

reharmonization techniques pdf

reharmonization techniques pdf resources are invaluable tools for musicians, composers, and arrangers aiming to expand their harmonic vocabulary and enhance their compositions. This article explores the essential concepts and practical applications of reharmonization, focusing on how these can be effectively learned and utilized through downloadable PDFs. Reharmonization techniques involve altering the chords beneath a melody to create new harmonic textures and emotional impacts without changing the original tune. By understanding the theory and methods behind these techniques, musicians can unlock creative possibilities in jazz, pop, classical, and other genres. This comprehensive guide covers fundamental reharmonization principles, common chord substitution strategies, advanced reharmonization concepts, and tips on finding and using reharmonization techniques PDF materials for study and practice. The following table of contents outlines the main topics discussed in detail.

- Understanding Reharmonization
- Basic Reharmonization Techniques
- Advanced Chord Substitutions
- Using Reharmonization Techniques PDF Resources
- Practical Applications of Reharmonization

Understanding Reharmonization

Reharmonization is the process of changing the underlying chords of a musical piece while retaining its original melody. This technique allows musicians to reinterpret a song, introduce new harmonic colors, and create unique arrangements. The concept is widely used in jazz, where improvisation and harmonic exploration are fundamental. In classical and popular music, reharmonization can refresh familiar tunes and add sophistication.

The Role of Harmony in Music

Harmony provides the structural foundation in music by combining chords to support melodies. Reharmonization manipulates this foundation, replacing or altering chords to evoke different moods or tensions. Understanding harmony is essential before applying reharmonization techniques, as it involves knowledge of scales, chord functions, and progressions.

Key Concepts in Reharmonization

Several core ideas underpin reharmonization, including chord function (tonic, subdominant, dominant), voice leading, and modal interchange. Mastery of these concepts enables musicians to

make informed chord substitutions that complement the melody rather than clash with it. Additionally, awareness of the song's style and emotional intent guides the reharmonization choices.

Basic Reharmonization Techniques

Basic reharmonization techniques serve as the foundation for more complex harmonic modifications. These methods are often introduced in educational PDFs and cover fundamental substitutions and chord alterations that enhance musical pieces without extensive theory knowledge.

Chord Substitution

One of the simplest and most effective reharmonization techniques is chord substitution. This involves replacing a chord with another that shares some harmonic function or common tones. Common substitutions include:

- **Relative Minor/Major Substitution:** Replacing a major chord with its relative minor or vice versa.
- **Secondary Dominants:** Introducing dominant chords that target diatonic chords to add tension and resolution.
- **Modal Interchange:** Borrowing chords from parallel modes to add color.

Passing Chords and Approach Chords

Passing chords are inserted between primary chords to create smooth transitions and melodic interest. Approach chords typically precede a target chord by a half-step or whole-step, heightening the sense of anticipation. These techniques are fundamental reharmonization tools taught in many reharmonization techniques PDF guides.

Advanced Chord Substitutions

Beyond basic methods, advanced reharmonization explores complex substitutions and harmonic concepts that require deeper theoretical understanding. These techniques provide rich, innovative harmonic landscapes and are often detailed in comprehensive reharmonization techniques PDF materials.

Tritone Substitution

Tritone substitution replaces a dominant chord with another dominant chord located a tritone interval away. This technique creates smooth voice leading and chromatic bass movement, commonly used in jazz. It involves swapping, for example, a G7 chord with a Db7 chord when

resolving to C major.

Coltrane Changes

Named after John Coltrane, these are rapid chord progressions cycling through key centers a major third apart. Coltrane changes dramatically alter harmonic structure and are advanced reharmonization methods that challenge conventional progressions.

Extended and Altered Chords

Using extended chords (9ths, 11ths, 13ths) and altered chords (flat or sharp 5ths and 9ths) enhances harmonic texture and tension. These chords are often incorporated in reharmonization to add sophistication and depth to arrangements.

Using Reharmonization Techniques PDF Resources

Reharmonization techniques PDF resources provide structured learning materials, examples, exercises, and theory explanations. These documents are essential for students and professionals who want to systematically study and apply reharmonization concepts.

