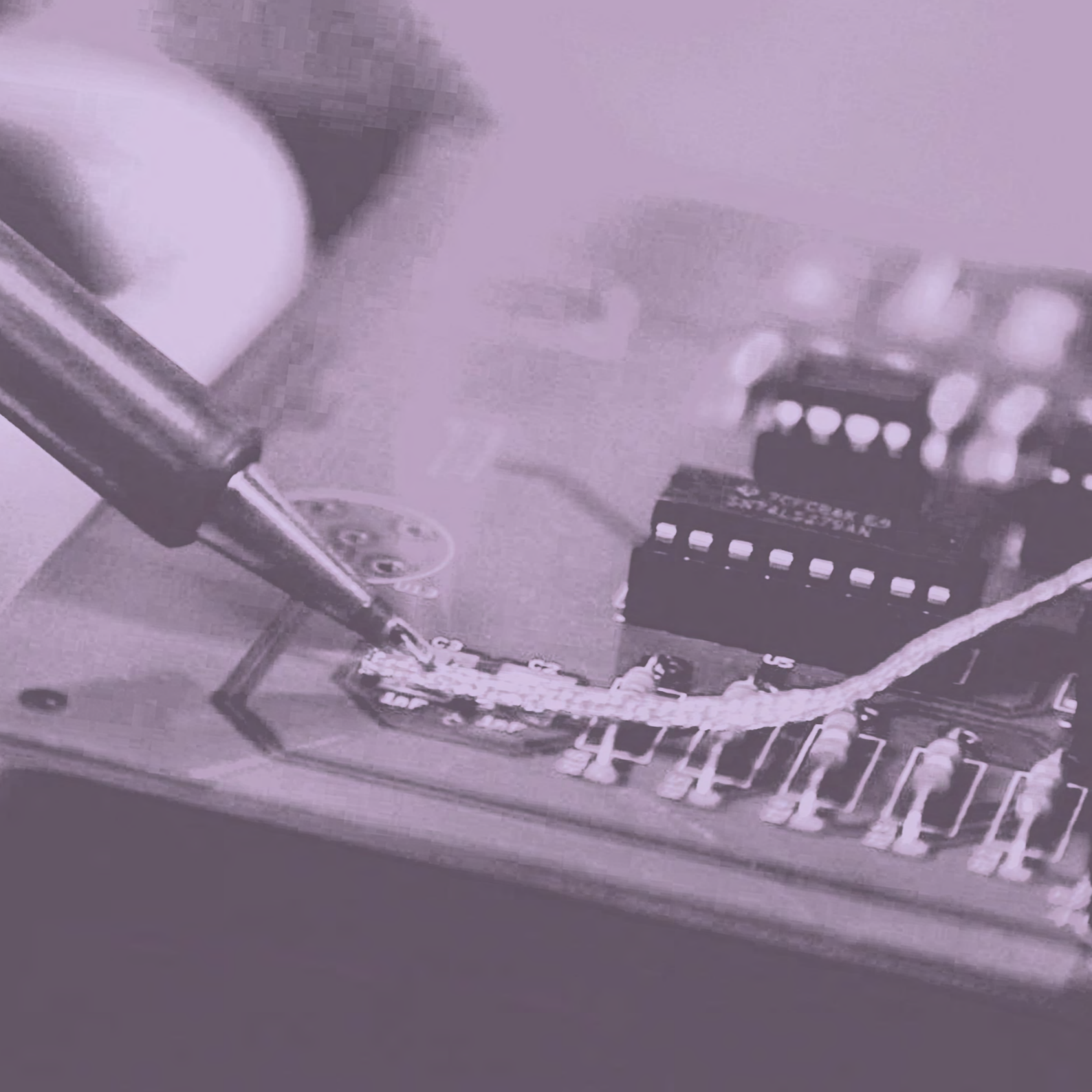




AN ARTISAN COLLECTION

SOUNDS FOR THE COGNOSCIENTI



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天 INTRODUCTION

The word 'Ten' is a Romanisation of the Kanji character for 'heaven', 'sky' and (metaphorically speaking) 'fate' in Japanese. And Ten is the name for a new project, curating the best of the New Wave of artisan audio craftsmen making unique, very custom, bespoke audio instruments.

