

SCÉAL EILE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN



Chair's Message



A Chairde,

I would like to acknowledge and thank the dance teachers who volunteer their time to teach us some wonderful set dances every week. They put a lot of effort into preparing the lesson, the music and traveling long distances to the venue.

This is just a gentle reminder to:
"Let the teacher teach"

It's very difficult to teach when some of us talk over the teacher, explaining the moves to fellow dancers. Sometimes we are actually giving the wrong information! That also makes it impossible for the rest of us to hear what the teacher is saying.

Let's give our dance teachers the respect they deserve and let them teach without disrupting them. It's okay to ask questions if you are unclear about something but please show respect for the teacher and "let the teacher teach"

We will all benefit from being able to hear the teachers instructions and learn from these wonderful dedicated people.

Slán,
 Josephine Brennan
 Co-Chair

Editor Notes: See page 3 for a special meeting announcement. Also, the next Scéal Eile will be published in September, have a great summer!



Events this Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCÉ typically hosts a night of set dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month. For June the event will be on the 17th, in July on the 15th and on August 19th. Contact: Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCÉ hosts set dancing classes at the UICC starting at 7:30pm followed by more dancing at the Plough & Stars until midnight -- except for the first Thursday of the month when there is no class, just dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11pm. \$5 donation suggested. Contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.

South Bay/Peninsula - On Tuesdays (except for the third Tuesday of the month) we meet for set dancing at Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale. Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$7 donation suggested. Contact: Michael Murphy at 415-999-6062.

North Bay - Mary McDonagh and Mícheál Minihane teach set dancing on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo from 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class. Mary and Micheal also teach at the Redwood Cafe in Cotati on the first and third Wednesday nights from 7-9pm. Contact: Mary McDonagh at cladaghdancer@gmail.com or Mícheál Minihane michealminihane@yahoo.com.

East Bay - Starry Plough in Berkeley hosts céili dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker at rinnce.mor@gmail.com.

See calendar page for address, phone number and web page for all venues.



FOUNDED IN 1951, COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN IS IRELAND'S PREMIERE CULTURAL MOVEMENT. WHEN YOU JOIN COMHALTAS, YOU JOIN PEOPLE IN MORE THAN 400 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONAL IRISH ARTS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND LANGUAGE. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://SF.CCEWEST.ORG](http://sf.ccewest.org)



Song and Storytelling



The next Singing and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted by Marian & Greg McKenna at the Duke of Edinburgh on June 2nd
10801 N Wolfe Rd,
Cupertino.

They have reserved outdoor patio at side of pub. Singing at normal time (7:30 or when quorum), but pub has free happy hour food before 7pm

The July seisiún on the 7th host is TBD. A seisiún will not occur August, see you in September.

Contact Micheal Jones for info about seisiúns at mfj@ieee.org. Song seisiúns start at 7:30pm



Special Events



Comhaltas is hosting a Children's Music, Dance and Irish Language workshop on Sunday, June 11th at the United Irish Cultural Center from 3 to 6pm . Please see attached flyer.

West Region CCÉ Annual Meeting - The West Region Annual General Meeting will be held in Seattle the weekend of October 7th, 8th. The SF Cooley-Keegan, Phoenix Four Peaks Irish Arts and Puget Sound CCÉ make up the U.S. West Region of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. We meet once a year to discuss matters relevant to our branches. If you are interested in attending, please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.



Monthly Meetings



Our next regular monthly CCÉ members' meeting (after the June 6th Special Meeting re: the 2019 CCÉ Convention) will be held Tuesday, Sept. 12th, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Members' Room at the UICC. All members of the SF Cooley Keegan branch are encouraged to attend.

If you would like further information, please contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.



Irish Language Class



Adult Class: Classes are held at the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco on Saturdays. Current classes will end in June and will resume again in September.

Please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856 for further information.



Membership Corner



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Brenda and Con Lyons and family on the passing of Con's Father, Donal (Donie) Lyons in Ireland.

