

# TSR Dice

## Set inclusion and identification

This document is intended to serve as a simple visual reference for dice that would have been included in original versions of TSR boxed sets. We intend this document to be a living document that will change as new evidence arises. However, we wanted to address a few concerns and assumptions before we begin.

We see lots of arguments from people saying “but this is what I got” and it ultimately relates to something they bought off eBay, OR it relates to older boxings from Europe. We won’t be basing our assumptions on eBay sellers, and there is sufficient evidence that TSR mixed and matched a lot of things from old stock in their European printings. If you want to put 90’s era dice in a 4th edition Italian box and a second edition manual... we can’t tell you that’s incorrect, BUT what we are trying to present are the correct box/dice pairings for the original TSR printings in the US, and how to identify and differentiate the dice. We will also try to include article references and reasonings to support our positions on some of the more “controversial” bits and pieces.

We certainly welcome additional feedback and evidence to grow and help to refine this document. Let’s face it: most of those who were involved in the development of D&D were FAR more concerned with the mechanics, the stories, and the collaboration than they were in the dice after they got a rhythm going there... and it’s been a very long time. Drawing from deep and distant memories about things that were secondary yields differing recollections, and the best we can do is try to find a consensus. (You can message with feedback [here](#) or leave comments in the document)

Lastly, in terms of this, as a living document, I will personally say that the quality and accuracy of the information first presented in this document was downright embarrassing... but that only furthers my resolve that this document is necessary as a resource for others.

## Modern Pre-D&D

We will mention a few sets here and post pictures because there’s a misconception amongst many who are not versed in the history of dice that D&D “invented” polyhedral dice. Jon Peterson has an [excellent article](#) on many of these dice, and the [associated video](#) is an absolute must-watch.

### JSA (1950s-1960s)



Japanese Standards Association (JSA) created and distributed these “Random Number Generators” in the 1950’s and 1960’s for statistical quality control. Craig Tucker from 20 Faces Of Fate has a [more detailed article here](#). We are including it because it is the oldest modern usage of the d20 shape we can find, and because Tim Kask remembers them being used by some gamers [here](#).

### Zazz Polyspheres (1960s)



Zazz Polyspheres were pre-TSR gaming dice that included all the classic [platonic solids](#), but were not related to D&D in any way. Again, 20 Faces of Fate has an [excellent article with far more detail](#). We are including it because it’s the first modern usage of all the platonic solids in a production game that we can find and because it numbers the d20 1-20. Face-read d4, d6, d8, d12, and 1-20 d20

### Bristol Wargames (1970s)



Bristol Wargames dice were really the first dice related to D&D as they were commonly used in tabletop gaming, and were likely the inspiration for the d20 inclusion in D&D (though ultimately a different manufacturer was selected for the boxed sets). Arneson mentions buying these dice from The Tradition Shoppe off Trafalgar Square in several different interviews (“Dice Story” from [KoDT 34/KoDT 150](#) and the “[Lost Interview](#)”). Jon Peterson again provides more details in [an article here](#). We are including these because of the likely influence on D&D history.

There was apparently a green single-die prototype of these, and two revisions of this die produced: the earlier with sharp edges, and later having slightly more rounded edges than the ones shown.

### Creative Publications (1972-?)



When Gygax started looking for manufacturers for dice to include in D&D, he ultimately found Creative Publications, an educational company who had already been making and distributing dice. The sets they produced before D&D are easily distinguished by the pink colored d6. We will include more comparisons later when we reach the Holmes Era dice. Oddly, Gygax and Arneson were not initially interested in anything but the d6 and d20. “The rules were not quite done when a problem arose. Would we break open the sets and take out only the 6-sider and the 20-sider? (The others would be donated to a local school) Well, a little work showed how labor



intensive that would be, not to mention a waste of dice. The answer? Add rules that used the 4-sided, 6-sided, 8-sided, 12-sided, and not just the 20-sided dice” (From “Dice Story”, an interview with Dave Arneson in [Knights of the Dinner Table #34](#) reprinted in [KoDT 150](#)). One should note that the first two printings of the Holmes set may occasionally have had these dice included, rather than TSR “Holmes” dice (this has been reported by the separate sources).

Interestingly (?later?), they also sold “Dodecahedra Dice” and “Octahedra Dice” packs with the same “Polyhedra Dice” description on the back. (Not sure if they ever sold tetrahedra, cubic, or icosahedra)

## D&D and “Original” TSR Dice

### Pre-Holmes TSR - OD&D (1974-1977)

There are (to my limited experience) few references to the “Whitebox Era” and TSR reselling dice manufactured by other parties before any dice were included in the actual boxed sets. The white box (and woodgrain) boxes did not include dice, but Creative Publications dice were certainly being resold by TSR during this period ([for \\$3.50](#)). There are also stories of TSR re-selling Zocchi Gen 1 Percentiles during this time period.

In preparation for the release of the Holmes boxed set, TSR pulled an end-around on Creative, and started ordering directly from the same Hong-Kong supplier to fill their Holmes sets, rather than buying through Creative and opening each set to remove the insert. (Arneson mentions removing the Creative Inserts and reselling the dice in [KoDT 34/KoDT 150](#), and Jim Ward goes into quite a bit of detail about the dice purchasing [here](#).)

### Holmes-Era Dice (1977-1981)

#### TSR “Pink” Percentiles (1977-1981)



We know that TSR sold the percentiles from the same manufacturer used by Creative Publications (and that Creative itself never offered a percentile set). The only way in which the pink d20 was available was as a TSR-branded product (or Games Workshop branded, in the UK) as part of this percentile set. There were clearly two versions of this set available.

These were available in:

<need box images>	War of Wizards 2e 1977
<need box images>	Boot Hill 2nd edition, 1st and 2nd printings 1979-1981
<need box images>	Top Secret 1st Ed, and 2nd Ed 1980-1981
<validate and need image>	TSR Hanger



**Holmes 5 piece set (1977-1980)**

Starting in 1977 with the new boxed set, TSR began including their own dice directly in the box, pre-inked, and without a crayon. The dice were manufactured in Hong Kong (from the same manufacturer used by Creative Publications) and [orders took 6 months or more to arrive](#). So the inclusion of dice, while initially good, was absent briefly in later printings, then returned intermittently. Apparently, [Kevin Blume pushed for the use of chits](#) instead of dice for financial reasons, and only a drop in sales rectified these disagreements.

The [Acaeum is a great resource](#) for differentiating the boxes and has some notes on dice inclusion though we don't agree 100% (we'll discuss why later, on a case-by-case basis).



A comparison between the pre-TSR Creative Publications (right) and TSR Holmes Era dice (left). Further notes on differentiation [can be found here](#) or in [Jon Peterson's video](#). (These are in original plastic, but I removed the Creative insert to put it in a card sleeve). Another differentiation note I've not seen elsewhere: it seems like Creative Publications d20's have a divot in the 0 where the 1 is to the left of the 5 and 7 to the right. It should also be noted that the Creative dice are slightly larger when measured with calipers (though this is only a dependable differentiator when there is minimal wear).

Oddly, there is also disagreement on the first two printings. Some are claiming they were pink (as in the link above or in [KoDT 34](#)). David Witts (a UK based dice historian) remembers Holmes dice being in the earlier sets, with Creative dice appearing intermittently later. Given the availability issues and internal conflict on related costs reported by both Jim Ward and Gary Gygax, it's very likely that the first two printings included either Holmes or repackaged Creative dice as available, and only Holmes dice or chits after that point.

Availability:

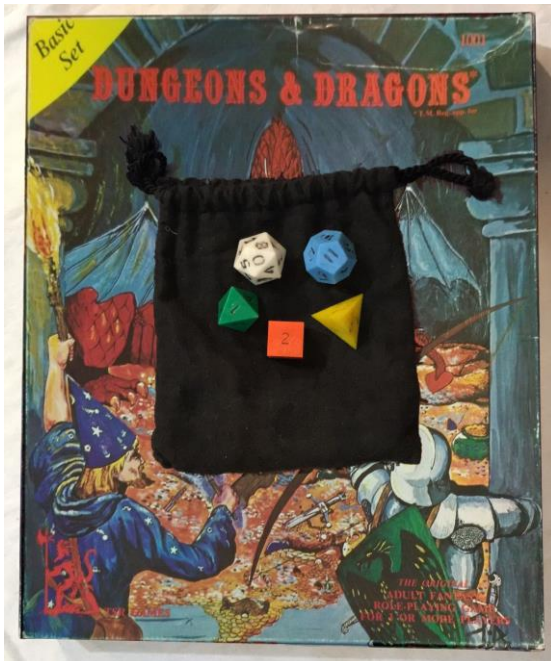




Holmes Basic Set first printing (1977)

The first printing always shipped with dice. Notice the "T.M. Reg. App. For" under the D&D logo and the "F115-R" in the top right. The back of the box changed, there were other differences, but all of the first printings shipped with these dice.

There is a possibility that SOME first printings shipped with Creative Publications dice (with the insert removed).



Holmes Basic Set second printing (Jan 1978)

The second printing always shipped with dice. "F115-R" changed to "1001" in the top right.

There is a possibility that SOME first printings shipped with Creative Publications dice (with the insert removed).



Holmes Basic Set third printing (May 1978)

The third printing always shipped with these dice. Notice the "T.M. Reg. App. For" removed and replaced with "®" on the right.



