

PUZZLE

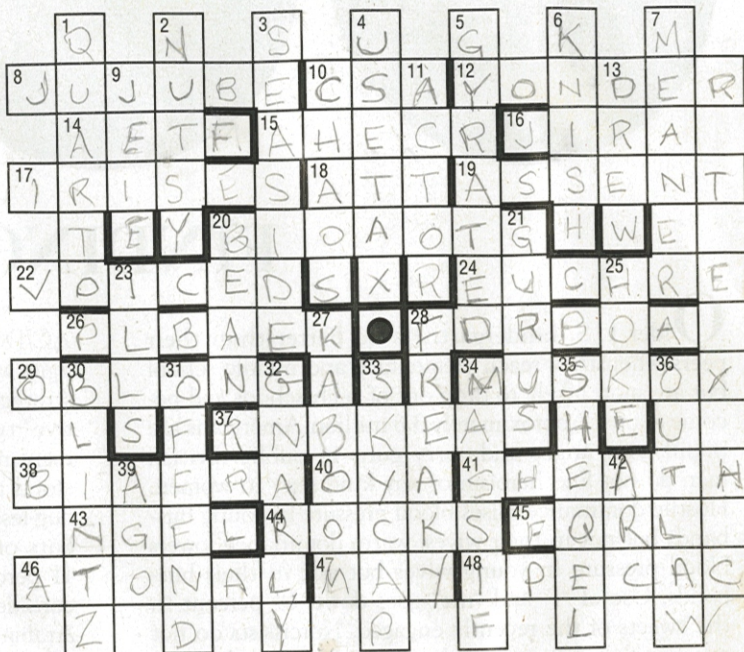
DIAMETRICODE

By Richard E. Maltby Jr.

(with acknowledgments to Babs of The Listener)

The squares projecting from the perimeter of the diagram contain the twenty-six letters of the alphabet. Imaginary straight lines through the central dot join these into thirteen pairs. The answers to clues in italics are to be encoded before entry in the diagram by substituting for each letter the opposite letter of its pair. For example, if A were opposite X and J opposite Z, the answer JAZZ would be ZXJJ.

Clue answers include three proper nouns and two abbreviations. 37A and 40A are uncommon. 35D, a foreign word, will be surprising. As always, mental repunctuation of a clue is the key to its solution. The solution to last month's puzzle appears on page 59.



ACROSS

8. In West African religion, be a sweet thing (6)
10. Alabama, South Carolina capitals back the Confederacy (3)
12. Kind of wine, no year, sent back—far out! (6)
14. Holds up on nonsense, otherwise turns back (4)
15. A red X put in plastic jar (5) *RIOJA*
16. Plan taking time off for fish (4) *HA*
17. Flowers one grows (6)
18. Chatter at the heart of the phone company? Just the reverse! (3)
19. Saying: Of course it's, like, mailed (6)
20. The Reb yields openers because of that (7)
22. Hundred hits into replayed video with vocals (6) *videoc*
24. One can take her cue from cheat (6)
26. Rotund configuration with zero feet on it? (6)
28. Streak, running around Olympian, perhaps (6) *SKATER*
29. Latin into bongo playing is hardly square (6)
34. Canadian native makes American win in a fight, million times over (6)
37. Swiss city old fart comes from (7) *ALTDORF*
38. Country once linking Namibia, France (6)
40. Latin American goddess, royal at heart (3)
41. Quiet! (Passion held in in case of swordplay!) (6)
43. French city, only misspelled (4) *LYON*
44. Dresses not loudly, with gems (5)
45. Small pale-colored bird (4) *SWAN*
46. Caveat on Alaskan houses having no key (6)
47. Put vegetable back in can (3)
48. Ice cap melting—it produces heaving (6)

DOWN

1. Status follower holding art book (6)
2. Cracked back in crazy stunt (5)
3. Strand after disease is cured (7)
4. Reforming Texas university, first duty of a state? (3,3)
5. Was a revolver involved in tragedy (7)
6. Go down, up on horse—that's quite a turnover! (5)
7. Wander down, going out more tight (6)
9. Big fish company blankets Ohio (4) *COHO*
10. Cash exchanged, boxing ring mess (5)
11. Man playing in factory (5)
13. Doctor we upset pulled a gun (4)
20. Head soup maker (4)
21. Toupee showing up on American wise guys (5)
23. Troubles with leaving documents about estates (4)
25. Deceive the man with healthy heart (4)
27. "Running Amok Around Outskirts of Barrio"—big report! (6)
28. Weird wicked fakery (6)
30. Stuffed food into London wartime place name (6)
31. Wound, kill, die (6)
32. Called up landlady, heartless and crooked (6)
33. Spacy kid, with no passport, traveling—he comes with a lot of baggage (6)
34. Ceremony providing big rock presentation (6)
35. Queen, in heels, perversely gives Hebrew money to Hebrews (6)
36. You can't start Disney turning fugitive (6)
39. Shakespearean role I never appeared in before (3)
42. From Bismarck? Take a bow (3)

Contest Rules: Send completed diagram with name and address to "Diametricode," Harper's Magazine, 666 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10012. If you already subscribe to Harper's, please include a copy of your latest mailing label. Entries must be received by June 12. The sender of the first correct solution opened at random will receive a one-year subscription to Harper's Magazine (limit one winner per household per year). The winner's name will be printed in the August issue. The winner of the April puzzle, "Search Warrant," is James Brawner, Savannah, Ga.