

TALMDUY — what the puzzle set contains

An independent read of the colour-grid system, decoded from the source files rather than retyped from them.
7 October 2026 · sources: [All Puzzles.pdf](#) , [13 Lessons.pdf](#) , [12 Songs.pdf](#) , [full board.jpg](#) · live demo: [talmduy-dev.pages.dev](#)

Summary

All 130 grids across the three decks were decoded directly out of the files — colour by colour, cell by cell — and then checked two ways. **The system itself is sound and remarkably consistent.** The grids are deliberate, the structure holds without exception, and the whole thing is already machine-readable.

Two problems were found, and they are different in kind. One is a **bookkeeping fault in the answer keys** that is cheap to fix. The other is a **question about the key itself** that only the author can answer.

130

grids decoded, every one 7×7

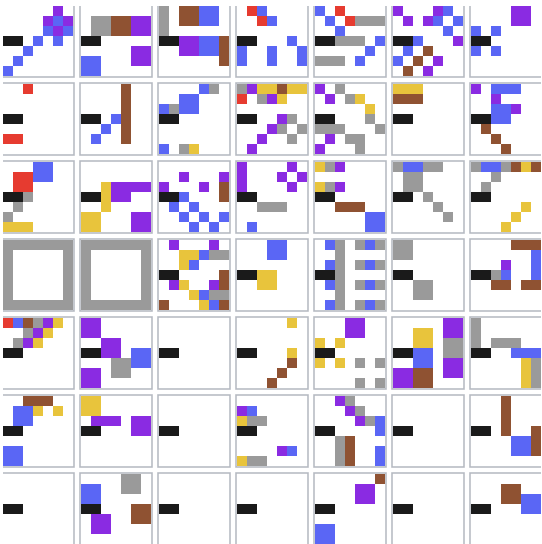
112

grids whose colours contradict their own printed answer

11 / 12

songs whose grid lacks a colour the Hebrew requires

What the system is



The full board, decoded from the photograph. 7×7 = 49 slots, each slot its own 7×7 grid. 42 filled, 7 still empty.

Seven colours, each standing for a family of sounds:

KG	MN	TD	RL	YHKh	PBFV	SZSh
K, G	M, N	T, D	R, L	Y, H, Kh	P, B, F, V	S, Z, Sh

Black is an orientation marker, not a word — always two bricks at row 4, column 1. That holds on all 130 grids and 47 of the 49 board slots. **White** is empty. Grids are read left to right, top to bottom.

A run of one colour — a 2×2 or a 1×3 — counts as one **block**, likely one word on one brick.

Slot numbers are board positions

Every deck title reads Slot N – <text> . N is a position on the board, not a lesson index. Board position 1 decodes to exactly the colour census of Slot 1 – Genesis 1 (PBFV×4 · RL×8), which fixes the numbering as left to right, top to bottom. Several different texts occupy the same position across the three decks.

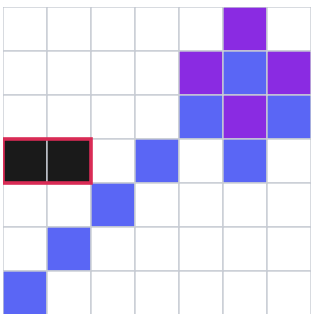
DECK	GRIDS	CONTENTS
All Puzzles	105	Tanach and Talmud, the full catalogue
13 Lessons	13	Berachos — slots 5, 7, 10, 17, 28, 32, 34, 35 and 2 intros
12 Songs	12	Vehaviosim, Ka Ribon, Psalm 23, Ma Nishtana, Psalm 126, Menucha V'Simcha, Ki Anu Amecha, Adon Olam, Eshes Hayil, Shalom Aleichem, Psalm 145, Al Hanisim

How it was decoded

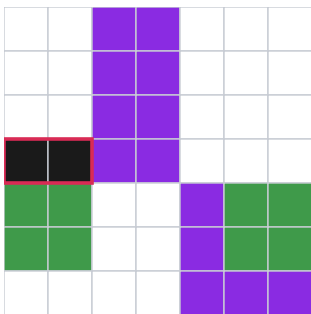
Stated plainly so it can be checked or disputed. In the PDFs each cell is a filled rectangle; the colour is matched to the seven-colour key by nearest RGB with a tight cutoff. White base rectangles are drawn first with the colour painted on top, so the topmost fill at any position wins. Rows and columns are recovered by clustering positions within a 10-point tolerance — which returns a clean 7×7 on 130 of 130 grids, with no exceptions and no manual correction. The board photograph is sampled at cell centres; its structure is reliable but per-cell fidelity is not, so nothing here rests on the photograph beyond slot 1.

Finding 1 — the answer keys do not describe the grids

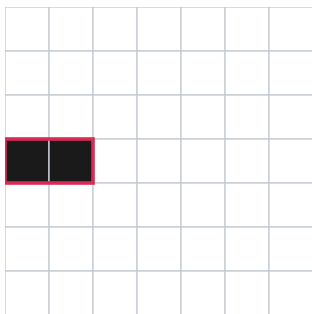
112 of 130 grids contain a different set of colours from the answer printed beside them. This was found by decoding and then confirmed by eye on the rendered pages.