Over the years, we have at times cultivated and nurtured brands far from the high-end 'mainstream' because of the artisans behind the brands themselves. These rare individuals are audio's 'Renaissance men'; engineers with both a passion for music who have developed critical listening skills to produce high performance pieces of art and science combined. As a result, their companies develop distinctive high-performance audio products that are as close to 'bespoke' as it's possible to get in high-end audio. These are the brands we seek for Ten.

These unique musical instruments are not the products for the box-swapping audiophile; each product is handcrafted to painstaking levels, making them hard to get and always in short supply. Inherently craftsman-made, such instruments are not to be undertaken lightly, as they often require even more careful system building and even more thorough installations than usual, but the resulting performance is beyond compare and parallel. A true vision of audio heaven... that is what Ten means.



天 DEVORE FIDELITY

Founded by president and chief designer John DeVore in 2000, DeVore Fidelity has gone on to win awards and universal acclaim for every one of its products, as John continues to push the state of the art in speaker design.

John brought his 30 years of experience as a musician, 20 years of designing speakers and 18 years of Hi-Fi industry experience to his company.

Based out of Brooklyn in New York City, DeVore Fidelity goal is to create products that communicate the life-breath of music. John believes that the best means to this end combines the art of aesthetics with the science of physics in such a way that each complements the other, and together yield a product far greater than the sum of its parts. This permeates every product the company makes.



天 DEVORE FIDELITY O-96

With the Orangutan O/96 DeVore Fidelity brings its award-winning blend of musicality and accuracy to a new speaker designed especially for low-powered tube amplifiers. 10" paper cone with a phase-plug powered by a motor adapted from the company's popular Silverback Reference drivers, and a gently horn-loaded 1" silk-dome tweeter with a powerful double-magnet motor system.

With its wide front baffle, this stand-mount design is reminiscent of classic audio loudspeakers of the Golden Age of audio, but these wide-baffle loudspeakers were popular for a generation with good reason; they produce an outstanding sound quality with excellent imaging throughout. Whether partnering this loudspeaker with a fine low power tube amplifier or a large solid-state design, the O/96 is a modern classic design.



天 DEVORE FIDELITY O-93

With a new version of DeVore's 10 inch Paper cone woofer with phase plug and the same gently horn loaded 1 inch silk dome tweeter, the O/93 retains much of the clarity and tonality of the O/96 at a lower sensitivity in a lower priced speaker.

By eschewing the stand in favour of a floorstanding construction, but retaining much of the wide baffle of the O/96, the O/93 also retains the excellent imaging and focus of the bigger model. And, with a 93dB sensitivity and 10 ohm impedance, this loudspeaker design can be used with even the smallest of low-power single-ended triode designs.



天 DEVORE FIDELITY GIBBON SUPER NINE

The Gibbon by DeVore Fidelity is a slimline floorstanding loudspeaker, designed to blend well into domestic living rooms and yet retain the combination of efficient and accurate performance that DeVore Fidelity has become associated with.

In fact, the Gibbon is two designs under the same banner; the two-and-a-half way gibbon Super Nine (with DeVore's 0.75" soft dome tweeter coupled with a 7" doped paper cone for both mid-bass drivers) and the three-way gibbon X, that features a new 0.75" inch ultra-low-mass textile dome tweeter suspended in an inert chamber, a new 7" midrange driver with a phase-plug and inverted natural rubber surround in its own sealed enclosure and a pair of massive, long-throw 9" woofers in a tuned four-chamber enclosure. The results are two loudspeakers that offer a perfect combination of high-sensitivity and high fidelity for music lovers.



天 DEVORE FIDELITY ORANGUTAN REFERENCE

The Orangutan Reference is a four-piece loudspeaker system representing the ultimate expression of the DeVore Fidelity Orangutan Series. Offering unprecedented flexibility and customisation, the O/Reference can be installed in nearly any size room and built to fit nearly any decor.

This two-chassis stand-mounted design is split between a standard loudspeaker and similarly sized bass speaker cabinet. The former features a bronze and AlNiCo-magnet variant of the company's 10" mid-bass unit coupled with the DeVore 1" soft dome tweeter... itself sitting in a cast bronze horn and featuring a rare-earth magnet arrangement. These are joined in this case by a .75" silk-dome supertweeter in its own cast bronze horn. The bass cabinet comprises a 11" reinforced aluminium woofer (capable of a massive 2.25" excursion) with a similar passive radiator. This includes a 700W amplifier and adjustable phase, equalisation and filtration to match the loudspeaker system to any room.



