This specially designed minisample cryptic is just like a normal cryptic crossword, with this exception: a small piece should be removed from each of six entries before they are placed in the grid. The resulting entries are all words. For help on how to solve cryptic crosswords, go to www.puzzlers.org.

**ACROSS**
1. Gloria Steinem re-edits finite Ms.
2. Bulb is on; I lit
3. Kingdom in Iceland is home to saint
4. Henchman keeps ten hidden in Minnesota
5. Eli redesigned necklace
6. Bulb is on; I lit
7. Digit to transcendental number
8. Taper giving little light is holding in
9. Taper giving little light is holding in
10. Lunch I like includes hot food
11. Zip code for T
12. Primate’s homily cut short by a third
13. Brando, broadband
14. Nus, news, gnus
15. hygiene, hi Gene
16. theocracy, racy
17. Taper giving little light is holding in hydrogen
18. Taper giving little light is holding in hydrogen
19. Taper giving little light is holding in hydrogen
20. LATTES? In haste, go NW (*7, *10)
21. Claim: “HECK, I SENT IT (HEH)” (3 5 2 3 4)
22. Claim: “HECK, I SENT IT (HEH)” (3 5 2 3 4)

**DOWN**
1. Confused, Frodo loses last piece of Mordor bread
2. Raise rebuilt Le Bonne...
3. … after Nicè’s reconstruction
4. A sotted, blootto drunk
5. Henchman keeps ten hidden in Minnesota
6. Reveals United Nations luxury car
7. Digit to transcendental number
10. Lunch I like includes hot food
14. Internet company returns ¾ of loan
15. Ringers live with 50-50 success, at first
16. Eli redesigned necklace
17. Taper giving little light is holding in hydrogen

**SOLUTIONS**

**CRYPTOGRAM:** A message in cipher, where each letter in the coded message stands for another letter wherever it appears. (No letter stands for itself.) The title provides a hint.

23. Biting hit. =ASOBI, Yardley PA

**MINISAMPLE CRYPTIC** by G NATURAL, New York NY

The ENIGMA

Welcome! You hold in your hands a special introductory edition of The ENIGMA, the monthly publication of The National Puzzlers’ League. We hope this “minisample” will be your ticket to joining us in a world of enigmatic artistry and brain-teasing entertainment.

The NPL offers many opportunities for puzzling camaraderie. The league holds a four-day summer convention, while individual members organize regional gatherings and participate in online activities, including a chat room and mailing list. And in the pages of The ENIGMA we strive to outwit each other with new conundrums and spur each other to greater heights of ingenuity, cleverness and wit.

Each issue of The ENIGMA (usually 20 or more pages) overflows with a variety of puzzles designed to challenge both newbie and veteran. Created by our members, these puzzles include cryptic crosswords, cryptograms, anagrams, word squares (and more complex geometrical forms) and a panoply of other linguistic inventions. But what makes The ENIGMA unique is its collection of what we call “flats,” puzzles in verse form that have proven over our 130-plus years to provide endless opportunities for creativity and continuous solving enjoyment.

Plats might seem odd at first—they’re not the sort of puzzle you’re likely to have stumbled across, since ours is the only English-language publication to feature them—but once you know the basic structure, we think you’ll love them. In each verse, one or more words are missing, replaced by words like “ONE” and “TWO”. Your task is to figure out the missing words, using hints provided by the verse. Here’s an example:

**Flats**

First, check out the title; it tells you what kind of words you need. In this case, you’re looking to transform one word into another by changing its last letter (like turning “barn” to “bard” or “routing” to “routine”). The **enumeration**, in parentheses, tells you that both answer words are seven letters long. The capitalized **cuedwords** act as placeholders, showing you where the answer words belong, though keep in mind that the answer words do not rhyme or scan the way the cued words do—they only have to make sense in context.

(Plats also include a **byline** identifying the author, not by name but by nom de plume. This use of pseudonyms dates back centuries, and can be seen in British cryptic construction to this day.)

So, here are the two answer words: “hideout” and “hides” — tracked Joker to his HIDEOUT, there beholding his HIDEOUS leer. If this example piques your interest, then you’re ready to turn the page and solve some more flats, along with a cryptic crossword and other goodies. And if you enjoy this minisample ENIGMA, we hope you’ll join us in the NPL! For more information and sample puzzles, you can visit www.puzzlers.org.
DELETION: A word becomes a new word when an interior letter is removed. Example: simile—a smile

1. DELETION (7, 6) A, B
The profs won’t help me do my work. TAs object, but I just smirk. I got two F’s, but don’t blame me—It’s obvious the A is B! =JEFFURRY, New York NY

2. DELETION (8, 7) ONE, TWO
He’s really a farmer, not much of a doctor, Alas, though, the only one near. TWO surgery means that you’ll get a ONE poultice And leave with an eyeful of ear. =TINHORN, Los Angeles CA

TERMINAL DELETION: A word becomes a new word when its first and last letters are removed. (Asterisks are used to indicate a new word when its first and last letters are removed.) Example: scribe—a crib

