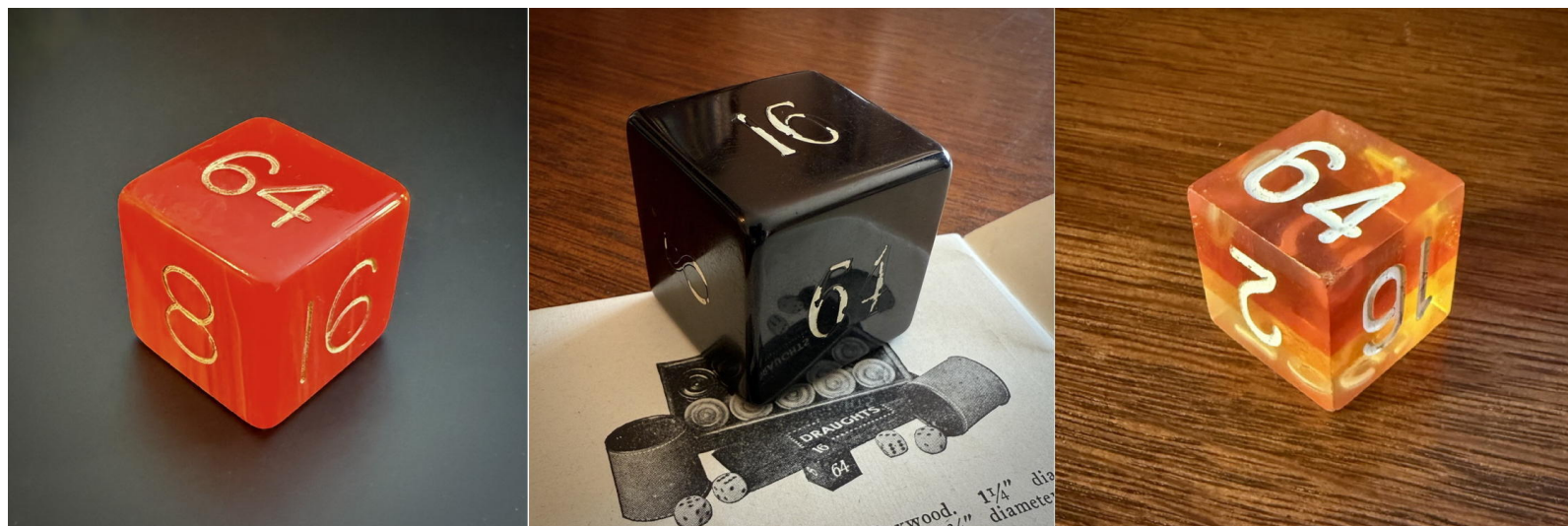

Backgammon Doublers

Catalogue

February 2025



About This Catalogue

I'm a backgammon player, historian and collector. This catalogue is designed to facilitate my sales of occasional backgammon items I have acquired over time and am ready to part with. Rather than duplicating the efforts of description and posting in various venues, I'll maintain this catalogue, updating as needed and posting it to various interest groups. This document is intended for viewing on digital devices in landscape mode – not for printing.

The most current version of this catalogue can always be found here: <https://nebackgammon.org/index.php/backgammon-in-bakelite/>

Representation of Items

The pictures offered here have been deliberately rendered to provide a fair representation of the items, while taking up no more than a single page in the catalogue. *If there are flaws or blemishes, I have taken care to make them visible.* So, for instance, you can trust that the "hidden" surfaces in a picture of 30 checkers are just as good as the 30 sides you can see. Pictures of doubling cubes will reveal all 6 faces. Where there are meaningful flaws in an item, I will draw attention to them in the descriptive text. The resolution of the images is high enough that zooming in on them on your device will reveal substantial detail. **Please be careful to note item size before offering to purchase.**

Measurements were taken in inches and converted to metric, and in the case of checkers, were based upon the practical needs of use in a backgammon set: the width of six checkers side by side to fit into a table quadrant, and the height of each stack of 15 checkers, to fit into checker trays. Individual piece measurements are then based on these larger group measurements. Caliper readings of individual checkers can be misleading, as minor variations of thickness and diameter (and color) are common in bakelite backgammon pieces. Differences in the stack heights may be visible in the photos, but any substantial variations among pieces will also be explicitly noted in the text description.