Holmes Basic Set fourth printing (Jan 1978)

The fourth printing always shipped with these dice. Notice the addition of "With Introductory Module" in the left side banner. Some of these boxes had the lizard logo and some had the wizard logo on the back cover.

\*Note that Acaeum states that some sets ship with six uncolored dice and a crayon, but [according to James Ward](#) who was head of inventory at the time, they went back and forth between these dice and chits, as the Blume-created Moldvay molds were reworked a number of times before they moved to the new plastic - far later than the 4th printing. The "6 dice with a crayon" were still being prototyped WELL AFTER this, so our bet is that these are either a repack or european mixed-content boxes that didn't match the original US release.

Holmes Basic Set Fifth printing (1979)

Did not ship with dice. The front of the box matches the 4th printing and is differentiated by inclusion of chit sheets and images on the back of the box.

Holmes Basic Set Sixth printing (Nov-Dec 1979)

*MOSTLY did not ship with dice.* The front of the box matches the 4th printing and is differentiated by inclusion of chit sheets, images on the back of the box, and a switch to Module B2.

The Acaeum notes that some 6th printing boxes shipped with “6 pre-inked dice”. A 6-pack pre-inked dice still seems very very unlikely here (the result of repacks or euro-packs). We suspect that some 6th printing boxes shipped with the Holmes dice but we have no hard evidence thereof.



*Sometimes* shipped with these dice. The front of the box matches the 4th printing and is differentiated by the inclusion of chit sheets and images on the back of the box.

Additionally, there is a significant rumor that a number of the very late boxes shipped with Moldvay-era dice, though we find this very unlikely, as Gamma World continued to ship Holmes Era dice into 1982.

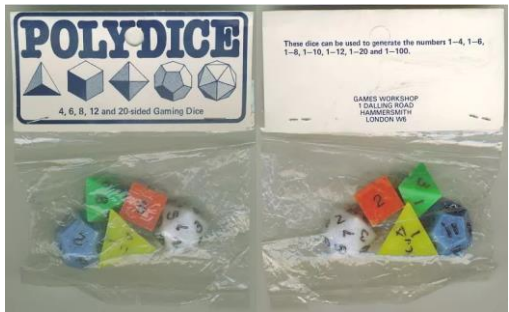
Holmes Basic Set seventh printing (Dec 1979-1980)

<need image>  
Gamma World 1st Ed - all printings (1981-1982)

First Edition, first and second printings always included these dice.

<need image and verification>  
TSR Hanger

I’ve been told that an early TSR dice hanger existed with Holmes dice in the US, but I have yet to see an image.



Games Workshop Hanger

Games Workshop was the licensed distributor for TSR in the UK and sold these dice in a hanger.

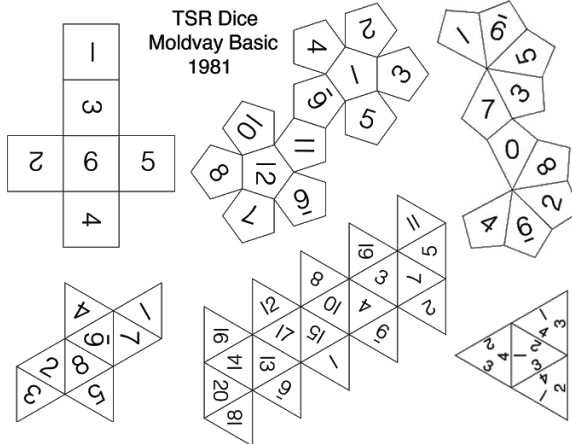
*Image Courtesy of David Witts (harami2000)*



## Moldvay-Era Dice, TSR (1981-1983)



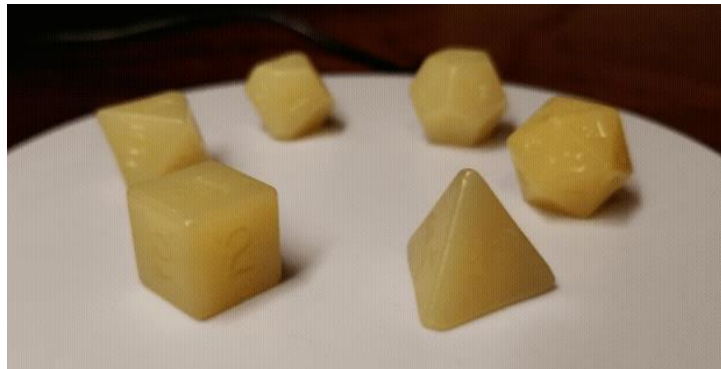
Beginning in late 1978, TSR started looking at the possibility of manufacturing their own dice. Prototypes were finally received in 1980, and [mold designs](#) were reworked several times (rumor is 5 times at \$50k each by Brian Blume to enhance heat dissipation so that production speed could match demand).



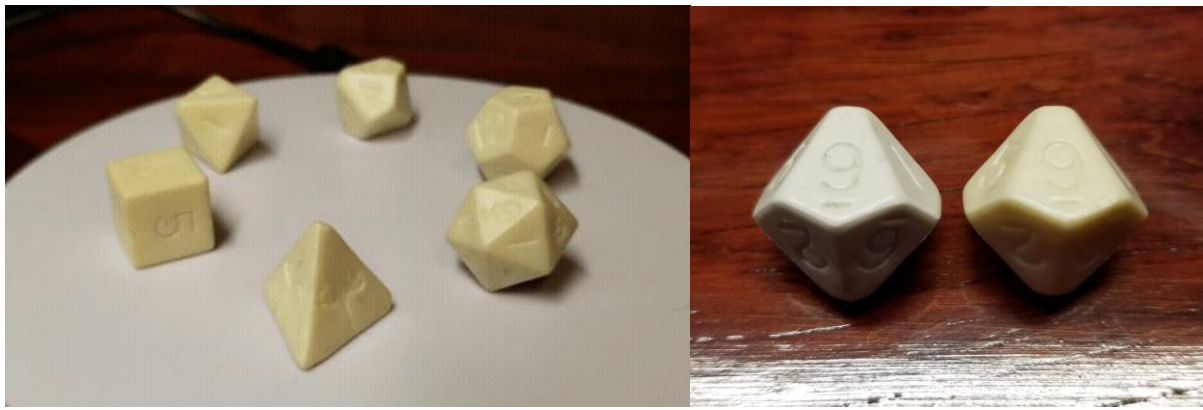
### Moldvay-Era Prototypes



Confirmed Moldvay prototypes from the collection of Frank Mentzer.



Phase 1 “Beeswax Moldvay” were created in house by Brian Blume on a small injection molding machine to validate die shape but was ultimately far too soft for usage.



Phase 2 “Popcorn Moldvay” were created to validate both new plastic and the enhanced heat dissipation of the molds before the promo and production dice were created. The story is that these early molds were reworked 4 times and then recreated for production (costing TSR \$50k for each revision), and that this issue later became a specific example of poor monetary management when control of TSR later changed hands.

(Note: White was also a [rare] production Moldvay color; the prototypes have a bit of yellow to them - image for comparison)

## Moldvay-Era Promo Dice



“Promo Moldvay” (1980) were created for glamor-shot advertising, and to be handed out at Gencon 13 in 1980. The middle image, above, was from page 111 of the 1980 GameMaster Catalog and shows several, including the d10 (These should technically be in the Promo section, later, but they were the first release of the Moldvay-era mold)

(Side note, I only have one of these dice, so I can't provide more comprehensive images)

There's an interesting story that explains several questions related to these dice: These promo dice were supposed to be delivered to one convention, but were late. Rather than trying to figure out shipping (again), Lou Zocchi was there when they arrived and offered to bring these to the following convention. The box was loaded into his station wagon, and he drove them to GenCon 13, where he was then asked to help TSR distribute them as a thanks for his help. Later, he would recall the “bubblegum dice”, and many would assume that he was speaking about the pink Creative Publications 6 (and that there was a whole pink set), when, in fact, he was talking about these promotional moldvay. I would also guess that he was likely none too happy to see the 1-20 d20, as he had just invested in his new molds with + indicators to differentiate highs from lows.



Interestingly, the two prototypes I have in hand match the mold for the promotional dice but differ slightly from the eventual production mold: you can see the strong ejector pin marks and lack of mid-6 sprue differentiating the prototype and promo moldings.

*D6 Promo image courtesy of Joe Barbacheck.*

## Moldvay-Era Production Dice (6pcs)

With the release of the New Moldvay Basic Rules, and the creation of the Expert rules, TSR switched to exclusively TSR manufactured dice and included dice in every box. This is when the era of the “6 dice with a crayon” began. The [d10 was a new shape](#) for the gaming community as of GenCon ‘80 as was the 1-20 numbering on the d20. (There’s [some discussion](#) about “who’s first” for these milestones, including a mid-60s d10 reported by Arneson, and some d10’s in DiceCollector’s collection from the 1930s, but we’ll expound on that when we eventually expand this guide to include other period-relevant dice manufacturers. For now, just know that this is based on Zocchi’s opinion on when these dice were actually used in the gaming community).



The Moldvay dice are commonly seen in several shades of light blue, tan, and yellow, but ultimately were molded in a huge variety of colors including aqua, white, red, dark brown, orange and several shades of green. According to Frank Mentzer, these dice were received in orders of 5k-10k at a time, and were shrink-wrapped in-house at TSR on a pair of machines.



