



The Contact Sheet

Newsletter of the Photographic Society of Chattanooga

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Cover: Rachel Asmus

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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PSC Christmas Banquet
December 19, 2024 at 6PM

Roast Beef

Cranberry Sauce

Corn Casserole

Cornbread

Chocolate Pie

Strawberry Cake

Chicken & Dressing

Garden Salad

Sweet Potato Casserole

Rolls

Key Lime Pie

\$20/person

**Reservations (payment received) must be
made by December 12th.**



PSC Committee Chairs

Audio-Visual (Sound Tech): Martin Fish
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Boot Camp: Patrick Thompson
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Community Outreach: Gary Connor
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Calendar of Events

Dec.12 – 7:00 pm PSC Board Meeting via Zoom

Dec 12—Reservations and Payment due for Christmas Banquet

Dec 21—6:00 pm PSC Christmas Banquet

Jan 1, 2025—Happy New Year

Jan 23-24, 2025-4:00-5:30—Blackwell Gallery Change-out

PSC Membership

Pay your membership online through PayPal
www.chattanoogaogaphoto.org

Or by check ~ Mail check (payable to PSC) to
 PSC, PO Box 8886, Chattanooga 37414

STUDENTS (FULL TIME) \$15 SINGLE \$30



New Members and Visitors

PSC welcomes all visitors and new members. New members are invited to participate in all PSC events and visitors are encouraged to join PSC after three visits.

Visitors	New Members
Stephen Birger	Kathryn Hoffman
Christine Gurnik	Mark Libby
John Hubbard	Stephen Mills
Sean O'Malley	Thomas Ramsey

What's New on the Web? December 2024

Bill Mueller

Well, it's finally gotten cold. Some of you may even like it. I seem to have gotten to the point where I don't care for temperatures that are lower than my age. I find this is a really good time to stay inside and learn new photography and post processing lessons.

To start off this month, we'll go to Alister Benn who gives us 3 Simple Steps to Massively Improve your landscape photography.

[3 SIMPLE STEPS to MASSIVELY IMPROVE your landscape photography](#)

Christian Mohrle gives us a couple of Lightroom masking tutorials dealing with creating complex masks and dealing with reflections.

[Create COMPLEX MASKS with THIS HIDDEN TOOL! \(Lightroom Tutorial\)](#)

[This MASKING HACK helps with REFLECTIONS \(Lightroom Tutorial\)!](#)

A lot of us use plug-ins in our post processing and one of the most popular brands is Topaz. You all have figured out by now that there are a couple of ways to get to your plug-ins within Lightroom. What you may not have realized is that depending on what you are trying to do, one way may be better than the other. Here Matt Kloskowski shows us the correct workflow depending on what you're trying to accomplish.

[Best Adobe Plug-in Workflow? \(It's Not what you think\)](#)

Presets can save us a lot of time in our post processing workflow. There are literally thousands of them for sale out on the internet. Did you know that it's easy to make our own? Here Aaron Nace of Phlearn teaches us how to create our own Lightroom presets.

[How to Create Lightroom Presets](#)

For a step back to the basics, here Aaron teaches us the difference between Curves and Levels in Photoshop.

[Curves vs Levels in Photoshop: Learn The Difference](#)

This next tutorial comes from Jesus Ramirez of the Photoshop Training Channel. I think he published this a couple of months late but it's a trick worth having in your bag of Photoshop tricks. If you have a favorite Boss, Neighbor, Ex whatever or Grandchild, here's how to turn anyone into a Zombie in Photoshop.

[\(1102\) Turn Anyone Into a Zombie in Photoshop Using NEW Gen AI Magic! - YouTube](#)

Unmesh Dinda is one of the best photoshop instructors on the internet. Here he gives us a beginner Photoshop class that he calls a 30 minute Masterclass.

[Photoshop for Beginners: 30-Minute Masterclass!](#)



PSC Competition Themes for 2025

Martin Fish

After tallying the voting results after the Open House meeting, the Board has selected the following themes for our quarterly and annual contests. I have tried to come up with a definition for each theme, but these definitions may change before a contest begins. You will always find the definitions in the newsletter.

