

AMERICAN SURVIVOR

Survival Information For The Prepared Citizen

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SURVIVAL COMBAT

Introduction

It is impossible to foresee exactly what kinds of combat situations will develop from a slow degeneration or a sudden collapse of civil order. The situation that any individual or family finds itself in will vary from an increased danger that never develops into actual confrontations or one that could even escalate into military level combat. Those living in or near large urban areas will certainly face different challenges than those in small towns and rural area. Therefore the planning, training and armament required to survive in and move through these areas will be different. Moreover the requirements for initial short-term survival combat will differ greatly from those of long-term sustained security.



For most people, combat will be one of the worst experiences of their lives. There is

nothing enjoyable or gratifying about it. If it can't be avoided, hope that you are mentally and physically equipped to survive it.

Reality Check

The authority of the State is a myth, only maintained as long as it is respected and accepted by the majority of the people. Once this myth is cracked law and order evaporates. If a massive disaster overwhelms the existing police and military, or they are rendered ineffective by massive popular unrest or inadequate funding; chaos will soon develop. Once the general population loses respect and confidence in the authorities, there is no authority. Even the most brutal dictatorships cannot survive a general loss of confidence or fear.. The whole USSR collapsed in spite of the KGB and the Army. The so-called Arab Spring brought down several strong governments. Mexico is ruled by the drug cartels not the State. Once this process starts the police will focus on protecting their families and the governments. Government agencies at all levels will concentrate on defending their families and associates. Citizens will be left on their own gradually or suddenly. Theft and looting will start with established

criminals, but as conditions worsen desperation will lead to foraging and violence by normally law-abiding citizens. We will look at three scenarios that could develop in the next few decades. I will not get into specific weapons and tactics here because we have covered these subjects in previous articles.

Scenario #1

A gradual decline in the economy, energy supplies and funding for the police results in increasing street crime and occasional outbreaks of looting and rioting. There is an increase in home invasions and gang activities. Gangs begin to loot food stores and trucks and now operate a black-market for essential goods. Police respond slowly and generally back off in the face of large numbers.

Combat Situations and Preparations

In the early stages of this scenario you may still be going to your job and or legally gathering supplies, but now you need to be much more alert and well armed. Any restriction on carried armament should be ignored in favor of survival. If possible travel in twos or threes. Avoid urban commercial areas where looting, crime and gang activities will be heaviest. Look poor and don't get followed home! Good high-capacity handguns with extra magazines will be a must for the streets. Even short-barreled shotguns or carbines may be appropriate. If you have been wise enough to have a supply of food and water on hand and maybe a network of support, you will not need to "forage" or go to the black-market for your needs. If you are not prepared and networked you will be forced to risk combat every time you run out of canned goods or toilet paper. You will be the potentially ambushed. Of course the fact that you are not coming out may attract attention so you will need to be ready to detect, discourage and eliminate any would be invaders. In this scenario,

attacks are most likely to be by individuals or small-untrained gangs. They will probably just try to kick in the door or rush through when you come in or go out. They may also try to take a family member hostage outside and then force you to let them in. For this reason anyone going out should be armed or accompanied by an armed family member even near the house. When inside all doors should be closed, locked and blocked. Even at home everyone should carry handguns and defensive rifles and carbines should be loaded and handy. At night lights should be out and window exposure should be avoided. Spend time in the basement and interior rooms if possible. If a 24-hour watch schedule is not practical sleep with your weapon nearby. The hours between dusk and dawn are the most dangerous. If order is not restored the situation may degenerate into scenario #2 or #3 within a few weeks.

Scenario # 2

A sudden and total collapse of the system caused by a natural disaster, epidemic or financial collapse plunges the society into chaos. All stores and malls are being looted and burned. Gangs roam the streets and invade homes with impunity. Police, medical and fire services are non-existent. Millions flee urban areas as food supplies, water and sanitation systems fail.

