

The Official Magazine of the US Melges 24 Class Association Volume 2 • Issue 1 • Winter 2005

2005 ACURA Miami Race Week



March 10-13, 2005 * Miami, Florida * www.premiere-racing.com

Keeping the Southeast Melges 24 Racing circuit in high gear is ACURA Miami Race Week, March 10-13 in Miami, Florida. That's right, Biscayne Bay racing is back! This year the historic and legendary SORC (Southern Ocean Racing Conference) is being organized by the same professional, aiming-to-please organization that brought us **Key West Race Week** — Premiere Racing! They are a group of knowledgeable and experienced individuals is always willing go the extra mile every time to make each event one that is filled with fun, festivities and last, certainly not least - high powered, tight, very competitive Melges 24 racing! This year they are asking for early entries. This is very important for generating additional one design interest and very helpful to Premiere Racing in planning the event and making some key race management decisions in the first year. Visit the official Web site for ACURA Miami Race Week at www.premiere-racing.com. The Web site features a number of items that will be helpful in



getting your crew ready for Miami. It includes a wealth of information about logistics, accommodations, marinas, storage, regatta contact info, entry information and a current entry list. The entries are really beginning to stack up. Current entries include Jeff Littfin on *Grinder*, Bruce Ayres on *Monsoon*, John Raymont on *No Tourism*, Jack Jennings on *Pied Piper* and from the UK — Simon Strauss with Team *Gill* is aiming for another great year on the North American M24 Racing Circuit!

This is truly going to be an outstanding event at a fantastic venue. Multiple days of non-stop racing action will be on hand so be sure to get your entry in as early as possible. For more information about this event, visit the official Web site at www.premiere-racing.com. Also, stay tuned to the U.S. Melges 24 Class Web site at www.usmelges24.com and the IMCA Web site at www.melges24.com.





1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8°,9,10World Championship

1,3,4,5 North Americans

1,2,3,4*,5,6*,7*,8,9,10 Nationals

1,2*,3,4,6*,7,8,9,10, Key West Race Week

- 1st North Sails Race Week
- 1st Charleston Race Week
- 1st Pacific Coast Champs
- 1st NOOD Detroit
- 1st NOOD San Diego
- 1st NOOD Chicago
- 1st Ocean Reef Invitational

Heading to Key West? World's fastest Melges 24 sails in stock. Call our experts today!

Photo Full Throttle #1 at the 2004 Ocean Reef Club Champs in Key Largo



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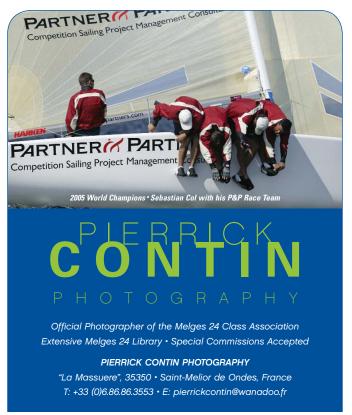
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Contents: M24*USA

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St. Petersburg NOOD

NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVENT

February 18-20, 2005 * St. Petersburg, Florida * www.sailingworld.com

The second stop on the 2005 U.S. Melges 24 schedule is none other than the St. Petersburg NOOD — also, event number three of the Melges 24 Mid-Winter Championship. The big three events include: Ocean Reef Regatta, Key West Race Week and St. Petersburg NOOD. Top scores accumulated from these three mega-Melges 24 events can make you the next Melges 24 Mid-Winter Champion! You have to participate in all three in order to take the title home!

In 2004, the St. Petersburg NOOD was designated, for the first time as a North American Ranking event. We saw participation increase from 24 boats to 34! The St. Petersburg Yacht Club as well as the *Sailing World* NOOD Regatta Organization are getting ready for another repeat performance! Three days of fun-filled racing and great atmosphere was enjoyed by all, especially Doug Fisher *USA-399* winning the Regatta by a clear margin. Quentin Strauss and his *Gill* team showed their skill on Saturday and Sunday placing second followed by another English crew, John Pollard GBR-573 with his *Xcellent* crew in third.