First Quarter: Long Exposure

Long Exposure photography involves using a long-duration [shutter speed](#) to sharply capture the stationary elements of images while [blurring](#), smearing, or obscuring the moving elements. Long-exposure photography captures one element that conventional photography does not: an extended period of time.

An image without some element having motion will not qualify for this contest. Some types of long exposures include clouds in motion, vehicle lights, star trails, and smoothing out moving water.

For more information see

<https://visualeducation.com/long-exposure-photography/> or

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/photography/discover/long-exposure-photography.html>

Second Quarter: Blooms/Flowers

Blooms/Flowers almost needs no definition. However, you can take flower photos in many different settings, including in the wild, in a studio, or at home with premade bouquets. Images may be of gardens of flowers or wildflowers, down to macro images of an element of a single flower. Techniques like focus stacking, selective focus (think Lensbabys), and macro can enhance a subject and display a creative element. Flat lay photography images will not qualify for this contest.

For more information see

<https://www.shutterstock.com/blog/photographing-flowers-ideas>

Third Quarter: Transportation

Transportation is the movement of goods, animals, and persons from place to place and the various means by which such movement is accomplished. Images do not have to show the transportation means in motion. Transportation modes can include air travel, road or rail transport, water transport, bicycles, or even children's transport.

For more information see

<https://annemckinnell.com/2016/03/24/how-to-photograph-modes-of-transportation/> or

<https://www.ephotozine.com/article/10-top-transport-photography-tips-18820>

Annual: Abstract Photography

Abstract photography is a style of photography that creates images that are not immediately associated with the physical world. Abstract photographers use light, movement, and perspective to create unexpected images that can challenge the viewer's perception of reality. Some techniques include camera motion, macro, and distortion.

For more information see

<https://www.adorama.com/alc/abstract-photography-for-beginners-9-tips-for-capturing-stunning-abstract-images/> or

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/photography/discover/abstract-photography.html>

Digging into the Archives

Karen L. Beisel

If you've ever accidentally gone to the newsletter archive, or on purpose, perhaps you've noticed that the first archives don't start until 1962, even though the club was founded in 1952—July 1952 to be exact. The only reason we have those early newsletters is due to some of our long-standing members hanging on to their copies. So, when we finally had a website, we were fortunate enough to have those resources available to us.

The earliest newsletters are more like a church bulletin. One to four pages maximum in length, without fancy graphics or even photos. When the club started, it didn't have a logo. The club did eventually get a logo, and there have been some changes through the years—but not many. In the early newsletters there was a statement (what today would be called a tagline) on each newsletter, "The Scenic City's oldest and most prestigious photographic organization".

The earlier newsletters had a list of all the club committees and all the members serving on each committee. Every committee had a minimum of 2 members, and most had 3 or more members. Today, only 1 committee has 3 members serving on it--Fieldtrips. Most committees only have the chair, and a few don't even have a chair.

As you read through the newsletters, you can see how the city and the club have changed and grown through the years. You can also see all the different places throughout the city the club has met, as we've outgrown places and spaces. The club has always used places that have graciously provided free use of a meeting room, so that funds could be used for speakers and other club expenses.

There are also plenty of educational articles throughout the years. You can trace the changes in photography just by the educational articles—going from darkroom film processing to learning how to get your images off of digital devices to process them on a computer. Even though photography has changed since those early club days, there is still very valuable lessons in those early educational articles.

You might be surprised to learn about all the locations throughout the city that the club has had the privilege to exhibit members' images. The Gallery at Blackwell is our latest, but we've had member images in local hospitals, doctors' offices, restaurants, museums, galleries and other local businesses.

Through the years, many civic organizations have requested and received photography assistance and images from the club. We've received awards from PSA for our community outreach for such activities. In 1996, the club was asked for photographers to help photograph the 1996 Summer Olympics on the Ocoee River. We've also provided images for several local authors' books, including "Chattanooga River City Renaissance". The club has also participated in the Wuxi/Sister Cities project

You can also check out all the places the club has gone on field trips. There are always the local favorites, but the club has also traveled regionally and cross-country on overnight field trips. Who knows, you might find your new favorite place to photograph (if you do, write an article for the newsletter).

