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THE  
TAILORS' TRANSFER;  
OR,  
A NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM  
OF  
MEASUREMENT  
AND  
GARMENT CUTTING.

BY  
**WILLIAM R. ACTON,**  
OF VIRGINIA.

**BALTIMORE:**  
PRINTED BY JAMES YOUNG.  
LITHOGRAPHY OF E. WEBER & CO.  
1846.



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ENTERED according to the act of Congress, in the year 1846, by WILLIAM R. ACTON, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Maryland District.

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## CERTIFICATES.

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To show the high estimation in which the TAILORS' TRANSFER is held by those who have tested its merits by practical use as subscribers, we append below the copies of a few of the many certificates that we have received from the Master Tailors of Baltimore, in which city the System was first introduced for sale, in March 1846.

WM. R. ACTON, Esq.:

SIR:—I have carefully examined your “*Transfer System*” of Measurement, and find it better adapted in my opinion, to get a perfectly correct of Measurement the human frame than any other System that has come under my observation, and as a more unequivocal evidence of the above, I do hereby gladly subscribe to the work. Yours, &c.

(Signed) JAMES JONES, Draper and Tailor,  
Baltimore, March 31st, 1846. No. 28 South street.

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WM. R. ACTON, Esq.:

SIR:—I have examined most thoroughly your new System of Measurement, and believe it to be the most perfect plan for getting a correct measure of any thing I have ever met with, as also the Transferring of the Measurement to the cloth. I therefore beg to subscribe to the work.

Respectfully, &c.  
(Signed) ROBERT HALL,  
April 6, 1846. No. 13 South Gay street, Baltimore.

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This is to certify that we believe WM. R. ACTON'S “*Transfer System*” of Measurement, to be the most correct that we have ever seen, and therefore cheerfully subscribe to the same.

(Signed) WELLS & KEADY,  
Balto., April 7, 1846. Corner of Liberty and Baltimore-sts.

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BALTIMORE, April 10th, 1846.

WM. R. ACTON, Esq.:

I feel it to be no more than my duty to yourself, and the Trade, to add my voice to the very high and flattering testimonials of my brother tradesmen of our city, as to the merits of your new System, the “*Tailors' Transfer*.” Being already somewhat acquainted with several other Systems, I unhesitatingly believe yours to be the best, upon all points that has ever fallen within the reach of my observation. Yours, truly,

(Signed) C. G. PETERS, Jr., No. 5 South street.

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MR. WM. R. ACTON:

DEAR SIR:—We have given your “*Transfer System*” a full examination, and we feel bound to say, that for accuracy of Measurement, and as a rule for cutting by Transferring the Measurement to the cloth, that it is far beyond any rule within our knowledge, and we have used nearly all the rules now extant in this country, that are known to the Trade. We further do most earnestly recommend it to the adoption of the Trade, and feel safe in saying that they will find it to be all that we represent it.

(Signed) J. TITTLE & SON, No. 23 South street.  
April 7, 1846.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

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Whenever any great invention, or any thing new or novel is brought into existence, public opinion—that great aristocratic critic—always demands that its originator should give good and sufficient reasons for the innovation. In presenting himself, therefore, to the public, the Author deems it proper to make the following statements in regard to *this System*, which is peculiarly and entirely his own, and differs from, and possesses, in his estimation, many decided advantages over every other now in use.

1st. This System is founded upon mathematical and philosophical principles.

2d. It will get the exact measure of the human form in every particular, with great certainty and accuracy.

3d. The Cutter is less liable to mistakes in transferring the measure to the cloth than in other Systems.

4th. The use of "Protractors," "Water-Levels," and all the useless aids of other Systems now in use, which are better calculated to mislead than to guide the inexperienced learner, are, in this System, entirely dispensed with.

5th. The instrument for measuring is so formed as to establish two pivots, or starting points; one in front of the scye, running parallel with the arm-pit to the centre of the back: the other, six inches below the arm-pit, running perpendicularly down.

6th. By means of this instrument, is ascertained the true point of the scye, and the relative position in proper proportion of all the prominent points necessary in Garment Cutting.

