



10 Add The Finishing Touches

By now, you should have a temporary page layout that includes:

- The background or page pattern – this can be the page itself or a decorative paper attached to the page
- The mounted and matted photograph(s)
- The matted text block(s) – or space for hand-lettered journaling
- Supporting memorabilia, if desired
- The paper patches for quilt layouts

USING THE RIGHT ADHESIVE

Several types of adhesives are available for different aspects of scrapbooking, but the only ones you'll really need are:

- Acid-free glue stick – for adhering small, irregularly-shaped surfaces, and for mounting background sheets to album pages.
- Acid-free photo mount squares – double-sided self-adhesive stickers for mounting photos or other papers onto the album or scrapbook pages.
- Removable tape – for holding items in place temporarily.

Each item should be attached with removable tape. When you're completely satisfied, on a separate piece of paper, make a very simple sketch of your layout for reference, using outlines to indicate where each item belongs.

Now it's time to complete your page by permanently mounting and affixing each piece. Adhere the largest items to the page first, such as a background or a large photograph. If you're using photo corners, be sure to attach them now. Add medium-sized items, and then smaller ones, working from the background forward. Allow your page to dry, erase any pencil marks, and place it in a sheet protector, if desired. And that's it – your page is finished! And you're ready for the next one.

If you have created separate pages to be placed within an album, your last step will be to make certain that all pages are arranged in the order you planned.

Beginning and Ending Pages

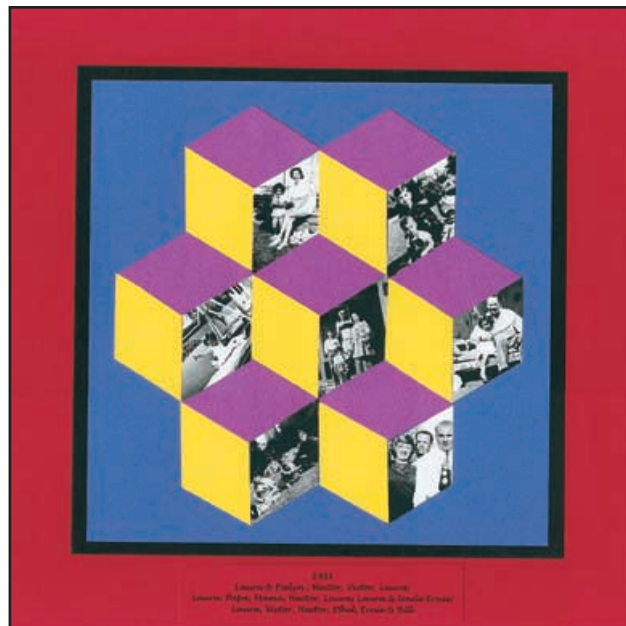
For an extra personal touch, add a dedication or acknowledgements page:

- Add a dedication page to the front of your album. One example could be, "To my children, much love and happy memories." You could add the names of your children.
- Add an acknowledgements page at the end, to recognize the special people who have helped you along the way.

You may want to add a few words about yourself, or describe your experience in creating your album. If several family members helped to create your album, each one should make a personal statement. Everyone should sign his or her name. Date the page.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have created a family heirloom that will be treasured for many lifetimes. Gather your family together for a grand presentation. Stand back, and let everyone appreciate and enjoy your *American Family Album*.



CELEBRATE YOUR AMERICAN FAMILY!

Creating an **American Family Album** is just one of many wonderful, fun ways to celebrate your family and heritage. Planning a **Family Reunion** will bring family members together to create a memorable day that can also be recorded and shared with future generations! **Sharing Family Stories and Oral Histories** help us to understand the past and present as well as strengthen family ties across the generations.

Family Reunion

Make a guest list. Decide on a date and location that will be as convenient as possible for everyone on your list. Purchase printed invitations, or, even better, make your own. Just buy some blank cards and envelopes (art or office supply stores, or paper outlets). Use the same materials and techniques you used to create your album to make unique invitations. Send the invitations to notify people well in advance.

Plan your menu. Will you prepare all the food, make it a “pot luck,” or have it catered? If you’re doing a pot luck, find out in advance what everyone is bringing.

