SINGER products for smooth sewing...

For perfect stitching, use SINGER quality needles. At your local SINGER CENTER you will find just the right needle for every type of fabric, from delicate sheers to heavy denims... there's even one for stitching suede. Make sure you keep an assortment on hand.

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THE SINGER COMPANY
Buttonholing...

with the Professional Buttonholer

With the Professional Buttonholer and your zig-zag sewing machine you can make buttonholes in six different styles plus eyelets ... in a wide variety of fabrics.

- **Straight** buttonholes with round ends for coats, suits, dresses, and blouses ... just about everything.
- **Eyelet-End** buttonholes for coats, suits, and tailored dresses.
- **Purl-Edge** buttonholes in straight or eyelet-end shape to give the look of a hand-sewn finish to tailored garments.
- **Two-Needle** buttonholes to add a designer touch on sheer, crisp fabrics.
- **Bound** buttonholes to give an air of distinction to coats, dresses, or suits.
- **Eyelets** for belts, lacing, studs.

You choose the style and the length — you can even adjust stitch width and cutting space — and make perfect buttonholes every time!

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Principal Parts and What They Do...

1. Template Cover Lock—Holds template cover in position
2. Cloth Clamp Adjusting Lever—Controls position of cloth clamp
3. Template Holder—Holds templates
4. Buttonholer Cover—Covers working parts
5. Fork Arm—Activates Buttonholer
6. Buttonholer Cover Screw—Holds cover in position
7. Wrap-around Bracket—Fits around machine presser bar to hold Buttonholer in place
8. Cloth Clamp—Holds fabric in position
9. Buttonholer Screw—Fastens Buttonholer to sewing machine
10. Touch & Sew Feed Cover Plate—Replaces the throat plate of Touch & Sew sewing machines
11. General Purpose Feed Cover Plate—Covers the zig-zag throat plate of conventional-bobbin sewing machines
12. Feed Cover Plate Screw—Attaches the feed cover plate to the bed of conventional-bobbin sewing machines
13. Space Selector—Controls space in center of buttonhole
14. Space Selector Lock—Locks selector in place
15. Stitch Length Selector—Controls buttonhole stitch length
16. Stitch Length Lock—Locks selector in place
17. Template Cover—Holds templates in place
18. Templates—Control buttonhole style and length
How the Buttonholer Works

The Buttonholer has a simple set of controls that work together with the controls on your sewing machine to produce buttonholes that are consistently uniform in length and width. By adjusting the controls, and choosing among the templates furnished with the Buttonholer, you can make buttonholes in a wide variety of sizes and styles.

Your choice of template and control settings will depend on whether you are making:

Worked buttonholes, which are finished with thread (these include straight, eyelet-end, two-needle and purl-edge buttonholes, plus eyelets)

Bound buttonholes, which are piped with fabric

1. Templates Control Buttonhole Style and Length

A set of twenty color-coded templates is furnished with the Buttonholer. The color tells you the shape of buttonhole each will make. The numbers and the length of the line on the bottom of the template tell you the length of the opening in the finished buttonhole. Measurements are expressed in inches and in millimeters.

Green templates are for straight worked buttonholes. They come in eight lengths: 1/2", 5/8", 13/16", 15/16", 1-1/16", 1-1/4", 1-3/8" and 1-1/2".

Brown templates are for eyelet-end worked buttonholes in five lengths: 7/8", 1-1/16", 1-1/4", 1-3/8", and 1-1/2"; plus the eyelet. (The 1-1/2" template is furnished in the Buttonholer.)

Beige templates are for bound buttonholes in six lengths: 13/16", 15/16", 1-1/16", 1-1/4", 1-3/8", and 1-1/2".

2. Machine Settings Control Stitching

For worked buttonholes, adjust the machine for zig-zag stitching. Then, depending on fabric and buttonhole length, set stitch width at any point from 2 through 4.

For bound buttonholes, adjust the machine for straight stitching.

3. Buttonholer Settings Control Stitch Length and Space

The Buttonholer Stitch Length Selector is used instead of the machine Stitch Length Selector to determine stitch length. Worked buttonholes and bound buttonholes require different settings.

For worked buttonholes, use setting 1 (adjust stitch length setting away from 1 toward 2 if fabric fails to feed).

