



Balcones Forge Dispatch

President's Corner

June 2015



Greetings!

I hope everybody made it through the heavy rains and the floods without too much damage. Tom Leining reported monumental flooding in Wimberly, but was doing OK, and V.P. Jerry Whitley will be getting a new roof on his new house in Devine

due to golfball size hail.

The May meeting was rather touch-n-go in San Marcos. Folks were waiting until the last minute before setting up while watching the weather on their I phones. Thanks to those who brought equipment to help make this a very enjoyable event.

June will take us to the Ag Museum in Boerne. Lots of things to see if you haven't been there before, bring your camera. We are still lining up a few folks to do some short demos, so if you have something you would like to share, give me a shout.

The July meeting at John's Sycamore Creek Ranch will be a two part. One demo for the members, and a workshop for several members of the military from Ft. Hood. They are a group of machinists that want to learn to forge. Be ready for the heat, it's liable to be a hot one.

I want to say a few words about ABANA, the Artist/Blacksmith Association of North America. They have been around for many years and founded as the prime source of blacksmithing information for the public. Most of the blacksmithing groups in America were

President's message continued on page 2.

Meeting Date is June 27



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President's message continued.

created as ABANA chapters or sub-chapters in the beginning and now they are known as affiliates. ABANA brings all these groups together, produces two publications, the Hammer's Blow and the Anvil's Ring, puts on a blacksmithing conference every two years, and is a wealth of information for the smith.

The Hammer's Blow is full of how to pics and drawings, most by Mark Aspery, and the Anvil's Ring has meeting information and wonderful color pics of some of the best forged works in the world. If you can get your work published in the Ring, you are somebody.

If you are not a member, please check them out. <https://www.abana.org/>

Hope to see everybody in Boerne.

Jerry Achterberg
President Balcones Forge

FORGING IN THE ROCKIES

Rocky Mountain Blacksmithing Conference, August 5-9, 2015, Carbondale, Colorado

Demonstrations by Steve Fontanini, Steve Williamson, Dan McNeil and Gordo Stonington.

Complete information at:

www.rockymountainsmiths.org

TRADE ITEM

It has been awhile since we have had a "Competition Item" so this month we will be making a colonial style spatula. You can find examples on Google Images. These will be judged and a prize given for the best one. We look forward to seeing what you can do.

You gotta make one to WIN one!

BALCONES FORGE FUTURE

For July, we are set up to work with the Army Officers at John's. The trade item will be a Frederick's Cross. We will get the dimensions that the Officers will be working with.

August - Still looking at the Missions

September 19th - The Bulverde Jamboree

October or November - Phil Simpson
Any suggestions or requests for the open month?

December - Whitley's

THE BALCONES FORGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Balcones Forge Membership to Vote on Donation to 2016 ABANA Conference

The Artist Blacksmiths' Association of North America will hold the next national conference of blacksmiths in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 13 through 16, 2016, at the Salt Lake City Fairpark.

ABANA makes an effort to stage a national blacksmithing conference every two years and the theme for the 2016 conference is "Education". It will include daily hands-on demonstrations for everyone from beginning blacksmiths to experts. There will also be teaching tents and seminars each day of the conference covering a wide range of blacksmithing topics.

The centerpiece of the conference will be three separate major demonstrations by nationally acclaimed American artist blacksmiths.

Amy Pieh, the chairperson of the 2016 conference, has asked Balcones Forge to be the sponsor of one of these major demonstrators. The cost of that demonstrator is estimated to be around four thousand dollars. This amount includes the demonstrator's fees, as well as transportation, lodging, and related expenses.

This is not a situation where Balcones Forge will make any profit for ourselves. We will not receive any special discounts or be given any part of the money taken in by the national conference. This sponsorship would simply be a donation on our part to give back to our national blacksmithing organization and the future of blacksmithing in America.

The decision on whether to make this donation will be left to a vote of the Balcones Forge membership. The vote will be taken at our next meeting to be held Saturday, June 27, at the Boerne Agricultural Museum at 9:30. If you cannot attend the meeting and wish to vote on this issue, please let your Balcones Forge officers know so that your vote can be counted.

