



feat. Melisa Mendini

SMOOTH

CREATE, ENHANCE & IMPROVE YOUR PORTFOLIO THE EASY WAY



SMOOTH. Starting Out in Nude Photography

featuring **Melisa Melini** | 2nd Edition - FastSpring

by Dan Hostettler | <https://www.StudioPrague.com>

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Melisa Mendini, Czech Glamour Photo Model

Photos by Dan Hostettler, Make Up & Hair by Aneta Ložková





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Model Melisa, MUHA Aneta, Dan



Melisa Mendini & Dan



Marc Ludwig, FotoTV Germany & Dan

Welcome. Embrace the 3-E-Principle!

Explore. Evolve. Enhance!

Are you just starting out in this genre, or are you already a versed model shooter? Whatever level you are on right now: You will gain new insights, fresh ideas and your takeaways for sure!

So, welcome to my extensive tutorial that takes you by the hand and guides you all the way from starting out in Sexy Women Photography to finished compelling and thoroughly diverse alluring images. I will help you to create your first complete portfolio with a vast variety of styles or – in case you already have that - an enhanced and revamped showcase of your signature style!

Awesomeness included!

Philosophy of SMOOTH

Fundamentals? Sure!

Creation, implementation, finishing and polishing specific looks? Certainly!

Presented in the easiest available way of learning? You bet!

The very basic question I asked myself in the beginning was how to arrange a comprehensive, profound and easy to understand, fully replicable tutorial that is helpful to you.

So in order to take on this challenge and receive professional support for this project, I partnered up with my friends from FotoTV Germany. These folks are most experienced in outlining such ideas. After brainstorming and quite a long phase of concept planning, the educational approach of this tutorial series turned into a very thorough and extremely detailed course.

I am mentoring you by showing you every approach, idea and step needed to get at least the same appealing results I am sharing with you here. As SMOOTH as possible! No hiding of any aspect or trying to cover up the more complicated tasks, no!

I am translating all necessary components into a full-blown and easy-to-rely-on stream of SMOOTHNESS.



Detailed Guidance Offers You Space for Evolvment

In the “Basics” section I am demonstrating that you don’t need to invest thousands of dollars (or Euros over here in Europe) in order to create a wide variety of looks and images. Instead, you will find out that it’s the mix of your creativity, vision, a bit of tech and relying on this compendium that builds the necessary foundation which in turn allows for the desired variety of results.

Follow my tips, replicate my concepts and – this is the important part – exercise, enhance and evolve the ideas on your own! The practical case studies (shoots) are meticulously taken apart. They let you follow an all-embracing step-by-step instruction-path from start to finish.

Additionally, I have prepared a cheat sheet per look for you, listing all important aspects used for your own shoot in a convenient way.

Starting Out? Stress-Relief Guaranteed!

Being on set with a sexy model for the first time?

Light, camera settings, talk, music, directing, posing, focus... - a bit overwhelming, right?

For shooting your first sexy woman, I will provide you with an easy-to-set-up and smooth-to-handle lighting design that allows you to fully concentrate on the work with your model. It’s the model after all, not the light that plays an important part in your beginnings.

You will work in a spacious action radius that offers and guarantees the best precondition for directing your subject into the desired poses: full-length, three-quarter, portraiture, expressions, hand & arm posing. Once again - bit by bit.

Looking for Improvement? Boost Your Portfolio.

After the first action we fully concentrate on building, enhancing and compiling your portfolio with a diversity of looks – shot in studio and indoor locations. It is a low-tech approach but at the same time highly specific with regard to the compositional details of each certain style.

These exercises are the perfect set of tools to work out the various differences and create unique series for a remarkable, useful and intensified showcase.



It's All About Variety

Different sets/situations/arrangements that strongly separate each of them from the others are the key for a lively, exciting, striking and substantial portfolio. An elaborated port is always based upon different shots representing varying looks. A look is a mood is a story is an expression... - it's not only about the way the model appears!

