

app to control smart lights

Mastering Your Ambiance: The Ultimate Guide to Apps for Controlling Smart Lights

app to control smart lights is the gateway to unlocking the full potential of your modern home illumination. Gone are the days of simple on/off switches; today, sophisticated mobile applications offer unparalleled control over brightness, color, scheduling, and even integration with other smart home devices. These intuitive tools transform your living space into a dynamic environment tailored to your mood, activities, and lifestyle. From waking up gently with simulated sunrise to setting the perfect mood for movie nights or parties, the right app makes managing your smart lighting effortless and enjoyable. This comprehensive guide will explore the essential features, types of apps, and considerations when choosing the best application to command your smart bulbs and fixtures.

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Understanding Smart Light Control Apps

An app to control smart lights serves as the central command center for all your connected lighting devices. These applications are designed to provide users with a user-friendly interface to interact with their smart bulbs, strips, and fixtures wirelessly, typically via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. The primary function is to go beyond basic illumination, offering granular control over various aspects of light output. This includes adjusting the intensity of light, changing its color, and creating custom lighting scenes that can be activated with a single tap or voice command.

The sophistication of these apps has grown exponentially, mirroring the advancements in smart home technology. Many apps are developed by the manufacturers of the smart lights themselves, ensuring seamless integration and access to all proprietary features. However, there are also third-party applications that aim to consolidate control over multiple brands of smart devices, offering a unified experience for users with diverse smart home ecosystems. This universal approach is particularly appealing for those who have accumulated smart lights from different manufacturers over time.

Furthermore, smart light control apps are often the conduits for advanced functionalities such as scheduling, automation, and integration with voice assistants like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple's Siri. This allows for highly personalized and convenient ways to manage your home's lighting, from setting lights to turn on at dusk to having them dim automatically when you start watching a movie. The ease of use and the vast array of possibilities make these applications indispensable for anyone looking to enhance their living environment with smart lighting.

Key Features of a Smart Light App

When evaluating an app to control smart lights, several core features stand out as essential for a robust and satisfying user experience. These functionalities are what differentiate basic lighting control from the truly smart capabilities that define modern home automation. Understanding these features will help you make an informed decision about which application best suits your needs.

Brightness and Dimming Control

The most fundamental feature is the ability to adjust the brightness of your smart lights. A good app will offer a smooth dimming slider or predefined levels, allowing you to fine-tune the intensity of light to match the time of day, activity, or mood. This granular control is crucial for creating comfortable and functional lighting environments, whether you need bright light for reading or a soft glow for relaxation.

Color Control and Customization

For color-changing smart lights, the app's color selection interface is paramount. Look for an intuitive color wheel or palette that makes it easy to select from millions of colors. Advanced apps might also offer color temperature adjustments (warm to cool white) and the ability to save your favorite custom colors or color combinations for quick access. This feature is key to setting ambiance for various occasions.

Scene Creation and Management

The ability to create and save personalized lighting "scenes" is a powerful feature. A scene can encompass specific colors, brightness levels, and even dynamic effects for multiple lights. For example, you could create a "Movie Night" scene that dims the main lights and sets accent lights to a warm hue. Easy access to these pre-programmed scenes allows for instant mood setting.

Scheduling and Automation

Scheduling is a cornerstone of smart lighting control. An effective app allows you to set lights to turn on or off at specific times, on particular days of the week, or even based on sunrise and sunset. Automation takes this a step further by allowing lights to respond to other events, such as motion detection or the status of other smart devices. This can enhance security, convenience, and energy

efficiency.

Grouping and Zone Control

For homes with many smart lights, the ability to group them is essential. You can group lights by room (e.g., "Living Room Lights") or by function (e.g., "Accent Lights"). This allows you to control all lights within a group simultaneously, saving time and simplifying management. Zone control offers even finer-grained management within larger areas.

Remote Access

A crucial feature for any smart home device is remote access, and smart lights are no exception. This means being able to control your lights from anywhere in the world with an internet connection, not just when you're within Bluetooth or Wi-Fi range of your home. This is invaluable for security, convenience, and ensuring lights are off when you're away.

