Mark Knopfler Guitar Site (https://www.mkguitar.com/)

The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven

Home (https://www.mkquitar.com/) **Blog Post Categories** Shop (https://www.mkguitar.com/shop) Gear Contents (List) (https://www.mk-guitar.com /table-of-contents-list-of-allarticles/) Forum (https://www.mk-

RS(HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/CATE@uitaRcom/forum/) /GUITARS-GEAR/) / MARK KNOPFLER GE Contact & More S://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/CATEGORY/GEAR/) / VINTAGE GUITARS (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM /CATEGORY/GENERAL/VINTAGE/)

The Gibson Chet Atkins CEC – Classical Electric **Guitar with Nylon Strings**

🗰 POSTED 23. OCTOBER 2011 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/) 💄 INGO (HTTPS://W/W/W.MK-GUITAR.COM/AUTHOR/INGO/)

(https://twitter.com

This week I had a nice oshiarehere - a Gibson Chet Atkins CEC. The CE stands for classical electric, in other words a solid-body guitar with nylon strings and a piezo pickup, while the last C stands for conventional neck width (2"/5.1 cm at the nut, a CE model with a neck width of 1.825" / 4.6 cm was also available).



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1 of 22

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This guitar model was developed by Chet Atkins who approached Gibson with his prototype. The model appeared in Gibson's catalogue in 1982, right at the time when Dire Straits recorded the *Love over Gold* album. This album features two songs – *Private Investigations* and the title track – on which a classical (=nylon-strung) guitar was used. Note that on the album it was NOT the Gibson Chet Atkins, however, Mark Knopfler started to play it on stage for the Love over gold tour, right after recording the album. You can hear it e.g. on the *Alchemy* live album where it was used not only on *Private* Investigations and Love over Gold but also in the outro of Romeo&Juliet. Knopfler (probably) also used it on many sessions with other artists in the early 80ies, e.g. with Phil Everly or Paul Brady.





Specs

The body is not all solid mahogany but features sound chambers to reduce weight and to make the sound more acoustic. The top is solid spruce or cedar. The neck is mahogany with a neck joint location at the 12th fret – like a classical guitar. The scale is 25 1/2", the fingerboard and the bridge are from ebony.

The pickup system consists of six individual piezos that are installed under the bridge. The pickup signal is preamplified in the control cavity (that consequently houses a 9V battery), a volume control and the (active) tone control is located on the rim of the guitar (later models have a bass and treble control). A really useful feature are six trim pots inside the control cavity that allow to adjust the volume for each string individually so that you can equalize volume differences easily.

Mark Knopfler Guitar Site (https://www.mkguitar.com/)

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The guitar here i a CEC with the wider nut, I suspect - it is not ted syntage to man and the syntage of the syn pictures – that Mark Knopfler had the CE model with the more narrow neck. Forum (https://www.mk-For me the wide neck is nothing I am used to, nevertheless the guitar is not really difficult to play. Contact & More

Sound

The Gibson Chet Atkins produces a faithful classical guitar sound, and can be played even at high volume without the risk of feedback. Of course a 'real' classical guitar might produce the typical sound even better – for this reason Mark Knopfler probably replaced the Gibson with a Ramirez on the *On Every Street* tour in 1991/2.

One problem of many classical guitars – and also of the example shown here - is intonation. As the bridge does not have individually adjustable saddles like on an elctric guitar, and neither a 'compensated' bridge design with different lenths for the different strings, the guitar never perfectly intonates all notes. If you tune the open strings, the bass note on e.g. the low e string is out of tune at the higher frets, and there is almost nothing you can do against it.

Here is a video I recorded with this guitar (if video jumps make sure slide show above is not running):

Mark Knepafling Glaitakr Sipe (https://www.mkguitar.com/) quitar.com/)

The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven



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Guitar portrait: 1976 Gibson MK-81 acoustic guitar (Mark series) (https://www.mk-guitar.com /2010/01/20/guitar-portrait-1976gibson-mk-81-acoustic-guitarmark-series/)

Mark Knopfler's 1938 Gibson Advanced Jumbo acoustic guitar (https://www.mk-guitar.com /2009/05/14/mark-knopflers-1938-gibson-advanced-jumboacoustic-guitar/)

Sunburst and unburst Les Pauls from the late 50ies (https://www.mk-guitar.com /2008/11/27/sunburst-andunburst-les-pauls-from-thelate-50ies/)

Mark Knopfler's Sultans of Swing amp – The brown Fender Vibrolux (https://www.mk-guitar.com /2009/01/13/mark-knopflerssultans-of-swing-amp-the-brownfender-vibrolux/)

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guitar.com	m/) tremolos-c-22_33.html)		guitar.com/)	
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portob	ello-belle-the-point-dublin-	up-for-our-s	checter-style-	
1991/)		pic	:kguards∕) →	

25 thoughts on "The Gibson Chet Atkins CEC -Classical Electric Guitar with Nylon Strings"

Erik says:

25. OCTOBER 2011 AT 02:04 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-5703)

I always loved the Chet Atkins model. I used to have the philosophy that piezo-electric pickups couldn't capture your acoustic sound, so you were better off buying a guitar dedicated to that cause. The thin-line, chambered body allows you tweak the EQ more than you could with some Martin D-28 that has a Fishman in it. However, L.R. Baggs, Taylor, and Trance have come up with some amazing systems that have made me rethink my philosophy (I might put an LR Baggs Anthem in my old Guild). But, I still think for high volume,

you can't beat those old Chet's, the Godin Multiacs, or Rick Turner Mark Knopfler Guitar Site (https://www.mk-Renaissance models. guitar.com/) Home (https://www.mk-Fellow fingerpicker, Lindsey Buckingham, has used Chet Attaingories The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven models and Rick Turner Renaissance models quite^{Satthttagev.mk-} and in the studio. They always produce a high-quality sound, without feedback. Contents (List) (https://www.mk-guitar.com REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSONSCHET-Contents-list-of-all-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=5703#RESPOND) articles/) Forum (https://www.mkguitar.com/forum/) Contact & More Jean-Francois says: 25. OCTOBER 2011 AT 16:12 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-5714)

> "Knopfler (probably) also used it on many sessions with other artists in the early 80ies, e.g. with Phil Everly or Paul Brady."

I reckon that he used it on "Sweetheart like you" on BD's Infidels album

there's also a track (can't remember which one) on JI's Glass album, with "gut strung guitar" mentionned on the booklet, and it sounds like nylon strings, so probably this one.

I like the video of "Les enfants du rock" from 82 or 83, where Mark play on it licks from freeway flyer and Mississipi blues. The sound is a little bit drived by the amp, and it makes it so special : crunchy nylon sound !

I don't find the links to these videos you put some years ago, Ingo. I guess it was just before you started this blog

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=5714#RESPOND)

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The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven	Shop (https://www.mk- guitar.com/shop)
Geovanny says: 17. JULY 2013 AT 23:49 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/ ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRIN	- Gear 23/СТНЕ-GIBSPNDCHET-
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Jose Pagan says:

16. OCTOBER 2013 AT 03:35 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-9279)

hello my name is jose pagan. I have a chet Atkins guitar that i bought many years ago. I have slight problem, I am in much need of a volume system. Is there anyone that can help me with this or tell me where i can get one. Please contact me at josepa11@hotmail.com (mailto:josepa11@hotmail.com) or 718-455-4195

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=9279#RESPOND)

Noise cancelling headphones (http://www.youtube.com

/watch?v=kGujlRAF8Bc) says:

2. NOVEMBER 2013 AT 07:21 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-9314)

It's going to be ending of mine day, however before ending I am reading this great article to improve my



articles/)

hi my bro......iam a musician fro indonesia...i love gybsognchebatkin/w.mk-

very much...and i used that guitar almost 20 years,,,auitar,prof forum/)

musicsian....i have problem in my guitar ...couse we dont know how

to servis my gybson in my country indonesia,...do help me

please......thanks best regard,,,,vico pangaribuan

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=9687#RESPOND)

Ingo says:

30. JUNE 2014 AT 19:50 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-9688)

Hi Vico, what is the problem with your guitar?

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=9688#RESPOND)

Alberto Haron says:

18. OCTOBER 2014 AT 14:48 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-10847)

Hola tengo una Chet Atkins que necesito vender. Es una guitarra con volumen agudos y graves. Es una de los últimos modelos que se fabricaron. Soy de Catamarca Argentina y mi móvil es 3834629900 por si hay algún fanático que quiera comprar está

hermosa guitarra. Es la mejor guitarra que tuve y lamentablemente Mark Knopfler Guitar Site (https://www.mk-nacesito venderla por problemas económicos. Un saludo a todos guitar.com/) Home (https://www.mk-saludo a todos guitar.com/) los fanáticos de la Chet Atkins **Blog Post Categories** The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven Shop (https://www.mk-REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSOM: GEGT:/shop) ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=10847#RESPOND) Gear Contents (List) (https://www.mk-guitar.com /table-of-contents-list-of-allcristian says: articles/) 25. OCTOBER 2014 AT 01:52 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-Forum (https://www.mk-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENTguitar.com/forum/) 10883) Contact & More amigo, puedes enviarme la que mas puedas de fotografias a mi correo e indicarme las características tecnicas de la guitarra si es una ce o cec, si funcionan correctamente los potenciometros y el precio total, gracias de ante mano una abrazo. De estar acorde a mi presupuesto, podemos negociar. cristian

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=10883#RESPOND)

Mark KnophathGwitarySite (https://www.mk-Home (https://www.mkquitar.com/)ANUARY 2015 AT 14:54 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/1g/ajañader/albson-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STBING Store Oktober The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven Shop (https://www.mkguitar.com/shop) Hello, I enjoyed your video playing the Gibson CE nydon string. I have one too but the intonation is out most noticeably tonts this D string at around the 7th fret and upwards. I'm wondering if there's /table-of-contents-list-of-allany way of correcting this? What would you suggest? Are the triangular saddles at the bridge adjustable or removerable for the www.mksaddles on mine seem to be stuck in place so I don want to force Contact & More it).Thanks for your help in advance. Matthew

