

Warnings and Safety Information for Duplo Products

Your safety and that of your (customers') horses is important to us. Due to the GPSR, we have comprehensively expanded our safety instructions to provide you with the best possible information.

- > Safety instructions for handling and application can be found from section 1. to 2.12.
- > Safety instructions for daily use can be found in section 1 and from section 3. to 3.10.
- > As there are overlaps between the areas, we have added cross-references.



At www.duplo-frank.de/en/safety-merchandise you will find information on the horseshoeing and hoof care products in our range.

1. Risks due to incorrect or improper application or use of our products

If the rider / horse owner does not purchase our products directly, but via the farrier, it is the task of the farrier to discuss these safety-relevant aspects of the use of our products with the rider / horse owner and to provide him with comprehensive information.

NOTICE

Working on the hooves of equidae is potentially dangerous and should therefore only be carried out by trained specialists.

To minimize the risks, generally ensure a safe workplace, i.e. also check the surroundings and do not work "pressed against the wall".

Also take care to use personal protective equipment appropriate to the work steps, observe the current safety regulations of the employers' liability insurance associations and only use tested equipment and tools.

All products must be used in accordance with the instructions and safety information on our website. Adjustment, modification and application to suit the individual hoof is always at the discretion of the farrier on site. The H. Frank Kunststofftechnik GmbH hereby disclaims all liability for the misuse of products and for any loss resulting from the use of any product described in our catalog or on our website or in our printed or digital instructions.

We accept no liability for damage to persons, animals or property that may occur due to incorrect or careless use, poor craftsmanship, negligence during inspection or risky riding.

Our products are not intended to diagnose or cure any disease.

2. Risks when working with our products:

Advice for the farrier when shoeing / gluing / casting

The term "farrier" includes all persons who work on the hooves of their equidae themselves or who handle or apply our products. All work with an orthopaedic / therapeutic background may only be carried out by trained specialists.

2.1. Risks when working with plastic

PPE !!!

Ensure adequate ventilation and suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) both when grinding plastic and when welding plastic.



NOTICE

Not all plastics are the same. Our products are manufactured using chemical substances and synthetic materials that are harmless to health. Nevertheless, when working with plastic, there are a number of aspects to consider to protect your health.

WARNING

Do not inhale any plastic grinding dust when modifying the horseshoes or accessories.

To avoid injuries such as burns, remember that plastic can heat up to 200°C / 400°F when grinding or welding plastic. Use suitable protective equipment to protect yourself from potential hazards.



Avoid burning the plastic material so that you do not inhale any vapors and do not place any plastic products in the forging furnace.



When carrying out any welding work, ensure that the weld seams are continuous and stable and that the weld seam does not exert any pressure on sensitive areas of the hoof.

REFERENCE

Observe the usual safety precautions when working with the angle grinder, belt grinder or hot air tool. There are separate guidelines for our welding devices: www.duplo-frank.de/Dateien/device-safety-eng.pdf

2.2. General information on working with our products

NOTICE

Only use our products if you have the necessary knowledge of how to use them correctly. Observe our shoeing instructions and safety information.



Only use the tools intended for this purpose when working with our products. Observe the usual safety precautions and any additional safety and usage instructions provided by the manufacturer when working with these tools.



Do not place a Duplo horseshoe between the hoof and a conventional horseshoe. Do not place a Duplo shoe underneath a steel shoe. This applies to both pure plastic horseshoes and composite horseshoes.



WARNING

Perform the bare hoof trimming professionally and then select the optimum shoe size.

Incorrect shoe sizes or inadequate adjustment of the shoe to the hoof can increase the risk of the horse losing a horseshoe.



Whether glued, cast or nailed - lost horseshoes are always a safety risk for your own horse and the entire herd.

REFERENCE

All information on customization and modification can be found online: www.duplo-frank.de/en/faq-adjustment

2.3. Risk of injury from quarter clips

PPE !!!

If you use a horseshoe with quarter clips, take care to avoid cuts. We recommend wearing suitable gloves.

When grinding / removing the clips, suitable eye protection is required.



WARNING

Be careful to adjust the quarter clips to the hoof angle when shoeing. Protruding quarter clips increase the risk of injury for the horse and herd.

