

AUSTRALIAN DEER ASSOCIATION

SOUTHERN BRANCH TASMANIA

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Next meeting Friday 20th February 2026

North Hobart Bowls Club

Corner Ryde and Leticia Streets

North Hobart

Starting at 6:30 pm



Conservation is a state of harmony
between men and land—Aldo Leopold

February Meeting Program

As well as the African Safari Raffle draw, we will also have a presentation from our President, Rod Hughes. Rod will talk about Mel Kleinhans Safari outfit and what he has to offer. Rod has hunted with Mel on numerous occasions and has a very good knowledge of his safari business setup. Rod will show some pictures of the safari headquarters as well as some pictures of the game Mel can offer prospective hunters. We also hope to have some African species trophies on display. Anyone contemplating a hunting trip to Africa will really enjoy this presentation.

AFRICAN SAFARI RAFFLE DRAW

Please remember that the raffle will be drawn at the next meeting on Friday February 20th.

Please collect all sold and unsold tickets and return them on the night at the latest.

There are still some tickets available in the raffle so get in quick if you want a chance to win.

February 2026

Meeting Venue, Dates and Times

February Friday 20th 2026 (African Safari Raffle Draw)

May Friday 1st 2026

June Friday 26th, 2026

August Friday 28th, 2026

October Friday 30th, 2026

December Friday 18th, 2026

Unless advised, all meetings will be at the North Hobart Bowls Club corner of Ryde and Leticia Streets, North Hobart

Meetings are usually the last Friday of every second month but may be changed depending on room availability

February 2026

BRANCH ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

President/Coordinator – Rod Hughes

southerntas@austdeer.asn.au

Newsletter/Treasurer -Neil McCormick

southerntas@austdeer.asn.au or
neil-mccormick@outlook.com

State & National ADA Contact John Toohey

southerntas@austdeer.asn.au

Sponsorship– Shane Broadby

Raffle Coordinator- To be appointed

Property– Kerry Bedelph

Branch Measurers– Neil McCormick

0447291445

Gerard Brereton

Jeremy Darcy

Matthew McCormick

TREASURERS REPORT

Opening Balance	19/12/2025		\$4,923.24
Income		Raffle Ticket Sales	\$284.43
Expenditure		Food for Xmas BBQ	\$259.95
		Trophies for annual awards	\$150.00
		Room Hire	\$50.00
Closing Balance	20/2/2026		\$4,747.72

Presidents Report

Welcome,

Here we are again with the pre-Deer season club newsletter, and the seasons seem to come around very quickly. Deer hunters around the state are starting to think about sorting out equipment and firearms for the upcoming hunt. With the hot weather of late, I have noticed a lot of snakes moving around the bush and farmland. They may only have a small mouth, but they do pack a punch if they bite so just keep them in mind when stalking.

I would like to wish all Deer hunters success during the season whether you are harvesting does during the second half of the season or chasing that Buck of your dreams.

At our February 20th meeting at the North Hobart Bowls Club, I will be drawing the Mel Kleinhans African Hunting Safari raffle, and all members will be welcome to attend the meeting for the draw. Please come along as there will be raffle tickets available to purchase on the night. The last ticket sold may be the first ticket drawn, who knows what luck might happen on the night. If you are not aware of the raffle prize, it is for two people, one hunter and one observer for six days including a trophy Impala and Nyala and the prize can be used anytime during the 2026 African hunting season that suits the prize winner and outfitter. The prize can be upgraded to include whatever you may like. If you would like to purchase tickets before the meeting, you can email neil-mccormick@outlook.com For the price of \$5 per ticket or \$30 for a book of 10 tickets, it is fantastic value. You do not have to be a Southern Branch member to purchase tickets.

From all of the feedback that I have received concerning our annual Christmas function in December, it was an outstanding success, enjoyed by everyone attending. All who attended won great lucky door prizes and the food presentation from the club ladies with the fantastic BBQ, was outstanding as always. I would like to congratulate the club members who won trophies and prizes for the different hunting categories for the year. Photos of the presentations will be in this newsletter.