7th. The division and application of the scye measure forms a most important feature in this System.

Every experienced Cutter must have observed that in bad fitting coats, whatever other faults they may have, all the wrinkles converge to the front and bottom of the scye. Hence, the advantage of this System is, that these important places are made the starting points, and all difficulty removed by having a proper foundation or base line.

There are other Systems, founded upon principles purely mathematical, and admirably adapted to the measurement of well formed persons, but defective in application to every variety of form. And those Systems which are founded on the principle of a division of measures, are especially defective in this particular. Thus, persons of the same height, and the same measurement round the breast and waist, may differ materially in the form of the shoulder—high or low—and the place of the scye—farther backward or forward—and, of course the relative position of all the other important points; yet, on the principle of a division of measures, the transfer to cloth will be the same for both, which should, by no means, be the case.

This System, the Author thinks from experience, supplies these deficiencies, and adapts itself to every form, so that any Cutter, with a little care and practice, may make a correct transfer of measurement to cloth. And such is its simplicity that it may be easily understood, and no Cutter need make a single mark in drafting, which he cannot clearly understand.

During many years, the Author has had an opportunity of testing, to his satisfaction, all the different Systems known to the Trade, and believing them to be radically defective in the most important object aimed at, viz: The art of getting the exact shape of every variety of form—he came to the conclusion that this could be accomplished, and he now presents to the Trade—"THE TAILORS' TRANSFER"—the result of close application and experience, and which, he confidently believes, unites all the desirable qualities deficient in every other System of measuring that has come to his notice.

There has been existing in the minds of many, a strong prejudice against discoveries or improvements in art, which do not emanate from some populous and renowned city; as, in our country—New York—Philadelphia—Boston, &c. But such prejudice is without just foundation. All the great discoveries of the age are not confined to cities. Many have originated in places of much obscurity. Discoveries dependent upon an exercise of the mind require close, patient thinking; and, in truth, the retired village, or even the country itself, is better adapted to facilitate this than the noisy bustling city. This prejudice, however, is confined to narrow, illiberal, unenlightened minds, and belongs properly to a past age. The present is an age of light.



Fig. A.

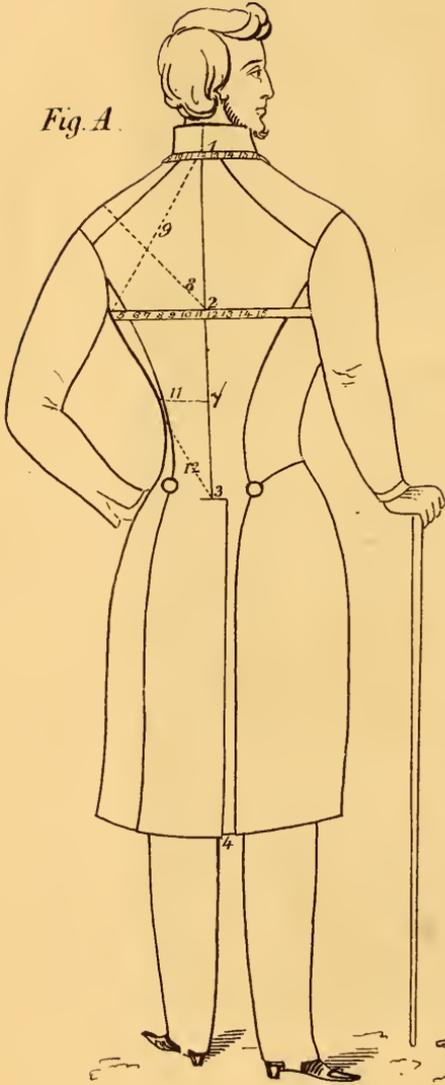


Fig. B.





