

# SONIC TANK (SOLUTION)

by Ong Kah Kien

The first step is to solve the 8 given clues, which are clear-cut based on the given answer enumerations. The next step is to pair up each of these answers with one of the feeder answers, since there are 8 of each. One possible observation and clue to the pairing is that all the 16 words start with different initial letters. Another clue is that the flavortext contains several alliterated two-word phrases – “mean machine”, “big blast”, and “propagation path”. Thematically, the Sonic Tanks fire sound energy, so each of the clue answers should be paired with one of the feeder answers such that they sound like (rhyme with) a familiar alliterated two-word phrase. The rhyming words not just sound similar, but also all share the same ending letters, which make them easier to spot.

The table below summarizes the clue answers, paired feeder answer, the corresponding similar-sounding alliterated phrases, and the extracted common initial letters:

Clues	Clue answers	Paired feeder answers	Similar-sounding alliterated two-word phrases	Common initial letters
One who transplants buds (7)	GRAFTER	WALL	AFTER ALL	<b>A</b>
Contemplated, pondered (5)	MUSED	CUP	USED UP	<b>U</b>
Make an attempt (3)	TRY	STOCK	DRY DOCK	<b>D</b>
No remainder when split (9)	DIVISIBLE	LINK	INVISIBLE INK	<b>I</b>
Line between two countries (6)	BORDER	ROUT	ORDER OUT	<b>O</b>
Hannukah observer (3)	JEW	FORMAL	NEW NORMAL	<b>N</b>
Baking leaven (5)	YEAST	VEND	EAST END	<b>E</b>
Jump on one foot (3)	HOP	PIER	TOP TIER	<b>T</b>

The common initial letters of the alliterated two-word phrases in the given clue answer order gives the answer to this meta – **AUDIO NET**. The lines of sound blasts from both the opposing and flanking Sonic Tanks often catches their enemies in a deadly loud crossfire.

## Constructor’s notes:

The metas are based on the special units of each of the Houses, so in this case it is the Atreides Sonic Tank. With there being 3 round metas, I also decided to use wordplay as their aha and solving step, to keep these metas relatively straightforward so that there is less risk of solvers being stuck at these milestone achievement points. The key theme of the Sonic Tank is how it fires blasts of sound energy, hence the wordplay of similar sounding/rhyming words is used for this meta.