Arrange activities, such as games or swimming, which take advantage of your surroundings.

Here are some activities to help you create and save your memories of this special day:

- It’s fun to provide disposable cameras and let everyone take pictures (even the kids) throughout the day. Create a family reunion album or scrapbook – selecting a range of photographs and making sure everyone is included. Make copies at a copy shop – they can even add spiral binding – and send one to each family that attended.
- Make a memory box – out of a decorated cigar box, for example. Ask everyone to write down a special memory or two on a long, narrow strip of paper, and sign their name. Roll up each strip, forming a little scroll, and place it in the box. Each family member may pick one at random and read it aloud. Try and guess who wrote it!
- Bring a journal or guest book. Ask everyone to write down a family memory or their feelings about the reunion, and sign his or her name. Each person should have a two-page spread, so you can later add a photograph of the person from the reunion.

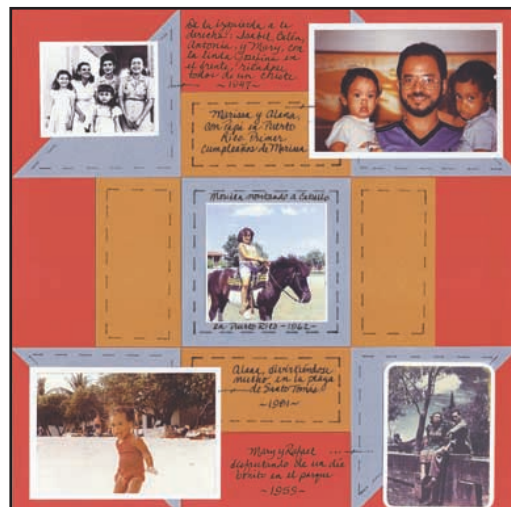


- Before the reunion, make (or buy) some blank recipe cards. Send one with each invitation, or pass them out at the reunion. Ask every family member to write his or her favorite family recipe and return it to you. Younger kids can contribute, with an adult helping them to write the recipe. Create a family cookbook or recipe box, and make copies for each household – a great holiday gift idea!

(See the **Resource** section for more information on planning a family reunion.)

After the Reunion

- Print T-shirts with a reunion group photograph at a copy store. Send to everyone who attended.
- Host an “Annual Family Scrapbook Day” or weekend. Interested family members may bring photographs (copies are best). Provide materials and supplies, and share the scrapbooking techniques you’ve learned.
- Start a family newsletter. This is easy to do on a personal computer! Choose fun and easy-to-read fonts for headlines and text, and use the column function. Give your newsletter a title. Add a headline for each news item. Ask family members to contribute “letters to the editor” for future issues, or take turns creating the newsletter. You can add simple games for children, such as a maze or crossword puzzle (include family-related clues), and something to color. Fold newsletters in half or in thirds, address them, and mail them out.
- Create a family calendar. Each page (month) can feature a photograph from the reunion. Note each family member’s birthday, including a small photo if possible. Remember anniversaries, too!
- Design a family Web site, online scrapbook, and newsletter. (See Resource section.)



Sharing Family Stories and Oral Histories

(contributed by Generations United)

Family stories help us to understand the past and present, as well as strengthen family ties across the ages. The oldest members of extended families are often the keepers of family stories and pass them from generation to generation. The greater the connection with the generations that came before, the more stories there are to share with the next generation. An important part of any family scrapbook is collecting and showcasing family stories. One way to capture these stories is through oral history.

Oral history is a method of gathering and preserving historical information through interviews. For families, it is a wonderful way for young people to connect with older relatives by asking about their personal stories, family history, and cultural traditions. Through interviews and conversations, older relatives give children a better understanding of who they and their family are, and the forces that shaped the family's identity. Children and youth give older relatives love, time, and the knowledge that they and their experiences are valued.

Sharing stories through oral history is also fun, but preparation is needed to make sure it is successful. Take time to prepare, plan questions in advance, respect the schedules and privacy of older relatives, and think ahead about ways to help older relatives feel comfortable talking about the past. Older

children and youth should take notes during the interview. Afterwards, they should write down the stories they learned. Younger children can draw pictures or make collages to illustrate the stories they heard. Young people can also tap into their creativity by composing poems, songs, or skits based on their conversations with older relatives. The whole family can get involved by performing the song, skit, or play that portrays the family stories.



