

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society – November 2016

Editor: Scott Williams

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Greetings fellow PGRS Members.

Happy Fall Y'all. Finally...some cool, dry, weather after a beastly hot summer. Now if we could just get us some rain to end this drought, things would seem more normal here in the Carolinas.

As your newsletter editor I'm attempting to put together something *resembling* a newsletter around my duties at Biltmore Winery and my ongoing home renovation projects at the new home I purchased this summer and have mostly gutted and have been upgrading. Most of the big ticket things are done on "this Old House", and my attention is slowly getting back to fun things like Garden Trains.

So, please find some awesome contributions from our club members to look at [thank you very much Gentleman], who came to my rescue to put out an interesting, I hope, PGRS newsletter for this fall.

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Our President Bill Huntman sends this message:

PGRS Board Meeting

The PGRS Board will meet November 9, 10:00 AM. The meeting will be at the Apple Valley Railroad Club located in the Hendersonville Train Depot (location of the October 30 Open House) The meeting will focus on planning for the upcoming January 2017 Annual Meeting. The Board discussions will include the 2017 Officer Election, possible additional TrainFest meetings in 2017, and ideas on how the club can meet or expand member interests. The Board meetings are open to all PGRS members. Please join us if you are interested.

The Annual Meeting will include election of PGRS Officers for 2017. If you are interested in serving as an Officer, or know someone who might be interested in serving, please send the names to Bill Huntman (whuntman@gmail.com or cell phone:828-400-9982).

Tim Wagner, who has served and supported the PGRS for a number of years, has decided to **not** seek reelection as PGRS Vice President. Tim's advice and support as a PGRS Officer will be missed. Please join us in thanking Tim for his work in supporting and sustaining the PGRS.

Don, aka "Doc" Watson sends this awesome update on a 'completed' project of his;

Mason Bogie R/C Battery Installation

I know there are probably only a few of you out there that possess an Accucraft Mason Bogie but I thought I would post my conversion if for no other reason but to show you another example of **how you could fit a large amount of stuff into a very small space.**

Since the first time I saw one, the Mason Bogie became my absolutely favorite engine. I wanted one so badly that I even began the Bogie Masterclass on MLS back in the early 2000's. I got pretty far along until those good ole boys at Accucraft produced one. Guess what – I bought one although it set me back a pretty penny. I had mixed emotions about tearing into such a gorgeous engine but, after some agony, I decided to convert it to battery operation.

The main components I used included:

RailBoss 4, R/C system

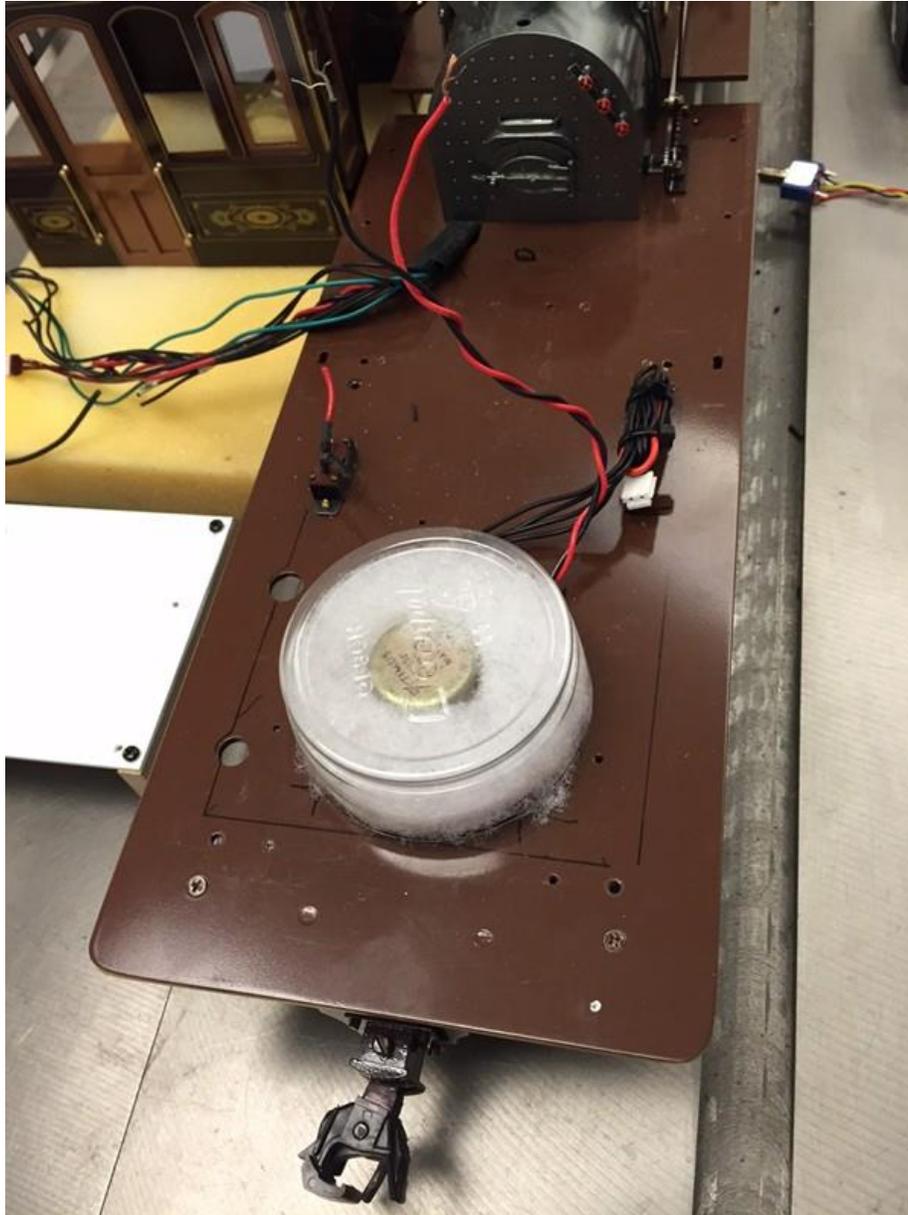
Phoenix sound

