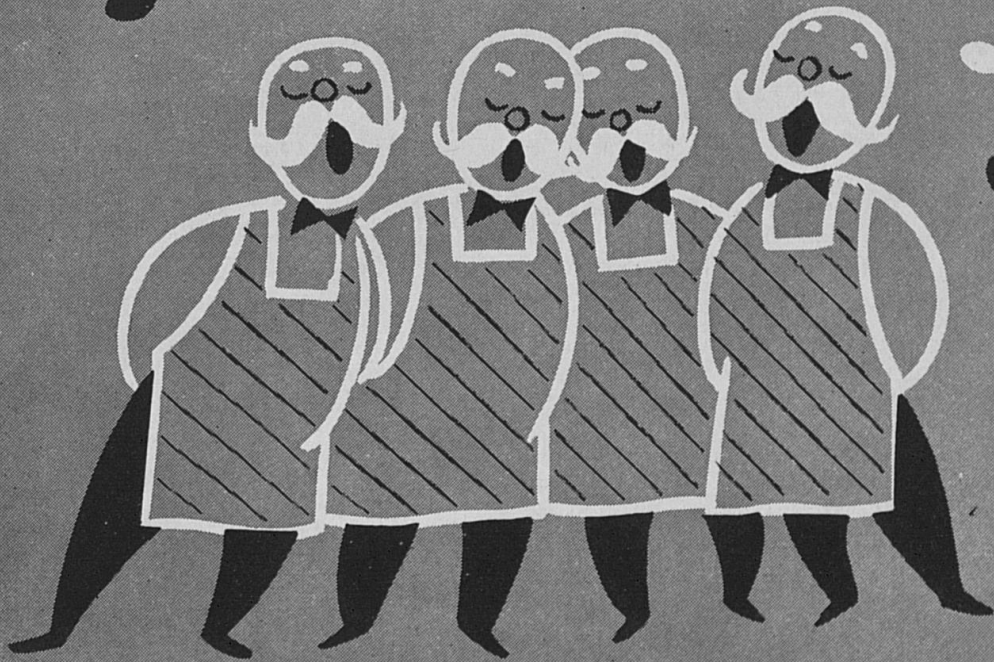
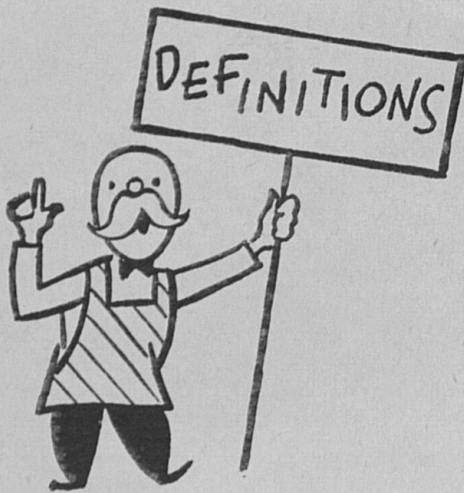


Circular 585  
(Filing Code: 16-1)

# A STITCH IN TIME



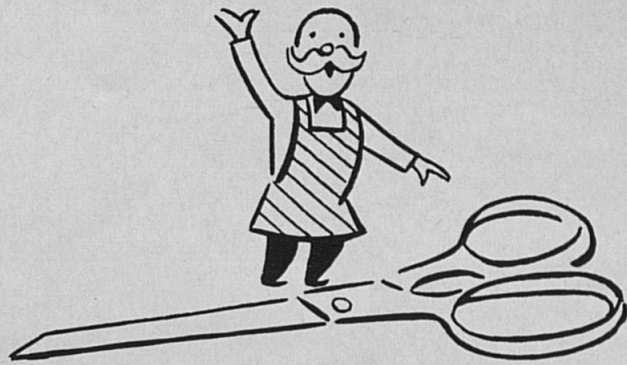
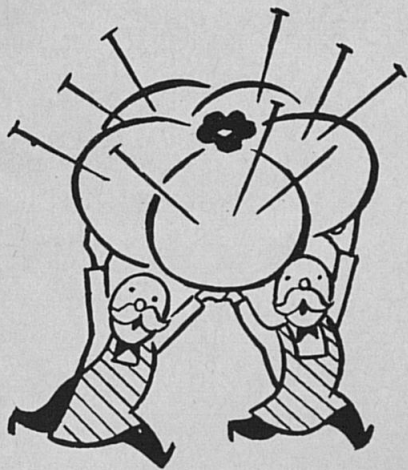
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS



- Mend:** To repair, patch up, put in shape or order again
- Darn:** To mend with interlacing stitches; to sew together
- Patch:** To cover or fill up a hole with material

The mending methods described may be used for fabrics of natural and of man-made fibers and blends of fibers.