天 DOHMANN AUDIO

Growing up in Melbourne, Australia gave Mark a wonderful opportunity to experience a wide variety of live music and it didn't take long before he was hooked. Classical orchestras, chamber ensembles, opera, folk, jazz, blues and rock legends, and more...

In 1982 Mark teamed up with a close friend who was highly skilled with electronics and together they designed and built their first reference turntable called the "CONTINUUM" by Döhmann and Gusew. This was Mark's first commercial product.

The "CONTINUUM" by Döhmann & Gusew soon gained a reputation for outperforming a lot of established high-end tables and audiophiles from around the world started ordering bespoke tables.

In 2011 The Helix One turntable incorporated multiple design solutions that had never been applied to turntable design before, and following the success of the Helix One and the second model released in 2017, the Helix Two, Mark decided to re-structure the Döhmann Audio brand.

The research, development and assembly of all Döhmann Audio products is now done in Australia by Mark and his technical team and the brand will now focus on delivering an exceptional customer experience around the world.

In 2018, Mark was awarded the Sound and Vision 'Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to Analogue and Industry'.



天 DOHMANN AUDIO HELIX ONE MK III

The Helix One Mk3 was designed with the objective in mind to create the ultimate turntable system. To achieve this ambition, Döhmann Audio has incorporated some unique design features and technologies, including a fully integrated MinusK vibration isolation system utilising NSM technology, a mechanical crossover network which is designed to dissipate mid and high frequency vibrations, floating armboards, a custom designed Swiss-manufactured motor designed to Döhmann Audio's specifications and carefully designed resonance dissipation pathways within the chassis.

The PowerBase contains the power supply, control software to drive the new motor and special high frequency / RF absorption features. It also contains a suspension stabiliser to lock the table from moving during record changeover, a lighting control system and power filtration functions.



天 DOHMANN AUDIO HELIX TWO MK III

The Helix Two Mk3's sound is immediately recognised for its purity and realism. It is designed to operate flawlessly in non-ideal environments such as older houses with wooden floors, upper floors, attics where external vibrations are carried through buildings – even those made from concrete, steel, and brick.

Due to its revolutionary vibration isolation system, it is also not dependent on a high-quality audiophile stand. The design has made it possible to incorporate a level of engineering previously not possible at this price point and as a result, the Helix Two Mk3 is considered to be outstanding value. The more compact dimensions allow it to be used in smaller spaces and standard sized stands.



天 HSE

The Swiss brand HSE is no newcomer, as it was incorporated in Zurich back in 1987. Robert Huber, the founder of the company, worked for 33 years at Studer as a development engineer and R&D team leader, with numerous patents to his name filed under the Studer, Soundcraft and Harman parent companies. Huber's key consideration is to create a perfect symbiosis between electronics and mechanical design, and this involves using the best tools and the best materials for the job.

HSE still manufactures some of the finest and most highly rated professional audio products in the world, with a commanding reputation for helping to create some of the best sounding recordings made in studios where performance and sound quality are paramount. In particular, HSE's EQ-1 Equalizer is and FITA live stage equaliser are both prized possessions of studio and live engineers the world over.

Recently, however, HSE turned its attention to the high-end audio world, and the results of Huber's phono preamplifier must be heard to be believed.

天 HSE

MASTERLINE 7 PHONO PREAMP



The Masterline 7 is a handmade fully balanced Class A phono stage. It is an all-discrete, high voltage, dual mono phono preamplifier design with selectable phono equalisation curves and an external power supply and what the Swiss company calls its 'Vibfree' support system. The Masterline 7 uses 12 HSE-designed discrete Class A Gain-stage modules and two Zero ohm Class A ultra-low noise Head amps, to guarantee best possible audio performance. This circuit is cited on a 20mm thick milled aluminium block, to help minimise EMC ingress.

