

BUXKIN®

/ Creative use of sustainable materials

BUXKIN original

Installation Guide

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Disclaimer

In this document we share our experience from 6,000+ sqm of installations, and what has worked for us. We are always learning, and will update this document. Every project and site is unique - it is up to the installer to test these methods and be comfortable they are suitable for their unique project.



01 PREPARATION

Handling

The average length of a roll is 6 linear meters and weighs 20-35kg depending on the material. Rolls may have multiple lengths taped together. It is important to either stand the rolls on their ends, or lay them on a flat surface. Laying the rolls on bearers or stacking the rolls will damage the ribs.

Due to their size, rolls should be handled by two people.

Acclimatisation

The material can change dimensionally by up to 0.5% from cold damp conditions (international freight during winter) to warm dry conditions (commercial offices with air conditioning).

The material should be acclimatised for 24 to 72 hours, unwrapped and in its finished environment, before cutting it to size. The greater the change in environmental conditions, the longer the acclimatisation period.

This will minimise shrinkage. Leather is affected more than felt.

Wall preparation

The wall has to be clean, dry, and free of any dust, loose debris or grime.

IMPORTANT: rib alignment

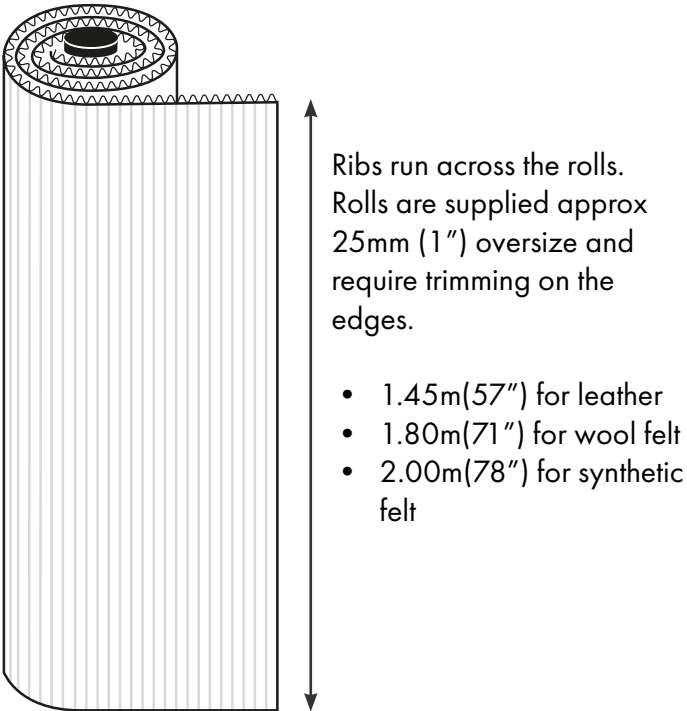
When considering rib alignment with T-trim or shadow gap, we recommend using **medium** rib size for leather or felt due to its flexibility of size.



Tools and consumables

Recommended tools that have proven to work very well for various types of installation.

- Stanley knife with straight blade
- Stanley knife with hooked blade
- 25mm snap-off utility knife
- Track plunge saw with fine blade and guide rail
- 18 gauge brad nailer
- Sharpies (varied colour set - to colour nail heads)
- Drop sheets, floor protection (when spraying glue)
- Quality sealant guns or glue spray lance
- Sharp scissors



02 CUTTING ROLLS

Cutting to length: Parallel to the ribs
The material should only be cut between the ribs, and lengths under 2.4m are more practical to trim and install.

A thin aluminum angle makes a good straight edge and guides the knife at the bottom of the rib. The material can only be cut to the nearest whole rib.