*Submitted by
John Crouchet*



Balcones Forge Member Survey

The Balcones Forge Board, along with many wonderful volunteers, strive to make our organization the best possible, meeting our mission and the expectations of our members. With that in mind, the Board needs your assistance. Please take a few minutes to provide your input.

Thank you.

What was your favorite Balcones Forge meeting and why? _____

Would you be interested in having more hands-on workshops where we build something —like tongs or fireplace tools, etc.? _____ If we have such a meeting, would you come? _____ Suggestions? _____

Who do you think should be the next Bluebonnet Demonstrator? _____

Have you seen this person demonstrate? _____ What do they do? _____

Do you think that Balcones Forge charges too much for the Bluebonnet Demo? _____ What other ways could we make money if we were to let everyone into the Demo for free? _____

Would you like to see regular instructional classes for beginners held at Zilker Park? _____ Would you come? _____

Are you getting tired of those old farts running this organization? Name three people you think could take over and bring this club into the twenty-first century. _____

How many friends have you brought to Balcones meetings? _____

Where should we have our meetings? _____

Would you be willing to host a meeting? _____ If yes, name/phone _____

What type monthly demonstrations would you like to see? Blacksmith – bladesmith – other _____

Would you be willing to demo? _____ If yes, name/phone _____ What would you demo? _____

What "Trade Items" would you like to see? _____

Regarding trade items, how can we get more participation? _____

Where is Balcones Forge falling short in service to the members / public? _____

Suggestions/Comments: _____



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Type: New Renewal

Name : _____ Membership ID # _____
(Optional For Renewals)

Business Name (optional): _____

Street : _____

City : _____ State/Prov : _____

Zip/PC : _____ Country : _____

Phone : _____ Fax : _____

E-mail : _____ Website : _____

Regular (US, Mexico, Canada)	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$55	Two Years — <input type="checkbox"/> \$105
Senior (65+, US, Mexico, Canada,)	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Two Years — <input type="checkbox"/> \$95
Full-time Student (US, Mexico, Canada)	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$45	Two Years — <input type="checkbox"/> \$85
Foreign	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$65	Two Years — <input type="checkbox"/> \$125
Public Library (US, Mexico, Canada)	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$45	Two Years — <input type="checkbox"/> \$85
Youth (18 years & younger) non-voting Hammer's Blow only	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$20	Two Years — <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 (No discount)
Educational Institutions	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$250	
Contributory Membership (amounts above \$55/year may be tax deductible)	One Year — <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 and up \$_____	

Additional contributions to ABANA's special funds:

Exhibition Fund	\$ _____
Metal Museum Library Fund	\$ _____
Next Conference Seed Money Fund	\$ _____

(Please pay by Check, U.S. Money Order or Credit Card)

Total: \$ _____

Credit card orders can be faxed, be sure to sign this form. Fax: 423-913-1023

Card Number

Expiration Date

CVVS

Mail to:
ABANA
259 Muddy Fork Rd
Jonesborough, TN 37659 USA

Phone: 423-913-1022



RENEW: Use this QR Code
or www.abana.org/renew



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or www.abana.org/join



Photos from the May meeting by Jerry Whitley





WWW.BALCONESFORGE.ORG

BUILDING THE SIDE BLAST FORGE

Photos by William Stewart and Daryll Earling. Written by Mark Aspery. This article is copyright of Mark Aspery, 2004

This article is based upon the modified drawings supplied by Mark Aspery as used in our school of blacksmithing. The side blast forge works well with either coal or coke, but is particularly suited to burning coke as the clinker formed solidifies below the air blast.

The side blast forge can be fabricated by any blacksmith with the tools to cut and weld steel plate and pipe.

3/16 Hot rolled plate material was used in the building of this traditionally British "Side Blast" forge, however they have been built out of 1/8. All pipe is Schedule 40 Black pipe.

The method of working the side blast is that the Tuyure is a pipe that feeds directly into the side of the fire. There is no fire pot as such, but the pan is filled with dirt and a hollow dug out as the use dictates. If this pipe was not cooled somehow, it would burn up. So, it is jacketed and water-cooled.

This fabrication job should last about 7 - 10 years depending upon use and abuse. It will rust out before it burns up.