Benefits of PDF Learning Materials

PDFs offer several advantages, including portability, ease of annotation, and access to curated content. Many reharmonization PDFs include musical notation, audio examples (through QR codes or companion files), and step-by-step guides, making them highly effective for self-study.

Types of Reharmonization PDFs

Available reharmonization PDFs vary widely. Common types include:

- **Theory-focused guides:** Explaining harmonic concepts and chord functions.
- **Practice workbooks:** Containing exercises and chord substitution drills.
- **Genre-specific reharmonization:** Tailored to jazz, pop, blues, or classical music.
- **Song-specific reharmonizations:** Demonstrating reharmonization on well-known tunes.

Practical Applications of Reharmonization

Applying reharmonization techniques effectively requires practice and creativity. Musicians use these methods in composition, arrangement, improvisation, and performance to enrich their musical expression.

Composition and Arrangement

Reharmonization allows composers and arrangers to reinterpret melodies, create new harmonic progressions, and tailor pieces to specific ensembles or styles. It encourages experimentation with chord colors and emotional nuances.

Improvisation

In jazz and other improvisational styles, understanding reharmonization enables soloists and accompanists to navigate complex chord changes and suggest alternative harmonic paths spontaneously.

Educational Use

Music educators utilize reharmonization techniques PDFs to teach students harmonic theory and practical skills in a structured manner. These resources support curriculum development and individualized learning.

Common Reharmonization Exercises

To develop reharmonization skills, musicians often practice the following exercises:

1. Substituting diatonic chords with relative minors and majors.
2. Inserting passing and approach chords in simple progressions.
3. Applying tritone substitutions to dominant chords.
4. Reharmonizing a melody using modal interchange.
5. Creating chord progressions using Coltrane cycles.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is reharmonization in music theory?

Reharmonization is the process of changing the chords in a piece of music to create new harmonic textures and colors, often by substituting chords, altering chord progressions, or adding passing chords.

Where can I find a comprehensive PDF on reharmonization techniques?

Many music educators and jazz musicians offer PDF guides on reharmonization techniques online. Websites like JazzGuitar.be, educational institutions, and platforms like Scribd often host detailed PDFs covering various reharmonization methods.

What are some common reharmonization techniques explained in PDFs?

Common reharmonization techniques include chord substitution (like tritone substitution), modal interchange, secondary dominants, passing chords, and using altered chords. PDFs on the topic usually provide examples and exercises for these methods.

How can reharmonization PDFs help improve my jazz improvisation?

Reharmonization PDFs often include theoretical explanations and practical exercises that help musicians understand alternative chord choices, enabling them to create more interesting harmonic backdrops and improve their improvisational vocabulary.

Are there any free reharmonization technique PDFs available for beginners?

Yes, many websites and music educators provide free downloadable PDFs on reharmonization techniques tailored for beginners, which include basic concepts and simple exercises to get started.

Can reharmonization techniques PDFs be used for genres other than jazz?

Absolutely. While reharmonization is heavily used in jazz, the techniques can be applied to pop, rock, R&B, and other genres to add harmonic interest and variety. PDFs often highlight how to adapt these techniques across different musical styles.

Additional Resources

1. Reharmonization Techniques: A Comprehensive Guide to Jazz Harmony

This book offers an in-depth exploration of reharmonization methods used in jazz music. It covers various chord substitution patterns, modal interchange, and advanced harmonic concepts. Ideal for intermediate to advanced musicians, the guide includes practical exercises and examples in PDF

format to enhance learning.

2. The Art of Reharmonization: Practical Approaches for Pianists and Guitarists

Focused on pianists and guitarists, this book breaks down reharmonization techniques into approachable steps. Readers learn how to creatively alter chord progressions for richer harmonic textures. The PDF includes annotated scores and backing tracks for practice.

3. Modern Reharmonization Concepts for Contemporary Musicians

This title delves into modern approaches to reharmonization, blending traditional theory with contemporary styles such as pop, R&B, and fusion. It provides PDF charts and examples to illustrate how to apply these techniques in various musical contexts. The book is suitable for composers and arrangers seeking fresh harmonic ideas.

