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VALIDATION OF L. SCONDI'S PORTRAIT SELECTION METHOD BASED ON THE ASSESSMENT AND MEASUREMENT OF PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGICAL REACTIONS OF RESPONDENTS

An attempt is made to clarify the validity of the well-known projective method of portrait selection by L. Scondi on the basis of assessment and measurement of psychophysiological reactions of a person. The authors have developed an original method of validation of this method by comparing the results of the classical blank study according to this method with the results of the next polygraph survey of respondents, which was accompanied by a demonstration of portraits. It has been proven that the indicators of the strength of psychophysiological reactions that occur during the demonstration of portraits positively correlate with the results of a blank examination of the same respondents using the method of portrait choices. On the basis of the analysis of correlation coefficients, the validity indicators of L. Scondi's method have been clarified.

Keywords: validity, method of portrait choices, computer polygraph, polygraph examination, psychophysiological reaction, correlation coefficient.

Statement of the problem. Projective methods have a special place in the methodological support of modern psychodiagnostics. Many of the domestic and foreign psychologists emphasize the importance of projective methods obtaining valuable information about personality, penetrating into the sphere of deep needs and motives, recognizing neuropsychiatric disorders. There is an increase in interest in the use of projective methods in our country, the tests of Rorschach, Scondi, Murray and some others are increasingly used Psychologists. However, in the activities of psychologists of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the techniques under consideration have not vet found proper Traditionally, in the process embodiment. of professional and psychological selection of personnel to the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, psychological monitoring of personnel and during the appointment of heads of bodies and departments, subjective questionnaires of personal characteristics and various intelligence tests are used. Among the projective tests, the methods of "Color Choices" by M. Liusher, "Unfinished Sentences" by V. Levy, "Motivational Test" by G. Heckhausen, some drawing tests, etc., are partially used [1-4; 7-10]. However, projective

methods have a number of advantages compared to traditional questionnaires. First of all, this is due to the difficulty for the examined person to give a socially approved answer and the opportunity for the psychologist to penetrate into the sphere of the unconscious, to obtain important psychodiagnostic data on the basic individual psychological characteristics of the employee, which are often hidden by the respondent.

Today, projective techniques of psychodiagnostics occupy a worthy place among the many experimental psychological methods. Of particular importance is the method of portrait choices of L. Scondi (MPV), which is distinguished by the originality of the stimulating material (portraits of people) and makes it possible to assess the degree of manifestation of stable professionally important qualities, social orientation, features of the motivational sphere, style of cognitive activity and interpersonal communication. It also detects possible latent mental abnormalities, criminal overdisposition. As a result of quantitative elaboration, it is possible to obtain an analysis of the candidate's condition and personality in the form of a description of individual-typological qualities, to identify stress resistance, moral and spiritual qualities, tendencies

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to alcohol abuse, readiness for suicide or aggressive reactions, etc. [3, 6]. However, this important method is not used enough in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, it is often criticized for the difficulty of establishing the validity of the given psychodiagnostic tool.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Many publications indicate that MPV is an effective method of psychological diagnosis due to its following features: it belongs to the group of projective methods, with the use of which it is possible to obtain an objective picture of the basic, core individual psychological properties of the personality; the test makes it possible to diagnose the deep, hidden properties of the personality, in particular needs and motives; it excludes the respondent's conscious motivational distortion of the psychodiagnostic information about yourself in the desired direction; contains non-verbal stimulus material that avoids language problems during testing of respondents [3, 6, 7–10].

The photos depict sick people suffering from severe pathology of the lubria and whose clinical diagnoses are known for sure. Patients for each of the eight allures (needs, drives, factors) are depicted in eight photos. Thus, the total number of photographs is divided equally between the factors, the carriers of which are the patients depicted in the photos. The result by a certain factor is determined by the joint choice of sympathetic and antipathetic portraits. Graphically, individual results are presented in the form of a profile of attractions. All profiles are different from each other. For many thousands of allure profiles, you can occasionally find two identical ones. Scondi notes that he obtained two profiles that were even quantitatively equal during the examination of homozygous twins, which is confirmation that this technique is indeed based on genetic reactions. At the beginning of the century, a team of psychologists carried out work to modernize the Scondi test [4]. Modified versions of portraits were proposed for use, as well as the results and conclusions of the latest experiments of domestic and foreign psychologists. The final test apparatus consists of 48 portraits, eight in six series. Eight impulsive factors are presented in each series, with one portrait corresponding to each factor. So, in the test, impulsive factors are presented in six photos each. At the beginning of the two thousand years, Ukrainian scientists conducted a study of the reliability and validity of the MPV on a sample of employees of internal affairs bodies, and later

