

the cosworth fords a production and competition h Updated Version

The Cosworth Fords: A Production and Competition Heritage

The Cosworth Fords have long been celebrated as icons of automotive engineering, racing prowess, and innovative design. Among these, the "Production and Competition H" models stand out for their exceptional contributions to both street and racing domains. These vehicles symbolize a perfect blend of power, precision, and durability, showcasing what happens when top-tier engineering meets relentless motorsport ambition. In this comprehensive guide, we explore the history, development, technical specifications, and legacy of the Cosworth Fords, with a special focus on the Production and Competition H models.

Origins and Historical Background of Cosworth Fords

The Birth of Cosworth Engineering

Founded in 1958 by Keith Duckworth and Mike Costin, Cosworth Engineering initially focused on high-performance engine development. Their reputation grew rapidly through innovative engineering solutions and successful racing formulas, particularly in Formula 1 and touring car racing.

The Partnership with Ford

Cosworth's collaboration with Ford began in the late 1960s, leading to the development of powerful, reliable, and lightweight engines tailored for both street and racing applications. This partnership produced some of the most renowned engines in motorsport history, including the legendary DFV F1 engine and various turbocharged units.

The Production and Competition H Models

Introduction and Overview

The "H" designation in Cosworth Fords refers to a specific line of high-performance engines and vehicles designed for both production use and competitive racing. These models are characterized by their advanced engineering, high-revving capabilities, and adaptability across different racing series.

Development Objectives

The primary goals in developing the Production and Competition H models were:

- Maximize power output while maintaining reliability
- Reduce weight for better handling and agility
- Ensure compliance with racing regulations
- Offer a versatile platform suitable for various motorsport disciplines

Technical Specifications of the H Models

Engine Design and Performance

The core of the H models lies in their engine architecture. Features include:

- **Displacement:** Ranged from 2.0L to 2.3L in different versions
- **Configuration:** Four-cylinder, turbocharged units
- **Valvetrain:** Double overhead camshafts (DOHC) with multiple valves per cylinder
- **Induction:** Advanced turbo systems designed for high boost pressures
- **Cooling and Lubrication:** Enhanced systems to withstand high RPM and thermal stresses

Chassis and Suspension

To complement the powerful engines, the H models featured:

- Lightweight, aerodynamic body panels
- Reinforced chassis structures for rigidity and safety
- Adjustable suspension systems for optimized handling
- High-performance braking systems with ventilated discs

Transmission and Drivetrain

The models typically employed:

- Close-ratio gearboxes to maximize acceleration and top speed
- Limited-slip differentials for improved traction
- Durable clutch and drive components suitable for racing conditions

Production Models and Variants

Ford Escort RS Cosworth

One of the most iconic vehicles associated with the Cosworth H series, the Escort RS Cosworth, was produced in the early 1990s. It featured:

- 2.0L turbocharged engine with Cosworth tuning
- Distinctive rear wing and aerodynamic enhancements
- All-wheel drive system for superior grip
- Limited production run, making it a collector's favorite

Ford Sierra RS Cosworth

Preceding the Escort, the Sierra RS Cosworth was a pioneering model with:

- 2.0L turbocharged engine developed by Cosworth
- Lightweight construction to improve performance
- Success in touring car championships and rallying

Special Editions and Custom Builds

Beyond mass-produced models, various bespoke and race-specific versions were built for:

- Private teams in touring car and rally competitions
- Showcase vehicles for Cosworth's engineering capabilities
- Historic racing series and vintage events

Cosworth Fords in Competition

Racing Achievements

Cosworth Fords have a storied history of success in multiple motorsport disciplines, including:

- World Rally Championship (WRC)
- British Touring Car Championship (BTCC)
- International Rally and Group A racing
- Endurance racing and hill climbs

Notable Victories and Records

Some highlights include:

- Multiple wins in the BTCC with the Ford Sierra RS500
- Dominance in WRC events during the late 1980s and early 1990s
- Record-breaking lap times at various race circuits

Engineering Innovations in Competition

The success of Cosworth Fords in racing was driven by:

- Advanced turbocharging technology for high power-to-weight ratios
- Lightweight materials reducing overall vehicle weight
- Optimized aerodynamics for stability at high speeds
- Custom-built racing engines with high-revving capabilities

Legacy and Influence

Impact on Motorsport

Cosworth Fords set new standards for performance and reliability, influencing:

- Design philosophies in race car engineering
- The development of turbocharged engines in production cars
- Technological advancements adopted by other manufacturers

Collector and Enthusiast Interest

Today, the Cosworth Fords, especially the Escort RS Cosworth and Sierra RS Cosworth, are highly sought after by collectors and car enthusiasts. Their rarity, racing pedigree, and engineering excellence contribute to their enduring appeal.