4. Jazz Reharmonization Made Simple: Step-by-Step Exercises and Examples

Targeted at beginners, this book simplifies reharmonization concepts through clear explanations and stepwise exercises. It includes downloadable PDFs with play-along tracks and annotated lead sheets. The practical approach helps musicians build confidence in improvising with reharmonized progressions.

5. Advanced Reharmonization Strategies for Arrangers and Composers

This resource explores complex reharmonization techniques such as chromaticism, upper structure triads, and polychords. It is designed for experienced arrangers and composers looking to deepen their harmonic vocabulary. The PDF format includes detailed analyses of famous jazz standards reharmonized in innovative ways.

6. Reharmonization Workbook: Exercises for Developing Harmonic Flexibility

A hands-on workbook filled with exercises aimed at enhancing harmonic creativity and flexibility. Musicians can practice common reharmonization patterns like tritone substitutions and diminished passing chords. The PDF includes customizable worksheets and audio examples for self-guided study.

7. Pop and Rock Reharmonization Techniques: A Practical Approach

This book focuses on reharmonization within pop and rock genres, teaching how to enrich songs with new harmonic ideas without losing their original feel. It covers common progressions, modal shifts, and secondary dominants, supported by PDF charts and real-world song analyses.

8. Reharmonization and Voice Leading: Creating Smooth Harmonic Transitions

Emphasizing voice leading principles, this book guides musicians on crafting seamless reharmonizations that flow naturally. It includes exercises and PDFs demonstrating effective movement between chords to maintain melodic integrity. Suitable for pianists, guitarists, and arrangers.

9. Essential Reharmonization Techniques for Songwriters

Designed specifically for songwriters, this book presents core reharmonization strategies to add emotional depth and variety to compositions. It explains concepts in simple language with accompanying PDF examples and songwriting tips. The focus is on practical application in writing and arranging songs.

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Reharmonization Techniques: Mastering the Art of Musical Transformation

Are you tired of musical stagnation? Do your compositions feel predictable and lack that spark of originality? Do you struggle to find fresh and exciting harmonic progressions that truly captivate your listeners? You're not alone. Many musicians hit a wall when it comes to creating truly innovative and compelling music. Breaking free from familiar patterns and discovering new harmonic landscapes can be incredibly challenging. This ebook provides the key to unlocking your creative potential and revitalizing your musical approach.

This comprehensive guide, "Reharmonization Techniques: A Practical Guide for Musicians," will teach you how to:

- Escape harmonic clichés and inject fresh life into your compositions.
- Understand the underlying principles of harmonic function and manipulation.
- Master practical techniques for reharmonizing melodies and chord progressions.
- Develop your ear and intuition for creating compelling and unexpected harmonic twists.
- Apply these techniques to various musical genres and styles.

Inside you'll find:

Introduction: The Power of Reharmonization

Chapter 1: Understanding Fundamental Harmony (Includes basic chord theory, function, and voice leading)

Chapter 2: Techniques for Reharmonization (Covers substitution, chromaticism, passing chords, alterations, and more)

Chapter 3: Applying Reharmonization to Different Genres (Examples and exercises in pop, jazz, classical, etc.)

Chapter 4: Developing Your Ear and Intuition (Exercises to train your harmonic recognition and improvisation skills)

Chapter 5: Advanced Reharmonization Strategies (Exploring extended chords, modal interchange, and more advanced concepts)

Conclusion: Unlocking Your Harmonic Creativity

Reharmonization Techniques: A Practical Guide for Musicians

Introduction: The Power of Reharmonization

Reharmonization, the art of replacing existing chords with new ones while maintaining or enhancing the melodic line, is a powerful tool for any musician. It's the key to breathing new life into familiar melodies, creating unexpected harmonic twists, and adding depth and complexity to your compositions. This introduction sets the stage for understanding why reharmonization is vital for musical growth and creative expression. It's about more than just changing chords; it's about fundamentally altering the emotional landscape and character of a piece. Mastering reharmonization unlocks a universe of harmonic possibilities, moving beyond formulaic progressions to truly original and captivating musical experiences. This book equips you with the knowledge and practical techniques to achieve that.