Yours in Hunting,
Rod Hughes

MEETING, FRIDAY 19th DECEMBER

Our annual Xmas and awards night dinner was held this year on Friday 19th December. As always, It was great night, well attended and excellently catered for by volunteers who brought along food and manned the BBQ.

The Annual awards were run and won, and door prizes were handed out during the evening with everyone taking home a prize.

The Major prize winners were as follows,

R&N Blades “Zoe Zipper” knife raffle won by Tony Hitchens.



Heritage Farms meat pack won by Jo McCormick.



Again, our sincere thanks go out to our generous sponsors who never hesitate to support us with great prizes.

XMAS MEETING FRIDAY DECEMBER 19th

AWARDS GIVEN OUT AT THE CHRISTMAS MEETING

Best Tasmanian Fallow buck (Valdon Orr Trophy) taken during the 2025 season, as determined by Douglas Score

The winner was Gerard Brereton with a Douglas Score of 225.

Best Other Fallow buck taken during the 2025 season

The winner was Jack Bearman with a Fallow Buck scoring 212 Douglas Score.

Best Other Species taken in the last two years

The winner was Rod Hughes with a goat from NSW.

Best Handheld Photograph

The winner was Matt McCormick with a photo of a harvested Thar in New Zealand.

Best Trail Camera Photograph

The winner was Gerard Brereton with a close-up picture of a Tasmanian Devil.



Gerard Brereton with the Valdon Orr trophy and his winning Fallow buck from 2026.



Jack Bearman with his best other Fallow buck from 2026.



Rod Hughes with his goat that won best other species from 2026.



Matt McCormick with the trophy for best handheld photograph from 2026.



Gerard Brereton with his prize of a Trail Camera for the best trail camera picture for 2026.



Glenn Donaldson, a new member, took this excellent Sambar during 2026 but unfortunately his membership of the Southern Branch was not completed in time to qualify for our annual awards.

Glenn was happy to get up and give a great description of the taking of his stag.

NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF FALLOW DEER VENISON

AUSTRALIA

Why It's a Smart Choice

- Lean & Heart-Healthy
- Ethically Hunted
- Rich in Micronutrients

NUTRIENT	AMOUNT (PER 100G)	BENEFIT
Protein	~13 g	High-quality, complete protein
Fat	~2 g	Very low in saturated fat
Iron	High	Easily absorbable heme iron
Zinc	Good Source	Supports immune function
B Vitamins	Rich in B12, B6, Niacin	Important for energy metabolism

Fallow Deer in Australia are a valuable natural resource with social, economic, and cultural significance.

SOURCES:

Deer Industry Association of Australia. (2016). Nutrition guide for deer farming. <https://deerfarming.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/21-Nutrition.pdf>

ShunCulture. (2023). What kind of deer makes Australia's venison? <https://shunculture.com/article/what-kind-if-deer-makes-australia-in-venison>

Sciencdo. (2025). Comparative nutritional study of game meats: Fallow deer, red deer, and roe deer. *Acta Veterinaria Eurasia*, 51(2), 123-135. <https://sciencdo.com/article/10.2478/acve-2025-0006>

CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILDLIFE GLOBALLY





Australian Deer Association – Southern Branch Tasmania Raffle African Safari with Mel Kleinhans Safaris

Tickets \$5.00 or 3 tickets for \$10. No limit on number of entries per hunter.

The prize is one trophy Impala and one trophy Nyala for one hunter and one observer.

Four days hunting and two days at Jeffreys Bay Beach Lodge – total six days

Prize value is \$8,000 and package may be upgraded to include animals, safari duration, hunters and observers

Prize is not redeemable for cash.

Tasmanian Gaming Commission minor gaming permit number XXXXXX



Impala



Nyala

Ticket 9999 to 9999

Ticket orders to be received by last mail 12th of February 2026.

Drawn on the 20th of February 2025 at North Hobart Bowls Club,
Corner Letitia and Ryde Streets, North Hobart, Tas.

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

No. of Entries: Amount \$.....