police officers (Barko, 2002; 2022). The results were satisfactory. Thus, the competitive validity of the MPV, estimated on the basis of calculating the correlation coefficients between the scales of this test and the scales of the Standardized Multifactorial Method of Personality Research, as well as the scales of the Big Five Questionnaire, covered values from 0.55 to 0.71; the indicators of retest reliability ranged from 0.67 to 0.75 [3; 6].

The purpose of the article is to clarify the validity of L. Scondi's method of portrait choices by comparing the results of traditional testing of respondents with the results of their psychophysiological examination using a computer polygraph.

To achieve the goal, the following tasks were solved: 1) to conduct a blank survey of a representative sample of employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine using the MPV; 2) to examine the same sample of employees using computer polygraph to record psychophysiological reactions of the examined persons the demonstrated to portraits; 3) to compare the results obtained and calculate the correlation coefficients between the magnitude of psychophysiological reactions and the number of choices of appropriate portraits, on this basis to establish the value of the validity of the MPV.

Summary of the main material. Theoretical methods were used in the study: analysis of literary sources, comparison, generalization, systematization; empirical methods: psychodiagnostic (L. Scondi's method), psychophysiological research using a polygraph, mathematical statistics (correlation analysis). The sample of the study consisted of 70 employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (scientists and scientific and pedagogical staff) aged 24 to 42 years, among them 35 people – womens.

This study was based on *the hypothesis* according to which: a) showing portraits of MPV should cause an emotional psychophysiological reaction in the respondent, which can be recorded with the help of a polygraph; b) the nature of this reaction will depend on how much the attraction (need, drive, factor) expressed in the image is relevant for the examined person; c) indicators of the severity (strength) of psychophysiological reactions that arise during the demonstration of portraits should correlate with the results of a blank examination of the same respondents using MPV; d) based on the analysis of correlation coefficients, it is possible to clarify the validity indicators of this diagnostic method.

In accordance with the first task, a blank psychodiagnostic examination was first carried out according to the MPV, which consisted in the respondent's selection of twelve sympathetic and twelve unsympathetic portraits among the forty-eight demonstrated. The purpose of such an examination was to diagnose the impulsive preferences and "I"-functions of the respondents, which, due to their episodic relevance, are brought to the fore by the person. impulsive choices and "I" functions of the part of the personality that is considered unconscious. The profile obtained in the first survey is called "Profile of the first plan".

Respondents were offered the following instruction: "I will show you six series of 8 photos each. Take a good look at each of the eight and give me first the portrait that you think is prettier, and then the one that ranks second in terms of pretty. Next, choose the most unpleasant image for you and the photo that ranks second in terms of antipathy. Repeat the same choices with each of the next series of eight photos that I will show you." The results of the experiment are recorded on the forms of the profile card index, after which the selection of the "second measure" begins.

For the graphical representation of the election profile, cards with profile diagrams printed on them were prepared.

Sample registration form (scheme) of the election profile

of the election profile							
h	S	e	hy	k	p	d	m

Designation of needs (factors, allures): h – sexual undifferentiation; s – sadism; e – epileptoid tendencies; hy – hysterical manifestations; k – catatonic manifestations; p – paranoid tendencies; d – depression; m – manic manifestations.

On each of the portraits, the number of the series is indicated by a number and the symbol of need (attraction) to which the portrait corresponds is written (for example: 1. s; 1. hy, etc.). If during the answer the respondent chose a certain portrait as pretty, then he put a "+" sign on the profile

diagram; If he chose a portrait as unsympathetic, then he put the sign "—" under the corresponding letter on the diagram. So, at the end of the examination, 24 signs were obtained on the profile diagram: 12 pluses and 12 minuses.