Already, the 2005 entry list is beginning to grow. Thirteen Melges 24 teams are currently signed-up for St. Petersburg. They include Doug Kessler *USA-489 Liberty 3*, Ray Laguna *USA-552 Mr. Hyde*, Frank Davenport *USA-523 Express Lane*, Bob Dockery *USA-549 Barracuda*, Marc Steyn CAN-346 and Travis Weisleder *USA-605 Carloan.com*.

As always, *Sailing World Magazine* has a robust and informative Web site. Go to **www.sailingworld.com**, then to the NOOD Regattas link on the left side menu. You will find information about all of the NOOD Regattas around the country including the St. Petersburg NOOD. Stay tuned to the U.S. Melges 24 Class Association Web site **www.usmelges24.com** for the latest in updates.





U.S. Melges 24 Class Association • 2005 Class Membership Application

Valid From January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 ONE FORM PER PERSON

MEMBERSHIP TYPE	DUES Please Circle One	DESCRIPTION
OWNER	\$300	All owners receive National and International Newsletters. Each boat must have an ownership level membership. The \$300 covers U.S. dues (\$205) and International (\$95)
DRIVER / PARTNER / CHARTERER	\$250	Anyone who helms in a Fleet race must be a member of the Class. This membership also receives all National and International Newsletters.
ASSOCIATE / CREW	\$100	Associate members receive all newsletters. This category drives awareness and hopefully future ownership. Please sign-up your whole crew. Previous owners are encouraged to maintain this level of membership to stay informed of Class activities.
Please Circle One *NEW	*RENEWAL	
*NAME		
*ADDRESS		
*CITY	*STATE	*ZIP
*PHONE *WORK		*HOME
*FAX		*EMAIL
*BOAT NAME		
*HULL NO		
*PURCHASED FROM		
CLUB AFFILIATION		
FLEET		
DATE OF PURCHASE		

Please fill out the required information (*must be completed) on this form and return it with your dues.

Please be elaborate as possible. We need accurate records to keep you informed of Class activities.

Please make check payable to "USMCA".

Please return this form with the appropriate dues to the following address:

Andy Burdick, Class Secretary* P.O. Box 1, Zenda, WI 53195 Cindy Handel* P.O. Box 1, Zenda, WI 53195

Fleet Report: West Coast Region

Don Jesberg, USA-555 * jesberg@msn.com * 800 527 2116, ext. 678 * West Coast District Governor



THE WEST COAST — BASE CAMP FOR A HOST OF MELGES 24 PROGRAMS

From Newport Beach to Seattle, some of the countries best M24 teams consider the West Coast their base camp. 2004 North American Champion and 2001 U.S. National Champion, Argyle Campbell hails from Newport Beach as does Bruce Ayres, 2002 North American Champion and Dave Ullman, three-time Key West Race Week winner and prior U.S. National Champion.

Moving north to Santa Cruz, the members of *Team Pegasus* can be seen out on the water weekly practicing for events around the world. In addition to Shark Kahn's 2003 Worlds Championship title, he won the 2004 Pacific Coast Championships and was runner up at Key West Race Week in 2004. Santa Cruz is also home base to "Team Dogs" racing *Go Dogs Go* who logged 42 racing days in 2004 including KWRW, SORC, St. Pete NOOD, U.S. Nationals (Santa Cruz YC hosted), Pacific Coast Championships and the North American Championships in Detroit, Michigan!

The San Francisco area has its share of notable racers including Seadon Wijsen racing *USA-525* with partner Tim Fey and long-time Melges 24 racer Don Jesberg racing *USA-555*. J/105 and Melges 24 "cross dressers" Jeff Litfin and Jim Pugh have big plans for 2005 including their second trip to Key West Race Week and a

full on-the-road program during 2005. Lake Tahoe hosts races for the Melges 24s all summer long and has more than 10 boats "on the lake". What a great racing venue!

The biggest news on the West Coast is the resurgence of interest in the Seattle area. One of the early strongholds of Melges 24 racing beginning in 1994 there have always been a large number of boats in the area and now the sailors are organizing an exciting 2005 schedule. Two of the more prominent regattas is the Whidbey Island Race Week, July 10-15 and the Seattle Gran Prix / Pacific Northwest Championships, November 4-6.

