



**KWPN**  
NORTH AMERICA

## HARNESS HORSE NEWS

**Hello!** We are excited to announce that our committee is working on offering KWPN-NA classes at upcoming shows, allowing KWPN registered horses to compete in fine harness. The specifics of this program are still in development and we look forward to keeping you informed on the progress, which looks very promising!

This extended issue of our newsletter is full of content we think you'll enjoy. It features Part 1 of a two-part article on dressage breeding, so make sure to save this issue until you receive the next one for the best reading experience. Send us feedback to let us know what you think! As always, our committee is grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm for KWPN-NA.

With thanks,  
KWPN-NA Harness Committee

## THOUGHTS ON USING THE *Dutch Harness Horse* in Dressage Breeding

BY SCOT TOLMAN  
Part One of Two

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Scot Tolman. My family and I have owned and operated Shooting Star Farm, in Spofford, NH, for over 30 years. Our farm motto is "A place where dreams come true," and that's what we've been doing for more than three decades, making our own dreams and those of our friends and customers become a reality. Our goal is to produce dressage horses for sport and breeding that are on par with the best in the world. We were one of the first Platinum-level breeders of KWPN dressage horses in North America.

All of our original breeding stock was imported from the Netherlands, and we maintain a small program of breeding horses in Nuis, Holland, as well. I have been traveling to the Netherlands regularly since the late 1990s, usually making two to four trips each year. We are primarily a breeding operation. Currently, we stand two stallions at Wim Cazemier's place, in Spencerville, IN, Gaudi SSF (Totilas x DeNiro x Romancier) and Jaleet SSF

(Atleet x Plain's Liberator x Manno), and we breed between six and a dozen mares each year. Our foundation mare, Orchis (Jazz x Roemer), was the highest indexed dressage mare outside of Holland. In Holland, she would have been one of the top few mares, as well. She is from the top-producing dressage mareline in KWPN history, the Otrichta stam.



*Jaleet and Gaudi*

Today, in our program, we have three of her daughters, three of her granddaughters, and three of her nieces. Additionally, we have a mare from the famous Wendy line, BoWendy (Sir Sinclair x Jazz x Ulft) and a DHH mare from the very successful DHH line, fok familie 344, Emaldine OHHG (Atleet x Manno x Goya). This is the line that produced one of my favorite DHH stallions, Eebert (Atleet x Manno x Wilhelmus). We have SSF offspring at every level of dressage sport, from training level to international Grand Prix, including Mamet SSF (Vitalis x Donatelli x Jazz), who was just named the USDF three-year-old material Horse of the Year, and Godot SSF (UB-40 x Sir Sinclair x Jazz), who, pre-COVID, was identified in the talent pool for Team Canada for the Tokyo Olympic games.

My interest in the Dutch Harness Horse started in the late 1990s when I made my first trip to the KWPN Stallion Show in s'Hertogenbosch. I'm a New Englander, so I grew up in Morgan country. I also rode at a Saddlebred barn for a couple years when I was a kid. When a Morgan or Saddlebred enters a park saddle or park harness class, much of what you see is manufactured through shoeing and, often, questionable training methods. Imagine how blown away I was the first time I saw the Dutch Harness horses come into the ring for the Oregon Trophy. Holy crap. The expression Morgan and Saddlebred people use for a park horse showing well is, "that horse is trotting on all four corners." These Dutch Harness horses not only elevate the concept of a four-cornered trot, they take it to a whole new plane of equine existence. I'll come back to this concept in a bit.

# Dutch Harness Horse in Dressage Breeding

*Continued from front cover*

Although I'm not privy to all the training methods used with the Dutch Harness Horses, I can see for myself they're not shod that differently than a normal riding horse. Maybe there's a little more length and heel height to the hoof and a double shoe, but that's it. These horses are bred to move like this. Of course, in the late 1990s during my first year of attending the KWPN Stallion Show, these horses were a much different type than most of the DHHs today. The heads were big and long; their backs were flat and often too dropped off behind the wither; their croups were short and flat; and, their tail set was really high. If you had told me 22 or 23 years ago that I would have purchased a DHH stallion for crossing with my dressage mares, some of the best dressage-breeding mares available for breeding anywhere, I would have laughed.