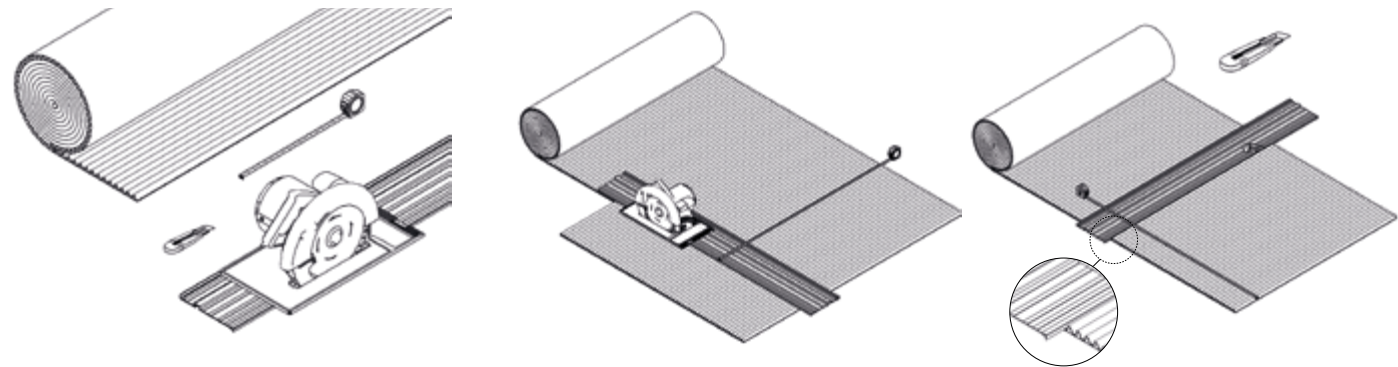
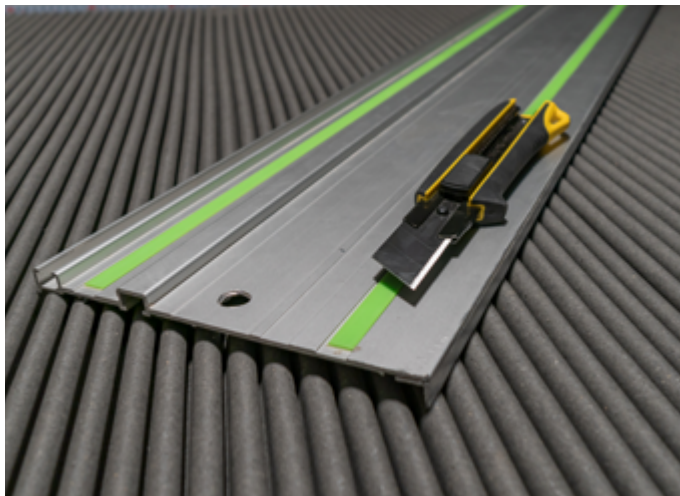
If you need to align the ribs between two panels you must ensure they have the same number of ribs before cutting. To fine-tune an exact length, follow the method for rib alignment overpage.

Cutting to height: Across the ribs

All the materials can be cut with a straight edge and sharp knife. For repeat trims and cuts we recommend a track saw with a thin, fine-toothed blade.

Push the saw slowly for the best finish. Felt cut by saw may require the edge to be trimmed with scissors depending how it is viewed in your design - choose the most efficient method.

If the product has not been acclimatised (particularly the leather) allow up to 0.5% extra to account for shrinkage.