Our 2005 West Coast schedule can be found on the USMCA Web site at **usmelges24.com**. We hope to host several major events in 2006 leading up to a possible 2007 Worlds Championships in Santa Cruz, California. Indeed, M24 racing is alive a well on the West Coast. It serves as a base camp and launching ramp for many of the best teams in the United States. Look for 8 West Coast teams to make the haul to Key West this January.

Fleet Report: Northeast Region

Bill Blank, USA-032 Wet! * bblank@tsm1.com * 800 527 2116, ext. 678 * Northeast District Governor



Well it was a positive year for the Northeast region in 2004, with very well-attended area regattas, two of which counted towards the North American standings.

The great news is that the Northeast region is to host the 2005 U.S. Nationals. The Regatta will be held on the 29th of April through the 1st of May using the highly successful Annapolis NOOD to base the event. Planning is underway. I advise you all to book your accommodations as soon as you possibly can. Don't hesitate to contact me via email, by phone (both listed above) for help with logistics, etc.

As recently appointed Northeast District Governor it will be my task to promote and grow the region. We have boats scattered over a very large area and it would be great if we could coordinate the area. The first problem I would like to work on is communication. I would like to make an email list and use it to bounce ideas and plan events. I have managed to amass a few addresses but would ask everyone to at least forward their contact information to me. Exposure is the next area I would like

to address. As we all know the Melges 24 is a fantastic boat to sail, trailer, rig, etc. But I'm sure you have noticed when you talk to people that don't own them, they have the impression that it is all professional sailors and the boats running costs are immense, new sails for each race and so on. Wherever possible we all have to quash this and convert them!

Large regattas and boat shows are perfect places for this. In Annapolis we used to have a sailmakers challenge race that you could view from the Boat Show, held in Melges so the spectators could see the close action racing. I also think that using successful regattas such as the NOOD to base events on are a great idea.

I'm just the center point and I would like to hear what everyone else wants and feels we need to implement. As a team we can make the area prosper, have great racing and a lot of fun!

Sail fast! Have a great winter season and I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring in Annapolis!



U.S. Nationals / Annapolis NOOD



April 29 - May 01, 2005 * Annapolis, Maryland * www.sailingworld.com

NORTH AMERICAN RANKING EVENT

The 2005 U.S. National Championship is going to be nothing less than spectacular! Being held in coordination with the largest of the NOOD Regatta events - the Annapolis NOOD, this will be one of the hottest events on the Eastern seaboard. Hosted by the world-famous Annapolis Yacht Club, this event will no doubt be well-organized and professional. The best part is... this regatta is strategically located and ideal in the sense that, for the already healthy Midwest and Southeast Region Fleets, this is a sensible, meet-each-other-half-waythere Regatta. There is absolutely no excuse not to be there! One of the most fantastic aspects of the Melges 24 is its ability to trailer. It's simple and it's easy. The Northeast Region is super excited about having this event awarded to them, so let's get the boats together and make this the absolute best National Championship it can be! Northeast District Governor, Bill Blank Wet! and Northeast Fleet Member Neil Sullivan *M-fatic* have been working extra hard with the *Sailing World* NOOD Regatta Organization making sure that M24 Fleet needs are met for a high-profile, star-studded event.

In 2004, we saw 25 Melges 24s on the start line in Santa Cruz, California and went on to watch an exciting Championship unfold with Luca Santella and Giovanni Maspero with *Joe Fly* take the top spot, Sheldon Ecklund *Tickler* was second and Bruce Ayres' *Monsoon* was third.

As always, Sailing World Magazine has a robust Web site. Go to www.sailingworld.com, then to the NOOD Regattas link on the left side menu. You will find information about all of the NOOD Regattas around the country as well as the Annapolis NOOD. Also, stay tuned to the U.S. Class Association Web site usmelges24.com for the latest in updates.

Corinthian Status

www.sailing.org

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN! SIGN UP NOW!

