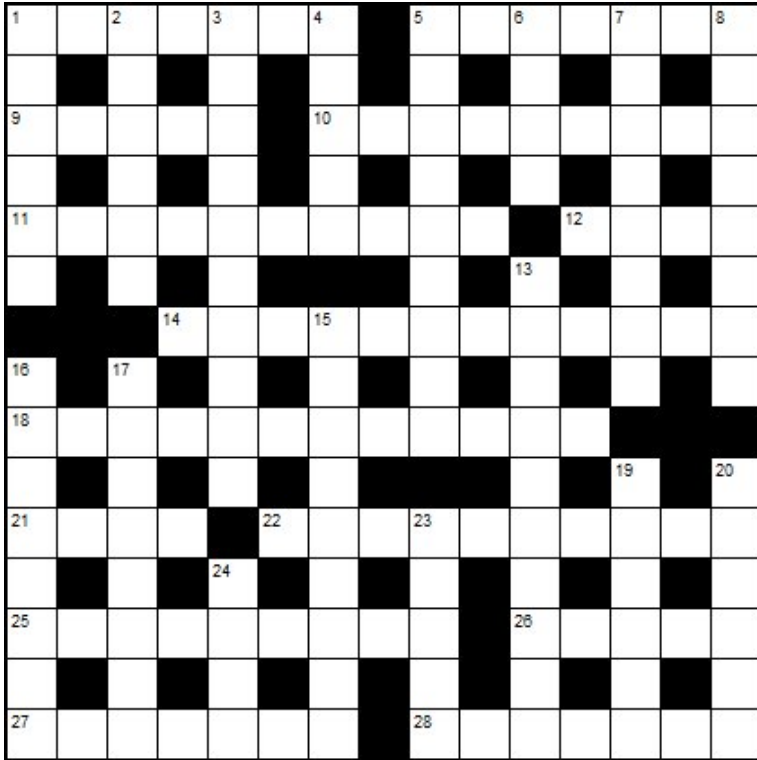


# Puzzle by Hopster

This is quite a toughie, thanks to some seamless surfaces and clever misdirection. I particularly liked 14 across, 26 across and 23 down.



## ACROSS

- 1 Room cleaner accepts award (7)
- 5 One constantly worried about doorstep's sufficiency keeps inside (7)
- 9 Dwarf regularly hunted to cut heads of orcs and ogres (5)
- 10 Religious branch mixed up data, embracing Greek goddess and leader of Vulcans (9)
- 11 Hates armed revolutionary leader for instructing children (10)
- 12 On from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh (4)
- 14 Order of parliament gains impetus at first restricted by misguided reformists (12)
- 18 Bangers and mash to begin with, found rather remarkably with rice cakes (12)
- 21 It's difficult to lose an unspecified amount in stone (4)
- 22 Numerology, say – is this linking 501 and 6 with 23 (for example)? (10)
- 25 Having shed in French garden, a very unusual resting place (9)
- 26 Cockney carried that lady's firstborn (5)
- 27 Trump's first year a new and extremely nasty form of despotic government (7)
- 28 Player's backside entertaining men on court (7)

## DOWN

- 1 First of all cook lunch. Once completed, hide, employing cover (6)
- 2 Stellar pieces coming up in surreal art sale (6)
- 3 Flying sweeper turned ball on to middle of home goalpost (10)
- 4 Admires sun, perhaps when rising in east? Quite the opposite (5)
- 5 Maybe Barbarossa, invasion by Germany of unlimited danger, about replacing Stalin primarily? (9)
- 6 Mark exam paper when half cut and it obtains high grade (4)
- 7 Quiet rest period when kids are outside? (8)
- 8 Order beer? (8)
- 13 Title given to US in explosive contest (10)
- 15 Wise men found breaking in, a case of robbery. It's unreal! (9)
- 16 A very loud and healthy cow (8)
- 17 Spooner's appeal to next in line: "here, settle down behind"! (8)
- 19 Clear headed daughter raised problem (6)
- 20 Traps are set in three points (6)
- 23 Find hotel before coming to this country? (5)

24 Clergyman is another lacking company (4)