Accurate descriptions make for realistic expectations, simple, trouble-free transactions and repeat sales to happy buyers over time.

Prices are Firm

I have priced items based on the upper end of what similar ones tend to fetch on auction sites such as eBay. Collectors may very well "do better" by patient following of online or local auction listings. My items have the virtue of being available for purchase immediately.

In some cases an elevated price reflects my ambivalence about letting an item go. **Prices may be lowered – or raised – in subsequent versions of the catalogue.** Items will be marked as sold when no longer available, and will be removed in the next full revision of the catalogue.

What is “Bakelite?”

I use the term “bakelite” as a broad generic term for 20th-century decorative plastics that have in common a pleasing density, coloration, and tendency to build a patina that will cause a Q-tip smeared with Simichrome polish to turn yellowy-orange. Most of the checkers and doubling cubes hailing from the 1930’s would more accurately be called “Catalin,” referring to the corporation that applied the original bakelite formula to decorative items such as brooches, bangles, household implements, and game pieces. But the term “bakelite” is broadly applied to a variety of companies that produced such items over time, until its production was outlawed in the United States due to health hazards sometime in the 1960s.

Some bakelite items, particularly black and ivory-colored pieces, so not pass the Simichrome test because they do not build up the typical patina that colored pieces demonstrate. Experienced collectors know bakelite when they see it first-hand, and you can be confident I am an experienced collector. If I have doubts, I will share them in the description. Learn more at <https://nebackgammon.org/index.php/backgammon-in-bakelite/>

I will name other plastics when I can, or refer to them as a “modern resin” and price them accordingly.

Cleaning and Polishing

I employ a very gentle vibratory tumbling process for anywhere from a few hours to an entire day to remove light wear, dirt, and abrasions *without* stripping away the patina that builds up on bakelite over time and provides much of its appeal. I aim for a clean, gleaming surface that shows off colors and subtle variations, not a high gloss effect. At right is an example of checkers (top) with a “dusty” residue that I’ve removed without markedly affecting the checker colors (zoom in for closer detail). Once a patina has been demolished, it may not return for decades. *Checkers that have been further polished by a buyer are not eligible for return.*

Guarantee of Satisfaction

I will provide a full refund *including* shipping costs for any item found to have been meaningfully misrepresented in my listings. I will also happily provide an *item-price refund* (not shipping costs) for any item the buyer wishes to return for any other reason.

Items must be returned in as-delivered condition and postmarked within 14 days of delivery.



Payment

Payments may be made via **Venmo, Zelle, Apple Cash, or Paypal ("Family & Friends" gift mode) only**. In-person payment and delivery is also possible if you will be in the Boston area or if you would like to arrange a purchase at a backgammon tournament that I attend (NY Metro, San Antonio, and Chicago are most likely). If you would feel more secure transacting with eBay as an intermediary, I can list an item for you that way, but the Item price will be increased by 20% to cover eBay and PayPal fees.

Shipping

I ship all items via USPS Priority Mail and charge the actual amount based on weight and the buyer's address. Buyers may request extra security measures such as **insurance**, signature confirmation, or for the parcel to be held for pick-up, the cost of which will be added to your bill.

Risk of Loss

Outright losses by USPS are *exceedingly* rare, but theft from front porches or mail boxes may be common in your area, and is beyond my control. **A USPS tracking confirmation of delivery to the proper address will stand as sufficient proof of delivery. The filing of a USPS insurance claim by the buyer will be the only recourse in the event of an item lost or damaged in the mail.** Only in the event that improper packing is determined to be the cause of loss in the course of an insurance claim will the seller provide a refund for an item confirmed as delivered by USPS.

