

KENWOOD

2 CHANNEL AC VOLTMETER

VT-176

VT-177

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

KENWOOD CORPORATION

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| 1. GENERAL | 3 |
| 2. FEATURES | 3 |
| 3. SPECIFICATIONS | 4 |
| 4. FUNCTIONAL CONTROLS | 6 |
| 5. OPERATION | 8 |
| 6. APPLICATIONS | 10 |
| 7. MAINTENANCE | 13 |
| 8. ALIGNMENT | 14 |
| 9. CAUTIONS FOR USE | 16 |

1. GENERAL

KENWOOD's Model VT-176, and VT-177 are dual-channel electronic voltmeter sets having two independent AC voltmeters in a single cabinet. Two-pointer meter allows easy dual measurements and inter-channel comparisons.

VT-176, and VT-177 also are wideband, high sensitive voltmeter for use anywhere voltage measurements are made, with a remote control unit. The easy-to-use voltmeter provides frequency response as wide as 5 Hz to 1 MHz, measurable range from 0.3mV to 100V, and input impedance of 10M Ω . The optional remote control feature is convenient for measurement in production lines.

The Model VT-177 is same as VT-176 type in design and specifications. Range indicator lamp is prepared on the top side of dual pointer meter and remote control of range switching is available to check the input range.

VT-177 measuring range can be remotely controlled by RT-62. (VT-176 : RT-61)

2. FEATURES

- a. Two power source circuits, positive and negative, are provided for very stable DC bias and recover from any overload in a very short time.
- b. Small-sized compact construction is easy to carry and large-sized two-pointer meter is easy to read.
- c. Four-scale dial plate and red and black pointers allow quick, and accurate voltage reading.
- d. Number of adjusting trimmers are minimized with amplifiers that are precisely calculated in open loop gains and are negative feedbacked through metal-film resistors as accurate as 1%. Amplifier characteristics therefore are free from secular change.
- e. Input impedance is as high as 10M Ω on all ranges and its parallel capacitance less than 45pF
- f. In direct attenuator switching by relay and FET (field-effect-transistor) switch provide higher reliability, signal-to-noise ratio, and inter-channel crosstalk than most previous direct method of rotary switch.

- g. Remote range selection is possible in a simple way that optional remote control unit "RT-62" can be connected to VT-177, since is attached remote function. (VT-176 : RT-61)
- h. Two channel range setting can be made either individually or together (in interlocked manner).
- i. A ground mode selector may float measuring circuit above ground.

3. SPECIFICATIONS

[Meter Section]

- Measurable voltages : 0.3mV–100V in 12 ranges:
0.3mV, 1mV, 3mV, 10mV,
30mV, 100mV, 0.3V, 1V, 3V,
10V, 30V and 100V full scales.
- dB : –90~+40dB (0dB=1V).
- dBm : –90~+42dBm
(0dBm=1mW, 600Ω).
- Error : Within ±3% of full scale at
1kHz.
- Frequency response : ±10% at 5Hz~1MHz,
±5% at 10Hz~500kHz and
±3% at 20Hz~200kHz as
±2% at 30Hz~100kHz
referenced to 1kHz response.
- Input impedance : 10MΩ ±5%, with less than
45pF parallel capacitance.
- Durable input voltage : 500V (DC+ACpeak)
1V~100V range
100V (DC+ACpeak)
0.3mV~300mV range
- Stability : Within ±0.5% of full scale for
±10% line voltage fluctuation.

Residual voltage : Less than $30\mu\text{V}$ with
input shorted on 0.3mV range.
Crosstalk, Individual : Less than -80dB with other
input terminated with 600Ω .
Interlock : Less than -50dB with other
input terminated with 600Ω .

[Amplifier Section]

Gain : Approx. 70dB .
Output voltage : 1Vrms (full scale) $\pm 20\%$.
Output impedance : $600\Omega \pm 20\%$.
Distortion : Less than 1% at full scale.
(Rated by signal-to-noise ratio
in 0.3mV , 1mV and 1V ranges.)
Signal-to-noise ratio : Over 40dB at full scale.
(Over 30dB at 0.3mV range)
Frequency response : Within $\pm 3\text{dB}$ at $5\text{Hz}\sim 500\text{kHz}$.