HSE Masterline 7 can support up to three balanced turntable inputs and includes a balanced output. Every last parameter of cartridge loading can be set for each channel allowing even significant channel imbalances from the cartridge to be compensated for. This is aided by painstaking component matching (up to 0.2% maximum variance). The resulting handbuilt Masterline 7 is then given a week-long hardening and maturing test before it is sent out to the customer. This is perhaps why the Masterline 7 phono preamp comes with a 30 year guarantee.

There are phono stages, and there is the HSE Masterline 7; a true masterpiece for our age!



天 METAXAS & SINS

Music liberates us; it creates deep emotional connections that transcend the everyday and transport us to somewhere else entirely. Metaxas & Sins are dedicated to the mission of capturing the essence and spirit of a great musician's art and sharing the emotion of his message.

In 1986, Kostas Metaxas started out recording hundreds and hundreds of acoustic performances. Recording in situ, he recorded the space as much as the sound, creating a rich soundscape that had depth and emotion. Playing it back, Kostas had achieved a sonic picture – these massive, huge sounds where you could hear everything: the weight, the impact and the realism of the performance. This provided the benchmark and reference point from which Kostas was able to engineer audio equipment capable of replicating the depth, intent and presence of the music he'd recorded.



天 METAXAS & SINS T-RX "TOURBILLON"

It is an entirely newly designed professional reel to reel tape location recorder and playback machine that meets and exceeds the highest demands of recording engineers and the most serious audiophiles. It is a tool to record and playback magnetic tape at the absolute highest levels.

The T-RX also combines the highest precision "milgauss" stainless steel mechanical parts mounted onto a chassis which is CNC'd from a solid block of aluminium.

The result is a machine that is capable of recording and playback with a level of realism that gives the listener the sense of being present at the live music performance in it's original venue. Combining 2020's technology with 1960's "soul".



天 METAXAS & SINS PAPILLON

The Metaxas & Sins "Papillon" Analog Tape Reproducer is the first Tape Recorder to use the same concept to support the rollers and mechanics of the delicate tape path.

It is an entirely newly designed professional reel to reel tape studio recorder and playback machine which challenges the notion that we've been able to extract all the information from magnetic tapes and meets and exceeds the highest demands of recording engineers and the most serious audiophiles.



天 ROBERT KODA

A South African in Japan, Robert Koch (Koda) has dedicated his life to the pursuit of musical satisfaction. Even at age 12, Robert was researching into improved audio techniques, and his interest was piqued by vacuum tubes rather than solid-state audio.

This ultimately led Robert to him spending more than 16 years in the field of high end audio distribution, retail, installation, and servicing, and – prior to branching out on his own in 2008 – culminated in him working under the guise of the late and legendary Hiroyasu Kondo of Audio Note (Kondo) Japan in Tokyo. Despite his sitting at the feet of someone many consider 'the master', Robert is actually self-trained and an independently motivated creator of audio electronics. All the contact available through this career with vast arrays of equipment of those times fuelled a hounding sense that things could be done by him and be done right played a major role in his life and lead to the development of a system that by 2004 captured the results of this lifelong work.

The Robert Koda brand exists because his products have something uniquely special and timeless to offer serious music lovers. Their values are one of truth in the spirit of music as in business. Each amplifier is effectively commissioned by the individual customer and are therefore of great importance to the company.



天 ROBERT KODA MC-ONE

Listening to the highest of high-end phono preamplifiers led Robert Koda to develop the MC-ONE. The task took years of research, the development of a wholly new way of implementing the phono equalisation curve... and then another two years to best implement those techniques!

A dedicated moving coil only phono preamplifier with a substantial 72dB of available gain means the MC-ONE delivers a combination of low noise, high gain and massive overload margin. This is a very rare achievement indeed and testament to the design's dexterity.



天 ROBERT KODA K-15 EX

The Takumi K-15 EX is Robert Koda's flagship preamplifier and builds upon the technologies found in the acclaimed, award winning K-10. However, in creating an altogether more sophisticated, refined and engaging instrument than the already highly prized K-10, the Takumi K-15 EX might just be the preamplifier's ultimate form!

Specifically designed to partner with a wide range of source components and power amplifiers, the five balanced or single-ended input K-15 EX's purpose is to extract the maximum performance from each component so that the system as a whole delivers uncharted musical pleasure. In particular, the K-15 EX delivers massive power gain with remarkably low distortion while remaining highly immune to the negative influences of power supply noise.