Consequently, to begin with, I just enjoyed watching the DHH classes at the Stallion Show. I didn't pay attention to any particular horse or line. The first stallion I remember really sitting up and paying attention to as an individual was Patijn (Kolonel x Renovo x Indiaan). He was a little smaller than many of the DHHs of the day, but of a much more modern, athletic type. He was the first DHH I remember looking at and thinking, "that's a beautiful horse." And, the movement...again, holy crap. He was so athletic in the use of his body, had a really strong and quick hindleg, and an extraordinary front. I saw Patijn a number of times in Den Bosch, and each time I had the same impression. He's the reason I started paying more attention to the names and pedigrees of the DHHs. Regardless, at that time, I still hadn't even thought about crossing a DHH stallion with a dressage mare. I just kept thinking that I wished some of my Morgan-breeder friends could see these horses.

Eebert was the game-changer for me. What a horse. The only two horses that have made a stronger impression on me at first sight in performance are Totilas and Jovian. That puts Eebert in some exceptional company. The horse just oozed suppleness, power, and expression. His whole topline had that supple, athletic lift so necessary in a dressage horse. Every time I saw Eebert perform, I kept thinking what he would look like under saddle. That's really when the seed of crossing a DHH stallion on a dressage mare began to germinate for me. This is probably a good time to talk about what I look for in a dressage horse, and how the DHH can both contribute and detract from my goals.

Horses naturally carry more weight on the front legs than they do on their hind legs. They are built downhill. In dressage, as a horse progresses through the training scale, he or she gradually learns to carry more weight on the hind end, in order to execute the highest movements of collection and to free the shoulder to be more expressive. A horse that is bred to naturally lift in front and carry more weight behind, less downhill, has an

easier and, normally, quicker progression through the levels, making the rider's job easier. The recent trend in breeding dressage horses has been to breed horses with a longer front leg, the thought being that this will contribute to a horse's ability to transfer the weight to the hindquarters, and, to some extent, provide more expression in the front leg. Although I like a horse with sufficient length in the front leg aesthetically, the length of the front leg is not what determines a horse's ability to carry weight from behind. It is the loin connection. It doesn't matter how long the front leg is if the horse doesn't have a strong loin connection; he or she is not going to be able to carry as well as a horse with a short front leg and a strong loin connection. The muscles in the loin are the hinge that lifts the front of the horse and transfers the weight onto the hind quarters.

Think of it this way, I want to see a dressage horse naturally move as if it were an airplane taking off. From the first step, the horse should fire a leg under the point of gravity and lift through the loin connection, elevating the wither. It's important to note here that I wrote, "elevating the wither." Many horses arch their necks upward, sink their backs, and throw out their front legs. This is not lifting in the wither. It may be fun to watch and look like fancy, "going to sell this horse for a whole lot of money" expression to an inexperienced eye, but it is detrimental to dressage breeding. A horse whose first reaction is lower the back completely contradicts the goals of dressage training. This is also the point at which I should discuss the potential negative outcomes of using DHHs in dressage breeding.

Above, I mentioned the phrase, "four-cornered trot". This is the expression Morgan and Saddlebred people often use to describe what they're looking for in a horse. Basically, it means, as a literal interpretation would indicate, that all four legs are equally active and bending--near equal amount of expression in the knees and the hocks. Often, in a four-cornered trot, the back stays level. As matter of fact, a level back is even desirable in the Morgan world. After discussing the traits I'm looking for in breeding dressage horses, it's easy to recognize that a flat back is counterproductive to my goal of having a horse in movement looking like an airplane taking off. This is one of the dangers of using DHHs in dressage breeding. Although breeding for an expressive front is one of the goals in DHH breeding, not all DHHs achieve that by lifting through the loin connection--many achieve it by cranking their heads back, sinking behind the wither, and throwing out their front legs. They don't "use" their backs in their movement. Such movement mechanics also tend to produce horses that carry their hindlegs slightly behind the body, so their hocks point up under the tail as they move, instead of bending under the body and creating that lift from the loin connection to the wither. Although many of these horses are fantastic fine harness horses, they don't belong in dressage breeding. • *Part Two will be featured in next issue*



## Dear Harness Horse Breeders, Owners & Fans!

We are Megan Owen, Bailey West, Emily Bentz and Liz van Woerden. We are breeders, owners and promoters of the Gelders horse, the foundation breed of the Dutch warmblood. A couple of months ago, we, as 'The Gelders horse people', received an invitation from the Harness horse committee, to join their meeting. We were very honored, and joined the past two conference calls. Since then, we've formalized our own group. We called it 'International Gelders Horse Alliance', aiming on international collaboration with all people that want to maintain this rare foundation breed. We are not an official committee under the KWPN-NA (yet).