Condolences to Jillian Barber's family and friends on her recent passing. Jill was an avid set dancer and will be greatly missed by her friends in the Irish dance community.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Theresa Joyce and Family on the recent passings of not 1 but 2 dear sisters, Bridget Connolly of Oakland and Maureen Faherty of Ireland. We are thinking of you and sending a prayer at this very sad time for you all.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.

Sending Harold Jones continued wishes of good health following the placement of a pacemaker in April. Take good care of yourself, Harold!

Sending get well wishes to Nikki Ragsdale, our Gaelic Officer, who is at home recovering from surgery. She would welcome calls or cards. Please contact Josephine Brogan for that information at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.

Someone is missing on the dance floor and she is not in Ireland nor down in LA with Family...she is laid up with a tri colored cast on her foot!! Roseann, you have been missed. Just follow Dr. Al's orders and we'll see you soon.



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta
San Francisco,
Uimhir a 19, 22-24 Meán Fómhair, 2017.

19th San Francisco Irish Immersion Weekend, September 22 - 24, 2017. Bain sult as do chuid Gaeilge! Intensive classes at 4 levels, beginner to advanced, Conversational Irish emphasized. Meals included.

Music and song seisiún each evening. Venue: UICC (United Irish Cultural Center),

For more information, call 510-881-5958 or e-mail cce_gaeilge@ccewest.org - Treoraí na Gaeilge, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Cooley-Keegan



CCÉ Convention 2019 in San Francisco



SPECIAL MEETING

Cooley Keegan Branch to Host 2019 North American CCÉ Convention? June 6, 2017 7pm at the UICC, St. Francis Room

We are exploring the possibility of hosting the North American Comhaltas Convention in 2019. We need to get an idea of the interest/commitment level of our members as it will require an “all hands on deck” effort to ensure a successful event. In addition to the work leading up to the convention, we will need commitments from many on the weekend itself to handle the necessary tasks such as working the registration tables, manning the doors at the various workshops and dance events, etc. If you have not been able to travel to a convention but would like to be a part of one of our own here in San Francisco, please come to this meeting. If we decide to host one, find out how you can help and participate.

Please RSVP to Josephine Brogan by June 1: josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856. If you're unable to attend, please send your comments/input to her via email. Feel free to contact her with any questions you may have.



CCÉ Membership



Renewal time for membership for 2017

Our Membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Single Membership: \$40.00. Multi-membership (2 or more in household or a family): \$50.00. These are ways you can renew:

- Renew online through our website and remit payment through PayPal: <http://sf.ccewest.org>
- Renew online through our website and mail your check to our PO Box 16244, SF, CA 94116 (we do not bill)
- Complete your membership form (or ask Josephine Brogan for one at dancing) and give it with either your check or cash to Josephine at set dancing or mail it with your check to our PO Box: CCÉ, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, PO Box 16244, SF, CA 94116

If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at 415 664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com; or talk with Josephine Brogan, Moe Murphy or Judy Forrest at dancing. Thank you for your support.



CCÉ has a facebook group where we can share photos, ask questions and generally discuss all things Irish music and dance. In the search field at the top of your facebook page enter **Cooley-Keegan Branch**, select it from the list of choices and join the group.

Or, you can enter the following URL:

[facebook.com/groups/316504905030686](https://www.facebook.com/groups/316504905030686)



Another online group where events are planned is meetup.com at the following URL:
meetup.com/irishdance



This was my second Comhaltas convention and it was better than the first. Either it was because I had a better idea of what to expect or it was just a better convention.

It's always wonderful to be around dancers who love dancing as much or maybe more than I do. All of the bands playing for the dancers were top notch and the caller was superb. I thought that having someone to fill in sets at the workshop a very efficient thing to do.

The larger number of places where musicians could have a session was grand. It's always nice to have music in different parts of the hotel.

