



The Woolston Band 1934

Timaru Revisited

In July The New Zealand Brass Bands' Association National Championships will return to Timaru for the first time in 77 years. St Kilda Municipal won the A Grade at the 1935 event and Greymouth Municipal the B Grade. There was no C Grade event. This was the contest where the famous "100 Guineas Gold Cup" (which is still contested today) was first awarded to the Champion A Grade band.

Our participation in the 2012 contest will be something of a conciliatory gesture to Timaru, as The Woolston Band (as we were known back then) did not attend the national contest in 1935, the band's trip to Australia (Ballarat) in November 1934 having all but emptied the coffers!

The late Denis Dewe recorded the following account in his book "Brass Supreme":

"... only a handful of members actually attended. We had only entered a quartette and some soloists. Shirley Dougall scored a third in the E flat Bass Solo, but our quartette only just started. Dick Estall was to have conducted them, but he didn't show up. The gallant four then asked Archie Schnack to do the honours. He duly obliged, but the performance was said to have been something of a farce. Len Scrivener fared better in the Horn Solo on the Thursday with 87 points, and that was about the extent of Woolston participation in the Timaru Contest of 1935."

Unsurprisingly, we do not have a photograph of the band from that year, but we do have one of the 1934 band as they had won the Test Selection and placed second in the Quickstep at the aforementioned Australian Championship in Ballarat.

And so to this year's contest, at which 29 bands will compete. Both **Woolston Brass** and **Woolston Concert Brass** have

been putting in the hours, with weekend practices and sectional sessions being the order of the day.

Woolston Concert Brass will compete in the C Grade. Their test piece, *Triptych* by Philip Sparke, was commissioned for the Swiss Band Federation in 1990.

The A Grade test piece *Breath of Souls* was commissioned by Weyland and Yvonne Roberts especially for the 100th National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain that was held on the 15 October 2011. Weyland has worked in science for many years and has always been fascinated by nature's capacity to grow and rebuild regardless of Mother Nature's catastrophic power. This is evident with the news of tsunami, forest fires, earthquakes and volcanic disasters around the world where animals, plant life and humans have overcome adversity and have demonstrated that unique regenerative quality. Speaking about the piece, composer Paul Lovatt-Cooper commented:

"With Breath of Souls I wanted to compose a piece of music that was a celebration of life. Not only that, but a piece of music that from the very first notes heard in the percussion and cornets, is bustling with activity, emulating that in life everything that is living has a soul and breathes - nothing stays still and everything keeps moving and growing."

"Just like life itself Breath of Souls also grows musically with each bar. You will hear many and various motifs and ideas grow and develop as the piece develops."

You can hear both Woolston bands perform their contest works prior to the National Championships at the **Seriously Brass Concert on 1 July**.



With each passing year the significance of Anzac Day seems to grow with more and more people wearing poppies and attending dawn services. The role of the brass bands cannot be overlooked. Up and down the country, Service and civilian brass bands make a special contribution to this day, whether it is by leading the dawn parade or accompanying hymn singing with the distinctive sound that only a brass band can produce.

Woolston Brass plays its part on this day of remembrance by performing an annual Anzac Day concert. This year's concert was held in the main hangar in the New Zealand Air Force Museum at Wigram. The aircraft on display provided a wonderful backdrop to the concert which honoured the people and music of the Air Force. Of course a hangar is not a concert venue, but it was transformed into one with the placement of a large stage built especially for the occasion.

The switching of concert venue for the concert raised concerns that our regular Anzac Day audience might not attend, so a great effort was required from band members to promote the concert. Posters were put up around the city, fliers handed out at the Central Band of the New Zealand Air Force's concert and an infomercial recorded at CTV. We are pleased to note that this effort paid off as an audience of 500 attended the concert.

For the Air Force Museum itself it was a very busy day as they held their annual Anzac Day service followed by the laying of the foundation stone for the Museum's new \$15 million extension by the Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage the Hon Chris Finlayson.

Minister Finlayson then joined the Deputy Chief of Air Force Air Commodore A R Short, the chairman of the Air Force Museum Trust Board Air Vice Marshal (retired) Peter Adamson and the

Horns on the Home Front...

