

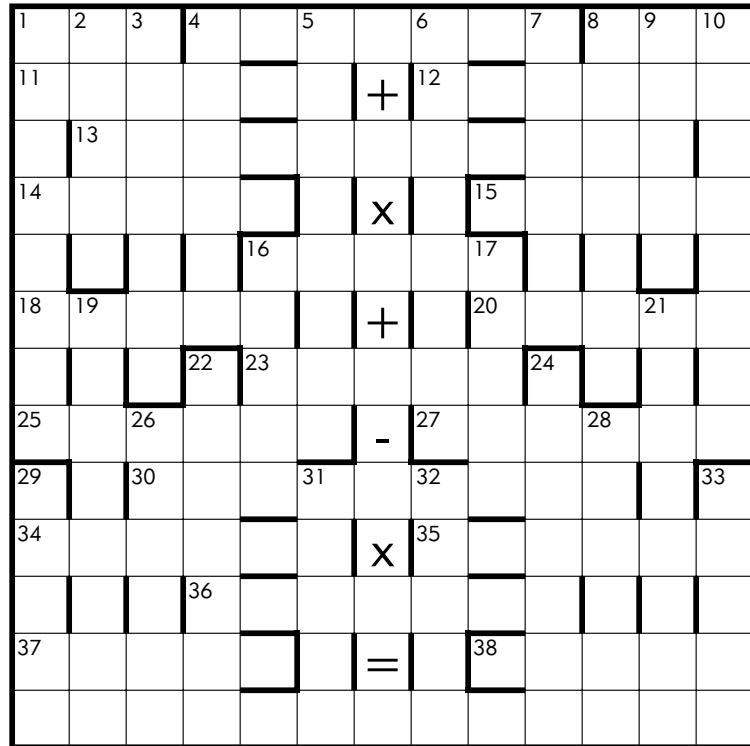
THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

The Bottom Line

The diagram's central column features a series of arithmetic problems. The plus, minus, and times signs are already in place; you must derive the six different numbers, one per square in that column, involved in the arithmetic. Solve each problem in turn; that is, add the first number to the second, as directed; then apply that sum to the next operation; and so on. The correct result will be expressed in the entire bottom line of the puzzle. Eight 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. Rip off most of dress (3)
4. Nesting hive must relocate tonight (4,7)
8. East-to-west fuel slump (3)
11. Spots having buried rock treasures (6)
12. Pirate role to cast (6)
13. New foals used Ivory soap (4,2,3,5)
14. Argentine who gained power by performing (5)
15. Where trains stop and get rid of marijuana? (5)
16. Benisons remedied a less-than-robust condition (8)
18. Article thanks character from Greece (5)
20. "Tedium is continuing," our people said (5)
23. Hear Dot grew restless (3,4)
25. Italian city left in the possession of scruffs (6)
27. Creative, affirmative place for porkers (6)

30. Othello near theatrics conveying agony (4,2,5)
34. Memorable time covering scoundrel's mistakes (6)
35. Imagined Doctor Evil's top amount (6)
36. One mixing drinks with skill amid binge (9)
37. Like, for example, analysis (5)
38. Confederate we hear you dub? (5)

DOWN

1. Russian monk disturbed Puritans (8)
2. Communist Party backed stranger (5)
3. Skirt worn by a paying tenant (7)
4. Test fish with insertion of fork (6)
5. Esposito playing with some tiny cousins? (8)
6. Our silly cuckoo is deceptive (8)
7. Rule necessary for serving over nets (6)
8. Touch of pink in Gertrude's panties (4-3)
9. Tale-teller with a reversed stance (5)
10. Tip for reforming "guy" trait (8)
16. Deli item the French talk about (5)
17. Prophet penning "D is for dinner" (5)
19. Man with a garbage problem in summer (4,4)
21. Partial result: I'm at attention for threats (8)
22. Run-down hotel failing, with a gable in need of repair (7)
24. Mr. Boone and Mr. Rubik coach at Penn State (7)
26. Term wears out in conversation (6)
28. Pair of shorts on a literature and film critic (6)
29. Did some parenting with live gangster's gun (5)
31. Early form of red in volcanic rock (5)
32. Extra advantage carrying JFK's predecessor (5)
33. Announced great price for metal (5)