According to the method of using MPV, three forms of choice reactions were distinguished.

- 1. Zero choice reactions if the respondent never chooses a portrait of a certain code from among those shown in 6 episodes or chooses only one (as sympathetic or unsympathetic).
- 2. Full choice reactions if the respondent chooses four or more times a portrait that belongs to a specific factor (as sympathetic or unsympathetic). Among the complete reactions, ambivalent reactions are distinguished separately—four or more choices, of which two or more with opposite signs; positive reactions—four or more choices, but the number of negative ones among them is not more than one; negative reactions—four or more choices, but the number of positive ones among them is no more than one.
- 3. Average choice reactions if a portrait belonging to a certain factor is chosen two or three times (as sympathetic or unsympathetic).

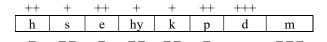
According to the theoretical concept of L. Scondi's method, zero reactions indicate that the specified need (factor) is important for the subject, but at the time of testing it is already satisfied in a certain form. In some cases, the zero reaction may indicate the constitutional weakness of the corresponding factor in respondents. A complete reaction indicates a significant role of this need (factor) for the respondent. Unlike a zero reaction, in the case of a complete reaction, this need is unrealized (frustrated). There is no significant difference between a zero and a complete reaction, there is only a qualitative one. Scondi believed that we are talking about two phases that replace each other: maximum accumulation and discharge of impulsive need.

Positive choices indicate that the respondent is satisfied with this trend in himself, and that the realization of the need is hindered only by external circumstances, and the person is only waiting for a convenient moment to satisfy this need. Negative choices mean that the respondent is not satisfied with the corresponding tendency, denies its manifestations in himself, and the realization of this need is hindered by intrapersonal prohibitions. In practice, there are often three forms of full reactions: positive full reaction with high tension—the examined person chooses four, five or six

portraits of the same factor, and all of them are sympathetic (+4, +5, +6); negative complete reaction with high tension – the examined person chooses four, five or six portraits of the same factor, and all of them are unsympathetic (-4, -5, -6); ambivalent complete reaction with high tension the examined person chooses four, five, six portraits of one factor in the following options: a) two or three – as sympathetic, the remaining two or three – as antipathetic (+2/-2; +2/-3; +3/-2; +3/-3);b) four – as sympathetic (antipathetic), two – in the opposite case (+4/-2, +2/-4). When interpreting positive and negative choices for each need (factor) of the MPV, it was taken into account that the need (factor) splits into two opposite tendencies, which are indicated by the signs "+" and "-".

In the research of V. I. Barko, favorable and unfavorable types of profiles for official activity in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine are described [6]. For example, it has been established that *the following four types are* favorable, they are:

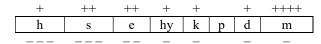
Type 1. The number of choices for each factor is equal to the average (2-3 choices), and positive and negative ones occur together in most factors, there are no zero and complete reactions. Example of a profile:



Type 2. There are complete and zero reactions in elections, but their total number in the profile does not exceed four, and the number of pluses and minuses in the case of complete reactions for each factor does not exceed four. Example:

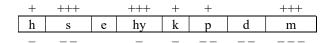
+	+	+++	++		++	+	++
h	S	e	hy	k	p	d	m

Type 3. In elections, there are complete and zero reactions, their total number does not exceed five, and the number of pluses and minuses in the case of complete reactions for each factor is four or five (the last value is no more than in two cases per profile). Example:



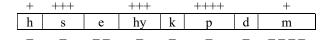
Type 4. There are full and zero reactions in elections, but their total number per profile does not exceed five, and the number of pros and cons

in the case of full elections is four, five (in one case) and six (in one case). Example:



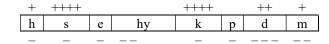
The following types are *unfavorable* for activities in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Type 5. The number of complete and zero reactions exceeds five, for example:

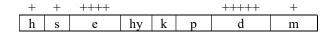


Type 6. The number of complete and zero reactions does not exceed five, but the following has been recorded:

6 a) more than two complete reactions with a number of pros and cons that is 5:



6 b) more than one complete reaction with the number of pros and cons, which is 6:



The most suitable for official activity are considered to be persons who have demonstrated the first type of favorable profile; somewhat less suitable are those that have detected the second type; even less suitable are persons with the third and fourth types. However, all four described types of favorable profiles allow us to believe that this respondent has a structure of needs and motives that has a positive effect on the success of activities in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Also, the research of V. I. Bark confirmed that individual-personal properties diagnosed using the Individual-Typological Questionnaire revealed significant correlations with negative and positive reactions to L. Scondi's factors. Here is a list of personality traits and factors that positively correlate with each other: anxiety with factor e+ and k-; sensitivity with h+; introversion with k-; pessimism with d- and k-; rigidity with p-; aggressiveness with e-and s+; spontaneity with p+; extroversion with d+ and m+; optimism with d+;

Emotivity with hy+. The level of correlation is higher in those indicators that reflect global trends: extraversion-introversion, anxiety-aggressiveness, lability-inertia, sensitivity-spontaneity; the obtained correlation coefficients were recorded in the range of 0.56–0.80 [6].

In accordance with the next, second task of the study, the same sample of employees was examined with the simultaneous use of MPV and a computer polygraph. Such an examination was carried out immediately after the first and was carried out by recording the psychophysiological reactions of the examined persons that arose after the demonstration of portraits. series of MPV.

Before the examination, a pre-test conversation was held, during which the respondents were provided with the following instructions: "You will be asked several questions, each of which you must answer "Yes" or "No". A series of portraits of eight in each of the six series will then be shown. You need to look carefully at each one and within 10-15 seconds answer positively to the question: "Did you take a good look at this portrait?" Then, in accordance with the requirements of the pre-test conversation, the questions were discussed with the examined person.

The structure (format) of the polygraph examination was as follows.

Survey A. Demonstration of the first series of portraits

Question 1. Are you sitting in a chair now? (Neutral).

Question 2. You agree to answer the questions I asked truthfully (Sacrificial).

Question 3. Is your name Alexander? (Neutral). Question 4. Did you take a good look at this portrait? (The first portrait is shown).

Question 5. Did you take a good look at this portrait? (The second one is demonstrated).

Question 6. ... 7. ... 8. 9. 10. ...

Question 11. Did you take a good look at this portrait? (The last, eighth in the presented series portrait is shown).

Then there were surveys with demonstration of the second series of portraits (survey B), the third series (survey C), the fourth series (survey D), the fifth series (E) and the sixth series (F). Each time the test began with a neutral question, after which a sacrificial and another neutral question were asked. During each answer with connected polygraph sensors, the psychophysiological reactions of the examined person were recorded through the main three channels (upper and lower

respiratory channel; galvanic reaction channel of the skin; cardiac channel).

The psychophysiological reactions obtained during the demonstration of the portraits were compared with the reactions that were detected during the answer to the third (neutral) question (the answer to this question is usually not accompanied by significant physiological changes, in this case, such a neutral question played the role of a comparison question). The obtained polygrams of respondents were then analyzed using a 3-point scale: 0 points – the psychophysiological reaction during the demonstration of the portrait is not observed (none), or a minor psychophysiological reaction is recorded; 1 point – a strong psychophysiological reaction is recorded; 2 points – a very strong reaction is recorded.

For example, the respondent demonstrated the following profile in the blank version of the answers:

+	+++		+++		++++		+
h	S	e	hy	k	р	d	m

As you can see, for four factors (s, hy; p and m) complete selection reactions are obtained, for two factors (k and d) – zero. Four needs (attractions) are frustrated: s, hy, p, m; edited (implemented) – two: k and d. So, for this examined person, six unconscious needs are relevant (unfavorable type of profile for service in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs).