03 RIB ALIGNMENT

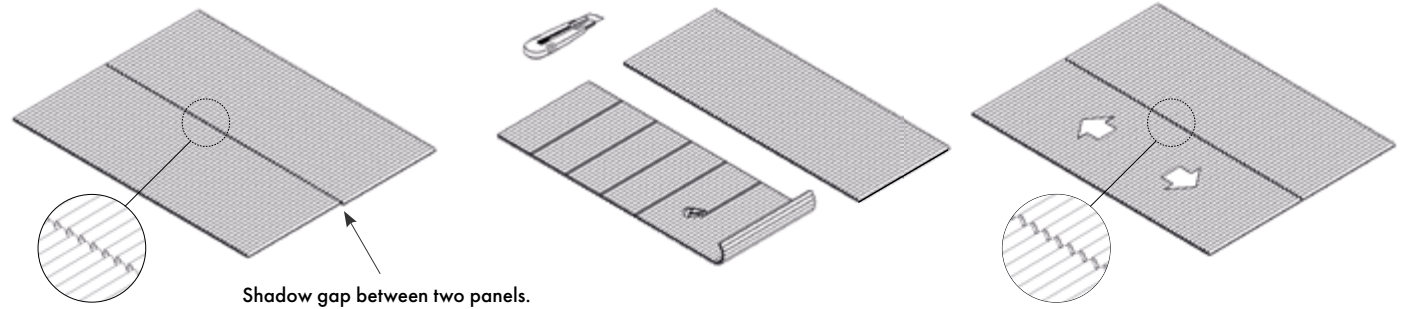
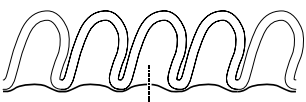
The ribs sizes have a tolerance of 2%, meaning rib alignment between panels can not be assumed, but can be achieved. It's important that the panels have the same number of ribs.



Step 1: Use a hooked knife blade to carefully add a relief cut through the backing material only, this will allow a single rib to stretch.



Step 2: Add relief cuts at required intervals.



Before: Imperfect rib alignment.



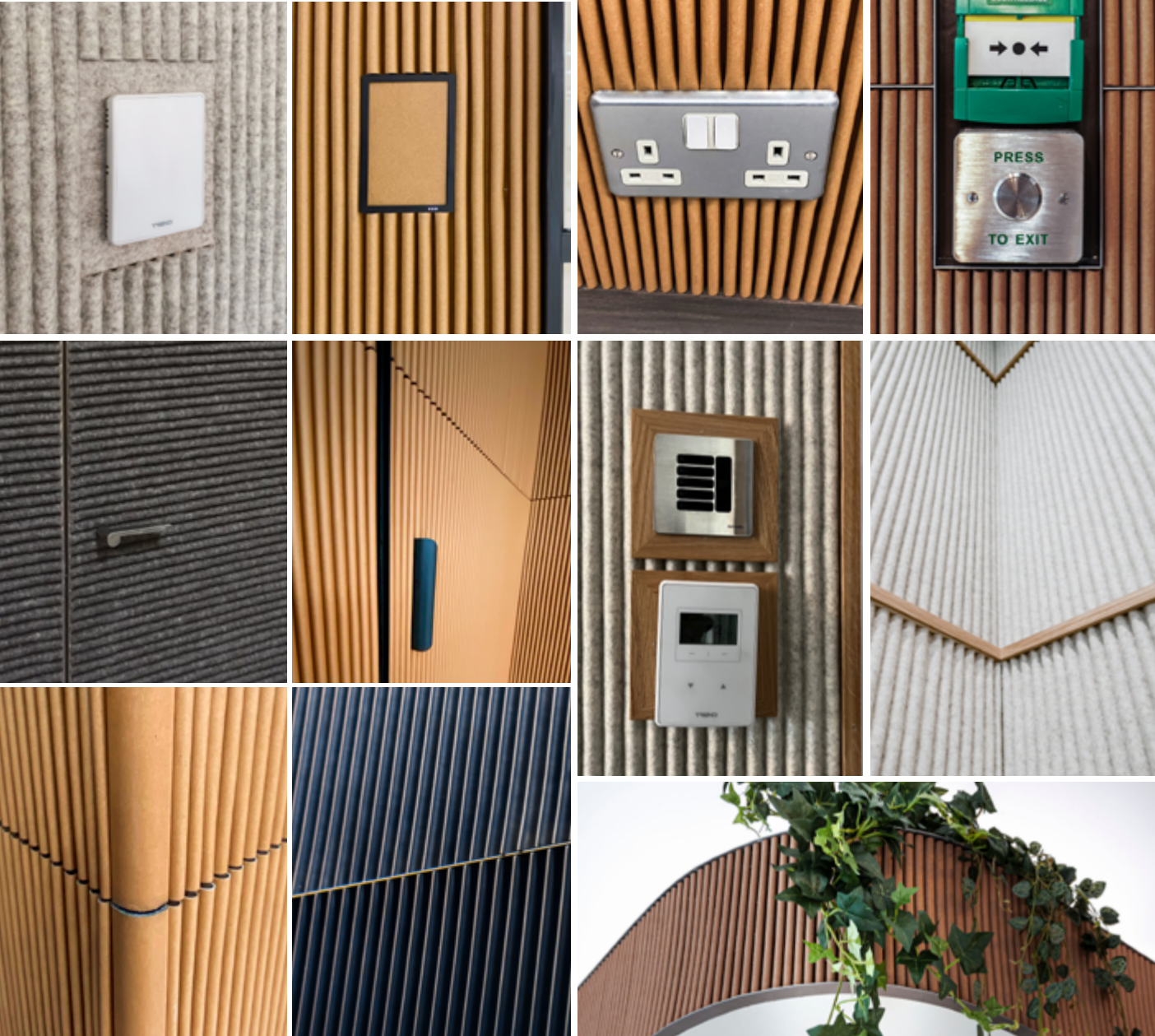
After: Ribs aligned.