[Environmental]

Coefficient : $\pm 0.08\%/^{\circ}\text{C}$
Temperature
(within specification): $10\sim 40^{\circ}\text{C}$
(full operation): $0\sim 50^{\circ}\text{C}$
Relative humidity : Less than 80%

[Power Supply Section]

Line voltage : $100, 120, 220\text{V AC} \pm 10\%$,
 $216\sim 250\text{V AC}, 50/60\text{Hz}$
Power consumption : Approx. 7W

[Dimensions] $128(138)\text{W}\times 190(212)\text{H}\times 238(268)\text{Dmm}$.
Values in () include
protrusions.

[Net weight] Approx. 3kg .

[Accessories]

Power cable : 1pc .
Input cable : BNC cord, 2pcs .
Replacement fuse : $0.3\text{A } 2\text{pcs}$.
 $0.5\text{A } 2\text{pcs}$.
Instruction manual : 1copy .

4. FUNCTIONAL CONTROLS

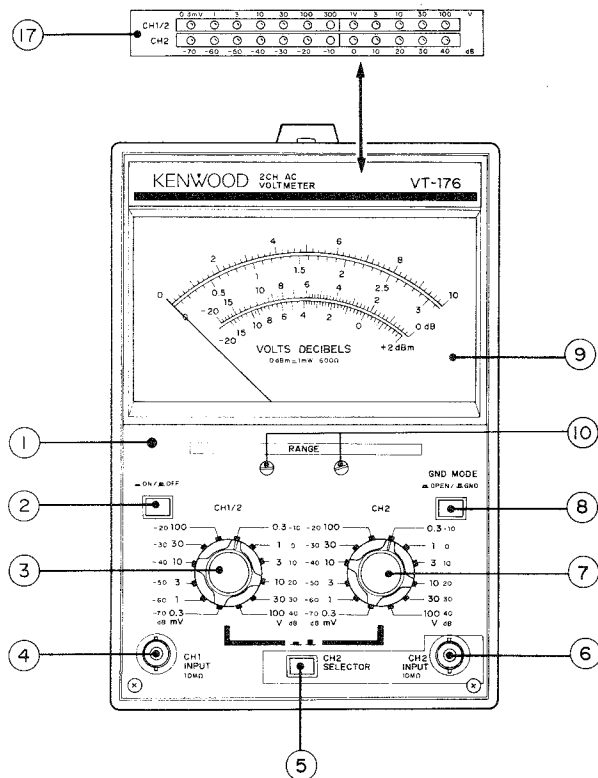


Figure 1 – Front Panel View

Front Panel (see Figure 1)

| REFER- ENCE No. | IDENTIFICA- TION | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------------|---|--|
| ① | | Power-on indicator (LED) |
| ② | <input type="checkbox"/> ON/ <input type="checkbox"/> OFF | Power on-off switch |
| ③ | RANGE-CH 1/2 | Channel 1 and 2 attenuator range selector |
| ④ | CH1 INPUT | Channel 1 input connector |
| ⑤ | CH2 SELECTOR | Individual-interlock range setting selector |
| ⑥ | CH2 INPUT | Channel 2 input connector |
| ⑦ | RANGE-CH 2 | Channel 2 attenuator range selector |
| ⑧ | GND MODE <input type="checkbox"/> OPEN/ <input type="checkbox"/> GND | Negative input floating switch |
| ⑨ | | Dual-pointer meter |
| ⑩ | | Meter zero-adjust trimmer CH1(left), CH2(right) |

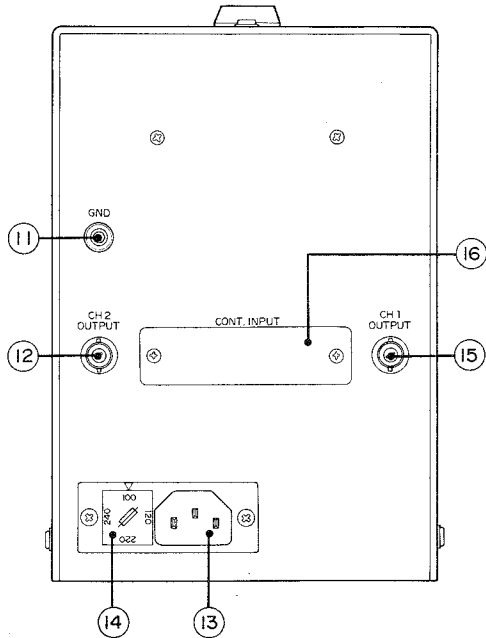


Figure 2 – Rear Panel View

Rear Panel (see Figure 2)

