Scott Joplin Complete Piano Rags

Edited by David A. Jasen
Scott Joplin

COMPLETE
PIANO RAGS

Edited by David A. Jasen

DOVER PUBLICATIONS, INC.
New York
CONTENTS

Introduction by David A. Jasen

School of Ragtime, by Scott Joplin (1908)

Original Rags (Carl Hoffman, Kansas City, Mo., 1899)

Maple Leaf Rag (John Stark & Son, Sedalia, Mo., 1899)

Swipesy, written with Arthur Marshall (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1900)

Sunflower Slow Drag, written with Scott Hayden (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1901)

Peachertime Rag (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1901)

The Easy Winners (Scott Joplin, St. Louis, 1901)

The Entertainer (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1902)

A Breeze from Alabama (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1902)

Elite Syncopations (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1902)

The Strenuous Life (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1902)

Something Doing, written with Scott Hayden (Val. A. Reis Music Co., St. Louis, 1903)

Weeping Willow (Val. A. Reis Music Co., St. Louis, 1903)

Palm Leaf Rag (Victor Krenzer Co., Chicago and N.Y., 1903)

The Favorite (A. W. Perry & Sons' Music Co., Sedalia, Mo., 1904)

The Sycomore (Will Rossiter, N.Y. and Chicago, 1904)

The Cascades (John Stark & Son, St. Louis, 1904)

Leola (American Music Syndicate, St. Louis, 1905)

Eugenia (Will Rossiter, Chicago, 1905)

The Ragtime Dance (Stark Music Co., St. Louis and N.Y., 1906)

Searchlight Rag (Jos. W. Stern & Co., N.Y., 1907)

Gliedolous Rag (Jos. W. Stern & Co., N.Y., 1907)

Rose Leaf Rag (Jos. M. Daly Music Pub. Co., Boston, 1907)

Holiotrope Bouquet, written with Louis Chauvin (Stark Music Co., St. Louis and N.Y., 1907)

The Nonpareil (Stark Music Co., St. Louis and N.Y., 1907)
Fig Leaf Rag (Stark Music Co., N.Y. and St. Louis, 1908) 117
Sugar Cane (Semininary Music Co., N.Y., 1908) 122
Fine Apple Rag (Seminary Music Co., N.Y., 1908) 127
Wall Street Rag (Seminary Music Co., N.Y., 1909) 132
Country Club (Seminary Music Co., N.Y., 1909) 136
Euphonic Sounds (Seminary Music Co., N.Y., 1909) 141
Paragon Rag (Seminary Music Co., N.Y., 1909) 146
Stop-time Rag (Jos. W. Stern & Co., N.Y., 1910) 152
Felicity Rag, written with Scott Hayden (Stark Music Co., St. Louis and N.Y., 1911) 157
Kismet Rag, written with Scott Hayden (Stark Music Co., St. Louis, 1913) 167
Magnetic Rag (Scott Joplin Music Publishing Co., N.Y., 1914) 172
Reflection Rag (Stark Music Co., St. Louis, 1917) 178
Silver Swan Rag (The Maple Leaf Club, Los Angeles, 1971) 181
INTRODUCTION

Scott Joplin was christened "King of Ragtime Writers" by John Stark, the publisher who dedicated his working life to promoting that intoxicating music. The epithet first appeared on the second edition of the "Maple Leaf Rag," the first publication Stark printed on his new press in St. Louis, Missouri. In becoming the first ragtime composition to sell a million copies of sheet music, the "Maple Leaf Rag" established this new nonsinging, nondancing musical genre as part of the history of popular American music, and St. Louis as the "cradle" of ragtime.