*This is a reprint (with permission) of Circular 385 of the Cooperative Extension Service, the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. It was prepared by Mae B. Barton, assistant professor of clothing extension.*



### keep your mending up to date



Do you have a schedule for mending? You should. Don't deprive your family of the use of clothing because garments need a few stitches. Don't let garments look mended; mend them neatly and wear them proudly. Be sure you have all mending supplies before you start. Keep them in a handy place — by a comfortable chair with ample table space and good light.



A STITCH IN TIME

## machine darning

HERE'S A TIP!  
USE BLACK  
THREAD ON  
NAVY BLUE



USE  
DUBONNET  
ON DARK  
BROWN



You can do most of the family mending on the sewing machine quickly and very often with better results than you can do by hand. Tears, holes, and thin places in aprons, dresses, overalls, trousers, outer garments, tablecloths, sheets, bath towels, and washcloths can be quickly mended or reinforced in this way.

Thread the machine with mercerized cotton thread that matches the material or is slightly darker because matching thread shows up lighter. Use silk only when you want a shiny finish. Dacron or nylon thread in matching color may be used for fabrics of man-made fibers.

Adjust the length of the stitch to suit the cloth — the finer the weave, the shorter the stitch. However, too fine stitches in wool tend to cut the threads; 8 to 10 stitches to the inch are best for heavier wools such as those used in men's suitings.

A STITCH IN TIME

### three ways to do it

On machines that stitch both forward and backward, release lever on machine and stitch backward when necessary.

YOU HAVE  
BOTH HANDS  
TO WORK  
WITH



Release pressure on presser foot or tie presser foot lever to the thumb screw to hold the foot up slightly so you can pull the cloth gently back and forth while stitching. Some women like to remove the presser foot. Follow the grain of the material or stitch on the diagonal if the fabric has a definite twill weave like gabardine or serge.

BUT YOU NEED  
A STEADY  
GUIDING HAND



Stitch across torn edges with presser foot bringing material forward, then raise presser foot slightly with your right hand to release the material. Now with your left hand push the material backward while stitching; lower presser foot and repeat.

