Shotokan karate magazine Online PDF

Shotokan Karate Magazine is a renowned publication dedicated to the rich history, techniques, and community of Shotokan Karate, one of the most popular and widely practiced martial arts worldwide. As an authoritative source for practitioners, instructors, and enthusiasts, this magazine offers comprehensive insights into training methods, tournaments, athlete profiles, and the philosophy behind Shotokan Karate. In this article, we will explore the origins of the magazine, its content offerings, benefits for readers, and how it continues to shape the martial arts community.

What is Shotokan Karate Magazine?

Overview and Purpose

Shotokan Karate Magazine serves as a specialized publication focusing exclusively on Shotokan Karate, a traditional martial art founded by Gichin Funakoshi. Its primary goal is to promote understanding, appreciation, and mastery of Shotokan techniques and principles. The magazine provides a platform for sharing expert advice, sparking discussion on martial arts philosophy, and highlighting the achievements of practitioners worldwide.

History and Development

Since its inception, Shotokan Karate Magazine has evolved alongside the martial art itself. Originally launched in the late 20th century, it responded to the growing global interest in karate by offering a dedicated resource for practitioners. Over the years, the magazine has expanded its reach through both print and digital formats, embracing online accessibility to serve an international audience.

Content Offered by Shotokan Karate Magazine

Techniques and Training Tips

One of the core features of the magazine is detailed coverage of techniques essential to Shotokan Karate. Articles often include step-by-step guides on stances (dachi), punches (tsuki), kicks (geri), and blocking techniques (uke). Readers benefit from instructional photos, diagrams, and expert commentary designed to enhance their training sessions.

Philosophy and History

Understanding the philosophical underpinnings of Shotokan Karate is vital for practitioners seeking to deepen their practice. The magazine offers articles exploring the principles of Bushido, the

importance of discipline, and the historical evolution of Shotokan from its founder's vision to modern-day practice.

Profiles and Interviews

Inspiring stories of martial artists, from beginners to black belts and tournament champions, are featured regularly. Interviews with prominent instructors and champions provide insights into their training routines, philosophies, and experiences, fostering a sense of community and motivation.

Event Coverage and Tournaments

Shotokan Karate Magazine reports on local, national, and international tournaments. Coverage includes competition results, highlights of outstanding performances, and coverage of seminars and workshops. This helps readers stay informed about upcoming events and opportunities for competition and learning.

Training Resources and Equipment Reviews

The magazine also provides reviews of training gear such as uniforms (gi), belts, protective equipment, and training aids. Additionally, it offers resources for instructors, including curriculum guides, teaching strategies, and certification updates.

Benefits of Reading Shotokan Karate Magazine

Enhancing Technical Skills

Regular reading exposes practitioners to a variety of techniques and training methods, enabling continuous improvement. Visual guides and expert tips help refine skills and adapt techniques to individual needs.

Deepening Cultural and Philosophical Understanding

The articles exploring the history, philosophy, and ethics of Shotokan Karate foster a holistic approach to martial arts, emphasizing character development alongside physical prowess.

Staying Motivated and Inspired

Profiles of successful practitioners and coverage of tournaments inspire readers to set and achieve their own martial arts goals.

Community Engagement

The magazine connects practitioners from different regions and backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

How to Access Shotokan Karate Magazine

Print and Digital Formats

Many editions are available in print for enthusiasts who enjoy tangible reading material, while digital versions are accessible via websites and mobile apps, offering convenience and instant updates.

Subscription Options

Subscribers can choose between monthly, quarterly, or annual plans. Some magazines also offer special editions or collector's issues featuring exclusive content or commemorative covers.

Online Resources and Social Media

Most publishers maintain active websites and social media pages, where readers can access articles, videos, and participate in discussions. These platforms serve as valuable tools for staying connected with the latest news and community events.

Role of Shotokan Karate Magazines in Promoting the Martial Art

Education and Preservation

By documenting techniques, history, and cultural aspects, these magazines help preserve the traditional elements of Shotokan Karate for future generations.

Global Community Building

They facilitate international dialogue among practitioners, instructors, and organizations, promoting collaboration and shared learning.

Supporting Competitions and Events

Coverage and promotion of tournaments and seminars encourage participation and help grow the Shotokan Karate community worldwide.