| REFERENCE No. | IDENTIFICATION | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------|----------------|---|
| ⑪ | GND | Casing grounding post |
| ⑫ | OUTPUT-2 | Channel 2 monitor output connector |
| ⑬ | | Power cable connector |
| ⑭ | | Power cable connector |
| ⑮ | OUTPUT-1 | Channel 1 monitor output connector |
| ⑯ | CONT-INPUT | VT-176 type : Remote control mounting hole VT-177 type: Connector for remote control |

VT-177 type Only

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| ⑰ | | Range indicator lamp |
|---|--|----------------------|

5. OPERATION

• Set-up

- (1) Press the ON/OFF pushswitch ② in. The Power-on indicator ①, a light-emitting diode, will light, indicating that power has been applied.
- (2) Plug the signal cables into the CH1 and CH2 INPUT connectors ④ and ⑥.
- (3) CH2 SELECTOR ⑤, with the switch released (—), takes individual mode in which ranges CH1 and CH2 are changed over using RANGE selector CH1/2 ③ and CH2 ⑦, respectively.
With the switch pressed (—), the CH2 SELECTOR takes interlock mode in which both ranges CH1 and CH2 are simultaneously changed over using RANGE selector CH1/2 ③. In the interlock mode, RANGE selector CH2 ⑦ is no longer operable to select a range.
Select either individual or interlock mode according to your particular measurement.
- (4) Set the RANGE-CH1/2 selector ③ and the RANGE-CH2 selector ⑦ to 100V. To measure an AC voltage superimposed on a DC voltage, be sure to

set the selectors to the positions before connecting the cables to points to be measured. Otherwise, the DC voltage causes a high surge, which could burn voltmeter.

- (5) GND MODE ⑧ is effected with the switch released (—), in which both CH1 and CH2 are connected to the grounding terminal of the casing, taking GND state. with the switch pressed (—), the grounding of CH1 and CH2 is floated to OPEN state in which you move the earth point to the signal source side. Normally use the device in the GND state.
- (6) Connect the cables to points to be measure.
- (7) Turn the RANGE selectors ③ and ⑦ for proper ranges until each Meter pointer swings over one third of the fullscale.
- (8) OUTPUTs CH2 ⑩ and CH1 ⑭ provide output signals by amplifying input signals in such a degree as the signal amplitude of a meter full-scale becomes 1 Vrms no matter which range is set. Output impedance of 600Ω.

(1) **Voltage Scales**

See Figure 3

There are two black voltage scales : a scale ④ graduated 0 to 10 and a scale ⑤ 0 to 3. When the RANGE selector ③ is at "1V", for example, the division 10 on the scale ④ indicates 1V. At the "0.3V" position, the division 3 on the scale ⑤ indicates 300 mV. Similarly, the other RANGE selector positions show their full scale values.

(2) **dB Scale**

In general, the dB values are expressed in dBV which is a unit referenced by 0dB equal to 1 V. The division 10 at the scale ④ corresponds to 0 dB on the dB scale, which is a voltage ratio scale. Since the RANGE selector has 12 range positions in steps of 10 dB, the voltage ratio of 0.3mV to 100V is 110dB attenuation. Assume a reference voltage level on the scale ④ be 1V with the RANGE selector at "1V," a given voltage can be read as low as -70dB (0.3mV) by turning the selector downward. Further, as the scale ④ allows reading to -20dB (0.03mV), you can continuously measure the voltage ratio as high as -90dB (0.03mV to 1V). The read of -90dB means a signal-to-noise

ratio of around 10dB. Also, the dB scale allows continuous measuring up to +40dB(1 to 100V) by turning the selector upward.