For bound buttonholes, use setting 2.

- To adjust selector, loosen locking screw and move selector to desired setting: farthest point back for setting 1; farthest point forward for setting 2. Then tighten locking screw.

The Space Selector determines the width of cutting space in worked buttonholes and the width of piping in bound buttonholes.

Space settings run from a minimum width at 2 to a maximum width at 4.

- To adjust selector, loosen locking screw and slide pointer to setting desired. Then tighten locking screw.
Helpful Suggestions

HOW TO MARK BUTTONHOLE POSITION

Accurate guidelines are essential to keep buttonholes at a uniform distance from the edge of the garment, evenly spaced, and on the grain of the material. The following rules apply to both worked and bound buttonholes:

1. Mark center line of garment. This guideline can be made with machine basting if the fabric does not retain needle holes, or by hand basting. The space from center line to finished edge of garment must be from three-quarters to once the diameter of the button. With this spacing, the button will not extend beyond the edge when the garment is buttoned. Make sure that center line marking follows a lengthwise fabric thread.

2. Mark a position guideline for each buttonhole with hand basting.
   - **Horizontal** buttonholes are placed to extend 1/8" beyond center line of garment, as illustrated, so that buttons will be in the center of the figure when the garment is fastened. Horizontal buttonhole guidelines should follow a crosswise fabric thread and be longer than the finished length of the buttonhole. Worked buttonhole markings should start about 1/8" beyond the center line and be about 2-1/2" long. (See page 13.) Markings for bound buttonholes should be at least 3" long and start from the facing or fabric edge. (See page 19.)

   ![Diagram of buttonhole placement](image)

   - **Vertical** buttonholes are placed on center line of garment, as illustrated. Mark the ends of each buttonhole horizontally across the center line basting.
   - Spaces between buttonholes should be equal. When a line of buttonholes crosses the waistline (as on a coat or jacket), be sure that one buttonhole will fall exactly on the waistline. Then measure the other buttonhole markings from that point.

   - Remember to place buttonholes in women's and girls' clothes on right hand side of garment; in men's and boys' wear on left hand side.

HOW TO ESTIMATE BUTTONHOLE LENGTH

A buttonhole should be just long enough to allow the button to slip through the opening without stretching the fabric. You can estimate proper length by measuring the width plus the thickness of the button. To make sure you have chosen the right template, take a scrap of fabric and cut a slit the same length as the measuring line on the back of the template you intend to use. Then slip button through opening.

INTERFACINGS

It is almost always wise to use an interfacing in the buttonhole area. An interfacing is essential, however, if the fabric is loosely woven or is a crepe or knit that stretches easily. Interfacing holds such fabrics firmly so that neat buttonhole may be made, and it also keeps the finished buttonhole in shape.

HOW TO PROTECT DELICATE FABRICS

Pile and nap fabrics, satins, satins, and fabrics of delicate construction can be protected by placing a piece of clear plastic over the buttonhole marking before inserting the garment under the cloth clamp of the Buttonholer. The plastic protector in your wallet is ideal for this purpose.

After the garment is positioned correctly, remove plastic before lowering presser bar. Then, when removing the garment, slide plastic over finished buttonhole stitching.

NEEDLES AND THREAD

No. 50 Mercerized cotton thread, used with a Size 14 needle, produces excellent buttonholes in all types of fabric. In delicate fabrics, however, you may wish to use a finer thread such as silk or synthetic; in that case use a Size 11 needle. Always use a fine thread and a size 11 needle when making two-needle buttonholes.

BUTTONHOLE OPENING

Use a pair of small sharp scissors to cut the button opening. Insert blade in center of buttonhole cutting space and start cutting from this point in either direction. Place a pin across the cutting space at each end of the buttonhole to protect the stitching.
Preparing to Use the Buttonholer

...with the Touch & Sew Zig-Zag Sewing Machine

(If you have a conventional-bobbin sewing machine, turn to page 10.)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Set your machine for straight stitching in center needle position.

WIND THE BOBBIN

The bobbin of your Touch & Sew sewing machine should be filled before the feed cover plate and the Buttonholer are attached. If you are making a great many buttonholes, it is a good idea to wind an extra bobbin for quick replacement when you run out of thread. Instructions for replacing a bobbin with the Buttonholer in place are given on page 23.

