

Driver's Guide
for the
CRATE TAXI
TX-30
battery powered amplifier



Now Sound Really Does Travel!

CRATE TAXI • TX-30

CONGRATULATIONS!

You are now the proud owner of the Crate TX-30 battery powered amplifier. At last, you can take your music with you and have great tone on the road. Not only is the TX-30 compact and portable, it also sports two separate channels and the incredible sound that has made Crate a household name among musicians.

Your Crate amplifier is musician-made in the U.S.A. using the finest components available. Each unit is rigorously tested by skilled technicians and musicians to ensure that your amplifier is the best it can be!

In order to get the most out of your new amplifier, we strongly urge you to go over the information contained in this manual before you begin playing.

And Thank You for choosing **CRATE**.

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 CAUTION RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK DO NOT OPEN	 ATTENTION RISQUE D'ELECTROCUTION NE PAS OUVRIR	 VORSICHT ELEKTRISCHE SCHLAGEGFAHR NICHT OFFENEN
CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.	ATTENTION: POUR REDUIRE DELECTROCUTION NE PAS ENLEVER LE COUVERCLE. AUCUNE PIECE INTERNE N'EST REPARABLE PAR L'UTILISATEUR. POUR TOUTE REPARATION, S'ADRESSER A UN TECHNICIEN QUALIFIE.	VORSICHT: ZUR MINIMIERUNG ELEKTRISCHER SCHLAGEGFAHR NICHT DEN DECKEL ABNEMMEN. INTERNE TEILE KONNEN NICHT VOM BENUTZER GEWARTET WERDEN. DIE WARTUNG IS QUALIFIZIERTEM WARTUNGSPERSONAL ZU UBERLASSEN.

THIS EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN DESIGNED AND ENGINEERED TO PROVIDE SAFE AND RELIABLE OPERATION. IN ORDER TO PROLONG THE LIFE OF THE UNIT AND PREVENT ACCIDENTAL DAMAGES OR INJURY, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE PRECAUTIONARY GUIDELINES:

CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT OPEN CHASSIS; DO NOT DEFEAT OR REMOVE THE GROUND PIN OF THE POWER CORD; CONNECT ONLY TO A PROPERLY GROUNDED AC POWER OUTLET.

WARNING: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS EQUIPMENT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.

WARNING: WHEN USING TALL OR STACKED SPEAKER CABINETS, USE THEN **ONLY** ON A LEVEL SURFACE. **NEVER** SET TALL OR STACKED CABINETS ON A SURFACE WITH MORE THAN A FIVE DEGREE INCLINE SINCE TIPPING OR FALLING COULD OCCUR, POSSIBLY CAUSING SERIOUS INJURIES.

CAUTION: NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.

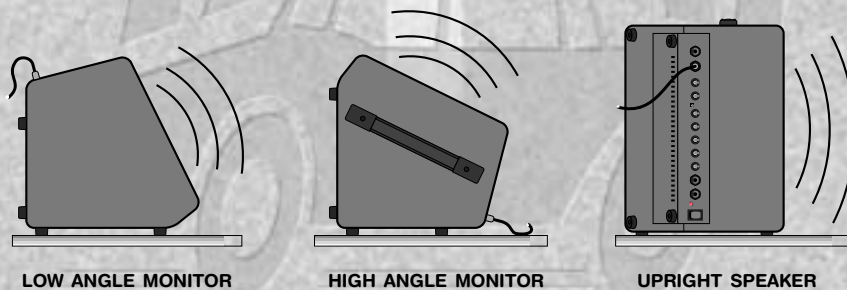
CAUTION: THIS UNIT IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS. CONTINUED EXPOSURE TO HIGH SOUND PRESSURE LEVELS CAN CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING IMPAIRMENT OR LOSS. USER CAUTION IS ADVISED, AND EAR PROTECTION RECOMMENDED IF UNIT IS OPERATED AT HIGH VOLUME.