Then, of course, you can also learn about how the contest process and different themes that have been used through the years. In the early years, there would be assignments made for the members to photograph at meetings, and your contest submissions had to be what you shot at the last meeting. Then they changed to themes and you had to bring your prints in and get them stamped with a "PSC" stamp on the due date for the contest to be eligible for the end of the year contest. The images were judged during the meeting by the members, and points were earned throughout the year to determine

“Photographer of the Year” in 2 different levels (Novices & Professionals). The club didn’t change to our current format of quarterly and annual contests with outside judges until April 2006.

You can also read about the different fundraisers the club has tried through the years. The earliest and most effective was the Photography Flea Market where the club had local and regional camera stores and photography suppliers, as well as members, purchase tables to buy and sell things. One of the regional camera stores that often participated was Thompson Photo Products of Knoxville, who are still open today (122 years in business). The club first sold logo gear in October 2002 to celebrate the 50th anniversary. The club created and sold our own coffee table book “Chattanooga—Our Scenic City”. We used to sell the “Dining & Entertainment” Coupon books for years (no longer exists), and Ed Bowen always sold the most books. Wall calendars were our fundraiser event one year with the previous year’s contest winners’ images in the calendar. We did Amazon Smile for years, until Amazon dropped the program.

With a club that has operated as long as ours (72 years and counting), there’s been a lot of people who have served as officers and directors to run operations. Those folks are listed in the various newsletters through the years. You can also see the different position titles that have been used throughout the years. The club didn’t start our current officers/directors structure until 2003.

The history of the club and the changes it has survived through the years are interesting, but what makes the club are our members. We had a member resign shortly after being elected as Vice President to pursue his music career. The club also seems to have a better success record as a place to meet your spouse than any dating app. You can also learn about the births, anniversaries and those we have lost who helped build and sustain this club.



So, the next time you’re bored, or about to veg-out on binge-watching some show, do your brain a favor and read some of our archives. You might learn something new or even be inspired to serve the club in some capacity to help us continue growing and strengthening the club for the next 72 years.



Quote of the Month

“Just one small positive thought in the morning can change your day.”

Dalai Lama

Of Interest to Photographers

Remaining 2024 and Beginning 2025 PSC Continuing Photography Class Schedule

2024

Month	Speaker	Subject
December	No Bootcamp	Christmas Dinner

2025

Month	Speaker	Subject
January	Richard Smith	Lightroom Updates
February	Nichole Vild	Intentional Camera Movement
March	Bill Mueller	A Simplified System for Importing and Organizing Your Photos in Lightroom
April	TBD	Critiquing Photos



Boot Camp has a New Name

To give prospective attendees a better idea of the type of presentations they can expect from our own club experts, we have changed the name of Boot Camp to *Continuing Photography Education*.

It will still be held in the same room upstairs at 6:00 pm. The only thing changing is the name.

There is no Boot Camp in December

Places and Gatherings that Might Interest Photographers

Mary Jane Fish

Dates	Event	Location	More Info
Nov 15 - Jan 4	Enchanted Garden of Lights	Rock City	https://www.seerockcity.com/events/enchanted-garden-of-lights/
Nov 15-Dec31, 2024	Nooga Lights Walk Thru at the Choo-Choo	Chattanooga Choo-Choo	Nooga Lights Chattanooga's Drive-Thru Holiday Lighting Spectacular
Nov 16 - Jan 12, 2025	Garden Lights, Holiday Nights	Atlanta Botanical Gardens	Atlanta Botanical Garden Garden Lights, Holiday Nights (atlantabg.org)
Nov 26 - Jan 19, 2025	Asian Lantern Festival	Chattanooga Zoo	Chattanooga Zoo announces themes for Asian Lantern Festival - WDEF
December 7, 2024	MainX24 24-Hour Festival/Southside District	Downtown Main Street	mainX24.com
Jan 18-19, 2025	Sandhill Crane Festival	Birchwood, TN	https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/twra/wildlife/birds/sandhill-crane-festival.html#event
May 16-18, 2025	Battle of Resaca Reenactment	Resaca, GA	The Battle of Resaca Reenactment Official Site - Home (georgiadivision.org)

We will not be holding a field trip in December because everyone has family to see or visit, other parties to attend and need time to enjoy the holiday season. If you do attend one of the many events around the area please send me a couple of images and a blurb regarding the event you attended.