Moldvay dice were also subject to “quick and dirty” manufacturing, where the plastic from previous colored dice wasn’t well cleaned, and you often saw “inter-color” dice as the old and new plastics mixed, creating an even wider variety of shades, and a swirled, soapy looking appearance (we often referred to them as “soap dice” in my day, both for the softness of the plastic and the coloration).

Interestingly, these dice were only ever seen in D&D boxed sets, not other TSR offerings of the period (Gamma World, for example, continued to ship the 5-piece Holmes set).

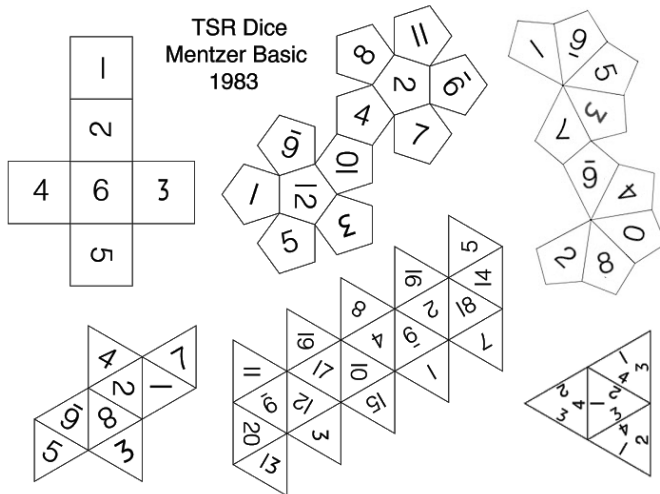


## Eighth through eleventh printings (1981-1983)



Moldvay/Cook sets shipped almost exclusively with Moldvay-mold dice. The majority of sets shipped with matching sets of dice, though we do see mixed-color sets frequently throughout the run of Moldvay boxed sets (including, on very very rare occasions, a few pipped 6s in shrink!). At the very end of the eleventh printing in late 1982 and 1983, we do see some of the new Mentzer-mold dice sneaking into the sets.

## Mentzer-Era Dice TSR (1982-1989)



[Mold designs](#) were again reworked and finalized in 1982\*, featuring a distinct “long” d8, flat-topped font on all the 3’s, and other mold differences. Frank Mentzer confirmed that this was due to the huge jump in sales, from 5k-10k runs to tens of millions. Rather than sorting and shrink-wrapping in-house, they decided to find a manufacturer who could also sort and assemble the pre-packaged dice. It is generally accepted that the plastic quality was even worse than the Moldvay plastic, but the production quality was better, with no inter-color, soapy, plastic mixing effects.

\*This date is based on Frank Mentzer’s dating of the second-run prototypes as 1982; there are multiple reports from “first owner” collectors who swear they had Mentzer dice in 1981 dated boxed sets. It could be that Frank’s memory of the date isn’t right, or that the old boxes were packaged later (in 82). Given that promotional Moldvay dice premiered at gencon 13 in 80 and didn’t start hitting boxes until 81 at the very earliest, I think it unlikely that they had new overseas manufacturing in place under a year later. But... it’s possible.

## Mentzer-Era Prototypes

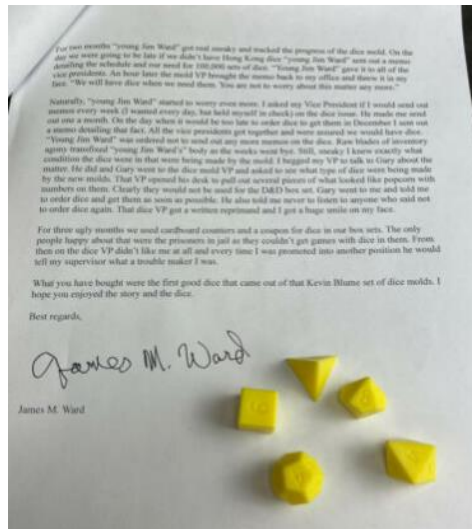


Mentzer first phase prototype dice from the collections of Frank Mentzer, Joe Barbercheck, and myself, respectively. (Side notes, I only have one of these dice, so I can’t provide more comprehensive images. It **SHOULD** be noted the the d20 on the right was provided by Joe B and is literally the same die from the center picture - emphasizing just how large a difference lighting can make in online images and how difficult identification is)



Until recently, there were [only hints](#) of beeswax colored Mentzer prototype dice, then Frank Mentzer himself posted a [pair of auctions](#) on [eBay with prototypes](#). In a response to the winner of one of these auctions, Frank replied that the prototyping was two-stage, with the yellow-white beeswax colored prototypes being made in house to verify the mold designs with a small injection molder, and the larger prototype runs being done in China to verify the plastic and dyes and larger machines. He said that the larger runs are identical to the production dice, both in plastic and mold, so the only way to validate prototypes for the second series is with a letter from one of the employees, as above. That being said, as can be seen in the images, while the orange colored prototypes are very very similar in color (the larger difference being a slightly more matte texture which could be wear related), both the lighter and darker blue colors are actually distinct from the other Mentzer colors, with the lighter most closely matching a Windmill Hobbies die coloration. Regular Molday on in the outer ring, prototypes in the middle.

(Side note, I do not have d6s or d10s in these dice, so I can't provide more comprehensive images)



These yellow Mentzer-mold dice were listed on ebay in 2021 with provenance from Jim Ward as "The First Mentzer Prototype dice" from on top of his desk with a modified version of an old dragonsfoot post by Jim Ward.

Sadly, I was unable to win the auction and am subsequently unable to provide any analysis or comparison of surface texture or mold markers. I will note that there IS a 6, which the alternate color prototypes are almost always missing.

My guess (given the information in the previous section) is that these were actually a 4th color of phase 2 prototypes. (It HAS been nearly 40 years...)



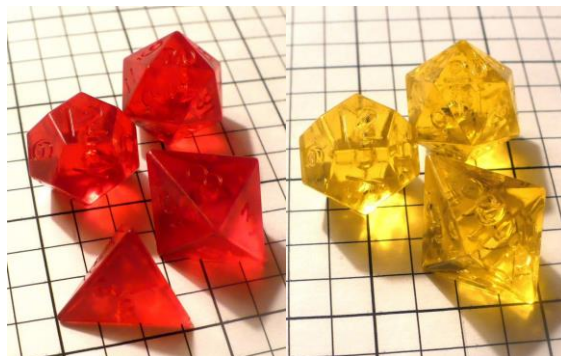
## Mentzer-Era Production Dice (6pcs)



Production Colors were limited to Green, Light Blue, Dark Blue, Red, Orange, and Yellow.



Differentiation: Moldvay on top, Mentzer on bottom; the change in shape of the d8 is immediately apparent, with the icosahedral triangles of the Mentzer die vs the more typical equilateral of the Moldvay. The easiest detail to compare is the shape of the 3 in the dice font - Mentzer 3's having a "flat top". Other differences, apart from mold number maps, include the sharpness of the d10 in Mentzer, and the ability to read both Mentzer d10 numbers from "the same direction", rather than "facing the middle" on the Moldvay d10.



You can see, from Joe Barbachuck's collection, a number of additional "Mentzer shaped" sets; the gemstone molds we assume are 3rd party (the question was asked of Frank Mentzer and he said that he assumed they were 3rd party). We'd love more information here, if anyone has insight.



Images taken from ebay and worthpoint; 83 TM

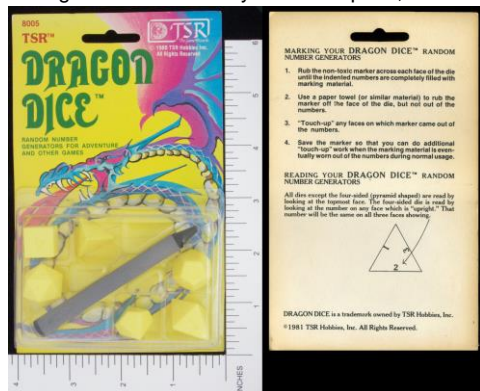
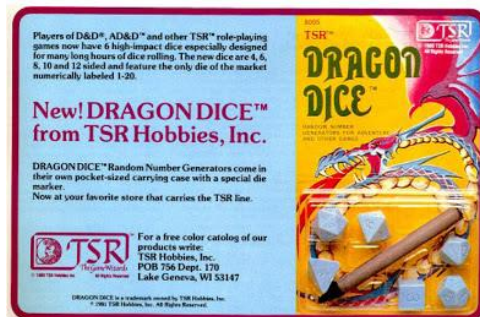


Image taken from Cook's dicecollector page; 81 TM

### Dragon Dice (1982-1989)

Dragon Dice hangers were released beginning in 1982, after the prototypes were accepted. The copyright date says 1980. This was the first availability of this mold of dice (before the new Mentzer set was released), though some Moldvay sets were eventually released with these dice in late 1982, as they ran out of Moldvay dice stock. TSR chose to re-use the name "Dragon Dice" for a separate dice game beginning in 1995.



Interestingly, it seems that the initial promo images for Dragon Dice were taken in 1980, using Moldvay-molded dice, but were ultimately released in 1982 and always contained the newer dice mold.

Note the hanger trademark dates 1981 and 1983.



### Twelfth through fourteenth printings (1983-1990)

Once the Mentzer Basic set began shipping, it was almost exclusively with the Mentzer/Dragon Dice mold in matching color sets. It seems that any extra stock of Moldvay dice were used to fill Expert sets first ([sometimes even in mismatched colors](#)), while the Basic set matched the new dice that were separately available from TSR.