Conclusion

Shotokan Karate Magazine remains an essential resource for anyone dedicated to mastering this

martial art. Through its diverse content?ranging from technical tutorials and philosophical essays to community stories and event coverage?it supports practitioners in their journey of self-improvement, discipline, and cultural appreciation. Whether you are a beginner just starting out or an experienced black belt, staying engaged with this publication can significantly enhance your understanding and passion for Shotokan Karate. As the martial art continues to evolve globally, Shotokan Karate Magazine plays a vital role in connecting practitioners, preserving traditions, and inspiring new generations of martial artists.

Keywords: Shotokan Karate Magazine, martial arts publication, karate techniques, karate training tips, martial arts community, karate history, karate tournaments, martial arts philosophy, Shotokan instructors, karate resources

Shotokan Karate Magazine is an essential resource for practitioners, enthusiasts, and instructors who seek to deepen their understanding of one of the most influential styles of karate. Renowned for its disciplined approach, technical precision, and rich history, Shotokan Karate has shaped countless martial artists worldwide. This guide aims to explore the core principles, techniques, training methodologies, and cultural significance of Shotokan Karate, providing a comprehensive overview for readers eager to elevate their practice or gain a foundational understanding of this martial art.

Introduction to Shotokan Karate

Shotokan Karate is a traditional Japanese martial art founded by Gichin Funakoshi in the early 20th century. Its philosophy emphasizes not only physical prowess but also mental discipline, respect, and humility. The style is characterized by deep stances, powerful linear movements, and a focus on kata (pre-arranged forms), kihon (basics), and kumite (sparring).

Origins and History

- Founder: Gichin Funakoshi, often called the "Father of Modern Karate."
- Development: Shotokan evolved from traditional Okinawan karate, adapted to suit Japanese culture and aesthetics.
- Name Meaning: "Shoto" was Funakoshi's pen name, meaning "pine wave," and "kan" means "house" or "training hall," translating to "Shoto's house" or "Shoto's style."

Philosophy and Values

Shotokan Karate emphasizes:

- Respect and Courtesy: Practice begins and ends with bowing.
- Discipline: Consistent training fosters perseverance.
- Self-Improvement: Continuous effort to improve oneself physically, mentally, and morally.
- Spirit (Kimochi): Developing strong mental resolve and humility.

Core Techniques and Training Components

Understanding the technical foundation of Shotokan Karate is essential. The style's effectiveness hinges on mastering its fundamental techniques, which are systematically developed through kihon, kata, and kumite.

Kihon (Basics)

Kihon forms the building blocks of Shotokan Karate. Practitioners focus on:

- Stances (Taisabaki): Deep, stable stances like Zenkutsu-dachi (front stance), Kokutsu-dachi (back stance), and Kiba-dachi (horse stance).
- Punches (Tsuki): Straight punches such as oi-zuki and oi-geri.
- Kicks (Geri): Front kick (Mae-geri), roundhouse kick (Mawashi-geri), and side kick (Yoko-geri).
- Blocks (Uke): Age-uke (rising block), Soto-uke (outer block), Uchi-uke (inner block).

Kata (Forms)

Kata are pre-arranged sequences of movements designed to simulate combat against multiple opponents. They serve to:

- Refine Technique: Improve form, balance, and power.
- Develop Muscle Memory: Internalize movements.
- Transmit Tradition: Preserve historical techniques.

Popular Shotokan kata include:

- Heian series (beginner level)
- Tekki series
- Bassai Dai
- Kanku Dai
- Enpi

Kumite (Sparring)

Kumite emphasizes applying techniques against an opponent within a controlled environment. It develops:

- Timing and distance (Maai)
- Speed and reflexes
- Strategy and adaptability

Training Methodologies in Shotokan Karate

A typical Shotokan training session balances kihon, kata, and kumite, with a focus on disciplined repetition and mental focus.

Warm-up and Conditioning

- Stretching to prevent injuries.
- Cardiovascular drills for endurance.
- Strength exercises to develop core stability.

Technical Drills

- Repetition of kihon blocks, punches, and kicks.
- Partner drills to practice application and timing.
- Shadow boxing to refine movement flow.

Kata Practice

- Solo practice focusing on precise execution.
- Group drills to synchronize movements.
- Bunkai (applications) to understand practical combat use of kata.

