



warp and weft

Vol. XXIV, No. 4

April, 1971

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Published monthly (except July and August) by Robin & Russ Handweavers, 533 North Adams Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Subscription: \$4.50 per year.

Back Issues: 45c each plus 6c postage.

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Assistant Editor: Robin Groff

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A Word from the Editor:

Fast progress is now being made on our new addition to the front of our shop. Today the lights will go in, and perhaps, if we can afford it, the shelves we want, might go on the walls and along the windows. We honestly feel that the new addition compliments our shop and makes it even nicer than it was. I can still remember my first thoughts when I saw it some nine years ago. My thought then was "it is such a beautiful building that it cannot be ours." And after nine years of working in it, and finally adding on to it, I think it is more beautiful than ever. We will have room for four more sets of nine shelves each, plus another bookcase (that makes three) and also another wall panel board for display of accessories. Besides this, we will have some window shelves about 14" deep and about 22" long, so you can see that the new addition will give us lots more display area.

And, as soon as the weather clears up a little, and the ground drains somewhat, they will start work on more storage area for us in the back of the shop. The storage area really is our main need, and until it is in, we will be crowded in the back downstairs of our shop. After that goes in, it should open it up again, and give us more room than we actually need.

I must say that it is a job keeping up with such an addition. For about a week or so, or slightly longer, we were able to do almost nothing in the office portion of the shop. Our shop office had to be moved, some storage

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shelves full of yarns taken down, and as a result, about 1/2 of these yarns are still sitting around the shop in boxes, and we will be unable to put them away until the new shelves come in. And, it is a job moving a complete office about 10 feet as had to be done here in the shop. It was mainly because of this, that we closed the shop down for a few days, and that is why our March issue of Warp and Weft was so late in being mailed this month.

And along with all these items in the front of the shop, we've had several looms come in, and some 20,000 spools for our two winding machines, so there has just been no room to turn around in, in the back of the shop either. After a while, it begins to be very, very frustrating, but finally, we are about past that stage, and about to get things organized again. And, it was also during this past week, that a large shipment of Macrame supplies came in. We have about six or eight new linens for Macrame, about 10 to 12 colors in Navy Cord or Macrame cord in a polished cord, and the same number of colors in an unpolished cord. This alone has taken up about five to six shelves, so you can see why we are hurting for space to put our yarns away.

One thing I must say about such a business as this, is that it is a great adventure every day. You never know at all, what will happen next, and it is really, a stimulating challenge, and thus it makes you eager to try and meet the challenge and see what is next on the program for you to handle.

Robin has been helping out in the shop during this time, Janice is now starting her third quarter at Oregon State University, and so you can see that our days are busy ones.

Russell E. Groff, *Editor*

This Month's Cover Photograph

This month's cover photograph shows Paula Simmons using a drum carder and carding her own black sheep wool, in preparation for spinning.

When you do use the drum carder, the wool

is washed, oiled, and well teased prior to the carding process.

I might mention that we also stock these drum carders in our shop, for use in preparing wool for handspinning.

Remember The Pacific Northwest Weaving Conference in Portland

DON'T FORGET OUR 5th PACIFIC NORTHWEST WEAVING CONFERENCE. Time is flying by, and next April 30, and May 1st and 2nd will see an exciting three days here in Portland, Oregon. We have arranged for three outstanding speakers, and will have a banquet and fashion show. Exhibits at the local art museum will be held for this occasion, and there will be open houses for many different schools and shops and weaving studios for you to visit. If interested, write to: Mrs. Robert Marshall, 3425 Northeast Ainsworth, Portland, Oregon 97211.

Speed Spinning by Paula Simmons

This is the 4th of a series of articles on raising sheep and spinning yarns by Paula Simmons.