Combat Situations and Preparations

If you live too near to major highways and/or commercial districts where mobs and looters will kill and destroy everything in their paths, you will be forced to flee by vehicle or on foot to safer areas. Past issues have covered movement through high threat areas, and evacuation gear and camps. Suburban communities and homes may still be defensible and even sustainable for the well prepared and well armed. Smaller towns and rural homesteads will need to be prepared to

fend off occasional roaming groups of motorized or walking assailants. Using outposts or good binoculars to spot and identify approaching threats on roads and trails will be essential. Of course you may want to be sure that these are truly dangerous people before opening fire. Here you will need medium range, high volume carbines for built up environments where large numbers of “enemies” may get fairly close before being spotted. You will need a lot a reliable semi-automatic carbine with at least a 30-round magazine and plenty of extra magazines to stop or drive off close in threats. If you live in more open terrain a long-barreled semi-automatic combat rifle and/or bolt action scoped hunting rifle will be needed. Your options will be to fire a warning shot at long-range to redirect intruders past your location or pick off well-defined threats before they get to you. Remember, you can’t just shoot every person that comes down the road and even your warning shot may initiate a battle that did not need to happen. That person may be innocent or even a potential friend. A single person or small group may also be a scout for a larger group coming behind. Think carefully before starting an engagement under these conditions. Of course if you have had to evacuate, *you* may be the target fore someone way out their with a scoped 30-06 and no hesitations about shooting. This is a great reason to be able to stay home. In this scenario your riffe is your primary weapon and your handgun is your backup weapon. At this stage block or community patrols may be needed. A good existing “Crime Watch” program may be a good foundation for this and could even be supported by the existing police establishment under such desperate conditions. Roadblocks may be necessary to sort out and reroute refugees and potential raiders. It would be far better and more humane to provide some food and

water, etc. to refugees and rout them around the town than to just block them.



Lets hope things don’t get this bad, but remember that they have in other places at other times. Once order is gone anything can and will happen

Scenario #3

After a general collapse centralized government is not able to restore constitutional liberties and security. An unconstitutional and oppressive state attempts to restore order based on force and oppression or smaller more localized gangs or extremists attempt to establish regional dictatorships by force. General resistance and military style combat breakout in many areas. Most people are forced to choose sides, but even neutrals are likely to be attacked in some areas.

Combat Situations and Preparations

This is the situation that most survival novels envision. A simple “kill or be killed”, “everyone who is not with you is against you” situation. It’s not going to be that simple! You are going to have all kinds of combatants and non-combatants and disguised enemies and friends and terrorists all mixed up on the field. Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan can relate to this kind of “asymmetrical war”. Out of the initial chaos there will emerge dominant gangs of criminal, and a variety

of militia like forces. Some of these will be Mad Max like roaming bands while others will establish territories to dominate. It is impossible to predict what sort of alliances will form or what remnants of government may reemerge. The economy and the society will be badly fractured and there will be a lot of evil people wanting to manipulate and prey on a lot of desperate people.

Control of food, water and other resources will be the key to power. If criminal gangs or would be dictators are able to provide safety to their supporters and offer the only sources of food, water and other critical needs to the population they will win, even if they are brutal and oppressive. If a significant force of good and benevolent people are strong enough to provide and defend these resources then recovery with liberty will be possible. It will take a heroic and determined force to hold back the forces of hate, prejudice and greed that will certainly emerge. In this long-term situation only organized and trained citizens will be able to restore order. This will mean defending ones own family and community while respecting others. It will be essential to be strong enough to deter and defeat any threat while being ready to unite to rebuild the society.

Obviously, here you need to have very good military style weapons and lots of ammunition. You also may want to consider having extra weapons for currently reluctant neighbors, relatives and friends who will be willing to help once things get more threatening. Good binoculars, night vision equipment, camouflage clothing, smoke bombs and all kinds of other equipment would be helpful. If you do not have military training, at least get some good manuals on small unit tactics and get lots of shooting practice with each weapon. Do not forget spare parts and maintenance items for each weapon.

If the situation degenerates to this point our country and the world will truly be in the dark ages for a long-time. It may never recover. The greater the force of responsible armed and well prepared citizens, the less destruction and disruption there will be.