With the band now in lock-down mode prior to the national contest, our hard-working horn section is pictured here making an early bid for the "Section of the Year" prize with full attendances at all three horn sectionals held so far.



Cathy Biddington, Merton Tapp, Emma Caunter and Callum Hewson. The empty seat at left belongs to photographer and flugel horn player Sarah Hickman!



Director of the Air Force Museum Therese Angelo, hosted by the band's Patron Adrienne Lady Stewart, as our special guests for the concert.

At the end of a long day the members of Woolston Brass were thrilled to play to such a large and appreciative audience. We received a number of positive emails... *"It was my privilege to attend and I really enjoyed the concert. You have a very professional Band, with exceptionally talented individuals... A great concert and a professional event, so thank you."*

– **A R Short, Deputy Chief of the Air Force**

"The concert was wonderful and together with the combination of being held in the Air Force Museum and the selection of pieces performed it was certainly a memorable and sometimes emotional occasion. Again, many thanks to all concerned for a wonderful afternoon of music." – **Clare and Jim Addison**

"Anzac Day Concert was great thank you. I attended with four others from Huntsbury and really enjoyed the music and venue."

Keep up the good work and we look forward to your next concert. – **Betty W**

"Thought I'd let you know that I and my friends had a wonderful time at today's concert - just so enjoyable. Thank you again. I have long supported Woolston Brass at concerts and will continue to do so. Please wish them well in the forthcoming championships." – **Pauline**

"What a treat the Anzac Concert was! The presentation in that impressive venue, with your excellent compere, was just an AMAZING experience. It was so moving that I felt at the end that emotionally I had been through the MINCER! That is a true compliment to you and all the performers."

PS: Murray confirms my comments. – **Shirley Scambary.**

Concert Band's "Band Room Weekend"

Not to be outdone by their Senior Band counterparts, the Woolston Concert Band spent the weekend of May 26–27 rehearsing as part of their National contest preparation. Music Director Steve Chapman (pictured) was well pleased with the band's progress, so much so that he scheduled another "weekender" for June 16–17!



Steve's baton finally snapped after hours of tapping out the rhythm

Events Calendar

Saturday 30 June 2.00 pm

All former members of Woolston Brass are invited to attend an open rehearsal at the Band Room, 37 Dampier Street.

Sunday 1 July 3.00 pm

KidsFest Concert by the Woolston Junior Band at the McComb Performing Arts Centre, Cashmere High School. Admission – gold coin donation.

Sunday 1 July 6.00 pm

Seriously Brass Concert at the McComb Performing Arts Centre, Cashmere High School. Defending National Champions **Woolston Brass** join **Woolston Concert Brass** to perform their contest music prior to attending the 2012 New Zealand National Brass Band Championships.

Admission \$10.00 at the door.

Wednesday 4 July to Sunday 8 July

The New Zealand National Brass Band Championships - Timaru.

Solo and Ensemble events on Wednesday and Thursday. Band events on Friday and Saturday

Band of the Year entertainment concert on Sunday. Details on www.brassnz.co.nz

Saturday 14 July 7.30 pm

Woolston Carnival ensemble to play at the Super Rugby home game of the Canterbury Crusaders versus the Western Force at Rugby League Park (now known as AMI Stadium)

Saturday 15 September

The Canterbury Provincial Band Contest to be held at the Performing Arts Centre at Middleton Grange School.

21 – 23 September

The inaugural New Zealand Brass Festival in Wellington. Guest artists include:

Mnozil Brass - Incredible Austrian Brass Ensemble, performing in New Zealand for the first time

The Australian Brass Quintet - Members of the Sydney, Melbourne and Singapore Symphony Orchestras

Rex Richardson - US Jazz and Classical Trumpet Soloist

David Thornton - UK Euphonium Soloist, and Principal Euphonium of the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band and honorary Woolstonian.

For details visit www.nzbrassfestival.org.nz

Saturday 6 October 2:00 pm

Woolston Concert Brass to perform at the 50th Anniversary of the Christchurch MG Car Club.

Review - Anzac Remembered

Woolston Brass Band's "Anzac Remembered" concert was by turns a stirring and touching tribute to New Zealand's Armed Forces and in particular Air Force personnel, both those who served and sacrificed in past conflicts, and those who do so today.