The most important goal we have, is to let the Gelders breeding population grow within the KWPN-NA. This is also one of the goals of the Harness horse committee; so this brings us to our common ground. One of the other reasons we think our collaboration can be fruitful, is because the Harness horse and the Gelders horse share common genes. Because as we just mentioned, the Gelders horse forms the foundation of all KWPN horses. This makes it interesting to look at each other's mares and stallions and see what crosses could be useful to let both breeding populations become broader and better: of course without breeding away the specific traits that characterize and distinguish each type.

Looking back in the history of the Dutch warmblood, we see that the Groningen and the Gelders (or 'Gelderlander') horses were the original breeds of The Netherlands. They were used to work the land, as a family horse to ride and as a driving horse to go to church with on Sundays. Interesting to note, is that these horses were strictly selected on character and durability and hardly on type and movement. Horses that weren't sound, didn't want to work and couldn't be handled by all the family members, simply were brought to the slaughterhouse and eaten. So only the best horses remained for breeding.

After the industrialization, the Groningen horse breeders started their own studbook. The Gelders horse always was a bit lighter in type, and thus was the type that got modernized for the use in sports. In the '70's and '80's, the specialized breeding directions of the Riding (dressage- and jumping) type horses and the Harness type horses were developed within the KWPN. The Riding type was developed by breeding lighter and more 'bloody' types of breeds (like Thoroughbreds) to the Gelders horse and the Harness horses by crossing Gelders with Hackneys. This is all very simply put of course. We will publish a more in- dept article about that specialization era and bloodlines soon. The schedule below shows what happened during the specialization and explains why the KWPN registry has three breeding directions now. We are honored to work together with the Harness horse committee on our common goals! Feel free to contact us anytime.

Kind regards,  
Megan Owen, Bailey West, Emily Bentz & Liz van Woerden  
*International Gelders Horse Alliance*



## GELDERS = FOUNDATION

### GRONINGEN HORSE

### GELDERS HORSE



THE GRONINGEN  
HORSE ASSOCIATION

1981

KWPN

1969



MODERNIZATION  
SPECIALIZATION

Riding Horse  
(Jumping/Dressage)

Harness Horse

Gelders Horse



# Harness Horse Stallion Macho Breaks All Records



On October 31, 2020, the three harness horse stallions in Ermelo took their exam after a three-week performance test. All three passed, and Indiana son Macho even broke records with his beautiful list of marks, which shows no point lower than a 9.

This was the first time that an autumn show for harness horse stallions was organized and lasted approximately three weeks. The stallion inspection committee consisted of chairman Henk Rootveld, Henk Lassche and Johan Holties, and they were assisted by inspector Viggon van Beest.

Henk Rootveld explained: "We are extremely satisfied with this collection. It is a varied group or all fronts, in terms of type, pedigree and qualities. One stallion is particularly interesting here, partly because of the low

relationship. That is a stallion with a very interesting blood composition. In addition, we have two stallions who have performed far above average and one of them has even delivered a distinct top performance by continuously presenting himself optimally and cooperating in what was asked of him. They are really stallions who can each help the breeding further in their own way, and of which we are convinced that the breeders will make use of this."

Indiana son Macho received the highest grade list ever, with almost only 9.5s on his protocol. Magniefiek got a 9 on the foreleg action, and both Magniefiek and Macho are from their sire's first crop. The very low related Baarzens Jagerszoon son Maximiano I&S is therefore an asset in the context of the blood distribution and also received a nice list of marks with an 8 on almost all parts.

The final presentation, which due to the corona measures other than the breeders and registered parties, was not attended by an audience, was broadcast live via KWPN.tv. The video images can be found on KWPN.tv.