Fig. 6

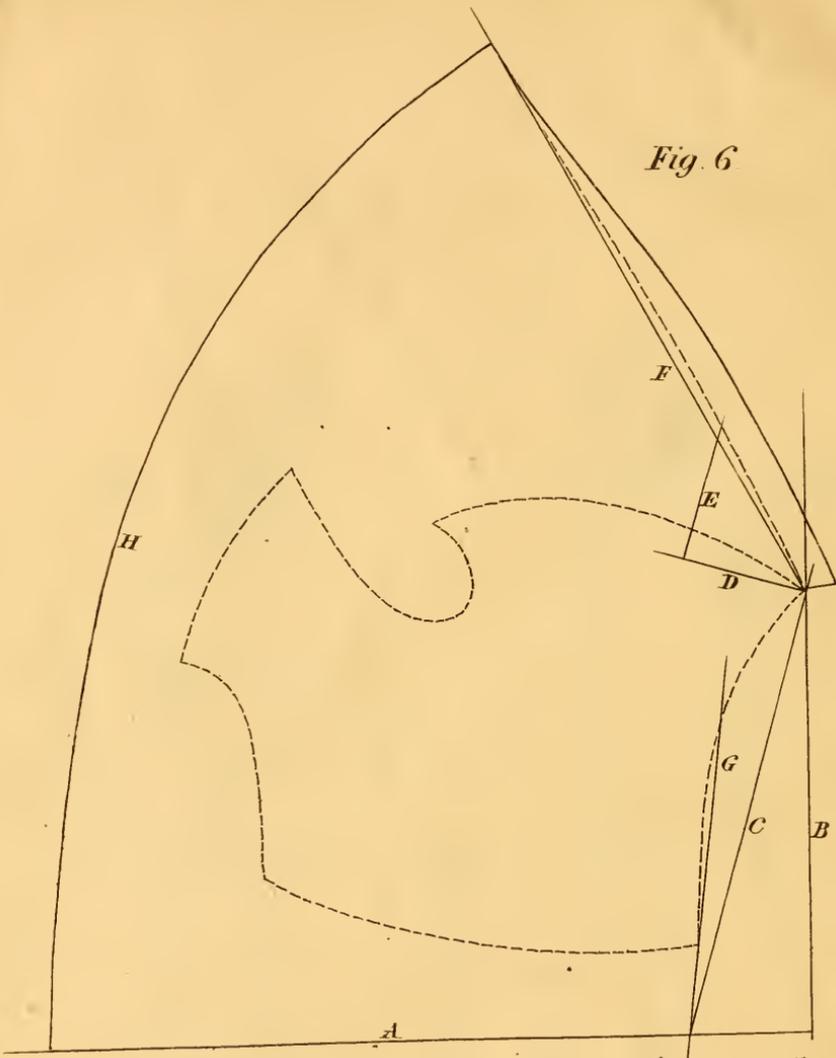


Fig 4

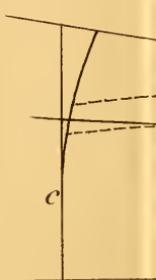
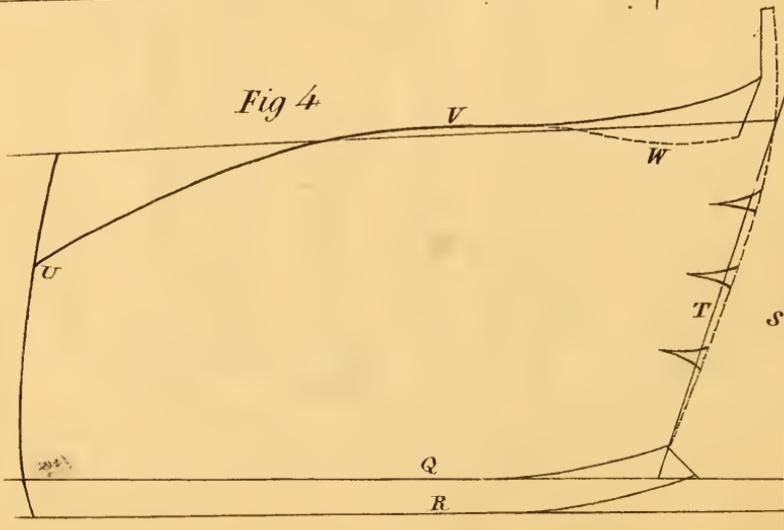