Slot 1 – Genesis 1
Grid: PBFV×4 · RL×8
Key: PBFV×4 · RL×8
Matches.



Slot 1 – Exodus 1
Grid: PBFV×13 · YHKh×8
Key: PBFV×4 · RL×8
Does not match — and the key is a byte-for-byte copy of Genesis 1's.



Slot 3 – Ecclesiastes 3
Header states 25 squares and 7 blocks.
The slot holds the marker and nothing else.

The mechanism

The two newer decks make the cause visible: **the answer was keyed to the slot number rather than to the grid.** Slot 7 – Berachos 7a1 and Slot 7 – Vehaviosim appear in different decks and carry identical answers. Across the merged set, **13 board positions hold genuinely different grids while sharing one single answer key**, and only **17 distinct keys** exist for 130 grids — one of them repeated 47 times.



Slot 17 — Berachos 17a9 and 17a11. Same board position, different grids, different and correct keys. **Per-grid keying was always possible.**

This is the good news. Slot 17 shows the grids are the real artefact and the keys are what drifted. Nothing needs to be redrawn. Regenerating every answer from the grid it belongs to is an afternoon's work, and the decoder that found the fault already does it.

The one thing needed first: confirmation that the grid, not the key, is authoritative where they disagree.

A note on the blank slots. Several grids are empty apart from the marker. These are almost certainly **unfilled board positions** rather than errors — 7 of the 49 slots on the board are blank too. What does look wrong is that an empty slot still carries a full answer key.

Finding 2 — the key against actual Hebrew

Finding 1 tested the deck against itself. This is the separate question: **does the seven-colour key decode the texts?** The Songs deck names twelve texts whose Hebrew is fixed and public, so each grid can be checked against the consonants it would have to hold.

The test is deliberately order-free, so no reading rule can explain the result away. Ignore direction. Ignore whether a brick is a word or a letter. Ignore vowels. If a text contains the letter shin, its grid must contain at least one brown square *somewhere*. A missing colour cannot be accounted for by any reading convention.

SONG	RESULT	COLOUR FAMILIES THE HEBREW NEEDS THAT THE GRID DOES NOT CONTAIN
Vehaviosim	FAIL	MN, TD
Ka Ribon	FAIL	YHKh

Psalm 23	FAIL	MN, PBFV, SZSh, TD
Ma Nishtana	FAIL	SZSh, TD
Psalm 126	FAIL	TD
Menucha V'Simcha	FAIL	YHKh
Ki Anu Amecha	FAIL	KG, YHKh
Adon Olam	pass	none — but see note
Eshes Hayil	FAIL	RL, SZSh
Shalom Aleichem	FAIL	KG, PBFV, SZSh, YHKh
Psalm 145	FAIL	TD
Al Hanisim	FAIL	MN, SZSh

11 of 12 fail. The single pass is an artefact: Adon Olam's grid happens to use all seven colours, so nothing *can* be missing from it. It is not evidence the key works.

Some are stark. **Ma Nishtana** (מה נשתנה) requires a shin and a tav; its grid contains no brown and no red at all. **Shalom Aleichem** is missing four of the seven families, and its grid is blue-grey-grey repeated seven times — a pattern rather than a text.

A gap in the key itself

Separately from any individual grid: the seven families cover **18 of the 22 Hebrew letters**. **Aleph, ayin and tsadi have no colour**, and the shin/sin distinction is not represented. Nine aleph or ayin appear in the twelve opening phrases alone with nowhere to map.

What this does and does not establish

It does establish that the grids in the Songs deck are not encodings, under the published key, of the opening phrases of the songs they are named after.

It does not establish that the idea is wrong. The grids may encode a later phrase, or a title, or something other than the phonetic reading — or follow a rule that was never written down. Each song was tested against its *opening* phrase; if the grids were built from somewhere else in the text, the test does not apply.

The structure is genuinely impressive. 7×7 on every grid, the orientation marker in the same place 130 times out of 130, a coherent 49-slot board. That consistency is not accidental, and it is why the questions below are worth answering rather than walking away from.

Questions for the author

#	QUESTION	WHAT IT DECIDES
1	Where a grid and its answer key disagree, which one is authoritative?	Whether 112 grids get re-keyed or re-drawn. Everything downstream.
2	Is one block one word, or one square one consonant? The decks themselves say “confirm with the author”.	Scoring, hints, audio segmentation — the whole learning loop
3	What do the Songs grids encode, if not the opening phrase?	Whether the key works and simply was not tested the way we tested it
4	How are aleph, ayin and tsadi meant to be handled?	Whether the key is complete or an eighth colour is needed
5	What are the 15 grids titled <code>Slot ?? – ?? ?? ?</code>	They cannot be published unnamed

Try it

Everything above is live and clickable at **talmduy-dev.pages.dev** — the full board, every decoded grid, the colour key, a working decode and build exercise, and a console showing both tests recomputed on load. The practice exercises score against the *grid*, which is internally consistent and works perfectly.

Decoded from the source files on 7 October 2026. All figures in this document are recomputed from the decoded corpus each time it is generated. Grid data available as `corpus.json` (130 grids) and `board.json` (49 slots) on request.