Near the end of the Mentzer-mold era, especially in Europe, mixed-color sets of the new Mentzer mold were occasionally included in box sets as stock was exhausted, but early Mentzer dice sets were always color-matched, and dice of the two mold types were never intermixed\*.

\*I recently just acquired a set of dice with a mix Mentzer and Moldvay dice in original dice plastic; I can confirm it's the correct packaging and if it's a re-seal, it's very very well done - it looks original. If this IS original, it is even less common than the very rare set that includes a pip 6 in original plastic.

<need image>

Gamma World 2nd Edition (1983-1991)

Shipped with matching Mentzer dice.





The late 1983-early 1984 10th Anniversary Collector's Set was apparently a push by TSR to get rid of overstock on modules; it included a set of mentzer-mold dice and crayon. Sold by mail order and at Gen Con 17.



They've Invaded Pleasantville (1981)

This is an odd little release that seems to have included 2d6 in the mentzer mold from **1981**. There is a chance that this is a repack because other TSR hanger game sets like this have typically included pip 6s.

If this IS a repack, it's very old - the plastic on this hanger is QUITE brittle; it's clearly been opened prior, but if I were to open it now, it would break the hinge without a doubt.

If it's NOT a repack, then it lends credence to the idea that mentzer dice were available in 81 (and the prototypes must then be from earlier). \*note - every version I've seen of this game has Mentzer like [this one on boardgamegeek](https://www.boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/1000/theyve-invaded-pleasantville)

Well, it turns out this one IS a repack - I've since had two people reach out with original sealed copies containing piped dice.

## Mentzer-Era Percentiles (2pcs)



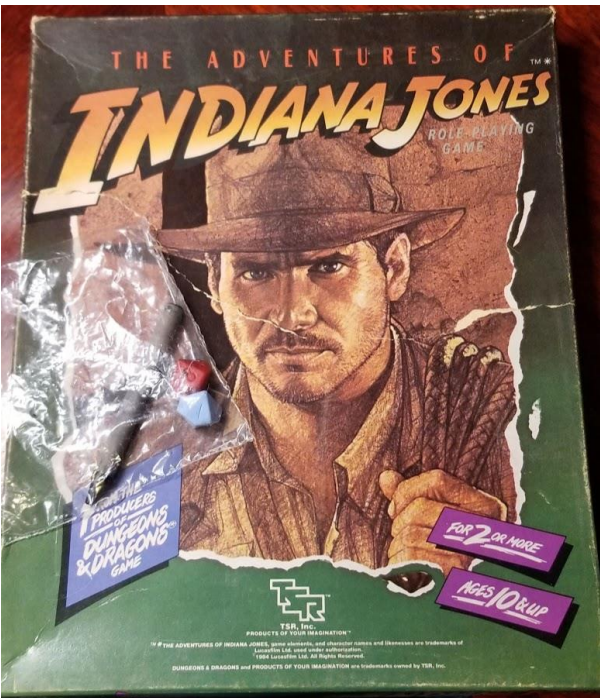
<almost always blue-red pairs, but other combinations did happen>



Boot Hill 2nd Edition third printing (1984-1989)  
Starting with third printing, Boot Hill included Mentzer percentiles, rather than the Holmes-Era percentiles.



Star Frontiers (1982-1984)



Indiana Jones (1984)

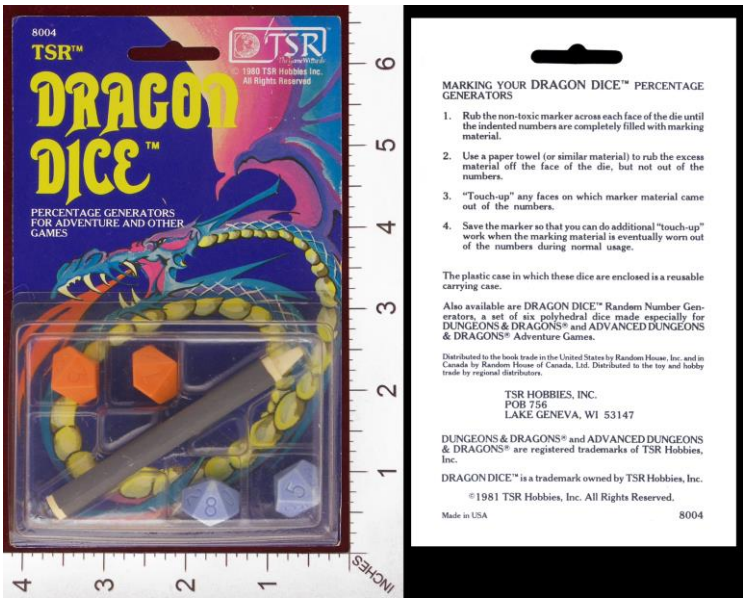
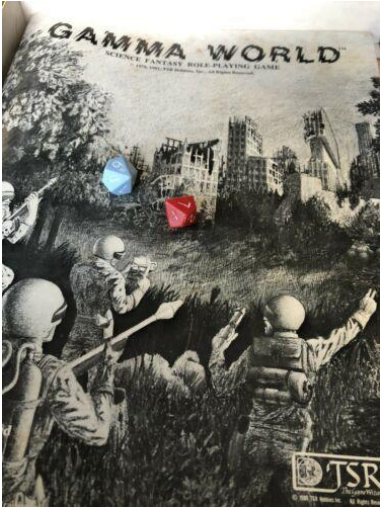


Image taken from Cook's dicecollector; 81 TM  
Mentzer Percentile Hanger (1982-1989)

Conan RPG (1985)

Marvel Super Heroes (1984-1985)

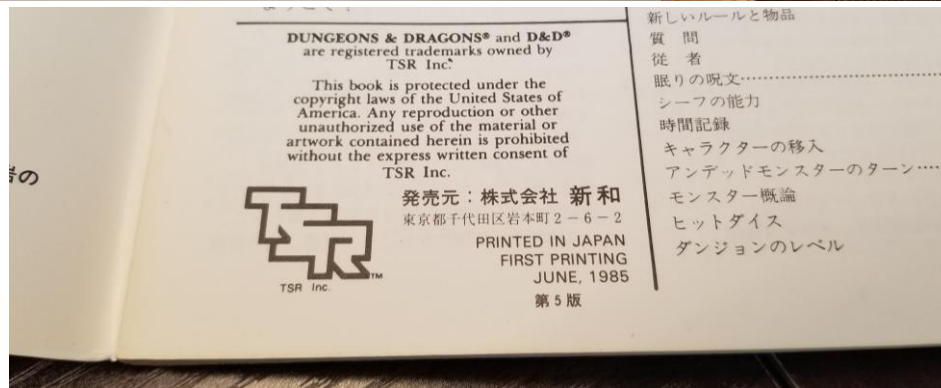
Gangbusters



Gamma World (3rd Edition)

# Pre-Inked TSR and Wizards of the Coast/Hasbro

TSR Shifted away from Mentzer-era “Dragon Dice” mold and started including dice from the Dan-Tern factory sometime in the late 80’s or early 90’s. This was the same manufacturer who supplied Early Chessex and Koplow dice. As time went by, it appears that they started including dice from other manufacturers, though I’ve not been able to determine several of them. It legitimately just gets silly, often with 2 or 3 different manufacturers supplying dice to different product lines concurrently. Exclusive deals in the prior era had hurt them financially, and the quality of TSR dice was widely criticized, so they shifted to “where can we get decent dice as cheaply as possible”. Some manufacturers were very good about the TSR-specific molds (bottom-read d4s and the TSR d20 map), while others (like Crystal Caste) commonly threw in “normal mold” dice in with the custom mold dice they supplied.



Japanese first print (1985)

Interesting because it shows pre-inked and tumbled dice very early

## Unknown (1986-1993)

Likely Koplow. Open 4's, various colors in mixed color sets, (2d10), (6pcs typical), (6pcs: d4,2d6,d8,2d10)

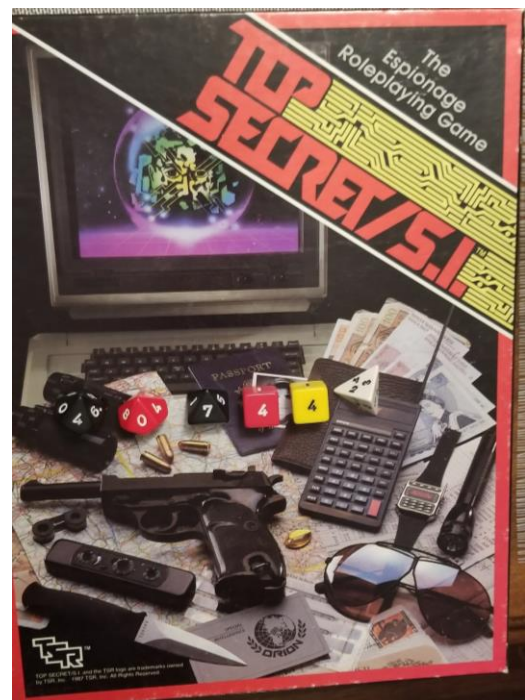






1986 Marvel Super Heroes Advanced, (2d10)

\*Note that this box had Mentzer percentiles included;  
we're not sure if this was a re-pack or if there was a  
transition period in '86 where some boxes shipped with  
old stock dice



