!

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CozyGamer restocked their Unending Breath line. These now come in a custom mould with a heart-shaped cat paw as the 20 and an additional custom d6 with paws instead of pips.

Also new is a line called Snow Peak, using the same mould.



CozyGamer
July 25 at 8:03 AM · 🌐
Introducing Snow Peak 🐾
A new Cozy Gamer original 8 piece dice set with our custom extra D6 🐾 available now with a few other new additions at cozygamer.com



CozyGamer

July 25 at 7:20 PM · 🌐

Unending Breath has returned! This time as an 8 piece set with our extra custom kitty wizard D6.

Remember the insanely popular Q-Workshop Kanji Dice? Q-Workshop recently posted on their Facebook that they're planning to release a new version of the Japanese Dice and asked for design suggestions.

So keep your eyes peeled, these may be coming back in a different colour combination or maybe a different design iteration.



Q-workshop

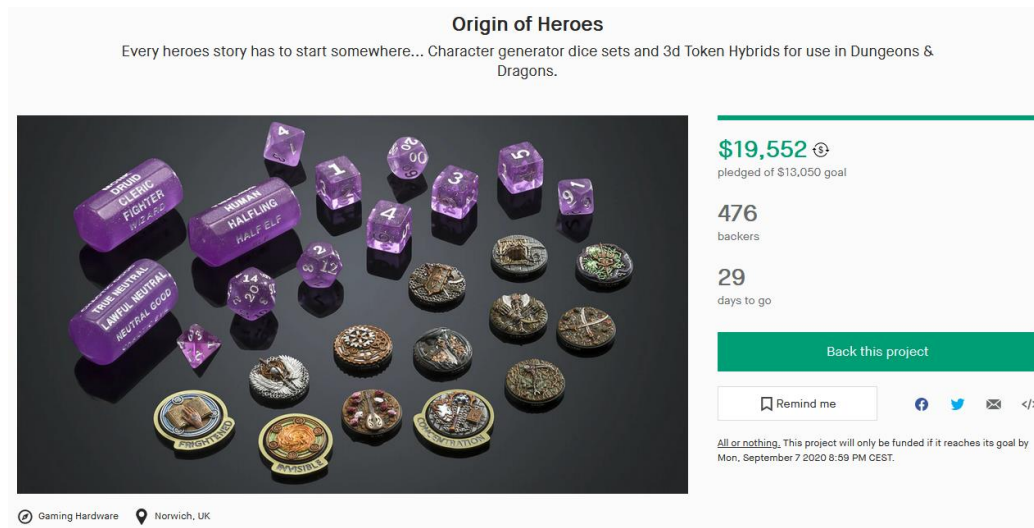
July 24 at 9:20 AM · 🌐

We're thinking about the long-postponed probability of releasing a NEW form of Kanji Dice 🍀

The picture shows the old version, we'd like to change the final design a bit 🍀

Would you want the new Kanji in our repertoire?

Kickstarters & News



New Kickstarter from Critic in the UK. They are offering extended dice sets they call Origin of Heroes, which includes three barrel dice that can help you roll your RPG character's race, class and alignment. The rest of the dice is a 10-piece polyhedral set that comes with three extra numbered d6s.

In addition to the dice, they offer 3D character token hybrids that can function as a portable, compact character miniature.

The dice are available in four colours – grey, blue, green and purple, all somewhat translucent with glitter inside. The tokens are in sets of 13 and include Artificer, Barbarian, Bard, Cleric, Druid, Fighter, Monk, Paladin, Ranger, Rogue, Sorcerer, Warlock and Wizard. These come unpainted.

If you pledge for just the tokens, they are £17 per set, just the dice are £22, and dice and token combo are £32. There are other options available as well. The Kickstarter is already funded and has 29 days to go.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/163050832/origin-of-heroes>

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Color Spray Dice Collection - Polyhedral Dice Collections

New Color Spray Dice Collection, available in classic sets, as singles, or in customized configurations to meet your gaming needs.



US\$ 18,128
pledged of US\$ 12,000 goal

753
backers

4
days to go

[Back this project](#)

[Saved](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [c](#)

All or nothing. This project will only be funded if it reaches its goal by Thu, August 13 2020 4:01 PM CEST.

[Tabletop Games](#) [Columbus, OH](#)

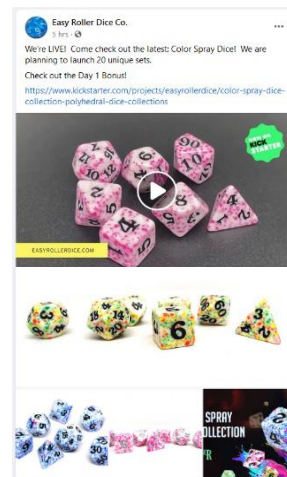
Easy Roller Dice launched a Kickstarter recently for acrylic speckled dice in different colour combinations.

The funding goal has already been reached, and you still have 4 days to back this campaign.

Currently unlocked are the white & red and white & blue sets with two ink choices, and the multicolour red-green-yellow option with black ink.

