

# gin + grapefruit

## midi puzzle submission guidelines

Puzzles edited by Taylor Johnson, Shannon Rapp, and Steve Mossberg

**What can be submitted:** gin and grapefruit (g&g) accepts theme queries, themeless grids, and cryptic grids for midi sized puzzles. We plan to publish approximately two puzzles per month at <https://lemonadedisco.com/gin-grapefruit>

### Technical specs for all puzzles:

- Grids should be between 60 and 169 total squares. Square and rectangle grids are preferred unless there is a thematic reason for other shapes. Thus, grids may be 11x11, 5x12, 8x8, 10x7, 14x11, and so on.
- Interesting and unusual grid designs welcome.
- Any type of symmetry is accepted. (rotational, diagonal, left-right, top-bottom). Asymmetry allowed.
- All entries should be at least three letters long.
- Any features supported by Amuse Labs allowed, including rebuses, circles, bars, and shaded squares.

### Theme specs:

- All themes should have an element of wordplay that is executed consistently across all the theme entries.
- All theme types are accepted.
- The theme should be explained by the title or revealer, or in some cases both.
- Theme concepts may, but are not required to, be related to the current Lemonade Disco prompt.

### Themeless specs:

- Themeless puzzles prioritize fun, long entries and creative, thoughtful cluing.
- Black squares should be kept to a minimum.

### Cryptic specs:

- Cryptic grids should ideally contain no more than 20 entries, and variety cryptics no more than 25.
- Neither blocked nor barred grids should contain two unchecked squares in a row. In blocked grids, 50% or more letters in each entry should be checked, in barred grids 66% or more should be checked, unless the theme is highly restrictive.

### Fill specs:

Lemonade Disco places an emphasis on **clean** fill. What does this mean, exactly?

- **Minimal abbreviations**, especially clumped together in one section. Crossing abbreviations is discouraged.
- **Few uncommon words/entries**. Answers should be common enough that the average person would expect to come across them in real life.
- **No offensive words/entries. g&g subscribes to the “no-bummers” philosophy as a rule.** Answers that could make solvers of any gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and/or ability level feel uncomfortable or excluded should be avoided. Overly explicit or offensive references to sex, medical conditions, bodily functions, and generally unpleasant or violent things should also be avoided.
- **Partials**, or multi-word entries that are not stand-alone phrases, should be avoided where possible.
- **Crossing proper nouns** is discouraged unless they are super well known and/or can be clued in helpful ways and/or are crucial to the theme concept.
- We encourage use of [Spread the Wordlist](#) to achieve the above goals.

**Submission format:** All submissions should be sent to [lemonadediscoxword@gmail.com](mailto:lemonadediscoxword@gmail.com).

- Use the subject line: Your Name, G&G, Puzzle Type (Themed/Themeless/Cryptic/Themed Cryptic/Variety Cryptic), Title/Theme/Marquee Entry. For examples: “Jamie Kim, G&G, Themed, Roll the Dice” or “Chris Taylor, G&G, Themeless, MATCHPOINT”
- All submissions must be original and previously unpublished
- If themed, use the body of the email to describe your theme concept and entries. Do not provide a grid until your theme concept has been approved
- If themeless, attached a filled grid as .puz or .cfp. Feel free to provide draft clues for your marquee entries.
- If cryptic, please provide a filled grid as .puz, .ccw, or .ipuz. Feel free to provide draft clues for your marquee entries, but please don't clue the rest of the puzzle until the grid has been approved.
- If themed or variety cryptic, please query the device and relevant entries by email. Please don't provide a grid until the rest has been approved.

*\*Lemonade Disco strongly encourages constructors to write puzzles with their “voice” in mind. Let your personality shine, while keeping in mind the diverse backgrounds of solvers. Keeping the perspective of your puzzles geared towards a wide and diverse audience helps to foster and maintain inclusivity and representation, which is in line with Lemonade Disco’s mission of providing a space for folks of all backgrounds and walks of life.\**