Please indicate if receipt is required to be returned Yes / No

If yes, please supply a self-addressed and stamped envelope

Send cheque or money order to

Send To: Neil McCormick,
5 Surf Parade,
Blackmans Bay, Tasmania, 7052

No. 9999

Southern Branch Tasmania 2025 Mel Kleinhans Safari Raffle

TICKET COST: \$5 or 3 tickets for \$10

NO LIMIT OF ENTRIES PER HUNTER

Prize:

Six day safari 1x1 for 2 animals with Mel Kleinhans Safaris, located in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

2 animals Impala and Nyala.

Hunt value is \$8,000, hunt to be taken in 2026 by negotiation with Mel. Hunt can be upgraded, any trophies added on, just pay the trophy fees. If you want to extend the safari or bring a friend along the daily rate applies as per website <https://melkleinhanssafaris.co.za>

Images of other animals that the winner can upgrade to are also on this website.

Drawn on the 20th of February 2026 at North Hobart Bowls Club,
Corner Letitia and Ryde Streets, North Hobart, Tas.

Prize is not redeemable for cash.

Tasmanian Gaming Commission minor gaming permit number XXXXX

Ticket No. 9999



Impala



Nyala

MAJOR RAFFLE PRIZE

All members are reminded that the African Raffle will be drawn at the February meeting. Anyone still holding tickers, sold or unsold are asked to return them on the night at the latest. If you dropped in books to your local guns hop, please collect them and bring them to the meeting.

The two species available for this raffle. I believe two of the more attractive games plain animals you can hunt in Africa. Our very own Shane is pictured with a lovely looking Impala he took just this year when hunting with Mel Kleinhans Safaris. Shane and Rod are able to give you detailed, up to date information on hunting in Africa with Mel having both hunted there this year and Rod several times in the past.



Impala



Nyala

Just some of the other species that can be added to this prize by negotiation with Mel are shown below.



Recently, Shooters, Fishers and Farmers put out some advice you must do in the event the Police seize your firearms. Given what has happened in the past, this is very good advice. Robert Borsak, the Upper House Member in NSW has produced a short video on YouTube telling us what is important. It can be found by typing in, “Police Seizing Firearms”. His advice is as follows.

- 1. Be polite and calm at all times, don't let Police bully or coerce you.**
- 2. Get the Officers name and badge and record it in writing. Ask for a business card if they have one.**
- 3. Get a full receipt before the Police leave. It must list all the firearms seized, the make and serial number, the reason for seizure, the event number, the the date and time and the Officers signature.**
- 4. Remove your scopes from your firearms, they are not gun parts and you do not want them damaged.**
- 5. Case your firearms in protective cases, gunbags or even wrapped and taped in blankets.**

They advise that if you contact the local area police commander in writing you should be able to retrieve your firearms in 28 days. If you have issues doing this, contact you local SFF representative for support and advice.

Win a prize for your hunting story.

In order to generate more material for the newsletter, the Branch is proposing that members be invited to submit stories for inclusion in the newsletter. The winning story selected will win a prize from our stock of merchandise. If we think the story is suitable and if the member is agreed, we will forward the story on to Daniel Burke at Wild Deer and Hunting Adventures for inclusion in his magazine. Daniel is a very generous supporter of the Branch with donations of subscriptions and merchandise every year.

The story can be about any hunting adventure, recent or past. Stories submitted that don't get selected in the next newsletter will be held over and entered in the running for future newsletters. Stories should be accompanied by as many good photos as are available, the best will be selected to go in the newsletter. Stories can be produced as emails or in word and emailed to neil-mccormick@outlook.com

All members will have stories that we are interested in, whether it was a hunt this year or many years ago. We are happy to proofread and edit any stories if the member wants.

The prize for the next hunting story published will be one of the Kings Trail Cameras.



NEW PRODUCT

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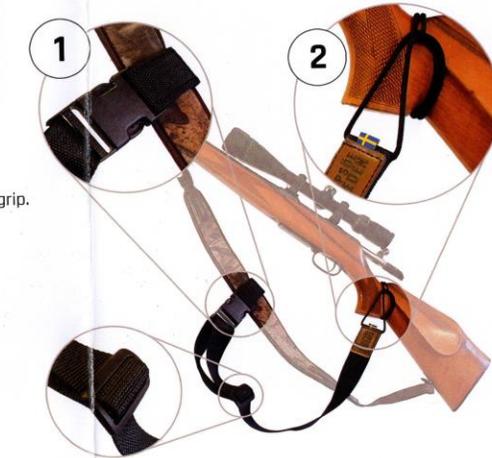


Youtube
Instruktion

Safety Gun Strap consist of two parts:

1: Short strap with friction rubber and quick release buckle. It is assembled around the regular gun sling.