The stallions approved are:

- *Maximiano I&S (Baarzens Jagerszoon x Plain's Liberator)*
- *Magniefiek (Idol x Athlete)*
- *Macho (Indiana x Unieko)*

Information about conformation and dam report is posted on the KWPN Database. To read the original article, visit:

<https://www.kwpn.nl/nieuws?itemId=NewsItem:21959>

## Performance Test Scores



**MAXIMIANO I&S**

*Baarzens Jagerszoon x Plain's Liberator*



**MAGNIEFIECK**

*Idol x Athlete*



**MACHO**

*Indiana x Unieko*

### DESCRIPTION

Front	8,00
Posture	7,50
Suspension	8,00
Front leg action	8,50
Use hind legs	8,00
Desire to go	8,00
Bewerkbaarheid en instelling	8,00
Talent as harness horse	8,00
Placement	—
Year	2020
Venue	Ermelo

8,50

8,50

8,50

9,00

7,50

8,50

8,00

8,50

—

2020

Ermelo

9,50

9,00

9,50

9,00

9,50

9,50

9,50

9,50

—

2020

Ermelo

# What are the Options?

## LOW RELATED HARNESS HORSE STALLIONS

Original Dutch text: DINI BROUWER

English translation: LIESBETH VAN WOERDEN

*Kinship and inbreeding: it's a hot item in harness horse breeding. Solutions are constantly being sought, but reducing the average kinship in the population appears to be difficult to achieve. This is partly because a small number of stallions has bred or is breeding relatively much. A good distribution of breeding between stallions contributes to a reduction in the relationship percentage. Which stallions can help reduce kinship and inbreeding in the population?*

This subject was discussed extensively in the first KWPN Magazine (January 2020). This article about inbreeding in harness horse breeding stated that the majority of breeders thought it was a 'far-off show,' probably because the problems don't seem very visible to them. Many harness horse breeders breed more performance-oriented than kinship-oriented: basically they just like to breed the best foal. They think they can achieve that goal the fastest by breeding to a champion stallion, but that stallion is often more closely related. The Dutch agency RVO, which is responsible for the recognition of studbooks, has rang the alarm bell. They order that the inbreeding increase must remain between 0.5 and 1%, otherwise the Dutch harness horse threatens to become a dying breed. The inbreeding increase is now 1.18% per generation. The Inbreeding and Kinship working group has examined this urgent problem and the Breeding Council is now working out the ideas into clear proposals presented at the spring members' meetings.

### KINSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

Inbreeding and kinship are shown in percentages and on My KWPN you can see exactly how high the kinship and inbreeding of your mare with the stallion you have chosen is. Within the stallion- database, there are kinship qualifications from 'very low' to 'very high' (see table below).

LEVEL OF KINSHIP	DRESSAGE HORSES	GELDERS HORSES	HARNESS HORSES
Very Low	< 1.0	< 1.4	< 6.1
Low	1.0 - 1.5	1.4 - 2.7	6.1 - 8.2
Low - Average	1.6 - 2.1	2.8 - 4.1	8.3 - 10.4
Average - High	2.2 - 2.7	4.2 - 5.5	10.5 - 12.6
High	2.8 - 3.3	5.6 - 6.9	12.7 - 14.8
Very High	> 3.3	> 6.9	>14.8

The stallion and mare population seems to offer possibilities to reduce kinship, but the breeder obviously determines which choice he makes. In this article we give you an overview of the stallions with their own kinship percentage that fall in the very low to average classes and are available via fresh or frozen semen. Of course, a low-related, high-quality mare that will increase the effect and well-fitting combinations must also be sought. The relationship percentage is recalculated every year because the active breeding population changes every year.



*Bocellies Matteo (by Bocellie) is the only actively breeding KWPN recognized Hackney stallion.*

For example, the relationship percentage of stallions that cover a lot may increase over the years.