Performed alongside vintage aircraft in the evocative setting of the Air Force Museum at Wigram, the concert was also an opportunity for the band to contribute to the Royal New Zealand Air Force's 75th anniversary celebrations.

Compere David Fiu introduced a balanced programme of both popular and less well-known military music and favourite sing-a-long and period tunes, and provided an informative commentary that brought the 20 chosen pieces into context.

From *Reveille* and the raising of the New Zealand flag by Woolston percussionist Todd Turner, the band - under the baton of its Musical Director (and Director of Music for the New Zealand Army Band), Captain Graham Hickman - led the audience on a musical tour through the history of military aviation and many other aspects of New Zealand's wider war history, touching also on Richard Pearse's early experiments with flight, and the "golden age" of aviation. The music was complemented to great effect by archive still and film footage reflecting the progress in aircraft and military technology and changes in the nature of war itself.

The selection and order of pieces were well-conceived, with a sing-a-long medley warming up the audience, many of whom had no doubt begun the day at dawn. There was enthusiastic singing and swaying in seats as the band, and in particular Caroline Blackmore on cornet, did their stirring stuff.

"Descriptive", as David Fiu said, was definitely the word for *To The Sky*, by Dwayne Bloomfield, commemorating Richard Pearse's famous flight. This led into the concert's core material, featuring a number of familiar and well-performed military pieces including the theme to the film "Battle of Britain", *Aces High*, *633 Squadron* and *The Dam Busters March* – the last of which I found it impossible not to hum along to tunelessly (apologies to the people sitting near me).

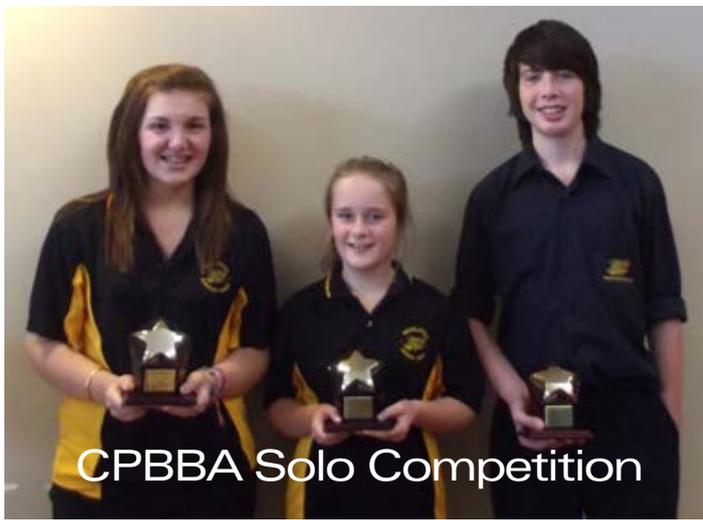
Particular mention should be made of the jaunty trombone section - section leader Andrew Yorkstone, Akira Hirasawa and Richard Hogarth - who spiced up Glenn Miller's *In the Mood* and played a special part in *The Dam Busters*; Raynor Martin on cornet and Sarah Hickman on flugel horn in *Un Peu d'Amour*, which was played as a tribute to New Zealand and Australian soldiers at Gallipoli, and Stephen Chapman on soprano cornet in *Eagle Squadron*. Albinoni's *Adagio*, not traditionally a brass band piece but a particularly moving part of the programme, featured Kevin Hickman, principal cornet and leader of Woolston Brass, and was accompanied on screen by tragic scenes from the film "Gallipoli".

A more contemporary note, with Middle Eastern influences, was heard in *Firestorm*, which celebrated the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. The band dedicated its performance of this piece to all post-World War II military aviators.

As David Fiu touchingly sang *Bring Him Home* from "Les Miserables", many in the 500-strong audience noticed a bird, fluttering dove-like high in the ceiling space – an unintentional but nevertheless timely symbol of peace.

Colonel Bogey was a popular encore choice, and the concert ended with the lowering of the flag and the Retreat Ceremony, featuring Army Band side drummer and Woolston percussionist Cameron Lee and Todd Turner. The members of Woolston Brass and all who contributed to bring together and perform this Anzac Day remembrance concert did themselves, their audience and the fallen proud.

