

Auld Lang Design

by Ucaimhu

Each new year brings all kinds of new designs. Here, all the Across clues work normally (even the shaded ones), but the Down clues tell you about a newly redesigned item in the following ways:

(1) In some clues, the cryptic part omits one letter from the answer (always the same letter); if you take the letter from each such clue that is in the same position as the omitted letter in the corresponding answer, these letters (in clue order) will give an event where the item may be seen.

(2) In other clues, the cryptic part yields one incorrect letter; reading the incorrect letters in clue order, and then the correct ones, will tell you what the item is.

(3) In the remaining Down clues, the result of the cryptic part has one letter displaced, into either first or last position. Pair each of the (respectively) first or last four letters of the clue with the displaced letter; this gives you four letter pairs, each of which indicates (by row and column) one nonshaded square in the grid, which you should shade in. When all these sets of four squares are shaded, you will see one possible new design for the item.

If you don't like that design, you can see a different one by either (a) following the directions given by the squares you shaded, or (b) applying the (somewhat exotically rendered) directions in the squares I originally shaded, sometimes pictorially and sometimes mathematically, to the letters of the word that is (repeatedly, and appropriately) set off by the first design.

ACROSS

1. On one's drums inscribed 8 and circle (6)
6. Whack 100 conjoined hairs (5)
9. Sage talked about clubs (4)
12. The father of Methuselah Cohen gets rambunctious (5)
13. What's emphasized in an orator's mock-imprecation (5)
16. Is keeping copper in hospital areas (4, *abbr.*)
17. Don't mention Tom's unveiled the thing (4)
18. Beliefs of participants in a Martian basketball game? (6)
20. How one might order food in Lomé and environs (4)
21. Valley girl heartlessly beheaded men (4)

22. One who deals with quiet theater employee (6)
23. Tin vine, sculpted Roman-style? He/she created it (7)
24. Cold, loud, perverse, or untidy place (6)
26. Baseball hitter's cola spilled (3)
27. Fry old, broken fishing equipment (3 3)
30. Higher-class individual observing a legal document being dictated? (7)
33. Actor Irons and I heard from Truffaut about Jiminy Cricket (6)
39. A wild one swimming around! (4)
40. Czech, say, sent back "egg-free eggs" (4)
42. Bird who decapitated old mystery author Edgar (6)
43. Guys would get fixed up (4)
44. Opposed to Tina dancing (4)
45. Outer layers lacking carbon oxides (5)
46. Uses a straw that's too bad to keep hydrogen out (5)
47. Later on, start to turn chicken (4)
48. A Swiss peak Hans bisected (5)
49. Stewing beet is a foolish act (6)

DOWN

1. Not still possessing umpire with up-turned feet (4 2)
2. Higher-up, encyclopedic volume discussing naan and pyxes? (2 3)
3. Tennessee rag's backing Chinese gang (4)
4. Numbskull gets half of crew to the other side (6)
5. Slender Henry's upper leg (5)
6. Promising one ring, er, decorated with 45 sets of four V's? (5)
7. Attire with tuft I reshaped (6)
8. Balk finally in struggle with Ukrainian city (4)
9. TV's replacement for WB and UPN in east causes pained reaction (5)
10. Baker's equipment cost is down a penny (4)
11. English squire's first and second petroleum company, way back when (4)
13. You, lacking \$1000, goof around with movie sound effects (5)
14. Film fans sporting nice vests (9)
15. French (and one Swiss) are shocking (4)
19. Railway beneath NYC turned three (4)
25. Rhode Island internally lacks anti-Mob law (4, *abbr.*)
26. Half of brutes seizing mischief-maker experience tear duct leakage (4 2)
27. In Florida, finish shifts (5)
28. Hesitant admission about vats Terry emptied (3 3)
29. E.g., formulate 5-500 empty, hollow ideas with energy (6)
31. Survivors at heart, Zed and Peg like some coat linings (3-2)
32. Golfer's right above Seth's mother at all times (4)
33. Big one in Japan stuck in cask by a controlling group (5)
34. Bring up legal matter about intro to attack ego (5)
35. I deny that North Kentucky is a rival of the Sox (5)
36. The aforementioned item has almost duplicated model Ford used to make (4)
37. Processed vet's ballot (4)
38. Cord that's weighted for use as a weapon destroyed lab (4)
41. Spell *cinder's* "centers" in places (4)

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| P | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | | 11 |
| Q | 12 | | | | | 13 | | 14 | | 15 | | 16 | | | |
| R | 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | | 22 | | | | | | | 23 | | | | | | |
| T | 24 | 25 | | | | | 26 | | | 27 | | 28 | | | 29 |
| U | 30 | | | 31 | | 32 | | | 33 | | 34 | | | 35 | |
| V | 36 | | 37 | | 38 | | | 39 | | | | 40 | 41 | | |
| W | 42 | | | | | | 43 | | | | | | | | |
| X | 44 | | | | | 45 | | | | | 46 | | | | |
| | 47 | | | | 48 | | | | | 49 | | | | | |