EXPLANATION OF GRAPHICAL SYMBOLS:	 = "DANGEROUS VOLTAGE" "DANGER HAUTE TENSION" "GEFAHLICHE SPANNUNG"	 = "IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE USER TO REFER TO THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL" "REFERREZ-VOUS AU MANUAL D'UTILISATION" "UNBEDINGT IN DER BETRIEBUNGSANLEITUNG NACHSCHLAGEN!"
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CRATE TAXI • TX-30

FEATURES:

- Two separate channels for a wide variety of uses
- Insert jack for connecting external effects or for adding a third input
- Headphones jack for silent operation
- Internal rechargeable power supply for up to 8 hours of normal playing time, 2 hours at full output – fully recharges within 6 hours (when battery is fully discharged; shorter if partially charged)
- Can also be powered by an AC wall adapter (supplied) or by a 12 volt vehicle cigarette lighter adapter (optional – see page 5)
- Two-color battery status LED – red indicates low battery, yellow indicates battery okay
- Tuned port cabinet for extended bass response; 8” woofer and Piezo tweeter for full range sound with clear highs
- Durable high-visibility safety yellow or low-profile black Tolex® covering
- Complete set of rubber feet on three different sides – for positioning as a low angle monitor, a high angle monitor or as an upright speaker (see below)



LOW ANGLE MONITOR

HIGH ANGLE MONITOR

UPRIGHT SPEAKER

CRATE TAXI • TX-30

ABOUT THE POWER SUPPLY:

The TX-30 uses a sealed lead-acid 12-volt battery as its internal power source. Unlike ni-cad batteries, this battery has no “memory” – it can be fully recharged at any time, without damage to the battery.

When fully charged, the LED next to the power switch will glow yellow with the switch at the on (“I”) position. The LED will change to red when the battery is low and needs recharging. When this happens, turn the amp off, connect the 15-volt charger to the charger jack and plug it in. The LED near the charger jack will glow red while the amp is charging and goes out when the amp is fully charged. The battery fully recharges within 6 hours, providing up to 8 hours of use at low levels, about 4 hours of use at moderate levels, and about 2 hours of use at continuous full power (sine wave). The battery is rated for up to 1000 charging cycles. The charger can also function as an AC power supply.

The battery inside the TX-30 must be fully charged before operating the amplifier for the first time. Even though the amplifier leaves our factory with a charged battery, time spent in shipping may cause the battery to lose some of its charge.

**WARNING! Never connect the supplied 15VAC charger to the amplifier’s 12VDC Cigarette Lighter Adapter jack!
Damage to the amplifier may occur!**

NOTE: If the battery is drained too low, the Power LED will go out. This indicates an exhausted battery – one which may not take a charge. If this happens, turn the amp off, connect the 15-volt charger to the charger jack and plug it in. If the Charger LED (see #15, page 7) doesn’t come on, the battery might be beyond recharging. (The TX-30 uses a “smart” charging circuit and will not allow you to charge a defective battery.) If the battery is serviceable, the LED will glow once the battery reaches 10 volts – leave the charger plugged in and let the battery fully recharge. If the LED never comes on, the battery may need replacing. Contact Crate’s service department:

SLM Electronics
1901 Congressional Drive
St. Louis, MO 63146
1-800-738-PARTS (7563)

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ABOUT THE POWER SUPPLY (continued):

The TX-30 may also be powered by using a 12-volt vehicle cigarette lighter adapter, available at most electronic supply stores. Make certain that the polarity on the adapter matches what is shown below.



Connect the small round end of the adapter to the 12VDC Cigarette Lighter Adapter jack (#16, page 7), then plug the other end of the adapter into the vehicle's cigarette lighter socket. (In some vehicles, the ignition switch must be in the "on" or "accessory" position to have power at the socket.) **NEVER PLUG THE SUPPLIED 15VAC CHARGER INTO THE AMPLIFIER'S 12VDC LIGHTER PLUG!**

When using the a lighter adapter, the vehicle's battery will keep the amp charged to its voltage level – if the battery has a 13.5-volt charge, the amp will charge up to 13.5 volts; if the battery is low and only has a 10-volt charge, the amp will discharge down to 10 volts.