Reviewed by *Jane Myhill*, who was introduced to the Woolston experience through our Christmas and Anzac concerts. Jane has since volunteered her services as *The Woolstonian's* proof reader!



CPBBA Solo Competition

Little stars: Georgia Hoy, Emma McMorran and Jordan Seaton

The 2012 Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association solo and ensemble competition was held on Sunday 29 April at Selwyn House School. It was very heartening to see greatly increased numbers of performers representing 10 Canterbury bands as well as Pelorus Trust Wellington Brass. Twenty-two members from all three Woolston Bands competed.

The solo adjudicator was Mike Ford from Nelson with Dwayne Bloomfield from Timaru judging the ensemble events.

Woolston results:

Emma McMorran	1st Under 13 Slow Melody
Allanah Hounscome-Vail	2nd Under 13 Slow Melody
Abby Wilson	2nd Under 13 Own Choice
Georgia Hoy	1st Under 17 Slow Melody 3rd Under 17 Own Choice
Jordan Seaton	1st Under 17 Own Choice 3rd Under 17 Slow Melody
Andrew Yorkstone	1st Open Own Choice 2nd Open Slow Melody
Emma Caunter	3rd Open Slow Melody
Sam Pinder	2nd = Open Own Choice
Callum Hewson	1st Championship Slow Melody
Davey Boyes	2nd Championship Own Choice, 3rd Championship Slow Melody CPBBA Champion of Champions.

Ensembles

Junior Group	1st Woolston Junior Band
Open Duet	1st David Mallet and Davey Boyes Leopard Coachlines and Woolston Brass

Open Ensembles 1st Army Band Quintet
(K Lawson and A Yorkstone – Woolston Brass.
R Martin, T Baker and J Thomas - Pelorus Trust Wellington)



*Winners of the Junior Ensemble (Woolston Junior Band)
Adjudicator Mike Ford and his writer Courtney Milne.*

Forgotten Hero

The family and friends of former Woolston horn player **Owen Ludlow** gathered on Wednesday April 11, 2012 to pay tribute to one of the forgotten heroes of the Second World War.



Owen "Luds" Ludlow was schooled at Nazareth House, an institution for Catholic children whose parents could no longer support them through the Depression. He was a Junior Canterbury Rugby League Representative and he captained the 1936 Canterbury primary school team. Owen left school at 14 to train as a butcher.

Although he couldn't swim Owen volunteered to join the Royal New Zealand Navy in the early days of the war. At 18 years old he became a Navy Signaller and was posted to the Far East to help stop the rampaging Imperial Army, but in February 1942 his destroyer, HMS Encounter, was torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese in the Java Sea. Surviving the shark-infested waters and enemy gun-fire, Owen was taken prisoner and enslaved in a brutal Sumatra POW camp.

The band's Annual General Meeting of 1942 records that Owen Ludlow was posted as "missing". He had been taken to Macassar, in the Celebes - now known as Sulawesi, along with 1,500 other British, American, Dutch and New Zealand prisoners. Here he endured beatings, starvation, sickness and deprivation for three-and-a-half years. Around 36 per cent of the Macassar POWs died during captivity.

When the Japanese were defeated in August 1945, Owen was shipped back to Christchurch where he set about returning to normal life. He was discharged from naval service without any pension or psychiatric assistance. He resumed his job as a butcher and returned to play tenor horn in the band, but he never spoke of his horrendous experiences.

After a few years Owen quit butchery, and the band, but he remained a life-long rugby league fanatic. He became a publican and worked for some years in Mosgiel and Alexandra before returning to Christchurch where he worked in a number of other hotels. Owen died aged 89.

Grave Concern?

The Friends of Linwood Cemetery are a group of volunteers who advocate for the maintenance, restoration and preservation of Linwood Cemetery. They contacted us as they needed a bugler for an Anzac service they were planning. The ensuing correspondence "unearthed" some interesting discoveries! ...

"Whilst I was at your website I thought I would have a bit of a fossick and would like to let you know that we probably have three of your former band masters buried here:

George BONNINGTON (Block 5, Plot 2) Chemist and of Bonnington's Irish Moss fame.

Francis CRAZE died 28th February 1917 aged 67 years - He is buried in Block 36 Plot 341.