Speed is not something that should be attempted before you have mastered the spinning process in general, and its specific aspects such as proper fibre preparation, determining yarn size and texture, joining of each new fibre supply, and coordination of movements at slow speed. When coordination becomes so habitual that it needs no longer be a conscious concern, you may want to try handling your yarn at a faster pace. It is often the challenge of speed that forces the perfection of an individualistic style, for hand movements will all have to be natural and comfortable for you, before they can be speeded up.

In talking about heavy yarn last month, I said that the spinning wheel would have to be sturdy to withstand the tension of a tight belt. For speed, there is an additional factor to consider, that your spinning wheel should be well balanced, or the high speed of treading can be a severe strain in wobbling and vi-

bration of flyer, bobbin, shaft, and wheel. Another problem of speed is that the yarn has a tendency to become airborne, lifting itself out of the hooks of the flyer as it is drawn in. On most wheels, this can be counteracted by bending the first hook, nearest the eye of the spindle into a more closed loop. Frequent oilings are also necessary. We like Colt's Teflon gun lubricant, which is in a handy "hypo" applicator.

Part of your speed will depend upon spinning continuity, which will include proper joining on of new fibres, and the placement of material within easy access, so that you do not lose momentum when you reach for it.

For faster spinning in the point-of-contact style, the action of hand and foot are both accelerated, but must stay coordinated so that the twist extends right up to the fibre supply at all times. The left hand is occasionally put to use in providing a momentary firmness against which the yarn can be pulled if there is need for any further attenuation, as in the drawing out of slubs. This is important in spinning fine yarn by this method for you will be working with a belt tension that is not firm enough to pull against, especially in medium length wools.

It is easy to see that speed will require a greater dexterity, but it also forces certain small changes in technique that are not so predictable. In joining, for instance, where the flow of the fibres will be caught up and controlled more from **within** the hand than in front of it. If this process is always practiced in motion, rather than as a stopping-joining-starting sequence, it will be much easier to adjust it to faster spinning.

In the extended-drafting technique, to achieve speed you must be able to handle your fibres at a rate where your spinning movements can keep **ahead** of the twist with a minimum use of the left hand (this is when the right hand is used for drafting). It should seldom be used to pinch off the twist or to regulate the amount of twist coming through, or to hold the yarn and allow twist to accumulate in preparation for drafting.

These are all accepted procedures for beginners and for slower spinning, but are extra movements that interfere with speed. This

Continued on Page 6

LACE AND LINEN

This interesting four harness weave is excellent for drapery, or for table linens, and even for towelling, if woven slightly different than we indicated here.

THREADING DRAFT:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | X | X | | | | X | X | | | O | O | O |
| 3 | | X | | O | O | X | | | | O | O | O |
| 2 | | | O | O | O | O | | X | | O | O | X |
| 1 | | | O | O | O | | X | X | | | | X |
| | | | S | | | | | | S | | | |

TIE-UP DRAFT:

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | X | X | O | O | X | O |
| 3 | X | O | O | X | O | X |
| 2 | O | O | X | X | X | O |
| 1 | O | X | X | O | O | X |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | | | | A |
| | | | | | | B |

X — tie-up for Counter-balanced looms.
O — tie-up for Jack-type looms.

KEY TO THREADS IN THE WARP:

X — 18/2 Natural Grey Irish Linen

O — 45/3 Bleached Irish Linen

WARP:

There are two threads used in the warp and both are Irish Linens from the Barbour Linen Thread Company.

X — 18/2 Natural Grey Irish linen with 2700 yards per pound.

O — 45/3 Bleached Irish Linen with 4500 yards per lb.