Continued Influence

Modern Ford models and racing programs still draw inspiration from the innovations pioneered by Cosworth, maintaining a legacy of high-performance engineering that transcends generations.

Conclusion

The Cosworth Fords, particularly the Production and Competition H models, exemplify the pinnacle of automotive performance and racing ingenuity. From their technical mastery in engine design to their competitive success on the track, these vehicles have cemented their place in automotive history. Their influence continues to inspire engineers, racers, and enthusiasts worldwide, embodying the spirit of innovation and relentless pursuit of excellence that defines Cosworth and Ford's enduring partnership.

The Cosworth Fords: A Production and Competition Heritage

The Cosworth Fords represent a significant chapter in automotive history, blending cutting-edge engineering with motorsport excellence. From their origins in production cars to their dominance on racing circuits, these vehicles exemplify the synergy between innovation and performance. Among the most renowned variants is the "H" model, a designation that signifies a specific era of development and competition pedigree. This article explores the evolution, technical specifications, and competitive legacy of the Cosworth Fords, with a particular focus on the "H" variant, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of this legendary lineage.

Origins and Development of Cosworth Fords

Founding of Cosworth Engineering

Cosworth Engineering was founded in 1958 by Keith Duckworth and Mike Costin, both experienced engineers with a background in racing engines. Their goal was to develop high-performance engines for racing and road cars, blending advanced engineering with innovative design. The company's first notable success was the DFV (Double Four Valve) Formula 1 engine, which revolutionized motorsport.

Partnership with Ford Motor Company

By the late 1960s, Cosworth had established a fruitful partnership with Ford Motor Company. Recognizing the potential of Cosworth's racing engine expertise, Ford commissioned the development of a series of high-performance engines for both competition and production models. This collaboration led to the creation of iconic engines such as the Ford Cosworth DFV and later, the Cosworth YB series.

Introduction of Cosworth-Ford Production Cars

While Cosworth engines initially powered racing cars, Ford integrated these powerplants into production models to create high-performance variants. The most notable among these was the

Ford Escort RS1700T, a homologation special, and later the Sierra RS Cosworth, which became a rally and touring car legend. These cars bridged the gap between racing technology and consumer vehicles, bringing motorsport performance to the streets.

The Cosworth "H" Series: Evolution and Technical Highlights

Origins of the "H" Series

The "H" series refers to a specific line of Cosworth engines developed primarily for Ford's rally and touring car programs during the late 1970s and early 1980s. The designation "H" is often associated with the high-performance, naturally aspirated and turbocharged engines that powered some of the most competitive Ford models of that era.

Technical Specifications of the "H" Engines

The "H" series engines were characterized by several technical innovations:

- Displacement and Configuration: Typically, these engines ranged from 2.0 to 2.3 liters, utilizing four-cylinder configurations with twin-cam heads.
- Materials and Construction: They employed lightweight alloy blocks and heads, optimized for strength and weight reduction.
- Induction Systems: The "H" engines featured advanced carburetion and turbocharging systems, depending on the variant, to maximize power output.
- Valvetrain and Compression: High-lift camshafts and increased compression ratios contributed to improved airflow and combustion efficiency.
- Fuel Management: The engines used sophisticated fuel injection and ignition systems, enabling better throttle response and reliability under demanding conditions.

Variants of the "H" Series

The "H" series encompassed several variants, each tailored to specific racing disciplines:

- H Series Naturally Aspirated: Used in early rally cars, emphasizing reliability and torque.
- H Series Turbocharged: Equipped with Garrett turbochargers, these engines delivered significant power boosts, suitable for Group B rally cars.
- Special Editions: Some "H" engines featured bespoke modifications for specific events or homologation needs, such as reinforced internals and upgraded cooling systems.

