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# Foreword

The "Gems" in this collection describe precisely what the title implies—music to be prized for its beauty and brilliance. Some of the pieces may be characterized as "rare finds" in that they offer refreshing alternatives to the more commonly known recital repertoire.

Selected to motivate pianists of all ages, the music in this book includes a wide variety of appealing elements and styles. The dramatic crashing chords, engaging and driving rhythms, powerful endings and rapid scale passages are just some of the features that will both inspire performers and impress audiences.

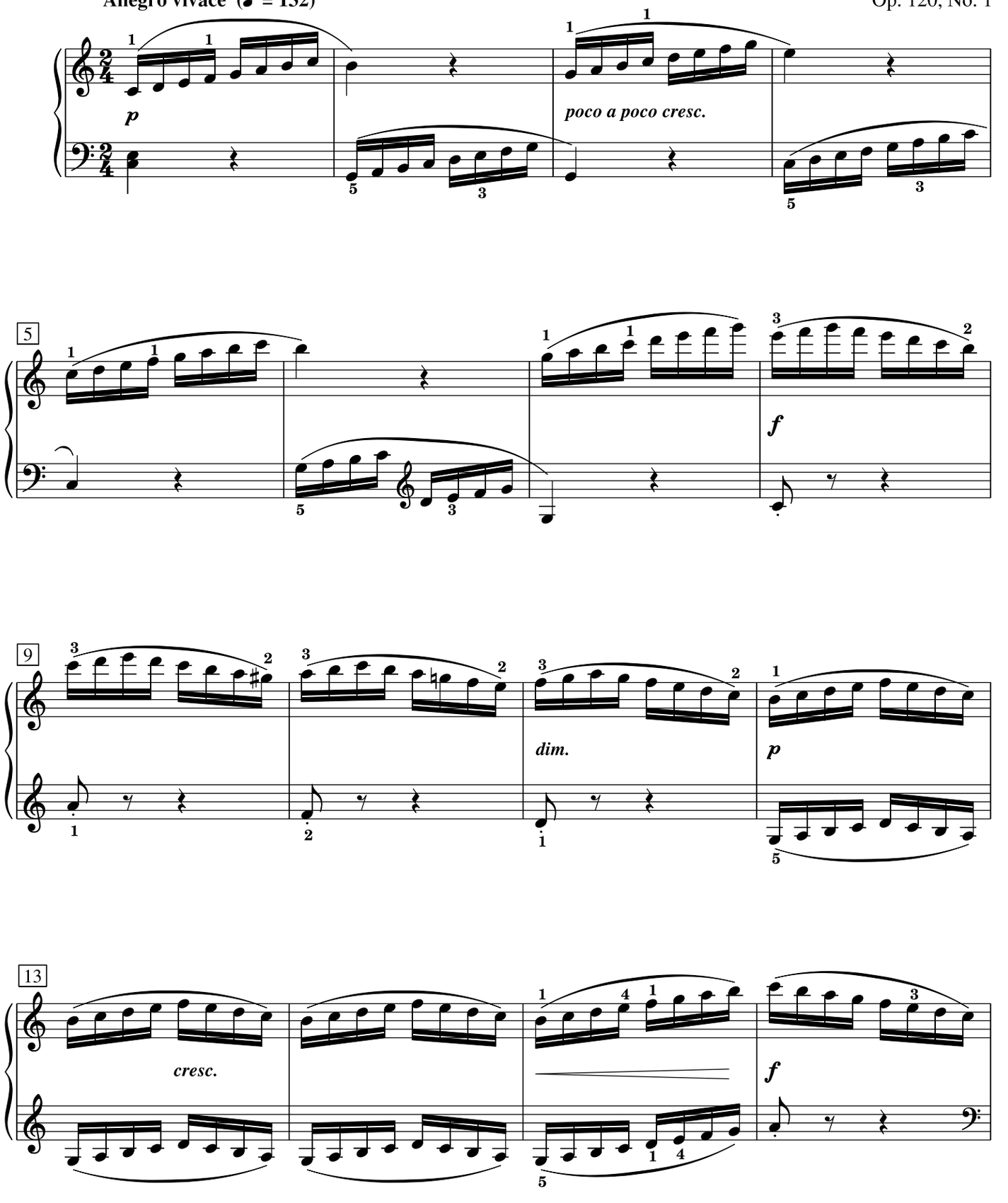
The pieces, arranged in approximate order of difficulty, apply and reinforce standard piano techniques that are the building blocks of music while preparing the performer for the technical challenges in more advanced repertoire. As an added bonus for today's busy students, most of the pieces are short and can be learned and memorized easily.