Chapter 1: Understanding Fundamental Harmony

Before diving into advanced reharmonization techniques, a solid grasp of fundamental harmony is crucial. This chapter lays the groundwork, covering essential concepts:

1.1 Basic Chord Theory: We'll explore the building blocks of harmony: triads (major, minor, diminished, augmented) and seventh chords (major seventh, minor seventh, dominant seventh, half-diminished, diminished seventh). Understanding chord construction is paramount for effective reharmonization. We'll delve into the intervals that create each chord type and their inherent qualities. Examples and diagrams will illustrate these concepts clearly.

1.2 Chord Function: This section focuses on understanding the roles chords play within a progression. We will explore tonic, dominant, and subdominant functions, and how they create harmonic tension and resolution. Recognizing the function of each chord is key to intelligently substituting and reharmonizing without disrupting the overall coherence of a piece. We'll analyze various chord progressions, illustrating the functions of individual chords.

1.3 Voice Leading: Smooth voice leading, the art of connecting chord tones effectively between chords, is essential for creating pleasing and natural-sounding harmonies. Poor voice leading can result in awkward jumps and a dissonant feel. This section focuses on techniques for achieving smooth voice leading, avoiding parallel fifths and octaves, and creating a flowing and elegant harmonic progression. We'll analyze examples of both good and bad voice leading to illustrate these concepts.

1.4 Roman Numeral Analysis: This section introduces Roman numeral analysis, a system for representing chords and their function within a key. Mastering Roman numeral analysis allows for a deeper understanding of harmonic progressions and facilitates the analysis and reharmonization of existing music. We'll provide examples and exercises to develop proficiency in Roman numeral analysis.

Chapter 2: Techniques for Reharmonization

This chapter delves into practical reharmonization techniques.

2.1 Chord Substitution: This crucial technique involves replacing chords with functionally equivalent ones. We'll examine various substitution types, including secondary dominants, tritone substitutions, and modal interchange. Each technique will be explained with examples and diagrams. Understanding how to effectively use substitutions allows for significant harmonic variation without compromising the overall musical structure.

2.2 Chromaticism: The introduction of chromatic chords (chords containing notes outside the key) adds color and unexpected twists to a progression. This section will explore the use of chromatic passing chords, neighbor chords, and approach chords to create a more interesting and sophisticated harmonic landscape. We'll analyze examples of chromatic reharmonization in various musical styles.

2.3 Passing Chords: Passing chords, chords that briefly connect two other chords, can enhance the harmonic flow and create a sense of movement. This section explores various types of passing chords and their effective use in reharmonization. Examples will illustrate how these chords can add nuance and subtle harmonic interest.

2.4 Alterations: Altering chord tones (e.g., raising or lowering a note) can create significant changes in the harmonic character. We'll cover altering the 3rd, 5th, and 7th of chords to create different colors and moods. This section will explore how these alterations can create suspense, surprise, and emotional depth.

2.5 Secondary Dominants and Leading Tone Chords: These advanced techniques add complexity and sophistication to reharmonization, allowing for more dramatic harmonic shifts.

Chapter 3: Applying Reharmonization to Different Genres

This chapter showcases how reharmonization techniques apply to various genres.

3.1 Pop Music: We'll analyze pop song structures and demonstrate reharmonization techniques suitable for creating catchy and effective pop progressions. Examples will include reharmonizing common pop chord progressions.

3.2 Jazz Harmony: This section covers advanced techniques specific to jazz harmony, including altered dominants, substitutions, and extended chords. We'll delve into the use of jazz voicings and explore reharmonization in the context of jazz standards.

3.3 Classical Music: We'll explore how reharmonization is employed in classical music, focusing on techniques used by renowned composers. This includes analyzing examples from classical pieces

and exploring how composers used reharmonization to create dramatic and expressive harmonic shifts.

Chapter 4: Developing Your Ear and Intuition

This chapter is dedicated to developing the crucial skills of harmonic recognition and improvisation.

4.1 Ear Training Exercises: A series of practical ear training exercises to develop the ability to identify chords, progressions, and harmonic functions. These exercises are designed to improve your listening skills and enhance your intuition for creating effective harmonies.