William Valentine SIDDALL died 1 November 1942 aged 85 years. He is buried in Block 15 Plot 193."

(A bugler was provided, and the Linwood Cemetery commemorative service took place on Sunday 22nd April near the cemetery car park on Butterfield Avenue.)

Player Profile – Cathy Biddington

Cathy Biddington joined the band at the start of this year on the Tenor Horn after a short break from banding.

When did you start playing Tenor Horn and why? Do you play any other instruments?

I grew up on the West Coast and started playing brass with Greymouth Municipal at the age of eight. My first instrument was actually the trombone, but my arm wasn't long enough to reach the bottom of the slide, so my trombone debut was short-lived and I quickly moved on to tenor horn. I also had piano lessons with the Catholic nuns at the local convent and even managed to pass a few theory and practical exams – in hindsight I should have stuck with the piano lessons and a bit of the nuns' religious instruction probably wouldn't have gone astray either!

Have you always been playing in brass bands? What sort of musical groups have you been involved in?

Brass bands have been a family tradition. My Dad and my two brothers all played for Greymouth Municipal. My eldest brother Tony went on to conduct New Plymouth City in the eighties, and is a current member of Addington Brass. I was also a member of the 2 Cant NMWC Regiment Band, which sadly has recently been disestablished due to defence force budget cuts. I really enjoyed the camaraderie of this military band – a great bunch of people from all walks of civilian life.

It's a huge honour to be playing for Woolston, but I acknowledge I have embarked on a very demanding (and somewhat overwhelming) personal musical challenge. I've been made to feel really welcome by everyone and appreciate the support and encouragement from a fantastic horn section and other members of the band. I'm really looking forward to my first national contest with Woolston, both on and off the stage.

Your favourite piece of music and why?

Nimrod from the *Enigma Variations*, by Denis Wright. Listening to this piece (especially when performed at an Anzac dawn service) sends shivers down my spine. It's haunting.

What is the highlight of your musical career so far?

Being a member of Addington Brass when we won the B Grade championship at National Contest in New Plymouth in 1997 (it was Norman Thorn Jr.'s last contest conducting Addington). We were placed first in all three musical works – Hymn, Test and Own Choice. The whole band had even attended the social function on the Saturday night (many of the other bands boycotted the event as the Own Choice was held on the Sunday morning). It would appear we managed to play reasonably well hung-over!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Keeping fit and healthy is important to me so I enjoy running, walking and cycling. I value time hanging with my daughter Jemma and our lovable, obedience-challenged golden retriever named Bailey. I like a good pinot and I love to travel. Recently I've also been renovating my eighties townhouse.

Where do you see yourself in five years time with life/brass bands?

I currently have a fantastic job as the South Island Sales Rep for Coopers Beer and I hope to still be working for this Australian company in five years time. (Free beer every month is a great perk!) I'm travelling to China and Japan early next year, and also intend to complete an overland safari through Africa with Jemma in 2015. I hope to have made significant improvements in my playing: growing both in confidence and musical ability. Running a half marathon is also on my 'to do' list.

Any advice for the next generation of brass players?

Go to band camp!



Round the Bandstand

Congratulations go to **Jordan Seaton** (Eb bass) and to **Chris Broadbent** (cornet) on being selected to represent New Zealand in the 2012 National Youth Band. The Youth Band, under the baton of **Peter Adams** from Dunedin, will travel to China to participate in the **Tianjin International Children's Culture and Art Festival** from 27 July to 2 August. They will then perform in Beijing before returning home on 5 August. The band comprises 20 players all under the age of 18 selected from throughout the country.

UK soprano cornet player **Martin Britt** is joining the band again as an assisting musician for the National Championships. This will be Martin's 6th New Zealand contest. Two of Woolston's former principal cornet players are also returning for the contest. **Dave Johnstone**, (2nd cornet with the Concert Brass since February) must have been doing a lot of home practice because he has been asked to join Woolston's front row alongside his great friend **Kevin Joughin**.

Members of Woolston Brass whose day job is performing with the New Zealand Army Band have been representing our country well as they participated in events in England to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 60-year reign. The Army Band performed in front of the Royal family at Windsor Castle as part of an international pageant and was also given the rare opportunity of performing at the changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

While our Army Band members including MD **Graham Hickman** were in Great Britain, section practices have been the order of the day for those keeping the home fires burning. Several sections got to practice in the comfort of one another's homes while others made do with various rooms in the band room.

