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(54) A lock for a deposit receptacle and a deposit receptacle
(57) A lock for a deposit receptacle comprising a door and the lock for locking the door in a closed position, the lock comprising: a handle member (53); a latch member (41); a connection between the handle member (53) and the latch member (41) for the handle member to move the latch member; a movable preventing member (71)
preventing in a preventing position the handle member from moving the latch member; a triggering member (51) triggering movement of the preventing member (71) to its preventing position; and a resetting member (69, 69a) movable to reset the preventing member (71) from the preventing position.


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## Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a lock for a deposit receptacle comprising a door and the lock for locking the door in a closed position, and to a deposit receptacle comprising such a lock.
[0002] Deposit receptacles are e.g. used for delivery of goods to private homes at times when nobody is at home and available to receive the goods. Thus deposit receptacles have been used for daily delivery of milk and deposit receptacles are used for delivery of goods purchased through the Internet. The deposit receptacle may be combined with a mail box for delivery of mail.
[0003] Deposit receptacles of the above art should allow the door to be opened for delivery of goods, which are inserted in the receptacle, whereupon the door is closed, but subsequently an unauthorized person should not be able to open the door.
[0004] US-A-5 476220 discloses a mailbox with a locking mechanism part of which is fitted in the cabinet of the mailbox and another part of which is fitted in the door or closure of the mailbox. Thus the closure carries a latch element comprising a hook and a spring loaded plunger while the cabinet carries a latch element comprising a retractable spring loaded element with an abutment for the plunger and a strike for the hook. When the closure is closed the plunger will abut on its abutment and be forced back against the spring load while the hook will ride over the strike to catch the strike lifting the retractable element against its spring load. Thus the mailbox is locked. By inserting and turning a key in the part of the locking mechanism carried by the cabinet, the retractable element is lifted to a position in which the plunger passes its abutment and moves to a forward position due to the spring load. In this position the plunger prevents the retractable element from returning to its lower position and the strike is out of reach of the hook. Thus the mailbox is in an unlocked position until the closure is opened and the plunger is retracted together therewith allowing the retractable element to move to its lower position. When the mailbox is in its unlocked position two engaging curved spring elements prevents the closure from opening unintentionally.
[0005] US-A-4 382540 discloses a mailbox comprising a front door for the mail carrier and a back door for the owner. When the back door is opened a latching element is lifted to be attracted by a magnet thus keeping the latching element out of engagement with its strike and the front door may be opened. When the front door is opened the latching element is pulled away from the magnet and when the front door is closed again the latching element passes below the magnet and engages the strike whereby the front door is locked until the back door is opened again, which is done using an ordinary key fitted in a lock cylinder.
[0006] US-A-1 602205 discloses a deposit receptacle or milk bottle container with a lock comprising a handle, a latch and a connecting element with an arm extending
into the receptacle. In case of items such as milk bottles present in the receptacle the arm is forced towards the door when the latter is closed to enter a position in which the connecting element do not transfer movement from
5 the handle to the latch and the receptacle is locked as it may only be opened using a key to move the latch until the items inside the receptacle is removed.
[0007] US-A-6 367294 discloses a mailbox with a lock comprising a handle coupled to a latch for retracting the
10 same. A block movable by means of a key may be put in a blocking position in which it blocks movement of the handle and a release position in which it does not block movement of the handle. The latch may be pushed back against a spring load. A strike comprises two grooves, a
15 first one with bevelled edges and a second one with perpendicular edges. When the door of the mailbox is closed the latch first enters the groove with the bevelled edges and from this position the door may be opened again by merely pulling the door using the handle. If the door is 20 closed further and the latch enters the second groove with perpendicular edges the door may only be opened by retracting the latch using the handle which is only possible if the block is in its release position.
[0008] It is an object of the present invention to provide 25 a lock for a deposit receptacle that allows the door to be opened for insertion of goods and subsequently prevents access.