Despite the fact that all major IMCA events incorporate a Corinthian Division for amateur crews, very few M24 teams are correctly registering their Corinthian status. With fabulous racing and great prizes on offer, those amateur crew members who don't register are really missing out — take action now to ensure your Corinthian status for 2005! Here's how it works:

As an ISAF International Class the Melges 24 uses the ISAF Sailor Classification system to establish Corinthian status. Our Class Rules state that to qualify as a Corinthian Crew the helm of the boat must be an ISAF Group 1 sailor and that crewmembers can be either Group 1 or Group 2 sailors, but that no crewmember can be a Group 3 sailor. If you enter the Corinthian Division of an event, your crew list will be checked against the official online ISAF Sailor List to confirm each individuals status before your Corinthian entry is ratified.

Registering with ISAF and obtaining your Sailor Classification is a simple two stage, free of charge, online process and takes only a few minutes. Although some applications are processed immediately any queries can delay the registration process by several weeks so don't leave registering until the last minute. Remember — if anyone on your crew isn't listed on ISAF as either a Group 1 or Group 2 sailor we cannot accept your Corinthian entry!

To obtain your Sailor Classification all you need to do is visit www.sailing.org, select the "Sailors" link on the main menu bar and go to "ISAF Sailor Classification". The first part of the process is to register your name and contact details with ISAF and the second part is to complete the ISAF Sailor Classification application form. If your application is straightforward your status will confirmed within minutes of submitting your application. If there are any queries on your application it will be referred to ISAF's Classification Authority for a decision and they may contact you to request additional information. This happens quite often with Group 2 and 3 sailors so it is essential to apply for your Classification well in advance.

For those of you who are already registered with ISAF it is also important to remember that your Classification is only valid for 2 years and needs to be renewed when it expires. If in doubt please check your entry on the ISAF Sailor list and if your Classification has expired renew it straight away.

Don't forget that all your crewmembers need to register, not just the helm!

As published in the 2005 M24 Yearbook.



Gulf Coast Championship

March 11-13, 2005 * Jackson, Mississippi * jacksonyachtclub.com



The Gulf Coast region is very excited to have the opportunity to host the **2005 M24 Gulf Coast Championship**. Gulf Coast Fleet Member, David Scruggs became a Melges 24 owner this past summer. Getting into the e-mail loop, he was witness to many discussions expressing a desire to have an event with a mid-Gulf/Southeast region location. So, realizing that Jackson, Mississippi was geographically in the middle, he volunteered Jackson,MS and it was agreed.

The **Jackson Yacht Club** tragically burned down five years ago and since then has been rebuilt. Upon the completion of a beautiful new facility with over 10,000 square feet of indoor space and at least that much of covered outdoor space, the JYC is ready to welcome a top-notch fleet of Melges 24 racers. There is a separate dining room with wait staff, a bar overlooking the lake and a wrap-around covered deck overlooking the harbor and lake. Underneath there is a huge, two-level area for regatta parties and bands. It makes a terrific place for crawfish boils, music and dancing.

The harbor will hold over 100 boats and is adjacent to the clubhouse. There is a crane suitable to launch boats from a trailer and two ramps for those who don't mind getting their trailer wet. There is plenty of trailer storage during the weekend, especially for those wishing to layover until **GORC** (Gulf Ocean Racing Circuit) taking place April 2-3 in Biloxi, Mississippi. The entire club property is fenced and gated so your boats will be secure at all times. They have a number of single slips as well as guest piers for boats to raft up.

The entry fee will be \$100 or less per boat and will include registration, box lunches, dinner and dancing for four. Single tickets will also be available for guests and spouses. There will most likely be other club members joining the Melges 24 fleet, as they like to party as well. They would like to hear from some of you regarding the type music that you might want, from psytrance techno to rock n' roll. In addition, there are plenty of motels around (most within 10 minutes of the club), which is listed in the detailed NOR online, and some areas overlooking the lake for camping will also be available if that is of interest to anyone.

David, along with the entire Gulf Coast Regional Melges 24 Fleet welcomes everyone near and far in hopes that this will become a popular event. For further information regarding this event, contact Edgar Buchanan at (601) 605-1464 or via email at edgar_buchanan@adp.com or Joe Gibbs at (601) 856-1086 or via email at jgibbs@jam.rr.com. Visit jacksonyachtclub.com to learn more about the Jackson Yacht Club and download an online NOR and entry form.