04 DETAILING

Junction and penetration details can enhance or detract from a design. They should be discussed, designed and agreed prior to installation.

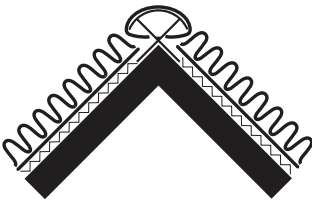
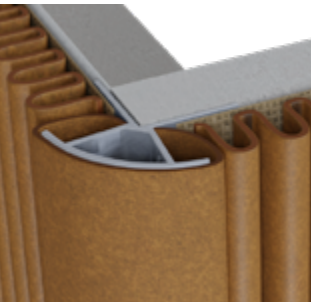
The materials are flexible and many solutions are possible.

Please note that we do not supply profiles and end stops. Your installation partner will be able to source these from a local vendor. If you require the Corner profile or End stop, please let us know so that we can add some flat material to your order. We are happy to advise you on the most suitable solution for your project.

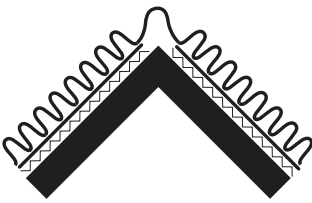
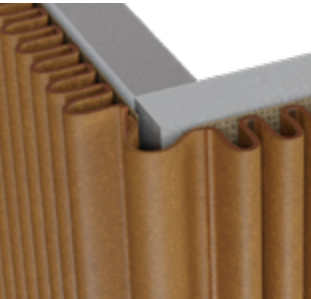


Corners and junction details

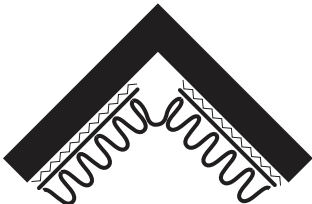
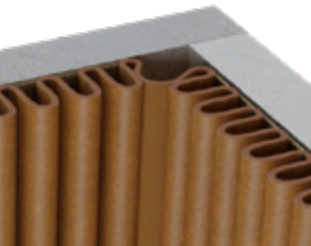
The material works best with radius corners greater than 100mm diameter, but for sharp corners the level of traffic should be considered.



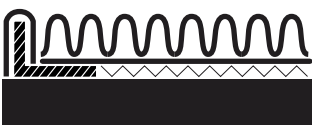
A corner profile can be wrapped in matching leather to create a more robust corner junction.



External corners are improved by the addition of a relief cut in the backing material.



Internal corners are improved by putting a relief cut in the backing material.



An end stop can be produced by the installer using flat leather to match the rib size and material choice.

Joins that run perpendicular to the rib direction should be expressed rather than butt jointed.