If you know of any items you would like to photograph or think your fellow members would like to photograph, please send the information to editor@chattanooga-photo.org to be included in the upcoming newsletters.

To ensure that you receive communications about the club, please check publicity@chattanooga-photo.org as a safe email address. Also, check your "Spam" folder, particularly if you have EPB Fiber Optics as your email service, to ensure you're receiving emails intend for you from the club. Even though Karen uses Blind Copy to send out messages, several emails return undeliverable messages due to potential spam. We want you to stay informed of everything going on with the club, but there is only so much we can do.

GALLERY AT BLACKWELL UPDATE

December 2024

Plans are underway for starting a new year at the Gallery to display your pictures. The current show will be allowed to continue this month with a new change-out date of January 23 and 24. The new winter show will run until the beginning of April. All new pictures are requested featuring your latest work including Chattanooga, travel, and nature. Abstract and artistic enhancements are welcome as long as it is based on your photography.

Pictures should be completed for hanging in framed, canvas, or metal formats. Attach your name, a title and price to each picture. Pictures may be submitted from 4-5:30 pm at the Blackwell Automotive Bldg, 71 Eastgate Loop. If you need other delivery arrangements please contact me. Pictures from the current show should also be picked up at that time.

Dates for 2024 shows are Winter: January-March, Spring: April-June, Summer: July-September, and Fall: October-December.

Help us show and promote the PSC with a new Winter Gallery Show!

Keep Shooting,

Milton McLain

423-505-5260



*PSA provides education, information,
inspiration and opportunity
to all persons
interested in photography*

November NG3C Shootout Report

Also Named the November Field Trip

Myra Reneau and Mary Jane Fish

It was a great day for the Shootout at Berry College. Always fun, always something to learn, always friendship and time together and always next year! Attending were Myra Reneau, Mary Jane Fish, Rachel Asmus, Karen Beisel, Cheryl Hale, Martin Fish, Laura Newbourne, and Nichole Vild.



The purpose of the Shootout is to get the clubs together and share their love of photography. It starts early in the day with 5 categories being drawn from a bucket of suggestions. The categories this year were Cat 1-Water Wheel, Cat 2-Hikers, Bikers, Joggers, Walkers, Cat 3-Sticks and Stones, Cat 4-Zig Sag, Cat 5-Doors and Windows. The members of each team are to go out and take images that reflect one of the 5 categories. Each team could enter 10 images into each category if they have that many.

I am extending a big shout out to Martin and Myra on their placing in the event. Also a woo hoo to the door prize winners. Nice!

Myra got a 2nd Place in Cat 5-Windows and Doors.

Myra also got 10th Place in Cat-3-Sticks and Stones



Martin got 8th Place in Cat 4-Zig Sag:



The great event was spearheaded by Ralph Burr. Thank you Ralph!

I asked the participants to send me two images along with their thoughts about the day

Cheryl Hale had this to say: "I really enjoyed the experience I shared with you guys and about 150 others at Berry College. I had never participated in a shootout, and boy, did it show. Haha. When they revealed the subjects, I honestly thought you had to get photos with everything in said subject. For example, sticks and stones-I thought the photo had to have sticks

AND stones, so I was at a loss from the start. I knew there'd be sticks and stones in a park, so I told Siri to find me the closest park, and I found sticks and stones. Crazy, right?

But it still was a great experience. I learned a lot, as I always do when hanging around you real photographers. Next time I'll be better prepared. I had never been to Rome, GA, or Berry College, so I was kind of lost. The campus was beautiful. I plan on going back there to just shoot the campus.

I'm enclosing a couple of photos-neither of which has anything to do with the subjects, but just interesting things I found while looking."



Rachael Asmus said: "I had a great experience taking part in the shootout. I learned a lot and am very thankful I went ahead and joined. Overall it was a very helpful, fun and educational experience. I went out of my normal comfort zone and had to think outside the box. Here are two of my favorite photos 'Falling Leaves' a photo of the water mill, and then 'Reflection in Time', the photo at the reflection pools."