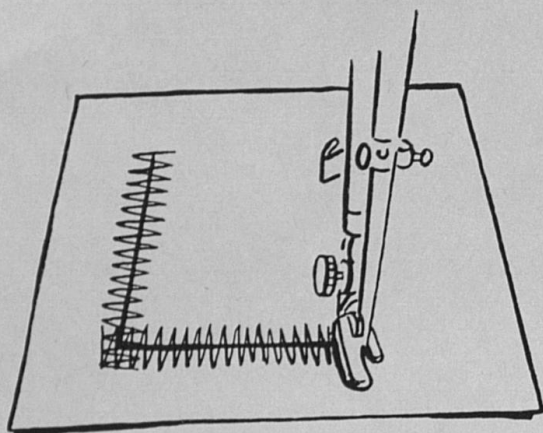
THIS METHOD  
MAY SEEM  
SLOW



EVERY OTHER ROW  
MECHANICALLY  
PERFECT - NO  
GAPS IF YOU  
MAKE AN ERROR

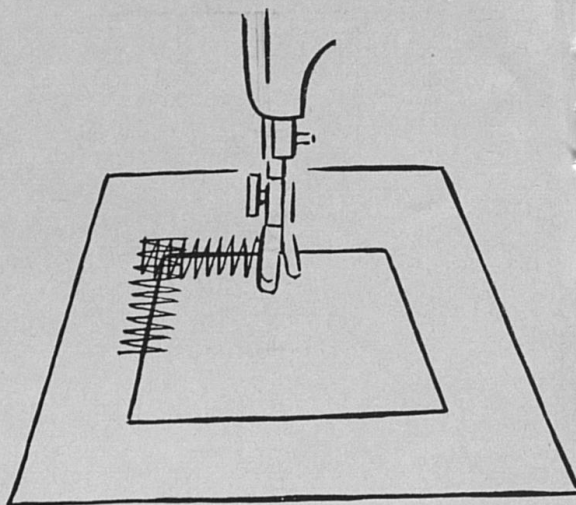


### machine darned L-shaped tear



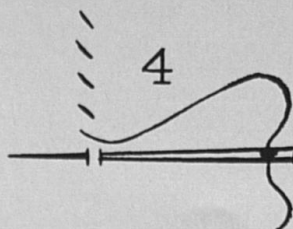
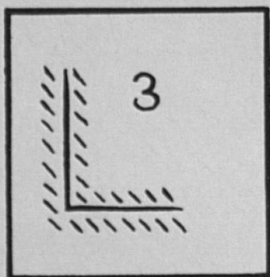
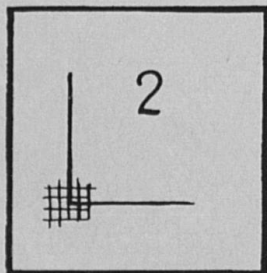
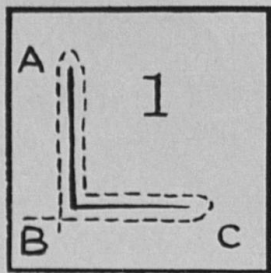
For a stronger repair, use a piece of rayon under the tear. This mend will have a raw edge. Don't stitch too closely together or too evenly or the mend will be hard and stiff.

### machine darned-in patch



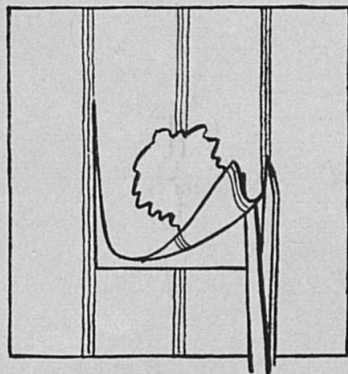
Start machine darning in center — in this way all corners will be equally strong.

### seamed-in L-shaped repair

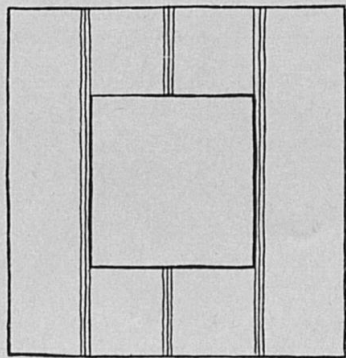


For a finer looking mend than you may get with machine darning, especially on wool fabrics, try this: Make a  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch seam on wrong side of material. (1) From just beyond A, start seam from nothing ending with  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch seam at B. Repeat from C to B extending seam about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch beyond corner. Steam and press open. Be very careful when steaming fabrics of man-made fibers. (2) It's important to strengthen corner by hand darning. (3) Cover with rayon material; use tailor's basting stitch on each side of seam to hold rayon material in place. The wear will now be on the rayon instead of raw seam. (4) The tailor's basting stitch.

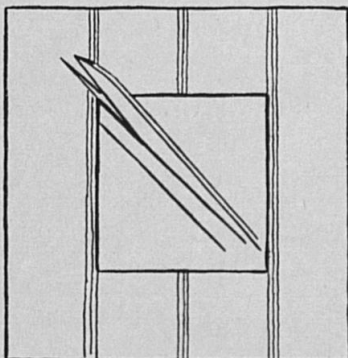
**overall patch — no need to rip pant leg — use this method.**



1. Cut away frayed part of fabric.

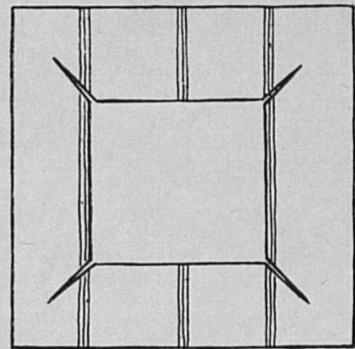
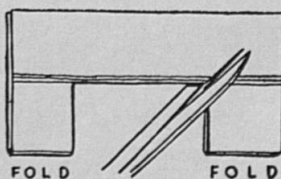