Every model (amateur to pro), girl next door, any lady on your journey... - every single one of them is looking for this specific thing when you approach them with your shoot request: Your experience and versatility that's reflected by your portfolio. If you have not already been shooting models for a couple of years, then the best strategy really is to build your imagery purposefully based on a variation of setups.

Looks: Mood & Style & Story

A look itself - that will be shot in a set/scene - is always comprised of different ingredients: beautifying, styling, lighting design, posing/acting, composition (and post production).

For the first time, I am presenting a completely revealed overview of 7 characterized looks in the main categories classic, soft and bold.

Learn all about this range of styles and subsequently their practical implementation chapter-by-chapter.

It's Your Turn: Learn, Create, Feedback

I wish you an explosive learning curve and lots of projects where you can replicate, evolve and improve the knowledge you will receive here! I am most certain that you can go a very long way with the information and impulse provided here.

Note: It would make me quite happy if you were willing to share the thoughts, comments, questions and results that arise during your journey.

Drop me a few lines and images on: *(email address is in the eBook revealed)*

Thank you most kindly for your interest in this tutorial, your trust in my approach and for supporting my work.

Yours,

The Little Kit of Light

AN AMAZING JOURNEY STARTS: LET THERE BE LIGHT!

This very first chapter is dedicated to demonstrate you how we are able to create amazing different looks with little equipment. Difference is the key factor!

We don't want to have the have the same look and feel over and over again, right?



All looks for this tutorial were created using the (enhanced) Little Kit of Light



Standard Reflector

The first light modifier in use is a standard reflector. In order to limit the light beam and therefore make it more dramatic, I have attached an additional very close-meshed grid. This way the light won't spill too much.

The modifier has a small diameter that's why we receive harsh shadows. As we can see on these images, the shadow at the side below the chin gets strongly emphasized.

Another effect that's simply great with this modifier is the relatively sharp shadow that is being created in the background. It is a clearly defined form that reflects Kristina's posing in a distorting kind of way.

We also notice the light fall-off on the model's body. In the shots framed less tight, the strong light fall-off becomes definitely visible. The gradation into the darkness happens very fast.

Conclusion: This harsh light or rather these harsh shadows definitely create the characteristic of a drama look, the way I see it. There is a great emphasis on the shadow... so we have definitely used the light modifier to work on the shadow!

8 18cm/7"

harsh, defined shadow

fast light fall-off

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Conclusion: If Kristina starts moving around during her posing - that's what models actually should do in order to create an appealing sequence together with you - she will very quickly be leaving the center of the light beam. Worst case scenario would be if she stepped completely out of the light.

This would immediately result in a totally different lighting situation and lead to a discrepancy of no less than 4 to 5 f-stops within one and the same series. In short: the subject would be totally underexposed.

This very concentrated light beam has its own (more dramatic) character but we actually have a situation which makes it impossible to get a balanced lighting that would allow for a smooth workflow. If you would like to interact with the model (you have to!) and try out poses (you certainly will!), then such a defined light is not a good starting point for your first shoot. It will only stress you out!

f/13 f/2.8

standard reflector

very limited light beam

octobox

broad light beam

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Beauty Dish 2/2

Kristina's look has been improved: the hair is loose which fits this glamorous setting much better. Kristina has also taken off her corset. This way we will be able to better detect on the photos where shadows are being cast and it also better illustrates the model's curves without any distractions.

This is the second test series. Kristina's overall look is more attractive and teasing. But let's analyze the lighting style further: The open light as well as the cast of shadows and the accentuation within the shadows, for example under the breasts, are a lot friendlier. The soft shadows support the form of the breasts in a very nice way. The light is not too soft, an accentuation occurs.

We also see that a shadow still prevails under her chin. However, this one is even softer and more open while yet showing crispness.

Conclusion: A beauty dish creates a wider light beam which results in more open shadows. Yet due to a silver coating and the bowl form, light quality stays rather hard; creating the characteristic of a crisp, alluring light. This light former perfectly relates to my taste regarding the creation of glam shots up to a three-quarter framing.

Explore my real world implementation (text & video) of this approach on BLOG+: "Fast Glam"

styling

accentuation shadows

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YOUR FIRST NUDE SHOOT

Shoot the Look

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BODYSCAPES

Shoot the Look

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CLASSIC NUDES

Shoot the Look

This interplay between straight lines and curves delivers a very good, visual contrast. We have a basic straight line as well as a very curvy and bold beautiful S-curve.

For this shot, I asked Kristina to turn her face further into the camera's direction. Doing so mainly allows us to get a better view of her profile line.

If she turns her head to the back, I am facing the problem of her nose merging with the elbow.

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Set Plan "Bodyscapes"

Key Light

- Flash Head @190 WS
- Stripbox w/Grid 40x180cm/1.3x6'
- Fullframe
- 18-85mm
- f/8
- 1/200
- ISO 100
- 4900°K

Key Light

- Flash Head @190 WS
- Stripbox w/Grid 40x180cm/1.3x6'

Fill-In

- 5-in-1 Disc reflector
- Silver Coated Side

Lighting Gear & Specs Used

- 1x Monolight 400 Ws @190 WS
- 1x Stripbox 40x180cm/1.3x6'
- 1x Disc Reflector 5-in-1

Camera Gear & Specs Used

- 1x Nikon Fullframe
- 18-85mm
- f/8
- 1/200
- ISO 100
- 4900°K

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Lighting Setup

The first important part is to create soft, smooth light in order to establish an even and large light volume. Under normal circumstances, I actually would have daylight shining in from the window. But today there is simply not enough of it because it is raining.

Due to the missing natural ambient light, I have to run another strategy with my keylight. I am using an octobox in the background as key volume light. This is not too bad to start with but I want to simulate the light even more so it will come across like natural daylight. Most of all, I need a bigger and softer volume.

This is not possible with the octobox alone, even if it is placed farther away, because the beam angle is still relatively limited.

Octobox 8 120cm/4'

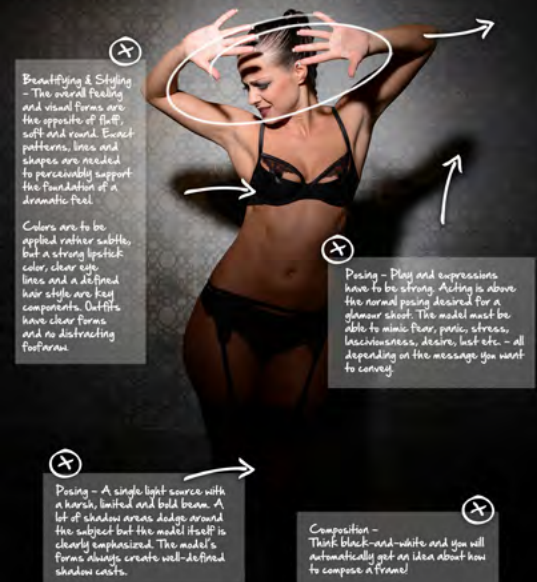
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FASHION NUDES

Shoot the Look

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What Makes a Drama Noir Look?



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Shoot the Look

SOFT NUDES

Nuts & Bolts

YOUR FIRST NUDE SHOOT

Nuts & Bolts

YOUR FIRST NUDE SHOOT

What Makes a Soft/Sensual Look?



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Shoot the Look

FASHION NUDES

Shoot the Look

SOFT NUDES

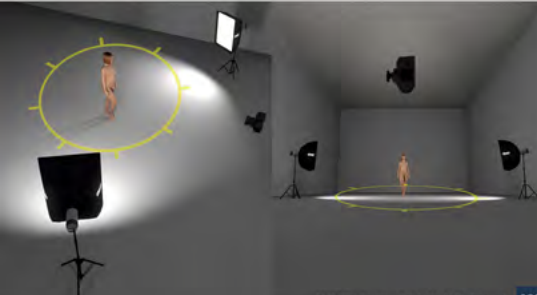
Shoot the Look

GLAM NUDES

Lighting Setup

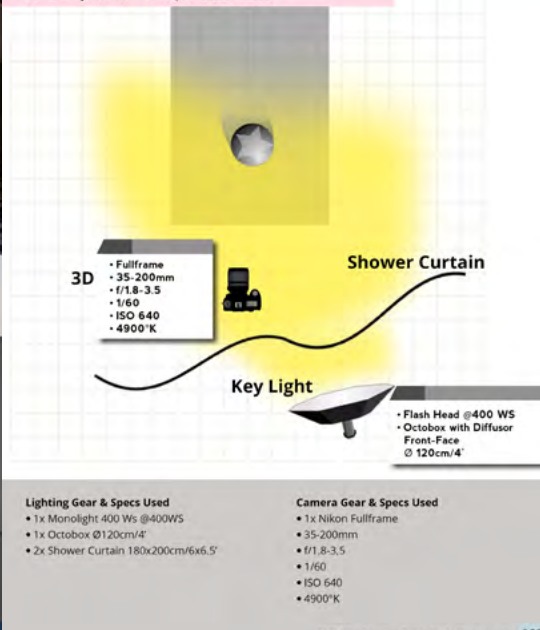


The freedom of movement is very important for the posing. When those more special poses occur in a fashion shoot, a bigger action area is of advantage. If we had a too narrow light beam, the model would "drop out" of the light setting right quick due to her movements or step sequence.



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Set Plan "Soft Nudes"



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Last but not least, I continue and finish-up with partly and full frontal nudes.

Even though it should not simply look like a striptease (the posing and undress order) - but at the very end it is just that; performing a striptease. However, you can break-up a boring "get-rid-of-the-clothes" by implementing different compositional elements.



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Starting with Basic Poses



Let's get to the first real interaction with the model. I want Kristina to strike a few poses. Doing so will allow me to empathize with the shooting situation.

The principle for this shoot is that we are moving from a full body shot to a semi body shot close to the hands and head. Starting with full body shots gives us a first impression about the model's versatility to pose and an overview of her body lines.



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Shoot the Look

GLAM NUDES



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DAN HOSTETTLER - Photographer, Author, Solopreneur

Dan Hostettler is a Switzerland born solopreneur, photographer and author. In 1995 he graduated from the Professional School for Fine Arts and Design in Bern as a photographer.

Dan has been a professional sexy women photographer for more than 15 years.

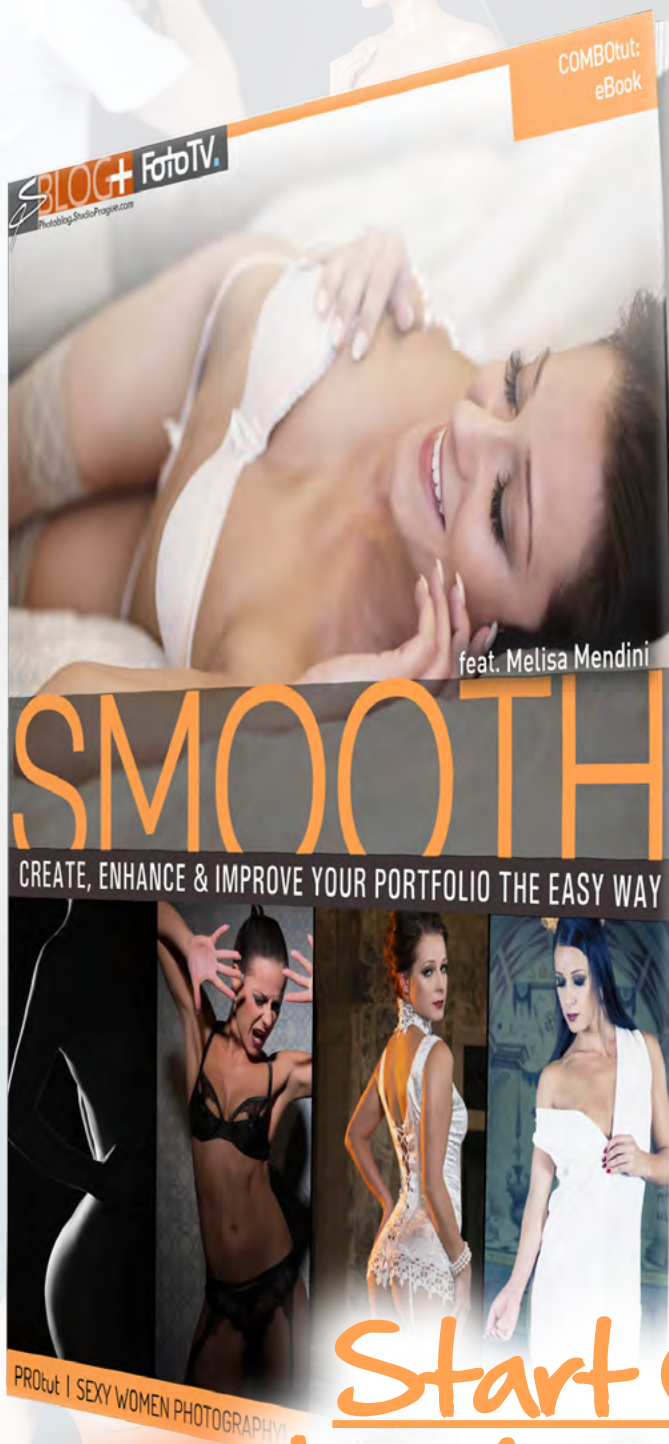
In 2001 Dan founded his flagship StudioPrague in Prague, Czech Republic, which includes a dedicated production company that has received international recognition and offers private, high-end workshops. Dan has had the pleasure of photographing some of the world's most beautiful female nude models and he always strives to capture that "bold sexy moment", both in the studio and on location.

StudioPrague continues in 2013 with its latest innovation, BLOG+, an online learning environment dedicated to help train and mentor other photography enthusiasts in Sexy Women Photography.

Aside from his own creations, Dan has been internationally published and featured among others on and in GQ Online, The India Times, FashionONE TV, GoodLight! Magazine, FotoTV, ModelMayhem EDU, MUZE Magazine, FOTOdigital.

Dan's passion for traveling, cinema and visual adventures translates into a high degree of skill and creativity. Inspired by the world's top magazines and brands like Playboy, Maxim, FHM, Vogue and Victoria's Secret amongst others, Dan continues his pursuit of being the best in his field.

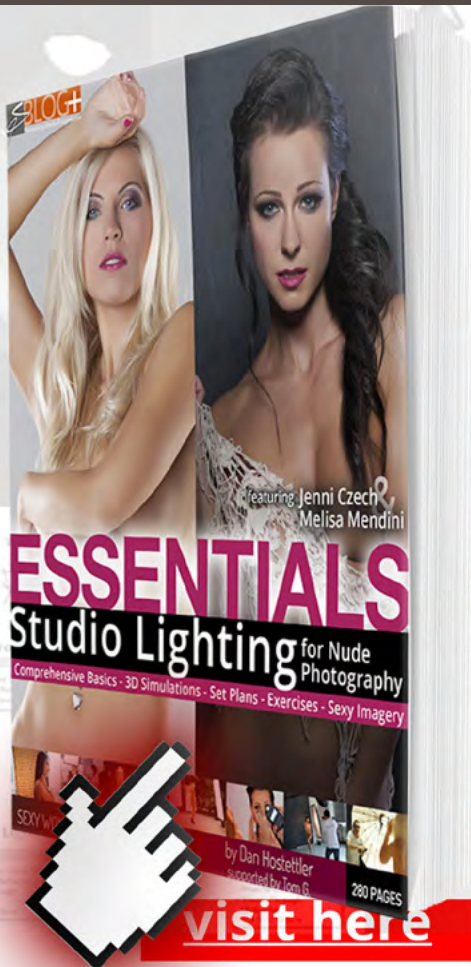




Start Creating
Your Portfolio Now!



Photography Lighting with Dan Hostettler



ESSENTIALS.

Studio Lighting for Nude Photography



Juice Things Up!

Does studio lighting scare you away?

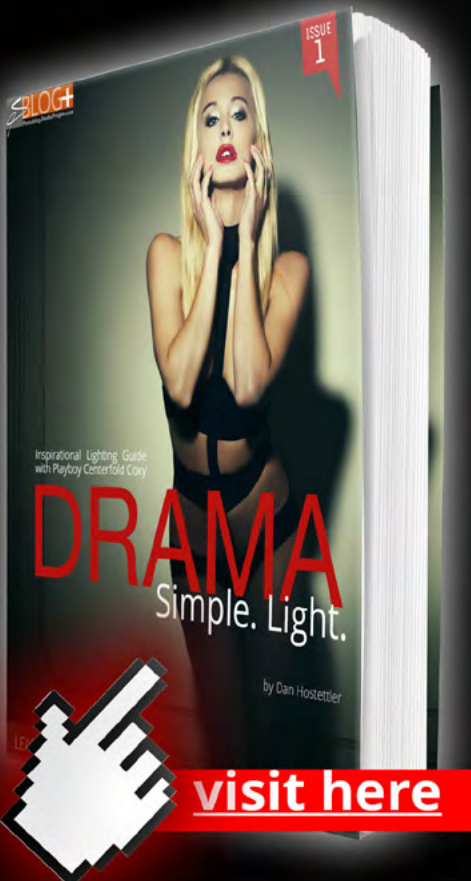
Too many lights, light modifiers, gear and stuff?

Have you never ever worked seriously with studio equipment?

Are you curious about improving and evolving your style?

This book delivers the perfect “one size fits all” access: for newcomers, amateurs, aficionados, even versed pros – there is always something new to explore whether it is fresh from scratch or just tidbits.

- 280 pages
- 19 all-inclusive case studies/lighting setups for 1, 2, 3 & 4 lights (+ reflectors)
- feat. Jenni Czech & Melisa Mendini



DRAMA.

Simple Dramatic Lighting

This lighting guide is the first comprehensive and intuitive photo lighting guide with visualized 3D setups, full gear description and lighting diagrams showing 5 different, tasteful sexy scenarios with Playmate Centerfold Coxy Dominika.

Drama light does not mean to create dusky sceneries but rather working with well-chosen light areas and corresponding accents.

- 105 pages
- Over 70 key visuals & descriptions in 3D
- 36 tasteful nude images in 5 sets
- 5 complete lighting setups for 1, 2 & 3 lights
- feat. Czech Playmate Coxy Dominika

Posing & Directing Models: Creative Impact

Fashion-like Model Poses Will Boost Your Creative Concepts

It's Your Story! Poses can be expressive, dramatic or simplistic. Learn how to expand your vision and build an exciting portfolio.

With most glamour modeling, posing is often limited and less creatively applied than in fashion modeling. Mixing the two genres along with freestyle fashion-like expressions, allows your models to freely switch from one fanciful, emotive and unique pose to another without restrictions.

Fashion-like model poses will boost your creative concepts!



SAVE \$\$\$\$ get BUNDLES!

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COMBOtut! Video & eBook

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Gain valuable insights and a full documentation of a real and typical production day of Dan Hostettler.

You get to see a full production day from A to Z! Dan reveals the production process from concept to planning to execution! Based on team effort, yet founded on his art direction, photography and production management.

- **133 min runtime, 1080p FullHD**
- **Get Double Value: 2 Photographers – glamNUDE AND artNUDE!**
- **5 Looks & Sets fully explained and revealed**
- **Pre-Production Process aspects fully revealed**
- **feat. Czech Playmate Coxy Dominika**

SMOOTH

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