WEFT:

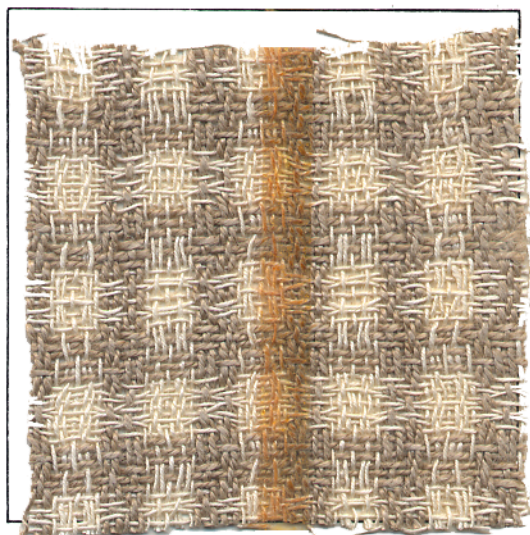
The same two threads as were used in the warp, are also used in the weft.

REED USED:

A 15 dent reed was used, and we had a special sleying of the reed. We will give it to you starting with the right of the threading draft and reading from right to left.

- 1st dent — 3 threads in one dent
- 2nd dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 3rd dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 4th dent — 1 thread in one dent
- 5th dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 6th dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 7th dent — 3 threads in one dent
- 8th dent — skip this dent, no threads
- 9th dent — 3 threads in one dent
- 10th dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 11th dent — 2 threads in one dent

SAMPLE:



- 12th dent — 1 thread in one dent
- 13th dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 14th dent — 2 threads in one dent
- 15th dent — 3 threads in one dent
- 16th dent — skip this dent, no threads

THEN, YOU REPEAT OVER AND OVER FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE THREADING DRAFT. This makes the warp at approximately 30 threads for every inch. Actually, it will probably come to slightly less than 30 per inch, and be between 28 and 29 threads per inch.

WIDTH OF WARP:

Our warp was 43½" wide on the loom, or it used 653 dents of the reed.

LENGTH OF WARP:

We had a 10 yard length of warp, 43½" wide. And from this warp, we were able to obtain almost 9 1/3 yards of the finished fabric

TREADLING SEQUENCE:

The treadling sequence is exactly the same as the threading draft, and you use the same threads in the weft in the same place as they are used in the warp.

1. Treadle No. 1, 18/2 Natural Grey
2. Treadle No. 2, 18/2 Natural Grey
3. Treadle No. 1, 18/2 Natural Grey
4. Treadle No. 4, 45/3 Bleached Linen
5. Treadle No. 3, 45/3 Bleached Linen
6. Treadle No. 2, 45/3 Bleached Linen
7. Treadle No. 3, 45/3 Bleached Linen
8. Treadle No. 4, 45/3 Bleached Linen
9. Treadle No. 3, 45/3 Bleached Linen
10. Treadle No. 2, 45/3 Bleached Linen
11. Treadle No. 3, 45/3 Bleached Linen
12. Treadle No. 4, 45/3 Bleached Linen
13. Treadle No. 1, 18/2 Natural Grey
14. Treadle No. 2, 18/2 Natural Grey
15. Treadle No. 1, 18/2 Natural Grey
16. Treadle No. 4, 18/2 Natural Grey
17. Treadle No. 3, 18/2 Natural Grey
18. Treadle No. 4, 18/2 Natural Grey
19. Treadle No. 1, 45/3 Bleached Linen
20. Treadle No. 2, 45/3 Bleached Linen
21. Treadle No. 3, 45/3 Bleached Linen
22. Treadle No. 2, 45/3 Bleached Linen
23. Treadle No. 1, 45/3 Bleached Linen
24. Treadle No. 2, 45/3 Bleached Linen
25. Treadle No. 3, 45/3 Bleached Linen
26. Treadle No. 2, 45/3 Bleached Linen
27. Treadle No. 1, 45/3 Bleached Linen
28. Treadle No. 4, 18/2 Natural Grey
29. Treadle No. 3, 18/2 Natural Grey
30. Treadle No. 4, 18/2 Natural Grey

End of one complete pattern repeat. You repeat over and over as desired.

MORE ABOUT THE FABRIC:

On a linen fabric such as this, we find that you have a fairly firm and tight tension. Do not exaggerate and have it too tight, or the weft will not beat back in place properly.