Nichole Vild said: "Attending the shootout event was an incredible opportunity to connect with fellow photographers, share creative ideas, and challenge ourselves to capture unique perspectives. The camaraderie and collective enthusiasm transformed the experience into more than just a photography outing—it was a celebration of art and community. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, these events inspire creativity and foster lasting connections. I look forward to future events."



Mary Jane said: "This is not my first Shootout. I have enjoyed several of them but I am always at a loss at finding the right image for the categories given. I always enjoy Berry College. It is a beautiful campus to visit and take photos of. It is a good place for a field trip."



In addition to his 8th place image, Martin sent in the following which he entered into the Cat 3-Sticks and Stones."

Myra Reneau said: "Well, we planned and we planned. This historical event takes a team of concerned volunteers for a year or so of planning. There are many moving pieces to pull off the day without a hitch. This year, I feel that goal was achieved.

Berry College was chosen as the venue and it was a lovely one indeed. Together Mary Jane and I gathered a group of participants from the Photographic Society of Chattanooga (yes, we are not in North Georgia but are close enough to participate and we have hosted in the past as well).

Our team of 8 had a great day! Technical difficulties – YES, they always seem to exist. One I learned a lot about this year was the difference in a MAC laptop and a Windows one. They are NOT the same at all. Anyway, we persevered, divided up the topics and set out on this adventure named "Shootout".



Many won a door prize and myself and Martin were pleased to have placed and earned a ribbon(s).

The camaraderie was lovely. I know I personally got to know members during the day. I hope everyone that participated had a fun day. The comments I have heard indicated that they did.

I am expecting this event to continue into the future. Please come join us next year for this fun filled team building photography day! "

Photography Basics

Themed Still Life Project

Mickey Rountree

I recently worked on a project of studio still life images. While I shot 7 subjects, there are many more I have in mind for future shoots, so I don't consider this project finished. The original concept came from a video by photographer Joel Grimes, and I put my spin on it.

There are several reasons for shooting a themed series of still life. One reason is to practice lighting techniques. Another is to produce a number of images, that while different, have a cohesive theme that allows them to be presented as a group, either as a print with multiple images, or as separate images that can hang together. Another reason is to work on processing techniques to create artistic images with a consistent look or to try varied looks with similar subjects. I shot with the intention of using multiple textures on each image, and to experiment with using scenic images as textures/backgrounds.

My basic setup was just a table top with either a black or wood grain foamcore board as a base, with a medium gray seamless paper background. Lighting was just a medium softbox and strobe camera left and a white reflector camera right. Once the proper exposure was determined only minor lighting adjustments were needed with each subject.