(3) **dBm Scale**

In general, voltmeters have a reference level division of 0dBm equal to 0.775V (1mW power) induced across a 600Ω resistance load. Therefore, the dBm scale is available to measure a power level referenced to 0 dBm, with the impedance of the given power circuit being 600Ω pure resistance. Where measured across specific resistance loads, for example, 10kΩ, other than the 600Ω load, the levels are sometimes expressed in dBs.

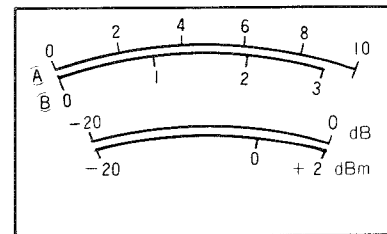


Figure 3 – Meter Scale Graduation

- **How to Use Remote Control Function**

This equipment is characterized by an optional remote control function.

For the VT-177, insert the connector plug at the end of the cord from the RT-62 (option) into the connector on its rear panel for remote control of range selection.

The VT-176 allows remote control by using the RT-61. Remove the blank board from the rear panel of the VT-176.

Connect the accompanying receptacle to the RT-61. Connect the connector connected to the receptacle to the one on the printed circuit board of the VT-176. For details, refer to the instruction manual for RT-61 or RT-62.

6. APPLICATIONS

The basic use of your voltmeter is to measure sinusoidal wave voltages as an AC voltmeter. In addition, it provides a wide variety of applications as described below.

Amplifier Gain Measurement

Voltmeter is capable of measuring an amplifier gain, which is a signal magnification from point A to B in Figure 4 with a signal generator connected to the amplifier input. If the measured signal levels at points A and B are a and b dB, respectively, then the gain is $(b-a)$ dB.

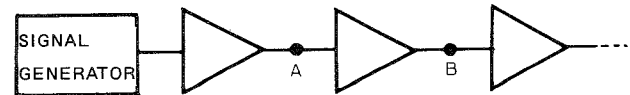


Figure 4 – Amplifier Gain Measurement

Also the method is applicable for measuring an open loop gain of each amplifier circuit with the negative-feedback signal leaves applied. Further, the method can be used for measuring the frequency responses of given

circuits by changing the signal generator frequency. Voltmeter is capable of directly reading a gain between two points as having two independent voltmeters. As an example, let us calculate the open loop gain (from point A to B) of the negative-feedback amplifier shown in Figure 5. Assume that the measured level at point A be +1.5dB on the -60dB range of the channel 1 and that of point B -4dB on the +10dB range of the channel 2. The gain from point A to B is then

$$(+10\text{dB} - 4\text{dB}) - (-60\text{dB} + 1.5\text{dB}) = 64.5\text{dB}.$$

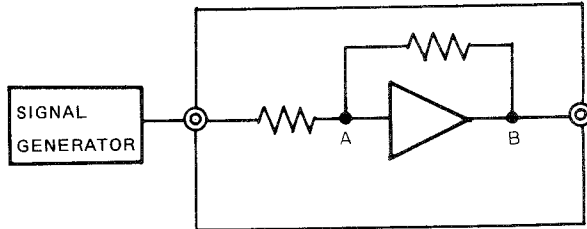


Figure 5 – Negative Feedback Amplifier Gain Measurement

Voltage Calculations of Some Special Waveforms

An voltmeter of absolute-mean value indication type, reads root-mean-square values of sinusoidal wave inputs. Also it deflects the pointers in proportion to the absolute-mean value of a given input wave.

If the form factor (= root-mean-square value/absolute-mean value) of the input wave and the crest factor (= peak value/root-mean-square value) are known; then the root-mean-square value and peak value can be calculated as follows.

Assume the Meter read x .

- Absolute-mean value = $\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} x \cong 0.9x$
- Root-mean-square value = (Absolute-mean value) \times (Form factor).
- Peak value = (Root-mean-square value) \times (Crest factor).

For rectangular waves, their form factor and crest factor are unity (1).

- Absolute-mean value = $\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} x \cong 0.9x$
- Root-mean-square value = $0.9x$.
- Peak value = $0.9x$.

For sawtooth waves, their form factor is $2/\sqrt{3}$ and the crest factor $\sqrt{3}$.