Tips for Oral History:

- Plan conversations around the older relative's schedule and what times of the day are best.
- Use a 20th century timeline as a conversation starter and to spark children's interest.
- Make a list of questions – see sample list below. Give children and young people the opportunity to develop their own questions. Having questions on hand during the interview can serve as a reminder of subjects to cover and help to revive a conversation if it starts to slow down. Questions should be simple and planned around family or historical events. Ask what things looked, smelled, and sounded like. Children should know that they can skip questions and ask questions not on the list during the interview.
- Think about using meaningful objects to help get the conversation going – photos, books, patchwork quilt, and other family heirlooms.
- Think about other things older relatives can share – songs, recipes, poems, jokes, family sayings, letters, and newspaper clippings.
- Make sure to have all necessary equipment before starting – pen, pencils, crayons, paper, and tape recorder, if using one. Consider using a tape recorder or video camera to record the conversation – making sure the older relative is comfortable with recording before starting. Make sure all equipment works and bring extra batteries and tapes.
- Enlist the help of other relatives – siblings, cousins, parents, aunts, and uncles.
- Remember to thank the older relative for taking the time and energy to share valuable family stories.



Sample Questions for Children and Youth to Ask Older Relatives:

- Where were you born?
- Where were your mom and dad born?
- Where did you grow up? What was it like?
- How many brothers and sisters did you have?
- Where did you go to school? What was it like?
- What subjects were you good at in school?
- What was your favorite thing to do with your family when you were my age?
- What kind of games did you play?
- Who did you play with?
- What was your house like?
- What was your favorite food?
- What were holidays like in your family?
- What kind of chores did you do?
- Did you have pets?
- What was your first job?
- What is your earliest memory?
- What was your favorite possession/toy/gift someone gave you?
- How did you meet your husband/wife?
- What is the bravest thing you ever did?
- What is the scariest thing you ever had to do?
- Who do I remind you of in the family?
- If you could be any age again what age would you chose?
- What do you like the best about this time in your life?



Special Latin American Holidays to Remember

Holidays are special times – bringing families together and honoring traditions. This calendar provides just a sampling of special Latin American holidays. Consider the holidays your family celebrates, the ones important to you, and make them a part of your album.

JANUARY 1 ~ Año Nuevo – New Year's Day

JANUARY 6 ~ Día de los Reyes Magos – Three Kings Day • Traditionally, children receive gifts on this day, rather than on Christmas. It is celebrated with “Merienda” consisting of hot chocolate and “Rosca de Reyes.” The Rosca de Reyes is a large oval wreath made out of egg bread and decorated with dry fruit, with sugar sprinkled on top.

FEBRUARY 2 ~ Día de la Candelaria – Day of the Candlelight • On this Day of Purification, the Nativity Scene is put away. Traditional events include a dinner of tamales, a candlelight procession, and dancing.

FEBRUARY 5 ~ Día de la Constitución/ Carnaval – Constitution Day • This holiday kicks off a five-day celebration. Lent Carnaval is celebrated with parades, floats, and dancing in the streets.

FEBRUARY 14TH ~ Día de San Valentín – Valentine's Day • Celebration of friendship and love

FEBRUARY 24 ~ Día de la Bandera – Flag Day • Flag Day was instituted in 1940 by President Lázaro Cárdenas. On this day in 1821, the “Plan de Iguala” was signed, ending the War of Independence and proclaiming Mexico an independent country.

MARCH 21 ~ Día de Nacimiento de Benito Juárez – The Birthday of Benito Juárez • Mexico's national hero was the leader of the resistance against foreign invasion and a champion of Mexican liberalism. He was also the first president of Indian descent.

MARCH OR APRIL ~ Semana Santa – Holy Week • The week before Easter is one of Mexico's biggest holiday periods, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Easter. Holy week ends the 40-day Lent period.

APRIL 30 ~ Día de Los Niños – Day of the Children • This new national holiday celebrates and uplifts all children.