The same respondent demonstrated the following psychophysiological reactions during the next polygraph examination [the diagram below shows the average values of psychophysiological reactions for each of the eight factors based on the results of six consecutive surveys (in points on a three-point ordinal scale), as well as the number of choices for each portrait during the previous blank examination]:

h	s	e	hy	k	p	d	m
2	4	2	4	1	5	1	5
choi	choi	choi	choi	cho	choi	cho	choi
ces	ces	ces	ces	ice	ces	ice	ces
0.84	1.72	0.75	1.70	0.45	1.80	0.40	1.85

In order to solve *the third task of the study*, correlations were established between the number of portrait choices and the values of psychophysiological reactions. It was established that the number of portrait choices (both

sympathetic and, conversely, unsympathetic) is closely related to the values of the respondent's psychophysiological reactions. using a polygraph. A similar pattern was observed in the vast majority of respondents (about 80 %), the values of the correlation coefficients between the number of choices and the magnitude of psychophysiological reaction were recorded in the range from 0.69 to 0.82 (the average value is 0.77). The obtained values are approximately consistent with the results of research by other scientists and can be considered indicators of the competitive validity of the MPV [4, 6].

Comparison of the features of psychophysiological reactions obtained using the polygraph and the results of the blank stage of the study made it possible to reach a number of the following intermediate conclusions:

- 1. Showing portraits to respondents led to the appearance of three types of psychophysiological reactions: a) very strong; b) strong; c) weak and zero (when there is no reaction).
- 2. Very strong psychophysiological reactions (average values - from 1.4 to 2.0 points) were recorded in 59 people (84 % of the interviewed persons). Such reactions (in 78 % of cases) were accompanied by responses to the demonstration of portraits, which in the blank version of the examination received full reactions of choice. As you know, complete reactions [4-6 choices of a portrait of one symbolic designation (h; s; e, etc.)] are evidence that the specified need (attraction, attraction, tendency) is very important for a person and unrealized (frustrated); however, in the case of a negative choice (I don't like the portrait), it means denial, internal disapproval of a certain need; In the case of a positive one (the portrait is liked), it means internal approval in oneself of such a tendency. So, a very strong psychophysiological reaction accompanies the demonstration of those portraits that bear the imprint of a very important need for the individual (attraction) and thereby cause an emotional response (psychological stress).
- 3. Strong psychophysiological reactions (from 0.7 to 1.3 points) were recorded in 54 people (77 % of respondents) who, during the answers to the demonstration of portraits during the blank examination, mainly (in 70 % of cases) received

average reactions of choice, or 2-3 choices – positive (if you like) or negative (if you don't like) portrait of one symbolic designation. Such an interval means a certain "corridor of the norm", when the need is present, but is not extremely important or relevant for the individual (Barco, 2002). The average level of psychophysiological reactions in response to the demonstration of a portrait confirms this theoretical concept of L. Scondi's method.

4. Weak psychophysiological reactions or their absence (from 0 to 0.6 points) were recorded in 52 people (74 %), who during the blank examination mainly (68 % of cases) received zero choice reactions (none or 1 choice of portrait of one symbolic designation). Zero response, according to Scondi's theoretical concept, means that the need is very important for the respondent, but at the time of the examination it is satisfied (edited, implemented). The data obtained also confirm this idea, because the absence or weakness of the psychophysiological response to the stimulus means the absence of an emotional response (stress) and the low significance of the stimulus for the person. However, if the need is not satisfied, the zero reaction can turn into a complete one, since there is no fundamental difference between full and zero choices; these are different phases (states) of the same need – from its realization (response) to frustration (Barko, 2002).

Table 1 shows the quantitative ratios of respondents depending on the types of portrait selection and the nature of the psychophysiological reactions obtained.

As can be seen from the table, very strong often psychophysiological reactions most accompany options of full choice (in 78 % of the examined persons), less often they accompany options of medium choice (in 6 %) and are not at all associated with options of zero. Strong reactions are mainly accompanied by options of the middle choice (they were recorded in 70 % of respondents), occasionally they accompany full and zero choices (5 % and 2 %, respectively). Weak reactions most often occur in zero choices (68 % of respondents), rarely in medium ones (6 %) and not at all in full elections.

Table 1 – Share of persons with different types of choices and the nature of psychophysiological reactions, %

	Reaction strength (points)						
Type of choice and number of choices	none or weak (0–1.5) (74 % of the examined)	strong (1.5–2.2) (77 % of the examined)	very strong (2.3–3.0) (84 % of those surveyed)				
Full (4-6)	_	5	78				
Intermediate (2-3)	6	70	6				
Zero (0-1)	68	2	Г				

Therefore, the greatest emotional stress arises when the portrait reflects an actual and unrealized need for the respondent; the average level of stress is associated with the "normal" for the psyche of the examined person presenting the need for a portrait; The lowest level of stress is observed in the case of reflection in the portrait of a need that has already been realized for the individual.