1987 Top Secret S.I., (6pcs: d4,2d6,d8,2d10)





1988 DragonLance Board Game (2d10)



1991 New Easy-to-master Dungeons & Dragons Board Game (6 pcs typical)



1993 AD&D Cardmaster Adventure Design Deck (6 pcs typical)



1988 Buck Rogers Battle For The 25th Century Board Game



BUCK ROGERS The 25th CENTURY TSR RPG BOX SET (1990) - 6 pcs

## Dan-Tern (1991)

Red d20 with white numbers, mixed color set; 6pcs only



<need red box image>  
1991 Dungeons & Dragons Box Set

## Dan-Tern (1990-1996)

Orange with black numbers, No %, 2pcs, 6pcs or 7pcs



Production shifted in 1994 from 2d10 to d10 and d%





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(Images courtesy of Chromatic Knight)  
8006 Hanger (6 pcs)

<need box image>

1992 Dragon's Den/Goblin's Lair/Haunted Tower (2 pcs,  
10 and 6 only typically red and black or red and blue)



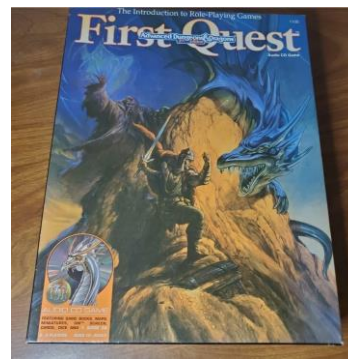
1992 Dragon Quest (7 pcs, 2d10)



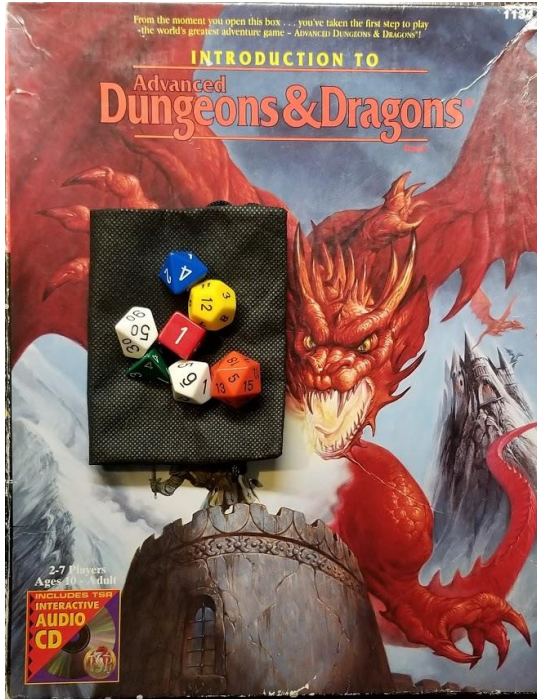
1992 Gamma World: Gamma Knights



1994 Classic Dungeons & Dragons (7 pcs, 2d10)



1994 AD&D First Quest Audio CD Game (7pcs, d%)



1995 Introduction to Advanced Dungeons & Dragons Game (7pcs, d%)

<need box image>

1996 Complete Starter Set Advanced Dungeons & Dragons (7pcs, d%)

## D&G (Unsure on dates, likely near 1990-1996)



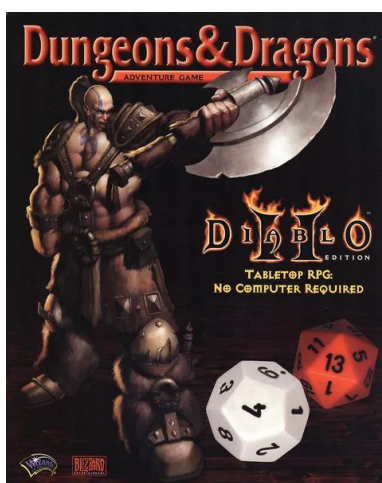
During the same period that Dan-Tern was supplying opaque dice to TSR, TSR started shipping gem dice supplied by D&G in the very same hanger. I don't have clear dates on when these shipped, but this "narrow" mold for D&G was manufactured up until around 2001, and repackaged by many manufactures, including The Armory, Crystal Caste, King Cards, and Xeno Games. Note that this hanger's dated '86, but that the date might apply to the trademark for the "Dragon Dice" name (used for Mentzer hangers as well, those having 83 trademark date), but it does establish that



these were available BEFORE 92, when the updated hanger was released. Special thanks to Chromatic Knight (Michael) for loaning me this hanger to take pics and match a set of my own.

## Dungeons & Dragons Diablo II (1999)

Black with white numbers



1999 Dungeons & Dragons Adventure Game Diablo II Edition (6 pcs)

This one is a real mind-bender; note that the box shows red with black, mixed set, mixed open and closed 4s, but it most commonly shipped with the dice above, though there are reports of this set shipping in some cases with Chessex Speckled!

[Here's another image](#) confirming the dice above.

## Chinese (1998-2006)

Orange with white numbers, 7pcs or 10pcs





UK (D&G) and China bags have different sized fonts, and the Chinese 6s are obviously larger. The other dice differ as well, with the d20's being different by .75mm

<div>&lt;need box image&gt;</div> <div>1998 Dungeons &amp; Dragons Adventure Dice (7 pcs with Dragon Dice Bag)</div>	<div>&lt;need box image&gt;</div> <div>2004 Dungeons &amp; Dragons Basic Game (7 pcs)</div>
<div>&lt;need box image&gt;</div> <div>2006 Dungeons &amp; Dragons Basic Game (7 pcs)</div>	<div></div> <div>2004 30th Anniversary Dice (10 pcs with edge stitched bag)</div>

D&G (2000)

Orange with white numbers, mixed color set, 6pcs, 7pcs



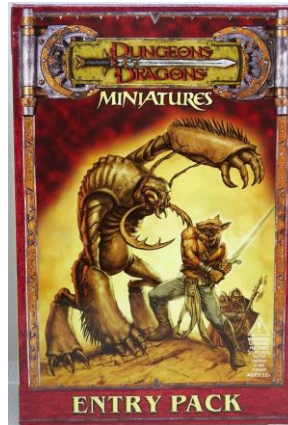


2000 Dungeons & Dragons Adventure Game (6 pcs UK)



2000 d20 System Dice (7 pcs)

## Dungeons & Dragons Miniatures Entry Pack (2003)



2003 Dungeons & Dragons Miniatures Entry Pack

## Crystal Caste - 3.5e Player's Kit (2006)

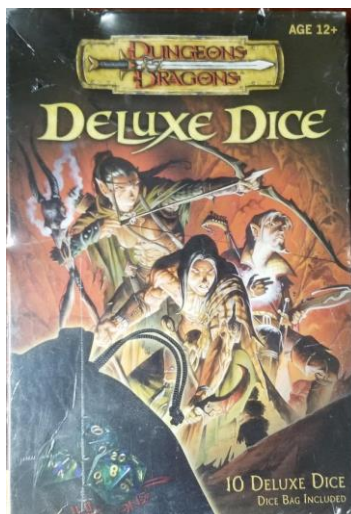
Crystal Caste Fantasy Oblivion Custom Dice Maps  
Black with mixed swirl, different d4 and d20 layouts from typical, 10pcs



2006 Dungeons & Dragons Player's Kit (10 pcs)

## Crystal Caste CUSTOM - 3.5e Deluxe Dice (2007)

Crystal Caste Magma Green/D&G Spectrum Green - Custom Dice Maps  
Green with Gold, different d4 and d20 layouts from typical, 10pcs  
<Need close-up dice image>