If you are using the "Basic" model, be sure to grind the quarter clips before applying the horseshoe to avoid injuries. Grinding or removing the clips may produce sparks. Make sure to follow appropriate safety precautions and wear adequate personal protective equipment, especially suitable eye protection.



2.4. Risk of pain due to incorrectly positioned knobs

NOTICE

The sturdy colored knobs press into the bearing edge of the hoof wall and help to prevent the nailed horseshoe from twisting on the hoof.

WARNING

If the position of the knobs on the hoof is not ideal, this can lead to pressure on sensitive areas.



Therefore, always ensure the correct position of the knobs on the hoof and grind off any incorrectly positioned knobs.

2.5. Additional risks with a nailed horseshoe

REFERENCE

All relevant information can be found in our instruction: instruction: www.duplo-frank.de/en/shoeing-instruction

WARNING

Make sure you choose the right horseshoe nails. It is important that the nail head cannot slip through the nail hole in our horseshoe. Otherwise the risk of the horse losing a shoe increases.



The "Classic" pure plastic horseshoe without metal inlay (regardless of the variation) has not been developed for nailed application.

The risk of losing the horseshoe and being injured by the nails would be too high, as the nails would not sit firmly in the plastic.



2.6. Additional risks with an adhesive horseshoe

NOTICE

Our range includes so-called "practice kits" for practicing the welding of glue-on tabs and horseshoes at low cost. Please note that the "dummies" included in the kits are not suitable as hoof protection.

2.6.1. Increased health risk due to the adhesive used

PPE !!!

No matter which adhesive you use: Make sure you have the appropriate personal protective equipment and adequate ventilation.



WARNING

Read and follow the warnings and safety instructions for the adhesive used. If you purchase the adhesive from us, we will enclose the warning and safety instructions separately with the delivery, unless they are noted on the product itself.



REFERENCE

You can also find the information online in the product description: www.duplo-frank.de/en/nailess/instant-adhesive

2.6.2. Minimized risk of losing horseshoes with correct working methods

NOTICE

In order to reduce the risk of losing a glue-on horseshoe, it is important to carefully prepare the bare hoof and the glue-on shoe.

REFERENCE

All relevant information for this style of shoeing can be found in our gluing instruction: www.duplo-frank.de/en/glueing-instruction

2.6.3. Minimized risk of losing horseshoes with removed knobs

NOTICE

This applies both to the hard knobs of the colored knob inserts and to the soft production-related knobs.

TIP

All open-toed models, the "Basic" as well as our base plate and the pony shoes have no knobs.

WARNING

Remove all knobs in advance to be on the safe side. If the knobs have not yet fully penetrated the hoof horn when gluing, the tabs may be compressed later, which could have a negative effect on the secure hold of the adhesive horseshoe.



2.6.4. Minimized risk of losing horseshoes: glue-on tabs and adhesive collars

CAUTION

Depending on the glue-on tab or adhesive collar, you can choose between different degrees of hardness. The degree of hardness of the plastic has an effect on the tear resistance of the product and its flexibility when glued to the hoof. Problems can therefore arise depending on the temperature, hoof wall and riding discipline. The farrier is responsible for deciding which product to use for gluing.

2.6.4.1. The flexibility of the tabs

NOTICE

The harder the plastic, the more difficult it is to bend the individual tabs on the hoof. It can therefore make sense to opt for a slightly softer synthetic material, especially if the hoof walls are of an irregular shape.



WARNING

The stronger the forces acting on the adhesive bond, the greater the risk of losing the horseshoe.

TIP

With the harder products, it can help to warm up the tabs that have already been welded to the horseshoe a little before use and let the horseshoe rest on the tabs for a few minutes, weighted down with a hammer, for example. This will bend the tabs towards the hoof wall.



2.6.4.2. The strain caused by the riding discipline / the horse's gait mechanics

WARNING

The softer the plastic, the easier the individual tabs can tear.

In equestrian disciplines where the hoof protection is exposed to particularly high and shearing movements (e.g. eventing, show jumping, barrel racing), and with horses with particularly shearing footing, the risk of shoe loss increases as the hardness of the synthetic material used decreases.



2.6.4.3. The effects of temperature

WARNING

At warmer temperatures, the plastic becomes softer and more flexible. Softer products will therefore tear more quickly in summer than harder ones.

At the height of summer, we strongly advise against using the soft or Standard versions.