The tank is called the "Boss". Lets

start there. It needs to be about 15 gallons capacity to prevent boiling over.

2 pieces of 18 inches x 24 inches are used as the front and back. If you

look at the drawings, you will see a mark indicated at the 4 1/2 inch center line. Each plate will have a different sized hole cut in it.

The front plate (figure 1) will have a 5-inch hole and the rear a 3-inch hole. Both of these have to accommodate pipe so they need to be fairly accurate.

The bottom plate (figure 2), 9" x 24", will have a "Bonny" or a plumbing fitting welded to it so that the tank can be drained without too much of a fuss. It is placed 3 inches from a corner (45 degrees)

The water jacket is a 5 inch pipe 16 inches long. You can make the tuy iron out of a shorter length of pipe, but this example

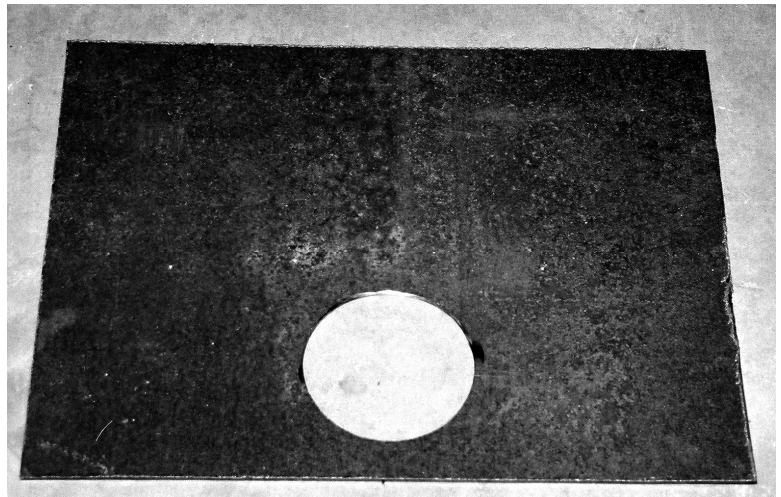


Figure 1: Back plate of the Bosh

is for a full sized forge ready to accommodate a chimney. There are 4 pie slices taken out of one end so that it can be tapered down to 3 1/2 inches to take the end cap.

Draw an X on the ground. On each leg measure out half the outside diameter of the pipe. By placing the pipe within these lines it makes dividing it into 4 pieces is easy.

Each pie to be cut out of the 5 inch pipe is 1 1/4 inches wide

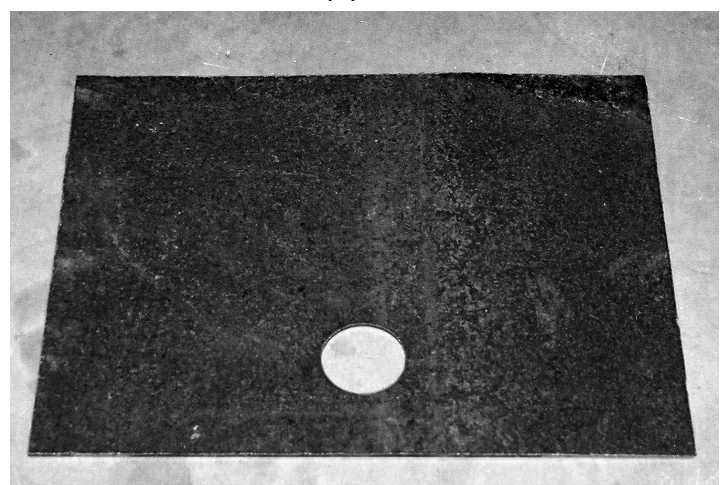
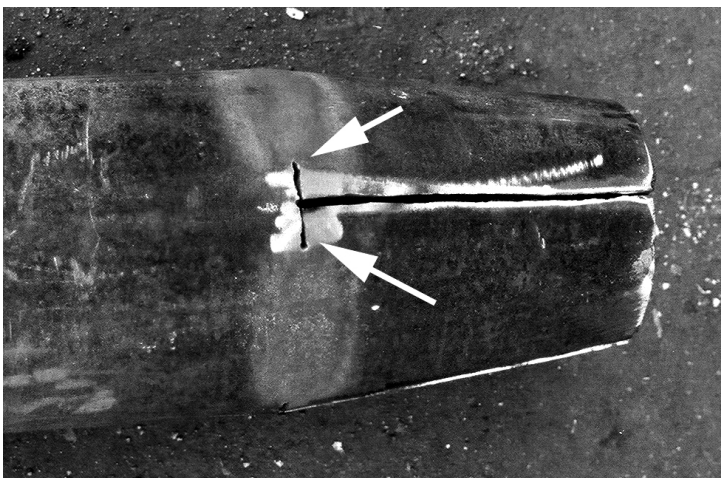