Conclusions

Survival combat will be a complex combination of home defense, street combat and military tactics unlike anything previously experienced. In some cases it will be necessary to take or hold ground, but more often sheer survival will be the priority. While casualties will surely be incurred the concept of acceptable losses can hardly be justified when those losses are your children, parents, spouses' and close friends. Casualties cannot build the future. Only the well armed, well prepared and well organized will have the option of survival. They will be able to deter, fight or retreat as needed. If you are preparing for survival without preparing to defend your life through all anticipated situations, you may be stocking supplies for someone else. Starting with a good handgun for close in self-protection, you need to build a small battery of weapons appropriate for the kinds of situations that may develop 5, 10 or 20-years from now. These items and the ammunition for them will become increasingly unavailable either because of government regulation or popular demand as the crisis grows more obvious. While your family, budget, location and health may all play a part in your capacity for various types of combat, there is no excuse for surrendering through inaction, procrastination or complacency.

Recommended Weapons

For home and street defense against criminals and backup

The debate goes on between the advocates of 9mm and 40 and 45 caliber handguns. The thing to know is that a handgun is an inherently inaccurate weapon. Even the police score only 10-20% hits in real combat. These weapons are to stop immediate threats in the 10 to 50 foot range and drive away identified threats out to a few hundred feet. You will want to have a high capacity automatic with extra magazines. Revolvers are great “bed side drawer” and under the car seat guns because of their reliability, but they are a bit bulky and slow to reload. Glock auto pistols have a well-deserved reputation for reliability and durability under rough conditions. Made for combat, they have no safety. They come in a wide variety of sizes and calibers from 9mm through 45 calibers and magazine capacities ranging from 10-17 rounds. If you prefer a more conventional weapon with visible hammers and safeties. Colt, Browning, Beretta , H&K, and SIG all make fine choices.

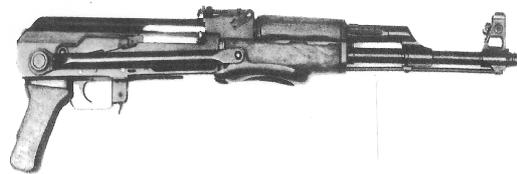


Glock large frame auto-pistol
Reliable firepower with high capacity magazines

For home and street defense under civil disorder conditions

The AK47 is the most successful military rifle in history. They fire 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition. These weapons are comparatively cheap and come in a verity of configuration. The folding stock models are good for interior and street combat.

The reason AK 47s are preferred by unconventional forces is that they can be abused and poorly maintained and still be reliable. There are lots of magazines and accessories on the market, including 100 round drum magazines. Gun stores and gunsmiths will not be around in some situations. The AK is not as accurate or light as the M16 and its clones, but costs much less. The M16 and the various clones and copies is a fairly durable and reliable weapon. The problems with earlier version have been corrected. Ammunition and parts are commonly available. There are lots of add-ons such as lasers, flashlights, night sights and even a device to simulate full automatic fire. You can get a carbine version for close defense or long-barreled variants for combat in open areas. These cost from \$900.00 to over \$2,500.00 depending on manufacturer and design.



Military surplus AK47 with folding stock. Magazine not shown. Sells for about \$500.00

Shotguns such as the Mossberg 500 and Remington 780 12-gauge pumps are great for heavy-duty home protection and street combat. The wide range of ammunition includes slugs, buckshot, breaching (for knock doors down), non-lethal rubber, flamethrower, armor piercing and more. Shotgun shells are easy to reload if you stock up on powder and primer and a few tools.

For home and street defense under full combat conditions

The AK47, AKM, M16 and a variety of other so-called “assault rifles will suit your

needs here, but more magazines and ammunition would be well advised. Night vision attachments would also be a good investment. If you can afford to add a long range high accuracy rifle do so.



One of the many commercial versions of the Military M16

Mosin-Nagant, 7.67 bolt action rifle.. This is a very old design, but it is cheap, reliable and fairly accurate. The Russians dumped hundred of thousands on the market after refurbishing them. They are priced from about \$100.00 to \$200. During WWII the Fins and The Russians both used them as sniper rifles to very good effect..

Better, but more expensive choices would be the Remington 700 which is the civilian version of the M40 sniper rifle used by the military or maybe a Steyr SSG69.

FIRE; BEYOND THE FIRST SPARK

Learning how to start a fire with flint and steel is a great training tool for fire building and should be practiced by anyone preparing for outdoor survival, but one is unlikely to find suitable flint in an emergency and the weight can better be allotted to magnesium fire starters or waterproof matches. Regardless of how you get that first glowing ember or small flame building that into a sustainable and effective fire can be challenging. I have seen folks use up a whole pack of matches trying to get a fire going under fairly good conditions. Successful, first time conversion of spark to fire is critical, especially if your spark source (e.g. matches, flint, etc.) is limited. Patience and preparation are the keys to success.