Sparring and Application

- Light contact sparring to develop control.
- Full-contact kumite for advanced practitioners.

- Scenario training to simulate real combat situations.

Key Principles and Concepts

Shotokan Karate is not merely about physical techniques but also about cultivating a philosophical mindset.

Zanshin (Awareness)

Maintaining a state of heightened awareness and readiness even after the movement concludes.

Kime (Focus)

Executing techniques with decisive power and intent.

Rei (Respect)

Showing respect to instructors, fellow practitioners, and oneself is fundamental.

Mushin (No Mind)

Achieving a state free of distraction, allowing instinctual reactions.

Advanced Techniques and Strategies

As practitioners progress, they explore more complex techniques and strategies to enhance their effectiveness.

Combination Techniques

Linking punches, kicks, and blocks fluidly to create offensive and defensive sequences.

Counterattacks

Using opponent?s attack openings to deliver swift counters.

Distance Management

Controlling the space between oneself and the opponent to optimize attack and defense.

Mental Strategy

Developing patience, persistence, and adaptability.

Cultural and Ethical Aspects of Shotokan Karate

Beyond techniques, Shotokan Karate embodies a way of life rooted in Japanese culture and Zen principles.

Etiquette and Traditions

- Bowing (Rei) at the start and end of training.
- Respecting the dojo (training hall) and equipment.
- Maintaining humility and sincerity.

Martial Spirit

Fostering qualities such as:

- Courage
- Self-control
- Perseverance
- Honor

Community and Competitions

- Participating in tournaments to test skills.
- Supporting fellow practitioners.
- Promoting the martial art?s values in society.

Conclusion: The Journey of a Shotokan Karate Practitioner

Practicing Shotokan Karate is a lifelong journey that combines physical discipline with spiritual growth. It demands dedication, humility, and a desire for self-improvement. Whether training for self-defense, competition, or personal development, the principles ingrained in Shotokan serve as a guiding light for martial artists around the world.

By understanding its history, mastering its techniques, and embracing its philosophy, practitioners can unlock the full potential of this venerable martial art. Remember, the true essence of Shotokan lies not just in the strikes and stances but in the spirit and character cultivated through consistent

practice.

QuestionAnswer What is the main focus of Shotokan Karate Magazine? Shotokan Karate Magazine primarily features articles on techniques, training tips, martial arts philosophy, and news related to the Shotokan Karate community worldwide. How can I subscribe to Shotokan Karate Magazine? You can subscribe to Shotokan Karate Magazine through their official website, where they offer digital and print subscription options for martial arts enthusiasts. Does Shotokan Karate Magazine include tournament coverage? Yes, the magazine regularly covers major Shotokan Karate tournaments, including results, highlights, and interviews with top practitioners. Are there instructional articles suitable for beginners in Shotokan Karate Magazine? Absolutely, the magazine features beginner-friendly tutorials, basic techniques, and guidance to help newcomers start their martial arts journey. Can I find historical articles about Shotokan Karate in the magazine? Yes, the magazine often includes articles exploring the history and evolution of Shotokan Karate, as well as profiles of legendary masters. Is Shotokan Karate Magazine available in digital format? Yes, they offer digital editions compatible with various devices, making it easy for readers to access content anywhere. Does the magazine feature interviews with prominent Shotokan Karate practitioners? Yes, interviews with top karateka and instructors are a regular feature, providing insights into training, philosophy, and personal experiences. How often is Shotokan Karate Magazine published? The magazine is typically published quarterly, but publication frequency may vary depending on issues and special editions.

Related keywords: Karate, martial arts, karate magazine, Shotokan, martial arts magazine, karate training, karate techniques, karate tournaments, karate news, martial arts publications

SHOTOKAN KARATE BIBLE

Shotokan Karate Bible: The Definitive Guide to the Art of Karate

Introduction

Shotokan Karate Bible is regarded as one of the most comprehensive and authoritative resources for practitioners, enthusiasts, and instructors of Shotokan Karate. Rooted in a rich history that spans over a century, Shotokan Karate has become one of the most widely practiced martial arts worldwide. This guide aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the art, its philosophy, techniques, training methods, and how to incorporate the teachings from the Shotokan Karate Bible into your practice. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced martial artist, understanding the core principles outlined in this comprehensive resource can significantly enhance your journey in Karate.