Our enthusiasm for these "Gems" has been confirmed by our students whose smiling faces and eagerness to learn them are our most convincing endorsements.

*Carole L. Bigler and Valery Lloyd-Watts*

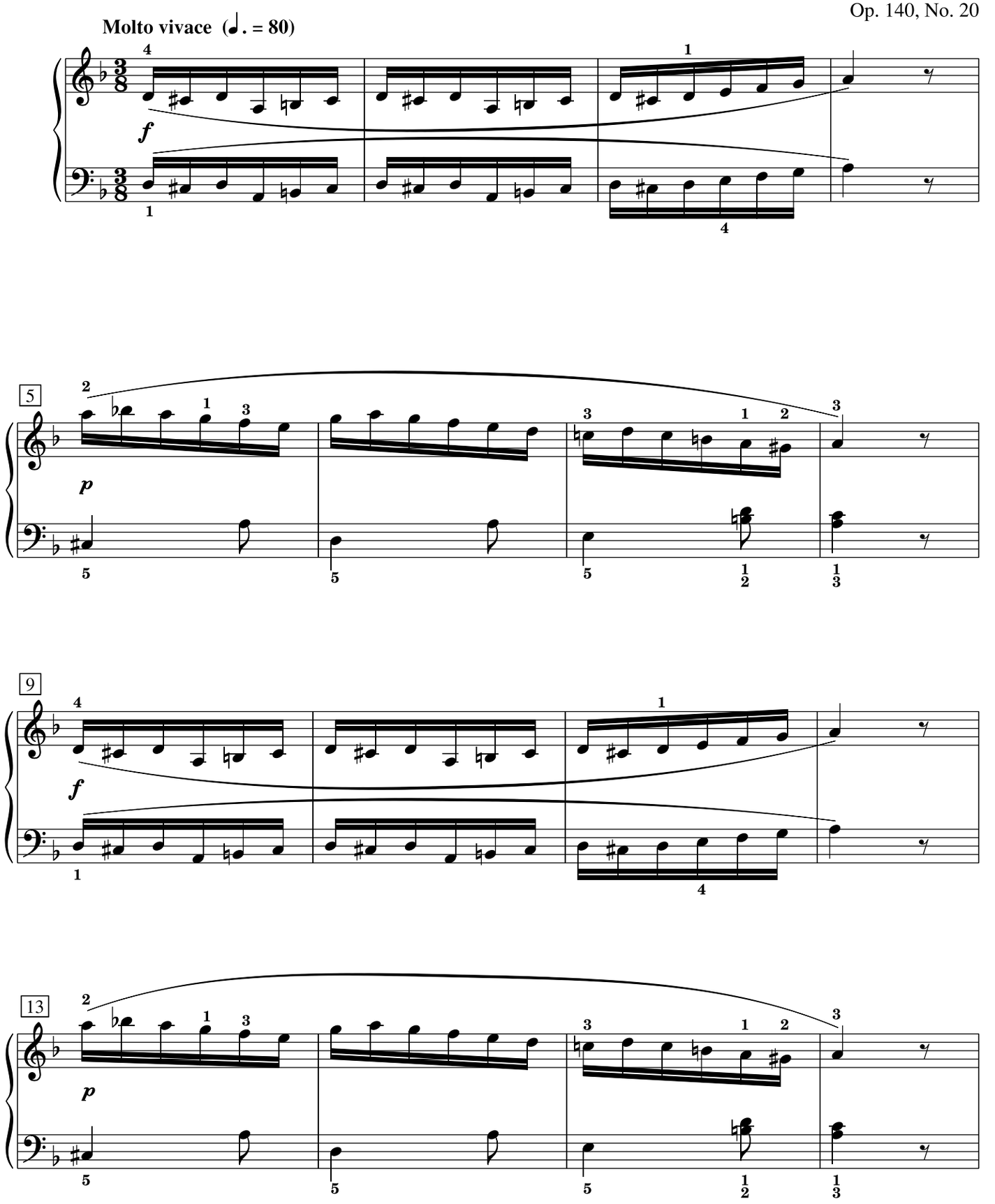