Conclusions

The article clarifies the validity of the method of portrait selection by comparing the results of traditional blank testing of respondents according to the method of L. Scondi with the results of their psychophysiological examination using computer polygraph. The tasks set in the article are solved, and the hypothesis according to which demonstrating portraits using this method causes an emotional psychophysiological reaction in respondents, which is possible recorded with a polygraph, and the nature of this reaction depends on how much the need expressed in the image (attraction, attraction, tendency) is relevant for the examined person. It was also found that the indicators of the severity of psychophysiological reactions that occur during the demonstration of portraits are positively correlated with the results of a blank examination of the same respondents using the method of L. Scondi. Based on the analysis of correlation coefficients, the indicators of validity of the method of portrait choices have been clarified. Fromthe beginning, the correlation coefficients between the number of portrait choices of a certain series and the magnitude of psychophysiological reaction ranged from 0.69 to 0.82; the average value of the correlation coefficient is 0.77. This value can be considered an indicator of the competitive validity of the test of the above method (according to the criterion of the strength of psychophysiological reactions), it meets the requirements accepted in psychodiagnostic science and is consistent with the results of research by other scientists. The approach to the validation of psychological tests proposed by the authors has the right to exist.

Prospects for further research in this direction are to search for a methodology and methodology for determining the validity of other psychodiagnostic techniques based on the search for objective criteria for their comparison with the results obtained during psychological testing.

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ВАЛІДИЗАЦІЯ МЕТОДУ ПОРТРЕТНИХ ВИБОРІВ Л. СОНДІ НА ОСНОВІ ОЦІНКИ І ВИМІРЮВАННЯ ПСИХОФІЗІОЛОГІЧНИХ РЕАКЦІЙ РЕСПОНДЕНТІВ

У статті зроблено спробу уточнення валідності відомого проєктивного методу портретних виборів Л. Сонді на основі оцінки і вимірювання психофізіологічних реакцій особи. Автори розробили оригінальну методику валідизації зазначеного методу шляхом порівняння результатів класичного бланкового дослідження за цим методом з результатами наступного поліграфологічного опитування респондентів, яке супроводжувалося демонструванням портретів. У ході дослідження дістала підтвердження авторська гіпотеза, відповідно до якої демонстрування портретів методу Л. Сонді викликає у респондентів емоційну психофізіологічну реакцію, яку можливо зафіксувати за допомогою поліграфа, причому характер цієї реакції залежить від того, наскільки виражена у зображенні потреба (ваблення) є актуальною для обстежуваної особи. Доведено, що показники сили психофізіологічних реакцій, які виникають під час демонстрування портретів, позитивно корелюють з результатами бланкового обстеження тих же самих респондентів з використанням зазначеного методу. На основі аналізу коефіцієнтів кореляцій уточнено показники валідності методу портретних виборів. Значення коефіцієнтів кореляції між кількістю виборів портрету певної серії і величиною психофізіологічної реакції становлять від 0,70 до 0,82. Середнє значення коефіцієнта кореляції становить 0,77; його можна вважати показником конкурентної валідності тесту зазначеного методу (за критерієм сили психофізіологічних реакцій), воно відповідає прийнятим у психодіагностичній науці вимогам.

Показано, що найбільший емоційний стрес виникає у разі відображення у портреті актуальної і нереалізованої для респондента потреби; середній рівень стресу пов'язаний з «нормальним» для психіки обстежуваної особи поданням потреби у портреті; найменший рівень стресу спостерігається у разі відображення у портреті вже реалізованої для індивіда потреби. Очевидно, що запропонований авторами підхід до валідизації психологічних тестів завдяки дослідженню підтвердив свої потенційні можливості.

Ключові слова: валідність, метод портретних виборів, комп'ютерний поліграф, поліграфологічне опитування, психофізіологічна реакція, коефіцієнт кореляції.

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