Also, you should use a firm, even, double beat on almost any linen fabric, unless it is an extremely delicate linen thread that you are using. These threads are both good strong warp threads, so there should be no problems in weaving with this combination.

COST OF THE THREADS USED IN OUR SAMPLE

1. The 18/2 Natural Grey Irish linen comes on 1 lb. tubes, and it has 2700 yards per lb. At present, it sells for \$4.00 per lb.

2. The 45/3 Bleached Irish Linen usually sells for around \$7.00 per lb. However, we purchased 1,000 lbs. of it which was reduced in price, so we are selling it at \$3.20 per lb. while it lasts. It has 4500 yards per lb.

COST OF OUR FABRIC:

In our 10 yard warp, 43½" wide, we used 1 lb. 11 oz. of the 45/3 bleached linen which comes to \$5.40. Of the 18/2 in the natural grey, we used 2 lbs. 3 oz. in the warp or \$8.75 of this. Thus, the total warp cost was \$14.15, or the cost per yard was \$1.42 per yard.

In the weft, in 9 1/3 yards of the finished fabric, we used 1 lb. of the 45/3 bleached linen which comes to \$3.20, and we used 1 lb. 5 oz. of the 18/2 in the natural grey linen, and this comes to \$5.15. Thus, the total weft cost for 9 1/3 yards of finished fabric was \$8.45 or the weft cost per yard was 91¢ per yard.

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| WARP COST PER YARD | \$1.42 |
| WEFT COST PER YARD | .91 |
| <hr/> | |
| FABRIC COST PER YARD | \$2.33 |

Speed Spinning

Continued from Page 3

does not mean the left hand is not used. It touches the twisting fibres often, and for specific reasons. It must be well trained that its action is not just sensitive to need, but quite automatic, preventing unwanted hairiness (when it is unwanted) by lightly smoothing the yarn as it is being drawn into the bobbin, and specifically by catching at any stray fibre that appears to have escaped the twist. Try this at slow speed, and see how detaining a fibre for just a second can cause it to be completely caught into the twisting yarn. This hand will also be used, in the case of long wools, to provide a solid firmness to pull against, in the last stage of each draft. This last brief pull-stage is crucial to the final determination of the yarn character. In all but this