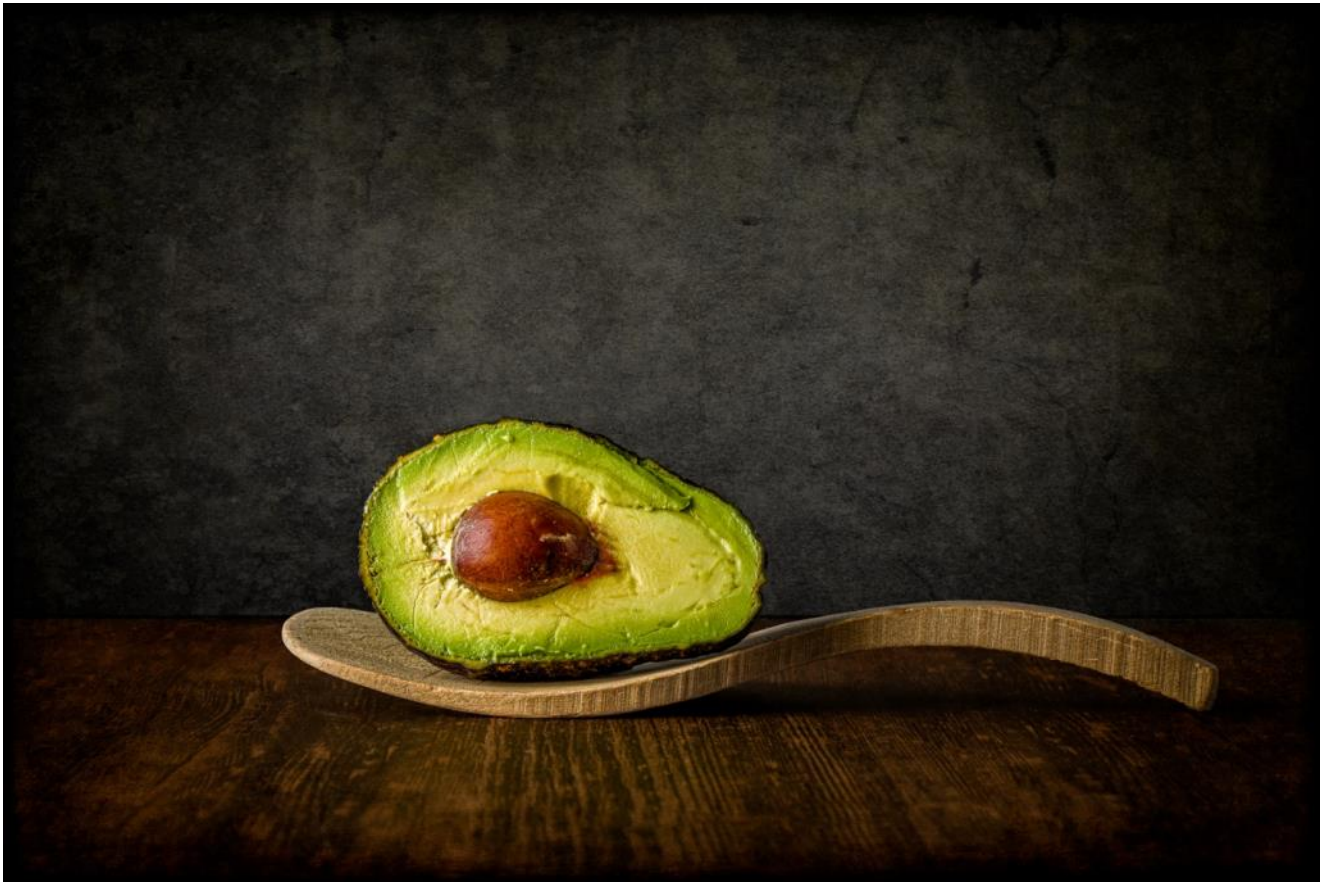
Probably the hardest part of the project was finding props. I had planned to use three kitchen scales as a unifying prop for the series. I wound up with four scales, one from a local thrift store and three from eBay. I also found a wooden butter scoop and a large wooden spoon. The rest of the props were fresh vegetables from the grocery store. I only bought one vegetable at a time, took a day or two to shoot and edit and then bought my next subject. This kept the food (and the photographer) fresh and kept me from having to shoot all of my subjects in a hurry to keep them from spoiling. By the time you read this, you may have seen

some of my images in the PSC Gallery.

While I chose food as a convenient subject, you can choose whatever interests you. I could easily envision series based on old cameras, tools, flowers, musical instruments, sewing equipment, shoes, hats, medical equipment, and limitless other possibilities.

Here are a few of the images I shot. You will notice sometimes one image will have different textures in different edits. Trying different textures and processing was a major part of my plan for this series.











PSC Board Members

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Thanks to Shaw Industries for printing our monthly newsletter.

Monthly Meeting Information

Day: 3rd Thursday Each Month

Time: 6:00 PM, Boot Camp
6:30 PM, Registration & Social
7:00 PM, Meeting & Program

**St. John United Methodist Church
CAC**

3921 Murray Hills Drive

Directions: Exit Hwy 153 onto Hwy 58 North. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Murray Hills Drive. Entrance to the church is on the right. PSC will meet in the CAC (gymnasium) ground level entrance immediately in front of you. Parking surrounds the church; however other entrances will normally be locked.

The Photographic Society of Chattanooga holds club membership in the Photographic Society of America, ArtsBuild Chattanooga, Camera Club Council of Tennessee (3CT), and the North Georgia Camera Club Council (NG3C).



A 501(c)(3) Organization

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