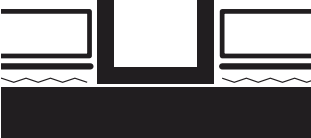
Joins that run parallel to the rib direction are invisible with careful cutting in the trough of adjacent ribs.



A timber detail can reflect other timber finishes in the scheme to create a panel break or fixing location.



An aluminium 'C' section creates a shadow gap with clean termination for the ribbed material and instead of. Can be finished in any colour.



A metal profile can match other framing details within your concept.



Shadow gap of 3-10mm can be created depending on rib size. Paint the gap black before application if needed.



05 BONDING

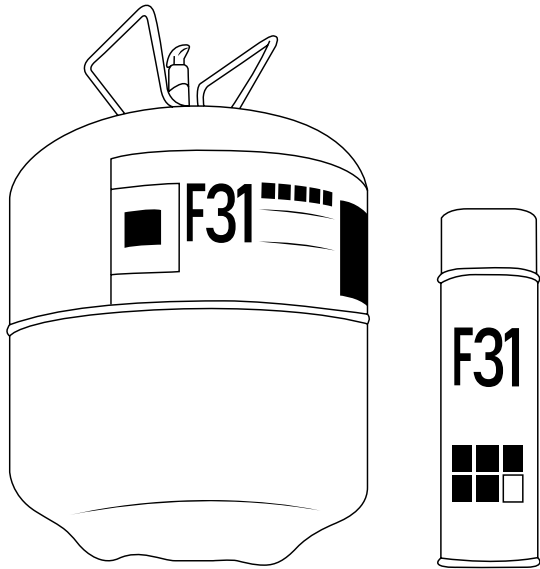
Both our proposed bonding methods cost a similar amount, allow for removal and reapplication if needed, and have different advantages.

Prior to bonding, dry fit the material to check the size and then make adjustments as necessary.

For applications that require rib alignment we use clear, high-modulus silicon combined with small 18 gauge brad nails [Method 1]. This allows the material to slide on the wall until it is pinned in place. We use a Sharpie to colour the heads of the nails to match the material before we load them into the nail gun.

For large areas without rib alignment, or when bonding to foam backing, we use spray contact adhesive [Method 2]. Our preferred adhesive is [Tensorgrip F31](#) which is available globally.

Use all recommended protective equipment such as gloves, safety glasses and vapour respiratory protection, and carefully follow the adhesive manufacturer’s instructions.



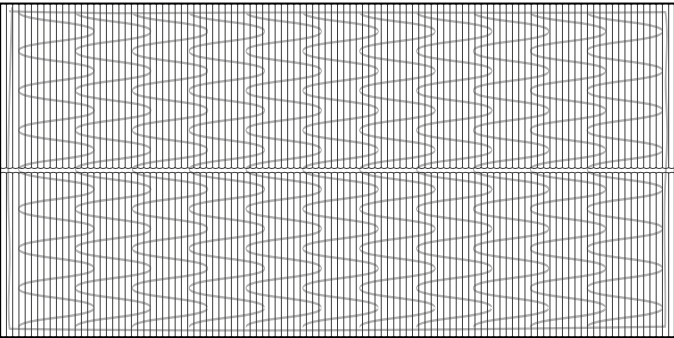
Method 1: Silicon with brad nails

Pros:
Good for panel mounting – does not cause panels to bow.
Good for rib alignment – more working time.

Cons:
Slower for large areas.

Considerations:
Use a Sharpie to colour the nail heads to match the material.
Avoid low-modulus silicon on light leather, it can print through.

- Method**
- Cut fabric to required size, and test fit before proceeding
 - Ensure surface is clean, dry, free of dust and sealed with a mist coat of paint if porous
 - Use a coloured fibre-tip pen to colour the nail heads to match the fabric colour
 - Apply clear silicon to wall or panel at a ratio of 1x330mm tube per 3sqm
 - Apply the leather at one edge or end and add nails at 300mm centers in the first trough of the material
 - Unroll and lightly apply the material over its whole length and nail at 300mm intervals to ensure correct end alignment
 - Work through the middle of the panel pinning at 300mm vertical and horizontal centres, aligning ribs (if necessary) as you go



Above: Silicone method.