The month of April will be remembered by some of our members for the injuries they received. Percussionist **Cameron Lee** suffered a collapsed lung while shifting percussion gear in readiness for the Anzac Day concert; two days prior **Jordan Seaton** received 15 stitches in his leg after trying to retrieve a hacky-sack off a roof. But the "Hero" award must go to the band's chairman and BBb player **Gary Pinker**. While representing his school on the kids' TV show "What Now?", Gary volunteered to wrestle the "Teachinator". Being the competitive person that he is, Gary was proud of the fact he was the only teacher to wrestle the foe to the ground but in doing so tore all the muscle from his right shoulder. He then required surgery and three months off work and brass playing!

The "wish we had a camera moment" this quarter was the sight of at least six male band members trying to raise the flagpole on the stage in readiness for the Anzac Day concert. After just about knocking a floodlight from the ceiling the group realized that the pole was too tall to stand on the stage so they gingerly moved it to the floor – just missing another light. The women in the band just shook their heads in amazement.



On stage at the 2011 National Championships on Auckland's North Shore

Download Your Support!

MP3 tracks from our CDs, *Millennium*, *ANZAC*, *Sacred*, and *Rhythm 'n' Brass* are available on-line from the world's leading music distributors, [CD Baby](http://CD.Baby), Amazon.com and iTunes. You can download single tracks for about 90 cents or full albums for \$10! Best of all, the money comes straight back to the band, so every on-line purchase you make helps us get by! This is such a great way to show your support for the band, efficient, fun, and you get to collect lots of great music!

Physical audio CDs will still be available for purchase at our concerts.

Thank You Flaxwood

The organizing committee of the Flaxwood Festival is pleased to announce that this year's festival raised \$56,890, an increase of \$16,000 from the 2011 event. The proceeds were distributed in May to six charities including Woolston Brass. Chairman Gary Pinker represented the band at the presentation afternoon tea.

Woolston Brass would like to sincerely thank the Flaxwood team as well as all of the supporters who attended the fabulous festival.

Next issue information

The next Woolstonian will be released in September 2012. To receive your copy via email or if you would like to join our email database for concert alerts please contact Helen Hoy 03 960 8829 helen@woolstonbrass.org.

Written contributions for this issue were received from: Catherine Hickman, Jane Myhill, Helen Hoy and Dave Johnstone with photographs from Dave Clearwater, Lisa and Martin Bennett.

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to these individuals and organizations for their continued support:

Seat Sponsors

Principal Cornet	Adrienne, Lady Stewart
Solo Cornet 1	Simon Hocking House of Travel
Solo Cornet 2	Henshaw Developments Trust
Solo Cornet 3	Lane Neave Lawyers
Solo Cornet 4	Gilbert and Patricia Glausius
Soprano Cornet	Derek and Lynn Anderson
Repiano Cornet	Hans and Carolyn Schuitman
Second Cornet 1	The Ron Ball Charitable Trust
Second Cornet 2	Judith and Graeme Coomer
Third Cornet 1	Jenny and Lindsay Moir
Third Cornet 2	J Ballantyne & Co
Solo Trombone	J Ballantyne & Co
Second Trombone	Robert and Valerie Blackmore
Bass Trombone	Michael and Lesley Pettersen
Principal Euphonium	Anonymous
Second Euphonium	Triple Forte
First Baritone	Alan Reay Consultants
Second Baritone	Coupland's Bakeries Ltd
Flugel Horn	HongKong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
Solo Tenor Horn	Murray and Bernice Ireland
First Tenor Horn	David and Hilary Stock
Tenor Horn 2	Keith Laugeson Charitable Trust
Tenor Horn 3	Christchurch Casino
Principal E flat Bass	Archibald Motors
Second E flat Bass	Hunter Furniture
Principal B flat Bass	Prof. John Ritchie
Second B flat Bass	Ron and Audrey Harris
Percussion 1	The Ron Ball Charitable Trust
Percussion 2	David and Robyn Marriott
Percussion 3	Bell, Lamb and Trotter Funeral Directors

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