Production Models and Road Car Integration

Ford Escort RS2000 and RS1700T

The Escort RS2000, introduced in the mid-1970s, utilized a version of the Cosworth "H" engine, offering a potent combination of performance and everyday usability. Its turbocharged variants laid the groundwork for future high-performance models.

The RS1700T was a homologation special built to meet Group 4 rally regulations, powered by a Cosworth-tuned engine that combined turbocharging with advanced fuel systems. Although limited in production, it became a highly sought-after collector's item.

Sierra RS Cosworth

Arguably the most iconic product of the Cosworth-Ford collaboration, the Sierra RS Cosworth debuted in 1986. It featured a 2.0-liter turbocharged "H" engine, producing around 204 horsepower, a remarkable figure for its class at the time. Key features included:

- Aerodynamic Enhancements: A prominent rear wing and body kit improved stability.
- Performance: Accelerated from 0-60 mph in approximately 6.5 seconds, with a top speed exceeding 140 mph.
- Handling: Equipped with advanced suspension and braking systems for superior control.

The Sierra RS Cosworth became a staple in rallying and touring car racing, cementing its legacy as a motorsport icon.

Competition Legacy and Impact

Rally Successes

Cosworth-powered Ford rally cars, especially those using the "H" series engines, dominated the Group B era. Their combination of lightweight construction, turbocharged power, and agility allowed drivers to compete fiercely across challenging terrains. Notably:

- Ford RS200: Built explicitly for Group B, it showcased advanced aerodynamics and a mid-engine layout, powered by the "H" turbo engine.
- Homologation and Regulations: The "H" engines were pivotal in Ford's efforts to meet homologation standards, which in turn fueled technological advancements.

Touring Car Championships

The Sierra RS Cosworth and its derivatives became dominant in touring car championships across Europe and Australia, winning multiple titles. The engines' durability and high power output made them favorites among racing teams.

Technological Innovations and Influence

The development of the "H" series engines pushed the boundaries of turbocharging, materials, and fuel management, influencing subsequent generations of performance engines. Their success demonstrated that racing technology could be effectively transferred to production cars, a practice now commonplace in the automotive industry.

Legacy and Modern Relevance

Collectibility and Restoration

Today, original Cosworth Fords, especially the "H" variants, are highly prized by collectors and enthusiasts. Restoring these vehicles involves sourcing authentic parts and understanding their complex engineering, maintaining their historical integrity.

Influence on Modern Performance Cars

The innovations pioneered by Cosworth during the "H" series era laid the groundwork for modern turbocharged engines, lightweight construction, and advanced fuel systems. The ethos of pushing engineering limits continues in contemporary Ford performance models, such as the Focus RS and Mustang Shelby.

Continued Enthusiasm and Motorsport Involvement

Many racing teams and clubs celebrate the legacy of Cosworth Fords, organizing historic rallies, track days, and competitions. The enduring appeal of these vehicles highlights their role in shaping performance automotive culture.

Conclusion

The Cosworth Fords, particularly the "H" series engines, epitomize a golden age of motorsport innovation and high-performance engineering. Their seamless integration into production cars blurred the lines between race and road, setting standards for decades to come. From their humble beginnings in racing workshops to becoming icons of automotive history, the legacy of the Cosworth Fords endures as a testament to engineering excellence, competitive spirit, and relentless pursuit of speed. As collectors and enthusiasts continue to celebrate these machines, their influence remains embedded in the DNA of modern performance vehicles, ensuring their place in automotive legend.

for generations to come.

Question What is the significance of the Cosworth Ford in automotive history? The Cosworth Ford is renowned for its success in both production and racing, notably in rallying and motorsport, where its engineering excellence and performance helped it become an iconic and highly regarded vehicle in automotive history. How did the Cosworth Ford 'H' engine influence racing competitions? The Cosworth Ford 'H' engine was a powerful and reliable engine used in various racing disciplines, contributing to numerous victories in competitions such as Formula 1, rallying, and touring car races, thereby cementing its legacy in motorsport history. Are modern Ford vehicles still influenced by the engineering principles of the Cosworth 'H' engine? While modern Ford vehicles have evolved significantly, the engineering principles and innovations developed during the Cosworth 'H' engine era continue to influence performance engineering and motorsport technology within Ford's broader vehicle development programs. What are some notable models that featured the Cosworth Ford 'H' engine? Notable models include the Ford Escort RS Cosworth and the Ford Sierra RS Cosworth, both of which featured the Cosworth 'H' engine and gained fame for their performance in rallying and racing competitions. Is the Cosworth Ford 'H' engine still used or available today for collectors or racing enthusiasts? The Cosworth Ford 'H' engine is no longer in production, but it remains highly sought after by collectors and racing enthusiasts, with many units preserved, restored, or replicated for historic racing and automotive restoration projects.