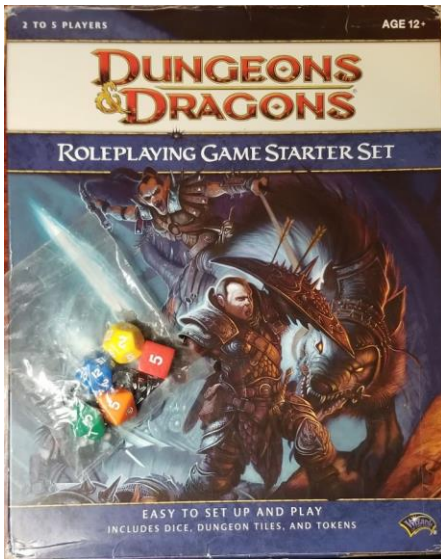


2007 Deluxe Dice (10 pcs)

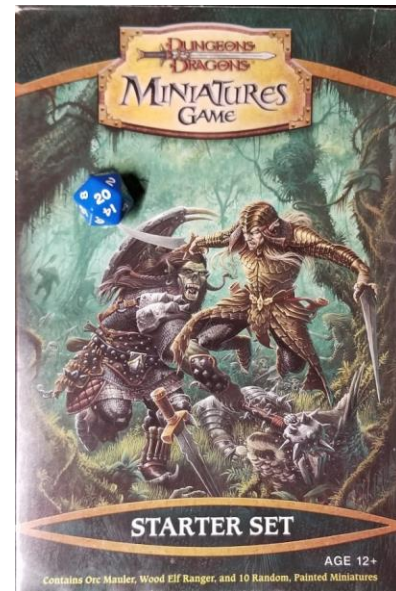


## Chinese - 4e and Miniatures Starter Sets (2008)

Blue with white numbers, 6pcs, 1pc



2008 Dungeons & Dragons Roleplaying Game Starter Set (6 pcs)



2008 Miniatures Starter Set

## Chinese - 4e Essentials Starter Set (2010)

Black with White Numbers, 7pcs



<need box image>

2010 Dungeons & Dragons Starter Set (Red Box) (6 pcs)

## Miniatures Game 2 player Starter Set (2008)

Blue Swirl with white numbers, 1pc



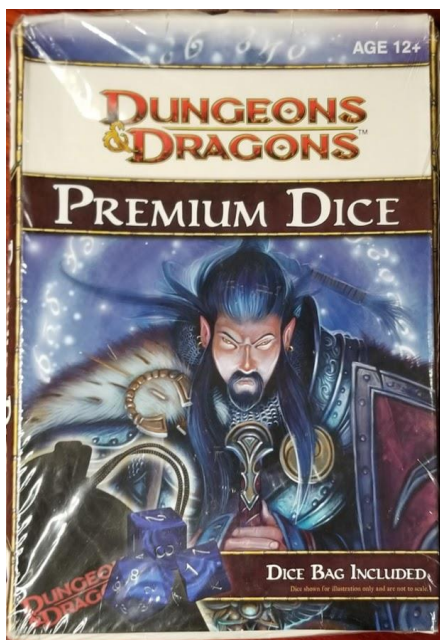
2008 Miniatures 2 player Starter Set

## 4e Dice Accessory Packages (2008-2010)

Blue Swirl with silver numbers, 9pcs, 10pcs



\*Crystal Caste Blue swirl with white d20 from 2014 included for color comparison only



2008 Premium Dice (10 pcs)



2010 Roleplaying Game Dice (9 pcs)

## Premium Reprint (2013)

Red with gold numbers and filigree, 10pcs



<need set image>

2013 Original Edition Premium Reprint (OD&D Deluxe Edition)



## 5e Essentials Kit (2014)

Red with white numbers, 11 pcs



2014 Core Essentials Kit

## 5e Box Sets (2014-2019)

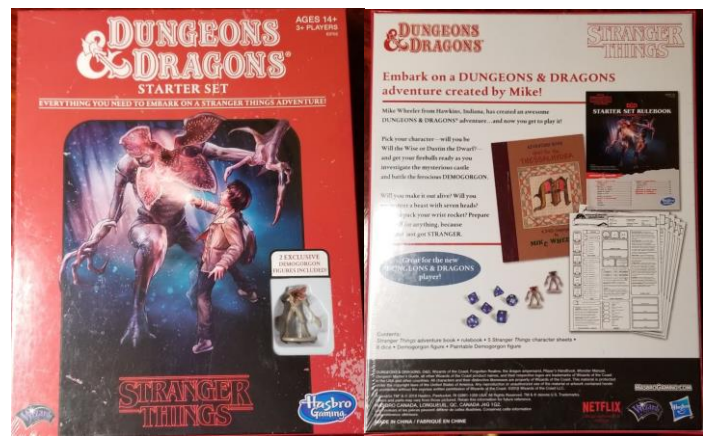
Blue Swirl with white numbers, 6pcs



\*Note that this d20 looks identical to the d20 included in the 2008 miniatures set

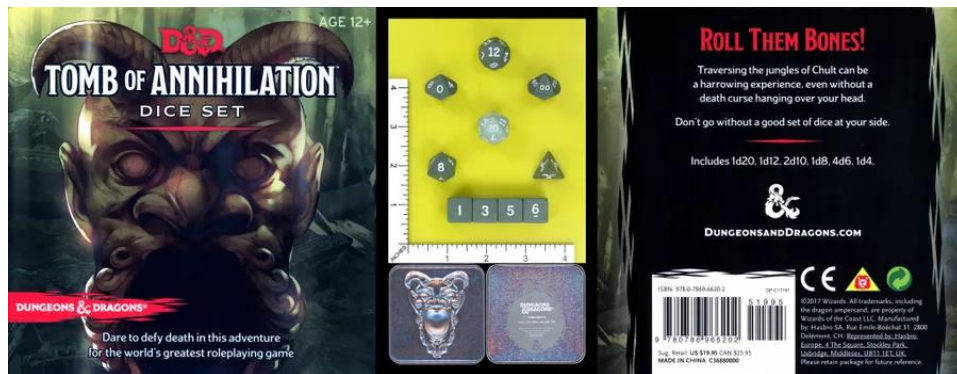


2014 Starter Set (6 pcs)

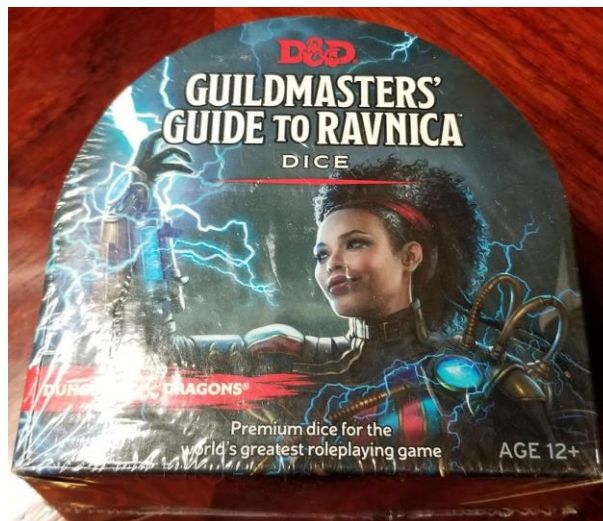


2019 Stranger Things (6 pcs)

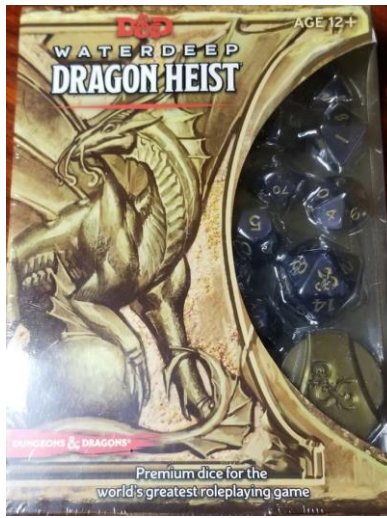
## Tomb of Annihilation Dice Set (2017)



## Guildmaster's Guide to Ravnica (2018)



## Waterdeep: Dragon Heist (2018)



## Level Up Dice - Sapphire Anniversary Set (2019)



2019 - 45th anniversary sapphire poly set (1974 sets made)

## Rick and Morty (2019)

Yellow with blue, 11pcs



\*image stolen blatantly from dicemonkey.net because I don't want to break the shrink on mine

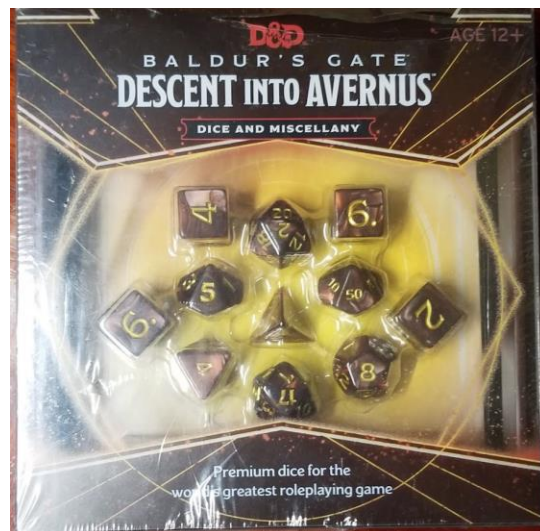




2019 Dungeons & Dragons vs. Rick and Morty (11 pcs)

I include these here because it's a typical set, where as the set-specific dice later include non-standard markings

## Baldur's Gate: Descent into Avernus (2019)



## Icwind Dale: Rime of the Frostmaiden (2020)



## Forgotten Realms: Laeral Silverhand's Explorer's Kit (2020)



## The Witchlight Carnival Dice & Miscellany (2021)



## New TSR Games Releases

In a startling turn of events, Wizards of the Coast allowed the trademark on “TSR” to lapse, the company who then acquired it ALSO allowed it to lapse, and TSR has returned to Lake Geneva. The newly reformed TSR, Justin LaNasa, and Ernie Gygax have started manufacturing and selling dice as TSR, available from [TSR-Hobbies.com](https://www.tsr-hobbies.com) directly and at The Dungeon Hobbyshop Museum, both online and in person.

The initial offering was 14 different matched-color sets in any of 5 different logoed hangers. A 6th, no logo hanger bag was released in mid August 2021 (I'll update images when it arrives).

They've got a TSR Wizard-logo die coming soon (more info as we get it).





## Promotional Releases

### RPGA Character Alignment Generators (1981)



1981 [Early to Mid-80's] RPGA Character Alignment Generators (two types?)

The type shown on the left was absolutely in the 1982 RPGA Gift Catalog:

- 1) "Lawful" in blue, "Neutral" in green, and "Chaotic" in black
- 2) "Good" in blue, "Neutral" in green, and "Evil" in red

The type on the right seems to be a bit later (but not positive)



## GenCon Promo Die (1998)



Not sure if this is from 1998 or 1999 - GenCon 35mm TSR Green Promo Die

## Koplow - Olidamarra's Dice (2001)



Olidamarra's Dice were released as a pair as a "while supplies last" promotional item with the Epic Level Handbook. They were produced by Koplow.