Voice Assistant Integration

Seamless integration with popular voice assistants like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple's Siri is a major convenience factor. This allows you to control your lights using simple voice commands, such as "Alexa, turn on the kitchen lights" or "Hey Google, set the living room lights to blue."

Types of Smart Light Control Apps

The landscape of smart light control applications can be broadly categorized into a few distinct types, each offering a different approach to managing your connected lighting. Understanding these categories can help you determine which best fits your existing smart home setup and personal preferences.

Manufacturer-Specific Apps

These are the applications developed and provided by the manufacturers of the smart light bulbs or fixtures themselves. Brands like Philips Hue, LIFX, Wyze, and Govee all offer their own dedicated apps. These apps typically provide the most comprehensive control over their specific product lines, often unlocking the full range of features, advanced settings, and firmware updates unique to that brand's hardware. They are generally the most stable and feature-rich for a given brand.

Third-Party Universal Control Apps

These apps aim to provide a unified control interface for smart devices from multiple manufacturers. This is particularly useful if you have smart lights from different brands or want to integrate lighting control with other smart home devices like plugs, thermostats, or cameras. Examples might include

apps that support protocols like Matter, or those that leverage APIs from various smart home platforms. While they can offer convenience by reducing the number of apps you need, they might not always expose every single advanced feature of every device.

Smart Home Hub Apps

If you use a dedicated smart home hub device, such as those from Samsung SmartThings or Hubitat, their associated apps often include robust capabilities for controlling connected smart lights. These hub apps act as a central aggregator, allowing you to manage lights alongside a wide array of other compatible smart devices. They often provide powerful automation and integration possibilities, linking lighting to the behavior of other smart gadgets in your home.

Platform-Specific Apps (e.g., Google Home, Apple HomeKit)

Major smart home ecosystems like Google Home and Apple HomeKit have their own apps that allow for the control of compatible smart lights. Devices that are certified for these platforms can be added to the respective apps, offering a standardized way to control them. This is excellent for users who are heavily invested in a particular ecosystem, as it integrates lighting control seamlessly with other Apple or Google devices and services.

Choosing the Right App for Your Smart Lights

Selecting the optimal app to control your smart lights involves considering several factors related to your existing setup, technical comfort level, and desired functionality. A well-chosen app can significantly enhance your smart lighting experience, while a mismatched one can lead to frustration. Here's a structured approach to making the right choice.

Assess Your Existing Smart Devices

The first and most crucial step is to identify the brand and model of your smart lights. If you primarily use lights from one manufacturer, their dedicated app will likely be the most straightforward and feature-complete option. If you have a mixed collection of brands, you might lean towards a third-party universal app or a smart home hub that supports multiple protocols and brands.

Consider Your Smart Home Ecosystem

Are you deeply integrated into the Google Home, Apple HomeKit, or Amazon Alexa ecosystem? If so, prioritizing apps that offer excellent integration with these platforms will provide the most seamless experience. Being able to control your lights through your preferred voice assistant and within its native app is a significant convenience.

Evaluate Required Features

Make a list of the features that are most important to you. Do you need advanced color customization, complex scheduling, or integration with other smart devices for elaborate automations? Some apps excel in specific areas. For instance, Philips Hue's app is renowned for its extensive scene creation and syncing capabilities with entertainment systems.

User Interface and Ease of Use

A well-designed app should be intuitive and easy to navigate. Spend some time researching reviews and looking at screenshots or videos of the app's interface. A cluttered or confusing interface can detract from the enjoyment of your smart lights, regardless of the features it offers. Simplicity and clarity are key, especially for less tech-savvy users.

Compatibility and Support

Ensure that the app you choose is compatible with your specific smart light models and your mobile operating system (iOS or Android). Also, consider the developer's commitment to updates and customer support. Regular updates often bring new features, security patches, and improved stability.

Explore Advanced Functionality

If you're looking for more than just basic on/off control, investigate apps that offer advanced features like geofencing (lights react when you enter or leave an area), music synchronization, or integration with IFTTT (If This Then That) for custom applet creation. These can elevate your smart lighting from functional to truly magical.