At colder temperatures, the plastic becomes more rigid and less flexible. The harder the product is, the less flexible it is in winter (see 2.6.4.1).



2.6.5. Increased risk of losing horseshoes due to hoof care products

WARNING

Hoof care products containing oil that are applied to the hoof wall can impair the adhesive bond between the glue-on tab and the hoof.

This increases the risk of losing the horseshoe.

TIP

We therefore always recommend interrupting the active treatment with the respective product in good time before applying the adhesive horseshoe.

REFERENCE

See also section 2.7.1.



2.6.6. Increased risk of losing horseshoes due to padding material

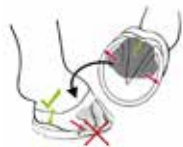
WARNING

Make sure that no padding material escapes sideways towards the glue-on tabs.

The padding material could have a negative effect on the stability of the adhesive bond between the tab and the hoof.

REFERENCE

See also section 2.7.1.



2.7. Additional risks with an orthopaedic / therapeutic horseshoe

CAUTION

Any shoeing with an orthopaedic / therapeutic background requires appropriate expertise. The wrong hoof protection or a lack of adjustment can worsen the horse's state of health.

NOTICE

Our products are not intended to diagnose or cure any disease.

2.7.1. Use of hoof care products, padding material and hoof repair products

PPE !!!

Many of these products can pose risks to your health and require personal protective equipment such as gloves and mouth and eye protection. Always ensure adequate ventilation.



CAUTION

Observe the manufacturer's safety and usage instructions to protect your health and the health of the horse.

Depending on the individual situation, the wrong hoof care product or the wrong degree of hardness of the padding material can worsen the horse's state of health. It is the farrier's responsibility to choose the right product.

REFERENCE

See also section 2.6.5. and 2.6.6.

2.7.2. Risks associated with laminitis horseshoes

NOTICE

Our open-toed models are also often referred to as "laminitis horseshoes".

Of course, depending on the horse and individual hoof situation, other horseshoes are also suitable for use as laminitis shoes.

CAUTION

If you wish to use our products for acute or chronic laminitis, we strongly recommend that you attend an appropriate training course and work together with the responsible veterinarian.

An incorrect shoe size / model selection or adjustment can aggravate the horse's situation.



2.7.3. Risks associated with wedge horseshoes

NOTICE

A horseshoe with a wedge pad is used to change the hoof angle.

This is an orthopaedic / therapeutic horseshoe that may only be used by expert farriers.

CAUTION

We recommend that you always discuss the use of a wedge, the angle at which the heels should be raised and the duration of use with your local vet.



WARNING

Without the appropriate specialist knowledge and individually tailored training, this can have a negative impact on the horse's musculoskeletal system and health.

2.7.4. Risks associated with immobilization due to cast horseshoes

PPE !!!

If you want to shoe the horse with cast horseshoes, wear suitable protective gloves.

When preparing and applying the cast bars, you need protection against the sharp prongs of the cast hooks to prevent cuts.

When grinding down the screws, suitable eye protection is required.

You will need disposable gloves when working with the cast bandage.

REFERENCE

All relevant information from our side for this style of horseshoe can be found in our cast instruction: www.duplo-frank.de/en/nailless/cast-hooks

Please also observe the safety instructions from the manufacturer of the cast bandages. If you purchase the bandages from us, we will provide you with these instructions, unless they are noted on the product itself.

You can also find them online in the cast instruction.



WARNING

This is an orthopaedic / therapeutic shoeing that may only be carried out by expert farriers (if necessary in cooperation with the vet) to ensure that the cast shoe has no negative health effects on the horse.



Please note that a hoof cast leads to the immobilization of the horn capsule.



The duration of this application should therefore be adapted to the individual situation of the horse.

When wrapping the cast bandage around the hoof, you must ensure that the coronary band and the heel bulbs remain free.



Grinding down protruding screws may produce sparks. Be sure to follow appropriate safety precautions and wear adequate personal protective equipment, especially suitable eye protection.



2.7.5. Risks associated with high studs

CAUTION

The threaded inserts of the "Jumper" and "HDS Traction" models are generally suitable for slightly higher studs. However, if you are using the horseshoes for an orthopaedic / therapeutic shoeing, we generally advise against using high studs. The same applies to the open-toed horseshoe with screw threads.