Scott Joplin was born in Bowie County, Texas, on November 24, 1868. One of six children, he was raised by his mother, as his father had left home by the time young Scott was taking piano lessons. He made his way to St. Louis by 1885, where he worked for a time at "Honest John" Turpin's Silver Dollar Saloon playing piano. The facts of his life over the next eight years are obscure. He attended the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago and there heard the latest music, including John Philip Sousa playing daily with his concert band. He eventually found his way south again to Sedalia, Missouri, two hundred miles from St. Louis but only ninety miles from Kansas City. There his musical education developed along more formal lines. He enrolled at the George R. Smith College, where he took classes in music theory, harmony, and composition. He became second cornetist in their Queen City Concert Band, organized the Texas Medley Quartette—which sang its way to Syracuse, New York, and back—and played piano at the Williams Brothers' Saloon.

The bar's social organization on the second floor was called the Maple Leaf Club; it was here, in 1897, that Joplin wrote the four-themed syncopated composition that he named after the club (where he was known as "The Entertainer"). It wasn't until after the 1899 publication of this work, which was to influence his entire generation of ragtime composers, that he followed his publisher to St. Louis, where—thanks to Stark's generosity, which gave him a royalty on each copy sold—he was able to give up performing and concentrate on composing and writing music.

Joplin's next rag to be published was the "Poschnerie Rag," an entirely different kind of rag which demonstrated his versatility and creative imagination. "The Easy Winners" and "Elite Syncopations" received due recognition during the first ragtime revival of the 1940s, while it took 72 years for "The Entertainer" to become known worldwide. Featured in the motion picture The Sting (1972), it achieved a sale of over two million in a soundtrack recording and was instrumental in creating new interest in ragtime. "The Cascades" was inspired by the water display that became the symbol of the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904. It is instructive to see Joplin's development as a composer in the way he reworked material from the "Maple Leaf Rag" in the subsequent "Leola," "Gladiolus Rag," and "Sugar Cane."
In June 1907 Joplin came to settle in New York City, where he opened a studio at 128 West 29th Street as a composer and ragtime arranger. It was an especially good year for him to come to New York. The famous banjo performer Vest L. Oman, accompanied by Prince’s Band, had recorded the "Maple Leaf Rag" for Columbia in March of that year. The U.S. Marine Band’s first recording of it in October 1906 on the Victor label was selling so well that the band had to re-record it in 1909. There eventually existed over forty different versions on piano rolls (including two played by the composer, in his last years), making the rag the most-recorded composition of all time on piano rolls. Joplin’s musical maturity becomes evident with the publication of the New York rags, especially “Fig Leaf Rag,” a masterpiece. In “Pine Apple Rag,” “Wall Street Rag,” “Stop-time Rag,” and “Scott Joplin’s New Rag,” he experimented more boldly with harmonies without sacrificing the essential gaiety of the ragtime genre.

Joplin met and married Lottie Stokes in 1909 and moved to 252 West 47th Street, where she ran a boardinghouse. It was here that he wrote his opera Treemonisha, which he published himself in 1911. His last published piece, “Silver Swan Rag,” was composed and issued as a piano roll in 1914 (though not printed as sheet music until 1917).

Scott Joplin died in New York on April 1, 1917. Although Joplin wrote in other musical forms—waltzes, marches, intermezzi, tangos, and songs—it was as a composer of rags that he won his fame and immortality. That he was a genius and a great inspiration for the majority of ragtime composers will become thoroughly apparent to the student of this album, the first in which all of his 38 rags,* including his six collaborations,** have appeared by themselves. It is a remarkable body of work. (In our book Rags and Ragtime: A Musical History, Trebor Tichenor and I discuss each rag at length.) In 1975 he was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize, and in 1983 the U.S. Postal Service issued the Scott Joplin commemorative stamp.

This folio contains ragtime masterpieces which, when learned, will provide unlimited joy for pianists everywhere.

June, 1988

DAVID A. JAREN

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*This is the number of Joplin’s works that meet the strict definition of rag as a piano composition in three or four sixteen-bar sections that combines a syncopated melody with an accompaniment in an even, steady duplet rhythm.

**"Lily Queen," published as a collaborative work by Joplin and Arthur Marshall, was in fact entirely written by Marshall. Joplin’s name having been added by the publisher for the sake of larger sales, according to Marshall in a letter to Rudi Blech.
School of Ragtime

6

EXERCISES

FOR

PIANO

BY

SCOTT JOPLIN.