MAY 1 ~ Día del Trabajo – Mexican Labor Day

MAY 5 ~ Cinco de Mayo • This day commemorates the victory by Mexican troops in “La Batalla de Puebla” against the French in 1862. Outnumbered 4,700 to 5,200 and severely under-equipped, the humble Mexican Army defeated the most powerful fighting unit in the world.

MAY 10TH ~ Día de la Madre - Mexican Mother's Day

MAY 20 ~ Cuban Independence Day • May 20, 1902, the U.S. occupation of Cuba ended, and the island elected its first president, Don Tomás Estrada Palma.

JUNE ~ Día del Padre - Father's Day

JUNE (SECOND SUNDAY) ~ National Puerto Rican Day • Begun in New York City in 1957, with the word National added in 1995, the National Puerto Rican Day Parade is part of a festival to celebrate the culture and the island of Puerto Rico.

SEPTEMBER 13 ~ Día de los Niños Heroes – Day of the “Children Heroes” Resisting attack in 1847, in the historic castle of “Chapultepec,” on a hill-top where a military college resided, six young cadets, with much valor, wrapped themselves in the flag and gave up their lives in defense of their flag and country.

SEPTEMBER 16 ~ Día de la Independencia – Mexican Independence Day • This day commemorates the beginning of Mexico's War of Independence from Spain and the delivery of “El Grito de Dolores” by Father Miguel Hidalgo.

OCTOBER 12 ~ Día de la Raza – Day of the Race • This holiday celebrates Columbus' discovery of and arrival in the New World and the historical origins of the Mexican (mestizo) people/race.

NOVEMBER 1 & 2 ~ Día de los Muertos – Day of the Dead • This important Mexican holiday merges Pre-Columbian beliefs and modern Catholicism. Europe's All Saints' Day and the Aztec worship of the dead contribute to these two days that honor Mexico's dead.

NOVEMBER 20 ~ Día de la Revolución – Revolution Day • This is the anniversary of the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

DECEMBER 12 ~ Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe – Day of our Lady of Guadalupe • The day of the Virgin of Guadalupe is celebrated with a procession and a feast honoring Mexico's patron saint. These celebrations mark the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary on Tepeyac Hill in 1531 – a beautiful Aztec goddess who spoke the native language and requested that the Basilica be built on Tepeyac Hill, a sacred Aztec ground.

DECEMBER 16 – 24 ~ Las Posadas – Inn / Shelter • Joseph and Mary's search for shelter in Bethlehem is celebrated and commemorated with candlelight processions. Each family in a neighborhood will schedule a night for the Posada to be held at their home. The homeowners are the innkeepers, and the neighborhood children and adults are “Los Peregrinos” who have to request lodging through singing a simple chant.

DECEMBER 24 ~ Noche Buena – Holy Night • Mexican Christmas is celebrated by attending Mass and by having dinner with family and friends. Most important, at midnight, the Baby Jesus is placed in the manger in the Nativity Scene.

DECEMBER 25 ~ Día de Navidad – Christmas Day

DECEMBER 28 ~ Día de los Santos Inocentes – Day of the Innocent Saints • This celebration is similar to April Fool's Day.

RESOURCES

ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES & PRESERVATION MATERIALS

(Most of these supplies and materials can be found in craft, stationery, art supply, and scrapbook stores.)

Archival Mist (*removes acid from paper*)

Preservation Technologies
111 Thomson Park Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Un-du (*removes photos in old magnetic albums*)

Un-du/Doumar Products, Inc.
12784 Perimeter Drive, Suite B-100, Dallas, TX 75228

Elmer's Craft Bond Glue Stick (*acid-free, extra strength glue; goes on blue, dries clear*)

Elmer's Products, Inc.
Columbus, OH 43215-3799

Canson Photo Mount Squares (*double-sided, self-adhesive stickers mount photos/paper to paper*)

Canson Albums and Papers (*archival-quality scrapbooks, photo albums, and papers*)
Canson, Inc.
South Hadley, MA 01075
(413) 538-9250
www.canson-us.com

Scotch Removable Magic Tape #811 (*removable and reusable tape*)

3M Commercial Office Supply Division
St. Paul, MN 55144

Wei T'o (**deacidification** *spray protects papers from acid damage*)

pH testing pens (*test paper for acid content*)

Bookkeeper Spray (*deacidifies book pages, newspaper clippings, and other paper*)