In this case, we recommend using only the 6mm or 8mm studs with an effective height of 3mm or 5mm to avoid putting additional strain on the horse's health.



REFERENCE

See also section 2.8. with all sub-sections on the use of studs.

2.8. Risks associated with the use of screw studs or drive-in studs

CAUTION

Any use of screw studs or drive-in studs increases the risk of injury in the herd.

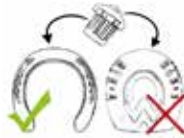
The pros and cons of using studs should therefore be agreed between the farrier and the horse owner / rider (and possibly the stable owner).



WARNING

Our drive-in studs, the so-called "Speedies", are only suitable for use in steel shoes.

Speedies cannot be combined with our alternative Duplo horseshoes. Otherwise, the same instructions apply as for the screw studs.



2.8.1. Position of the thread inserts (stud holes) on the hoof

NOTICE

The correct position for the thread inserts is in the heel area. If you are using a horseshoe with four thread inserts, the two front thread inserts must be located under the bearing edge of the hoof wall.

WARNING

When choosing the correct shape and size of a horseshoe with stud holes, always pay attention to the position of the thread inserts.

Incorrectly positioned thread inserts can increase the risk of the shoe coming off and/or exerting undesirable pressure on sensitive areas of the hoof.



2.8.2. Using a threaded horseshoe without studs

WARNING

To avoid punctual pressure on the hoof and not impair the stability of the thread insert, protect the thread inserts from accumulating dirt at all times with the aid of stud blanks or closing plugs.



2.8.3. Thread inserts in the synthetic cover

NOTICE

With these horseshoes, the 4mm studs with disk are the most suitable for the health of the horse and the stability of the horseshoe.

WARNING

Our 6mm studs with disk are only suitable to a limited extent, depending on the ground conditions. Never use higher studs, as the thread inserts could be levered out of position.

Do not use studs without disk to avoid punctual pressure on the hoof.

The slightly higher "Nordic" studs are developed exclusively for the Nordic countries. With these studs, it must be ensured at all times that the stud can sink completely into the ground. Otherwise, the use of these studs could affect the stability of the shoe and the health of the horse in the long term.

Horseshoes with thread inserts that are not anchored in the metal core are not suitable for multiple changes from stud blanks (see 2.8.2.) to studs.

Repeated screwing and unscrewing of the (blind) studs jeopardizes the tight fit of the thread inserts in the horseshoe.

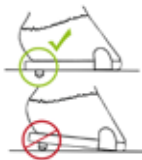


2.8.4. Thread inserts in the metal core

WARNING

The thread inserts, which are firmly anchored in the metal core, are generally suitable for slightly higher studs. However, if the ground is hard and the stud cannot sink in, we believe that higher studs should only be used when necessary.

The permanent use of higher studs can have a negative effect on the health of the horse, the stability of the shoe and the safety of the herd, especially on hard ground. Do not use studs that are higher than the heights available from us and specified for your horseshoe.



2.8.5. Using studs for orthopaedic / therapeutic shoeing

REFERENCE

See section 2.7.5.

2.9. Risk of injury when using spikes

CAUTION

Spikes increase both the grip of the horseshoe and the risk of injury in the herd – but of course to a different extent than studs do.

They are comparable to the tungsten carbide pins in conventional horseshoes.



NOTICE

The exact placement and number of spikes used in the plastic cover is at the discretion of the on-site farrier.

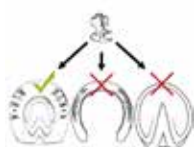
Basically, the options differ depending on the type of horseshoe used.

WARNING

Spikes are only suitable in combination with a composite horseshoe with synthetic cover or a purely synthetic horseshoe.

Spikes are not suitable for use in steel shoes.

Spikes must not be screwed directly into the hoof.



2.9.1. Risk due to incorrect installation / position of the spikes

WARNING

To avoid pressure on sensitive areas of the hoof, the spikes should be fitted in the plastic cover in the area of the bearing edge of the hoof wall.

Under no circumstances should the spikes be screwed in too far inwards, i.e. under the sole of the hoof. If the spike is too close to the edge of the horseshoe, the plastic may tear out.

If the spike is not screwed in far enough, it is easy to lose and also poses a risk of injury to humans and horses.