2. Cut square or rectangle using fabric threads as guide to straight edges.

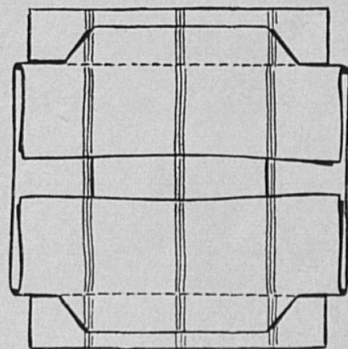


3. Cut in at corner  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch for seam allowance.

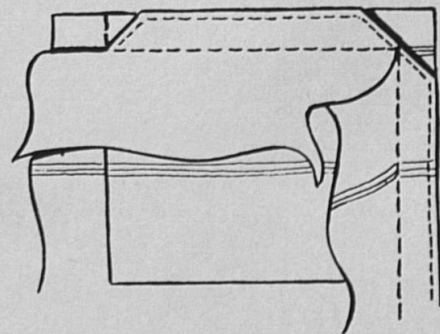
4. Fold fabric in half lengthwise; cut one corner to use as guide for cutting the rest.



5. Cut or tear material for patch which must be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger on all sides than hole. It's easier to use a larger patch and trim later.



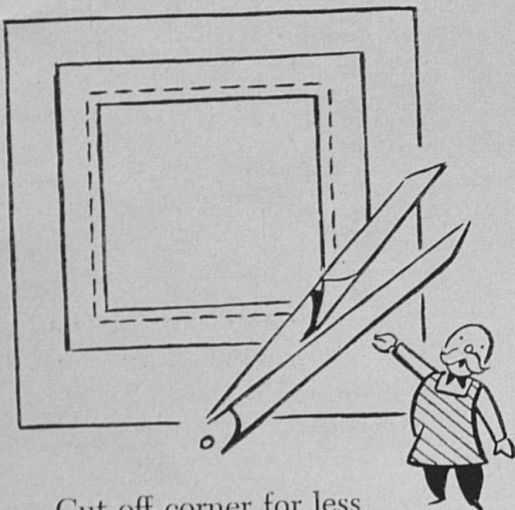
6. Stitch opposite sides. This way you get a better stitched corner with no danger of gapping. Repeat on other sides. At corners, use shorter stitches — 20 to 25 depending on type of fabric. This gives a stronger corner.



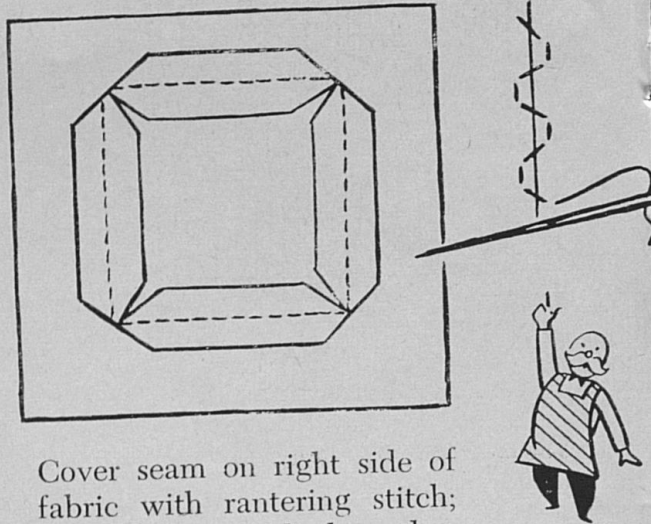
7. Stitch back of patch to finish it.

## blocked-in patch

Prepare hole as you did for the overall patch, but use  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch seam instead.