Origins and History of Shotokan Karate

Founding of Shotokan Karate

- Developed by Gichin Funakoshi in the early 20th century.
- Inspired by traditional Okinawan martial arts and Japanese martial arts philosophies.
- Emphasized the importance of kata, kihon (basics), and kumite (sparring).

Evolution and Spread

- Funakoshi's efforts to promote Karate across Japan.
- Establishment of the Japan Karate Association (JKA) in 1957.
- The global proliferation of Shotokan Karate in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Fundamental Principles of Shotokan Karate

Philosophy and Ethics

- Respect, discipline, humility, and perseverance.
- The concept of "Karate ni sente nashi" (There is no first attack in Karate).
- Focus on self-improvement and character development.

Core Techniques and Movements

- Kihon (Basics): the foundation of all techniques.
- Kata (Forms): pre-arranged sequences of movements simulating combat.
- Kumite (Sparring): practical application of techniques in controlled combat.

Key Components of the Shotokan Karate Bible

Training Methodologies

- Structured training routines emphasizing kihon, kata, and kumite.
- Progressive difficulty tailored to practitioners' skill levels.
- The importance of consistent practice and mental discipline.

Techniques and Katas

- Detailed descriptions of fundamental punches, kicks, stances, and blocks.
- Comprehensive guide to essential katas such as Heian series, Bassai Dai, Kanku Dai, and others.
- Tips for mastering each kata's rhythm, power, and precision.

Instructor and Student Guidelines

- Roles and responsibilities of instructors.
- Effective teaching methods for different age groups and skill levels.
- Building a positive training environment.

Training Drills and Practical Applications

Fundamental Drills

- Shadow boxing to develop speed and form.
- Bag and pad work for power and accuracy.
- Balance and coordination exercises.

Application in Real-World Situations

- Understanding distance, timing, and reaction.
- Techniques for self-defense scenarios.
- Combining kihon and kata movements in sparring.

Advanced Concepts and Philosophical Insights

Martial Arts Philosophy in Shotokan

- The importance of mental strength and emotional control.
- The concept of "Zanshin" (awareness) in combat and daily life.
- The role of humility and continuous self-improvement.

Physical and Mental Conditioning

- Flexibility and strength training.
- Breathing techniques to enhance focus and stamina.
- Meditation and mindfulness practices for mental clarity.

Resources and Materials in the Shotokan Karate Bible

Books and Publications

- Classic texts by Gichin Funakoshi and other masters.
- Modern interpretations and training manuals.
- Visual guides with detailed photographs and diagrams.

Online Resources and Communities

- Official websites and forums.
- Video tutorials and instructional series.
- Local dojos and martial arts tournaments.

Incorporating the Shotokan Karate Bible into Your Practice

Setting Goals

- Short-term and long-term objectives.
- Tracking progress through belt ranks and skill mastery.

Developing a Personal Training Routine

- Balancing kihon, kata, and kumite.
- Incorporating mental training and visualization.
- Ensuring proper rest and recovery.

Engaging with the Martial Arts Community

- Attending seminars and workshops.
- Participating in competitions.
- Mentoring and teaching others.

Conclusion

The Shotokan Karate Bible serves as an essential guide for anyone dedicated to mastering this disciplined martial art. Its comprehensive coverage of techniques, philosophy, training methods, and practical applications provides a solid foundation for growth and excellence. By embracing the principles outlined in this resource, practitioners can not only improve their martial skills but also foster personal development, character, and a lifelong appreciation for the art of Karate. Remember, the journey of Shotokan Karate is ongoing?commitment, humility, and continuous learning are the keys to unlocking its full potential.

Meta Description: Discover the ultimate guide to Shotokan Karate with the Shotokan Karate Bible. Learn about its history, techniques, philosophy, training methods, and how to elevate your practice to the next level.

Shotokan Karate Bible: An In-Depth Examination of Its Content, Credibility, and Impact

Introduction

In the vast world of martial arts literature, few texts have garnered as much attention and respect within the karate community as the Shotokan Karate Bible. Marketed as a comprehensive guide to the principles, techniques, and philosophy of Shotokan karate, this publication claims to serve as the definitive resource for practitioners ranging from beginners to advanced black belts. But what exactly does the Shotokan Karate Bible offer? Is it a credible, authoritative source rooted in authentic martial arts tradition, or does it fall short of its lofty claims? This investigative piece aims to dissect the Shotokan Karate Bible, examining its origins, content, pedagogical approach, and overall impact within the martial arts community.

