

No Iron Man? by Ucaoimhu

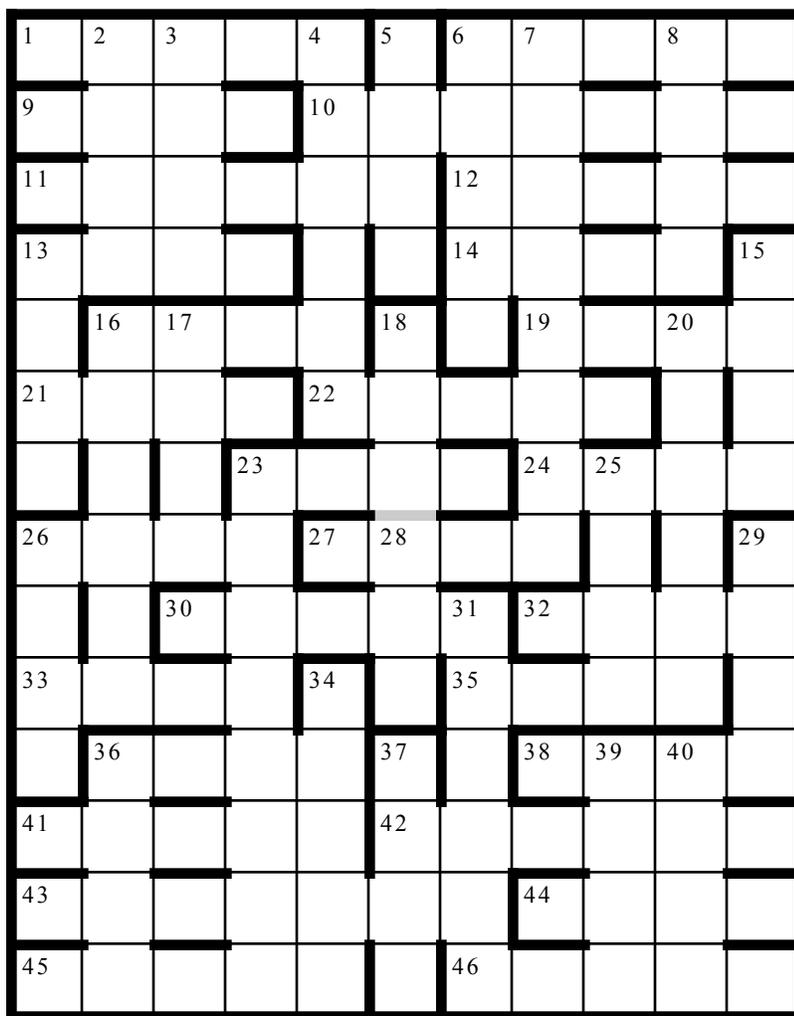
Astonishingly, *Iron Man* was not nominated for Best Picture this year. (Tony Stark was very disappointed; you can see the outfit he had picked out in those six central squares of the grid.) In tribute to the films that *were* nominated, most Down answers must be altered before being entered; four will go in reverse, four will a certain substance omit, four will just keep doubling, four will be gaily active, and four will involve the person perusing these instructions. (Altered entries will include two abbreviations and at least one phrase.)

Each of the remaining Down answers (which will be entered normally) is the name of a substance just as fundamental as iron; no straight definition part referring to this substance occurs in the clue. Each such substance indicates a pair of letters in the usual way; for each pair, find every column whose bottom letter is the first letter of the pair, and every row whose leftmost letter is the second letter of the pair, and shade in every square where any of the columns and rows for that pair intersect.

When all the shading has been done, this will present you with a picture of an object, whose name indicates what sort of man *is* qualified to show up at the Oscars; also, the letters in the shaded squares (left to right and bottom to top) will say what substance *he* is made of.

ACROSS

1. ET, say, is terrible to date (2 3)
6. Initially, Christian Bale muffed a line (5)
9. Sun god claiming he is Big Bird (4)
10. Speedy train that is in a Paul Newman movie (7)
11. Author in street was a vagabond (6)
12. Endless diet sodas turned up (2 3)
13. Parks in Montgomery in 1955 reflected like gold (4)
14. Dull sound of twit's last stupid remark echoed (4)
16. A lair in a port in Yemen (4)
19. Shaq is slightly too short to be draftable (3-1)
21. A movie where Foxx plays Charles I is held back for a lunar month (4)
22. To find a small dog I had to backtrack (3 2)
23. Ms. Hathaway in a film festival venue, naked (4)
24. Part of this abandoned West Indian island (4)
26. Every other part of Faraday's tiny electrical cells (4)
27. Hurt by a Steven Soderbergh film (4)
30. Perverse jobs for an actor in a thong (5)
32. Hint about line in a Tim Curry movie (4)
33. One nag embraces the singer of "99 Luftballons" (4)
35. He has left his college some sulfate crystals (4)
36. And others returned recently (4)
38. One bass is a sacred animal in Egypt (4)
41. That is what tugboats do with that thing (2 3)
42. Luxurious clothes initially treated with one alkaline compound (6)
43. Where car passengers sit, playing Uno? Neat (7)
44. Nothing is pierced by a pointy metal object (4)
45. Dinner lacking salt and caffeine, say (5)
46. Toss a lousy sixteenth-century Italian poet (5)



DOWN

2. Reactions to the astonishing slime on the soundtrack
3. Hide from actors and baseball players in Oakland
4. Eastern half of land where *Fargo* is set, in short (*abbr.*)
5. Gives an audio translation of the Gallic nonsense
6. Ms. Blanchett takes on something edgy about rising amount of felonious activity (2 wds.)
7. Confused ears with buttocks
8. For instance, in *Milk*, the role of Harvey Milk
13. Ponies will eschew cold barbecued meat, frequently
15. Cellist cut Steenburgen off halfway through
16. Layer stripped bare in a poem, eternally
17. Upsetting thirty-second film is in Russian, of course
18. Remove bottom of part of one end of a fork
20. Utterances of a person who's unsure about AC/DC
23. A shirt sported by a writer of *Goosebumps* books
25. A West Coast college quad barely accommodates 150 (*abbr.*)
26. Fish with a Boston Pops musician before a concert?
28. Cries after losing 40% (on average) of a Ukrainian peninsula
29. Gets filthy insects that swarm around looking gloomy
31. Strike Mr. Morita in *The Karate Kid*
34. Fairy encountered outside of Ecuador's border
36. Where Esther Williams filmed a reel topless
37. Atlas pages start to put in more of Mexico
39. Audible sound from the sad Swede's car
40. The crust of Iapetus hasn't ceased to exist