[0009] This is obtained by a lock comprising: a handle member; a latch member; a connection between the handle member and the latch member for the handle member to move the latch member; a movable preventing member preventing in a preventing position the handle member from moving the latch member; a triggering member triggering movement of the preventing member to its pre35 venting position; and a resetting member movable to reset the preventing member from the preventing position. An operator that opens the door of a deposit receptacle comprising the lock may activate the trigger member and subsequent opening is prevented until an authorized per40 son activates the resetting member to reset the preventing member.
[0010] In an embodiment the lock comprises a trigger activating member. This facilitates activating the trigger member.
45 [0011] In a further embodiment the trigger activating member is connected with the handle member. Hereby is obtained that the trigger member is activated automatically when the handle member is activated e.g. for opening the door providing a safe and user friendly operation.
[0013] In an embodiment the resetting member is movable between a passive position and a resetting position and a second lock secured by a key is provided for pre-
venting movement of the resetting member from its passive position. Hereby it is secured that only an authorized person can activate the resetting member.
[0014] In a further embodiment the second lock is connected to the resetting member for moving the latter between its passive position and its resetting position. Hereby a very easy and user friendly operation may be obtained since opening of the second lock may automatically activate the resetting member.
[0015] In an embodiment the preventing member in its preventing position blocks movement of the handle member. Hereby a simple lock mechanism is obtained.
[0016] In an embodiment the resetting member is connected to a second latch member and the deposit receptacle comprises a separate compartment lockable by said second latch member. Hereby is obtained that the resetting member is activated automatically when the separate compartment, which could be a letter compartment, is opened.
[0017] In a further embodiment a connection between the resetting member and the second latch member is rigid. Hereby a simple construction is obtained.
[0018] In an embodiment the separate compartment is provided by a demountable drawer element. Hereby is obtained that the separate compartment may be removed e.g. temporarily to provide more space in the receptacle.
[0019] In the following the invention will be described in more detail by way of example with reference to the schematic drawing that shown an embodiment and in which

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a deposit receptacle according to the invention,
Fig. 2 is a transparent perspective view of the deposit receptacle,
Fig. 3 is a partially transparent partial perspective view of the upper part of the deposit receptacle,
Fig. 4 is a partial vertical section of the of the deposit receptacle,
Fig. 5 is a partial perspective view of a mail compartment,
Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a lock according to the invention,
Fig. 7 is another perspective view of the lock,
Fig. 8 is a top view of the lock,
Fig. 9 is a front view of the lock,
Fig. 10 shows a section of the lock along line $X-X$ in Fig. 9, and
Fig. 11 is a partial transparent perspective view of a variant of the deposit receptacle fitted with a second embodiment of a lock according to the invention,
Fig. 12 is a perspective view partly from the front of the second embodiment of the lock,
Fig. 13 is a front view of a main part of the lock of the second embodiment
Fig. 14 is a perspective rear view of the second embodiment,

Fig. 15 is a view corresponding to Fig 14, but with elements removed, and
Fig. 16 is a perspective left end view of the second embodiment.
[0020] Figs. 1 to 5 show a deposit receptacle comprising a stand 1 carrying a cabinet 3 with a front door 5 hinged at its left side to the cabinet and a cover 7 hinged at a rear edge 9 to the cabinet. Below the cover 7 the cabinet 3 has a slot 11 for insertion of mail, newspapers, etc. Inside the cabinet 3 a separate compartment 13 for receiving mail etc. inserted through the slot 11 is provided. Figs. 2 and 3 show the cabinet 3 and the compartment 13 in a closed position.
15 [0021] The separate compartment 13 is formed by a hinged drawer element 15 with a solid front 17 with handle portions 19 comprising locking slots 21 open towards the interior of the compartment 13 at left ends thereof and closed at right ends thereof, as seen in Fig. 5. The drawer element 15 further has a bottom portion with a rear edge 23 from which an upward bent flap 25 is extending to retain items in the compartment 13. A guiding member 27 is mounted on a back wall of the cabinet for preventing items from slipping behind the drawer element 15 to the lower part of the cabinet. For mounting the drawer element 15 in the cabinet 3 pivots 29 are provided to be vertically inserted in U-shaped bearings (not shown) in the cabinet. In the open position the drawer element 15 may be lifted to release the pivots 29 from the U-shaped bearings whereupon the drawer element 15 may be removed from the cabinet 3 .
[0022] Beneath a top shield portion 31 of the cabinet 3 a lock 33 is provided. Through a recess 35 with a lining for closing the cabinet (not shown) a handle part 37 and a lock cylinder 39 of the lock 33 are accessible when the cover 7 is lifted (or even removed as shown in Fig. 3).
[0023] In the following "vertical" and "horizontal" as used in relation to the lock refer to a position of use as shown in the Figures. It should be noted that in alternative embodiments the lock may be installed in other positions.
[0024] The lock 33 has an elongate latch member 41, which is movable in its longitudinal (vertical) direction and is provided with a bevel 43 to provide for snap-locking.
[0025] Referring especially to Figs. 5 to 10 the lock 33 comprises a base plate 45 carrying a recessed block 47 housing the latch member 41, the lock cylinder 39, a journal 49 carrying rotatably a triggering member 51 and a handle member 53 comprising the handle part 37, bent out mounting taps 55, and four pins 57 for slidably mounting a slide 59.
[0026] The slide 59 comprises a longitudinal strip bent around a longitudinal line to comprise a vertical part and lower horizontal part. The vertical part has two longitudinal holes or slits 61 receiving either two of the four pins 57 for the slide 59 to be slidable between a passive locking position shown in the Figures and a resetting opening position to be explained below. The slide 59 is secured on the pins 57 by circlips.
[0027] An arm 63 is attached by an end to the lock cylinder 39 for the arm 63 to be rotatable therewith, and an opposite end of the arm 63 is rotatably attached to an end of a link 65 another end of which is rotatably attached to the slide 59. Thus the slide 59 may be moved forth and back by rotating the lock cylinder.
[0028] The slide 59 carries on its lower side two second latch members or locking pins 67 extending downwards from the lower horizontal part. On its upper side the lower horizontal part of the slide 59 carries a resetting member 69 comprising a wheel 69a.
[0029] The base plate 45 carries a preventing member 71 , which is hinged to the mounting taps 55 to be rotatable around a vertical axis 73 . A spring 75 is provided between the base plate 45 and the preventing member 71 to force or move a free end thereof away from the base plate 45. [0030] The preventing member 71 has a recess 77 through which a bent end of the triggering member 51 protrudes. The bent end comprises an elongation 79 extending in front of the surface of the preventing member 71 outside the recess 77 , when the triggering member 51 is in a retaining position as shown in Figs. 6, 8 and 9. The bent end further comprises a second bent stop part 80 the function of which will be explained below.
[0031] The handle member 53 comprises a trigger activating member 81 extending opposite the handle part 37 from the journal 49.
[0032] A spring (not shown) forces the triggering member 51 in the clockwise direction as seen in Fig. 9 i.e. the elongation 79 is forced upwards.
[0033] Inside the recessed block 47 (see Fig. 10) a carrier 83 attached to the handle member 53 reaches below a screw 85 fitted in the latch member 41 . The screw is accommodated in a slot 87 in the block 47 preventing rotation of the latch member 41 . The latch member 41 is forced downwards by a spring 89. Due to the carrier 83 reaching below the screw 85 the latch member 41 may be lifted by a user lifting the handle part 37, the carrier 83 and the screw 85 providing a connection between the handle member 53 and the latch member 41.
[0034] The base plate 45 further comprises a bent out support tap 91 and the block 47 carries a door opening spring 93.
[0035] When mounted in the cabinet 3 the lock 33 works with the deposit receptacle as follows:
[0036] The starting position of the deposit receptacle is a closed position having the hinged drawer 15 in a fold in position inside the cabinet 3 and the front door 5 in a closed position. The second latch members or locking pins 67 are received in the locking slots 21 at the closed right ends thereof to lock the separate compartment 13, and the first latch member 41 is received in a locking opening (not shown) in a fold-in upper edge of the front door 5 to keep the same closed.
[0037] In the starting position of the lock 33 the slide 59 is shifted to the right, as seen in Fig. 6 to place the locking pins 67 at the closed ends of the locking slots 21 as mentioned above, and the slide 59 is locked in that
position in the absence of a key fitted in the lock cylinder 39. The preventing member 71 is retained against the force of the spring 75 in a position close to the base plate 45 by the elongation 79 of the triggering member 51 . The
5 latch member 41 is in a low position extending into the locking opening of the front door as mentioned above.
[0038] If now a delivery person wishes to deposit some goods in the deposit receptacle he or she will lift the handle part 37 from its horizontal starting position rotating 10 the handle member 53 around the journal 49, whereby the first latch member 41 is raised due to engagement between the carrier 83 and the screw 85 to be lifted out of the locking opening in the front door 5 , which consequently will open due to the action of the spring 93 . The
15 separate compartment 13 is not accessible at this moment because it is locked by the engagement of the locking pins 67 in the locking slots 21 .
[0039] At this time the delivery person may let go the handle part 37 and due to the action of the spring 89 the
20 latch member 41 will return to its low position carrying with it the handle member 53 to its horizontal starting position.
[0040] When the handle part 37 was lifted and the handle member 53 rotated around the journal 49 the trigger 25 activating member 81 was consequently rotated to engage with the elongation 79 of the triggering member 51 to carry the latter along in the rotating movement. Thereby the elongation 79 was lowered to a position aligned with the recess 77 in the preventing member 71 which 30 thus was released from the engagement of the elongation 79 and a movement of the preventing member 71 due to the action of the spring 75 was triggered by the release. Thereby the preventing member 71 rotated around the axis 73 until it made contact with the trigger activating member 81 and was stopped.
[0041] When the handle part 37 was released by the delivery person and the handle member 53 rotated into its horizontal starting position the trigger activating member 81 was lifted above the preventing member 71 , which 40 thereby was released to continue its rotation under the influence of the spring 75 until it made contact with either the stop part 80 or the wheel 69a and was stopped.
[0042] Consequently, when the handle part 37 has been lifted to open the front door and the handle part has 45 returned to its horizontal starting position, the preventing member 71 is positioned below the trigger activating member 81 preventing another rotating movement of the handle member 53 to an extent that would raise the latch member 41 sufficiently to lift it out of the locking opening 50 in the front door 5 to open the latter.
[0043] Due to the bevel 43 the front door 5 may be slammed to be latched. Thereafter it is not possible to open the front door 5 by lifting the handle part. In case of an attempt to force the handle part the support tap 93 will support the preventing member 71 . It is noted that the latch member 41 may be lifted without the handle member 53 rotating as the carrier 83 and the screw 85 are not interconnected.
[0044] An authorised user may open the door 5 as well as the separate compartment 13 using a key inserted in the lock cylinder 39 and turning the same thereby rotating the arm 63 to shift the slide 59 to the left as seen in Fig. 9. Thereby the wheel 69a together with the other parts of the resetting member 69 will be moved towards the elongation 79 forcing simultaneously the preventing member 71 back to its starting position. When the elongation 79 thereby exits the recess 77 the triggering member 51 will also return to its starting position under the influence of a spring (not shown).
[0045] At this point the second latch members 67 are positioned at the left open ends of the locking slots 21 allowing the drawer element 15 to be rotated for the separate compartment 13 to be opened. Having removed any mail from the separate compartment 13 the user will close the same and turn the key to return the slide 59 to its starting position. The preventing member 71 is now again retained by the elongation 79 of the triggering member 51 .
[0046] The front door may be closed before or after turning the key to return the slide 59.
[0047] Thus the deposit receptacle and the lock are back in their starting positions.
[0048] Figs. 11 to 16 disclose a variant or second embodiment of the deposit receptacle with a variant or second embodiment of the lock. Elements and features of the second embodiment similar or corresponding to elements and features of the first embodiment are given the same reference numerals with the addition of 100.
[0049] Fig. 11 shows the upper parts of the deposit receptacle with a cabinet 103 provide with a front door 105 hinged to the right side of the cabinet 103 and a slot 111 for delivery of letters. The deposit receptacle of the second embodiment comprises a drawer element corresponding to drawer element 5 , which is however not shown in Fig. 11. A lock 133 for locking the front door 105 and the drawer element (not shown) is fitted in the cabinet 103.
[0050] In this second embodiment the lock 133 has a latch element 141 comprising a hook 142 with a bevel 143. The latch element 141 further comprises a vertical rod 144 mounted vertically slidable in the cabinet 103. The rod 144 has a horizontal finger 146 at its upper end. The hook 142 is adapted to engage with a strike 148 mounted on the front door 105 said strike 148 having a slot 150 for receiving the hook 142. Elements of the lock 133 are adapted to engage with the horizontal finger 146 for opening the door 105 as will be explained below.
[0051] The main part of the lock 133 of the second embodiment is shown in Figs. 12 to 16 and comprises, like the lock 33 of the first embodiment, a base plate 145, a lock cylinder 139, a journal 149 carrying rotatably a handle member 153 (shown in part transparent in Fig. 16) comprising a handle part 137 , bent out mounting taps 155 , and, in this case, three pins 157 for slidably mounting a slide 159 .
[0052] The slide 159 comprises a longitudinal piece
bent around a longitudinal line to comprise a vertical part and lower horizontal part. The vertical part has three longitudinal holes or slits 161 receiving a respective one of the three pins 157 for the slide 159 to be slidable between
5 a passive locking position and a resetting opening position. Whereas in Figs. 6 to 9, which show the first embodiment, the lock 33 is shown with the slide 59 in the passive locking position, in Figs. 12 to 16 the lock 133 is shown with the slide 159 in the resetting opening position.
10 The slide 159 is secured on the pins 157 by circlips.
[0053] An arm 163 is attached by an end to the lock cylinder 139 for the arm 163 to be rotatable therewith, and a pin at an opposite end of the arm 163 is rotatably received in a vertical slot or slit 165. Thus the slide 159
15 may be moved forth and back by rotating the lock cylinder 139 the pin moving up and down in the slit 165.
[0054] The slide 159 carries on its lower side two second latch members or locking pins 167 extending downwards from the lower horizontal part. Like in the first em20 bodiment these second latch members 167 are for locking the drawer element (not shown). On its upper side the lower horizontal part of the slide 159 carries a resetting member 169 comprising a wheel 169a.
[0055] The base plate 145 carries a preventing mem25 ber 171 , which is hinged to the mounting taps 155 to be rotatable around a vertical axis 173 . A torsion spring 175 (Fig. 15) functionally corresponding to the spring 75 of the first embodiment is provided between the base plate 145 and the preventing member 171 to force or move a 30 major end thereof away from the base plate 145.
[0056] The preventing member 171 is in this embodiment formed as a U-shaped profile wherein one of the legs of the U-shape has a protrusion 177 for engagement with a triggering member 151. Opposite the protrusion 35177 the preventing element 171 has a heel 178 that on rotation, due to the force of the torsion spring 175, of the major end including the protrusion 177 away from the base plate 145 will strike the base plate and limit such rotation. Thus the heel 178 fulfils the function of the stop part 80 of the first embodiment of the lock.
[0057] Whereas in the first embodiment the triggering member 51 is positioned totally on the front side of base plate 45 and is mounted on the journal 49 together with the handle member 53 , in the second embodiment (see
45 Fig. 15) the triggering member 151 is mounted rotatably on the rear side of the base plate 145 on a second journal 149a parallel to but slightly offset from the first journal 149. Further the triggering member 151 is fitted on a pin 152 received slidably in a slot 154 in the triggering mem50 ber 151 . Thus the triggering member 151 is able to rotate on the journal 149a within a limited angular range. The figures, especially Fig. 15, indicate a spring 156 for pulling the triggering member 151 upwards. Like in the first embodiment the triggering element 151 comprises a bent 55 portion 179a with an elongation 179 extending in front of the protrusion 177 of the preventing member 171 when the triggering member 151 is in a retaining position best seen in Fig. 16. It should be noted that the bent portion

179a of the triggering member 151 extends through an aperture 158 in the base plate 145.
[0058] The triggering member 151 further comprises a protrusion 182 at the end opposite the end attached to the journal 149a. The function of this protrusion 182 will be described below.