Fig. 7

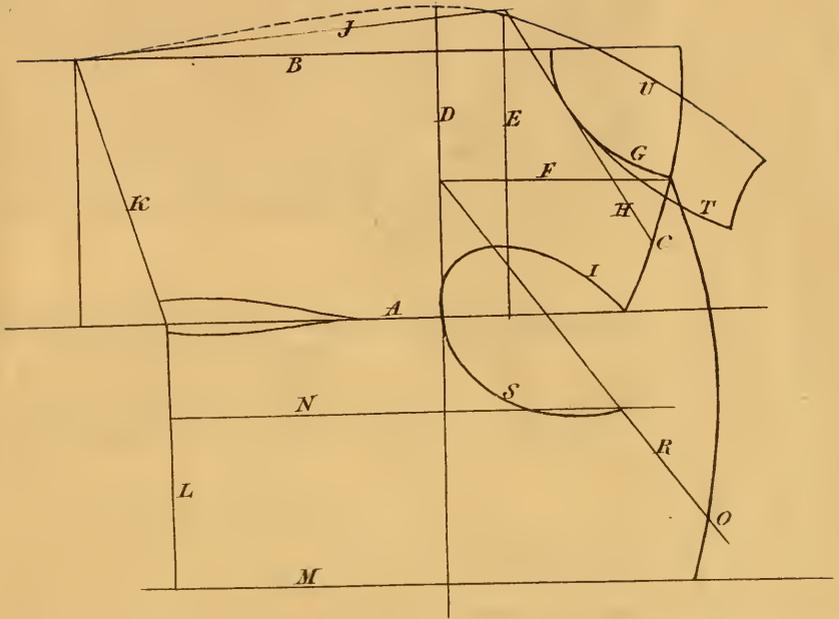
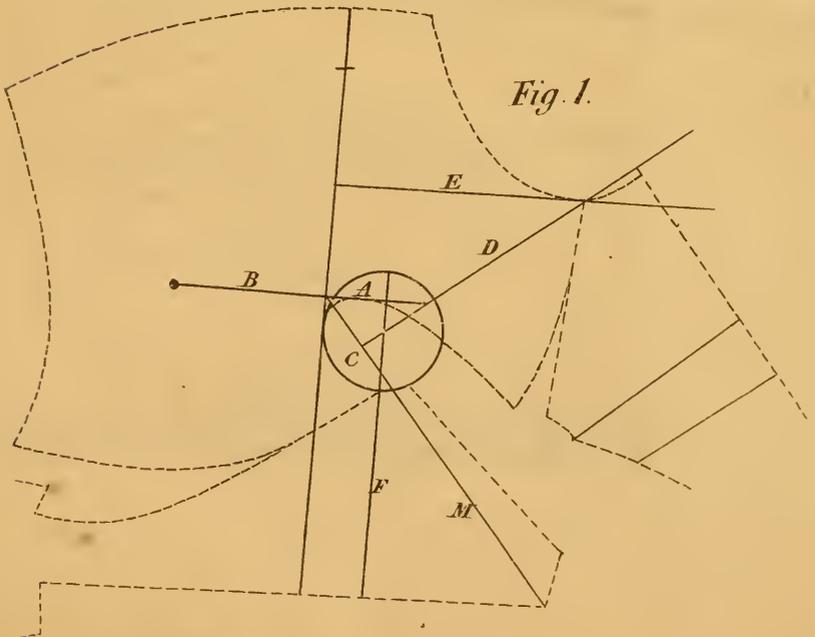


Fig. 1.





Men are becoming more liberal in their views, and do not regard so much the *place* whence a discovery or improvement may emanate, as its *real merits*. The Author does not pretend to infallibility, or, that his System is *perfect*, in the strict sense of the term; yet, he firmly believes that it is better suited to the wants of the Trade than any with which he is acquainted. *It is both simple and accurate*. Hoping for a just appreciation of his labors, he confidently submits his System to the candid examination of the liberal members of the Trade, and the public generally.