If the spike is screwed in too far, it does not provide any additional grip and there is a risk of the thread of the spike breaking through the hoof side of the horseshoe.

To ensure a reliable grip, the spike should not be overtightened.



2.10. Using the Hoof Sole Protector (HSP)

NOTICE

Remove the debris guard as precisely as possible. If you cut away too much material, the hooks of the sole protector may not grip properly later, making installation more difficult.

Make sure you wear personal protective equipment and ensure adequate ventilation when installing the HSP.

WARNING

The weld seam must run without gaps along the entire edge of the sole protector to ensure stability.

Risks due to unstable weld seams:

Dirt could get in, which can lead to an undesirable build-up of pressure. Loss of the sole protector.



2.11. Using the Protective Insoles

NOTICE

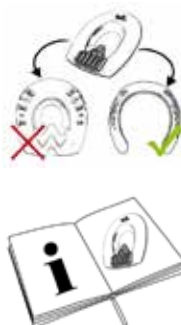
Our Protective Insoles are inserts for steel shoes.

They are not suitable to be combined with Duplo horseshoes.

WARNING

Ensure a secure fit in the horseshoe during use. The insole can only perform its function if it is correctly fitted and processed.

If used incorrectly, there is a risk of the insole slipping on the horseshoe or dirt accumulating between the horseshoe and the insole.



2.12. Risks when reusing a used horseshoe

NOTICE

If the metal core of the horseshoe is already visible due to extreme abrasion, we generally advise against using the horseshoe for another shoeing.

The final decision is up to the local farrier.

WARNING

Before re-shoeing, it is essential that the horseshoe is flattened.

If the shoe was deformed during the previous shoeing period, this could lead to tension and pressure on the sole.

CAUTION

Please note that a used horseshoe has a slightly different slipping behavior than a new horseshoe – similar to a used winter tire on a car.

Also pay attention to the depth of the profile of the horseshoe. If in doubt, you should always opt for a new shoe for safety reasons.

DANGER

If you want to reuse an adhesive horseshoe, you must remove the remains of the old glue from the glue-on tabs.

The old glue residue would have a negative effect on the new adhesive bond.

Please note that the sanding dust from the glue poses considerable health risks. Always protect yourself with personal protective equipment and adequate ventilation.



3. The daily use of our products:

Information for riders and horse owners during the shoeing period

NOTICE

Duplo horseshoes are extensively tested. They are suitable for many different horses and disciplines. However, some horses do not cope with Duplo horseshoes due to the position of their limbs or the way they move.

It is the responsibility of the rider / horse owner to always take a critical look at the horse and the type of horseshoe. If you have the feeling that your horse is not getting along with the horseshoe for any reason, please contact your farrier.

Our team will also be happy to advise you. Please note, however, that we cannot make any remote diagnoses.

3.1. Regular checking the hoof protection

PPE !!!

Make sure you have the appropriate personal protective equipment.
Wear suitable gloves to avoid cutting injuries.



NOTICE

Check the correct and secure fit of the Duplo horseshoes and the accessories used once a day and before every activity with the horse to prevent shoe loss during the regular shoeing period.

This applies to all types of horseshoes (nailed, glued, cast).

CAUTION

To avoid injuries, check at least once a week...

... whether there are any sharp edges on the horseshoe.

... whether there are any open rivets on nailed horseshoes.

... whether the adhesive connection between the glue-on tabs and the hoof and the weld seam between the shoe and the tabs are intact in the case of adhesive horseshoes.

... whether the cast bandage on cast horseshoes is intact and no sharp points of the cast hooks are exposed.



3.2. Regular hoof care

PPE !!!

Make sure you have the appropriate personal protective equipment.

Wear suitable gloves to avoid cutting injuries.



3.2.1. Risks due to foreign objects under the hoof / hoof protection

NOTICE

Regularly cleaning the hooves is essential to maintain the horse's health, even if it is shod.



WARNING

It can always happen that larger stones get wedged under the hoof or that, despite all precautions and the integrated debris guard, dangerous ice and snow can be balled up in winter.

3.2.2. Risks due to the ingredients of a care product

PPE !!!

Many hoof care products require personal protective equipment such as gloves and mouth and eye protection. In addition, always ensure adequate ventilation.