1. Thread the machine and fill the bobbin.
2. Place the bobbin in sewing position by pressing the push-button release lever or closing the slide plate as instructed in your sewing machine instruction book.
3. Pull out a loop of thread between the needle and the throat plate.
4. Cut thread 2 to 3 inches from the needle hole.

ATTACH FEED COVER PLATE

1. Raise presser foot.
2. Open slide plate.
3. Unlock and remove machine throat plate.
4. Pick up bobbin thread and place it across the center of the bobbin with the cut end toward you.
5. Insert feed cover plate, in place of the machine throat plate, and lock in place.
6. Hold needle thread lightly with left hand and turn hand wheel slowly toward you to bring bobbin thread up through needle hole.
7. Close slide plate.

ATTACH BUTTONHOLER

1. Remove the presser foot and attaching screw from the machine.
2. Guide the Buttonholer into position from the back of the machine so that the fork arm of the Buttonholer fits over the hub of the needle clamp of the machine.
3. Fasten the wrap-around bracket of the Buttonholer to the presser bar with the Buttonholer screw. Tighten screw with a screwdriver.

REMOVE AND REPLACE TEMPLATE

You will note that a template (the brown one for 1-1/2" eyelet-end buttonholes) is already in place in your Buttonholer. Keep a template in the Buttonholer at all times, and do not change the template until the Buttonholer is on the machine. Then, after you have attached the Buttonholer and chosen the template you wish to use, remove and replace the template in the following manner:

1. Jog the cloth clamp adjusting lever until the cloth clamp has just passed its farthest forward position.
2. Open template cover by turning knob on cover in a counterclockwise direction.
3. Lift out template.
4. Hold new template with flat surface up and wider end away from you. Insert it into template holder. It may be necessary to jog template holder lightly until template drops into place.
5. Close cover. Turn knob clockwise to lock.
Preparing to Use the Buttonholer

...with a Conventional-Bobbin Zig-Zag Sewing Machine
(If you have a Touch & Sew sewing machine, turn to page 8.)

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
Set your machine for straight stitching in center needle position.

WIND THE BOBBIN
The bobbin of your sewing machine should be filled and the bobbin case threaded before the feed cover plate and the Buttonholer are attached. If you should run out of bobbin thread while sewing, instructions for replacing a bobbin with the Buttonholer in place are given on page 24.

SELECT THROAT PLATE
If your sewing machine has several different throat plates, be sure that the zig-zag throat plate is in place on the machine when you use the Professional Buttonholer. Remember too, the feed cover plate must be used over the machine throat plate when the Buttonholer is in use.

ATTACH BUTTONHOOLER

1. Guide the Buttonholer into position from the back of the machine so that the fork arm of the Buttonholer fits over the hub of the needle clamp of the machine.
2. Fasten the wrap-around bracket of the Buttonholer to the presser bar with the Buttonholer screw. Tighten screw with a screwdriver.

REMOVE AND REPLACE TEMPLATE
You will note that a template (the brown one for 1-1/2" eyelet-end buttonholes) is already in place in your Buttonholer. KEEP A TEMPLATE IN THE BUTTONHOLER AT ALL TIMES, AND DO NOT CHANGE THE TEMPLATE UNTIL THE BUTTONHOLER IS ON THE MACHINE. Then, after you have attached the Buttonholer and chosen the template you wish to use, remove and replace the template in the following manner:

1. Jog the cloth clamp adjusting lever until the cloth clamp has just passed its farthest forward position.
2. Open template cover by turning knob on cover in a counterclockwise direction.
3. Lift out template.
4. Hold new template with flat surface up and wider end away from you. Insert it into template holder. It may be necessary to jog template holder lightly until template drops into place.
5. Close cover. Turn knob clockwise to lock.

†With some vertical-needle machines, it may be necessary to lift the presser bar above its normal "up" position so that it will clear the stripper foot bracket.
Firm, durable worked buttonholes and eyelets are used on all types of clothing.

Buttonholes can be tiny for sheer materials or large for coatings. They can be straight buttonholes on dresses and blouses or eyelet-end buttonholes on suits or coats. Long or short, straight or eyelet-end, worked buttonholes are always made through two or more layers of material after the facing is attached.