14.8 v - 3000 mAh battery

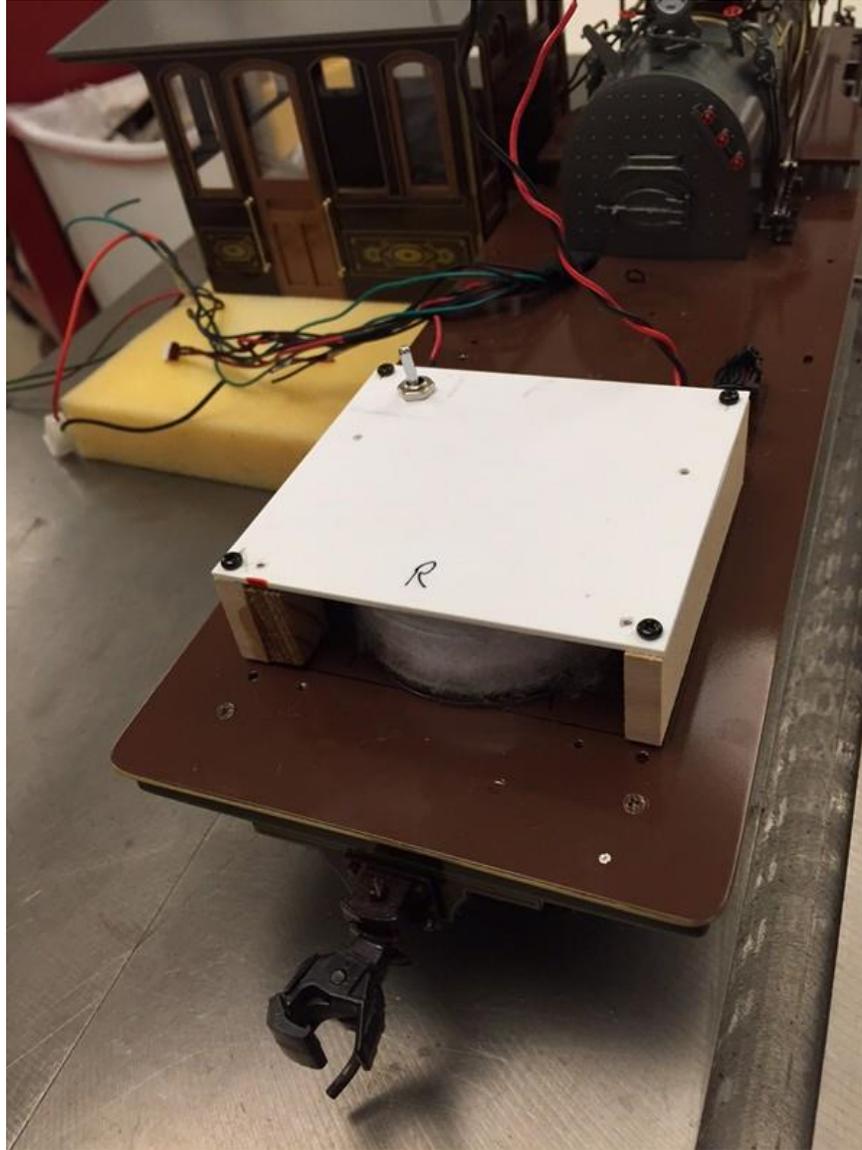
Installation:

