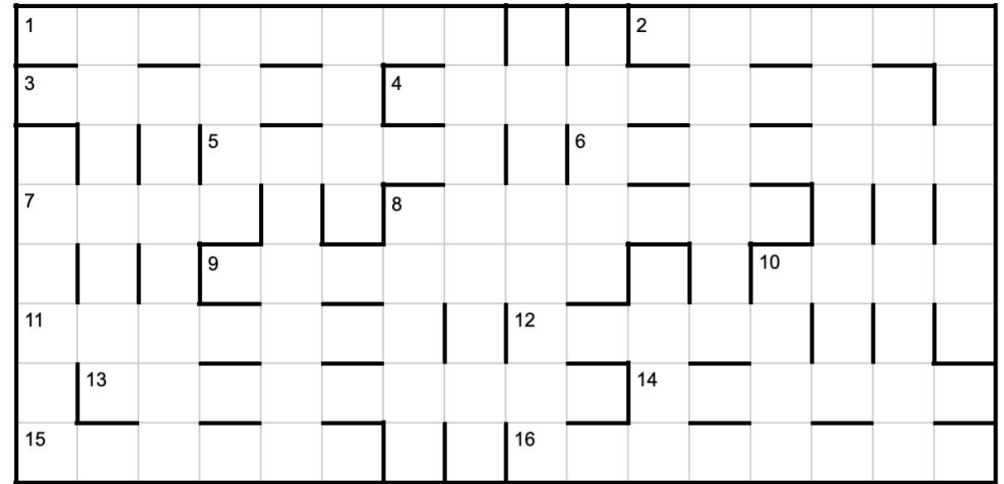


# One Small Piece by Hale

Each across clue has twice as many components as a typical cryptic clue. In each such clue, one word in one of the components is replaced with an impostor. Examination of what the impostors have in common with what they replace will reveal an appropriate description of what you've restored by identifying them.

The position of each down entry is for you to determine. Furthermore, one word in each down clue is missing an element. After placing the down entries into the grid, these elements will indicate one cell in its entry's column. The letters in these cells will reveal an appropriate description of the work you have performed in placing the entries (and of which the indicated cells make up one small piece).



## Across

1. Endless party—yes!—after South American guard set round, wobbly table with coffee device (8)
2. Talks prove harder in the end; plans regarding Alberta missing (6)
3. Music artist Cher, after *Heart of West Utah*, found in DC (just before *Heart of the Netherlands*) (6)
4. Developed Poland's first "supreme atom": nucleus of beet red, 100 (high) grade, awfully intense (9)
5. American League ping-pong match beginning with surprise flyer—aha!—out for six months (5)
6. Five bullets evenly placed beside lead-free lure; petrified bird parroted awkwardly: "you're extreme and exploitative" (7)
7. Seek first of novels penned by James Joyce, taking the fourth and placing it next to a chest compartment (4)
8. Spanish guy's inside; helped rob store back in Cincinnati, so there (7)
9. Most of the team—you and I and (not taking sides) our friend Timothy—beginning to enjoy magazine (7)
10. "Go," captain directs, "I'm in a serious hole" (4)
11. Tesla faced betrayal campaign/operation after revolution of alternating current (7)
12. Place in front, *Express Wings*, ignored (two times) pickle inspections and brined for 10<sup>18</sup> milliseconds (5)
13. Supporters of military event with nitrogen liquid sent just over 50% of montage about Alabama city (9)
14. Notice composer mentioned beautiful name in twisted opening of cantata *Broken Halos* (6)
15. Prostrate with grotesque awe, Kenneth ridiculing writing as "backward poison" (6)
16. Mexico's first lady's rambling, helter-skelter tirades, coming after ten rugby competitors (8)

## Down

- Agent's jealousy: den with ornate entrance (5)
- Arose awkwardly, losing nut for ages (4)
- Cop: "Let me in—moon's full" (8)
- Half of cone detailed with bits of apple and toffee—the one over there (4)
- He, for a chest, starts to hoard every last map around Indiana University (6)
- On the water, writer Milne has—finally—flawless diction (4)
- One who collects rent from losers died (6)
- Our inn/resort hosts Ace's sixth gathering (7)
- Percussionist's main liquor kept in dark case with guitar in the middle (7, 2 wds.)
- Scandinavians saw end: wild OT win (5)
- Schedule discharge—retiring and bored (primarily) in capital of Estonia (8)
- Setting awkward tone after intro to *Carrollton, Texas* in verse (7)
- Shots start to often hit spot after taking PE? (6)
- Someone ranking above Serge reported, "S Club: full of singers" (7)
- That woman—expressionless, lacking internal zen—and the beginning of her exasperated exclamation (6)
- Turning loudly into Wendy's (2nd St, right on a map) (4)

**WHAT YOU HAVE RESTORED BY EXPOSING THE IMPOSTORS:**

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK YOU HAVE PERFORMED:**