I enjoyed the morning workshop for adult musicians. At first I was disappointed that the afternoon session didn't seem to be happening. But I and others who wanted to attend that workshop sat in the band playing for the Céilí workshop and had a most enjoyable time.

All in all, it was a most worthwhile event and I look forward to doing it again next year.

Ellen Eagan

It has never appealed to me to go to Vegas and gamble all night, but Irish dancing to live music until 4am in a random hotel somewhere on the outskirts of Chicago, now that's a thrill!

Thank you to every one of you for a most happy, hearty, and heartfelt welcome into a wonderfully energetic(!) and talented group of dancers and musicians!

Cheers! **Tara Noonan**

"This was my first CCE convention. I had heard so many great things about the convention, so my expectation was high and I was not disappointed, Ceili for four straight days, workshops, abundant music, banquet dinner... I had a great time hanging out with friends and I enjoyed meeting dancers and musicians from all over US and Canada including the people from the Bay area who I hadn't met before. As I am still new to set dancing, it was not only fun but was very good learning experience to dance with a lot of different people and to watch so many seasoned dancers. I also enjoyed dinner outing and the singing session on Sunday night. That was a very cultural experience on its own and I loved it.

I had never danced so much and slept so little and I didn't want it to end. I am so glad that I went and already looking forward to the next year!!"

Thank you - **Kiyono Harvey**

The Hilton staff was absolutely terrific, and that in large part guaranteed a great time. I loved that all the musicians and dancers were able to dance, play, and schmooze 'till dawn. The Convention coordinators were outstanding- from the unbelievably smooth Saturday Night Banquet to the coordinated-and quick!-food service, to the welcome lack of speeches, to the late-night set-dancing-all in a perfect setting for dancing, tunes, and just being part of this magical weekend.

Please add my praises and cheers to the Convention Coordinators, and thanks for a wonderful time.

Barb Southworth



CCÉ Convention 2017 continued...



The Convention in Chicago was wonderfully fun! It was like there was a well-oiled machine at work! Everyone looked out for everyone else....in terms of traveling plans, getting to and from the event and while we were there! And we were a huge group! I loved coming down the elevator and just being infused with Irish music, seeing familiar faces and dancing TONS! There were other things to do.... there was a speaker on the development of Irish music, an introduction to many instruments and you could even play them! As well as classes for those who play Irish music! It was quite the event all around and very fun to be a part of!

Aine Sweeney

This wasn't my first convention, but it was one of the first without Judi and I am very happy that I went. It was a great feeling being part of our group of 47 and feeling like I was with family. I forgot how much I enjoyed seeing, talking and playing with so many good friends whom I haven't seen in quite a while. This was my first time attending the mass on Sunday and I truly felt Judi's presence during the mass. Thank you Barbara for being there with me and for Joannie for letting me know about it.

The dinner on Sunday night was one of the best I remember with the singing and all the great company which went on after returning to the hotel until early Monday morning. Another great job done arranging for all of us Josephine, Moe, Joannie and the rest. Thank you Ruth Christensen for the ride from the airport, and thank you Tara for including me in the ride to the airport Monday morning. Sorry I left earlier as I had misread my departure time by a couple of hours and hitched a ride with Ralph and his wife. I even missed saying goodbye to Mary and Siobhan in the morning.

Thank you Ralph for our toast to Judi. Maybe next year I will keep my promise/threat and bring my dance shoes now that Jennifer has taken care of my gouty foot while in Pittsburgh. I may have to visit the gymnasium to get in condition first.

It was truly great therapy for me playing till 6am. Thank you Mary Molloy, Siobhan O'Donoghue and Herb Williams for the tunes.

God willing, I can't wait till next year in Chicago.