3. TERMINAL DELETION (8, *6) Portlanders say, to avoid all confusion: “In SHORTER there’s rain. It’s a LONGER conclusion.” =MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

4. TERMINAL DELETION (7, 5) Throwing furry critters is my favorite avocation; Clay sea SHORTER LONGER is my very best creation. =AMALGAM, San Antonio TX

WORD DELETION: A word (IN) is removed from inside a longer word (TOTAL), leaving a third word (OUT). (Here the asterisked word is part of a proper noun phrase.) Example: performance—man = perfonce

5. WORD DELETION (9; 4, *5) TOTAL; IN, OUT
From St. OUT’s IN, the long way round, Past papal pelf to Sistine suite, My TOTAL measures five-plus miles: Exalt the soul, exhaust the feet. =MONA, Pebble Beach CA

BEHEADING: A word becomes a new word when its first letter is removed. Example: slaughter—aughter

6. BEHEADING (7, 6)
As “William Tell” was finishing, the FIRST WORD dropped his bow. I picked it up and gave it back: an OTHER WORD, you know. =ULLY BYRD, Grand Chicken IC

LETTER CHANGE: One letter is changed in a word to produce a new word. Example: a third-letter change: pastry—pantry

7. FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE (6)
You must pay the ONE, or else your baby will die! die! die! The amount will be TWO, determined by rolling a die! die! die! =ELF MCCAY, TexasCon TX

REPEATED-LETTER CHANGE: All instances of a given letter in a word or phrase are changed to produce a new word or phrase. Example: porpoise—tortoise

8. REPEATED-LETTER CHANGE (7 2, *3 *3)
You’ll shepherd out the old at last, But while you’re ONE the new, Resound those bells for Shepherds past, For movie stars like TOO. For wonder dogs like TWO, my friend, For wonder dogs like TOO, We’ll raise a cup of kibble yet For movie stars like TOO. =JAHNAN, Nashomerville TA

CHARADE: A word is broken into two or more shorter words. Example: TOTAL = scarcity; ONE = scar, TWO = city

9. CHARADE (6; 3, 3)
My love for you I long to show; I want to B you something fine. Alas, a lack: I’m poor, sans dough. A rose is not in my COMBINE. But to the garden I will go; A new-formed A will make you mine. =BARDR, Princeton NJ

TRANSPOSAL: A word becomes a different one when its letters are rearranged (commonly called an “anagram”). Example: sleuth—hustle (In the first example, the cuewords are themselves transposals.)

10. TRANSPOSAL (5)
A lovely floral centerpiece Adorns our dining table. It’s beautiful, except those times A BLEATS falls on your STABLE. =EMBANGERLING, TexasCon TX

HOMONYM: Two unrelated words or phrases are pronounced the same but spelled differently. Example: hair—hare

11. HOMONYM (11)
I have a ghostly girlfriend. We’ve ethereal relations. The fact, though, that she’s SECOND Clearly FIRST these situations. =TINHORN, Los Angeles CA

12. LETTER BANK (2 3 5, *4 *9 *8)
The ugly duckling grew to be a swan, But don’t let LONGER PHRASE just put you on. Are you a cygnet, baby? No such luck! It’s SHORTER PHRASE you’ll be an ugly duck! =XEMU, Bridgewater NJ

(As needed. Example: lens—senselessness)

13. LETTER BANK (9; *3 *1. *1. 4)
Though DEAN was lean he ruled the screen. Marlon’s work was tough but tender. And you can view his films online: The early ones, when he was slasher, And latter work (his fatter work; For that you’ll need ADDENDA). =MR. TEX, Los Angeles CA

HETERONYM: Two words or phrases have the same spelling but different pronunciations and spacing. Example: notable—not able (In the first flat the underlined words are a title.)

14. HETERONYM (6, 2 4)
Just FIRST the name of Britney Spears; Then you can SECOND pix for years. =SLIRK, Seattle WA

15. HETERONYM (7, 2 4)
A cowboy’s career is quite messy, I fear, Too dirty to mention. His FIRST needs attention. To Autry this didn’t seem strange. “Oh, SECOND,” said Dale, when he’d come off the trail, “A bath’s your connection to get my affection When you’re back at our home on the range.” =SOUTH NATURAL, Holy Ork MY

REBUS: A word or phrase is represented by letters. The word “abalone”—read as “a B, alone”—might be represented by B while the word “largess”—read as “large SS”—might be represented by SS

16. REBUS (*6) (can be sung to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne”)
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18. REBUS (*6) (can be sung to the tune of “Venus” by Bananarama)
AA
A goddess on the mountain top, The Parthenon her seat of fame, The summit of wisdom and mind, And ANSWER was her name. She’s thought it, Yeah, baby, she’s thought it. She is ANSWER; she inspires The brain’s desires. =SPROUT, Somerville MA

19. REBUS (*3 *4 *5)
A film like ANSWER shows there’s great enjoyment. In dancing nude when faced with unemployment. =MO’ NATURAL, Pebblework CY

MINISAMPLE

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