(Note: while both of mine show the 2 "under the chin", the 6 face on this die is rotated in many other examples - see the pic supplied by Kathryn Smith)

## Koplow - Fist of Emirikol (2003)



The Fist of Emirikol was a promotional item for RPGA members in 2003. They were produced by Koplow.

## D&D Experience Miniatures Promotional Dice (?2005-2008?)

These are strange: they're commonly referred to as "Faction Dice", but they're (I think) more correctly Alignment Dice; the 4 factions being Borderlands (Red), Civilization (Blue), Underdark (Purple), and Wild (Green) ... which mostly matches except that the 4th color on the DICE is yellow, and the dice were apparently tied to the alignment, rather than the faction (and there were also 4: LG, CG, LE, CE). They also (confusingly) sometimes referred to the alignment as the faction. To further complicate things, there's also the "Night Below" promo die.... That is blue but only has a d20 - so people remember this as a DDX Mini die, when it's a separate promotion altogether.

There were all given out at FLGS events, and again at Winter Fantasy in VA (sometime between 2005 and 2008)

Lastly, it's important to note that the D&D Miniatures starter sets had different blue d20s, depending on the release.



Black and Yellow with a sunburst (LG)



Black and Green with a crescent moon (CG)



Black and Purple with skull (CE)



Black and Red with a multi-tail flail (LE)

## D&D Miniatures Promo Die: Night Below (2007)



These were released at FLGS events; it's hard to see from this image, but it's got blue swirls

## GenCon: Confessions of a Part-Time Sorceress (2007 August)





These were a hand-out at GenCon as the book was released that August.

I don't have a set in hand, but they appear (by the images) to be similar to the My Little Pony dice, except they're inked in gold (I don't have high enough resolution images to compare the font) *Thanks to hapycamper for sharing these*

## GenCon Drow “Chase” dice (2012)



Convention goers had to find stations where these dice were given out and “earn” them by completing tasks. The d8 and d10 are particularly sought after, as they each involved play-testing games that took quite a lot of time. Fewer than 200 complete sets were released.

## GenCon CandleKeep Dice (2013)



Convention goers to 2013’s GenCon had an easier time, as the 2013 dice were in the welcome box and were handed out at the con in complete sets. There was also a black bag in the welcome box. While these are more commonly complete than the Drow set of the year before, they’re still quite rare and sought after.

## D&D Encounters promo dice (2013)



Search for the Diamond Staff  
 Murder in Baldur's Gate  
 Legacy of the Crystal Shard  
 Ghosts of Dragonspear Castle  
 Scourge of the Sword Coast  
 Dead in Thay

These were handed out in limited quantities at FLGS D&D Encounters events.

## D&D Experience "Meltdown" (Baldman Games) at Origins (2015 June)



Black dice bag with smoke gray dice with red numbers for each player at a table (a couple hundred sets) (9pcs)

## D&D Experience (Baldman Games) at Origins (2016 June)





Blue dice bag with smoke gray dice with red numbers (and additional d20) for ONE player at a table (very few sets) (10pcs)

## HasCon 2017 My Little Pony promotional dice set



(Thanks to Micahel Ullery for pointing out that the d20 available in the retail Cutie Marks set, which is 27mm vs this one that is 18.6mm)

## Origins: Tomb of Annihilation (2017 June)



Green dice bag with smoke gray dice with red numbers oversized d20 and 4d6 (unclear release numbers) (9pcs)

## Pax East Acquisitions Incorporated Live: Eberron Warforged (2018 April)



Same dice as ToA the year before, and a re-issue of the black bag from 2015 (9pcs)

## D&D Live: The Descent (2019 May)



Purple/Maroon dice bag with smoke gray dice with red numbers (unclear how many sets) (10pcs)  
We're told that this was also given out at Lucca Comic Con in 2019 to participants and prize winners

## Icewind Dale: Rime of the Frostmaiden (2020 September)

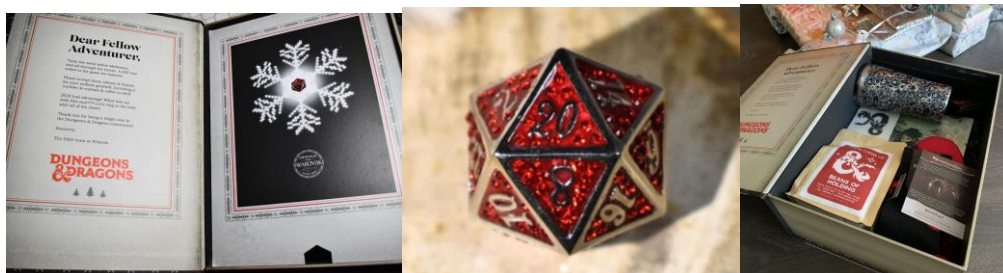


White dice bag with maroon translucent dice with silver numbers, note new dice color and addition of d% (11pcs)

Reports are that these dice initially went out to writers/contributors only and were very very rare. Later, these went out to some comic shops that were chosen to do reviews on the collector's edition and to press partners. Further clarification from Ed Fortune on the contents: "The Frostmaiden dice bag was packaged with two copies of Rime of The Frostmaiden (one alt cover), a scarf that had the map of Icewind Dale on it, the Icewind Dale Boxed Dice set and the white bag with the maroon translucent dice in them. The ink is more silver than white."

(Note: there are reports that later sets of these went out with only 1d20)

## Tasha's Swarovski Christmas Gift Box (2020)



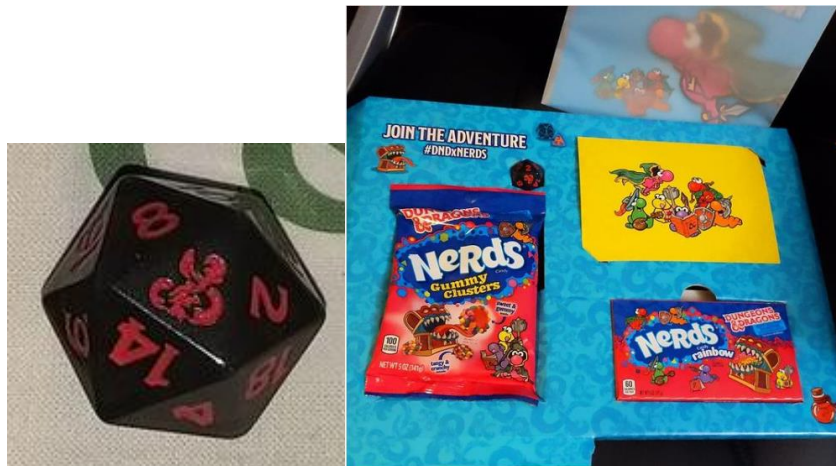
2020 WotC Christmas D&D Promotional Swarovski d20



According to a 2021 ebay auction by kristyng09, these were also handed out internal to some WotC employees in a different boxing (seen above)



## Nerds “Join the Adventure” Press Kit d20 (2021)



This die came with Nerds candy and some press material

\*Thanks to Ed Fortune for pointing this one out and thanks to Reuben Bresler for confirming that this is same die from the 2015-2019 begged promo sets

## Set-specific Specialty Dice and Licensed Dice

Sometimes TSR (and later WotC) would include unusual dice in sets or 3rd party licensed games. The line gets very blurry with items like the “Adventure Begins” set, but generally speaking, the items below represent dice that were not common in the core sets and included either only partial sets or sets with non-standard polyhedrals or that were produced either as part of a licensing deal with a 3rd party or a D&D branded version of another game entirely.

### Ravenloft Forbidden Lore Boxed Set (1992)

5d6 hollow white, no indica, separate sticker sheet



1992 Ravenloft Forbidden Lore Boxed Set

Arguably the cheapest and worst dice ever produced by TSR. I love how awful they are

## Chainmail Miniatures Game Starter Set (2001)



## Pool of Radiance Limited Collector's Edition (2001)



## Dungeons & Dragons Fantasy Adventure Board Game (2002)

<Add Image>

Released By Parker Bros

Later re-released with the following expansion packs included

## Forbidden Forest Expansion Pack (2003)



## Eternal Winter Expansion Pack (2003)

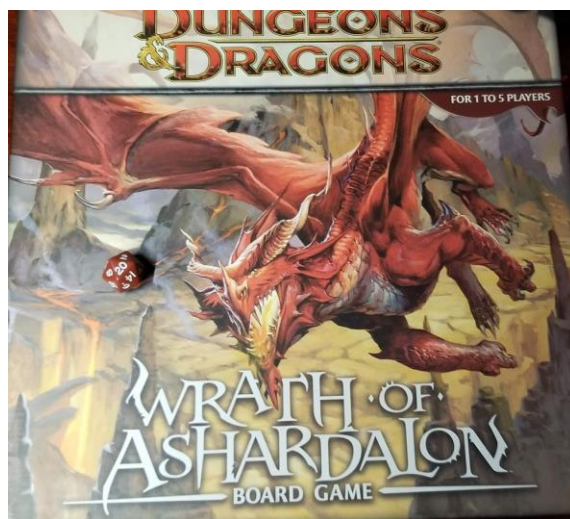




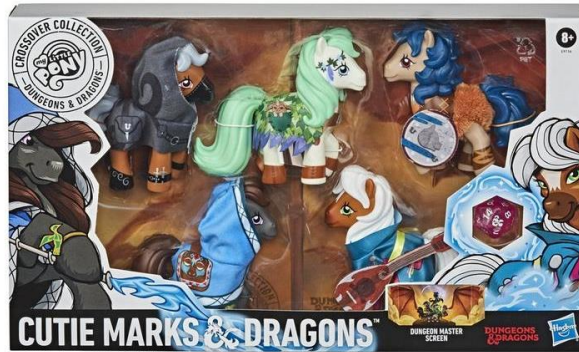
## Dungeons & Dragons Inn-Fighting (2007)