- Absolute-mean value = $\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} x \doteq 0.9 x$.
- Root-mean-square value = $\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} x \times \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} x =$
 $\frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\pi\sqrt{3}} x \doteq 1.04 x$
- Peak value = $\frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\pi\sqrt{3}} x \times \sqrt{3} x = \frac{4\sqrt{2}}{\pi} x \doteq 1.8 x$.

Ways To Better Dual-Channel Voltmeter Operation

The two input channels and two meter pointers arranged specifically in Voltmeter are most useful for measuring an electronic equipment having two signal sources. For example, Voltmeter is far more convenient for measuring stereo left and right channel characteristics than using two units of usual single-channel voltmeter.

(1) Frequency response

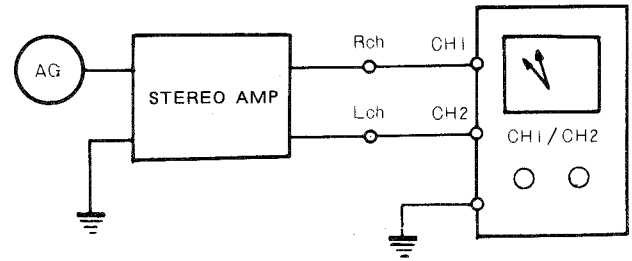


Figure 6 – Stereo Amplifier Frequency Response Measurement

CH2 SELECTOR switch to pressed (interlock position) as most stereo amplifiers are not deviated virtually in the left and right channel levels.

Set the GND MODE switch to "GND." If the given stereo amplifier output has no connector common to the left and right channels, then turn the switch to "OPEN" and connect the GND post on the rear panel of voltmeter to that of the stereo amplifier.

(2) Crosstalk characteristic

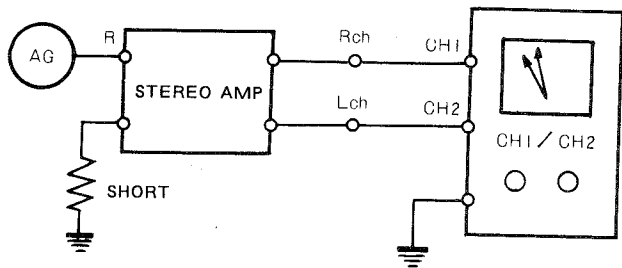


Figure 7 – Stereo Amplifier Crosstalk Measurement

Crosstalk measurement is needed if there is a large difference between the left and right channel output levels. CH2 SELECTOR pushbutton to release (individual position). Set the RANGE-CH1/2 selector and RANGE-CH2 selector to proper positions for ease of read. Set the GND MODE switch for no adverse effect by hum as explained in above Example (1), the "Frequency response."

7. MAINTENANCE

Replacing the fuse (see Figure 8)

REPLACING FUSE

When a fuse goes out, the device is no longer operable. If gone out, check for a trouble cause, remedy it, remove the cap of the fuse holder on the rear panel using a minus screw driver and take it out and replace the fuse with a new one.

When replacing fuse, be sure to check the capacity of a new fuse for a specified value as follows:

AC 100V, 120V : 0.5A

AC 220V, 240V : 0.3A

CHANGEOVER OF VOLTAGE IN SWITCHING REGULATOR

Remove the fuse holder on the rear side of the device set, using a minus screw driver, adjust your preferred voltage indication with ▼ mark and plug the holder in. For changing 100V or 120V to 220V or 240V, change the fuse of 0.5A to that of 0.3A.

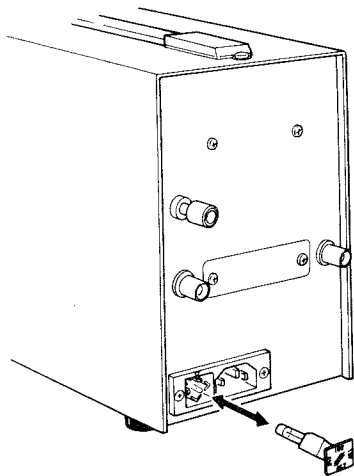


Figure 8 – Replacing the fuse

8. ALIGNMENT

Voltmeter was precisely aligned at the factory. However it can be aligned through the adjust holes located on the side with leveling is housed in the casing, if required. In realignment, first adjust the line to the rated voltage, use a precisely calibrated measuring instruments, and proceed as follows.