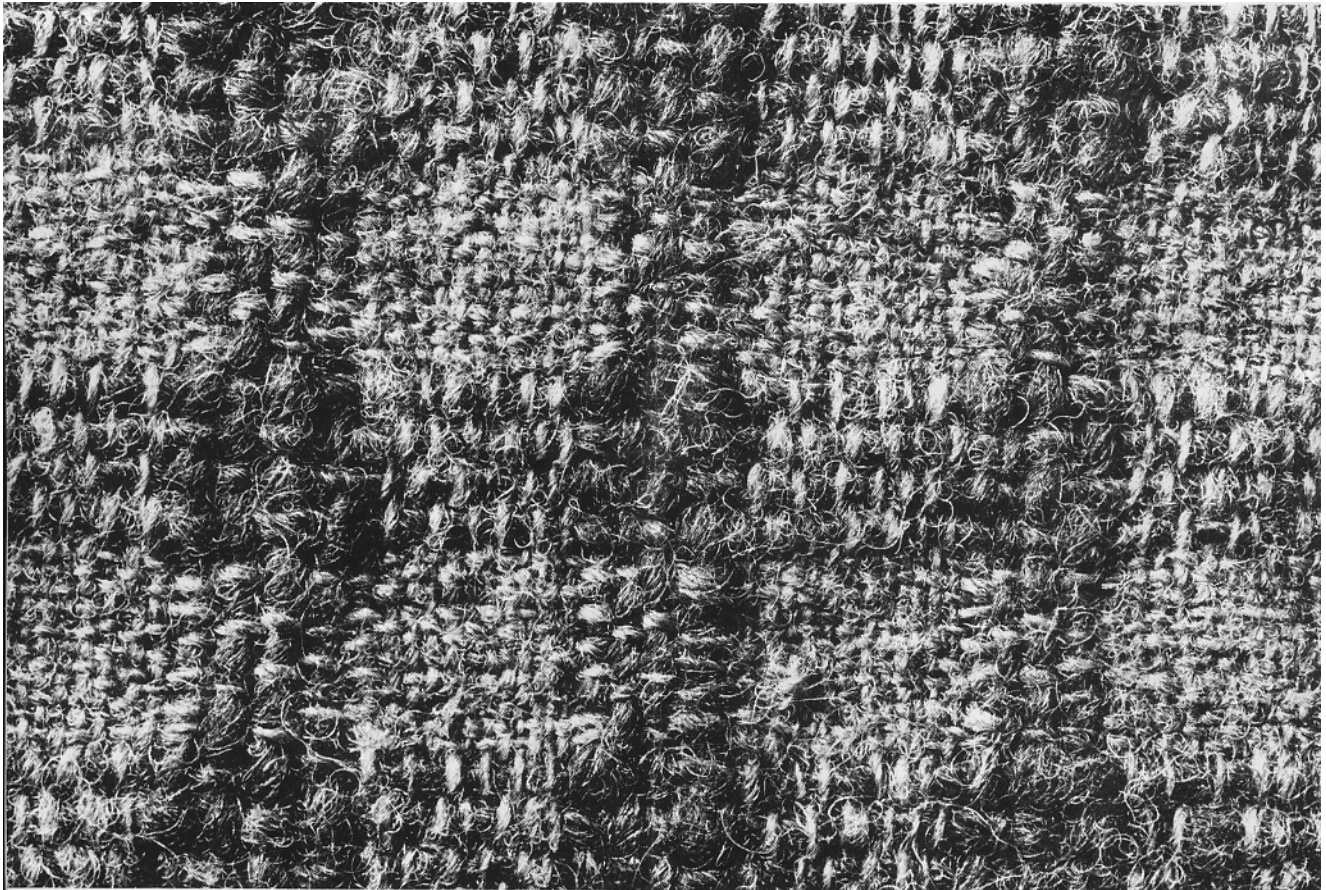
This is a close up of Paula Simmons woven fabrics, and the yarn in it was spun by "Speed Spinning," as is explained in her article this month. She mentions that "Speed Spinning," helps to produce the large quantity of yarn that is needed for both warp and weft in such long pieces of yardage fabric.

Photo by Charles R. Pearson, Edmonds, Washington

last moment of each drafting, the fibres should be held very lightly.

I have found it helps to adjust your style to accommodate both your raw material and your choice of yarn size and texture. If the yarn size is optional, then spin each fleece in the size it will spin the easiest, for this will also be fastest. If an exact size is needed, then try to select a fleece that is cooperative. This is not a selection done mainly by eye, but by touch, and learned through experimenting.

The limitation of circumstances and equipment will influence your decision about some steps of processing. Whether you wash your wool before spinning and wash your yarn before weaving with it, will be partly determined by how easy these washings are in your particular circumstances, compared to their value in facilitating the speed and control of the processes that follow.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Why not advertise your old loom, duplicate equipment, and other such items in this section. Price per 5-line ad is \$5.00. Payment to accompany your advertising copy.

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Red Karrakul sheep. Producers of excellent long wool for spinning. Write or call Percy C. Bartell, 1530 Main St., Ramona, Calif. 92065. Tel. 789-1204.