Lew Milligan

It was a wonderful weekend. The opportunity to meet so many new folks as in love with our Irish culture/ music /dance was a wonderful, joyful experience. I made connections with Jimmy Thornton the son of the leader of the 1959 Concert Tour of Ireland that I was on when I went to sing in Concerts for a month with the Irish Musicians Association of Chicago. They worked with Comhaltas in Ireland to arrange all of the Concerts. I was thrilled to learn about the positive impact that tour had in Ireland to renew interest in all that is Irish. It was at an all-time low on the radar as Rock and other music was big on the scene at that time.

It meant a lot to me to learn I was part of something that had such a positive impact to help revive interest in Irish music, dancing and songs The current Pres of the Irish Musicians Association who was playing at the Caeli Saturday afternoon shared the info. He said it was written up in the Sunday Press and later in a US Folk Magazine about the effects the tour had. (Yanks bring Irish culture back to the Irish.... something like that.) I was delighted to learn this. I brought photos of the group which was fun to share with the people who knew members of the group.

It was all good despite my sore ankle. I enjoyed the sets I was able to dance. Sleep was like an elusive butterfly if there was a bit of music or song to enjoy in the morning hours.

God bless you and thank you for all that you and the others did to organize this.

Joanne Harnett

I think the Murphy-Roche 2017 Convention was the best in a long time. Kell, Mike and Rory Chole and their committee deserve a huge round of thanks for looking after us so well the whole weekend.

Having the Hilton Hotel to ourselves really enhanced the camaraderie and the magic atmosphere of the sessions. My favorite was the late night céilí – brilliant to see such life at 3am! There was no shortage of music, dancing and opportunities to chat with old friends and new. It was heart-warming to meet Bill McEvoy again and see so many gather around to greet him. There were many stories to share with Bill – amid a grand session going on in the background. The young people of Murphy-Roche fitted in well, playing around the hotel with the more seasoned musicians. We need the presence and enthusiasm these young people bring at our conventions and I hope they can be encouraged attend more in the future. They were delightful in performing as the banquet entertainment. Thanks to Michael Jones, Susan Keith and Josephine Brogan for gathering us together at our 5 tables at the banquet!

Another convention put to rest, but certainly not forgotten. Looking for a repeat next year!

Joannie O'Leary



CCÉ Convention 2017 continued...



Dan “The Man” McAuliffe received this award for his tireless effort in our Branch for anything that needs to be done. His support through the years is varied but particularly shines for the St Patrick’s Day Float each year. He also is in great demand on the dance floor keeping the ladies happy. A Salute To “Dan the Man.” Thank you from all of us.



CCÉ Convention 2017 -- Irish Language Events



I took some time out from the dancing workshops to attend a few of the Irish Language Events on the program at the Convention in Chicago. Aralt Mac Giolla Chainnigh from Canada chaired the General meeting of CCE Irish Language Treoraithe or leaders on Thursday evening. Aralt provided the equipment for simultaneous translation in an effort to encourage presenters to use Irish with the option of simultaneous translation for those not fully conversant in the language – a first for me.

On Friday night I attended a Teacher’s Workshop given by two Fulbright Visiting Professors, Siobhán Ní Mhuimhneacháin of Notre Dame University and Eimear Ní Chinnéide of Catholic University, Washington DC. Siobhán is from Cork and Eimear from Northern Ireland. The next day, Saturday, Eimear gave a very informative and interesting lecture in Irish on “The Growth of the Irish Language in the North of Ireland”. Those in the audience who didn’t understand the Irish version were provided with headphones and an excellent simultaneous translation of the talk.

The last event on Saturday was a Mini-Oireachtas Gaeilge or Mini Irish Language Festival of singing and recitation. I came back from the Convention with a whole new supply of language learning materials that I will share with our Saturday morning class at the UICC.

Is fearr Gaeilge briste ná Béarla cliste!