Composer of "MAPLE LEAF RAG" etc.

Price 50 cents.

NEW YORK
Published by SCOTT JOPLIN.

Copyright 1902 by Scott Joplin.
SCHOOL OF RAGTIME

BY

SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag."

REMARKS— What is scurrilously called ragtime is an invention that is here to stay. That is nowwondoed by all classes of musicians. That all publications masquerading under the name of ragtime are not the genuine article will be better known when these exercises are studied. That real ragtime of the higher class is rather difficult to play is a painful truth which most pianists have discovered. Syncopations are no indication of light or trashy music, and to shy bricks at "hateful ragtime" no longer passes for musical culture. To assist amateur players in giving the "Joplin Rags" that weird and intoxicating effect intended by the composer is the object of this work.

Exercise No.1.

It is evident that, by giving each note its proper time and by scrupulously observing the ties, you will get the effect. So many are careless in these respects that we will specify each feature. In this number strike the first note and hold it through the time belonging to the second note. The upper staff is not syncopated, and is not to be played. The perpendicular dotted lines running from the syncopated note below to the two notes above will show exactly its duration. Play slowly until you catch the swing, and never play ragtime fast at any time.

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<th>Slow march tempo (Count Two)</th>
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Exercise No.2.

This style is rather more difficult; especially for those who are careless with the left hand, and are prone to vamp. The first note should be given the full length of three sixteenths, and no more. The second note is struck in its proper place and the third note is not struck but is joined with the second as though they were one note. This treatment is continued to the end of the exercise.

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Exercise No.3.

This style is very effective when neatly played. If you have observed the object of the dotted lines they will lead you to a proper rendering of this number and you will find it interesting.

Slow march tempo (Count Two)

Exercise No.4.

The fourth and fifth notes here form one tone, and also in the middle of the second measure and so to the end. You will observe that it is a syncopation only when the tied notes are on the same degree of the staff. Slurs indicate a legato movement.

Slow march tempo (Count Two)

Exercise No.5.

The first ragtime effect here is the second note, right hand, but, instead of a tie, it is an eighth note rather than two sixteenths with tie. In the last part of this measure, the tie is used because the tone is carried across the bar. This is a pretty style and not as difficult as it seems on first trial.

Slow march tempo (Count Two)
Exercise No. 6.

The instructions given, together with the dotted lines, will enable you to interpret this variety which has very pleasing effects. We wish to say here, that the "Joplin ragtime" is destroyed by careless or imperfect rendering; and very often good players lose the effect entirely, by playing too fast. They are harmonized with the supposition that each note will be played as it is written, as it takes this and also the proper time divisions to complete the sense intended.

Slow march tempo (Count 4 to 4)
COMPLETE
PIANO RAGS
ORIGINAL RAGS

Picked by Scott Joplin.
Arranged by Chas. N. Daniels.

Published by Carl Hoffman, Kansas City.
MAPLE LEAF RAG.

Tempo di marcia.

Copyright 1909 by John Stark & Son.
SWIPESY CAKE WALK

BY SCOTT JOPLIN AND ARTHUR MARSHALL

Published by John Stark & Son.
"SWIPESY"

CAKE WALK.

By SCOTT JOPLIN and ARTHUR MARSHALL.

Slow.

Copyright 1960 by John Stark and Son.
A RAG TIME TWO-STEP.

SUNFLOWER SLOW DRAG.

By

SCOTT JOPLIN & SCOTT HAYDEN.

Scott Joplin, Composer of

Maple Leaf Rag,
Swipiay Cake Walk,
Aqua Tain Club Waltz.

Published by

JOHN STARK & SON
ST. LOUIS
SUN FLOWER SLOW DRAG.

HAG TIME TWO STEP.

By SCOTT JOPLIN
and
SCOTT HAYDEN.

INTRO.
Not fast.