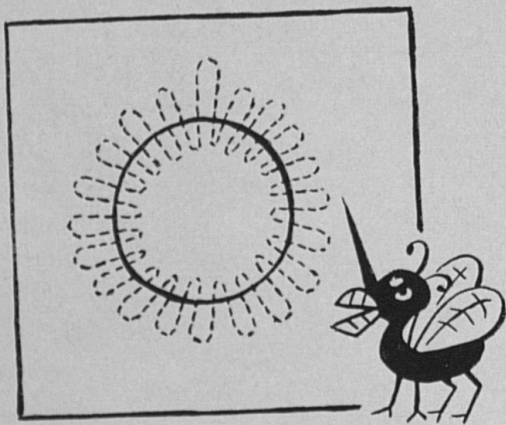


Cut off corner for less bulk. Steam open seam.



Cover seam on right side of fabric with raftering stitch; use mercerized thread—seam is less noticeable. To soften, rub seam between fingernails.

## hand darn moth or burn hole

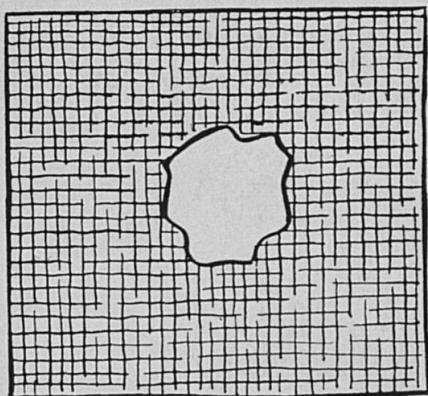


Place a piece of material about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch larger under hole. Use blending or matching mercerized thread. Start at edge and work toward center, then back until you're finished. Don't stitch across entire hole. Stitches should not show on right side. Ruff or soften mend between fingernails. Steam press.

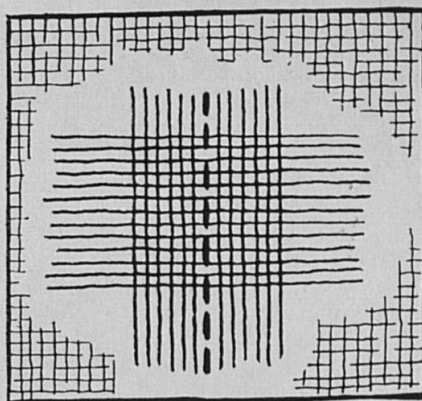
Use the same type of darn on camel's hair coats. Match the nap; ruff up center with an emery board. You may have to trim the pile around the hole if it's too high or thick. Use this darn for blanket-like fabrics, jersey, tweed, and nap fabrics.



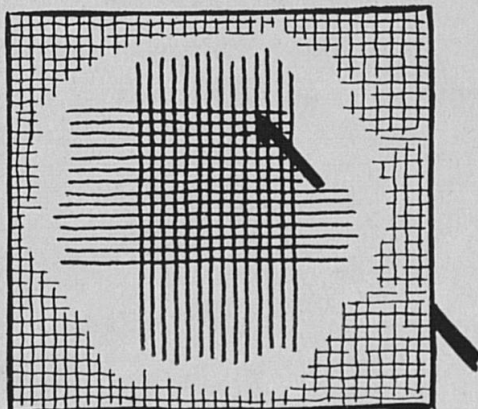
## reweave patch for wiry materials



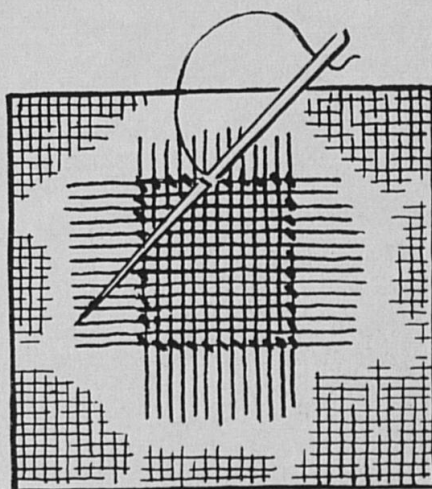
Hole in wiry material to be covered with piece of material on right side. Draw out four threads to form square around hole.



Run hand-basting stitch lengthwise of material before you cut patch. Fray edges of patch about 1 inch.

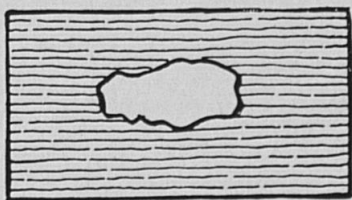


Pull threads through with crochet hook into space made by pulled threads.

