Sewing (solution)

by Celestine Lau

There are 4 mini-puzzles in this puzzle.

Mini-puzzle 1

Start by identifying some of the images. Some of the easier entry points are BATMAN, WINERY and PRONGS on the left column, and BATTERY, PROFILE and FIREMAN on the right. Note also the design of the patches – the images on the left column have 6 small squares running horizontally, while the ones on the right have 7. The left images are cut into half, suggesting to cut the words into half as well, forming trigrams. Indeed, you might notice that the BAT in BATMAN could match the BAT in BATTERY, while the MAN could match with FIREMAN.

In order, the six 6-letter words are: BATMAN, FIRERS, PRONGS, RETILE, THREAT, WINERY.

Each of the 7-letter words can be made from two of the trigrams plus an extra letter.

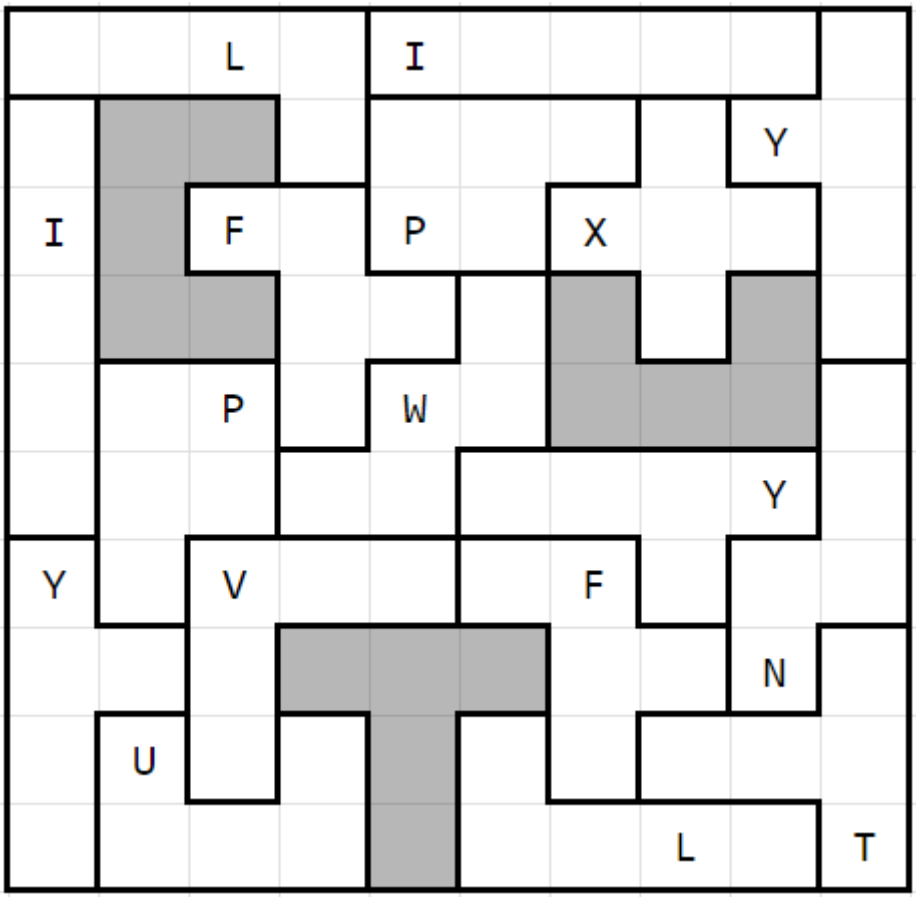
PROFILE	PRO + F + ILE
THRONGS	THR + O + NGS
RETREAT	RET + R + EAT

BATTERY	BAT + T + ERY
FIREMAN	FIR + E + MAN
WINNERS	WIN + N + ERS

The extra letters give FOR and TEN. The diagram below the right column suggests finding the missing component between these two words, with a length of 3 letters (as the ? image is 3 squares long). Therefore the answer to this subpuzzle is **GOT**, which forms the word FORGOTTEN.

