

Patchwork

OCCASIONALLY, I RECEIVE PUZZLES from other constructors to consider. This one came from my test-solvers and is aptly named, as its creation was a patchwork effort. Bob Fink created the grid and solutions, then Eric Klis and Jerry Miccolis each clued half of the entries. I got to test-solve and provide editorial suggestions for a change.

In the grid, there are 17 “patches” of various shapes and sizes that need to be attached to the grid using six “threads” of varying lengths that run in concentric circles. The solutions for each of the clues within a thread run consecutively around the grid in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction. Each thread’s clues are presented in order, but it is up to the solver to determine the direction each thread runs and in which cell it starts. The solutions to the clues for the patches are entered into the grid in an anagrammed fashion.

All 26 letters are used at least once in the grid. There is one 2-word answer and one proper noun; everything else is playable in Scrabble. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

Solvers looking for the greatest challenge will want to use only the clues below. The direction and starting point for each thread will have to be determined by you. Some “fabric” has already been attached as a start.

For those solvers desiring a little help, the first set of hints on the bottom of this page tells the direction in which each thread runs. For additional assistance, the second set of hints tells which patch goes in each of the four corners. Finally, the third set of hints tells in which cell each thread starts. When you send in your solution, let me know your solving level.

When the grid is completely filled in, the dark shaded squares will spell out the theme to the puzzle when read in the following order: E11, E6, B3, I3, A12, D9, J7, L2.

“Patch” Clues

- a. Redesign entrances to cause confusion (11)
- b. Colorless ballad poorly sung, and it fills the plane (7)
- c. Lots of different densities (9)
- d. Quote about hug and kiss in retrospect is strange (6)
- e. Dance club legend Donna’s crown is not as bright (10)
- f. Collects sample of ginseng at her store (7)
- g. Nude, bored in burlesque, came back (9)
- h. Head covered in style: a derby (6)
- i. Abandoning resident dancing around hole (9)
- j. Wouldn’t answer, stalled about one week (11)
- k. Made dirty deed outside part of Chick-fil-A (7)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1										C		
2												
3												
4						F						
5												
6												
7					R		B					
8												
9												
10									A			
11			I									
12												

- l. Roman who is caught in act is let off the hook (6)
- m. Combative sarges give ground (10)
- n. Committed perjury at heart, felt bad (6)
- o. Señor Mike (drunk) given a party favor (10)
- p. Has too many hands or too many wands? (11)
- q. Squares quiz Leesa awkwardly (9)

“Thread 1” (Outer) Clues

- a. Esquire botched interrogations (7)
- b. Auditions held in seaside mosque (5)
- c. Deadly beast of burden consumed by spasm (5)
- d. Steals tangled and threaded ornament (6)
- e. Every second, Otto’s wee friends soared (7)
- f. Jerk departed prior to empty shoptalk (6)
- g. Edges away from mendicant in a serape in more than one Spanish bar (8)

Hint 3

“Thread 1” (Outer) starts in cell B1
 “Thread 2” starts in cell J11
 “Thread 3” starts in cell D10
 “Thread 4” starts in cell I5
 “Thread 5” starts in cell E8
 “Thread 6” (Inner) runs clockwise starts in cell G7

Hint 2

Upper Left-hand Corner: “Patch q”
 Lower Right-hand Corner: “Patch a”
 Lower Left-hand Corner: “Patch d”
 Lower Right-hand Corner: “Patch j”

Hint 1

“Thread 1” (Outer) runs counter-clockwise
 “Thread 2” runs clockwise
 “Thread 3” runs clockwise
 “Thread 4” runs counter-clockwise
 “Thread 5” runs counter-clockwise
 “Thread 6” (Inner) runs clockwise

“Thread 2” Clues

- a. Throw back splendid brew (5)
- b. Heartless queen consumes last third of drumstick to go faster (7)
- c. Worship lazy lookers out loud (7)
- d. Road less travelled that is bordered by shady trees (4,6)
- e. Pays attention to sparkles after commencement (7)

Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com.

In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Jan. 31, 2016.