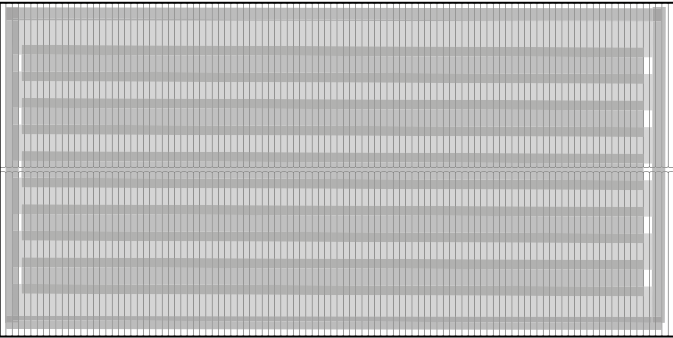
Method 2: Spray adhesive

Pros:
Good for direct to wall applications - high speed working.
Instant grab – helpful for ceiling applications.

Cons:
Requires masking and quickly creates mess if something goes wrong.
Requires specialist tools.

Considerations:
Area must be well ventilated and respiratory protection required.
Important to follow manufacturers guidance on application and working times for the adhesive.

- Method**
- Cut fabric to required size, and test fit before proceeding
 - Mask surrounding trims and sensitive surfaces with masking tape or masking film
 - Ensure surface is clean, dry, free of dust and sealed with a mist coat of paint if porous
 - Spray wall following manufacturer’s guidance for coverage
 - Spray back of fabric, while laid flat on temporary floor protection
 - Wait until both surfaces are touch dry then apply the fabric to the wall aligning one edge first and checking top and bottom edges as you unroll the fabric
 - Ensure the whole surface has been gently pressed into the wall, taking care not to damage or squash the ribs

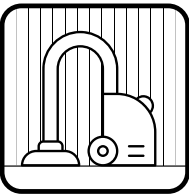


Above: Spraying method.

When complete apply suitable protection for the area based on subsequent works.

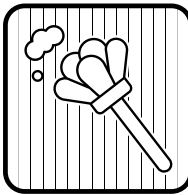
06 AFTERCARE

Maintenance: Regular cleaning



Gently vacuum using a soft brush attachment

- felt (all)
- leather (all)



Gently clean with feather duster or clean, dry microfibre cloth

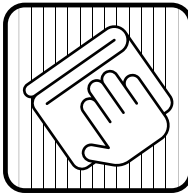
- felt (all)
- leather (all)

Maintenance: Spot cleaning



Gently sand the stain with 240 grit or higher sand-coloured sandpaper

- uncoated leather



Blot up the liquid with dry cloth or paper towels

- felt (all)
- leather (all)



Use warm water or a mild dry-cleaning solvent

- felt (all)
- coated leather

Uncoated leather is vulnerable to stains and marks. General dust and debris can be removed with a duster or dry cloth. Light marks can be removed through light sanding with 240 grit or higher sandpaper, but it must not get wet as it will absorb the moisture and stain.

Clear coated leather is water resistant and resists marking. Dry dust and debris should be removed with a duster or dry cloth. A damp cloth with soap can be used on heavier marks but care must be taken not to wet any cut ends as this may stain behind the coating.

At the end of its life, the leather can be pulled away from the backing. The jute backing is biodegradable, and the leather can be recycled as leather again.

All our felt products are highly resistant to staining and marks. Vacuum occasionally with a brush fitting to remove air-borne debris. Should soiling occur, spot clean with mild soap and warm water. Avoid aggressive rubbing as this can change the surface appearance.

At the end of its life, the felt can be pulled away from the backing. The jute backing is biodegradable, and the felt can be recycled and felted again.

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