Dry material with a lot of surface area (fuel) and space in between air is needed. The bigger the fuel the larger the area in between needs to be. This is just like fuel/air ratios in an internal combustion engine. Too much fuel packed together will choke the fire out. Too much air space will lean the fire out. Start with well-fluffed dry grass, dry rotted wood flakes, pocket lint or other fibers. Then move to very small twigs or fuzz sticks. Once burning these can then be inserted under a small teepee of larger twigs. Finally larger branches can be added only when a good hot fire is going. If conditions are wet place larger branches and logs around the fire to be dried by the heat before using. Building a log reflector behind the fire can reflect fire heat while drying wood for later use.

I generally recommend against starting a fire in the rain. The energy use and exposure to water are seldom worth the effort. Seeking shelter and conserving body heat trumps fire building in wet and high wind conditions. However, once you have a fire going it can survive a considerable downpour. While small fires are the best, a big fire is necessary to produce a hot enough updraft to vaporize water before it can cool the fuel source. This is why fire hoses often fail to put out building fires. The wet stuff never reaches the red stuff.

When possible dig a fire pit before starting the fire this will facilitate better control and retain ashes and hot coals for rekindling if needed. You can also just fill in the hole to extinguish the fire quickly if needed. A deeper pit with a small fire can reduce visibility and focus heat under survival conditions. This is what Rogers Rangers of the French and Indian War did when operating in enemy territory. If you must have a fire overnight you probably should assign a rotating "fire watch" to

keep it going. Here are a few methods of emergency fire starting.

Fire By Friction

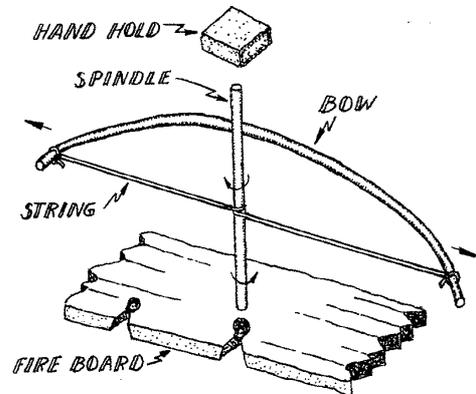
There are many friction methods for starting a fire. An experienced expert with the right materials available can start a fire fairly quickly with them. The inexperienced survivor will generally need considerable patience and energy to succeed.

Bow and Drill

The "bow and drill" method is the most common and well-known method. The fireboard and spindle must be made of dry and well-seasoned soft wood such as willow or cottonwood. The fireboard can be as small as 2-inches by 6-inches. Make a small notch for the end of the spindle and a V shaped groove from the notch to carry the hot smoldering wood flakes out of the notch. The spindle needs to be at least 12 inches long since it will wear down quickly. The handhold should be made of harder wood. A pine knot works very well. Cut a depression on the handhold to keep the end of the spindle in place. If available, put tallow or other lubricant in the notch to reduce the friction at that end. The bow should be approximately 24 inches long and made from stiff springy wood such as ash. Notch the ends slightly to keep the string in place. Use a shoelace or other cordage for the bowstring. A leather thong is best.

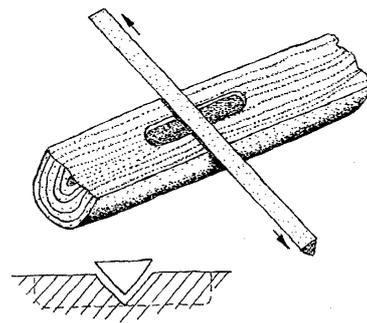
Have your starting tinder and twigs ready and at hand. Kneel on the fireboard to hold it in place. Place the end of the spindle into the notch. Wrap the bowstring around the spindle. Place a strong even pressure to the top of the spindle with the handhold. Operate the bow back and fourth rapidly until glowing sparks appear in the groove. Rapidly pick up the fireboard and blow on the embers. As soon as flames appear add just a little tinder. Then build up until you

have enough fire to place in your prepared fire teepee.