Reputation & Trust

I am a well-known and respected member of the backgammon community and an organizer of the New England Backgammon Club (NEBC). I have been a seller in good standing on eBay since 1998 under the username *Wickerman5*.

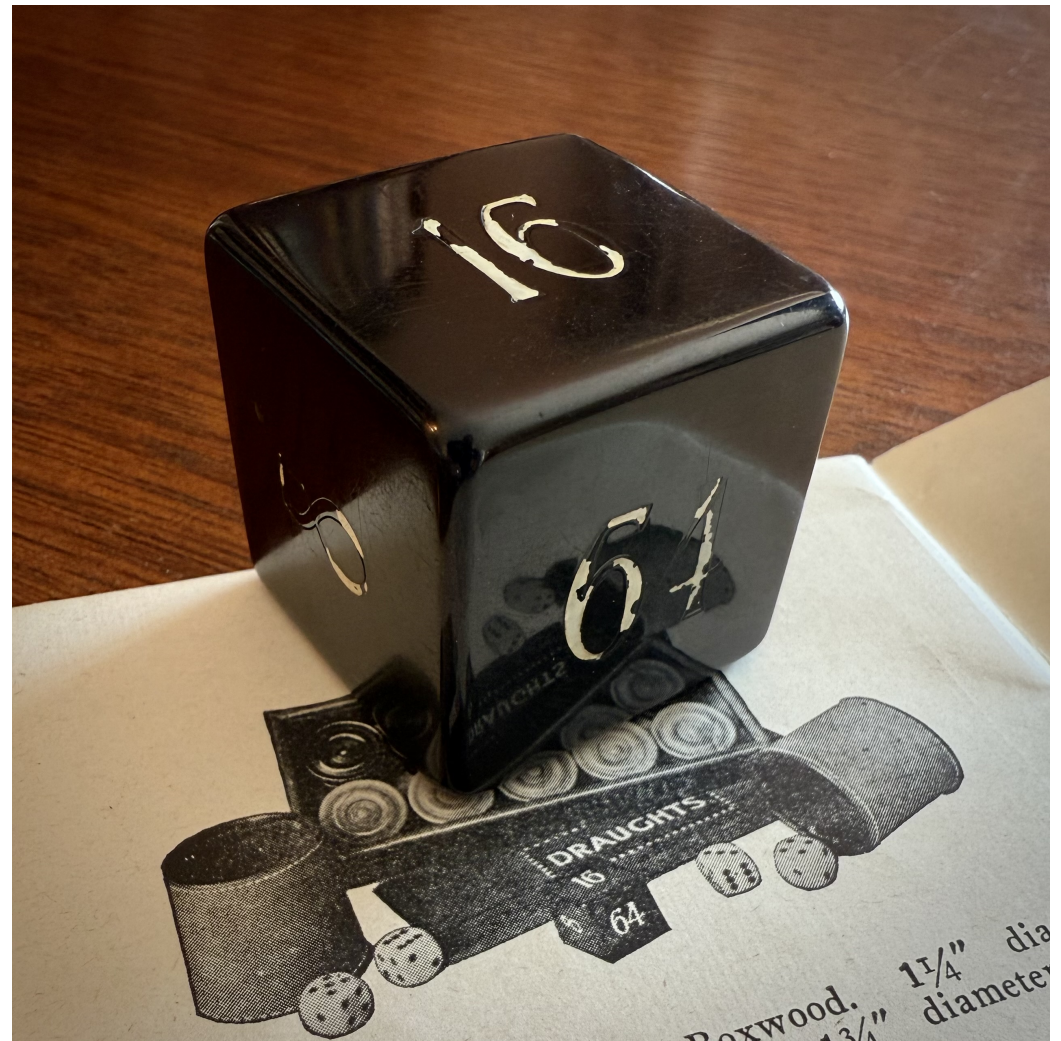
Listing Order & Purchase Requests

Items in this catalogue are ordered by price, from highest to lowest within categories (Checkers, Cubes, etc). **To make a purchase, email your request, including the Item #, along with your name, shipping address, and preferred method of payment to: asteg@mindspring.com**



Large Size - Bakelite

A true backgammon museum piece, this doubling cube appears in an A&F catalogue (not included) dating to the end of 1930, the very first year that doubling cubes were produced. The florid art nouveau-style numerals in the style of the A&F logo, are thinly engraved on the surface, with their contours clearly visible even where the cream colored paint has rubbed away over time. One of only two I have seen in 25 years of collecting.



