

epmd strictly business album

EPMD's Strictly Business: A Deep Dive into a Hip-Hop Classic

Introduction:

EPMD's Strictly Business, released in 1988, stands as a cornerstone of golden-age hip-hop, influencing countless artists and shaping the genre's sound for decades to come. This album is not just a collection of songs; it's a testament to the duo's raw talent, their sharp lyrical delivery, and their groundbreaking production. This in-depth exploration delves into the album's impact, its musical elements, and its lasting legacy in hip-hop culture.

Article Outline:

- I. The Historical Context of Strictly Business**
- II. The Production Style and Sound of the Album**
- III. Key Tracks and Their Significance**
- IV. EPMD's Lyrical Prowess and Storytelling**
- V. The Album's Influence and Legacy**
- VI. The Cultural Impact of Strictly Business**

I. The Historical Context of Strictly Business

Strictly Business emerged during a pivotal period in hip-hop, bridging the gap between the old school and the burgeoning golden age. The album's release showcased a shift towards more sophisticated production techniques and mature lyrical content.

The East Coast hip-hop scene was particularly vibrant at this time, with artists like Public Enemy and Boogie Down Productions pushing boundaries. EPMD's unique blend of slick rhymes and laid-back beats carved a distinct niche within this competitive environment.

II. The Production Style and Sound of the Album

The production on *Strictly Business* is characterized by its smooth, laid-back beats, often incorporating samples from funk and soul records. This signature sound, largely credited to Erick Sermon, became a hallmark of the EPMD style.

The use of simple, yet effective drum programming, combined with mellow basslines and soulful samples, created a sound that was both accessible and sophisticated. This laid-back yet undeniably hard-hitting approach set them apart.

The production was crucial to the album's overall success, providing the perfect backdrop for Parrish Smith's and Erick Sermon's distinct vocal styles. The beats were memorable, catchy and laid the foundation for many future hip hop tracks.

III. Key Tracks and Their Significance

"You're a Customer" is a prime example of EPMD's signature sound – a laid-back groove with clever,

boastful lyrics. This track highlights their entrepreneurial spirit and their business-minded approach to music.

"Strictly Business" the title track, is a powerful statement of intent, setting the tone for the entire album. The hard-hitting beats and confident lyrics established their presence firmly in the hip-hop world.

"So Whatcha Sayin'" showcases the duo's chemistry and their ability to seamlessly blend their distinct styles. This track perfectly encapsulates the effortless flow and dynamic interplay between Smith and Sermon.

"It's My Thang" is another essential track demonstrating their signature sound combined with the boasting and assertive lyrics which perfectly reflects their overall theme.

IV. EPMD's Lyrical Prowess and Storytelling

Parrish Smith and Erick Sermon's lyrical abilities are central to Strictly Business's enduring appeal. Their rhymes were clever, witty, and often boastful, reflecting their entrepreneurial spirit and streetwise attitude.

Their storytelling abilities were also evident, with

tracks painting vivid pictures of their lives and experiences. They established a believable persona that resonated with audiences. This authenticity played a large part in their success.

The duo's ability to balance their braggadocio with relatable experiences made their music both aspirational and genuine. The lyrics are full of detail and vivid descriptions creating an immersive experience for listeners.

V. The Album's Influence and Legacy

Strictly Business had a profound impact on the hip-hop landscape, influencing countless artists who followed in their footsteps. Its sound and style have been widely imitated and sampled.

The album's influence can be heard in the work of numerous artists, showcasing the enduring relevance of its production and lyrical approach. This impact underscores the album's place as a classic of the genre.

EPMD's influence extended beyond their direct imitators; their laid-back yet powerful approach to rap has infiltrated many subgenres of hip hop.

VI. The Cultural Impact of **Strictly Business**

Beyond its musical significance, **Strictly Business** holds cultural importance as a reflection of the times. The album captures the aspirations and realities of a generation, its themes of ambition and struggle resonating across demographics.

The album's themes of entrepreneurial spirit and self-reliance were particularly impactful, reflecting a broader cultural shift in the focus towards personal ambition and self-made success.

Strictly Business continues to resonate with listeners today because of its timeless themes and its enduring musical quality. Its cultural significance remains, reminding us of the evolution of hip-hop and the power of music to reflect societal change.

Conclusion:

EPMD's **Strictly Business** is more than just an album; it's a cultural touchstone, a testament to the power of collaboration, lyrical brilliance, and innovative production. Its impact on hip-hop is undeniable, shaping the genre's sound and influencing generations of artists. The album's enduring appeal lies in its timeless themes, its impeccable execution, and its lasting influence on hip-hop culture. Its influence continues to be felt even today.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Q: What is the significance of the album title, Strictly Business? A: The title reflects EPMD's serious and professional approach to their music career, emphasizing their dedication to success and their business-minded approach to the industry.