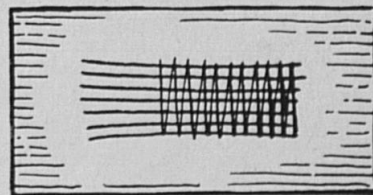
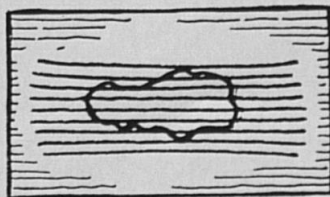


On wrong side, hem down frayed edge with mercerized thread but do not cut thread ends.

## machine darned-in ravelings (when no material is available)

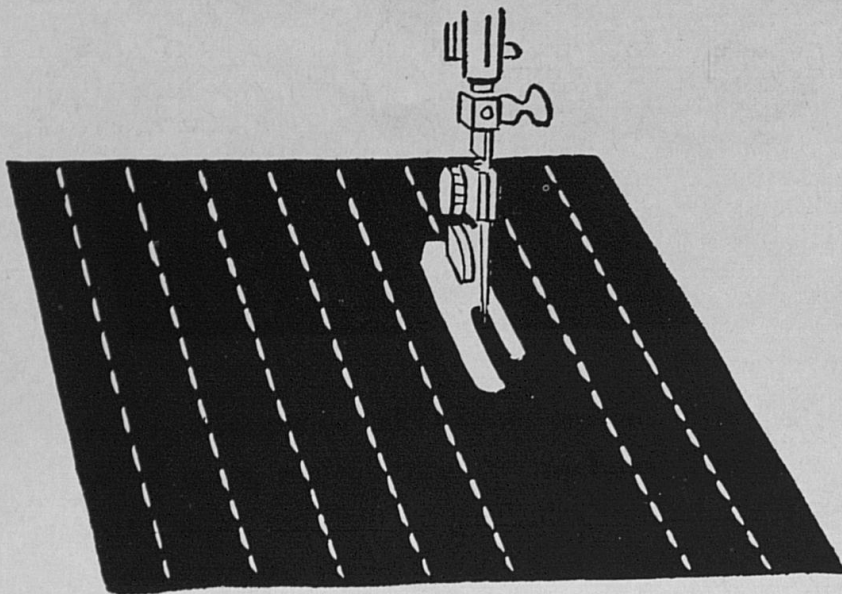


Machine baste in ravelings.



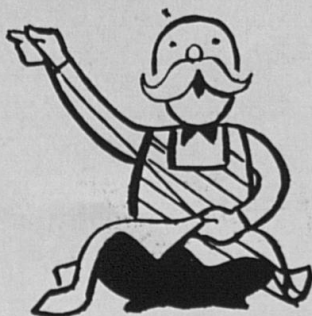
Machine darn.

## replacing pin stripes

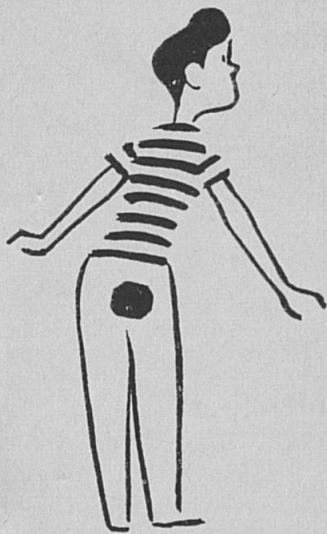


When pin stripes wear off at knees or seats of trousers or elbows of coats, replace them by machine. The material is usually worn, too, so it's a good idea to reinforce underside with matching rayon lining.

Pin lining in place. Thread bobbin of machine with colored thread to match pin stripe; use a spool of thread that matches the suiting for top stitching. Tighten top tension of machine. When you start stitching, the bobbin thread will show, giving you a pin stripe. Stitch along old stripe lines.



mends — decorative or amusing



A STITCH IN TIME

# A STITCH IN TIME



Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics: College of Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Kentucky, and the United States Department of Agriculture, cooperating. William A. Seay, Director. Issued in furtherance of the Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914.

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