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These are beautifully made wooden beads of exotic woods from Africa. They are the same as are used in our beautiful Swiss Necklaces. Assorted shapes and sizes, and unusual styles. But the price is high at 25¢ each. We also have about 10 more styles on order. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

1½ LEA HALF BLEACHED LINEN SPECIAL

On about 2 lb. cones, we have this on sale at \$1.60 per lb., and it is sold by the cone or tube only. Price is really reasonable for this type of linen. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

SMALL CASTLE-TYPE SPINNING WHEELS

These are a smaller type than the Norwegian Castle Wheel we stock and the price on these is high, at \$165.00 each. But the workmanship is superb, and the work on these is outstanding. Made of Oak, with a beautiful finish, and we have a light, medium, and dark finished wheel on hand. And, if you'd like one in English Walnut, they are \$175.00 each. Come in and see these, they are so compact and unusual. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

REGULAR NORWEIGAN CASTLE TYPE WHEELS

Are also in stock with a new shipment just recently in. These are very, very good spinning wheels, with 4 bobbins for yarns, so you can use 2 or 3 ply threads if you wish. Price is \$95.00 plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NYLON, 3 PLY STITCHING TWINE FOR MACRAME NECKLACES.

22 colors available, and it comes on 2 oz. tubes. Price is \$2.00 each, and one tube is enough for 4 or 5 necklaces. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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These are unique scissors that can be folded compactly and carried in your pocket. Chrome plated handles, and stainless steel surgical blades. Small and compact, and most unusual. Strong and sharp enough to even cut metal. \$3.50 per pair. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

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15", 4 HARNESS TABLE LOOMS IN STOCK

These come with 500, 9" heddles, shuttle, reed hook, and are made of hardwood. Nice finish on looms. The price is \$67.50 if picked up at our shop. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

NAVY CORD FOR MACRAME IN 10 COLORS

Available on about 1/2 lb. balls, this is a waxed thread or a glazed thread that is made specifically for Macrame. We have a navy blue, dark green, yellow, gold, burnt orange, dark brown, red, black, and a natural that is not so glazed. Price is \$1.55 per ball, plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Ore. 97128.

SOFT NAVY CORD, UNGLAZED in 12 colors

This is a #12 navy cord, same as the glazed, but it is a softer finish, and comes on approximately 2 oz. balls. Price is 80¢ per ball, plus shipping. We find the smaller the put-up, the larger the cost, but there isn't much that can be done about it. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

18/2 WORSTED IN 39 COLORS

In stock at Robin & Russ, it has 4800 yards per pound, comes on approximately 1/2 lb. cones, and is mothproofed. Price is \$6.80 per pound, plus postage.

IN PRINT AGAIN, SPIN YOUR OWN WOOL AND DYE IT AND WEAVE IT.

Yes, it is in stock again, and this is a very interesting little booklet. Price is now \$3.95 plus shipping. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

FINE LOOP MOHAIR IN 9 COLORS

It has 2400 yards per lb., comes on cones of about 1 lb. 2 oz. to 1 lb. 4 oz. each. Price is \$4.80 per lb. and a free sample sheet of the colors will be sent upon request. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A NATURAL COLORED HOMESPUN TYPE YARN

which has about 1800 yards per lb. It can be used for warp or weft. Price is \$4.00 per lb., and it is available in approximately 1 lb. skeins. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

A SMOOTH, 2 PLY, NATURAL MOHAIR

This is a little heavier than usual with 1200 yards per lb. Should be able to brush this up into a nice nap after weaving. Price is \$4.80 per pound, on 1/2 lb. tubes, or about 2 to 3 lb. cones. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

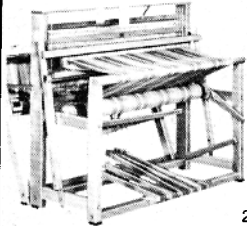
2/24's ALPACA IN A TAWNY TAN AND A LIGHT AVOCADO COLOR

It has about 6,000 yards per pound, and can be used for warp or weft. Price while it lasts is \$4.80 per lb., and it comes on about two pound cones. Robin & Russ, 533 North Adams St., McMinnville, Oregon 97128.

We also have this same size yarn, 2/24's, in a natural 100% mohair yarn. Price also is \$4.80 per lb. Just a few pounds of this left.

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