Figure 2: Front plate of Bosh



Figure 3 and 4: Pipe marked ready to cut



at the mouth tapering to nothing over 6 inches.

Cut a 1/2 inch cut on either side of the line at the small end, this will prevent the pipe from buckling when you bend it.

Heat the pipe, bend and weld it.

If you intend to use an electric blower stay with the 1 1/4 inch ID pipe for the air blast pipe. If you

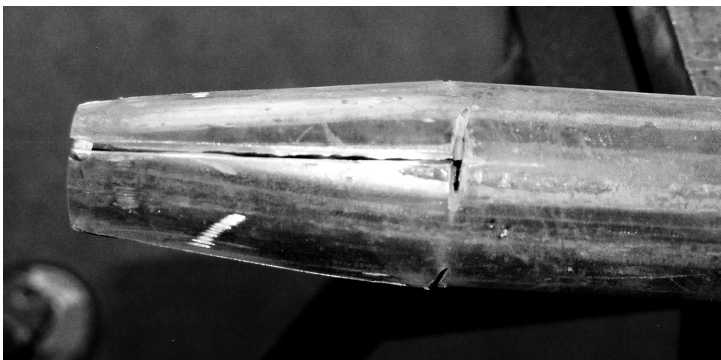


Figure 5: Air blast pipe cut and tapered.

are intending to use a hand wound blower, there is too much friction in the small pipe and you will need to replace it with a bigger pipe for most of the way inside the water jacket.

I used 2 1/2 inch pipe and tapered it down to 1 1/4 at the end to match the 5 inch pipe. The pie slices to be taken out are 1"x 5".

Onto this end will fit the donut (3 1/4 OD) that need to be cut from the drop of the 5 inch hole cut in the front plate.

Fit the donut onto the tapered end of the 2 1/2 inch pipe and weld inside and out.

Taking the front plate, weld on the the 5 inch pipe. If instead of passing the 5 inch pipe fully through the hole you pull back an 1/8 of an inch, you will have a good "V" to weld in on the backside! Tack it first then weld inside and out.

Tack on the sides. Again touch the inside corner to inside corner and give yourself a nice "V" to weld in.

After the sides are tacked on to the front plate, tack on the back plate, again leave the "V".

Fully weld the sides and back.

Now slide in the 2 1/2 inch pipe and donut combo. If all is aligned well, weld it on.

The only weld that cannot be done on the inside and out is the donut onto the tapered 5-inch



Figure 6: Water jacket tacked in place

pipe weld.

When all has been welded fully, weld on the bottom plate.

The forge pan should be 9 1/2 to 10-inches deep. I do not recommend using the front of the boss as the back of the pan. I prefer to double skin this area to facilitate easy removal of the boss and tue iron and to prevent heat transfer from the forge to the boss other than by the water jacketed pipe.

Mark Aspery

Mark Aspery School of
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www.markaspery.net

Editors note - Thanks again for another great article Mark!