“Thread 3” Clues

- a. Friendly, effervescent, and really engaging, Dave initially was afraid (6)
- b. Heard pitch from Grammy winner (4)
- c. Brad’s necessities (7)
- d. Delivered portion of epitaph and editorialized (6)
- e. Nimble and dainty, without finer edges (5)

“Thread 4” Clues

- a. Terminate compensation, turning profit into loss (6)

- b. Stabilized, at first she took Excedrin; after drug interaction episode, Darvocet (8)
- c. Bare, undisciplined force behind punk rock band (6)

“Thread 5” Clues

- a. Make beloved finale with musical ability (6)
- b. Wandered westward around university to absorb fully (6)

“Thread 6” (Inner) Clue

- a. Puncture tire (4)

Previous Issue’s Puzzle—Deep Six

- a. ELOPED: (Dev)eloped (“became technologically advanced, for the most part”)
- b. SIPHON: Hidden in “everyone’s iPhone”
- c. ARABIA: A (“Alto”) + B (“bass”) inside ARIA (“something—to be heard in *il teatro*”)
- d. HEAPED: HE + APED (“went like”)
- e. ANGLOA: A + NGO (“non-governmental organization”) + LA (“wow”, both interjections)
- f. QUINTA: Anagram of “quaint”
- g. SNARED: Anagram of “Nader’s”
- h. TOSSES: Anagram of “So, Tess”
- i. POTATO: POT (“marijuana”) + AT (“about”) + O (“out”)
- j. SIGNED: Anagram of “design”
- k. LEAN-TO: Hidden in “Chilean tomb”
- l. OPERAS: OPS around ERA
- m. HELENA: Trick clue! The straight definition has a wordplay element. Wordplay side: Helena is hidden in reverse in “mundane, Lehman’s.” The straight definition is “MT capital,” but to get MT, you need to make a homophone of “empty.”

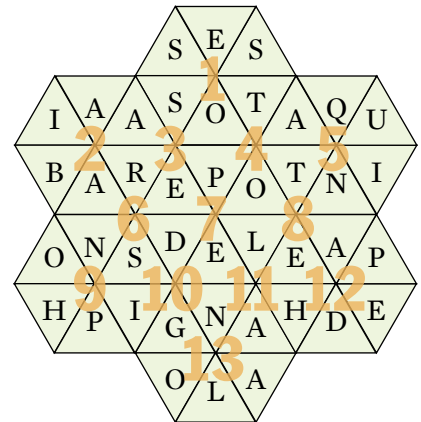
Solvers

Solvers at the Excruciating Level:

Michael, Jina, and Adam Accardo; Steve Alpert; Stephen Bates and Tim Buckner; Bob Campbell; Lois Cappellano; Todd Dashoff; Mick Diede; Sean Donohoe and Josh DenHartog, dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts); Dave Dougherty; Mathew Eberhardt; Deb Edwards; Bryce Fawcett; Bob Fink; Phil Gollance; J & J Holloman; Catharine Hornby; Paul Ivanovskis; Ruth Johnson; Paul Kolell; Eric Klis; Ken Kudrak; Tim Luker; Jerry Miccolis; Lee Michelson; Jim Muza; David & Corinne Promislow; Andrew Shewan; Jon Turnes; Dave Wallman

Solvers using some hints (or not saying):

Anthony Amodeo, Dean Apps, Karl Baker, Glenn Bier, Bob Buck, Chris Carlson, Laura Cremerius & Paige Roland, Jonathan Currier, Patrick Donovan, Deborah Dubois, David Ellsworth, Tim Fitzgibbons, Bruce Fuller, Sandy Gruhlke, Timothy Grusenmeyer, Walter Haner, Rich Harder, Jason



Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, John Herder, Robert Himmelstein, David Lovit, Jon Michelson, Brett Miller, David Olsho, Stephen Pearce, Alan Putney, Danny Rhodes, Jay Ripps, Paula Schwinn, Bill Scott, Tyler & Evelyn Somer, Doug Szper, David Treble, Pete Weisenberger, Frank Zaret

TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame.