



# MONGOL YURT & GROOVY YURTS



## SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS & MAINTENANCE

It will take 2 to 4 people between 2 to 4 hours to set up a yurt. The first time might take quite a bit longer, but will be worth it! It is best to read all the instructions first to better understand the entire set up procedure. If many people are helping, make sure ONE takes the lead!

REMEMBER, these yurts are not made and engineered in a “Western” way; they need love and a little creativity. Do not expect them to be rigidly correct. But once they are fully and correctly assembled they will not move.

We are showing here our own way of putting up a yurt – you might use your own procedures, or have another way to make knots, or find new ideas. Yurts are versatile and you will have to adapt your yurt to your own environment and specific needs.

We have a lot of experience and will be glad to share our ideas! We are also always happy to hear yours!

You can let us know when you plan to put your yurt up the first time and we'll make sure to have somebody on call that day.

Lexicon – Mongolian words :

Huns: roof poles or roof rafters

Bagaans: central posts

Toono: dome or central crown

Berzine: outside cover

Urgh (pronounce ursh): top cover

Rayartch: decorative bottom skirt

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1 888 GROOVYY or [info@yurt.ca](mailto:info@yurt.ca)

## What's included in your set:

Door, with double window door frame

1 toono (compression ring) with 5 ropes and 4 window frames for the FRONT half – they usually come with a basic plexiglass covering and a stove pipe hole

1 inside twill (can be replaced by a mosquito net if you chose the option)

1 rayartch (bottom skirt – usually in 2 parts)

Options could include a set of curtains or a layer of TYVEK if ordered

1 berzine (outer cover)

Set of walls (all but one have a connecting rope)

2 bagaans (central posts) yurts bigger than 6 walls have 4

Set of huns (roof rafters)

Set of felts:  
2 half moons for the roof  
2 to 4 rectangles for the side walls

1 urgh (ursh = top cover) with 4 ropes

4 horse braided hair ropes  
(1 tension rope and 3 outside ropes)

The platform is NOT included



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# SET-UP SUMMARY



1. Place door



2. connect walls in a circle a add tension rope



3a. Attach bags (central posts) to toono (top dome)...



3b. ... and raise toono



4. Put hun (roof rafters). Adjust tension with circular tension rope and make sure the toono is placed symetricaly toward in the circle.



5. Place inside twill (or mosquito net)



6. Place felts



7. Place outside cover



8. Add ropes around yurt



9. Add rayartch (botom skirt) and urch (top flap)... and you're done!



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# Let's get started!!

1. **Place the door** (in Mongolia it traditionally faces south)



Tip: if you haven't got a circular platform, draw a circle on the ground to help place the walls

2. **Stretch the walls in a circle** closing on the door. The walls are usually numbered. The numbers fit together sequentially, one (1) starting on the right side of the door as you look outwards and the highest number ending on the left side of the door. The numbers go at the top of the walls, the sharper end of the lattice being the top side.



Adjust the spread so that the height of the walls match the door's height (or slightly higher)

The sides of the walls which fit along the door are cut at an angle to fit the side of the door.



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3. The **walls fit together**, weaving the slats one over the other. To connect two walls, make sure they are at the same height. All marks and numbering on the walls face outside.

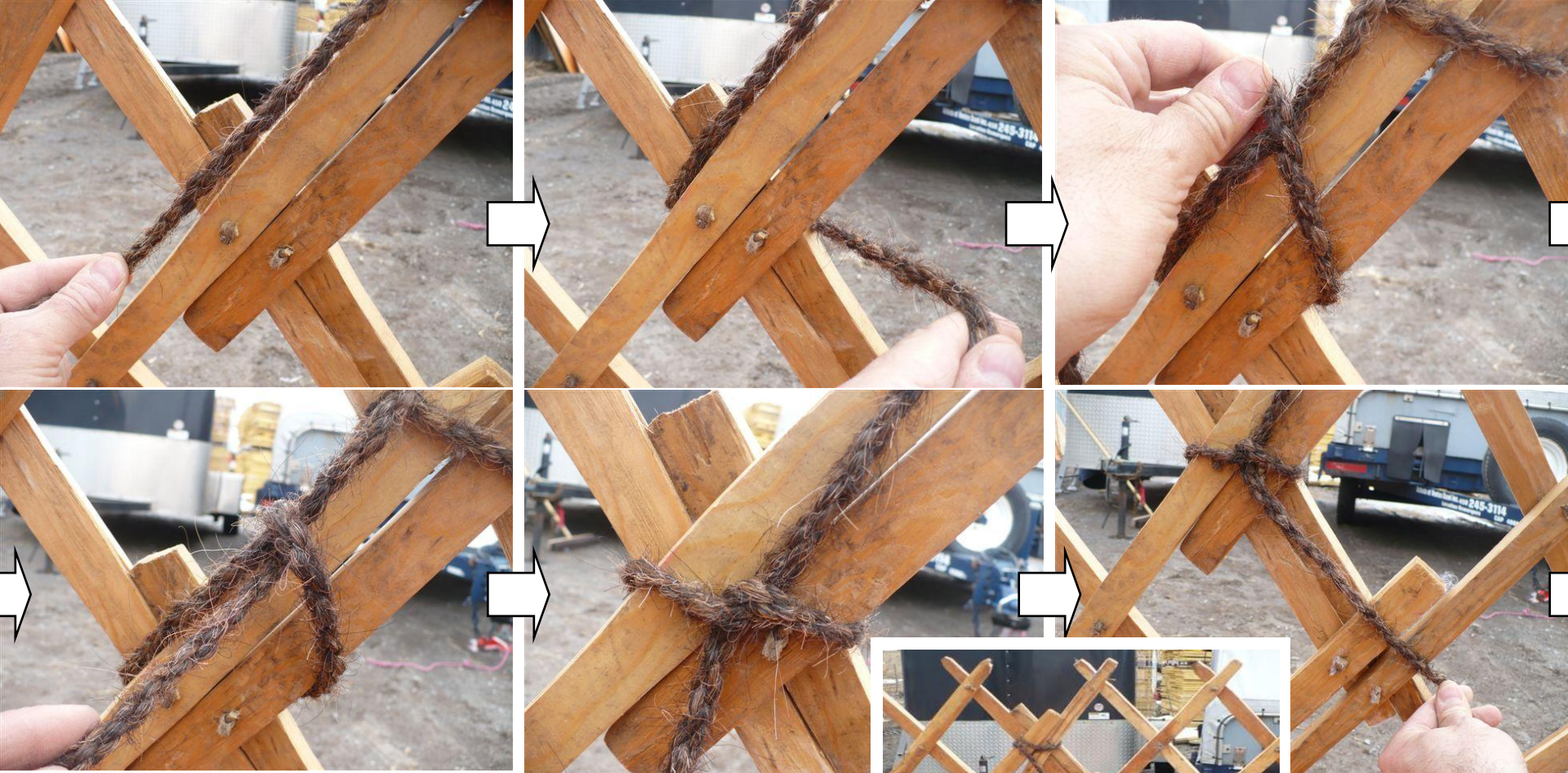
The marks on both ends of the walls shall match together



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**4. Tie the walls together** by zigzagging the rope between them, tying it at the bottom.  
 Tip: before tying the walls together, make sure they're about the same height all around and standing in a fairly nice circle.

Finish with a simple loop.  
 Tip: Always use simple loops that are easy to release





5. Attach the **long tension rope** (the one with a round section) to a strap\* at the top of the door, and make it go around the outside of the yurt. Pull the rope snug and tie it off on the strap on the other side of the door. This rope will allow you to adjust tension when you put in the roof slats.

\* it can happen that the 2 straps are not included. You will have to install them as shown here below.



Where the walls meet, pass the rope to the inside of the wall and then back out. This will maintain the rope at this height.



Tip: with the « truck driver's knot » you have twice the force, but can release the knot easily

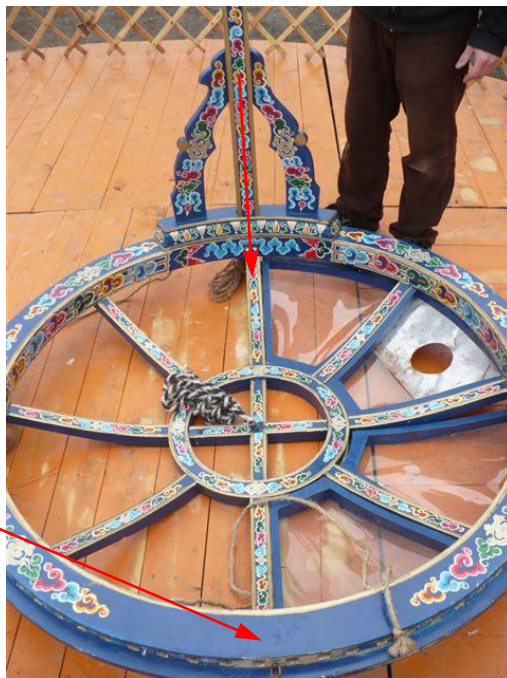


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6. Place the central crown (**toono**) upside down on the ground in the centre of the yurt. Using a rope (\*not included), attach the bagaans (centrals posts) to the toono, where there's no painted motives.



Prepare some huns (roof slats) and place them around the yurt.



\*if not included, add 4 hooks on each side of teh toono



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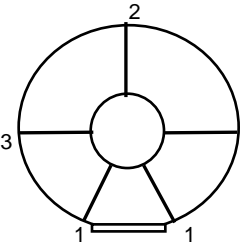
7. **Raise the toono** to a standing position, (the two bagaans parallel to the door), the covered side covered with the windows and stove pipe hole facing towards the door.



Place 2 huns (roof poles) on the walls each side of the door, painted side down and insert them in the corresponding hole on the toono. Be sure to leave the correct number of holes in the toono (central crown) for the door huns (usually 6 or 8)



Attach the rope to the door and give enough tension so that the the huns are pressed in place



Then add a hun in each of the other cardinal directions and secure them with the corresponding rope from the toono. Then add more huns, starting on both sides of the door (for ex. every 3 huns and then fill the gaps with more huns). The safest place to place the huns is from the outside of the yurt, so you don't get any falling huns on the nose!

Place the tie off ropes of the huns on the inside part of the V formed by the top of the wall so you don't stress the wall's liaison.



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Tip: if the hunns are too loose and keep falling, tighten the tension rope.  
On the other end, if it is too difficult to put the hunns or if the багаans (central posts) start to lift, release a bit the tension rope

The hunns used above the door are a bit shorter (the shortest are placed in the middle of the door) and have no tie off rope at the end.

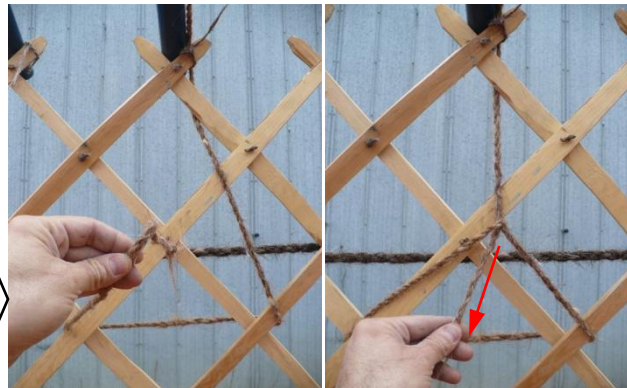


They will sit wedged into the top of the door and are usually numbered



Once you have placed a few hunns around the yurt, check if the centre axis of the toono is well aligned with the middle of the door. If not, two persons can raise the багаans a little and turn the toono in a more accurate position. If it matches the middle of the door, but not the back – it might be because one of the walls is higher, or that the ground is uneven (if not on a platform). Correct if you can, but don't worry too much – the structure will still be solid!

Tip: to attach the toono ropes on the walls, make a triangle that will help tension the rope



Tip: pull a little on the bottom of the walls to give a nice and even shape all around the yurt



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Congratulations! The structure is up!!



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## 8. Now dress the yurt

First, place the one piece light fabric undergarment (or mosquito net if you have purchased this option) on the outside of the yurt. Place it with the stitching showing to the outer side. This is one piece of fabric which will cover the roof and the walls. By pulling it from both sides of the door towards the back of the yurt, it will place itself naturally.



Overlap the two ends at the back. Pull both ends so that the cotton is tight against the toono under the toono's outer lip. Pull each of the end strings over a hun and thigh them back together (make a oop in one of the string and pas the other one in this loop...)







**9. place the roof felts:** Place each half-moon piece of felt, one front and the back on the yurt. Fold them as shown above, place each package on the roof and unfold them as shown below.



Make sure that the top side fits up snugly with the tonoo (central crown). You can use a hun for this. A person on a ladder in the centre of the yurt can pull it up (be careful pulling the felt as it can stretch and tear.)



Fold the extra felt above the door



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## 10 Place the wall felts:

starting on both sides of the door unroll the felts against the wall. The felt needs to cover the sides of the door about one or two inches.



You can then either fold the wall felt underneath the roof felt and /or pass a rope through the loops to hold it in place



(the loops are not very strong!)



Tip: fold the inside twill above the door underneath the door's hun

Tip: if you fear water on the platform, or if you are directly on the ground, raise the wall felts a little so they do not suck water



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**11. TYVEK:** if you chose this **option**, it is time to put the TYVEK on the yurt. For optimal water resistance, tape it around the door on the wood and against the toono, UNDER the lip (difficult, but possible!!)

If you're doing it by yourself, make sure to use TYVEK and no other brand – it does work better with yurts. A 10' wide roll is enough for one 19' or 22' yurt – don't forget the special red tape. We recommend you use the roof felt layers as a shape to cut and assemble the roof section of the TYVEK. ➡

Put the TYVEK on the roof, and then unroll the rest on the walls and tape it to the top.



Remark:

A Mongolian yurt has to breathe. It is one of the reasons that it is so comfortable (and healthy) both in winter and summer. The TYVEK wrap is a great alternative to more expensive covers (also available at Groovyyurts) in order to achieve optimal water resistance, while still keeping breathability.



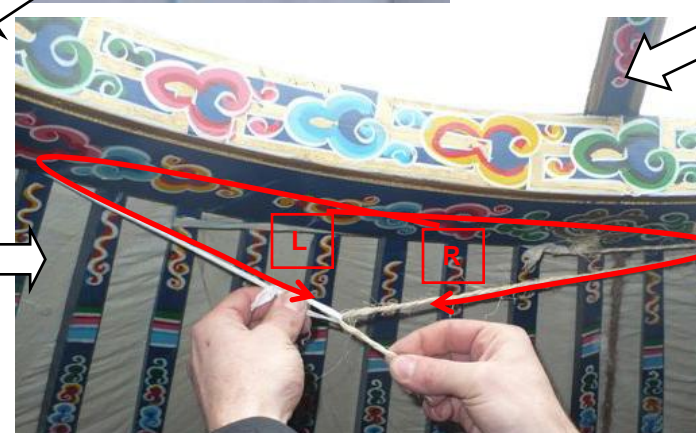
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12. **Install the berzine** (outer canvas). This layer is all one piece, and it is heavy to move. It goes up the same way you did for the inside twill. Make sure that the door is placed and squared first, then pull the tarp around and over the yurt. Again making sure that the top is well placed around the tonoo, under the lip (as shown on the picture above). Tie it off using the ropes at the end of the tarp to the roof slats inside the yurt. You have to pass the ropes between the toono and the felts and inside twill, which is a little tight.



The orange arrows left show how to pull each side of the tarp's strings over a hun and come back to attach them together

Once it is tight on the toono, pull on the canvas all around to lean it on the yurt



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**13. Attach the 3 main ropes** around the yurt. We suggest using the same tension knots as shown in point 5.

The top rope especially has to be well tightened.

If your bagaans start to lift inside the yurt it is because there's too much tension. Release the ropes a little.



**14. Attach the rayartch** (bottom skirt) to the lowest rope with simple and easy to release loops. The rayartch is usually made of two parts that join at the back. You might want to add a nail or a staple at the door, or find your own way to attach the rayartch to the door. In Mongolia it is used to protect from water... or animal dejections. Here it is more a decorative item and has no real function appart maybe of hiding a connection to the platform.



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15. **Place the urgh** (pronounce ursh), which is the top flap used to close the toono. In Mongolia, it always covers at least the back half of the toono and is pulled to the front at night or if it is raining or very cold. It is made of canvas and insulated with felt.

You might have to attach the 4 ropes (included) to each corners. Then fold the urgh into a triangle and use a roof rafter to push it on top of the yurt. Place the triangle so that it covers the back half of the toono and attach the 2 ropes on the right and left of the yurt to the circling ropes. At the back, attach only the « lower » rope, leaving the top one free to open and close the yurt.



Tip: anchor the 3 urgh's ropes to the ground or the platform, so that in case of strong winds, the urgh doesn't act as a sail, pulling the circling ropes and bending the whole yurt...



OPEN



CLOSED



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**CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU MADE IT!!**



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If you have chosen a set of inside curtains, install them now. At the top of the curtain's back, you will see two rows of loops. Pass a rope through the lower ones and hang the curtains to the top of the walls. Take another rope and pass it alternatively over the hunns (roof rafters) and back in the loops as shown with the orange line below... Usually curtains come in a set of 3 pieces. The Mongolian motives go on both sides of the door.



The rope attached to the center of the toono is usually stored in a symbol of fertility above the parent's bed, but it is used in case of strong winds to attach a big stone, thus anchoring the yurt. It is actually very effective and we recommend you anchor this rope to the ground if you leave the yurt for a longer period or if you expect a storm



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## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### THE GROUND:

Install the yurt on a circular platform, the same size as the yurt. A “swimming pool” platform with a 1 foot rim running all around is recommended for overlapping tarp. Be sure that the outside cover covers this rim to ensure water flows beyond the platform. Should you prefer a square platform, do not forget to also add a similar rim around the yurt. Contact us for the platform plans and assistance in planning the placement of your yurt.

### WIND:

In the case of a high wind, tie the central rope of the toono to a ring sturdily placed in the floor, or around a very large rock, or the base of your stove if it is heavy enough, as they do in Mongolia.

If you fear high winds, we also recommend to tight the ropes of the urgh (top flapcap) with a peg directly and solidly to the ground or to the platform

If you have your yurt on a platform, which is more slippery than the ground, add a rim around the yurt to prevent moving in case of strong lateral winds.

Yurts are aerodynamic and resist to very strong winds. They are traditionally not anchored to the ground (Mongolians do not want to arm the ground), but if you expect a tornado, we recommend additional anchoring, for example with straps going over the yurt and anchored to the ground.

### SNOW

Get rid of snow accumulation on the roof

If you leave the yurt for longer periods, place 2 additional (provisory) central posts (bagaans) to support the toono

### LOCATION:

Place your yurt in a well vented place. Avoid placing it directly under a tree, or directly in the middle of the woods, if you can.

If building on a hill side, be sure that the side of the yurt can shed any snow or rain so that it does not come up into the layers of the yurt, or onto the floor boards. If in a snow zone be sure that there is enough space on the hill side, where the snow accumulates, for the snow to melt with out getting into the yurt.



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## HUMIDITY / WATERPROOFNESS:

Be sure the canvas covers all the yurt. Eventually you will want to sew the end of the canvas at the back if you are not moving it frequently.

Re-waterproof the tarp at the sewing points, if it leaks during heavy rains. Do it every year.

Ensure that there is no leakage in the toono where the tarp joins it.

Make sure that there are no cracks in the toono where water can freeze or even leak through the wood work via the numerous square holes around the toono (a type of “ghost” infiltration that we’ve seen in the past) .

Be sure that felt does not touch the bare ground, especially in humid areas, if the platform is not perfectly watertight. It will soak up water and then freeze to the ground.

Placing plastic under the canvas will leave these grey, and might even cause the felt to mould. Should you use it, use a TYVEK (from far the best) wrapping used in construction.

The door can swell during the first year. You will have to grind it on the top and sides and make sure to paint it, especially on top of it.

## LONGEVITY:

The secret for longevity is frequent venting and regular heating to keep it from moulding. If you do not use your yurt for a season, take it down and store it dry!

During the winter or prolonged humid weather make sure that there is plenty of ventilation especially if the toono windows are very sealed, or if there is heavy snow.

Apply a couple layers of varnish on the door outside (and every year) to prevent from aging.

## HEATING / COOLING:

Canvas, curtains or inside twill can be treated with a fire retardant products, which we can supply, as well as guaranteed fire resistant covers.

The GroovyYurt stoves, made in Mongolia are original, but not very productive. We sell them as decorative objects, as they do not comply with any North American standards. Take care of possible CO2 accumulation on the floor!

To burn less wood, you can always get a second layer of felt for the roof or the complete yurt

Raise the covers and felt from the bottom in the summer to create a natural cooling air flow with the top window

And last but not least, please be responsible! This is a hand made product that you’re buying and using at your own risk. There’s no warranty to these yurts, although we’ll always be doing our best to help you out for any question. Don’t eat your yurt, don’t smoke your yurt or anything else, don’t make an open fire, etc., etc... ☺

**Enjoy your new yurt and ask us for any advice. We have a lot of experience and are happy to share it!**



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