Interview: Matt Mayo

Matt Mayo, USA-036 Trickey Monkey * mamayo@flash.net * 800 527 2116, ext. 678 * Gulf Coast District Governor



Gulf Coast District Governor, Matt Mayo took time out of his busy schedule to speak with M24*USA.

M24*USA: How old were you when you started sailing and what classes of boats did you learn to sail on?

MM: I started quite informally on small boats — no competition just sailing, then dropped sailing completely during the water skiing years. A couple of cruising boats and catamarans later, I started keel boat racing in local PHRF classes. We had a small local fleet of Capri 25s which was fun for a while. I have been racing for maybe a dozen years.

M24*USA: How long have you had your Melges 24 and what turns you on most about it?

MM: I bought a local boat *USA-36*, in 1998. The ease and speed still push the right buttons for me. The boat shows that my maintenance program is not "fussy," but it still has competitive speed. Its got a lot of miles on it and scratches to prove it.

M24*USA: What are your top M24 speed tips?

MM: Downwind we probably soak lower than most in average wind speeds. Using constant feedback from the spinnaker trimmer, we can take some pretty deep bites. It feels really slow, but works out most of the time. Plus, this diminishes the apparent wind changes which helps detecting lifts/headers. Screaming around on a plane, I miss most of the shifts because they are intertwined with bigger velocity changes. As far as the other tips, just consistently following written guides and

recommendations helps us and shows when we don't. However, too much focus on this can be a problem when all four heads stay in the boat.

M24*USA: What preparations did you make that lead to your success this year ultimately winning the 2004 Gulf Coast Championship title?

MM: Part of the success stemmed from learning from mistakes at 2004 Key West. We sailed well most of the time, but suffered from some breakdowns at promising moments. Time in the boat and ironing out some of the kinks has helped a lot. Planning and making all of the local events doesn't hurt either.

M24*USA: Do you sail with the same crew at every event?

MM: Biggest key to consistency is crew. Bill Kerr joined us about 2 years ago. The next "junior" member, Tony Guinn, has another year or more of tenure. Larry Ford has made about every event that I have over the last 6 years. More than 80% of the races have had the same crew for over 2 years. That's all quite fortunate. They individually have taken on specific areas which is helpful. Bill keeps track of tuning and what seemed to work or not work in different conditions. He also has tactics on the starts. Tony updates the wind, course, compass, line, etc. Larry is more tactics oriented in present and developing situations. He won't let me take as many fliers as I used to. We all still argue about things and I settle sometimes, but this works a lot smoother than what I did in the beginning. I simply drive better now, switching gears more as needed instead of trying to process all the other inputs.

M24*USA: What advice can you give to someone looking into a Melges 24 for the first time?

MM: Don't be intimidated. The boat is really easy to sail up to about 80% of potential. The last 5% to 10% comes slow however, some call it challenging; at times I call it frustrating. My best advice is to be realistic if you want to race in the larger events. You may not have collegiate training or a deep resume of multiple class accomplishments, or even a fully funded program, but you can still have fun. There is a lot of good competition all over the race course. Added bonus, most sports don't let you tee up with Tiger Woods. This really does help attract and keep crew.

M24*USA: The Gulf Melges 24 Fleet is one of the most enthusiastic in the U.S. The number of boats and level of talent is increasing. What do you attribute as the cause for such great regional class growth and where do you see it all going?

It has been a lot of fun even though the numbers are still guite small compared to the other fleets. For instance, we will have 75% of the Texas boats at a simple race-only regatta in Dallas. All of the local boats are closely matched in speed which keeps things exciting. There is not a 'rock star' in the group. This can actually draw some people that don't have tons of experience. But the boat is exciting enough by itself to interest local hot shots. It doesn't hurt that everyone has been friendly and supportive. Getting comments and feedback from the local boats is a good sign of a healthy class. I am optimistic that we are about to reach/pass critical mass and gather more attention from other boats in the area. Typically there is some burnout among other classes of boats and I hope to capitalize/recruit more. There are other boats that appear similar to the M24, but don't be fooled, the look on a convert's face is satisfying. I was the guy with another "one-off" boat for a lot of years, now there is some rethinking. I think a big local M24 turnout would really turn some more heads. The Gulf Coast Championship combination event with the SE region at Jackson, MS this spring would be that type of event if arranged in Texas and may very well spark more interest in the LA / MS / AL areas.