Le meas,

Imelda White

Meitheamh 2017

Dé Domhnaigh SUNDAY	Dé Luan MONDAY	Dé Mairt TUESDAY	Dé Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Déardaoin THURSDAY	Dé h-Aoine FRIDAY	Dé Sathairn SATURDAY
May 28 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	29 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	30 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale Seisiún Plough and Stars	31	Jun 1 Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	2 Song Seisiún Marian & Greg McKenna Duke of Edinburgh 10801 N Wolfe Rd Cupertino	3
4 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	5 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	6 Special CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:00pm Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale Seisiún Plough and Stars	7 Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati	8 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	9 Set Dancing Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	10
11 Children's Workshop Music, Dance, Language UICC 3-6pm Seisiún - Plough and Stars	12 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	13 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale Seisiún Plough and Stars	14	15 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	16	17 Comhaltas Night UICC 7.30-11.00 pm w/ live music
18 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	19 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	20 Seisiún Plough and Stars	21 Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati	22 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	23 Set Dancing Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	24
25 Seisiún - Plough and Stars	26 Céilí dancing Starry Plough	27 Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale Seisiún - Plough and Stars	28	29 Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	30	Jul 1



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July 2017

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Jun 25 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	28	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	30 <u>Song Seisiún</u> TBD	Jul 1
2 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	3 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	4 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	5 <u>Set Dancing</u> Redwood Cafe Cotati	6 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	7	8
9 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	10 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	11 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	12	13 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	15 <u>Comhaltas Night</u> UICC 7.30 -11.00pm w/ live music
16 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	17 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	18 <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	19 <u>Set Dancing</u> Redwood Cafe Cotati	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	21	22
23 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	24 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	25 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	26	27 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	29

Brosnan School of Irish Dance - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, CA 94960 brosnanschool.com

Lilly Mac's - 187 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Avenues) 1-408-732-0200 lillymacs.com

Plough and Stars - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2nd and 3rd), San Francisco, 1-415-751-1122 theploughandstars.com

Redwood Cafe - 8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati CA 94931 1-707-795-7868 redwoodcafe.com

UICC - United Irish Cultural Center - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, 1-415-661-2700 irishcentersf.org

Starry Plough - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 1-510-841-2082 starryploughpub.com

You can also visit the following website for events:

San Francisco CCÉ - Cooley-Keegan Branch - sf.ccewest.org



*Sponsored by San Francisco's Cooley Keegan branch of
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann:*



Children's Introduction to:

- Tin whistle
- Fiddle
- Céilí dancing
- Irish language



Try something new! Learn the basics of tin whistle and fiddle --
INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED. Experience the great fun and joy of céilí
dancing! Impress your friends and family by learning to speak a little
Irish! Participate in one, several or all these classes, taught by local,
experienced teachers. **Appropriate for ages 5 and up.** RSVP by June
1st to reserve your spot.

Who: Children/youth age 5 and up

When: Sunday, June 11, 2017 ~ 3:00 – 6:00pm

Where: United Irish Cultural Center, St. Francis Room
2700 – 45th Avenue, San Francisco

Cost: \$5/one child \$10/family (more than one child)

**To RSVP or for more information: (415) 264-8856 or
josephinebrogan@yahoo.com**

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann promotes the music, song, dance and language of Ireland around the
world. Visit our website: www.sf.ccewest.org



Set Dancing



Mondays:

- Starry Plough in Berkeley: Céilí dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker (rinnce.mor@gmail.com)

Tuesdays:

- Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale (except for the 3rd Tuesday). Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$7 suggested to support the live music. Contact: Michael Murphy (415-999-6062)

Special Events:

- Redwood Cafe in Cotati.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Mícheál Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

1st Thursday: Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8pm. Music by the Shannon Céilí Band. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

2nd through last Thursdays:

- Lessons at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco at 7:30pm in the bar area. Taped music:
- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 9:30pm.
Live traditional music featuring Topsy House, Emperor Norton Céilí Band and other fine bands.
Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

2nd and 4th Fridays:

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo: From 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Mícheál Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



Seisiún



Seisiún: - Sundays and Tuesdays starting at 8:30 at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

Song and Storytelling Seisiún: Held on the first Friday of each month, See **Song and Storytelling** section for details..

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
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