WARNING

Read and follow the warnings and safety instructions of the manufacturer of the product used.

If you purchase the product from us, we will enclose the warnings and safety instructions separately with the delivery if they are not noted on the product itself. You can also find the relevant information in our online store.



3.2.3. Appropriate speed and riding style

CAUTION

The gliding ability of Duplo horseshoes on slippery surfaces (e.g. freshly mown meadows, wet leaves) corresponds approximately to that of an unshod hoof or a worn conventional horseshoe without studs.

You must always adapt your speed and riding style to the surface and reduce your speed appropriately to prevent accidents.

When using Duplo horseshoes on slippery surfaces, you should use studs or spikes to provide the horse with even better grip.



3.4. Using spikes and studs (screw studs and drive-in studs)

REFERENCE

See also sections 2.8. (studs) and 2.9. (spikes) with all subsections.

WARNING

Spikes and studs can pose a risk to the herd, especially with horses that tend to be belligerent. If you are not a self-caterer, it is therefore essential that you discuss the use of spikes and studs with the stable owner in advance.

CAUTION

The use of spikes and studs and the monitoring of their correct fit and integrity during the shoeing period is at the discretion of the horse owner / rider in cooperation with the local farrier.

Check the correct fit and integrity of the spikes or (blind) studs and the thread inserts daily and before every activity with the horse. A crooked (blind) stud is an indication that the fit of the thread insert is no longer optimal.



3.5. Using a threaded horseshoe without studs

REFERENCE

See section 2.8.2.

3.6. The model "Snow Edition"

WARNING

The "Snow Edition" was specially manufactured for use in snow. It is aimed at anyone who has a problem with snow balling up. We assume that the "Snow Edition" is more slippery than the regular models when used without additional anti-slip protection.

We strongly advise against using it without additional anti-slip protection in the form of spikes and/or studs.



3.7. Increased risk of injury due to a visible metal core

NOTICE

If the metal core is already visible due to increased abrasion, the core functions of the horseshoe (hoof protection & shock absorption) are still provided and it does not usually need to be replaced immediately.

WARNING

As soon as the metal core is visible, the risk of injury for the horse and the herd increases.

When deciding when to change a horseshoe, the horse's behavior must be taken into account.

Check whether there are any sharp edges on the horseshoe. If in doubt, consult your farrier to decide whether the horseshoe needs to be replaced.



3.8. The model "Arizona"

NOTICE

The steel border of the "Arizona" horseshoe is only minimally covered with plastic. It will therefore be visible within a very short time. With this special horseshoe, this is not a sign of increased abrasion or wear.

CAUTION

Due to the steel border, the risk of injury is higher with the "Arizona" than with our other horseshoes.

REFERENCE

See also section 3.7. with regard to the visible metal core or abrasion on the "Arizona".



3.9. Notes on orthopaedic / therapeutic and laminitis horseshoes

NOTICE

If your farrier uses our products for orthopaedic / therapeutic shoeing or e.g. for a laminitis shoeing, please note that our products are not intended to diagnose or cure diseases. Nevertheless, the targeted use of a composite shoe in consultation with the farrier and/or veterinarian, for example as part of therapeutic shoeing, can support the recovery process, e.g. in case of laminitis.

WARNING

Basically, most horseshoes are also suitable as riding shoes if they are used as orthopaedic / therapeutic horseshoes. This also applies to open-toed horseshoes, which are often used as laminitis horseshoes.

An exception is the cast horseshoe (section 3.10).

We are unable to assess the extent to which your horse is able to perform and therefore can be ridden during this shoeing period.

When a horse is lame, it is obvious to everyone that there is a problem. However, if your horse is only more sensitive to pain at certain points during this phase or is simply more cautious, it may be that it is less sure-footed in the field, for example. You should therefore pay close attention to your horse's signals so as not to endanger your own health or that of your horse.



3.10. Notes on the cast horseshoe

WARNING

The cast horseshoe is a special form of orthopaedic / therapeutic horseshoe.

It is not suitable as a riding shoe.



Please note that the above safety instructions are not exhaustive. Horses are living and unpredictable animals whose behavior is influenced by numerous factors that we cannot fully predict and certainly cannot fully control.



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Duplo Composite Horseshoes

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Latest Update: May 2025 - Version 2