CAUTION! The TX-30 contains a sealed, rechargeable, lead-acid battery. Improper disposal of battery or replacement with any other type may cause leakage, explosion, and/or injury. See page 4 for additional information. Also, refer to product warranty information.

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THE FRONT PANEL:



1. **INPUT 1:** Connect an instrument, tape/CD player or microphone here using a shielded signal cable (see pages 8 & 9). Use the Tone and Level controls (#3 & 4) to adjust this channel.

2. **INPUT 2:** Connect an instrument, tape/CD player or microphone here using a shielded signal cable (see pages 8 & 9). Use the Gain, EQ and Level controls (#6 - 10) to adjust this channel. This high-Z input accepts a wide range of signals, from Piezo to line-level.

3. **LEVEL:** Adjust the Input 1 output volume with this control. When using devices such as a CD or tape player, a rhythm machine, etc., use this control along with the output volume control of the device to achieve a good volume balance between the Input 1 and Input 2 signals.

4. **TONE:** Adjust the midrange frequencies for the Input 1 signal with this control.

5. **GAIN SELECT:** This switch pads the Input 2 signal just before the Gain control (#6), allowing you to get two different sounds from the same control settings - clean sounds with the switch "out"; dirty sounds with the switch "in". (As a general rule, leave this switch "out" for use with acoustic instruments.)

6. **GAIN:** With the Gain Select switch (#5) "out" this control can add a lot of crunch to the Input 2 signal. With the switch pressed "in" this control can add lots of overdrive distortion when turned up. Use the Gain control along with the Level control (#10) to get the right sound at the volume you need.

7. **LOW:** Adjust the level of the low frequencies for the Input 2 signal with this control. For less

bass, turn the control counterclockwise; for more bass, turn the control clockwise. At higher playing levels it is sometimes helpful to turn the low control down a bit.

8. **MID:** Adjust the level of the midrange frequencies for the Input 2 signal with this control.

9. **HIGH:** Adjust the level of the high frequencies for the Input 2 signal with this control.

10. **LEVEL:** Adjust the Input 2 output volume with this control. Use this control along with the Gain Select and Gain control (#5 & 6) to get the volume you need and the right sound.

11. **INSERT:** Connect an external effects device (reverb, chorus, etc.) to the amplifier using the Insert jack (see page 6). The jack is a standard stereo 1/4" jack and is wired as follows:

Tip = Line In (Return - from effect's output)

Ring = Line Out (Send - to effect's input)

Sleeve = Ground

The Insert jack can also be used as a third input - see "Idea 4" on page 9.

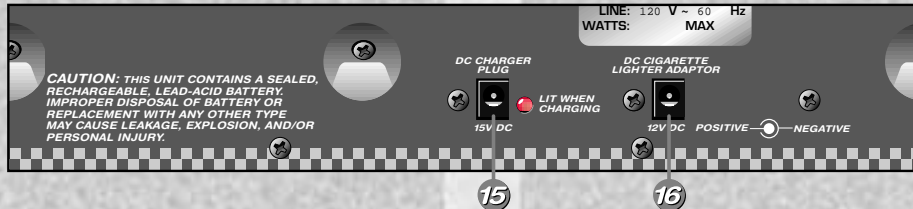
12. **HEADPHONES:** Plug a pair of stereo headphones into this jack for a private practice session. The speakers are disconnected when headphones are used.

13. **LED:** This LED glows yellow when the power switch is at the on position - when the amp is fully charged. The LED glows red when the battery needs recharging.

14. **POWER:** Turn the amp on and off with this switch. The "on" position is marked with a small white line.