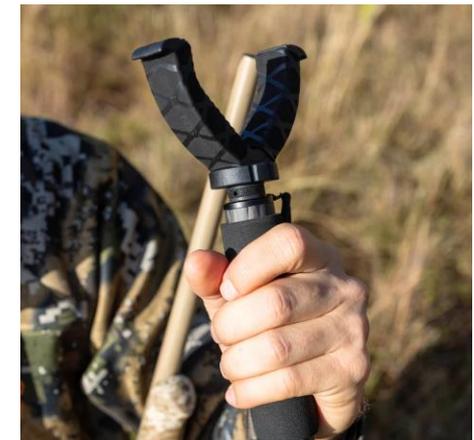
2: Long strap with paracord, adjuster and quick release buckle. It is assembled around the stock or pistol grip.



I recently purchased this safety sling from a distributor in Victoria. It is a simple friction strap that attaches to your existing sling and the butt of your rifle. It secures the rifle to your back, so it is firmly held in place. If you are like me and like to walk out to your spot in the dark and often walk back in the dark after sunset, it allows you to walk safely with both hands free without having one hand holding your rifle on your shoulder. It is released with a quick release buckle and doesn't take much longer than you would normally spend taking your rifle off the shoulder. For sneaking into position, your rifle can be secured on your back without it flopping around getting in your way. It seems to be well made with quality materials. These normally retail for \$99. but I have spoken to the distributor and if we can get enough orders, he is prepared to offer a significant discount. There will be one at our next meeting so members can have a look and see what they think.

Shane working hard and again, securing sponsorship from "Walk N Stalk".

Guys get on the net and check out "Walk N Stalk". Read about the Game Bar
And check out the Game Bar + Bundle. I've got one coming for the branch \$485 retail !!



Shane has been in contact with Kurt, the producer of the Walk and Stalk Game Bar and Bundle. He has provided the following Youtube links to see exactly how it all assembles and works.

Youtube User Guide Playlist link below (lots of demos of how the gear comes together and is used in the field).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jySZSTq9Mms&list=PLFuK2ntMu423zqdHpQ3z4-wtyzYWgq_5W

Youtube assembly guide link below (shows all the different configurations)

<https://youtu.be/ZzRCnjk7cw?si=cCrc6YXW-Meg9Gac>

Thanks again for your support.

Regards,

Kurt

WALK'N'STALK

walknstalkstore.com

There is currently a review of Public Land that may be suitable for opening up to deer hunting. The following information has been provided by Scott Freeman, the Tasmanian ADA State Coordinator.

Tasmanian Public Land Deer Hunting Project

The TDAC, ADA & SSAA have been working with NRE over the last period towards opening Public Lands controlled by NRE and or Parks. Parks are currently undertaking site inspections and audits to ensure they are suitable to be released for deer hunting and if any times of the year, restriction may apply.

At this stage we are looking at including these new areas into the current Hunting Ballot Program run by NRE for the Stag Season and then open for general antlerless deer hunting after the Stag Season. This is still to be confirmed as the lower graded areas may just be opened for Deer Hunting for the Seasons. All is on the table currently, until we get a feel on interest from hunters and the quality of hunting on each block.

We are also asking members that are willing to assist in an assessment program to assess sites for suitability for deer hunting to contact us and we can supply more information and resources to help us grade these areas with suitability for hunting and level of deer numbers.