Advanced Smart Lighting Control

Beyond the basic functions of dimming and color selection, sophisticated apps to control smart lights offer advanced capabilities that can transform your home into a truly dynamic and responsive environment. These features cater to users who want to automate their lighting, integrate it deeply into their daily routines, and create truly personalized experiences.

Geofencing and Location-Based Automation

Geofencing allows your smart lights to react based on your location. For example, lights can automatically turn on as you approach your home after dark, or turn off when the last person leaves the house. This hands-free automation adds a layer of convenience and security, ensuring your home is always lit when you need it to be and saving energy when you don't.

Dynamic Lighting Effects and Animations

Many apps now support dynamic lighting effects, which go beyond static colors. These can include simulated candlelight flickering, rainbow effects, syncing with music to pulse and change colors to the beat, or even creating ambient lighting that mimics the colors on your TV screen for an immersive viewing experience. These effects are perfect for setting specific moods for parties, relaxation, or entertainment.

Integration with Other Smart Home Devices and Platforms

The true power of smart lighting is often realized when it's integrated with other smart home devices. This can be achieved through apps that support platforms like IFTTT, or through direct integrations with smart home hubs. For instance, you could set up an automation where your smart lights turn red if a smoke detector is triggered, or have them flash a certain color when a smart doorbell detects motion. This creates a more interconnected and responsive smart home.

Energy Monitoring and Management

Some advanced apps offer features for monitoring energy consumption of your smart lights. This can help you identify which lights are using the most power and provide insights into how to optimize your lighting for energy efficiency. Combined with scheduling and remote access, this feature can contribute to lower electricity bills.

Customizable Routines and Workflows

Sophisticated apps enable the creation of highly customizable routines or workflows that combine multiple actions. You can build complex sequences, such as a "Good Morning" routine that gradually brightens your bedroom lights, turns on a smart coffee maker, and plays a news briefing. This level of personalization allows you to tailor your smart home to your exact lifestyle.

Troubleshooting Common App Issues

Even with the most advanced technology, you might occasionally encounter issues with your app to control smart lights. Understanding common problems and their solutions can save you time and frustration. Most issues are resolved with simple troubleshooting steps that address connectivity, app, or device-specific glitches.

Connectivity Problems

The most frequent issue is the inability of the app to connect to your smart lights. This is often due to Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connectivity problems. Ensure your phone or tablet is connected to the same Wi-Fi network as your smart lights, or that Bluetooth is enabled and within range. Restarting your router, your smart lights, and your mobile device can often resolve temporary network glitches.

App Not Responding or Crashing

If the app becomes unresponsive or crashes, try force-closing it and reopening it. If the problem persists, check if there's an update available for the app in your device's app store. Sometimes, clearing the app's cache (on Android devices) or uninstalling and reinstalling the app can resolve deeper software conflicts.

Lights Not Updating or Following Commands

If your lights aren't responding as expected, verify that they are powered on at the wall switch. Also, check the app to ensure the lights are properly paired and connected. Sometimes, a simple power cycle of the individual smart light bulb (turning it off and on at the switch) can reset its connection and resolve the issue. If you have many lights, ensure your Wi-Fi network has sufficient bandwidth.

Issues with Schedules or Automations

If scheduled events or automations aren't triggering, double-check the settings within the app. Ensure the correct time zone is selected and that the schedules are enabled. For complex automations, ensure all conditions are met and that there are no conflicting rules set up.

Firmware Updates Not Installing

Smart lights often receive firmware updates to improve performance and add features. If an update fails, ensure your device has a stable internet connection and sufficient battery life if it's a portable device. Try initiating the update again, and if it continues to fail, consult the manufacturer's support resources for specific guidance.

The Future of Smart Light Control Applications

The evolution of apps to control smart lights is far from over. As smart home technology continues to advance, we can anticipate even more intuitive, integrated, and intelligent control applications. The focus will likely shift towards more predictive and adaptive lighting experiences that require minimal user intervention.

One major area of development is the continued expansion of interoperability standards like Matter. This emerging standard aims to make it easier for devices from different manufacturers to communicate with each other seamlessly. Future apps will likely leverage Matter to offer a truly unified control experience for all your smart home devices, including lighting, regardless of brand. This will significantly reduce the fragmentation that currently exists in the smart home market.