Copyright 1911 by John Stark & Son, St. Louis.
Peachereeine Rag

BY
The King of Ragtime Writers
Scott Joplin

Composer of
Swipesy Cake Walk
Maple Leaf Rag
Sunflower Slow Drag
Augustan Club Waltzes.

Published by
John Stark & Son
St. Louis, U.S.A.
PEACHERINE RAG.

by SCOTT JOPLIN.

Not too fast.
THE EASY WINNERS

A RAGTIME TWO STEP

COMPOSED BY
SCOTT JOPLIN
KING OF RAGTIME WRITERS

Author of "Mapleleaf Rag" "Peacherie Rag" etc.

PUBLISHED BY SCOTT JOPLIN
ST. LOUIS, MO.
"THE EASY WINNERS"

A RAG TIME TWO STEP.

By SCOTT JOPLIN.

Copyright MCMI by Scott Joplin.
DEDICATED TO JAMES BROWN — HIS MANDOLIN CLUB

THE ENTERTAINER

BY

SCOTT JOPLIN
COMPOSER OF
Maple Leaf Rag
Sunflower Slow Drag
Peachblow Rag
Swipesy Cake Walk
The Strenuous Life (Rag)
The Ragtime Dance (Rag)
Etc., Etc.

RAG TIME
TWO STEP

50

JOHN STARK & SON
SHEET MUSIC PUBLISHERS
St. Louis
Dedicated to James Brown and his Mandolin Club.

THE ENTERTAINER.

A HAG TIME TWO STEP.

INTRO:

Not fast.

BY SCOTT JOPLIN.
A BREEZE FROM ALABAMA

A RAGTIME TWO STEP

BY

SCOTT JOPLIN

50¢

DEDICATED TO

P.G. LOWERY

WORLD'S CHALLENGING COLORED CORNETIST AND BANDMASTER

COMPOSER OF

MAPLE LEAF RAG

SUNFLOWER SLOW DRAG

PEACHERINE RAG

SWIPSEY CAKE WALK

THE ENTERTAINER

THE RAG TIME DANCE

AUGUSTAN CLUB WALTZ

JOHN STARK & SON

SHEET MUSIC PUBLISHERS

ST. LOUIS
A BREEZE FROM ALABAMA.
MARCH AND TWO-STEP.
SCOTT JOPLIN.

Copyright MCMII by John, Stark & Son.
ELITE
SYNCOPATIONS

Dolce.

BY
THE KING OF
RAG TIME
WRITERS.

Scott Joplin

COMPOSER OF
MAPLE LEAF RAG
THE ENTERTAINER
ETC., ETC.

JOHN STARK & SONS
GREAT MUSIC PUBLISHERS
261 LOUIS

[Image of musicians and sheet music notation]
ELITE SYNCOPATIONS.

Not fast.

By SCOTT JOPLIN.

Copyright MCMII by John Stark & Son.
The Strenuous Life. A Ragtime Two Step

by Scott Joplin

John Stark & Son
Sheet Music Publishers
St. Louis
THE STRENUOUS LIFE,

A RAGTIME TWO STEP.

Not fast.

By Scott Joplin.

Copyright 1902 by John Stark & Son.
Respectfully Dedicated to the

"PAWNEE CLUB"

T. LOUIS, I.

"Ragtime Rob" DUKE,

P.O. BOX 823, VIRGINIA CITY, I. A.

WEETING
WILLOW

Ragtime Two Step

By

SCOTT JOPLIN

The King of Ragtime Writers

5

Published by

VAL. A. REIS MUSIC CO.

1210 OLIVE ST.-ST. LOUIS, MO.
WEEPING WILLOW.

A Rag Time Two Step.

SCOTT JOPLIN.

Not fast.

Copyright, MCMIII, by Val. A. Reis Music Co.
Palm Leaf Rag

A SLOW DRAG.

By

SCOTT JOPLIN.
The king of ragtime writers
Composer of
MAPLE LEAF RAG

$5$
PALM LEAF RAG

SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag"

Play a little slow

Copyright MCMIII by Victor Kremer Co. International copyright secured
The Favorite

Ragtime Two Step.