New areas for assessment:

Deddington

Swan River

Royal George

Osmaston

Avoca

Tunbridge Tier

Triabunna

Current areas to be assessed:

Tooms Lake CA

-

Tooms Lake

Five Mile Pinnacle CA

-

Central Highlands, Southeast Miena

Great Lake CA

-

Tumbledown Creek & Gunns March

Top Marsh

-

Central Highlands, West Miena South Little Pine Lake

Buxton River CA

-

East Coast Swansea

Great Western Tiers CA

-

North of Great Lake

Central Plateau CA

-

Breton Rivulet Mother Lords Plains

Great Wester Tiers CA

-

Parsons & Clerk Mountain

Castle Carey RR

-

Rossarden / Avoca

If you can assist in site inspections, please mail Scott @ tasmania@austrdeer.asn.au with areas of interest and we can send back information and relevant area details.

PRINT THIS OUT AND KEEP IT WITH YOU WHEN CARRYING FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Safety requirements for conveying other firearms

The following are safety requirements for conveying a firearm that is **not** a prohibited firearm:

- (a) the firearm is to be in the unloaded condition;
- (b) ammunition is to be in a closed container, completely separate from the firearm;
- (c) magazines are not to contain any ammunition;

At least one of the following requirements is to be met:

- (i) the firearm is to be in a locked receptacle;
- (ii) the bolt of the firearm is to be in a closed container, completely separate from the firearm;
- (iii) the firearm is to be fitted with a mechanism that locks or disables the trigger or action and prevents the firearm from being used.

Sponsorship

Shane Broadby took on the role of Sponsorship Officer for the Branch a few years ago. He has consistently chased up and secured sponsorship from past and new corporate sponsors. This year is no exception, and Shane continues to secure the following goods from sponsors.

Wild Deer Hunting Adventures – Daniel Burke

6 x Twelve month subscription to WDHA Magazine
Daniel has indicated he will continue this donation
Into the future.



R & N Blades

R&N are continuing as great supporters with yet another generous donation
Of a quality knife for us to raffle. Keep them in mind if you are looking to buy
A good knife for yourself or someone else.



Yeti

Yeti have supported us in the past and, as yet, we do not have confirmation
of their continued support. As with other sponsors who have supported us
previously, we will continue to advertise their excellent products.



High Calibre Cleaning Supplies

High Calibre Cleaning Supplies have again promised goods and we are very grateful for their continued support.



Dog & Gun Coffee

Dog & Gun Coffee have continued with their generous support, and we are very grateful to receive their excellent coffee products.



Double Tap Gunshop Campania

Double Tap have been a generous sponsor in the past and we are hopeful of their continued support.



Sherriff Agencies

Sherriff Agencies have been excellent sponsors in the past and Shane has got them back on board again this year.



Tonic Eyewear

Tonic Eyewear have been brought back on board again by Shane. Most of us have seen Merve Hughes advertising these excellent Sunglasses on TV. They are very good quality, and this is great sponsorship from them. Kerry Bedelph won the donated pair Of sunglasses at this years Xmas dinner. The estimated value of this donation is \$340.



ADA Southern Branch Merchandise for Sale to Members



\$100 (Members Price)

The Adventure Kings Game/Trail Cam comes with a strap and a wall mount for easy securing in a variety of positions, and the 2.36” screen and easy-to-use controls make setting it up a piece of cake.

With an IP66 rating, it’s designed to work where you want it to, when you want it to, and comes with a one-year warranty for peace of mind.

The Kings Trail Cameras produce clear, sharp images, night and day, and are excellent value for money at just \$100 each.

Cameras can be purchased by contacting our Branch Property Officer, Kerry Bedelph on 0428392184.

Cameras will be available for purchase at our meetings.



The Australian Deer Association Membership

Membership of the Australian Deer Association includes not only advocacy by the Association on your behalf, but a Bi-monthly magazine as well as \$20 millions public liability insurance. This can only be afforded by the Association making a deal with insurance brokers to cover our many thousands of members. It would not be affordable as an individual.

Most landowners and managers now insist that hunters on their land have an adequate cover of liability cover.



The Australian Deer Association is pleased to announce a new member benefit.

As from 1 April 2018 all financial members have cover for their firearms and/or associated equipment whilst in transit, stored in a locked vehicle and/or building in accordance with State Law and if damaged or destroyed whilst on the range or in the field but not when the firearm is being discharged. Traditionally, the responsibility of this insurance purchase has been left to the individual member but now, should you have no cover in place, the Association will provide cover under your membership [subject to the terms and conditions of the insurance policy].