### VERY LOW RATED

What options are there for very low related stallions? Various full Hackneys have been recognized by the KWPN over the years. The deceased Hackney stallion Plain's Liberator (Plain's Black Satin x Segenhoe Lucifer) has brought harness horse breeding a lot of good, both to mares and stallions; he can therefore be described as a foundation stallion. Stallion farm Landzicht still has semen available from Plain's Liberator. His blood is richly integrated into the breeding population through his three sons and his five grandsons and therefore Liberator blood does not decrease kinship in every mare. One of his grandsons is Bocellies Matteo (Bocellie x Rambo) owned by Andre Veltkamp from Hengelo. He is the only KWPN licensed Hackney that is currently available for breeding. He has been maintained based on his foals. His oldest children registered with the KWPN are now two years old. He performs well himself and is available for breeding at Veltkamp and Albert Lueks. Frozen semen from the Hackney stallion Morocco Field Marshall (Durora Hero x Breda Eyeshide) is also available, at Harry van Middelaar. A good number of the 79 registered offspring of Morocco certainly performed well. For example his well-known descendant Elburg (dam sire Manno) of Stal Haarsma who has 192 winning points and who is still doing very well at the competitions. Then there is frozen semen available at Lambertus Huckriede from Hackney stallion Wentworth Ebony (Heldon Mistrel x Wentworth Moonlight), who was put on the watchlist and exported. Wentworth Ebony's offspring is doing well now though, for example his son Just Lucky (dam sire Waterman), has 63 winning points and his daughter Incognito (dam sire Victory) has 100 winning points.

### ALSO VERY LOW RATED

An option via frozen semen is also the Half-Blood-Saddlebred Marvel (Immigrant x Proloog), which has bred very creditably. His son Barend (dam sire Manno) has 183 winning points and the Keur Sports mares Betske (dam sire Manno) and Celesta (dam sire Waterman) respectively 151 winning points and 102 winning points. Recently





Innovatief (Zepplin x Heiring out x Fabricius)

the show mare Habibi (dam sire Torino) from Stal de Boer (46 winning points) also put Marvel back on the map. Two of Marvel's grandsons were approved. These are the now gelded Fabuleus (Unieko x Marvel), who is still available via frozen semen from the Van Manen brothers and Jesse James (Unieko x Marvel), who is now six years old and is available via fresh semen from Mark de Groot. Then there are the very low related stallions Moneymaker (Farao x Excellent van Herpen), who himself achieved 223 winning points and Aron HBC (Ganges x Plains Superstition) who also won a lot. A wellknown daughter of Moneymaker is Keur mare Ariantha (dam sire Manno) who has almost 100 winning points. The Keur mare Irona (dam sire Koblenz) is a well-known daughter of Aron, with almost 100 winning points. Frozen semen is available from Moneymaker at Van Manen and from Aron HBC and Marvel at Harry van Middelaar.

## LOW RATED

Of course, also very interesting are the stallions that fall in the category 'low related'. Three of them are actively available for breeding, the others are available through frozen semen. Firstly, Urgent (Waterman x Ureterp), who successfully competed with Freek Saris (218 winning points) until a fairly old age. The stallion is available for breeding there. He produced a number of Ster, Keur and Elite mares. Carlos (dam sire Manno), who became World Champion in Boyd Exell's team, is a well-known son. The successful Preferent foundation stallion Waterman himself (Noran x Brook Acres Silversul), is also available through frozen semen at the Van Manen brothers. Waterman has produced many good show horses and brood mares as well as five approved sons and eight approved grandsons. As a result, his blood is abundantly available in different ways. The second low related stallion that is still available for stud is the 25-year-old Nando (Fortissimo x Bayard). With his owner Bep van de Brake from Doornspijk, where he is still available for breeding, Nando caused a sensation as a competition horse. In addition to various Ster, Keur and Preferent mares, he also gave the well-known competition horses Botilas (dam sire Marvel), 84 winning points, Toetida (dam sire Fabricius), 45 winning points and Scodessa (dam sire Fabricius) with 117 winning points. The third stallion available through fresh semen is the six-year-old Innovatief (Zepplin x Heiring Out). Zeppelin is a

son of Plain's Liberator. With Mark de Groot at the reigns, Innovative collected 39 winning points already and he is also available for breeding there. Mark has semen available from his low-related and exported sire Zepplin (dam sire Fabricius) as well.

## LOW TO MEDIUM

Five stallions are currently available through fresh semen in the 'low to medium related'- category. Stuurboord (Jonker x Factor) certainly offers perspective: this stallion from the Zendrini line performed very well himself and achieved 258 profit points. Some of his well-known performance offspring are Berino (dam sire Renovo) who has 313 winning points and Zuidwester (dam sire Fabricius) who has 138 winning points. He is available at Hengstenhouderij Landzicht. The five-year-old Kane BFT (Bocellie x Unieko) also offers opportunities. Last year he realized 31 winning points in the hands of Freek Saris where he is also available for breeding.

