For those logophiles who like to construct crossword puzzles, the Windmill can be an entertaining diversion. But, first, what is a Windmill? It is nothing more than two word squares on a cross.

Windmills of size four are very easy to construct, like these two:

- PULP
- UTAH
- LAVA
- PHARAOH
- AINU
- OONUS
- HUSH
- WISP
- IDOL
- SODA
- PLATYPI
- YOUR
- PURE
- IRES

Windmills of size five are a little harder but not that difficult. Here are three of them:

- UNTAX
- NERVY
- TRAIL
- Aviso
- XYLOPHONE
- CORAM
- OPERA
- REPEL
- ARENA
- MALAYALAM
- WALTZ
- ADORE
- LOTUS
- TRUST
- ZESTFULLY
- AGAPE
- LAKES
- AVERS
- MESSY
- UITLE
- LIGAN
- LAMA
- YENAN

Windmills of six can be difficult. The selection of the word forming the cross requires much thought. However, they can be done:

- ESCARP
- SIEVER
- CERISE
- AVISOS
- RESORT
- PRESTISSIMO
- STORM
- SORTED
- Intake
- MEEKER
- ORDERS
- ATTARS
- TRIVET
- TISANE
- AVATAR
- RENAME
- STORAX
- COBALT
- ORACLE
- PALLER
- EXTERN
It ought to be possible to construct a windmill of size seven, but thus far all attempts have been unsuccessful. The one depicted below utilizes one coined word, MANSURE (sure of a man), but all the rest of the words can be found in a dictionary.

CASSIUS
ABALONE
SATANIC
SLAVITE
IONIZES
UNITERS
SECESSIONISMS
OMENTAL
NERVINE
INVERSE
STIRRUP
MANSURE
SLEEPER

COMMENT (Palmer Peterson): I don’t recall ever having seen anything like Mr. Shedlofsky’s “Windmill” before. However, Form 128 in A Key To Puzzledom (Duane Powell, Dowagiac, Michigan, 1906), by William W. Delaney closely resembles it — this is formed out of two word squares on a cross consisting of not just one word but two words in parallel. Windmills are considerably more difficult to construct than a pair of word squares sharing a single letter.

Unfortunately, I cannot find MANSURE in any of my references. Drop the S, and you have a common commodity down on the farm.