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=10977#RESPOND)

Randolph Haack says:

25. OCTOBER 2017 AT 17:51 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-13850)

When I first purchased my CEC (Wine Red Color) from the Guitar Center I had asked their tech guy to raise the action a bit. Using a needle nose plier he pulled one of the pyramid shaped saddles off the bridge, clearing the way to removing the rest of them. At the time Gibson provided long plastic shims that precisely fit the area beneath the saddle. It was a while ago so details are sketchy but I think he used two shims. 15 years later now my high "E" is fretting out on the 3rd-5th frets so I am going to pull that saddle up and fashion a thicker shim for that one string. If you're worried about mangling the saddle with pliers your fear is just. The GC tech guy tried his best but there is some disfiguration to that one saddle. They are indeed tight in there and a moderate amount of force is required to remove it. I hope this helped.

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS

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help me. tks	For	orum (https://www.mk-
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John Dunstan (http://Www.derbyshiredesserts.com) says:

5. APRIL 2015 AT 10:05 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-11057)

Hi, thanks for a really interesting website. 2 questions

I have a Gibson Chet Atlkins CEC in wine red. The G string does not

have any volume when amplified.. How do I increase the volume on

this one string?

Second, do you know any guitar teachers in the UK that teach MK

style ie without a fingerpick?

Thanks, John Dunstan

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=11057#RESPOND)

John Dunstan says:

18. SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 18:27 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-17506)

You can adjust the string volume by removing the backplate.each string has an adjustment wheel

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-Mark Knopfler (TKINS) FSIE ASSIGN ELECTRIC GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS https://www.mkguitar.com/) guitar.com/) **Blog Post Categories** The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven Shop (https://www.mk-Alfie says: quitar.com/shop) CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-13042) (https://www.mk-guitar.com /table-of-contents-list-of-all-Any idea where I can purchase the Highlander pietzo pickup for the Chet? Forum (https://www.mk-The pickup cover just at the saddle is busted from Wars of that well." Contact & More REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=13042#RESPOND)

João says:

23. FEBRUARY 2016 AT 01:12 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-13163)

I have a 1987 Chet Atkins, color white. I think it's a strange and amazing guitar because it plays and sound incredibly tuned and clear. Its in very good condition with just minor scratches and the typical Gibson lacquer craquelure. I play this guitar very few because simply don't enjoy amplified guitars.

I would sell it, depending of its value, to by a good acoustic martin or larrivvè.

Anyone knows what would be the fair price for this guitar in Europe (Portugal)?

Thanks

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=13163#RESPOND)

David says: 23. FEBRUARY 2016 AT 18:03 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-

GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS Mark Knopfler Guitar Site (https://www.mk-Home (https://www.mkguitar.com/) quitar.com/) I'd go for £1000 as it isn't in that blonde/natural colored Politica Marriess The website for the Mark Knopfler inspired guitar player by Ingo Raven Shop (https://www.mkguitar.com/shop) David Gear REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GBSton^teHeist) ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=13164#RESPOND) /table-of-contents-list-of-allarticles/) Forum (https://www.mkrenato meinicke says: guitar.com/forum/) 8. JUNE 2016 AT 17:42 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSQN-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-13377) tenho um amigo na minha cidade belo horizonte-minas gerais no

brasil, que possui um chet atkins que muda de escalas(fingerbord) e assim muda a configuracao de afinacao a escala e presa por imas magneticos, gostaria de saber mais sobre a producao desse violao grato.

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=13377#RESPOND)

mark stuart (http://www.guitartutor.co.uk) says:

7. DECEMBER 2016 AT 16:33 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-13507)

Hi

Thanks for the info.

I have one of each at the moment. I did a comparison test here that you may be interested in:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M_HJaPe3RA

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5M_HJaPe3RA)

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=13507#RESPOND)

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	Forum (https://www.mk-
	guitar.com/forum/)
Gary (http://www.FriendlySpider.com) says:	Contact & More

10. JULY 2018 AT 08:53 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS/#COMMENT-17403)

I have the original CEC with the Baldwin pickup. The intonation problem was a real drag until I altered the bridge by creating separate compensated saddles that I glued to the top surface of the original pickup after making careful tests. The difference is amazing. And there's something very present about that original pickup that I don't hear in many of the modern variants.

REPLY (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /?REPLYTOCOM=17403#RESPOND)

Tim says:

21. NOVEMBER 2018 AT 00:11 (HTTPS://WWW.MK-GUITAR.COM/2011/10/23/THE-GIBSON-CHET-ATKINS-CEC-CLASSICAL-ELECTRIC-GUITAR-WITH-NYLON-STRINGS /#COMMENT-17427)

Gary, can you post up or link to some pics of the individual saddles?

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Viswanathan () { Calling Elvis Guitar three (Paul) should be the right channel , is... }

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Ralf() { If I would try to get the curve reversed with the originally built in... }

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Pensa Suhr Mk 1 1988 (https://www.mk-guitar.com/mark-knopfler-geardatabase/pensa-suhr-mk-1-1988/)(16)

Malcolm () {Bodies and necks were rough built by Tom Anderson !}

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