Q: Who produced Strictly Business? A: The majority of the production is credited to Erick Sermon, with some contributions from other producers.

Q: What are some of the key samples used on the album? A: The album utilizes a variety of funk and soul samples, the specific sources vary track-by-track, but many are classic funk and soul tracks.

Q: How did Strictly Business impact the hip-hop genre? A: The album significantly influenced the sound of East Coast hip-hop, introducing a smoother, more laid-back production style that became highly influential. Its lyrical content also set a new standard for storytelling and boastful yet relatable lyrics.

Related Keywords:

EPMD, Strictly Business, hip-hop, golden age hip-hop, Erick Sermon, Parrish Smith, 1988 hip-hop, East Coast hip-hop, classic hip-hop albums, influential hip-hop albums, hip-hop history, hip-hop production, hip-hop lyrics, best hip-hop albums, You're a Customer, So Whatcha Sayin', Strictly Business song, It's My Thang, 80s hip hop, 90s hip hop

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epmd strictly business album: The New Rolling Stone Album Guide Nathan Brackett, Christian David Hoard, 2004 Publisher Description

epmd strictly business album: Billboard , 1992-07-11 In its 114th year, Billboard remains the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events, brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends.

epmd strictly business album: SPIN , 1988-11 From the concert stage to the dressing room, from the recording studio to the digital realm, SPIN surveys the modern musical landscape and the culture around it with authoritative reporting, provocative interviews, and a discerning critical ear. With dynamic photography, bold graphic design, and informed irreverence, the pages of SPIN pulsate with the energy of today's most innovative sounds. Whether covering what's new or what's next, SPIN is your monthly VIP pass to all that rocks.

epmd strictly business album: *SPIN* , 1991-04 From the concert stage to the dressing room, from the recording studio to the digital realm, SPIN surveys the modern musical landscape and the culture around it with authoritative reporting, provocative interviews, and a discerning critical ear. With dynamic photography, bold graphic design, and informed irreverence, the pages of SPIN

pulsate with the energy of today's most innovative sounds. Whether covering what's new or what's next, SPIN is your monthly VIP pass to all that rocks.

epmd strictly business album: All Music Guide to Rock Vladimir Bogdanov, Chris Woodstra, Stephen Thomas Erlewine, 2002 This fun-to-read, easy-to-use reference has been completely updated, expanded, and revised with reviews of over 12,000 great albums by over 2,000 artists and groups in all rock genres. 50 charts.

epmd strictly business album: In the Arms of Baby Hop Kenneth Attaway, 2006-10 Many times in my adult life, I have had what I would call an awake out-of-body experience. During these times, I was peeking in at my life in a dream state; thinking this cannot be my life. I found myself asking the questions of what happened to the child who outsmarted the world and what happened to the teen who had all the answers and confidence to boot, and the young adult who never settled for can't. Well, somewhere along the way, the only thing left of who I was once was, were just shreds of an almost non-existent life. Now, don't get me wrong, there were some good times along the way, but it certainly was not always smooth sailing. But what came later in life was no comparison to the early years. Not that long ago, my life was filled with disappointment, brokenness, worry, anxiety, and fear. I survived breakups and breakdowns, sadness and pain, grief and loss beyond description, all of which led to a one-way ticket to Depression Central. Getting off the road to depression was very difficult for me, but there is no job too hard for God. If you can relate to the paralyzing despair that I went through, then please know that I fellowship with you and understand the grip depression and anxiety can have on your life. However, I want you to know that your destination does not have to be a one-way ticket to the land of despair, instead, your journey can bring you to a place of joy and peace if you simply trust and believe in God.