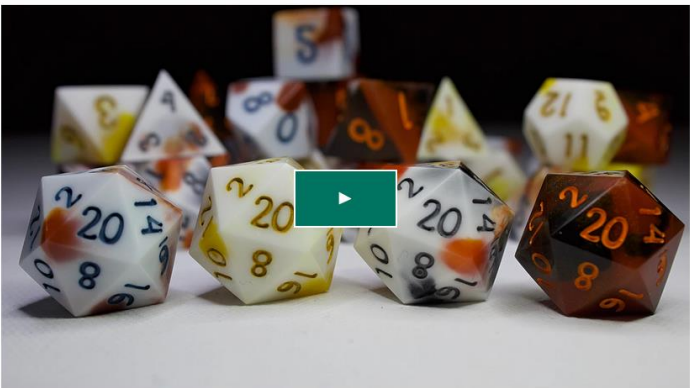
A 7-piece set costs you \$10, an 11-piece set \$14.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/easyrollerdice/color-spray-dice-collection-polyhedral-dice-collections>



Koi-waii Dice

Handmade polyhedral dice inspired by the beautiful patterning of koi.



US\$ 22,873
pledged of US\$ 10,000 goal

270
backers

25
days to go

[Back this project](#)

[Notify me on launch](#) [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [c](#)

All or nothing. This project will only be funded if it reaches its goal by Thu, September 3 2020 11:00 PM CEST.

[Tabletop Games](#) [Waukeasha, WI](#)

Looking for fish themed dice? Diceawaii has you covered. They're offering handmade dice whose designs are inspired by koi.

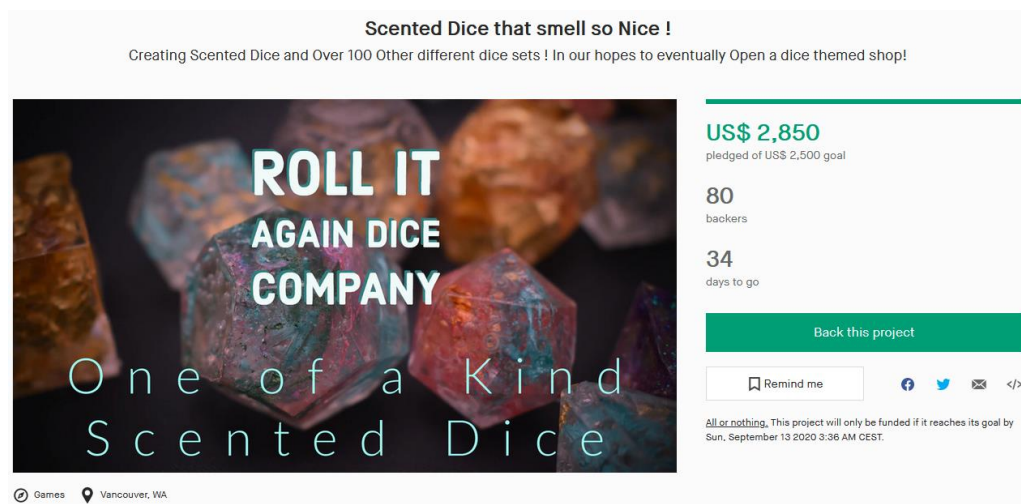
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Currently available are four different colour combinations, with the Kickstarter already funded. There's some more options like stickers and armbands and dice vaults.

A single d20 will cost you \$15, a full set \$55 (keep in mind that these are handmade). The Kickstarter has 25 days to go.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/diceawaii/koiwaii-dice>



I'm honestly not sure what to make of this Kickstarter. The spelling of their campaign text is atrocious, and I'd want to be wary of anyone using words like "lol" in their Kickstarter campaign. What they offer is... scented dice. Yes, dice that smell.

Personally, I have a feeling that this Kickstarter is not the safest to invest your money in. The text seems extremely unprofessional and erratic, and with over 100 scent options they offer, it seems unlikely that they will be able to deliver what they promise. Please note that they published the Kickstarter once already, then cancelled it, and have now re-posted it, which seems somewhat dubious.

Yet, if you've always wanted scented dice and are ready to take a risk, this is where you can find the Kickstarter: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/scenteddice/scented-dice-that-smell-so-nice>

Unfortunately, there's also a piece of sad news. Steven Collins, who ran The Arcanist's Armory and a fairly recent Healer's Dice Kickstarter has very suddenly passed away.

For anyone who would like to read more, [this is where you can find his obituary](#). A brief update was posted to the yet unfulfilled Kickstarter about trying to figure out whether they can refund backers after this sad and unforeseen tragedy.



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Scam Warning!

Beware of fake Facebook ads and online stores that are trying to advertise dice that aren't theirs, and will not deliver what they promise. Many of them are using photos from current unfulfilled Kickstarters (such as the MDG liquid core dice) or unique handmade dice from independent makers (such as dice with objects inside).

There's a whole number of them that keep popping up under many different. You can keep reporting these ads to Facebook if you spot them.

Names used by these stores, among others, have been Orfilaa Store, Xindequ, Gamers Night, Lospoco shop, Tayloke, Benjamine-shop, Pg-monsta shop or Hb-gladyse shop.

If you see ads like this that use the MDG liquid core Kickstarter dice or other very unique dice (like the one with the sailing ship inside) in a Facebook ad, caution is advised. What happens very often is that, if you order there, they do send you dice, but they will be cheap pearl or other mass-produced dice that look nothing like what you ordered.