# Etude in C Major

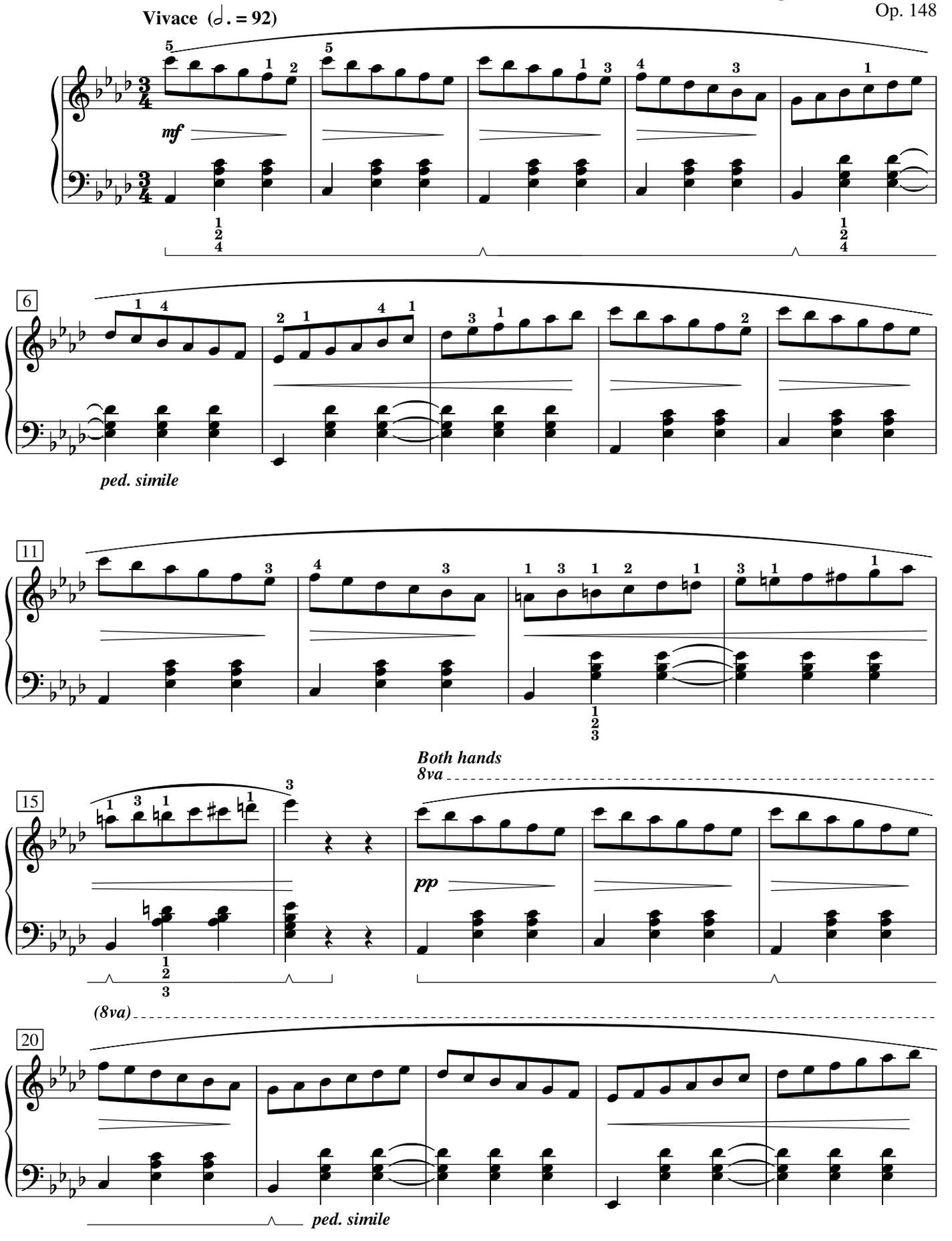
Jean-Baptiste Duvernoy (1802–1880)
Op. 120, No. 1



# Storm and Stress

Cornelius Gurlitt (1820–1901)
Op. 140, No. 20



# Valse Aerienne

Fritz Spindler (1817–1905)
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