天 ROBERT KODA K-160

Robert Koda's first power amplifier design was the Takumi K-70 and this valve amplifier was commonly considered to be one of the best amps in the world. Eleven years later, Robert Koda launched the K-160, an all solid-state 150W design that doubles the power, reduces the number of chassis and vastly improves on the performance of its predecessor.

The input stage of the K-160 utilises the techniques learned in the power supply of the MC One phono stage and the result is a super-quiet, unusually high-voltage input. This is met by a power amplifier that features a double single-ended class A topology with a ten-fold reduction in distortion from its already low distortion predecessor. This makes for an amplifier of rare speed, dynamics and absence of 'smearing'.



天 TRAFOMATIC

Sasa Cokic and the team behind Trafomatic Audio are not your typical audiophile 'suits'. They don't follow the corporate line or make cynical products for the sake of filling a range. They look like an indie band, and their outlook is very 'indie' too. "We don't take any of the usual high-end audio norms as standard," says Sasa. Instead, he insists, "We're setting them by moving the bar of extreme by each of our products. We strive for utmost excellence that goes beyond of what industry tried to enforced on the listeners for past few daces. Where most stops, our journey just begins."

"Where others see notes," he continues, "we see the time related profound musical micro universe. By not bowing down to the false pretences of so-called high-end audio attributes our creations project unforgettable lifetime musical experience that will blow your minds and senses. Our love for music is a pure as our products." "We care for purity of the music and we tune our musical instruments to perfection" Sasa concludes.

Normally, it would be easy to dismiss such statements as pretentious nonsense from someone trying to make their own path in a very tough and conservative market. However, judging by the performance of Trafomatic's products, they just might be right!



天 TRAFOMATIC COLLINS

The two-box, uncompromising Collins phono stage has no fewer than four inputs for four turntables, or four tone arm/cartridge combinations. Each one can be individually set for gain, MC input impedance and MM input capacitance via a series of beautifully turned dials on the top plate of the phono preamplifier.

With the rise of multiple arms on turntables to extract the most out of each cartridge, what better way to realise this goal than by using an excellent phono stage that will input and output balanced and single-ended cartridges. And while larger than most turntables, the Collins is, quite simply, the best phono stage Trafomatic Audio can make!



天 TRAFOMATIC TARA 30A

Since the Elysium State of the Art tube power-amplifiers were launched in 2016 the search started for a matching quality tube pre-amplifier with some additional features. For instance, an extreme low output impedance. Not only for matching with different power amps, but as well for the use of long, high quality interconnects. Extremely hard to find in pre-amp tube designs.

Based upon the unique spring suspended Emission Labs 30A tubes, the Tara 30A is a fully-balanced class A preamplifier with line output transformers, dynamic balance adjustment, extreme low output impedance, specially designed output transformers and chokes. Despite its uncompromising design it is also fully remote controlled. It is a two box design with a separate power supply and is one of the best line preamplifier ever made!



天 TRAFOMATIC ELYSIUM

After 20+ years of exploring the exotic and ultra high-end audio music reproduction, the 70W per channel Elysium represents Trafomatic's state of the art mono-block power amplifiers. As the name suggests, Elysium leads to the ultimate aural experience where nothing is hidden.

Elysium uses Trafomatic's Pure Class A DHT single-ended circuits, built around the Eimac 250TL output tube resolving with 70 Watts of Class A unrestrained power output per channel. The amplifier is directly coupled by the unconventional interstage transformer to EML 20B-V4, with an EML 5Z3 as rectifier. This is a unique approach capable of delivering the last bits of sonic information from even the most refined audio sources.



天 TRAFOMATIC DRINA - WORLD EXCLUSIVE

For those few for whom the Elysium is not enough, Trafomatic Audio recently announced the Drina monoblock. Drina uses some of the most exotic tubes around; featuring one 450TL, two EML 20B-V4 and one 5Z3 tube per channel. Drina has a switchable 50/140 W pure A class power output.

This is a pure bespoke amplifier, originally designed to be made to a customer's unique specifications and now produced as a 'one plus ultra' amplifier in the company's already outstanding line-up, the Drina is the ultimate in power amplifier from this European artisan amplifier brand.



"I am seeking, I am striving, I am in it with all my heart."

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