Fire Saw

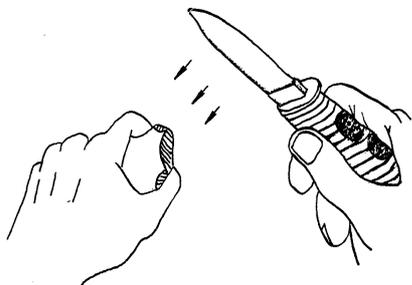
The fire saw method is not as well known. It requires less complicated construction and material types. Here a softwood log is split. A V shaped notch is cut across the log for a V shaped "saw" of similar soft wood. A deeper depression is cut down the center crossing the notch. This can be filled with tinder material such as lint. Dry moss, pulverized plant fibers etc.. The saw must be done rapidly back and fourth with equal pressure on both ends. Once sparks and embers are produced use the same procedure as with the bow and drill.



Last Resort

If you somehow have failed to have matches, lighters, magnesium, or flint with you, you may (if you are very lucky) find some natural flint or very hard stone such

as quartz or pyrite. To strike against hard metal such as the back of a knife to get sparks. To get reliable sparks into your tinder takes time a patients and some luck.



Grasp the flint (or substitute) and steel as shown above. Then strike the edge of the flint. Practice directing the sparks into the starting tinder

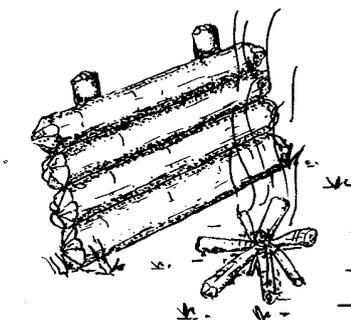


Gently blow onto spark until the flame develops

Reflectors are a must for doubling the heat you get and drying your firewood.



Striking the spark into the nest of dry grass



Fizz sticks can be made by peeling sticks with a knife to create thin easy to ignite strips before starting the fire these can be used once the initial tinder is burning well. Here is the "fire train" from spark to burning branches that must be built one step at a time.



A Few Fire Stories

- I once spent a few hours gathering tree under bark and other dry materials from a soaking wet woods. Finally I had a small, but health branch fire going. I left camp and returned just in time to see someone drop a big wet log onto my small fire. Poof it was out. Patience!
- The American Indians said that the Whiteman built a big fire and kept warm gathering wood while the Indian built a small fire and kept warm by the fire. The Indians were right.
- One time we had a big hot fire going in a cabin for two cold winter days. This produced a good deep ash pile and a hot bed of coals. Just as we were packing up two of the girls decided to dump a bucket of cold water on the fire. This created a huge cloud of steam and ash through the cabin. No one was hurt, but the girls were covered from head to foot with damp ash. Don't do that!

Fire Safety

- Watch your clothing and shoes around campfires. Loose clothing can ignite easily. Rubber shoes have been known to melt.
- Obey all campfire rules. In dry conditions national and state forests will post warnings prohibiting campfires. Unmanaged campfires have resulted in millions of acres of destruction, multiple deaths and injuries and very serious criminal prosecutions.

Conclusion

While shelter, energy conservation and water are more critical than fire in most survival situations; the ability to start and maintain a fire is a critical survival skill. Fire provides heat, light, the ability to boil (purify) water, cook food and signal for help. Fires are also helpful in fending off insects and wild animals. Of course fire has a reassuring psychological effect as well. I recommend that at least one method of fire starting be included in ever jacket and vest you own. A magnesium fire starter should be on your key chain as well. At least three methods of fire starting should be distributed among your survival packs and outdoor gear. Such precautions will reduce the probability of needing to use "improvised methods", but they should be known and practiced. Instead of using butane torches, fat wood, starter logs and other devices to starting campfires and fireplace fires, practice starting from scratch with tinder and a match or spark.

Lessons Learned from the 'Walking Dead' Series, by Rudi

Okay, zombies don't exist and are not likely to in the future. But there are important lessons that survivalist can learn from this cable TV show:

1. **Ammo runs out quickly and is difficult to get.** Stockpile it while you can, learn to reload, and conserve its usage. Other tools for self-defense are available – see #3 below.
2. **S**T happens.** Be prepared to deal with the unexpected, for example: injuries to members of the group, breakdown of equipment, strangers wandering too close to the retreat, and many other contingencies that you probably haven't thought of.