Size: 1.375" (3.49 cm)

Weight: 2.4 oz (68 g)

Standard Size - Bakelite

Paul Magriel mentions popular Fort Lauderdale instructor Owen Traynor in a 1978 New York Times article shortly after his death at the age of 67. This custom cube bearing his name gets the spelling wrong, but may be of interest to collectors interested in the Florida milieu of the 60's-70's backgammon boom.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .8 oz (23 g)

Standard Size - Bakelite

This deep brown cube follows the standardized "popular numeral scheme" of the 60's-70s backgammon boom.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .9 oz (26 g)

Standard Size - Bakelite

This cherry-red cube would have come along with one of Arthur Popper's 'AP Games' backgammon sets from the late 1930's.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .9 oz (26 g)

Large Size - Bakelite

This late-era bakelite cube with painted brown numerals appears to have been virtually unused. Note the grey line on the right edge is just a lighting artifact.



Size: 1.19" (3.02 cm)

Weight: 1.4 oz (40 g)

Large Size - Bakelite

This late-era bakelite cube with green painted numerals appears shows only the lightest wear.



Size: 1.25" (3.18 cm)

Weight: 1.5 oz (43 g)

Large Size - Bakelite

This late-era bakelite cube with painted numerals appears shows only light wear.



Size: 1.19" (3.02 cm)

Weight: 1.4 oz (40 g)

Large Size - Acrylic

These unusual cubes achieve their dynamic color effects by means of thin color layers embedded in an otherwise clear acrylic base. This one saw plenty of action in Harvard Square chouettes of the 1990s and shows some signs of wear -- minor abrasions and edge chipping.



Size: 1.125 (2.86 cm)

Weight: 1.1 oz (31 g)

Standard Size - Bakelite

This late-era bakelite cube with painted numerals appears is virtually as-new. Note the '8' and '32' are a bit off-center.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .8 oz (23 g)

Small Size - Bakelite

This trio small painted Crisloid cubes show little signs of wear, with boldly legible numerals. Of the darker cubes, one is black and the other such a dark brown its virtually black. Note that, following a long backgammon tradition, the numeral orientation of the three cubes is inconsistent -- as you will find with the other Crisloid cubes listed in this catalogue.



Size: .75 (1.91 cm)

Weight: 1.0 oz (28 g)

Standard Size - Modern Resin

This is one of Nick Peterson's earlier 'Save the Gammon' cubes, a remarkably successful modern simulation of the classic bakelite look.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .6 oz (17 g)

Standard Size - Modern Resin

This is one of Nick Peterson's earlier 'Save the Gammon' cubes, a remarkably successful modern simulation of the classic bakelite look, this time in a juicy translucent tangerine.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .7 oz (20 g)

Large Size - Bakelite

This late-era bakelite cube with painted numerals shows heavy wear, with the '8' numeral in particular almost worn away. The color of the cube is a darker brown than the pictures suggest.



Size: 1.44" (3.66 cm)

Weight: 2.4 oz (68 g)

Large Size - Bakelite

This translucent cherry-red cube appears to have seen some intense action judging by its chipped corner and '16' face, perhaps the result of being hurled at an opponent.



Size: 1.25" (3.18 cm)

Weight: 1.5 oz (43 g)

Standard Size - Bakelite

This late-era bakelite cube with painted numerals shows heavy wear, with some numeral barely legible.



Size: 1" (2.54 cm)

Weight: .8 oz (23 g)