Related keywords: Cosworth, Ford, racing, engine, motorsport, performance, automotive, turbocharged, engineering, development

BARRIS KUSTOMS OF THE 1950S

barris kustoms of the 1950s represent a pivotal chapter in the history of automotive customization and hot rodding. During this vibrant decade, car enthusiasts and customizers pushed the boundaries of creativity, craftsmanship, and style, laying the groundwork for the modern custom car culture. This era was marked by innovative techniques, distinctive aesthetics, and influential figures who transformed ordinary vehicles into rolling works of art. In this article, we delve into the origins, key features, notable personalities, and lasting legacy of Barris Kustoms of the 1950s, providing a comprehensive overview for enthusiasts and historians alike.

The Origins of Barris Kustoms

George Barris: The Pioneer of Custom Car Culture

George Barris, often hailed as the "King of the Kustomizers," founded Barris Kustoms in the early

1950s in Los Angeles. Initially starting as a small shop, Barris quickly gained recognition for his innovative approach to customizing cars. His work was characterized by bold visuals, attention to detail, and a flair for theatricality.

The Rise of Custom Car Culture in the 1950s

Post-World War II America saw a surge in car ownership and a burgeoning youth culture eager to express individuality. Custom car modification became a popular hobby, with enthusiasts seeking to personalize their vehicles with unique paint jobs, body modifications, and accessories. Barris Kustoms emerged as a leader in this movement, specializing in transforming stock vehicles into eye-catching masterpieces.

Key Features of Barris Kustoms in the 1950s

Design Aesthetics and Techniques

Barris Kustoms was renowned for its distinct aesthetic that combined innovation with flair. Some hallmark features included:

- **Chopped Roofs:** Lowering the roofline to give the vehicle a sleeker, more aggressive stance.
- **Custom Paint Jobs:** Use of vibrant colors, flames, pinstripes, and elaborate murals.
- **Body Modifications:** Extensive work such as frenched headlights, shaved door handles, and extended fins.
- **Chrome Detailing:** Extensive chrome accents to enhance visual appeal.
- **Unique Accessories:** Custom grilles, hood ornaments, and specialty badging.

Popular Models Customized by Barris

During the 1950s, Barris Kustoms worked on a variety of vehicles, with some becoming iconic:

- **1955 Chevrolet Bel Air:** Transformed with shaved trim, custom paint, and lowered stance.
- **1957 Chevrolet Bel Air:** Known for its bold two-tone paint and fin modifications.
- **Ford Customline and Other Fords:** Customized with unique trim and bodywork.
- **Specialty Builds:** Custom show cars like the "Kustom King" and other prototypes showcasing Barris's creative capabilities.

Notable Barris Kustoms of the 1950s

The Kustom King and Other Signature Creations

George Barris's creations often gained media attention and became symbols of the era's style:

- **‘The Kustom King’:** A customized 1957 Chevy Bel Air with elaborate paint and bodywork.
- **The ‘Lizard’:** A 1950 Mercury with a lizard-themed paint job and fins.
- **The ‘Batmobile’ (Pre-1960s):** Although more famous for the 1966 TV series, Barris's early custom cars laid the groundwork for such fantastical designs.

Influence on Pop Culture

Many Barris Kustoms vehicles appeared in movies, TV shows, and car shows, boosting their cultural significance. Barris himself became a media personality, hosting shows like ‘Kustom Cars’ and appearing in publications that celebrated custom car artistry.

The Techniques and Innovations of Barris Kustoms

Bodywork and Paint

Barris's signature was his mastery in body modifications and paint techniques:

- **Frenched Lights and Antennas:** Recessing elements into the body for a streamlined look.
- **Chopping and Lowering:** Achieving a lower center of gravity and a more aggressive appearance.
- **Custom Paint Effects:** Flames, metallic finishes, pearl clear coats, and complex murals.