Composed by
Scott Joplin.

Published by
A.W. Perry & Sons Music Co.
Sedalia, Mo.
"THE SYCAMORE."

A CONCERT RAG.

By Scott Joplin.

Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag", etc.

Tempo di Marcia.

Copyright, renewed, by Will Boese, and International copyright secured.
Respectfully Dedicated to
KIMBALL and DONOVAN,
BANJOWITS.

The Cascades

A Rag

The Master Piece of
Scott Joplin.

Published by
John Stark & Son.
St. Louis, Mo.
THE CASCADES.

A RAG.

Tempo di Marcia.

SCOTT JOPLIN.
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag."

Copyright 1904 by John Stark & Son.
The Cascades
LEOLA
TWO STEP
BY SCOTT JOPLIN
AUTHOR OF MAPLE LEAF RAG BINKS WALTZ ETC.
5 PUBLISHED BY AMERICAN MUSIC SYNDICATE ST. LOUIS
Respectfully dedicated to Miss Minnie Wade.

LEOLA.
Two-Step.

SCOTT JOPLIN.
Composer of
"Maple Leaf Rag"
"Sinkin' Watts" Etc.

Slow march tempo.
Rag-Time Dance
A Stop-Time Two Step

By SCOTT JOPLIN

Copyright MCMVII by John Stark and Son
NOTICE: To get the desired effect of "Stop Time," the pianist will please **Stamp** the heel of one foot heavily upon the floor at the word "Stamp." Do not raise the toe from the floor while stamping.
A Syncopated March and Two Step
By
SCOTT JOPLIN
Writer of the Famous
MAPLE LEAF RAG
ETC.
"Search-Light Rag."

Notice: Do not play this piece fast.
It is never right to play "Ragtime" fast.
Composer.

By SCOTT JOPLIN.
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," etc.

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British Copyright Secured.
Gladiolus Rag.

By SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of “Maple Leaf Rag”

Slow march tempo.

Copyright MCMLXX by Jos. W. Stern & Co.
British Copyright Secured.
Companion to Maple Leaf Rag by same composer.

Rose Leaf Rag

A Ragtime Two-Step

By Scott Joplin

Composer of "Crawdad" Sunflower Slow Drag" etc.

Published by Jos. M. Daly Music Co.

Boston, Mass.
ROSE LEAF RAG.
A Ragtime Two Step.

NOTE:— Do not play this piece fast.
It is never right to play "Ragtime" fast.

By SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag."

Slow March tempo

Piano.

International copyright secured.
BY
SCOTT JOPLIN,
&
LOUIS CHAUVIN.

Heliotrope Bouquet.

A SLOW DRAG TWO-STEP
HELIOTROPE BOUQUET
A Slow Drag Two Step.

By SCOTT JOPLIN
and LOUIS CHAUVIN.

N.B. Do not play this piece
fast. It is never right to
play "Ragtime" fast Composers.

Slow March Tempo.

Piano.
NONPAREIL,
(NONE TO EQUAL.)

COMPOSED
by
Scott Joplin

COMPOSER OF
MAPLE LEAF RAG
CASCADES
SUNFLOWER—
SLOW DRAG
& ETC.
THE NONPAREIL.
A Rag & Two Step.

NOTICE: Do not play this piece fast.
It is never right to play "Ragtime" fast.

Author.

SCOTT JOPLIN.
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," etc.

Slow march tempo.

Copyright MCMVII by Stark Music Printing and Publishing Co.
"FIG LEAF"
A High Class Rag.

By SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of 'Maple Leaf Rag'

Slow March Tempo \( \frac{3}{4} \) - 100

Piano

International CopyrightSecured
PINEAPPLE RAG

BY THE KING OF RAG TIME WRITERS.

SCOTT JOPLIN.

Respectfully dedicated to the Five Musical Spiders.

"Pine Apple Rag"

NOTE: Do not play this piece fast. Composer.

By SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of Maple Leaf Rag and Ragtime Cane Rag.

Slow March tempo. \( \frac{3}{4} = 100 \)

Copyright MCMVIII by Seminary Music Co. 123 W. 39th St. N.Y.

4 International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved.
WALL STREET "RAG"

NOTE: Do not play this piece fast. It is never right to play Ragtime fast.

Composer.

By SCOTT JOPLIN Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," "Sugar Cane Rag" and "Pineapple Rag."

Very Slow March Time

PIANO.

Panic in Wall Street, Brokers feeling melancholy.

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All Rights Reserved
Good times coming.

Good times have come.
Listening to the strains of genuine negro ragtime, brokers forget their cares.

Fine.
COUNTRY CLUB.
Ragtime Two Step

NOTE: Do not play this piece fast. It is never right to play Ragtime fast. Composer.

By SCOTT JOPLIN.
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," "Sugar Cane Rag," and "Pineapple Rag."

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EUPHONIC SOUNDS
A SYNCOPATED NOVELTY

By

SCOTT JOPLIN
KING OF RAG-TIME WRITERS

COMPOSED OF:

Dance Leaf Rag, Pineapple Rag, Sugar Cane Rag,
Country Club Rag, Etc.

SEMINARY MUSIC CO.
NEW YORK
Euphonic Sounds.
A SYNCOPATED TWO STEP.

NOTE. Do not play this piece fast.
It is never right to play Ragtime fast.

Composer.

By SCOTT JOPLIN,
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," "St. Louis Blues," "Wall Street Rag" and "Pineapple Rag," etc.

Slow March time

Piano.

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International Copyright Secured.
PARAGON RAG

BY THE KING OF RAG TIME WRITERS

SCOTT JOPLIN

COMPOSER OF

MAPLE LEAF RAG
PINEAPPLE RAG
SUGAR CANE RAG
COUNTRY CLUB RAG
WALL STREET RAG ETC.
NOTE. Do not play this piece fast. It is never right to play Ragtime fast. Composer.

**PARAGON RAG**

By SCOTT JOPLIN,
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag," "St. Louis Blues," "Wall Street Rag" and "Pineapple Rag."

Slow March Time

Copyright 1909 by Seminary Music Co. 112 W. 39th St., N.Y.
International Copyright Secured.
"Stoptime"

Rag.

To get the desired effect of "Stoptime" the pianist should stamp the heel of one foot heavily upon the floor, wherever the word "Stamp" appears in the music.

by SCOTT JOPLIN.

Composer of "Giantionius Rag."
"Searchlight Rag.

Copyright, MCMX, by Jos. W. Stern & Co.

British Copyright secured.

Deposito conforme a la ley de Republica Mexicana,

en el ano MCMX, por Jos. W. Stern y Cia., Propietarios Nueva York y Mexico.
FELICITY RAG.

A RAGTIME TWO STEP.

SCOTT JOPLIN

and

SCOTT HAYDEN.

Tempo di Marcha.

Copyright 1911 by Stark Music Pub. Co.
Scott Joplin's New Rag

By
Scott Joplin
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag" "Gladiolus Rag" etc.

50
Scott Joplin's New Rag

Allegro moderato.

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Deposited conforme a la ley de Republica Mexicana
en el año MCMXII por Jos. W. Stern y Cia., Propietarios Nueva York y Mexico.
Magnetic Rag

By

Scott Joplin

Composer of
Maple Leaf Rag
Euphonic Sounds
Etc.

Scott Joplin Music Publishing Co.
New York, N.Y.
MAGNETIC RAG

by SCOTT JOPLIN
Composer of "Maple Leaf Rag"

Allegretto ma non troppo

REFLECTION RAG

Syncopated Musings

BY SCOTT JOPLIN
by Scott Joplin

Composer of:

Maple Leaf Rag, The Easy Winners,
& The Cascades
SILVER SWAN RAG

Slow March Tempo

by Scott Joplin

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