Eyelets, which are used for belts as well as for lacings and studs, are also made after the facing is attached.

The stitch width and space settings recommended in the following instructions are approximate only. Always make a test buttonhole on a sample of your fabric to determine correct machine and Buttonholer settings. Be sure to duplicate the number of fabric layers in the garment and include interfacing if appropriate.

When you make your test buttonhole, choose a stitch width on the machine (and a corresponding space setting on the Buttonholer) that is suitable for the length of the buttonhole and the weight, texture, and weave of the fabric. Coatings and loosely woven fabrics require a wider stitch than lightweight and firmly woven fabrics. Also, coatings require a lighter machine pressure than lightweight fabrics. Finally, check to see that your settings allow correct cutting space. Normally, the space in the center of the buttonhole should be just wide enough to cut without damaging buttonhole stitching.

**STRAIGHT AND EYELET-END BUTTONHOLES**

**Machine preparation**

1. After attaching Buttonholer, select a straight buttonhole template (green) or an eyelet-end buttonhole template (brown) in the length desired, and insert in Buttonholer.
2. Adjust machine, including thread tension, for zig-zag stitch in center needle position.
3. Set machine Stitch Width Selector for width desired, from 2 through 4.
4. Set Buttonholer Space Selector on a number that matches your machine stitch width setting (example: if you have chosen stitch width 2, set Space Selector on 2). After you have made your test buttonhole, these settings may have to be adjusted slightly.

5. Set Buttonholer Stitch Length Selector for worked buttonholes, setting 1. Make a test sample to check settings. If fabric is heavy and fails to feed, adjust Buttonholer Stitch Length Selector very slightly away from setting 1 toward setting 2.
WORKED BUTTONHOLES (Continued)

Fabric preparation

1. Mark buttonhole position and center line guides on right side of garment. See page 6 for instructions.
2. Bring cloth clamp to its farthest forward position by jogging adjusting lever.
3. Place fabric under cloth clamp.
4. Align buttonhole marking with center front and center back lines of cloth clamp.
5. Align center line of garment with horizontal lines, second row from back on both sides of cloth clamp. This will position the starting point of your buttonhole correctly, 1/8" beyond the center line of the garment.
6. Drop presser bar. Fabric should be held smoothly and firmly under cloth clamp.

Stitching

1. Hold the needle thread and take one stitch, drawing bobbin thread up through the fabric. As the needle comes up, hold needle thread firmly since bobbin thread must pass through more than one layer of fabric.
2. Lower needle and hold both thread ends to left.
3. Take three or four stitches and clip thread ends close to stitching.
4. Remove basting used to mark buttonhole length. Do not raise the presser bar.
5. Activate the machine and let it complete one buttonhole cycle, allowing the stitching to overlap at the starting point. For a smooth, satiny appearance and greater durability, let the machine complete a second buttonhole cycle.
7. Tie and clip thread ends on underside of work.

After all the buttonholes in a series have been completed, remove marking from center line of garment.

IF YOUR FABRIC IS HEAVY—

- Use a firm interfacing to support and retain shape of buttonhole.
- Set machine for a wide stitch width and Buttonholer Space Selector for a wide cutting space.
- Use a light machine pressure adjustment.
- If fabric fails to feed, adjust Buttonholer stitch length setting very slightly away from setting 1 toward setting 2.
EYELETS

To make eyelets insert the brown template for eyelets in the Buttonholer. Then follow the instructions for “Straight and Eyelet-End Buttonholes”, with the exception of marking eyelet placement:

- If eyelets are to be placed in a straight line, baste a line following a lengthwise or crosswise thread.
- Mark the position of each eyelet with a tailor’s tack or a chalk dot.

To form the eyelet opening, pierce the fabric with a sharp, pointed instrument (an ice pick or an awl).

PURL-EDGE BUTTONHOLES

Worked buttonholes that closely resemble handwork, but require less skill and time, add a tailor’s professional touch to suits and coats. The purl-edge appearance is obtained by working a narrow-stitch buttonhole on the inner edge of a wide-stitch buttonhole. Purl-edge buttonholes are usually made in the eyelet-end style, but they may also be made in the straight style. The stitch width and space settings given in the following instructions are approximate only. Always make a test buttonhole to determine exact settings suitable for your fabric.