[0059] The handle member 153 comprises a trigger activating part or member 181 extending opposite the handle part 137 from the journal 149. The base plate 145 has a portion 145a which is bent to a horizontal position and an end part 145b of said portion 145a is bent to a vertical position as seen e.g. in Fig. 13. The end part 145b has a recess 145 c providing a rest for the handle member 153. A torsion spring 153a is provided for forcing the handle member 153 to rest in the recess 145 c in a neutral position as shown in Figs. 12, 13 and 16.
[0060] The lock 133 further comprises a yoke 184 mounted rotatably on a pin 186 with an axis extending in a longitudinal direction of the base plate 145 and latch spring 188 shaped as a $U$ with a long leg 190 and a short leg the latch spring 188 being fastened to the base plate 145 through the short leg, whereby the long leg 190 projects in cantilever-fashion above a first end 184a of the yoke. A second end 184b of the yoke extends below the protrusion 182 of the triggering member 151.
[0061] When the lock 133 is fitted in the cabinet 103 the horizontal finger 146 of the latch member 141 extends between the long leg 190 of the latch spring 188 and the first end 184a of the yoke. Thus the triggering member 151 and the yoke 184 provide in the second embodiment a connection between the handle member 153 (through the trigger activating part or member 181) and the latch member 141.
[0062] The cooperation between the trigger activating part or member 181, the triggering member 151, the preventing member 171 and the resetting member 169 are similar to the cooperation between the trigger activating member 81, the triggering member 51, the preventing member 71 and the resetting member 69 and will not be explained in more detail here.
[0063] It should however be noted that the trigger activating part or member 181 has a shallow recess 181 a, see Fig. 13, ensuring that the trigger activating member 181 extends in front of the preventing member 171 at the time when the latter is released by the elongation 179 and the preventing member 171 will make contact with the side of the trigger activating member 181 until the latter is raised when the handle part 137 is released by the person opening the deposit receptacle.
[0064] Further it should be noted that the resetting member 169 is positioned sufficiently low to allow activation of the handle member 153 to open the deposit receptacle when a key has been inserted into the lock cylinder 139 and the slide 159 is moved into its resetting opening position.
[0065] The latch member 141 works as follows: When the handle member 153 is in the neutral position the latch member 141 is forced into a low position by the long leg

190 of the latch spring 188 acting on the horizontal finger 146. When the front door 105 is slammed the hook 142 of the latch member 141 will enter the slot 154 of the strike 148 and due to the bevel 143 the latch member

## Claims

2. A lock according to claim 1, wherein the lock comprises a trigger activating member (81).
3. A lock according to claim 2 , wherein the trigger activating member (81) is connected with the handle member (53).
4. A lock according to any of the preceding claims,
wherein the lock comprises a moving element (75) moving the preventing member to its preventing position when triggered by the triggering member.
5. A lock according to claim 4, wherein the moving member comprises a spring (75).
6. A lock according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the resetting member is movable between a passive position and a resetting position and a second lock (39) secured by a key is provided for preventing movement of the resetting member (69,69a) from its passive position.
7. A lock according to claim 6 , wherein the second lock (39) is connected to the resetting member (69, 69a) for moving the latter between its passive position and its resetting position.
8. A lock according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the preventing member (71) in its preventing position blocks movement of the handle member (53).
9. A lock according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the resetting member (69, 69a; 169; 169a) is connected to a second latch member $(67 ; 167)$.
10. A lock according to claim 9 , wherein the second latch member $(67 ; 167)$ is carried by the slide $(59 ; 159)$.
11. A deposit receptacle comprising a cabinet ( 3 ; 103) and a door $(5 ; 105)$ and a lock $(33 ; 133)$ according to any of claims 1 to 10 mounted in the cabinet ( 3 $103)$ for locking the door $(5 ; 105)$ in a closed position.
12. A deposit receptacle according to claim 11 and comprising a lock according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the deposit receptacle comprises a separate compartment (13) lockable by said second latch member (67).
13. A deposit receptacle according to claim 12, wherein the separate compartment is provided by a demountable drawer element (15).




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Fig. 6


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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
Application Number
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 12162195

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## REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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