## Wrath of Ashardalon Board Game (2010)

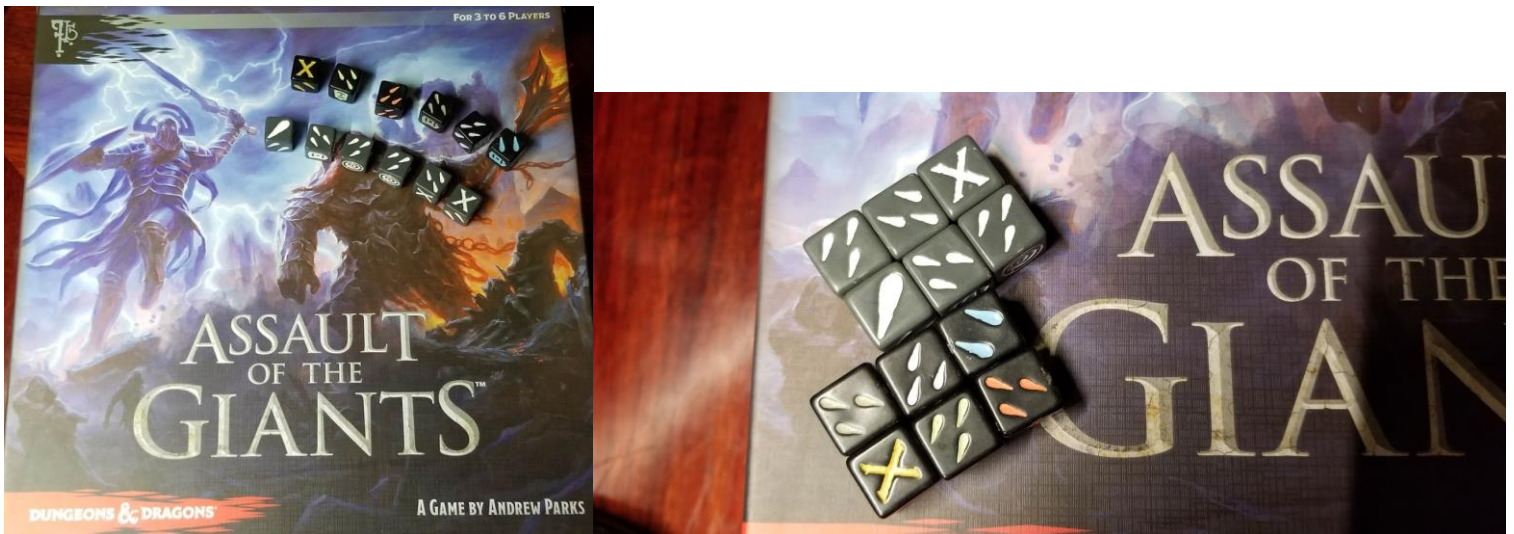


## Hasbro Cutie Marks & Dragons (2017)



(This was pointed out by Michael Ullery and coincided with Has-Con, but as a retail set - this having the 27mm "Chonk" d20, while the con set has 18.6mm in the set)

## Assault of the Giants (2017)

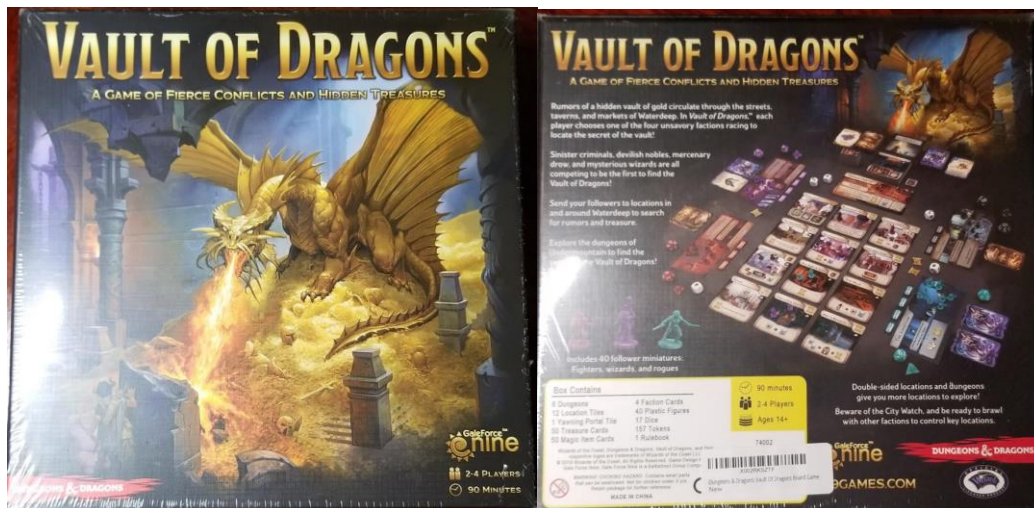


## Betrayal at Baldur's Gate (2017)





## Vault of Dragons (2018)



## Loot Crate Gaming releases (2019)

The d20 Included in these sets is very small 1pc, 7pcs



2019 Red Dragon Die Keeper (1pc)



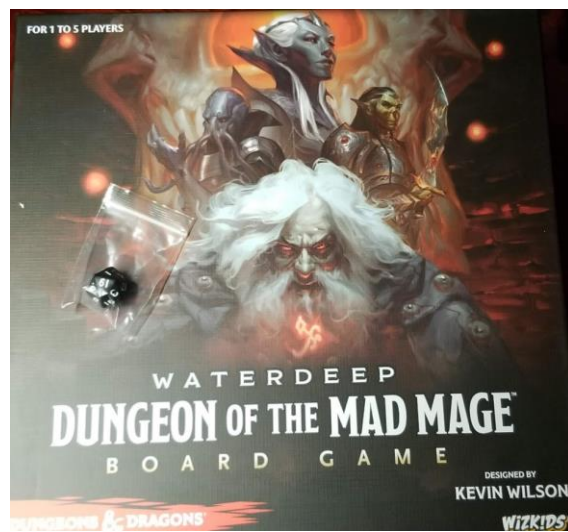
2019 Loot Crate Castle Game Tower (1pc)



2019 Loot Crate Gaming Dice (7pcs)

## Waterdeep: Dungeon of The Mad Mage (2019)





## Dungeons & Dragons Clue (2019)



(The earlier version of this game uses standard dice, but these are custom)

## D&D Attack Wing (2019)



## Dungeons & Dragons Adventure Begins (2020)



## Ultra-Pro Heavy Metal Dungeons & Dragons Dice (2020-2021)



2020 D&D Heavy Metal RPG set



2020 D&D Heavy Metal d20 set



2021 D&D Heavy Metal Icewind Dale RPG set



2021 D&D Heavy Metal Icewind Dale d20 set



2021 Heavy Metal Feywild Copper and Green RPG set



2021 Heavy Metal Feywild Copper and Green d20 set



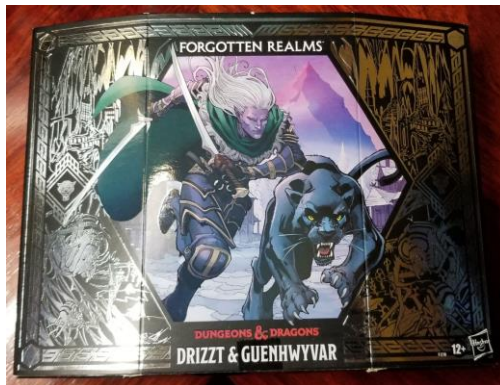
2021 Heavy Metal Feywild Copper and Green d6 dice set

## GameStop Dungeons & Dragons Alloy Dice & Tray (2021)





## Dungeons & Dragons Forgotten Realms Drizt & Guenhwyvar (2021)



Hasbro Pulse Exclusive

## D&D DEATH SAVES DIE (2021)



Gamestop d20 Water Bottle (2021)



Bioworld D&D 3Pack Mens Crew Socks Pack (2021)



## Funko-Pop! Strahd (with d20) 782 (2021)



Gamestop Exclusive

## Magic the Gathering Forgotten Realms (2021)

<add images>

## Funko Pop! Mimic (2021)



## Funko Pop! Beholder (2021)



\*Is there a metal version of this?



## Funko Pop! Warduke (2021)



## Hot Topic (2021)



## Reproductions



2001 Olidamarra's Dice reproductions from Festive Fantasy

(Note that these are white, rather than cream, and that the map is mirrored - they guys at festive fantasy were quite intentional here, and I think that's kind of awesome - they're also flat pips vs indented)



2003 Fist of Emirikol Alternate version prototypes - fist of fire and fist of illusion

Unofficial from Festive Fantasy

<https://www.facebook.com/128464720613492/posts/2508170489309558/>

2003 Fist of Emirikol Gemstone customs

<add threshold>

<add garycon>

<add zucatti>

<add gamescience>

<add twisteddicetowers (daniel f)>

<add hotdogstuff>

<add OSR from severed books>