I first removed the cab and tender. Inside the tender area was a PCB that Accucraft used to connect the track pickups, power to the motor, and components to provide power to the LED headlamp and cab light. I marked the connections and removed the board. This board made installation of the R/C much easier by eliminating the need to get into the boiler area for rewiring purposes.

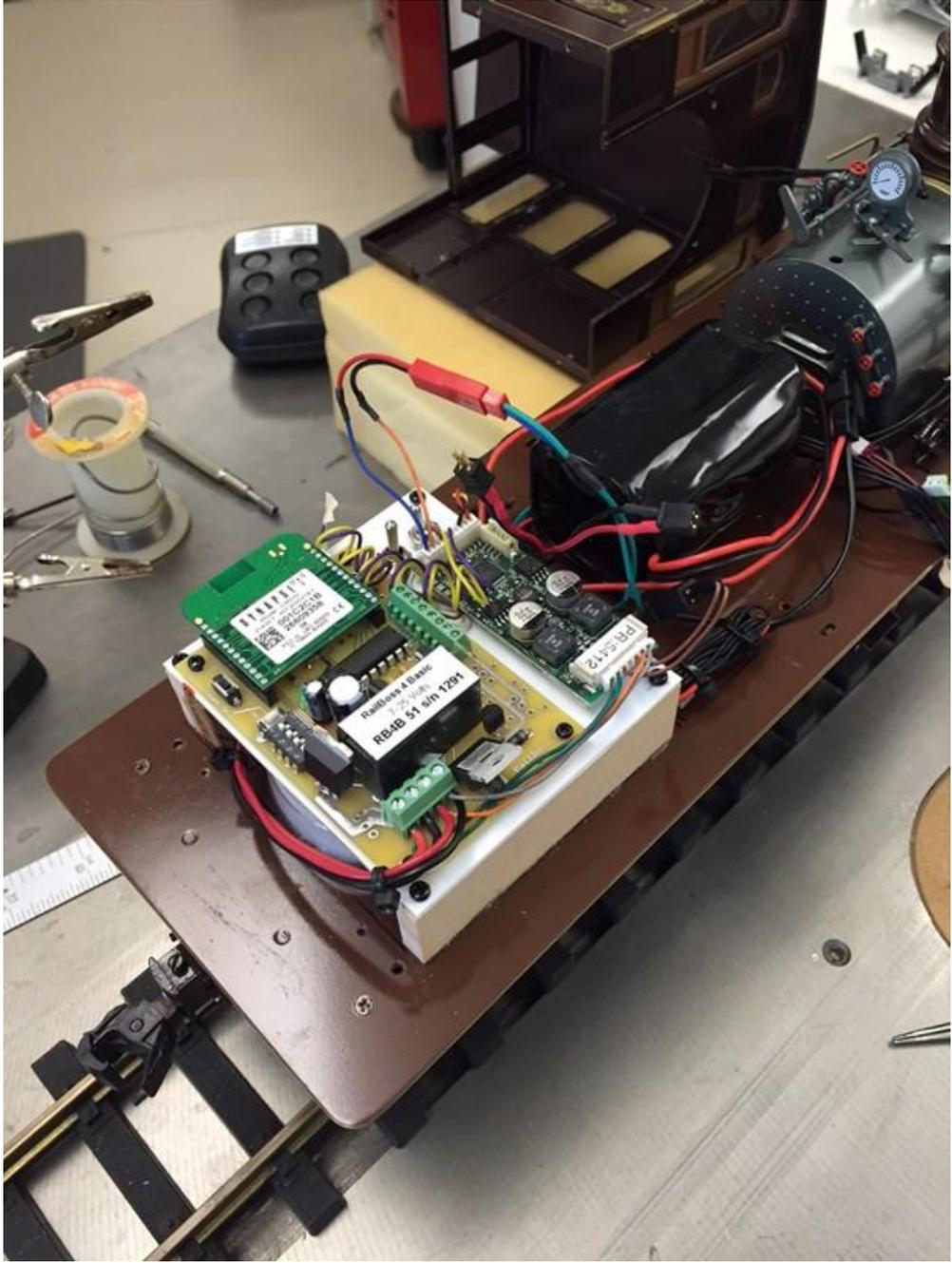
I glued, using Silicone, an appropriately sized speaker over the existing speaker holes in the frame. I lucked out and found a plastic container that perfectly fit over the speaker and cut it to size so it fit flush with the top of the speaker. Next, I packed the plastic enclosure with Fiber Fill. The photo below shows the mounted speaker.



To create a mount for the electronic components, I cut a couple of basswood support pieces and glued them to the chassis. I then cut a piece of 0.060" styrene to serve as a platform for the electronics and screwed it to the wood supports. The photo below shows the support for the circuit boards.



Below; is a photo showing the RailBoss 4 receiver/controller (on the left) and the Phoenix sound card (right). The RailBoss card is mounted with screws for easy removal and the Phoenix card is mounted with foam tape. Notice that the battery (2X2 configuration) is mounted in the cab area. No more room in the tender. It's convenient that the battery is black so it really doesn't show with the cab on.



Here is a view of the installation from above. I would also like to point out that the RailBoss 4 that the RailBoss 4 card has outputs for lighting, one for incandescent lights and one for LED's. I used the constant current output to drive the headlamp and cab light.



Well, here it is. My Mason Bogie is now ready to run on any track and with great sound.



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Trivia Question. How many of these do you know the meaning of:

Railroad Slang:

What is a “Bad Order”

What is a “Brass Pounder”

What is a “Bull”

What is a “Cornfield Meet”

What is a “Crummy”

What is a “High Ball”

What is a “Hogger”

What is the “Hole”

What is a “Hot Box”

What does “Join the Birds” mean?

What does “Riding ‘em High” mean?