Origins and Authorship

Who Wrote the Shotokan Karate Bible?

A key starting point in assessing any martial arts manual is understanding its authorship. The Shotokan Karate Bible is typically attributed to [Author Name], a martial artist with [X] years of experience in Shotokan karate. The author claims to have trained under renowned masters such as Gichin Funakoshi and Hirokazu Kanazawa, asserting a lineage that traces back to the roots of traditional Shotokan.

However, some critics have raised questions about the transparency of the authorship and the veracity of these claims. The author's credentials are not extensively documented, and there is limited verifiable evidence of formal training under the most prominent Shotokan figures. This ambiguity has led to debates regarding the authenticity and authority of the teachings presented in

the book.

Publishing History and Editions

The Shotokan Karate Bible has been published in multiple editions over the past decade, with varying supplementary materials such as instructional DVDs and online resources. The initial editions received mixed reviews, with some praising the breadth of content, while others criticized the lack of depth and authenticity.

Content Overview

Scope and Structure

The Shotokan Karate Bible purports to cover every aspect of Shotokan karate, including:

- The history and philosophy of Shotokan
- Basic stances and fundamental techniques
- Kata (forms) and bunkai (applications)
- Kumite (sparring) and self-defense
- Training methods and conditioning
- Etiquette and dojo protocol

The book is organized into chapters that sequentially build from foundational skills to advanced concepts, aiming to serve as a standalone manual.

Technical Accuracy and Completeness

One of the most critical aspects of evaluating the Shotokan Karate Bible is its technical accuracy. For practitioners and instructors, precise descriptions of techniques and forms are essential.

Strengths:

- Clear illustrations and photographs demonstrate key stances and movements.
- Step-by-step breakdowns of kata provide a structured learning path.
- Emphasis on traditional principles such as kihon (fundamentals) and kumite.

Weaknesses:

- Some descriptions of techniques lack nuance, potentially leading to misinterpretation.
- Certain advanced bunkai applications are oversimplified or not substantiated with historical context.
- The portrayal of kihon drills sometimes omits the subtle nuances emphasized by authentic masters, risking superficial understanding.

Pedagogical Approach

The Shotokan Karate Bible employs a blend of visual aids, theoretical explanations, and practical advice. This multimodal approach is commendable; however, the effectiveness depends heavily on the clarity and accuracy of the content.

Some readers have noted that the book tends to favor a more modern, commercialized depiction of Shotokan, sometimes at the expense of traditional depth. For example, the emphasis on flashy techniques and competition-focused sparring can overshadow the philosophical and meditative aspects integral to authentic karate training.

Critical Analysis: Authenticity and Credibility

Does the Shotokan Karate Bible Reflect Traditional Shotokan?

Authentic Shotokan karate is rooted in a rich tradition developed by Gichin Funakoshi, emphasizing not just physical techniques but also moral character, humility, and continuous self-improvement. Many seasoned practitioners question whether the Shotokan Karate Bible faithfully encapsulates this holistic philosophy.

Some red flags include:

- A focus on "quick fixes" and rapid results, which contradicts the traditional slow, disciplined approach.
- Commercial motives evident in the promotion of branded products and training programs.
- Lack of citations or references to classical texts, dojo protocols, or authoritative sources.

Is It Suitable for All Skill Levels?

While the Shotokan Karate Bible claims to be comprehensive, its suitability varies:

- Beginners: May find the step-by-step instructions helpful, but risk developing bad habits if not supervised by an instructor.

- Intermediate Practitioners: Might benefit from the detailed kata breakdowns but could find the material superficial without proper mentorship.
- Advanced Practitioners: May find limited value unless cross-referenced with traditional teachings and personal experience.

The Impact on the Karate Community

Popularity and Influence

The Shotokan Karate Bible has enjoyed popularity among self-taught enthusiasts and those seeking a portable reference. Its widespread availability online and in martial arts stores has contributed to its influence, especially among practitioners with limited access to qualified instructors.

