

Four-Part Party

by Ucaoimhu

The theme of this party has four parts; this puzzle makes use of them as follows:

(2) Ethanol can, of course, be used as a cleaning solvent. Half the Down clues contain one small extra mark, which must be deleted before solving. In clue order, these marks, properly interpreted, will form a single-word clue for a 12-letter word.

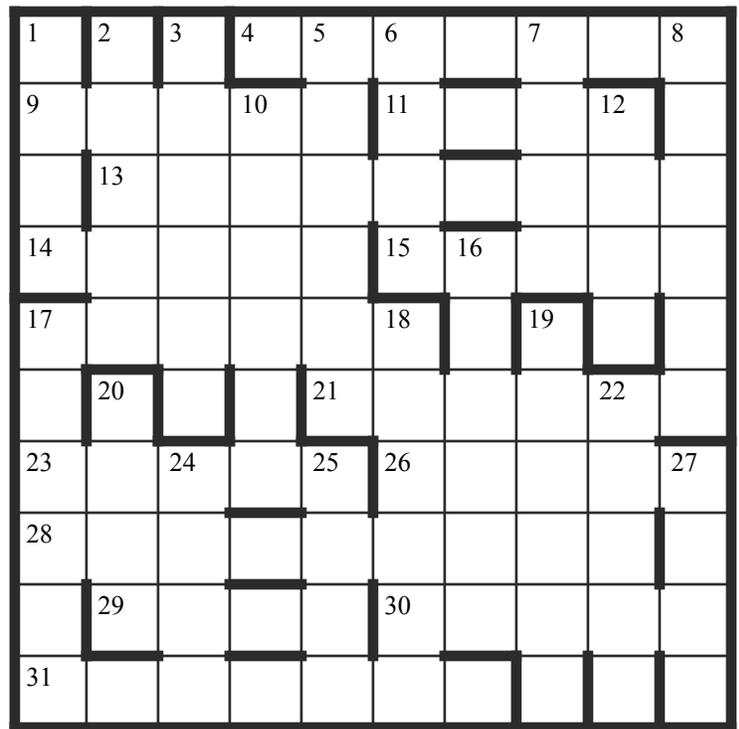
(3), (4) If the single-word clue from (2) isn't specific enough, Encore and Exquisite Fruit may help. Half the Across clues are Encore clues, each containing one extra *word* (which must be deleted before solving); in clue order, these words form part of a song lyric with a single word missing. All other Across clues are Exquisite Fruit clues, which work normally; their answers, read in grid order, then read in grid order *again*, will form a repetitive 14-word question with a single-word answer. Put these two single words after the single-word clue from (2) to form a more specific three-word clue for the 12-letter word.

(1) If even that three-word clue isn't enough, the author of this cryptic put an entire extra *cryptic clue* (without enumeration) into each Down clue not used in (2), which must be deleted before solving. The one-word answers to these clues (in clue order) will form a cryptic clue (with enumeration); put its answer before the three-word clue to form an even more specific four-word clue for the 12-letter word from (2).

(2 again) Finally, just remove any small marks in that 12-letter word to see the most important feature of this party.

ACROSS

4. Mentioned NaCl to user with sacred song collection (7)
9. That white horse carries this Roman (5)
11. Present silence that is painful (4)
13. What "regular" — if that is covered with fancy gold — might become! (9)
14. Sue and Romeo prevent somersault before Jane's latest exploit, again (5)
15. Land them amidst robust, hard dirt (5)
17. Iron covers carnivorous beasts (6)
21. Wait to draw idle Virginia's flip-flops (4 2)
23. Imitating dent-covered rear of auto (5)
26. Prior to 1 AD, date Terpsichore (5)
28. Let another country have alien and island and missile and noble and gas back (9)
29. Site where you review, archaically, the wanton LP (4)
30. An old "electronic brain" Michael from *The Italian Destruction Job* overturned (5, abbr.)
31. Things like *ether*, *three*, etc. (7)



DOWN

1. Co-op leaders from Wessex up in Britain's sovereign water vessel (4)
2. Darn old \$10.00 stocking he ultimately remove (2 3)
3. I.e., pull gentle joke about navy smashing little tablet (6)
5. G-rated bits, perhaps right inside storage buildings (6)
6. Fa is associated with old French playing? No way (2 2)
7. Work stone pried asunder and lined with tritium grease (4)
8. Hollow rune H covered with " is very popular (3 3)
10. Add your name, along with another person's, to "(1/hypotenuse)/(adjacent)" on the radio (6)
12. West (and according to Mo.net, south) gets soggy (4)
16. Hotel-dwelling Victor, Ace, and Kevin, having accomplished nothing, re-ally (2 4)
17. Slow Giant Mel inside ran and saw visibility increase improved fine ad (4-2)
18. More woeful Troy and Abigail pet venomous snakes, back to front (6)
19. Legume provided by the bewildered dupe before Dotty fed us Italian (6)
20. Loud, bovine, and Spanish, like a beast George Clooney played the year *E/R* ended (4)
22. Acoustically examine large and partly ambiguous instrument or tool climbers use (3 2)
24. That partly demure avian thing near 'em is a thing (4)
25. Initially, guys copy second 9 digit and stare (4)
27. Make lithographs of imp-roper Chet (4)