

Double-Crossed (Solution)

Construction: Alex Walker, Sara Walker; Initial Concept: Eshan Mitra

This puzzle is a crossword variant sometimes called a criss-cross. The numbering of the across and down entries in the grid appears somewhat random, but we may fill in grid entries regardless. After solving enough clues, we notice that some entries do not fit into their allocated positions. The ill-fitting answers all begin with numbers (which match their clue number), and can be made to fit once the leading number is removed. There are 10 such answers, 5 acrosses and 5 downs:

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|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 5 | GOLDEN RINGS | 1 | TRACK MIND |
| 12 | ANGRY MEN | 3 | AGE SYSTEM |
| 16 | TONS | 7 | NATION ARMY |
| 25 | OR SIX TO FOUR | 10 | GALLON HAT |
| 30 | ROCK | 40 | OUNCE |

Reading the first letters of each special grid entry, in clue order, spells **GATOR TANGO**. (This particular order is clued by the positioning of the (5) + (5) beneath the two columns of clues.)