All available through:
Light Impressions
439 Monroe Avenue / P.O. Box 940
Rochester, NY 14603-0940
(800) 828-6216

Webway Albums (*expandable, refillable, archival albums*)

Antioch Publishing Inc., Webway Album Division
P.O. Box 28, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
(800) 543-2397



BOOKS - HERITAGE

- Crafting Your Own Heritage Album* by Bev Kirschner Braun (F&W Publications)
Family Reunion Handbook by Tom Ninkovich (Reunion Research)
Fantastic Family Gatherings by Kathy Smith Anthenat (Heritage Books)
Finding Your Hispanic Roots by George R. Ryskam (Genealogical Publishing Company)
Fun and Games for Family Gatherings by Adrienne Anderson (Reunion Research)
Keeping Family Stories Alive by Vera Rosenbluth (Hartley and Marks)
New Ideas for Crafting Heritage Albums by Bev Kirschner Braun (F&W Publications)
The Latino Holiday Book by Valerie Menard (Marlowe & Company)
The Cuban American Family Album by Dorothy & Thomas Hoobler, editors
The Mexican American Family Album by Dorothy & Thomas Hoobler (out of print; try used book stores)
Guatemala Rainbow 2002 Wall Calendar www.pomegranatecommunications.com

BOOKS - SCRAPBOOK

- Creating Your Family Heritage Scrapbook* by Nerius and Gardner (Prima)
Cynthia Hart's Scrapbook Workshop (Workman)
Great Scrapbooks by Gerbrandt with Durant (Hugh Lauter Levin Assoc., Inc.)
Joy of Scrapbooking by Lisa Bearson and Gayle Humpherys (Leisure Arts)
The Complete Guide to Scrapbooking by Jill Haglund (Tweety Jill Publications)
The Ultimate Book of Memory Albums (Leisure Arts)
Family Scrapbooking by Lael Combe Ferguson and Stephanie Taylor (Sterling Publishing)

BOOKS - CHILDREN

- En Mi Familia / In My Family*, Carmen Lomas Garza
Cuadros de Familia / Family Pictures, Carmen Lomas Garza
The Pinata Quilt by Jane Tenorio-Coscarelli (ages 4 – 8)
The Tamale Quilt by Jane Tenorio-Coscarelli (ages 4 – 8)
The Tortilla Quilt by Jane Tenorio-Coscarelli (ages 4 – 8)
Abuela's Weave by Omar Castenada

BOOKS - HANDBOUND ALBUMS

- Art of the Scrapbook* by Diane Maurer-Mathison (Watson Guptill)
Cover to Cover by Shereen LaPlantz (Lark Books)
Handmade Books by Kathy Blake (Bulfinch)



MAGAZINES - HERITAGE

Ancestry (www.ancestry.com)

Family Tree Magazine (www.familytreemagazine.com)

Reunions (www.reunionsmag.com)

MAGAZINES - SCRAPBOOK

Creating Keepsakes Scrapbook Magazine

Memory Makers Scrapbook Magazine

CREATE AN ONLINE FAMILY WEB SITE

www.digital-family.com

www.myfamily.com

www.photoscrapbook.com

FREE FONTS AND CLIP ART

www.3dcafe.com

www.abstractfonts.com

www.arttoday.com

www.countryclipart.com

www.fontaddict.com

www.thefreesite.com

www.graphicgarden.nu

www.magnagraphics.com

GENEALOGY WEB SITES

American Family Immigration History Center (www.ellislandrecords.org)

Center for Life Stories Preservation (www.storypreservation.com)

Ellis Island Foundation (www.ellisland.org)

Family Search Internet Genealogy Service (www.familysearch.org)

Genealogy.com (www.genealogy.com)

Genealogy Online (www.genealogy.org)

Genealogy Forums on CompuServe (www.rootscomputing.com)

Hispanic Genealogical Society of New York (www.hispanicgenealogy.com)

MyFamily.com, Inc. (www.ancestry.com, www.rootsweb.com)

(Try <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/URIBE/2001> for Latino references)

National Archives and Records Administration Online
(www.nara.gov/genealogy)

National Genealogical Society (www.ngsgenealogy.org)

Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research
(www.SomosPrimos.com)

Yahoo (<http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/hispanicgenealogy>)



ONLINE MAIL ORDER & CATALOGS - SCRAPBOOK

Scrapbook Supplies on the Internet (www.scrapbooksupplies.com)

The Cropping Corner, Inc. (www.croppingcorner.com)

Keeping Memories Alive (www.scrapbooks.com)

Pebbles in My Pocket (www.pebblesinmypocket.com)

Remember Me Scrapbooking (www.remembermesb.com)

Creative Memories (www.creativememories.com)

ORGANIZATIONS & SOCIETIES - LATINO HERITAGE

Institute of Genealogy and History for Latin America
316 W. 500 N., St. George, UT 84770

Chicano Research Collection
Department of Archives and Manuscripts
Hayden Library, Arizona State University
Box 871006, Tempe, AZ 85287-1006

Hispanic History and Ancestry Research
9511 Rockpoint Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646

SOFTWARE

Family Tree Maker
P.O. Box 7865, Fremont, CA 94537
(800) 223-6985

GLOSSARY

acid-free – materials with a pH value of 7.0 or higher; such materials resist deterioration

archival quality – safe for preservation purposes

bone folder – used for folding, scoring, and creasing papers; also used for burnishing

burnishing – using the side of a bone folder to push out any air bubbles or wrinkles between two surfaces that have been bonded

clip art – ready-made illustrations sold in books or as part of a computer software package, which can be cut and pasted or inserted as artwork

collage – layering of materials

color wheel – a circular diagram of the spectrum used to show the relationships among the colors

complement(ary) – serving to fill out, complete, or make perfect; colors opposite one another on the color wheel create a vibrant effect

crop – to cut or trim a photograph in order to remove excess detail

deacidification – use a deacidification pH factor spray on acidic materials to prevent acid migration

deckle – rough, untrimmed edge of paper

emboss – to make a paper design three-dimensional by rubbing it with a bone folder or stylus; to raise in relief from a surface

family tree – a genealogical diagram

font – style and size of lettering; computer typeface

genealogy – an account or study of descendants

heirloom – a valued possession passed down in a family through succeeding generations

harmony – pleasing arrangement of colors, lines, and parts; colors next to one another on the color wheel

heritage – a legacy, tradition, or birthright

journaling – writing experiences, ideas, or reflections; the text on a scrapbook page

layout – arrangement or plan

memento – something that reminds us; a souvenir

memorabilia – things that are remarkable and worthy of remembrance; things that stir recollection

palette – a set of colors

pH – degree of acidity and alkalinity; 7.0 is neutral, above 7.0 is alkaline or acid-free; below 7.0 is acidic

pH testing pen – used to test a paper's acidity or alkalinity

photo corner or corner mounts – for attaching and allowing removal of photographs

photo-safe – acid-free, chemically stable materials used in conjunction with photographs

score – to use a bone folder, awl, or stylus to crease a paper for folding

sheet protector – protects finished pages and temporarily house potential groupings of photographs; should be acid-free (or PVC-free); should NOT be polypropylene (vinyl) for use in albums

stencil – cardboard perforated with letters or designs, which can be used as a pattern

template – a pattern or guide for drawing a shape to be filled in or cut out

timeline – a diagram with pertinent dates used as a measure of time; a schedule of events or procedures; successive years within an historical period

vintage – old, classic

Acknowledgements

We've had great fun creating the *American Family Album* as a special activity for all families to enjoy! Our concept began with the Gonzalez family, their celebrations and passages in the AMERICAN FAMILY television series on PBS. We wanted to encourage all families to create a lasting memory of their own joys and triumphs.

Just as you'll use the talents of all members of your family, young and old, to tell your family's story, we've benefited from the visions and ideas of many contributors. We are grateful to all of the committed teams engaged in creating, writing, designing, focus testing, reading, advising, approving, and funding the *American Family Album*. Many thanks to our friends at PBS and CPB and to the following wonderful people and organizations:

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For more information on the AMERICAN FAMILY National Outreach Campaign, contact Monica Medina at 619.594.7152 or mmedina@kpbs.org.

Thank you for joining this joyful celebration of family and community.



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American Family

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