However, this popularity has also sparked controversy. Critics argue that reliance solely on such manuals can lead to a distorted understanding of Shotokan, emphasizing aesthetics over authenticity and neglecting the importance of dojo training and instructor guidance.

Contributions to Martial Arts Education

While not a substitute for qualified instruction, the book has served as a supplementary resource, encouraging self-study and curiosity. Some instructors have integrated parts of its content into their curriculum, provided it is used critically and in conjunction with traditional training.

Comparing the Shotokan Karate Bible to Other Resources

Traditional vs. Modern Manuals

Compared to classical texts like Gichin Funakoshi?s Rentan Goshin Tactics or the Shotokan Karate-Do by Kanazawa, the Shotokan Karate Bible tends to be more visually oriented and accessible but less rooted in historical context.

Multimedia Supplements

The inclusion of instructional DVDs and online videos has augmented the book?s educational value. Yet, the quality of these supplementary materials varies, and some may propagate improper techniques.

Final Assessment

The Shotokan Karate Bible stands as a notable attempt to compile comprehensive Shotokan knowledge into a single volume. Its strengths lie in its organized structure, visual aids, and broad

coverage of techniques and concepts. Nonetheless, critical scrutiny reveals limitations in authenticity, depth, and fidelity to traditional principles.

Practitioners seeking a rigorous, historically grounded understanding of Shotokan should supplement this resource with direct dojo training, reputable instructors, and classical texts. For casual learners or self-motivated enthusiasts, the Shotokan Karate Bible can serve as an introductory guide but should be approached with discernment.

Conclusion

In the realm of martial arts literature, the Shotokan Karate Bible occupies a complex position. It offers a user-friendly, visually appealing overview of Shotokan karate, making it accessible to a broad audience. However, its claims to be a definitive, authoritative manual are tempered by questions regarding its authenticity and pedagogical rigor.

As with any martial arts resource, critical evaluation and integration with authentic training are essential. The Shotokan Karate Bible can be a valuable component of a practitioner?s library?provided it is used as a supplement rather than a sole source of instruction. Ultimately, the true essence of Shotokan karate resides not solely in pages of text but in the dedicated practice within a qualified dojo guided by experienced instructors.

Disclaimer: This review is based on publicly available information and critical analysis up to October 2023. Readers are encouraged to conduct their own research and consult qualified instructors for authentic martial arts training.

QuestionAnswer What is the 'Shotokan Karate Bible' and who is it for? The 'Shotokan Karate Bible' is a comprehensive guidebook that covers the fundamental techniques, philosophy, and history of Shotokan Karate, designed for practitioners of all levels seeking to deepen their understanding and improve their skills. What topics are typically covered in the 'Shotokan Karate Bible'? It usually includes sections on basic stances, punches, kicks, kata, kumite (sparring), training drills, and the philosophy behind Shotokan Karate, along with training tips and historical context. Is the 'Shotokan Karate Bible' suitable for beginners? Yes, the book is often structured to cater to beginners by explaining fundamental techniques and concepts in a clear manner, making it a useful resource for those new to Shotokan Karate. How can the 'Shotokan Karate Bible' improve my training? It provides detailed instructions, illustrations, and insights that can help practitioners refine techniques, understand kata more deeply, and develop a stronger martial arts mindset. Are there any specific editions of the 'Shotokan Karate Bible' that are highly recommended? Many enthusiasts recommend editions authored or endorsed by renowned Shotokan masters, as they tend to include authoritative content, updated techniques, and clear illustrations. Can the 'Shotokan Karate Bible' help me prepare for belt tests? Yes, by studying the techniques, kata, and principles outlined in the book, practitioners can better prepare for belt exams and improve their overall skill level. Where can

I purchase the 'Shotokan Karate Bible'? It is available through online bookstores, martial arts specialty shops, and digital platforms like Amazon, making it accessible for practitioners worldwide. Is the 'Shotokan Karate Bible' considered an essential resource for serious martial artists? While not mandatory, many advanced practitioners and instructors regard it as a valuable reference that consolidates key techniques, philosophy, and training methods of Shotokan Karate.

Related keywords: Shotokan, karate, martial arts, karate kata, karate training, karate techniques, karate instructor, karate dojo, karate weapons, karate basics

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