What is a “Rattler”

What is a “Redball”

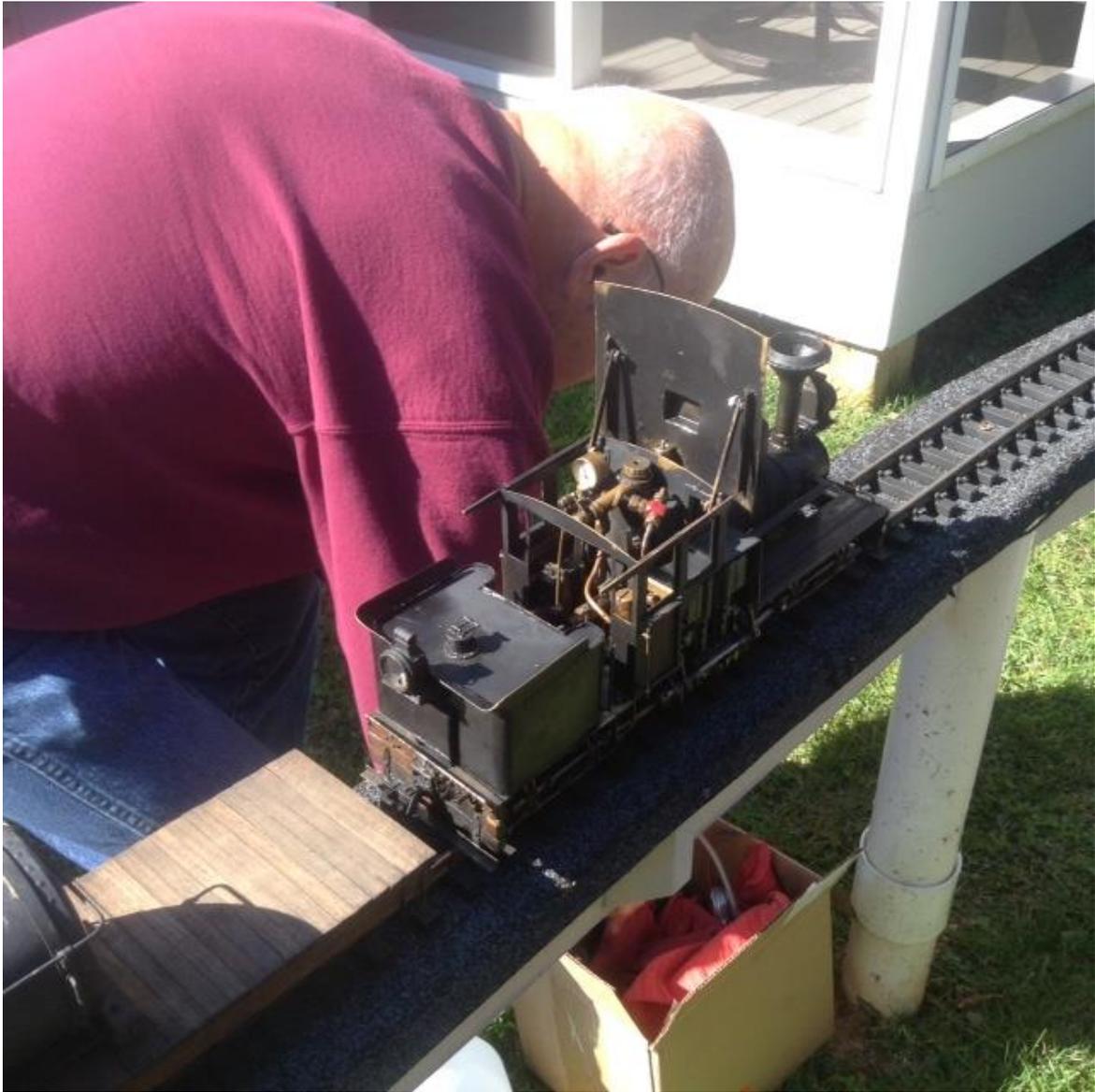
What is a “Stem-Winder”

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Photos from Terry at Fran's Open house day



Les, firing up the steam.





Randy Theis, delivers the goods, as usual at Fran's place

Open House photos from Train Day at Apple Valley Model RR from Terry Ketcham;



Pete Gendron's climax pulling up for a water stop.



Sky Mayo testing Jon Boles heavy weight passenger car for clearance on a curve.