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THE REAR PANEL:



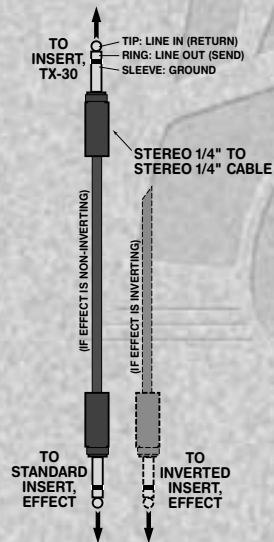
15. DC CHARGER PLUG, 15VDC: Plug the small round connector of the supplied AC wall adapter into this jack to charge the internal battery. The LED next to the jack glows red when the amp is charging. See page 4 for additional information.

16. DC CIGARETTE LIGHTER ADAPTER, 12 VDC: Plug the small round connector of the optional 12-volt car adapter into this jack to play the amplifier from a vehicle, without using the internal battery. NEVER connect the supplied 15-volt charger to this jack! See page 4 for additional information.

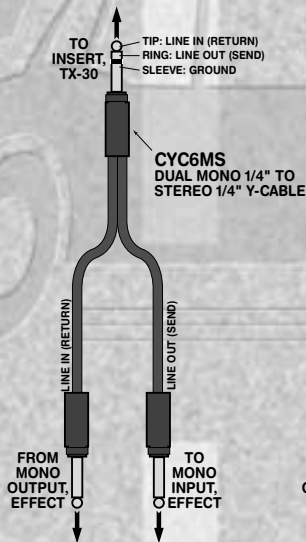
ABOUT THE INSERT JACK:

The Insert jack (#11) lets you patch external effects into the amplifier just prior to its power amp stage, as shown below. Set the mix controls on the external effects units to "full effect" (100% wet).

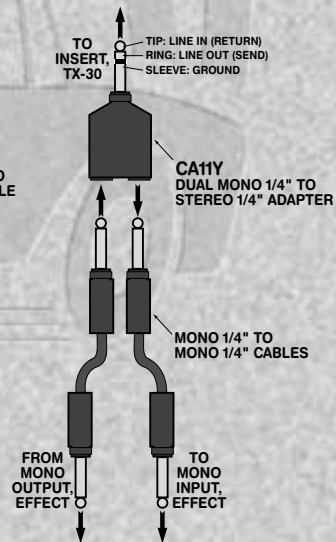
Connecting to the effect's insert jack with a stereo cable:



Connecting to the effect with a stereo-to-mono Y-cable:



Connecting to the effect with a stereo-to-mono adapter and cables:



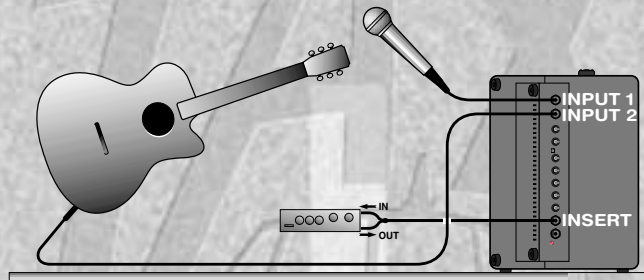
The Insert jack can also serve as a third input, using ONLY the tip and sleeve connections to feed a mono signal into the amp. The signal may need to be attenuated at the source to mix with Inputs 1 and 2. (See "Idea 4" on page 9.)

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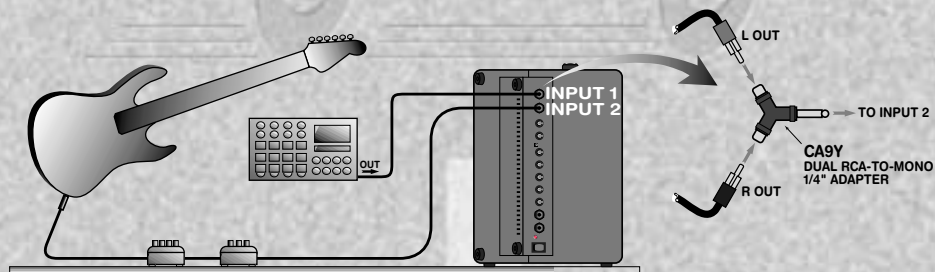
SUGGESTED SET-UPS:

The TX-30 can be used in a variety of different ways, some of which are shown below and on the following page. Use these ideas to fuel your imagination for the setup which best suits your needs.