Furthermore, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are poised to play a larger role. Imagine apps that learn your lighting preferences and habits over time, automatically adjusting lights to create the perfect ambiance without you having to lift a finger. AI could anticipate your needs based on the time of day, your activity, or even your mood, offering personalized lighting experiences

that are both proactive and context-aware. This could extend to features like lighting that subtly shifts to improve focus during work periods or promote relaxation in the evening.

We also expect to see deeper integration with other smart technologies. This might include lighting that syncs more sophisticatedly with entertainment systems, security cameras, or even health and wellness devices. For example, lighting could adapt to promote better sleep hygiene or enhance focus for specific tasks. The ultimate goal is to create lighting systems that are not just controllable, but truly responsive and beneficial to our well-being and daily lives, all managed through increasingly intelligent and user-friendly applications.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary benefit of using an app to control smart lights?

A: The primary benefit is gaining granular control over your home's illumination beyond simple on/off functionality. This includes adjusting brightness, changing colors, setting schedules, creating custom scenes, and controlling lights remotely, leading to enhanced ambiance, convenience, and energy efficiency.

Q: Do I need a separate app for each brand of smart lights I own?

A: Not necessarily. While manufacturer-specific apps offer the most features for their own products, third-party universal control apps and smart home hub apps can often consolidate control for multiple brands, offering a more unified experience.

Q: Can I control my smart lights when I'm not at home?

A: Yes, most modern apps to control smart lights offer remote access. As long as your lights and your mobile device are connected to the internet, you can control them from virtually anywhere in the world.

Q: How do smart light apps help with energy saving?

A: Apps enable energy saving through features like scheduling lights to turn off automatically when not needed, dimming lights to reduce power consumption, and remote access to turn off lights that were accidentally left on. Some apps also provide energy monitoring data.

Q: What are "scenes" in the context of smart light apps?

A: Scenes are pre-programmed settings for your smart lights that can include specific colors, brightness levels, and dynamic effects for one or multiple lights. You can activate a scene with a single tap or voice command to instantly change the mood of a room, such as a "Movie Night" scene

or a "Reading" scene.

Q: How does voice control work with smart light apps?

A: Many smart light apps integrate with voice assistants like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Apple's Siri. Once linked, you can use voice commands through your smart speaker or phone to turn lights on/off, adjust brightness, change colors, or activate scenes.

Q: What is geofencing for smart lights?

A: Geofencing uses your smartphone's location to trigger actions for your smart lights. For example, lights can automatically turn on when you arrive home or turn off when you leave, providing convenience and security without manual input.

Q: Are smart light apps compatible with all smartphones?

A: Most smart light apps are designed to be compatible with both iOS and Android smartphones and tablets. However, it's always best to check the app's system requirements in your device's app store before downloading.

Q: What are dynamic lighting effects?

A: Dynamic lighting effects go beyond static colors and can include features like simulated candlelight, pulsating colors, rainbow effects, or syncing with music. These effects are often managed through the smart light app to create more immersive and engaging ambiances.

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Navneet Singh, Chapter 1: Introduction to Milight 2.0 What is Milight 2.0? Overview of Milight as a brand Key features and improvements in version 2.0 The evolution from earlier versions to 2.0 Why Choose Milight 2.0? Benefits of smart lighting Energy efficiency and environmental impact Easy installation and setup Chapter 2: Understanding the Milight Ecosystem The Core Components Bulbs (RGBW, Tunable White, etc.) Remotes and Controllers Hub (if applicable) and app integrations Milight Protocols and Communication Radio Frequency (RF) and Wi-Fi connection The role of the Milight bridge or hub in communication How Milight 2.0 enhances these protocols Chapter 3: Setting Up Your Milight 2.0 System Unboxing and Initial Setup How to unbox and prepare your Milight 2.0 system Installation of bulbs and controllers Connecting the system to power Connecting