Les's Live Steam Shay pulling a 4% grade at Apple Valley.



Tucking in to a nice brunch at Apple Valley.

** A reminder from Terry Ketcham that PGRS club members are invited to come by the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club in Hendersonville the last Saturday of each month to run their large scale trains on the club layout from 10 – 2 pm.

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*** Think you might have an idea for a topic to share at the next Trainfest? We are **always** looking for presenters. This should include examples you have built on a topic and/or accompanying slides to show at the Trainfest. This summer we are also hoping to display Posters of projects if you think your project is something others would like to learn about but maybe not large enough for a 'Clinic' that you could display photos and documents on poster boards.

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Trivia Question answers:

Bad Order---- Crippled car or locomotive, often called *cripple*. Must be marked at night by a blue light when men are working around it

Brass Pounder-----Telegraph Operator

Bull-----Railroad Policeman, also called *flatfoot* or *gumshoe*, but the distinctive railroad terms are *cinder dick* and *'bo chaser*

Cornfield Meet-----Head-on collision or one that is narrowly averted

Crummy-----Caboose

High Ball-----Full Speed Signal

Hogger----- An engineer may be called a *hogger*, *hoghead*, *hogmaster*, *hoggineer*, *hog jockey*, *hog eye*, *grunt*, *pig-mauler*, etc.

Hole--- Passing track where one train pulls in to meet another

Hot Box-----over-heated Journal Box

Join the Birds---- Jump from moving engine or car, usually when a wreck is imminent

Riding 'em High-----Riding on top of cars

Rattler-----freight train

Redball-----fast freight train

Stem-Winder---usually refers to a narrow gauge Geared Loco, like a Climax, etc.

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Membership:

Please consider sharing this newsletter with friends who might be interested and if they wish to become members ask them to contact our PGRS Secretary/Treasurer for a membership form.

Don Watson
125 Mistletoe Trail
Hendersonville, NC 28791

docwatson@morrisbb.net

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Train Lover Luncheons:

The current luncheons are:

Columbus Area: Meets every Third Thursday of every month at Larkins Carolina Grill, 155 West Mills Street in Columbus, NC 28722. @ 1:00 PM. Contact Gary Poague 828-712-3429
gpoague@windstream.net

Greater Greenville Area: Meeting the first Tuesday of every month - at 12 noon. It has been moved to Mutts in Greer as it is more centrally located for the greater Greenville area. Contact Ken Majchrzak at: kemajchrzak@gmail.com or call Ken at: 864-385-4951

Asheville Area: Meets the 4th Thursday each month. We meet at 11:30 AM at Gondolier Italian Restaurant and Pizza located at 1360 Tunnel Road, Asheville 28805. Contact Tim Wagner timwagner2012@gmail.com

The location is on the east end near the VA hospital, so it is recommended that you access Tunnel Road from I-40, exit 55. Take a left at the first light after you exit and a left at the next light. The venue will be on the right a few hundred yards from the intersection.

Winston Salem luncheons are currently being planned by Tony Potter and J.R. Snider.

Charlotte luncheons are meeting at Bubba's BBQ 4400 Sunset Rd. (exit 16, rte. I-77).
at 11:30am on the third Tuesday of each month.

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Business Related to Our Hobby

Any Member who has a business related to our hobby is welcome to submit an entry for inclusion in PGRS Trackin' each month.



Garden Railroad Design
Old Trains Wanted

Jim's Train Sales

O & G Gauge New & Used Trains

Jim Hendley

Etowah, North Carolina 28729

Lionel, MTH, USA Trains, PIKO, LGB
Bridgeworks Power Supplies, Bachmann
Split-Jaw Rail Clamps, O & G Gauge Track

Email: jhh1218@att.net
Phone: (828) 891-7570
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Peggy Keyes
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RightTrackTrainMuseum@gmail.com
828.625-5551

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A non-profit museum to benefit Pancreatic Cancer
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