Figure 7: Bosh and water jacket



Figure 8: Close-up of assembly

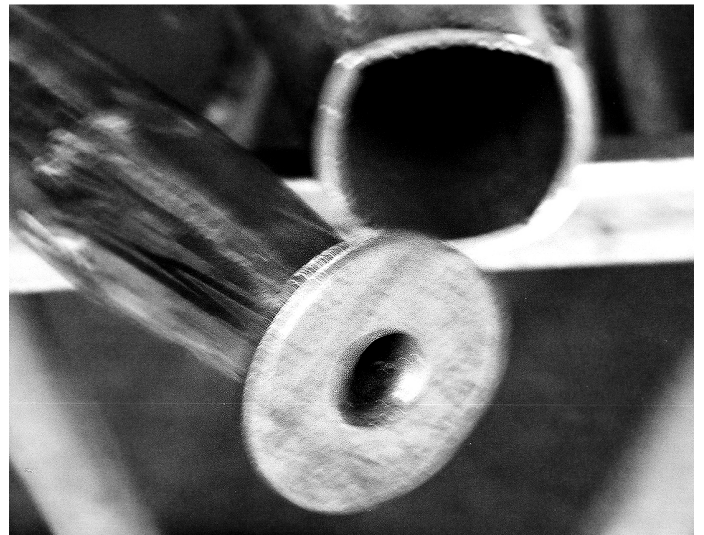
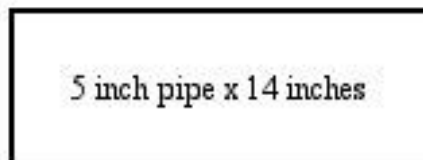
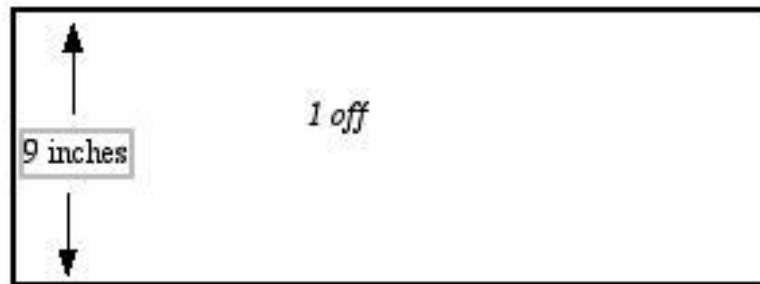
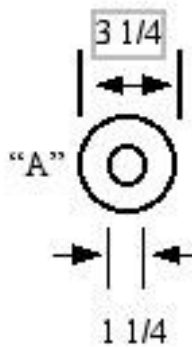
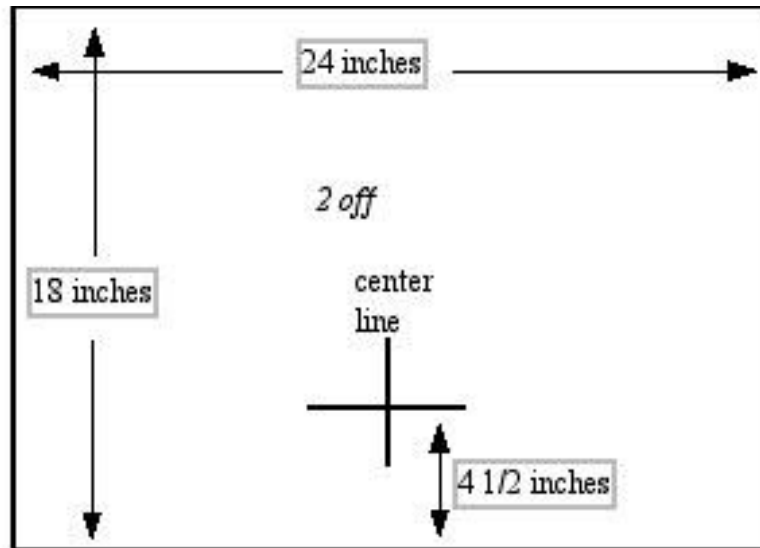
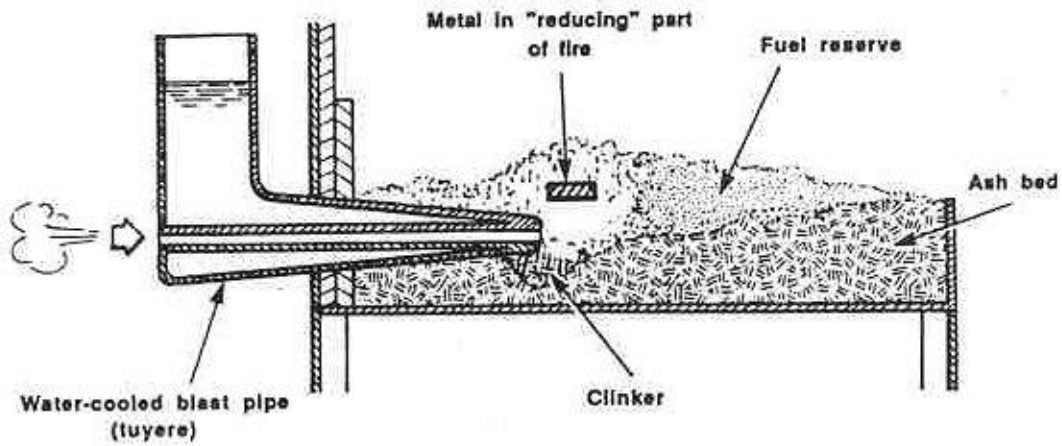