Have a brainstorming session and make a list of every possible problem that could arise, and then how likely it is to happen, and how you could best react.

3. **There are many other weapons besides firearms: get skilled in their usage.** Cold Steel has a “Special Projects” catalog that I urge you to get: <http://www.itspecpro.com> Featured items include spears, machetes, knives, swords, blowguns, walking sticks (an impact weapon), pepper spray and kukris. Prices go from cheap to very expensive, but the quality is all good. Bows can be excellent self-defense items: hunters take down deer with bows all of the time. There are compound bows, crossbows, long bows, and recurve bows. Yes, it takes time to learn, so start while you still can. Unlike firearms, bows are QUIET, and the arrows can be reused. Don't forget flare guns [the author plans to do an article on these in the future]. Perhaps you cannot afford to have a gun in every room of your house, but a knife, pepper spray, and an Escrima stick in each room is affordable. And a black powder gun is better than no gun at all, plus, you can buy it without the government snooping. Modern black powder guns are used by hunters and are very effective.

4. **You will have to deal with strong emotions of both your group members and survivors of what ever calamity has just happened.** Look at what happens after a major natural disaster; here are some typical emotional responses:

- a. “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”. Some

people pick themselves up and start digging out.

- b. “The Zombie”: these people are in a state of shock. They walk around in a daze; they may cry frequently.

The Red Cross, FEMA, and other resources on the ‘net can be helpful in teaching you what emotional responses to expect. PTSD is real and can happen to survivors of natural disasters, crimes, car wrecks, and crime, not to mention soldiers. Learn what the symptoms of PTSD are and what psychological “first aid” techniques can treat PTSD. A crisis can bring out the best in some people and the worst in others. Do an emotional inventory of yourself and others in your group: Any alcoholics or drug users? How do you and others react under stress? Any history of mental illness or suicide attempts? Any criminal history?

If you haven't watched the ‘Walking Dead’ series, take a look: it is well done and there are more surprises yet to come.

THE GUN LAW HYSTARIA

Live Free USA does not normally get involved in gun rights, economic or political issues. Our mission is support and advocacy of self-reliance and preparedness. We leave other issues to other organization that are better at these issues. **However, the recent cries for strong and prohibitive gun regulations does impact self-reliance and preparedness.** If you cannot defend your self and your family you cannot survive.

The abuse of a freedom no matter how egregious does not alter the fundamental importance of that freedom or justify it infringement in anyway.

The right to effective and timely self-protection against all forms of assault, abuse and oppression is not just a constitutional right. **It is a most basic**

human right that transcends written law.

A human right cannot be exercised without access to the most modern and effective means for its implementation. The rights to free speech, religion, press and assembly all use the most modern and effective technology available. In the case of the right to keep and bear arms (the right to self-protection) that implies the possession of modern high capacity firearms.

Nations where these types of arms are prohibited to the good citizens are general dominated by terrorist, gangs and/or oppressive governments. Mexico is just one example of the rout we may be taking.

In Chicago two of the largest Mexican drug cartels are fighting over the territory using the gangs as soldiers. These organizations ship thousands of illegal immigrants and thousands of tons of illegal drugs into the US every year. They certainly will have no problem shipping firearms and ammunition of all types to their gang/troops to dominate our streets and towns. The truth is that stringent gun laws in England, Australia and other countries have resulted in disaster for public safety and liberty. A disarmed civilian population is not America at all.

We recommend that everyone support all responsible measures to prevent these laws from being enacted and enforced.

CAMP INDEPENDENCE 2013

FREEDOM THROUGH PREPAREDNESS

Saturday, May 4th 2013

COME FRIDAY NIGHT, STAY TILL SUNDAY MORNING

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(in the Potawatomi, Group Camp)**

Activities Start at 8:00 AM/EST , Run Through 6:00 PM

Advanced Registration Before April 10th, Individual \$20.00,
Family \$25.00, Add \$20.00 for a cabin. Registration After April 15th or At The Site
Individual \$25.00, Family \$35.00, Add \$20.00 bunk in a cabin.
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