Idea 1 – Play and sing, with effects: Plug a mic into Input 1 and an instrument (acoustic or electric guitar, keyboard) into Input 2. (This high-Z input works with all types of pickups, from Piezo to active types.) To connect the effects device, choose one of the methods shown on page 7. (Note that the effect is applied equally to Input 1 and Input 2.)



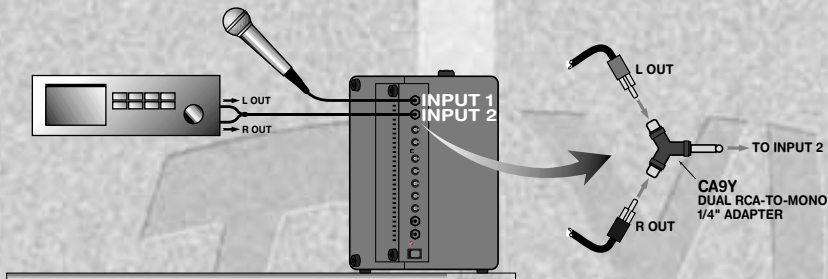
Idea 2 – Play along: Plug a rhythm machine, CD player or tape player into Input 1 and an instrument (acoustic or electric guitar or a keyboard) into Input 2. The outputs of a CD/tape player must be summed to a mono signal with a 1/4" plug, as shown.



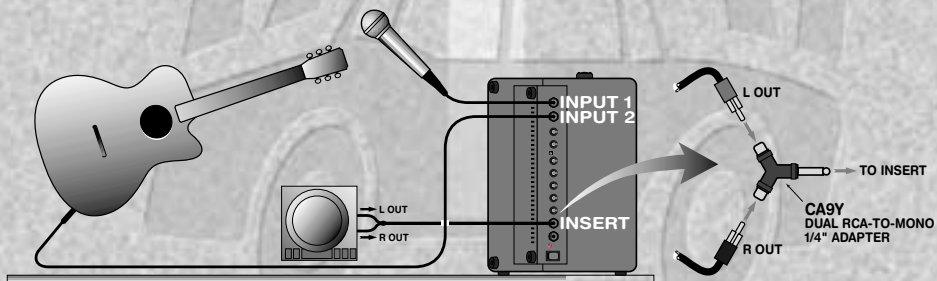
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SUGGESTED SET-UPS (continued):

Idea 3 – Sing along: Plug a mic into Input 1 and a CD or tape player into Input 2. The outputs of the CD/tape player must be summed to a mono signal with a 1/4" plug, as shown.