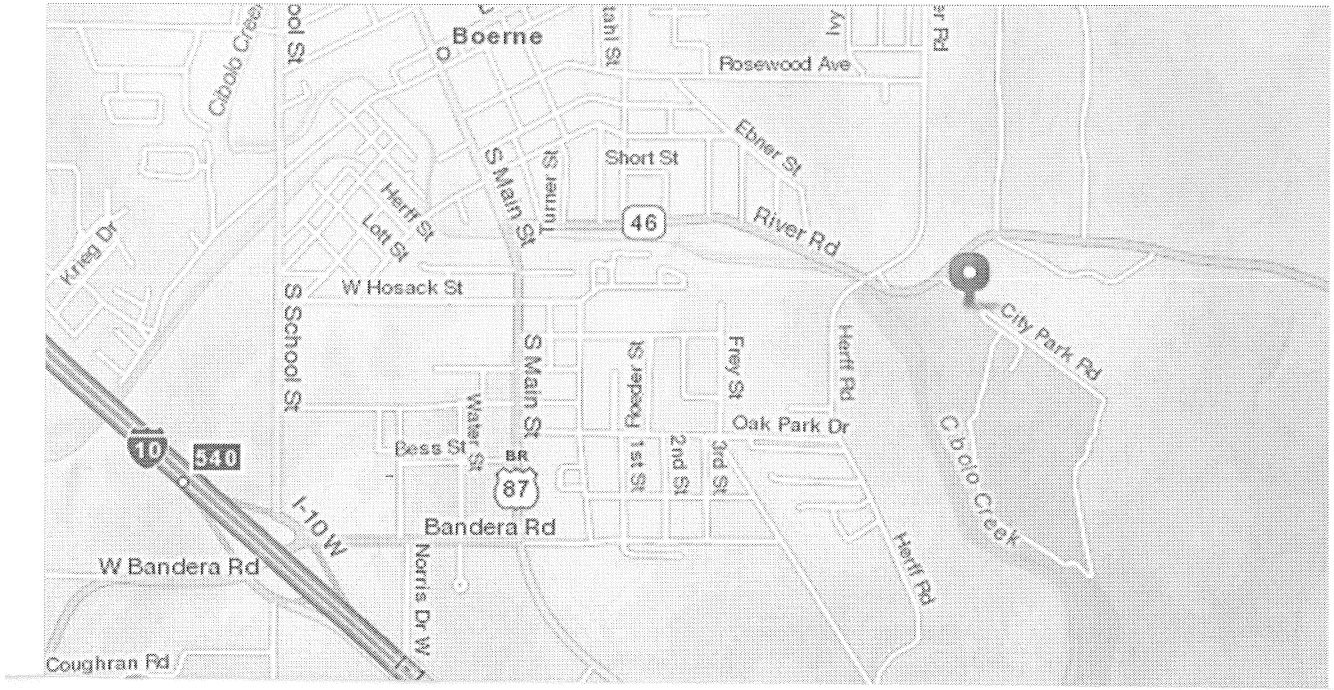
Figure 9: Close-up of assembly

BLACKSMITH'S FIRE



26 inches 1 1/4 ID pipe





June Meeting Map

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