Chrome and Metalwork

Chrome plating was extensively used to accentuate the bodywork, often combined with custom grille work and trim to give cars a polished, high-end look.

Interior Customization

While primarily known for exterior modifications, Barris also paid attention to interiors, incorporating:

- Custom upholstery
- Unique dashboard designs
- Specialized steering wheels and accessories

Legacy and Impact of Barris Kustoms of the 1950s

Influence on Modern Custom Car Culture

The innovations and style principles pioneered by Barris continue to influence custom car builders today. His emphasis on bold aesthetics, craftsmanship, and storytelling through design set standards that are still emulated.

Preservation and Restoration

Many of Barris's original cars are preserved in museums or private collections, serving as educational tools and inspiration for new generations of customizers.

Modern Celebrations and Events

Barris's work is celebrated at car shows, museums, and online platforms, ensuring that the legacy of 1950s Barris Kustoms remains alive.

Conclusion

Barris Kustoms of the 1950s played a crucial role in shaping American automotive culture. Through innovative techniques, bold designs, and a passion for creativity, George Barris and his team transformed everyday vehicles into iconic symbols of an era. Their work not only defined the aesthetic of 1950s custom cars but also laid the foundation for the modern custom car and hot rod movements. Today, the influence of Barris's innovative spirit continues to inspire car enthusiasts worldwide, ensuring that the legacy of the 1950s Barris Kustoms endures for generations to come.

Barris Kustoms of the 1950s: A Deep Dive into the Birth of Custom Car Culture

The 1950s marked a pivotal era in automotive history, and one of the most influential contributors to this transformation was Barris Kustoms. Founded by George Barris, this California-based custom shop became synonymous with innovative design, groundbreaking modifications, and a unique aesthetic that would influence car culture for decades to come. The company's work during the 1950s laid the groundwork for the modern custom car movement, blending artistry with engineering to create vehicles that were as much art pieces as they were transportation.

The Origins of Barris Kustoms and Its Rise to Prominence

Who Was George Barris?

George Barris, born in 1925, was a pioneering figure in the world of custom cars. His passion for automobiles and craftsmanship led him to establish Barris Kustoms in the early 1950s. From humble beginnings, Barris and his team quickly gained recognition for their inventive approach to modifying

stock vehicles into unique, eye-catching machines.

The 1950s Context

Post-World War II America experienced a boom in automotive sales and car culture. Young enthusiasts sought to personalize their vehicles, and the industry responded with a surge in aftermarket parts and customization options. Barris Kustoms emerged as a leader in this movement, capitalizing on the trend for radical transformations and show-stopping designs.

The Signature Style of Barris Kustoms in the 1950s

Aesthetic Influences and Design Philosophy

Barris Kustoms of the 1950s was characterized by a distinct style that combined:

- Sleek, elongated bodylines
- Dramatic two-tone paint schemes
- Extensive body modifications, including shaved door handles and smoothed-out surfaces
- Use of chrome accents and elaborate trim
- Custom grilles and lighting

The emphasis was on creating vehicles that looked futuristic, streamlined, and highly personalized.

Key Techniques and Modifications

Some of the primary techniques used by Barris Kustoms during this period included:

- Shaving and smoothing: Removing door handles, trim, and emblems for a cleaner surface
- Chopped roofs: Lowering the roofline for a more aggressive stance
- Custom paintwork: Bright, contrasting colors with metallic or pearl finishes
- Extended wheelbases and fender modifications: To achieve that elongated, low-slung look
- Custom upholstery and interior design: Matching the exterior's flair with luxurious interiors

Iconic Cars and Projects from the 1950s

The 1955 Lincoln Futura

While the Lincoln Futura was completed in 1954, its influence extended into the 1950s as a showcase of Barris' innovative design. It featured a streamlined body, unique grille, and was a

precursor to many future custom projects.

The 1956 Cadillac "Elvis Car"

Though more associated with the 1960s, Barris' early work on Cadillac conversions in the 1950s set the stage for extravagant styling. These vehicles often featured two-tone paint, significant body modifications, and custom interiors.

The "Kookie Kar" (1950s)

A notable project was the customized 1947 Ford convertible for actor and singer Kookie (Edd Byrnes). It featured a chopped roof, custom paint, and chrome accents, exemplifying the era's design ethos.