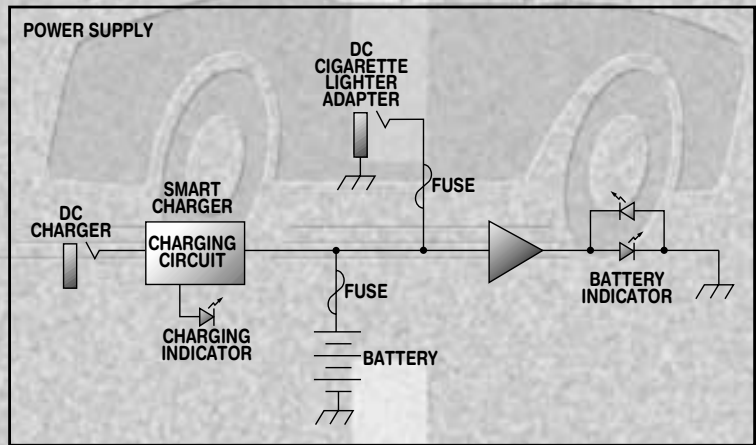
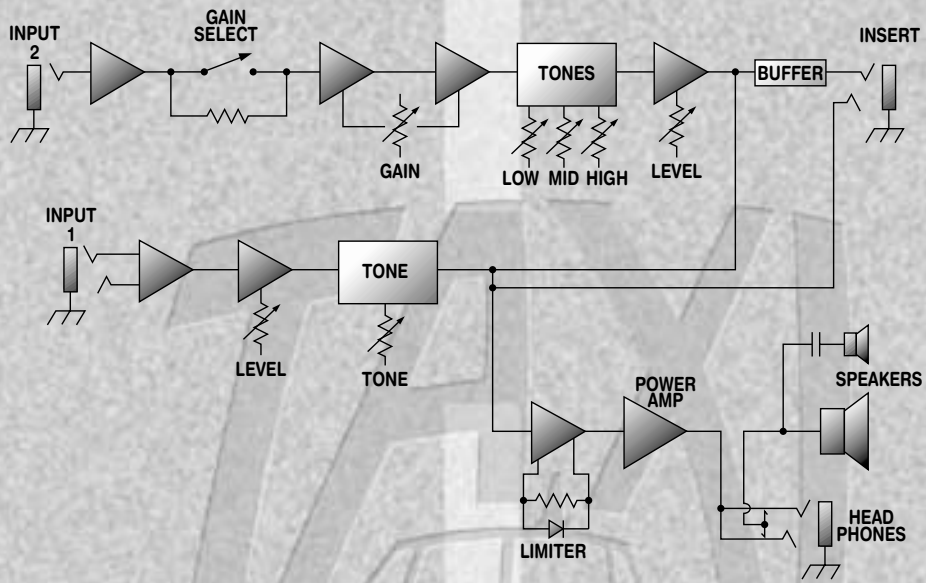
Idea 4 – Play and sing along: Plug a mic into Input 1, an instrument (acoustic or electric guitar, keyboard) into Input 2, and a rhythm machine, CD player or tape player into the Insert jack. The outputs of the CD/tape player must be summed to a mono signal with a 1/4" plug, as shown.



IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE: When using the Insert jack as a third input, NEVER connect a stereo 1/4" plug to the source! Always sum the outputs of a stereo source to a mono 1/4" plug, as shown above.

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SYSTEM BLOCK DIAGRAM:



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USER'S NOTES:



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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

OUTPUT POWER RATING		30W RMS @ 10% THD, 8 ohms, 13.6VDC in
INPUT IMPEDANCE		1M ohm
MAXIMUM SIGNAL ACCEPTED		
	Channel 1	6V peak to peak
	Channel 2	12V peak to peak
GAIN		
	Channel 1	64dB
	Channel 2	56dB w/Gain switch out 86dB w/Gain switch in
SENSITIVITY		
	Channel 1	9mV RMS
	Channel 2	20mV RMS w/Gain switch out .7mV RMS w/Gain switch in
	Line In Insert	.3V RMS
TONE, CHANNEL 1		+/-15dB @ 600Hz
EQS, CHANNEL 2		
	Low	12.5dB range @ 80Hz
	Mid	18dB range @ 850Hz
	High	13dB @ 6kHz
INSERT JACK		
	Tip	Line In
	Ring	Line Out
	Sleeve	Ground
SPEAKERS		
	Woofers	Crate Custom Design 8", 8 ohm, 50 watt 1" voice coil
	Tweeter	2" Piezo , 8 ohm, 50 watt
POWER REQUIREMENTS		Internal 12 volt DC power supply DC adapter for use with 120VAC Optional 12V vehicle lighter adapter
SIZE AND WEIGHT		14-1/2"W x 11-3/4"H x 12"D; 20 lbs.

The TX-30 is covered with a durable Tolex® material. To keep the cabinet in top condition, wipe it clean with a damp, lint-free cloth to remove dirt and road film. Never spray cleaning agents directly onto the cabinet, and stay away from abrasive cleansers which could damage the finish.

Crate continually develops new products, as well as improves existing ones. For this reason, the specifications and information in this manual are subject to change without notice.



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