To make a purl-edge buttonhole
1. Set both machine Stitch Width Selector and Buttonholer Space Selector on 4.
2. Follow the directions for straight and eyelet-end buttonholes, but do not stitch around the buttonhole more than once.
3. Then, without removing fabric, change machine stitch width setting to 2-1/2 and Buttonholer space setting to approximately 2. Stitch around buttonhole again. If the narrow-stitch buttonhole does not cover the inner edge of the wide-stitch buttonhole, increase the stitch width setting. It may occasionally be necessary to increase cutting space width, too.

TWO-NEEDLE BUTTONHOLES

Worked buttonholes made with two needles produce a charming shadow effect on lightweight, crisp fabrics, such as organdy and stiffened lawn. The most delicate and attractive results are produced with fine threads (synthetic or silk) and a Size 11 needle.

1. Prepare your sewing machine as you would for two-needle stitching, including threading the needles. Attach feed cover plate and Buttonholer to the machine. Turn hand wheel toward you to bring up bobbin thread, and lay bobbin and needle threads to the left.
2. Select a straight buttonhole template (green) for length desired and insert in Buttonholer.
4. Set Buttonholer Space Selector on 3.
5. Set Buttonholer Stitch Length Selector on 1.
6. Follow directions for straight and eyelet-end buttonholes except:
   - At step 1 under Stitching, do not pull bobbin thread up through fabric.
   - At step 2 under Stitching, lower needles and hold needle threads to left.
Bound Buttonholes

Bound buttonholes add a touch of quality and distinction to coats and dresses. They can be made of the same fabric as the garment or of a fabric contrasting in color or texture. The Buttonholer enables you to place perfectly aligned rectangles of straight stitching automatically, so you can be sure that your buttonholes will all be exactly the same length and width.

A bound buttonhole is made through the garment and interfacing or stay before the facing is attached.

Always make a test buttonhole on a sample of your fabric. Be sure to duplicate the number of fabric thicknesses of your garment.

MACHINE PREPARATION
1. Select a bound buttonhole template (beige) in the length desired and insert in Buttonholer.
2. Adjust machine for straight stitching in center needle position.
4. Set Buttonholer Space Selector for width of buttonhole piping desired. Setting 4 results in a 1/4" piping space.

FABRIC PREPARATION
1. Mark center line and buttonhole position on right side of garment as described on page 6. Baste marking through interfacing if one is used.
2. Cut piping patch for each buttonhole, on straight or bias grain, 2" wide and 1" longer than buttonhole. Use sheer organza patches instead of self-fabric patches if you are using the "facing method" of construction.
3. Crease patch through center.
4. Position center of patch (crease line) over buttonhole-position marking on garment, extending patch about 5/8" beyond center line marking of garment. Pin or baste patch to garment, on crease line. Baste or mark center line of garment onto patch.
5. Bring cloth clamp to its most forward position by jogging adjusting lever.
6. Place garment (right side up) under cloth clamp.
7. Align buttonhole marking with center front and center back lines on cloth clamp.
8. Align center line marking of garment with horizontal lines second row from back on sides of cloth clamp. This alignment automatically extends buttonhole 1/8" beyond center line.
9. Drop presser bar. Material should be held smoothly and firmly under cloth clamp. Remove pin, if used to hold patch in place.
STITCHING

1. Jog adjusting lever until cloth clamp has moved across to the left and the needle is opposite the fourth horizontal line from the rear on the right side of the clamp. This is the starting point.
2. Hold needle thread and take one stitch, drawing bobbin thread up to the right side of material.
3. Hold both thread ends to left and lower needle. Take a few stitches and clip thread ends close to stitching.
4. Stitch around entire buttonhole, overlapping stitching at starting point.
5. Remove work from machine. Clip thread ends.

Repeat the foregoing steps for each buttonhole. Remove Buttonholer and feed cover plate.

