

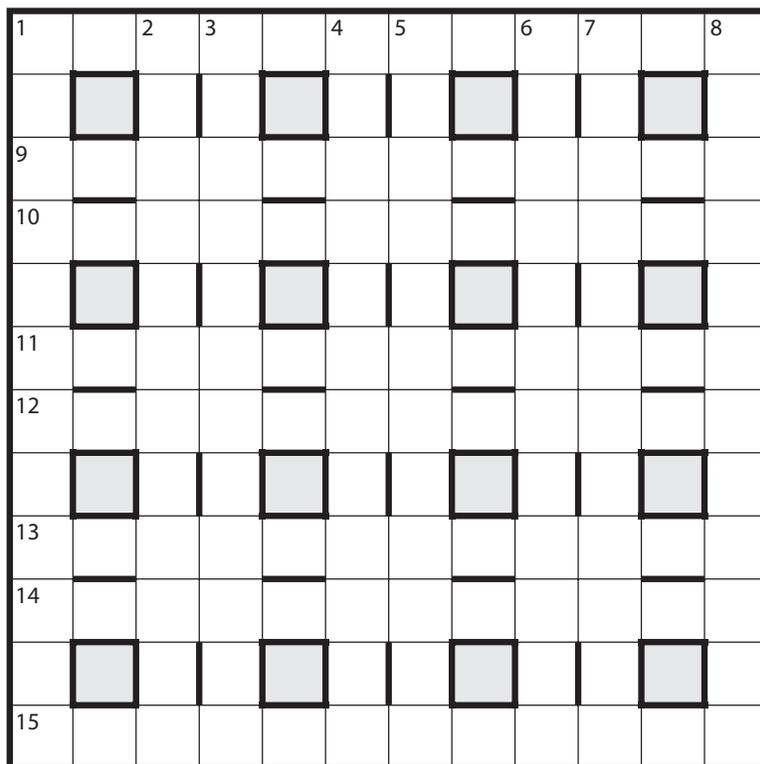
THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

Double or Nothing

Across and Down answers are clued in pairs, row by row and column by column; these answers are to be entered normally in their given order. In the finished grid each of the 16 shaded boxes will be surrounded by eight letters. If a letter occurs twice among those eight, put that letter in the box; if no letter is doubled, put O in the box. The 16 boxed letters will spell something you might confidently wager. Seven answers are capitalized.

Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. An introduction to clue-solving may be found online at www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm.



ACROSS

1. Agrees with the contents of a book (7)
Well top provides shade (5)
9. Overheard crazy love affair in plane (8)
The center of the Earth is made of carbon and rock (4)
10. Pronoun with G or K (4)
Funny hat on hot nuclear scientist (4,4)
11. Sequences involving live artist (6)
Units set on fire by treatment centers (6)
12. Figure at a supernatural scene not done very well (6)
Royal headwear advantage in Caesar's day (6)
13. Improper, drawn-out plays (8)

- Facing the wrong way, clumsy guy shoots (4)
14. Said Louis, "Sidney's transparent" (5)
Province in Spain's hub, with a railroad running through it (7)
15. Simple fellow obtains sign for buck (8)
One bill holder not all there (4)

DOWN

1. Sir Tristram's last name in error (7)
Some decrees for some males (5)
2. For audience, draw swan figure on a diamond (2,4)
Attitude about Connecticut backing internet business (3-3)
3. Something to call a guy with scratches on the tongue? (6)
- Oil spilled more than once in Philippine port (6)
4. Stogie ruined front of maple vanity (7)
British isle's empty residence conveying grandeur (5)
5. Kind of drunk after ingesting fifth of Dewar's (4)
Legendary place a doodler fabricated (2,6)
6. Losing heart, eat frequently (4)
Zina acts freaked out about a part of a poem (8)
7. Puffed cereal in *Ran* (7)
A place to study aloud and sing (5)
8. People working for the FBI's top guys (6)
Bunch of displays not saying anything about exercise (6)