M24*USA: The 2005 World Championship in Key Largo, Florida next year is going to be awesome. Are you going to be there?

MM: Key Largo is on the schedule!

Our thanks to Matt for taking time to talk to us, and good luck to you in the 2005 sailing season!*

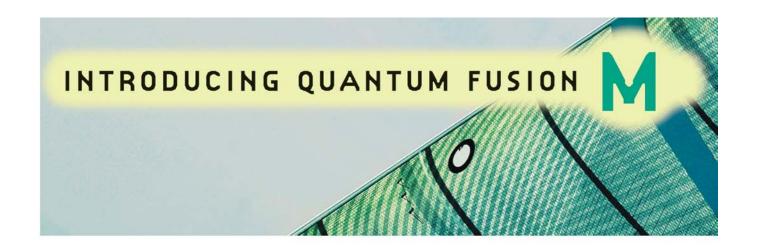


2005 U.S. Event Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTAC
ATIONAL POINTS	EVENTS		
01/17 - 01/21	Key West Race Week* (2)	Key West, FL	Andy Burdick • AIB45@aol.cor
02/18 - 02/20	St. Petersburg NOOD* (3)	•	•
03/11 - 03/13	Melges 24 Gulf Coast Championship	Jackson, MS	Scott Gregory • sgregory@bcwr.cor
04/29 - 05/01	U.S. National Championship	Annapolis, MD	Bill Blank • bblank@tsm1.co
06/03 - 06/05	Detroit NOOD	Detroit, MI	Mike Dow • mdow@chartermi.co
06/24 - 06/26	Ullman Sails Long Beach Race Week	Long Beach, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
09/24 - 09/25	Pacific Coast Championship	San Francisco, CA	Don Jesberg • jesberg@msn.co
10/07 - 10/09	Melges 24 Gold Cup Regatta	Lake Geneva, WI	Andy Burdick • AlB45@aol.co
11/19 - 11/21	Atlantic Coast Championship / King's Day Regatta	Jacksonville, FL	Scott Gregory • sgregory@bcwr.co
12/12 - 12/16	World Championship	Key Largo, FL	www.melges24.com/2005world
EGATTAS			
03/05 - 03/06	Spring One Design		
03/11 - 03/13	Miami Race Week (A SORC Renaissance)		
03/19 - 03/20	Spring Regatta		. –
04/02 - 04/03	Gulf Ocean Racing Circuit (GORC)		
04/07 - 04/10	Charleston Race Week		
04/16 - 04/17	Resin Regatta		
04/16 - 04/17	Puget Sound Sailing Regatta		
04/29 - 05/01	Annapolis NOOD	the state of the s	
05/14 - 05/15	Elite Keel		
05/14 - 05/15	Southeast Inland Championship		
05/14 - 05/15	Socks Regatta		
05/28 - 05/29	Memorial City Front Regatta Delta Ditch Run		
06/11 - 06/12			
06/17 - 06/19 07/10 - 07/15	Chicago NOOD		
07/30 - 07/31	Albert Simon Regatta		
07/30 - 07/31	Little Traverse Invitational		
08/06 - 08/07	Gorge One Design		
08/13 - 08/14	Summer Keel Boat Regatta		. = .
08/20 - 08/21	Melges 24 Charleston Harbor Challenge		
08/27 - 08/28	Grand Traverse Yacht Club Invitational		o , o o ,
08/27 - 08/28	One Design Event		
09/03 - 09/04	Pitch Regatta		
09/03 - 09/04	Labor Day Regatta		
09/03 - 09/04	Red Fox Regatta		
09/17 - 09/18	Star and Bar Regatta		
09/23 - 09/24	Texas NOOD		. –
10/09 - 10/10	Fall One Design Regatta		
10/15 - 10/16	West Coast Ocean Racing Circuit (WFORC)		
10/15 - 10/16	PSSC Regatta		
10/22 - 10/23	Melbourne Race Week		
11/04 - 11/06	Gran Prix / Pacific Northwest M24 Championship		

For a full listing of U.S. Melges 24 Events, visit **www.usmelges24.com/events2005_events.asp.** * 2005 Mid-Winter Championship Events





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