Dylano (dam sire Fabricius) is also one of the three Plain's Liberator sons that is available. This well performing stallion is 8.9% related and has 173 winning points. His son Mooiman (dam sire Manno) was recently selected and last year his sons Lefte Blond (dam sire Patijn) and Lancelot (dam sire Nando) were invited to the performance test. Last year the Dylano son Jericho (dam sire Manno) achieved a remarkable achievement, with 31 winning points. The fourth low to average related stallion is the already mentioned Jesse James. The fifth stallion to belong to this group is Oregon Trophy winner Icellie (Bocellie x Jonker). His oldest children were presented at the stallion selection this year and two were invited for the performance test.

## LOW RATED PERFORMANCE

That low related horses also perform is apparent from the list below of horses that are less than 10% related and that have finished at least four times in the first second or third place in the 2019 competition season.

Incognito (by Wentworth Ebony)	5.3%
Just Lucky (by Wentworth Ebony)	6.1%
Irona H&H (by Aron)	6.3%
Evert (by Stjerreljocht Surprise)	6.5%
Fontana Landzicht (by Waterman)	7.0%
Kensington (by Bocellie)	7.2%
Habibi (by Marvel)	7.6%
Kane BFT (by Bocellie)	8.6%
Business (by Vlasco)	8.8%
Dylano (by Plain's Liberator)	8.9%
Jirzela-C (by Plain's Liberator)	9.0%
Berino (by Stuurboord)	9.1%
Heraut (by Bentley)	9.4%
Zuidwester (by Stuurboord)	9.7%
Jongleur GSM (by Athlete)	9.7%
Havana (by Bentley)	9.8%
Kiranda VB (by Fabuleus)	9.8%
Elegant (by Waldemar)	9.8%

IN THE SEMEN TANK

Close to average related is also Wodka HBC (Roy M x Jonker), who has not been breeding very long. Harry van Middelaar still has frozen semen from him, as well as from Torino (Jonker x Ganges), who is successful in driving. Ganges (Renovo x Indiaan) can also still provide offspring. At Reilink and van Middelaar his frozen semen is available. Ganges certainly produced remarkable broodmares and competition horses, such as his still active children Wonder (dam sire Manno) who has 257 winning points and Silver D (dam sire Fabricius) who has 304. The Keur stallion Cinovo (Renovo x Prins Oregon) also falls within this category. Cinovo produced various Ster, Keur and Preferent mares as well as the approved stallions Jochem, Joviaal and Vikking. The stallion Opgenoort was a grandson of his. A well-known daughter of Cinovo is honorary class horse Horava (dam sire Wouter). Cinovo semen is available at Van Manen. Frozen semen of the exported Aquarel (Unieko x Wouter) is available at Mark de Groot. Lorton (Wouter x Renovo), at the time very modernly 'bred back', has produced many offspring, of which competition horses as well as a large number of Ster, Keur and Preferent mares. For example the competition horses Victor B (180 winning points) and his full sister Wilhelmentje (dam sire Waterman) with 57 winning points. Van Manen still has frozen semen from Lorton. •



tuurboord (Jonker x Factor x Proloog)

AVAILABLE STALLIONS AND THEIR KINSHIP

NAME	KINSHIP PERCENTAGE	LEVEL OF KINSHIP
Morocco Field Marshall	0.6	Very Low
Wentworth Ebony	2.3	Very Low
Bocellies Matteo	3.6	Very Low
Marvel	4.7	Very Low
Plain's Liberator	5.1	Very Low
Moneymaker	5.1	Very Low
Aron HBC	6.1	Very Low
Urgent	6.9	Low
Innovatief	7.1	Low
Nando	7.4	Low
Waterman	7.8	Low
Zeppelin	8.0	Low
Stuurboord	8.5	Low- Average
Wodka HBC	8.6	Low- Average
Kane BFT	8.6	Low- Average
Jesse James	8.9	Low- Average
Dylano	8.9	Low- Average
Icellie	9.2	Low- Average
Fabuleus	9.2	Low- Average
Torino	9.3	Low- Average
Cinovo	9.4	Low- Average
Lorton	9.6	Low- Average
Aquarel	9.6	Low- Average
Ganges	10.4	Low- Average



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