4.2 Improvisation and Reharmonization: We'll explore how to apply reharmonization techniques during improvisation, creating spontaneous and creative harmonic variations.

Chapter 5: Advanced Reharmonization Strategies

This chapter explores more advanced concepts.

5.1 Extended Chords: We'll explore the use of extended chords (9ths, 11ths, 13ths) in reharmonization, adding complexity and richness to the harmonic palette.

5.2 Modal Interchange: This section delves into the powerful technique of borrowing chords from parallel modes to create unexpected and interesting harmonic relationships.

Conclusion: Unlocking Your Harmonic Creativity

This conclusion summarizes the key concepts, encouraging readers to practice and experiment with the techniques learned throughout the book. It emphasizes the ongoing nature of musical learning and encourages continued exploration and experimentation. The ultimate goal is to empower musicians to unleash their creative potential and express their musical ideas with a newfound level of harmonic sophistication.

FAQs

1. What is the prerequisite knowledge needed to understand this ebook? Basic understanding of music theory, including major and minor scales, triads, and basic chord construction is helpful but not strictly required. The book starts with fundamentals and gradually progresses to more advanced concepts.
2. Can I use this ebook regardless of my musical genre? Yes! The principles of reharmonization are applicable across all genres. The ebook provides examples from various genres to illustrate this versatility.
3. Are there any exercises or practical examples included? Yes, the ebook includes numerous examples, exercises, and analyses to reinforce the concepts and help you apply the techniques.
4. What software or tools do I need? No specialized software is required. A piano or keyboard is helpful, but not essential for understanding the concepts.
5. How long will it take to learn everything in the ebook? The time it takes depends on your prior experience and commitment. However, with consistent effort, you can significantly improve your reharmonization skills within a few weeks or months.
6. Is this ebook suitable for beginners? While advanced concepts are covered, the ebook starts with fundamental concepts, making it accessible to beginners. More advanced readers will find plenty of challenging material.
7. Can I use this to improve my songwriting? Absolutely! Mastering reharmonization is a crucial skill for creating unique and engaging songs.
8. What if I get stuck on a particular concept? The ebook is designed to be clear and easy to follow, but you can always refer to online resources or seek guidance from other musicians.
9. What is the difference between this and other reharmonization books? This ebook offers a comprehensive and practical approach, combining theoretical understanding with hands-on techniques and examples across diverse genres. It focuses on developing intuition alongside technical skill.

Related Articles:

1. Understanding Chord Function in Music Theory: A detailed exploration of chord functions (tonic, dominant, subdominant) and their roles in creating harmonic progressions.
2. Mastering Secondary Dominants in Jazz Harmony: A focused guide on using secondary dominants to create sophisticated harmonic progressions in jazz.
3. Tritone Substitutions: Expanding Your Harmonic Vocabulary: Explains the power of tritone

substitutions and how to use them effectively.

4. Modal Interchange: A Creative Approach to Harmony: A thorough explanation of modal interchange, its applications, and its impact on musical expression.

5. Chromaticism in Music: Adding Color and Tension: An examination of chromaticism and its use in creating harmonic interest and dramatic effects.

6. Voice Leading Techniques for Smooth and Effective Harmony: Focuses on the principles of good voice leading and how to avoid common mistakes.

7. Applying Reharmonization to Pop Songwriting: A guide on applying reharmonization techniques to improve the quality of pop songs.

8. Reharmonizing Classical Pieces: A Study of Master Composers: Analyzes classical works and demonstrates the use of reharmonization by renowned composers.

9. Ear Training Exercises for Improved Harmonic Recognition: A collection of exercises to improve your ability to recognize chords and progressions by ear.

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Reharmonization is the musical equivalent of a new paint job on an old car. When you reharmonize a tune, you give the melody new color by changing its underlying harmonics. Whether you write film scores, direct a band or choir, or play solo piano or guitar, you will find simple and innovative techniques to update songs and develop exciting new arrangements. Understand reharmonization by studying hundreds of copyrighted examples throughout the book. Book jacket.

