

Various Types by Ucaaimhu

You can probably guess what type of crossword this is, but there's more to it than that. Specifically, the Across answers form four sets; in each set, you must use A PARTICULAR TYPE of handling for each answer. This type can be shortened; the **shortened version** can then be defined as *something suitable for a celebration like this*.

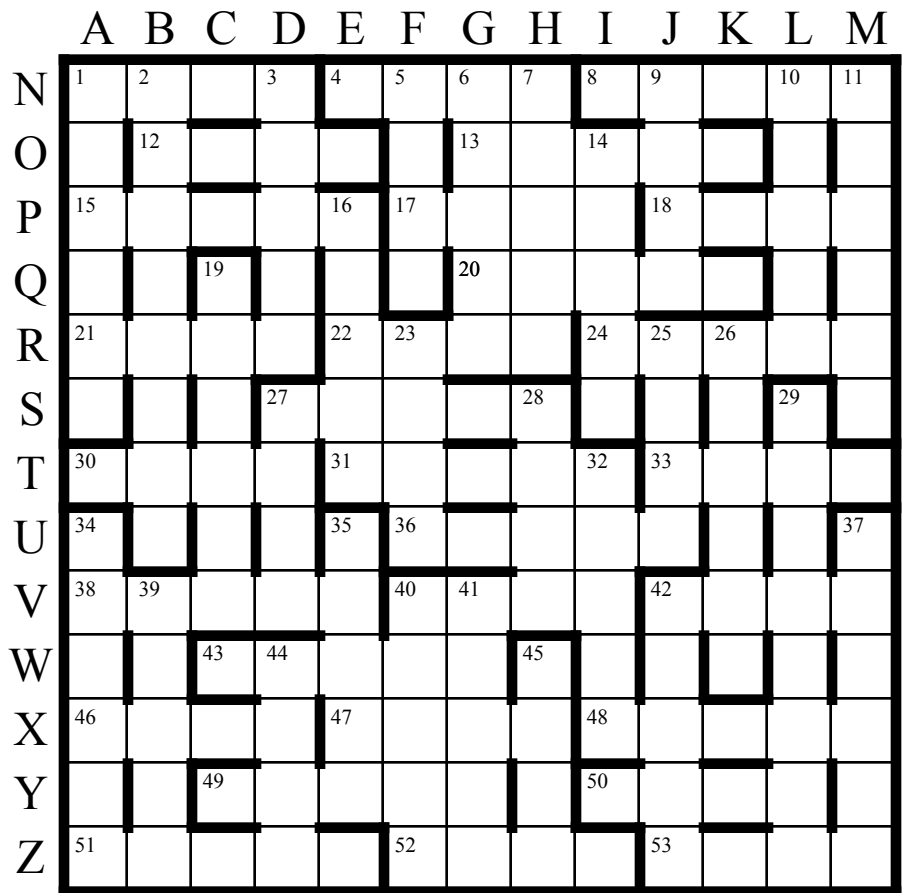
(1) There are some answers WITH A TENDENCY TO CONTRACT; enter these with **several letters in one square**. As indicated, take the first or last letter of each clue.

(2) Some answers undergo a DIGESTIVE process, being rearranged, with a **consonant and a vowel** extracted. Find the first positions of those letters in each answer, and take the letters in those positions in the clue.

(3) In EGYPTIAN, one letter can signify an entire proper noun; into some answers, add one of **two such letters**. (One resulting entry is Egyptian.) Find the (wordwise) position of an associated proper noun in each clue and take the letter at that (letterwise) position in the clue.

(4) All the other answers are more "TOUCHY." For each, the cryptic part of the clue yields one wrong letter; raise a dimple in the grid at the correct letter, to (twice) form **two Braille letters**. (Or if you don't know Braille, just take the topmost dimpled letters.) Order the wrong letters as indicated; take the corresponding correct letters.

Meanwhile, each Down clue has one wrong letter you must correct before solving; **circle** what's in the square at the coordinates given by the right and wrong letters. Together, these circles will give you a VISUAL depiction of what was left behind by the "shortening" from the first paragraph; the circled letters (column by column) will also state (in "shortened" form) why I wrote this puzzle.



ACROSS

1. Mexican is in Maryland with net
4. A Swedish store is one source of beer
8. Dido's birthplace, surrounded by tin, earth, and C₆H₅CH=CH₂
12. Hot flirt, drinking mostly Asti
13. Joke suppressed by June's predecessor with royal status
15. Part of ad hoc, improvised loincloth
17. Have to start rage for old Italian coins
18. Producer of a film with Sheen and Brando finally unveiled film
20. Polly initially backed non-winning individual Penny got money for earlier
21. Young man or woman lacking the guts of Mayer
22. Gyrating sword in the middle of Edna's sink
24. Were mocking Serling and Wilde, at the end
27. Lined with diamonds from the east, resort hotel's Eastern Wing is unusual
30. First couple of tinamous at farthest edge of Levant with a chickadee
31. A pope in a garland around the center of Brown (2 wds.)
33. Devious twits played with head of yahoo
36. Getting strange, fey, pale blinder from a horse's bridle [NI2]
38. Are interrupting me and Mrs. Simpson

40. Alert owl again drops odd items
42. Sale mistakenly includes very soft fruit
43. Randomly, my edits will be obstructed
46. British flyers eating good pasta sauce
47. Bargain with bald lunatic
48. Unamped Chaplin character with superficial urge to be honest
49. Design elaborate scam involving the westernmost chunk of your land
50. Essentially, Vicky's assuming quiet, reflective Dee ate like a bird
51. Governmental pardon of nasty, nasty me
52. You, like outfielder Cobb, like beer
53. Help empty oxcarts going east of Fifth to Madison

DOWN

1. Coefficients measuring qualities like elasticity and sass confused LI duo (6)
2. African land described by TV I hope I replaced (8)
3. Despised cup atop Edward (5)
5. Oven-roasted lint (4)
6. Error with citrus fruit upset Nellie's beam in South Pacific (5)
7. Home run king Hans who played for the Braves and A's with pitcher Guidry (5)
9. Ruby gets sold, being no longer scheduled for delivery (3'1, abbr.)
10. Tossing bottled mineral water is not

likely to be auspicious (5)

11. Mama Cass is lady donning linen in reverie (6)
14. In Montmartre, yours truly runs to meet Yvette's lewd actor named Orbach (5)
16. Thai is incorporating little fact barely pertaining to part of the intestine (5) [NI3]
19. Fight after comedian Feldman becomes one sacrificing greatly (6)
23. Hers at first does badly (4)
25. "Trench water" (water with leaves in it) reportedly tasting like Cheerios (4) [NI2]
26. Di wanted to start hitting Maui after the first Hindu festival of lights (6) [NI3]
27. Chunk of wood containing no pins (4)
28. Start to see rower's sly (4)
29. Makes trivial complaints, all about PC, in suit (8)
32. Otherwise shown as tun of capers (2 3)
34. Lecture by actress Loy depicting an ancient Ionian city (6)
35. Fictional Swiss orphan girl with huge Uzi saved GQ at last (5)
37. Middlemost 75% of nog we got in a city on Lake Ontario (6)
39. Gore covering a room results in stare (5)
40. Yob and I deny being dateless and pint-sized (5)
41. Saw, in my case, foray led by Spot (5)
42. Quantities of land one treats with salt after removing cranium (5)
44. Stubborn beast climbing tree to get toff, ultimately (4)
45. Insect that feeds on blood and tritium-free qat Lett chewed (4)