WILLIAM R. ACTON.

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### DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING THE MEASURE.

- 1.—Measure round the breast.
- 2.— “ “ “ waist.
- Apply the instrument as represented on the Fig's A & B.
- 3.—Measure from 1 to 2.
- 4.— “ “ 1 to 3.
- 5.— “ “ 1 to 4.
- 6.—Find measure on strap at 1.
- 7.— “ “ “ “ 2.
- 8.—Bring the measure from upper pivot over the shoulder to 2.
- 9.—From same pivot measure close under the arm to 1.
- 10.—Do. length of waist in front to 5.
- 11.—From lower pivot to 7—it being half distance, from top of strap, at 2 to 3.
- 12.—From lower pivot to 3.
- 13.— “ “ “ to 6.
- You are now done with the instrument.
- 14.—Measure from centre of back, between the shoulder bones to the shoulder joints, for width of back.
- 15.—Continue to the elbow.
- 16.— “ “ wrist.
- 17.—Measure round the scye.
- 18.— “ “ “ elbow.
- 19.— “ “ “ wrist.

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### FIGURE No. 1.

This figure embraces the fundamental principles of the System, of which a proper understanding is necessary. It

comprehends the following proposition, viz : that the third of the circumference of any given circle is the diameter. The application of this principle will be fully illustrated in the following explanations. Having ascertained the third and sixth of measure 17, proceed to draft.

#### Explanation 1st.

FIGURE No. 2.—*Back of dress or frock coat*—Line A, edge of cloth. Go down A length of waist, and length of skirt, and square out lines B and C. Go in on B about two inches, make a dot, and thence draw line D. Come down on line D the measure taken from 1 to 2, make a dot, and go up one-sixth of scye measure and square out lines E and F. Go from terminus of line D on line B one-sixth of scye measure, make a dot, and from it lay your ruler to top of back at 1, and square out line G. Go out on line F the measure taken for width of back, make a dot, and from thence to terminus of line D on line B draw line I. Go out on line G one-sixth of scye measure, thence draw line H, and form back scye as per figure. Form curve J, and draw lines K and L as per figure.

#### Explanation 2d.

FIGURE No. 3.—Plate 3—*Forepart of dress or frock coat, with the back appended*—After laying the back in whatever position you can get the forepart to best advantage, mark top of side-seam by the back, and continue out line E of the back across the forepart—then go out on it from centre of back what your customer measured on strap from upper pivot to 2, make a dot, and square up and down lines A and B. Go down on B six inches, and make a dot for lower pivot. The instrument is now represented on the cloth as it was on the customer. Continue F of the back to line A. Draw line M from upper pivot to 1 at top of back No. 1. Go out on line F from back scye one-sixth of scye measure, make a dot, and from thence sweep C to upper pivot, and if you see proper form a circle. Then from upper pivot come in on line M one-sixth of scye measure, make a dot and square up line D. Apply the 9th measure from upper pivot around curve C to 1 at top of back No. 1 as per dotted lines, and bring the back in or out as the measure requires, making the star on line E of the back a pivot ; (but it is seldom, if ever necessary to move the back.) Apply back No. 2, as per figure, and from upper pivot measure up to 1 at top of back (as per dotted line) what the measure calls for on strap at 1. Apply the 8th measure

from upper pivot to 2 on the back (as per dotted line) and move in or out as the measure requires, to find shoulder seam. Form curve K as per figure, then apply the scye measure from top of back scye round C and K to find J. From upper pivot draw line F to 1 at top of back No. 2. Go out from centre of back No. 1 on line E across the forepart, half the circumference of the breast, make a dot, and from thence, with the left hand on upper pivot sweep curve G to line F, and from thence square out line H. Form curve J, as per figure. From terminus of sweep G on line across forepart, find half the distance to upper pivot, make a dot, and from thence square up line E for front point of shoulder. Find half distance on back, (figure No. 2,) on line D between lines B and E, make a dot, and bring the ring of the inch measure to lower pivot, (figure No. 3,) from thence apply the 11th and 12th measures (as per dotted lines) bringing in the back accordingly, and form side seam L as per figure. From upper pivot sweep curve M by the 10th measure. While the back is in a closing position, measure across the waist half of measure No. 2 to curve M; then apply 13th measure from lower pivot down line B; from thence to curve M draw line N, and form curve O, as per figure. Go out from sweep G about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and form line P, as per figure.\*