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instruments and common variations, including acoustic, electric, and synthesized string instruments and sections * Bowing techniques and possibilities * Characteristic articulations and sounds, such as vibrato, pizzicato, sul tasto, trills, tremolos, and harmonics * Timbral and rhythm effects, such as chop technique, ponticello/feedback, portamento, and falls * String-section arranging techniques, such as melody/countermelody, fills, pads, and comping * Stylistic nuances of genres such as American roots, Celtic, jazz, rock, klezmer, eastern European, Gypsy jazz, and swing * Mic, recording, and live sound techniques for capturing the best string sounds for both acoustic and electric instruments

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he walks you through the entire music composition process, from initial conceptualization and creative direction through implementation. Inside, you'll find dozens of examples that illustrate adaptive compositional techniques, from small downloadable games to multimillion dollar console titles. In addition, this guide covers the business side of video game composition, sharing crucial advice about contracts, pricing, sales, and marketing. Coverage includes Overcoming the unique challenges of writing for games Composing music that can adapt in real time to player actions Developing thematic ideas Using audio middleware to create advanced interactive scores Working effectively with game development teams Understanding the life of a video game composer Managing contracts, rights, estimating, and negotiation Finding work The companion website contains software tools to help you master interactive music concepts explored in this book, with additional resources and links to learn more about scoring for games. See Appendix A for details.

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Libbman solos which are meant to be studied, as much as played, by students. The scope of this book is a bit dizzying: Libbman's approach is to provide the student with twelve songs and superimposition concepts that progress up the dissonant food chain. The material Libbman draws upon for contrasting chromatic colors include upper structure chords, tritone relationships, ii-V substitutes, Giant Steps movement, side slipping, moving chord cycles, purely intervallic thinking, and other advanced concepts. To benefit from this book, you do not need to play along with the CD note-for-note. Rather, use Libbman's detailed written notes to help you recognize and analyze the kinds of lines he plays on each of the superimposed progressions; then try to improvise over the progressions in a similar vein. Alto/Bari players and other instrumentalists can also get in on the action, as each solo and progression are transcribed in concert key, B-flat and E-flat. ---Down Beat Magazine

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Edly's teaches musical literacy in plain language, a step at a time. Edly made a book about theory that isn't cold and boring. An excellent way for any music lover to learn the basics and so clear and simple that even guitar players will understand.

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Solo Guitar is a musical approach to understand the techniques and concepts of solo guitar. Topics include arranging, transcribing, chord progressions, and chord substitutions. Also included are tips for maximizing practice time. Howard demonstrates every subject with arrangements of some of the most memorable songs of any serious musician's repertoire. Titles include: In Your Own Sweet Way * You Stepped Out of a Dream * Stompin' at the Savoy * Misty * Laura * Take Five and more.

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Introduction. Modes are often at first understood in relation to a parent scale. While this can be helpful as a starting point and for developing muscle memory, in practice it doesn't always point the player to the right chord tones in relation to the sound. In other words, it doesn't help make the changes. To use modes to make the changes, one must be able to relate the scale shape to a chord voicing - a chord voicing that outlines the essential few tones in a sea of seven notes. These voicings can vary depending on the amount of color desired. The color desired is dependent on musical style/genre, and whether or not the chord is functional in a progression or static in its modality. These essential tones are not always 1,3,5,7 (tertian harmony - stacked in 3rds). While most chords in jazz and improv-based music are expressed in one of four tertian-voicing archetypes (Major, Minor, Dominant, or Diminished) - this is a false tetrachotomy. There are more than four. To capture some other sounds that many composers intend, especially in compositions written in the last 50 years (and in Classical music, 150 years) one must add a few other archetypes. While those indicated in this book are not exhaustive, they will open your ears to other ways of expressing harmony while still staying true to the key center. While exploring other ways to voice the modes, keep in mind that these are not just for comping and soloing. Feel free to use them as a starting point for composition and reharmonization. The use of pivot voicings instead of just pivot chords can open up your understanding of harmonic relationships in multiple ways. Enjoy exploring. -Noel P. S. This book is way more fun if you use a looper pedal. Second edition notes: Typo corrections, clarifications, TAB added to all edudes Third edition notes: Additional etudes, expanded modal subs section, added blues chapter More more info, charts, videos, and free web app: <http://noeljohnston.com/voicingmodes.ph>

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