to Your Wi-Fi and App How to set up the Milight app Pairing bulbs with the app Troubleshooting common issues during setup Chapter 4: Exploring the Milight 2.0 Features Color Control and Customization Adjusting RGB colors, dimming, and scenes Creating custom color schemes for various moods or events Exploring the White range for temperature adjustments Scheduling and Automation How to schedule lights based on time, events, or triggers Integrating Milight with other smart home systems (Google Assistant, Alexa, etc.) Setting up automation via apps like SmartThings or IFTTT Chapter 5: Advanced Controls and Settings Voice Control Integration Linking Milight with Alexa, Google Assistant, or other voice assistants Setting up voice commands for on/off, color change, and brightness control Multi-Room and Grouping How to set up multiple zones or rooms for smart lighting control Creating lighting groups for better synchronization Color Scenes and Effects Using dynamic color-changing effects like fade, flash, or strobe Creating ambiance for different activities (e.g., movie nights, parties) Chapter 6: Troubleshooting and Maintenance Common Issues and Solutions Troubleshooting connectivity problems Resolving issues with the app or remote control Maintaining Your Milight System Ensuring long lifespan for bulbs and controllers How to reset devices and restore factory settings Chapter 7: The Future of Milight and Smart Lighting Upcoming Features and Upgrades What to expect in future Milight updates or product releases New integration possibilities with evolving smart home technologies Trends in Smart Lighting The rise of AI and machine learning in lighting How smart lighting is transforming home environments and lifestyle Chapter 8: Conclusion Making the Most of Your Milight 2.0 System Final tips for getting the most out of your smart lighting experience Ways to stay updated with the latest developments in the Milight ecosystem

app to control smart lights: *My Smart Home for Seniors* Michael R. Miller, 2017-06-19 Winner, Bronze Award, APEX 2018 and 2018 INDIES Book of the Year Honorable Mention/Health This full-color introduction to the smart home has been written from the ground up with one audience in mind: seniors. No ordinary beginner's book, *My Smart Home for Seniors* approaches every topic from a 50+ person's point of view, using meaningful, realistic examples. Full-color, step-by-step tasks-in legible print-walk you through making your home safer and easier to live in using smart technology. Learn how to: • Control your home's lighting with smart bulbs and switches • Make your home more secure with smart doorbells, door locks, and security cameras • Automatically control your home's temperature with a smart thermostat • Make cooking and cleaning easier with smart appliances • Use voice commands or your smart phone to control your smart devices • Use If This Then That (IFTTT) to make your smart devices interact with each other automatically • Get smart about the security and privacy concerns of smart devices • Set up your smart devices and get them to work with one another • Compare and select the best smart hub for your smart home needs • Learn to use Amazon Alexa™, Google Home™ and other voice-activated devices, as well as Apple's HomeKit™ on the iPhone, to make your smart devices work together

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app to control smart lights: IoT Fundamentals with a Practical Approach Neera Batra, Sonali Goyal, 2024-08-19 *IoT Fundamentals with a Practical Approach* is an insightful book that serves as a comprehensive guide to understanding the foundations and key concepts of Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. The book begins by introducing readers to the concept of IoT, explaining the significance and potential impact on various industries and domains. It covers the underlying principles of IoT, including its architecture, connectivity, and communication protocols, providing readers with a solid understanding of how IoT systems are structured and how devices interact within an IoT ecosystem. This book dives into the crucial components that form the backbone of IoT systems. It explores sensors and actuators, explaining their roles in collecting and transmitting data from the physical environment. The book also covers electronic components used in IoT devices, such as microcontrollers, communication modules, and power management circuits. This comprehensive understanding of the building blocks of IoT allows readers to grasp the technical aspects involved in developing IoT solutions. Security is a vital aspect of IoT, and the book dedicates a significant portion to exploring security challenges and best practices in IoT deployments. It delves

into topics such as authentication, encryption, access control, and secure firmware updates, providing readers with essential insights into safeguarding IoT systems against potential threats and vulnerabilities. This book also addresses the scalability and interoperability challenges of IoT. It discusses IoT platforms and frameworks that facilitate the development and management of IoT applications, highlighting their role in enabling seamless integration and communication between devices and systems. The book is written in a clear and accessible manner and includes real-world examples, making it suitable for both beginners and professionals looking to enhance their understanding of IoT. It serves as a valuable resource for engineers, developers, researchers, and decision-makers involved in IoT projects and provides them with the knowledge and tools necessary to design, implement, and secure IoT solutions.