#### Explanation 3d.

FIGURE No. 4.—*Skirt of dress coat*—Draw line Q about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from line K. Square out line S, and go out what the lower part of your forepart measures. Come down on line Q one-third of scye measure, and from thence draw line T. Form lines U and V, as per figure or fancy.†

#### Explanation 4th.

FIGURE No. 5.—*Sleeve of dress or frock coat*—Line A, edge of cloth, and B top. From B to C is one-fourth of scye measure. Square out line C and go out on it one-eighth of scye measure, go out one-fourth; go out one-half for width of sleeve. Sweep E from the eighth and D from the fourth. Then apply the 15th measure for the el-

\* It will be perceived that we give two plans for getting the front shoulder point: the one proving the correctness of the other. For if the measure be taken correctly on strap at 1 this point will—in a general way—come exactly to where the lines D and E cross each other—but I would recommend the latter mode of getting it as preferable. If a gore be taken out of the forepart at line B, as represented in figure No. 3, what is taken out must always be added to the side seam at L.

† The dotted W shows the skirt when no gores are taken out.

bow, then apply 16th measure for length of sleeve. From line A go out one-third of scye measure for bend of sleeve.

#### Explanation 5th.

FIGURE No. 6.—*Skirt of frock coat*—The lines A, B, C are the same as Q, S, T, of the dress coat skirt. From the terminus of line C square down line D, and go down it one-third scye measure, and square out E. Go out on E one-third of scye measure, and from thence draw line F as per figure. Curve G is marked by lower part of forepart, as per figure. While you run your right hand on G, sweep H with the left.

#### Explanation 6th.

FIGURE No. 7.—*Forepart of Vest*—Draw line A at edge of cloth. Go out from A one-fourth of your breast measure and draw line B parallel with A; then making the junction of lines B and K your pivot, sweep C by one-sixth of scye measure less than length of Vest; thence measure down on line A one-half of scye measure, and square out line D. Go up on line A from D one-sixth of scye measure and square out line E. Find half distance on line D between lines A and B, thence square up line F to C; thence making the terminus of lines B and C your pivot, sweep G. On line C find half distance between A and F, thence draw line H to a smooth junction with sweep G. Go in from A on line E one-sixth of scye measure, there form I, as per figure. U and T represent the collar.

#### Explanation 7th.

FIGURE No. 8.—*Back of Vest*—Square out line L. Continue line D of the forepart, and come out from A one-fourth of scye measure, thence draw line N. Come out one-fourth of breast measure, and draw line M parallel with line A on L. Make the terminus of N a pivot, and sweep O. Go out on O from M one-sixth of scye measure, thence to half distance on line D draw line K. Curve S is formed as per figure.





## TERMS IS TO CERTIFY,

That *Mr. \_\_\_\_\_* has  
 the right of the use of one Measuring Instrument  
 and one book of the "Tailors' Transfer System  
 of Measuring and Garment Cutting."

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N. B. No transfer of the instrument or book, will  
 in any case be allowed, without my consent, given  
 over my own signature, and all infringements upon, or  
 departures from this rule, will be dealt with according  
 to the Laws of the United States for the regulation of  
 Patent and protection of the Patentees.

WILLIAM R. ACTON.

Price of the whole work, with an Instrument of Measure-  
 ment and Instructions, \$15. Where classes of six can be  
 formed, a reasonable reduction will be made.

## AGENCIES.

Having had but a short time in which to prepare this work  
 for publication, and but little time to devote to a proper selection  
 and appointment of Agents, we cannot now announce the  
 names of those who will act in that capacity, but intending to  
 appoint them in most of the larger cities of the Union, we will  
 announce their names and location in the public prints, and in  
 our subsequent editions of this work.



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