CUTTING AND PRESSING

1. With sharp-pointed scissors cut through center of each buttonhole to within 1/4” of ends: clip diagonally into each of the four corners, taking care not to cut into line of stitching.
2. Turn patch to wrong side.
3. Press seams away from opening.
4. Fold patch to center of opening on either side to form buttonhole piping. Press each fold the full width of the patch.
5. Baste folds in place along each side of buttonhole but not across ends. Work from the right side. Baste folds together to hold buttonhole shape. Press.
6. From right side, turn back the edge of garment to show triangle on top of box pleat at end of buttonhole. Use the Zipper Foot or the Straight Stitch Presser Foot, and carefully stitch across patch, over previous line of stitching on triangle. Use same procedure for other end.
7. Trim both ends of patch, leaving about 1/4”.
How to Replace the Bobbin
of a Touch & Sew Zig-Zag Sewing Machine

WITH BUTTONHOLER IN PLACE
1. Raise presser bar.
2. Move the cloth clamp to its farthest back position by jogging the adjusting lever.†
3. Unlock and remove feed cover plate.
4. Open slide plate.
5. Open bobbin latch and remove empty bobbin.
6. Insert a previously wound bobbin with 4" of thread leading to the left of the latch.
7. Snap down latch to secure bobbin.
8. Partially close slide plate, leading the bobbin thread into the slide plate notch.
9. Replace the feed cover plate and lock in place.
10. Hold needle thread lightly with left hand and turn hand wheel slowly toward you to bring the bobbin thread up through the needle hole.
11. Cut bobbin thread if it is more than 3" long.
†For this step, you should have a template for a large buttonhole in the Buttonholer; otherwise, the cloth clamp will not move far enough back. If you are using a short-buttonhole template, therefore, replace it with a longer one before you replace the bobbin.

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FACING
After the garment facing has been stitched, turned, and pressed:
1. Baste around each buttonhole to keep facing in place.
2. Insert a pin from right side of garment through each end of buttonhole, to transfer buttonhole position to facing.
3. From right side of facing carefully slash between points of pins to form opening for button.
4. With point of your hand sewing needle, tuck under facing edges and hem to buttonhole in an oval shape.
5. Remove all basting and press.

Slash buttonhole facing in the same way as the buttonhole. Then turn edges in about 1/8" all around and hem to buttonhole in a rectangular shape.

A NOTE ON INTERFACINGS
In garments requiring a nonwoven or heavy canvas interfacing, bound buttonholes are easier to handle and appear less bulky if they are stitched through a stay of lightweight material. After the buttonhole is completed, an opening slightly wider and longer than the buttonhole is made in the interfacing and the interfacing is slipped under the seam edges around the buttonhole.

---

PIN-MARK BUTTONHOLE POSITION

SLASH OPENING IN FACING

HEM FACING TO BUTTONHOLE

Move Clamp to Roar and Remove Cover Plate
How to Replace the Bobbin of a Conventional-Bobbin Sewing Machine

WITH BUTTONHOLER IN PLACE

1. Raise presser bar.
2. Move the cloth clamp to its farthest back position by jogging the adjusting lever.
3. Loosen feed cover plate attaching screw and swing the cover plate to the back of the machine.
4. Open slide plate and remove bobbin.
5. Insert previously wound bobbin, thread bobbin case and raise bobbin thread as instructed in your sewing machine instruction book.
6. Reposition feed cover plate over throat plate and tighten attaching screw.

†For this step, you should have a template for a large buttonhole in the Buttonholer; otherwise, the cloth clamp will not move far enough back. If you are using a short-buttonhole template, therefore, replace it with a longer one before you replace the bobbin.

How to Take Care of the Buttonholer

The Buttonholer must be periodically lubricated at the points indicated to prevent binding and undue wear of parts in movable contact.

1. Open template cover and remove template, as shown below.
2. Loosen Buttonholer cover screw, remove screw and lift off cover. (See page 26.)
3. Apply one drop of SINGER Sewing Machine Oil at points marked “oil” on page 27. Apply SINGER Motor Lubricant to point marked “lubricant”.
4. Replace Buttonholer cover by engaging the tab at the back of the cover in the slot at the back of the Buttonholer base. Replace and tighten cover screw.
5. Pull Buttonholer cloth clamp forward and replace template. Close template cover.

Wipe off excess oil or lubricant, especially from parts that may come in contact with your garment. Place Buttonholer on machine and run it on a scrap of fabric until no oil or lubricant appears on the work.
Do you have a sewing problem?

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