Mini-puzzle 2

This is a standard Pentominous puzzle. The top left and the bottom right are good starting points, as it should be clear that there is only one possible position for the L on the top left, and the T on the bottom right. The solution to the board is as follows:



Notice that most of the pentominoes have exactly one given letter in them, except for three. These 3 pentominoes spell the subpuzzle answer **CUT**.

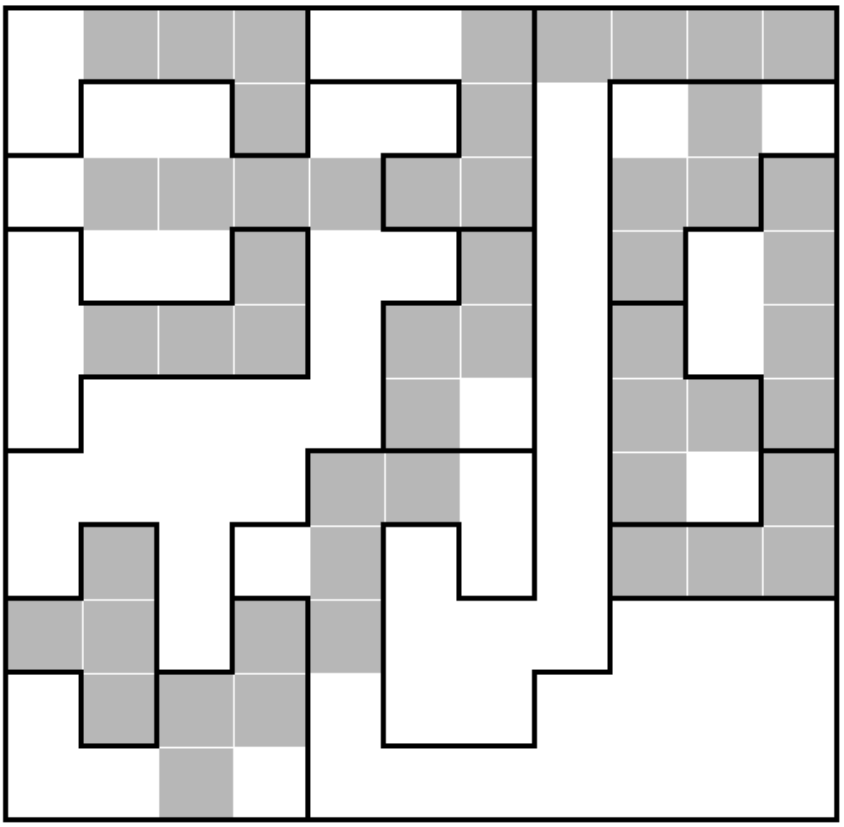
Mini-puzzle 3

This is a Some Assembly Required crossword where the clues are given as images. The solution is shown below.

Reading off the diagonal gives NOT OUT, which clues the subpuzzle answer **IN**.

Mini-puzzle 4

This is a standard LITS puzzle. There are a couple of given size-4 regions, which should be good starting points. The completed grid is shown below:



This image shows $\sqrt[3]{8}$, so the answer to this subpuzzle is TWO.

To solve the overall puzzle, put the four subpuzzle answers together in the given order, giving the final answer GOT CUT IN TWO.

Constructor's Notes:
"Sewing" was a pretty challenging theme to write for that went through several iterations. Originally, I wanted to write a puzzle based on the game Patchwork, but it turned out to be too challenging to encode the mechanics of the game into a puzzle (and also there was a general lack of reliable sources as to the exact tiles used in the game). The "patchwork" theme stuck though, so I tried to come up with various mini-puzzles based around polyominoes.

Originally, all of the pieces in the different puzzles were intended to be in a single large patchwork and solvers would have to figure out the relevant pieces for each part, but that felt like too much of a drag, so the puzzle settled into its current form.