Barris Kustoms' Cultural Impact and Media Presence

Showcasing in Films and TV

Barris' reputation skyrocketed thanks to appearances on television and in films. His custom cars frequently appeared in Hollywood productions, further popularizing the aesthetic and techniques of the 1950s.

Influence on Hot Rod and Custom Car Culture

Barris Kustoms played a pivotal role in shaping the hot rod movement, emphasizing personal expression and craftsmanship. His work inspired countless enthusiasts to pursue their own custom projects, leading to a vibrant community centered around innovation and artistry.

The Business and Innovation Side of Barris Kustoms

Custom Shop Operations

During the 1950s, Barris Kustoms operated as a full-service custom shop, offering:

- Complete vehicle conversions
- Paint and bodywork
- Upholstery and interior design
- Fabrication of unique parts and accessories

Their approach combined in-house craftsmanship with creative collaboration, pushing the

boundaries of what was possible at the time.

Technological Innovations

Barris was known for experimenting with new techniques, such as:

- Using fiberglass for body panels
- Developing custom chrome and trim designs
- Implementing new lighting and signaling features

These innovations set Barris Kustoms apart from other shops and contributed to the era's distinctive look.

Legacy and Lasting Influence

The Evolution of Barris Kustoms

While the company evolved over the decades, the 1950s remain its foundational era. The stylistic choices and techniques pioneered during this period continue to influence custom car design today.

Collectibility and Preservation

Many of Barris' 1950s vehicles are now considered priceless collectibles, often featured at car shows, museums, and auctions. Preserving these cars helps maintain the history of American automotive ingenuity and the vibrant culture of the 1950s.

Conclusion: The Enduring Spirit of Barris Kustoms in the 1950s

Barris Kustoms of the 1950s represents a golden era of automotive creativity, where craftsmanship, innovation, and artistry came together to redefine what a car could be. George Barris's work during this decade not only transformed vehicles but also helped establish a cultural phenomenon—custom car culture—that continues to thrive today. From sleek paint jobs to radical body modifications, the cars of this era remain symbols of American ingenuity and the enduring desire for personal expression through automobiles.

Additional Resources for Enthusiasts

- Books: Barris: The Greatest Custom Car Builder of the 1950s
- Museums: Petersen Automotive Museum's Classic Car Collection

- Online Communities: Custom Car Forums and Social Media Groups dedicated to 1950s Kustoms
- Events: Annual car shows celebrating vintage and custom cars from the 1950s

Feel free to dive deeper into the fascinating world of Barris Kustoms and discover the stories behind some of the most iconic vehicles that helped shape American car culture.

QuestionAnswer What is Barris Kustoms and how did it influence 1950s car culture? Barris Kustoms was a custom car shop founded by George Barris in the 1950s, renowned for transforming ordinary cars into unique, personalized vehicles that became iconic symbols of 1950s car culture and hot rod enthusiasm. Which famous cars were customized by Barris Kustoms in the 1950s? Some of the most famous cars customized by Barris Kustoms in the 1950s include the 'Kookie Kar' (a modified 1951 Ford), the 'Batmobile' (later in the 1960s), and various show cars that showcased innovative design and styling techniques. How did Barris Kustoms contribute to the development of custom car design in the 1950s? Barris Kustoms pioneered innovative techniques such as unique body modifications, custom paint jobs, and the integration of chrome accents, setting trends that defined the custom car movement of the 1950s. What role did Barris Kustoms play in popular culture during the 1950s? Barris Kustoms gained fame through its appearances in car shows, magazines, and later television, helping to popularize custom cars as a symbol of youth culture and individual expression during the 1950s. Were there any notable innovations introduced by Barris Kustoms in the 1950s? Yes, Barris Kustoms introduced innovative design elements such as shaved door handles, custom grilles, and elaborate paint schemes, which became standard features in custom car modifications of that era. How did Barris Kustoms influence future generations of car enthusiasts and customizers? Barris Kustoms inspired future generations through its pioneering designs and techniques, encouraging a culture of creativity, personalization, and craftsmanship that continues in the custom car industry today.

Related keywords: custom cars, 1950s hot rods, vintage automotive, kustom paint, pinstriping, classic car restoration, lowriders, personalized vehicles, American car culture, retro automotive design

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