Preset Controls on Side Panel (see Figure 9)

The following controls, placed on the Main PC board, (X65-1210-02), are to be preset on the right-hand side panel.

| IDENTIFICATION | DESCRIPTION |
|----------------|---|
| TC101 | First Attenuator preset trimmer capacitor |
| VR101 | First Attenuator preset variable resistor |
| VR102 | Meter Amplifier gain preset variable resistor |

1. Before turning the ON/OFF switch "ON," adjust the Meter zero-adjust screws (right for channel 1 and left for channel 2) on the front panel until the pointers correctly indicate "0".

2. Set the CH2 SELECTOR pushbatton to release (individual position).
3. Connect a voltmeter calibrator 1 kHz (or 400 Hz) output to the INPUT connector④.
4. Set the RANGE-CH 1/2 selector③ on your voltmeter to the "30mV range and set the voltmeter calibrator output voltage to 30mV [50mV].
5. Adjust VR102 until the pointer swings to the fullscale.
6. In turn, set the RANGE-CH1/2 selector③ to the "10V" range and set the voltmeter calibrator output voltage to 10V.
7. Adjust VR101 until the pointer swings to the full-scale.
8. Disconnect the voltmeter calibrator and connect a wideband signal generator to the CH1 INPUT connector④.
9. Set the signal generator frequency to 1kHz and set the RANGE-CH 1/2 selector ③ on voltmeter to the "1V" range.
10. Adjust the signal generator output level until the pointer swings to the fullscale.
11. Change the signal generator frequency from 1 kHz to 50kHz.

12. Adjust TC101 until the pointer swings to the full-scale.
13. Repeat Steps 3 through 10.
14. For channel 2 alignment, simily proceed with Steps 3 through 13.

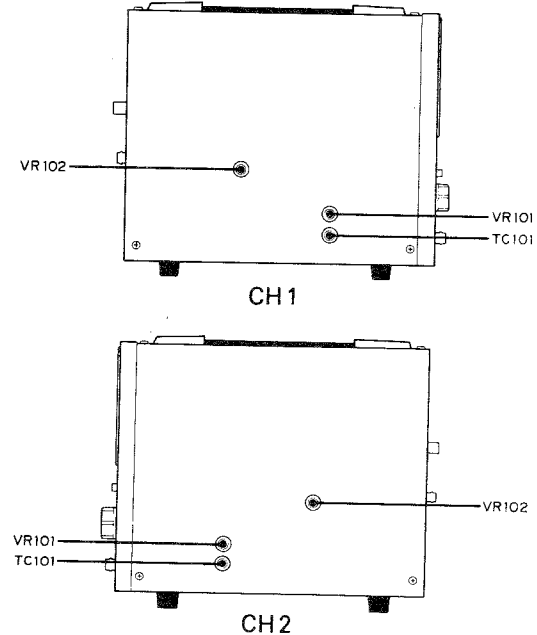


Figure 9 - Pre-Alignment Controls on Side Panel

9. CAUTIONS FOR USE

1. Your voltmeter will work just when the ON/OFF switch is pressed in. For accurate measurements, wait around five minutes for warm-up.
2. Avoid placing your voltmeter where magnetic field and electric field are too strong.
3. The input signal cable other than supplied should be low-capacitance shielded cable, or coaxial cable. For measurements at higher than audio frequencies, terminate the input connectors with 50Ω or 600Ω , resistor.
4. The continuous maximum input voltage allowable for your voltmeter is 100V (DC+ACpeak) with the RANGE selector at "-70dB" to "-10 dB". Full care should be observed in measuring high voltages.
5. Be careful of a line noise and similar small noises as your voltmeter is a highly sensitive voltmeter.
6. Do not leave your voltmeter at any of high temperature and humidity places for a long period of time.
7. As having two channel independent voltmeter, your voltmeter is involved in selection of grounding point on some equipment under measurement. Set the GND MODE switch to "OPEN" and connect the GND post of your voltmeter to a point where noise effect is minimized.
8. The ON/OFF switch of this unit is designed to act on the secondary side of the power transformer. The primary side of the transformer remains energized even if the ON/OFF switch is set to OFF. Therefore, if the unit is to be unused for a long time, the power cord should be unplugged from the receptacle outlet.

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