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app to control smart lights: Circadian Lighting Design in the LED Era Maurizio Rossi, 2019-02-06 This book explores how lighting systems based on LED sources have the ability to positively influence the human circadian system, with benefits for health and well-being. The opening chapters examine the functioning of the human circadian system, its response to artificial lighting, potential health impacts of different types of light exposure, and current researches in circadian photometry. A first case study analyzes the natural lighting available in an urban interior, concluding that it is unable to activate the human circadian system over the entire year. Important original research is then described in which systems suitable for artificial circadian lighting in residential interiors and offices were developed after testing of new design paradigms based on LED sources. Readers will also find a detailed analysis of the LED products available or under development globally that may contribute to optimal artificial circadian lighting, as well as the environmental sensors, control interfaces, and monitoring systems suitable for integration with new LED lighting systems. Finally, guidelines for circadian lighting design are proposed, with identification of key requirements.

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structure Comprehensive explorations of entrances and circulation spaces, including foyer and entry areas, vertical movement, and electrical and mechanical considerations Practical discussions of bedrooms, leisure spaces, utility, and workspaces An overview of human behavior and culture related to housing Updates made to reflect changes in the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC) The latest edition of Residential Interior Design: A Guide to Planning Spaces is ideal for instructors and students in interior design programs that include interior design, residential design, or residential interior architecture courses. This edition provides updated content related to CIDA standards in human centered design, regulations and guidelines, global context, construction, environmental systems, and human wellbeing. It's also an indispensable resource for anyone preparing for the NCIDQ, the interior design qualification exam.

app to control smart lights: The Ultimate Modern Guide To The Internet Of Things (IoT) Enamul Haque, 2022-12-18 The Ultimate Modern Guide To The Internet Of Things is a book that explores the world of IoT and its impact on our lives and businesses. This book covers the latest technological trends, such as digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality, and how they drive businesses to become more competitive. It highlights how the Internet of Things is the frontier of the digital revolution, improving productivity, reducing costs, and bringing new products and services to consumers. The book provides insights into how IoT is changing the way we do business, work, and communicate with each other. It explains how IoT can lead to better inventory management, manufacturing processes, and delivery times in a smart factory. It also showcases real-life examples of IoT transforming industries like healthcare and hospitality with remote diagnosis and personalised guest experiences. This book is a comprehensive guide to understanding the inside out of IoT and everything relevant to it, from connecting devices to creating human value. It covers everything from the basics of digital transformation and artificial intelligence to the complex integration and security requirements for the full implementation of IoT. Whether you're a business owner or an IoT enthusiast, this book will take you on a journey to discover the potential of the Internet of Things and how it can shape our future.

app to control smart lights: Web, Artificial Intelligence and Network Applications Leonard Barolli, Flora Amato, Francesco Moscato, Tomoya Enokido, Makoto Takizawa, 2020-03-30 This proceedings book presents the latest research findings, and theoretical and practical perspectives on innovative methods and development techniques related to the emerging areas of Web computing, intelligent systems and Internet computing. The Web has become an important source of information, and techniques and methodologies that extract quality information are of paramount importance for many Web and Internet applications. Data mining and knowledge discovery play a key role in many of today's major Web applications, such as e-commerce and computer security. Moreover, Web services provide a new platform for enabling service-oriented systems. The emergence of large-scale distributed computing paradigms, such as cloud computing and mobile computing systems, has opened many opportunities for collaboration services, which are at the core of any information system. Artificial intelligence (AI) is an area of computer science that builds intelligent systems and algorithms that work and react like humans. AI techniques and computational intelligence are powerful tools for learning, adaptation, reasoning and planning, and they have the potential to become enabling technologies for future intelligent networks. Research in the field of intelligent systems, robotics, neuroscience, artificial intelligence and cognitive sciences is vital for the future development and innovation of Web and Internet applications. Chapter An Event-Driven Multi Agent System for Scalable Traffic Optimization is available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License via link.springer.com.

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