This insurance is designed to protect each member up to \$12,000 with the option to increase this limit to \$25,000 for an additional \$10 payable by the member. The policy has an excess of \$50 each and every claim and protects members anywhere in Australia, 365 days of the year, plus overseas for 21 days in any one year.

Just another way that your ADA is working for you!

Details or inquires can be made to our Insurance Broker, Marsh Advantage Insurance via:

Lauren Coburn
Phone: 08 8385 3616
Email: lauren.coburn@marshadvantage.com

Janine Hook
Phone: 08 8385 3624
Email: janine.hook@marshadvantage.com



There's more to deer than hunting

ADA Membership

Are you ready to join the great outdoor adventure?

With more than 5,000 members and with branches in all Australian states and territories, the Australian Deer Association is the largest deer organisation in Australia. There is undoubtedly a branch near you!

By joining the ADA, you will gain access to the most reliable and up-to-date information on all aspects of deer in Australia and begin your journey to becoming the most knowledgeable deer manager and hunter possible.

Advantages of Membership

- The Association produces the prestigious journal Australian Deer keeping you factually informed on the Australian deer-hunting scene.
- Meet interesting guest speakers at Branch Meetings.
- Branches produce newsletters providing you with up to the minute information on local events.
- You have the opportunity to make local, interstate and overseas contacts.
- By talking to other members at meetings you can obtain leads on where it is best to hunt and when.
- You have the opportunity to voice your opinion and be heard at regular meetings
- Trophies can be entered in competitions and the internationally recognised Australian Antlered Trophy Register.
- You can test your skills by competing in photographic competitions.

• You can participate in conservation and research and management projects in your area, which will help ensure the future of your chosen sport.

Member Insurance: ADA has a \$20 million public liability insurance cover that protects its members from legal liability that may arise out of any activity endorsed by ADA, including legal hunting on public or private land anywhere in Australia as well as coverage for some of your hunting gear while out hunting, and all as part of your annual membership.

Join the Australian Deer Association and secure the future of deer hunting throughout Australia. You will also gain access to like-minded hunters, up-to-date information and regulations, together with insight into the advocacy work provided by the Australian Deer Association, to protect your right to hunt.

The easiest way to join the ADA is to go to the website and join online, its easy and quick. We should all seriously consider joining up young people, there is a junior membership or family membership and they will be the future of hunting both here in Tasmania and in Australia.

ADA Southern Branch Sponsors
Contact Details

Jo's Fresh Meats—Northgate Shopping
Centre Glenorchy and Glebe Hill
(03) 6273 1052

Wild Deer and Hunting Adventures
Magazin—Daniel@wilddeer.com.au

Southern Range Sports
4/34 Mertonvale Crescent
Kingston
Ph. 62298444 fax 62298433

Sherriff Fishing and Outdoors
Unit 3/3 Trotters Lane, Prospect,
Launceston
0417916387



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Mel Kleinhans Safaris - Email- office@melkleinhanssafaris.co.za
mobile -(+27) 828736535
Whats app- +27828736535



Tonic Eyewear—Doug Phillips,
Mob: 0466 112 681
doug@toniceyewear.com.au



ARB Hobart- 9 Florence St, Moonah TAS 7009
(03) 6228 6822 -arb@arbhobart.com.au



Murray Thomas Taxidermy-
102 Axiom Way, Acton Park, Tas.
Email: muzzathomas@live.com



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Laredo Taxidermy—22 Park St. Ross
Ph0409 975805



South East Firearms— Stuart Palmer-
3/31 Cole Street, Sorell Tas 7172-
62653233-
southeastfirearms3@gmail.com



Allgoods Hobart
168 Liverpool St. Hobart
Ph. 62369969

ALLGOODS

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Dog and Gun Coffee

www.dogandguncoffee.com



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Walk'n'stalk

Kurt Dillmann

kurt@walknstalkstore.com



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Www.highcaliber.com.au



Heritage Farms Tasmania



Double Tap Gun shop Campania
Next to the Pub in Campania.



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