epmd strictly business album: The History of Hip Hop Eric Reese, 2019-03-01 Boombox Echoes: The Definitive Hip-Hop Journey of the 80s *** Author of *Rapper's Delight* essay currently archived at the Library of Congress *** ** Guest speaker of BBC2 Radio *Rapper's Delight* 40th Anniversary by DJ Trevor Nelson - September 2019 *** Immerse yourself in a time of lyrical innovation, funky beats, and social commentary with Eric Reese's *History of Hip Hop: Volume 2*. This pivotal decade propelled hip-hop from urban streets into the global consciousness, becoming an unstoppable force in the world of music. Embark on a journey from the birth of iconic hip-hop groups like Public Enemy, N.W.A., and Run-D.M.C., to the rise of the 'Golden Age of Hip Hop'. Discover the unique blend of social critique and storytelling which defined this era, as well as the emergence of beatboxing and lyrical innovation that continues to influence modern hip-hop. Beyond just music, Reese explores the social and cultural impact of hip-hop, including its influence on fashion, cinema, and its role in highlighting racial and social issues. The 80s saw hip-hop evolve from a nascent movement into a culture-shaping phenomenon. In this insightful guide, you'll dive into: Old School vs New School: The defining elements and key artists of each sub-genre The Birth of Gangsta Rap: How N.W.A. and Ice-T pioneered a controversial sub-genre The Breakdance Revolution: The impact of hip-hop on dance culture From Vinyl to MTV: The role of media and technology in promoting hip-hop Hip-Hop Activism: The genre's influence on socio-political discussions East Coast vs West Coast: The geographical influences shaping hip-hop's evolution *History of Hip Hop: Volume 2* provides an in-depth look at a decade when hip-hop found its voice and used it to challenge the status quo. This was the era when hip-hop boomed from every boombox, narrating the struggles and victories of urban life. Experience the decade where hip-hop found its rhythm, shook the world, and proved it was here to stay. Embrace the echoes of the boombox era and delve into a decade that changed the musical landscape forever. Topics: hip hop art, hip hop accessories, hip hop and other things, hip hop at the end of the world book, hip hop book, hip hop baby book, hip hop coloring book, hip hop dance, hip hop dance clothes, hip hop experience, hip hop funko pop, hip hop family tree, hip hop fashion, hip hop family tree box set, hip hop flag, hip hop for kids, hip hop gifts, hip hop kids book, hip hop kids, hip hop legends alphabet book, hip hop legends, hip hop lollipop book, hip hop magazine, hip hop magazines for inmates, hip hop men, hip hop music, hip hop quotes, hip hop queens, hip hop questions, hip hop raised me, hip hop trivia, hip hop uncensored, hip hop vinyl,

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epmd strictly business album: Hip Hop around the World Melissa Ursula Dawn Goldsmith, Anthony J. Fonseca, 2018-12-01 This set covers all aspects of international hip hop as expressed through music, art, fashion, dance, and political activity. Hip hop music has gone from being a marginalized genre in the late 1980s to the predominant style of music in America, the UK, Nigeria, South Africa, and other countries around the world. Hip Hop around the World includes more than 450 entries on global hip hop culture as it includes music, art, fashion, dance, social and cultural movements, organizations, and styles of hip hop. Virtually every country is represented in the text. Most of the entries focus on music styles and notable musicians and are unique in that they discuss the sound of various hip hop styles and musical artists' lyrical content, vocal delivery, vocal ranges, and more. Many additional entries deal with dance styles, such as breakdancing or b-boying/b-girling, popping/locking, clowning, and krumping, and cultural movements, such as black nationalism, Nation of Islam, Five Percent Nation, and Universal Zulu Nation. Country entries take

into account politics, history, language, authenticity, and personal and community identification. Special care is taken to draw relationships between people and entities such as mentor-apprentice, producer-musician, and more.

epmd strictly business album: *A Brief History of Rhyme and Bass* Shawn Livernoche, 2001 During the late seventies a generation of black rockers laid the foundation for what would become a multi-billion dollar Industry: Hip-Hop music. "A Brief History Of Rhyme And Bass" fills us in on the origin of rap music and how it evolved from "music with a message" into a cesspool of sex, drugs, death and crime in less than two decades. Lov explores the role of the white "rapper" in Hip-Hop and relays his story of how Hip-Hop has taken him on a trip to a dark, sex and drug infested Hell and back, alive to tell the tale!

epmd strictly business album: *The Encyclopedia of Popular Music* Colin Larkin, 2011-05-27 This text presents a comprehensive and up-to-date reference work on popular music, from the early 20th century to the present day.

epmd strictly business album: *1,000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die* Tom Moon, 2008-08-28 The musical adventure of a lifetime. The most exciting book on music in years. A book of treasure, a book of discovery, a book to open your ears to new worlds of pleasure. Doing for music what Patricia Schultz—author of the phenomenal *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*—does for travel, Tom Moon recommends 1,000 recordings guaranteed to give listeners the joy, the mystery, the revelation, the sheer fun of great music. This is a book both broad and deep, drawing from the diverse worlds of classical, jazz, rock, pop, blues, country, folk, musicals, hip-hop, world, opera, soundtracks, and more. It's arranged alphabetically by artist to create the kind of unexpected juxtapositions that break down genre bias and broaden listeners' horizons— it makes every listener a seeker, actively pursuing new artists and new sounds, and reconfirming the greatness of the classics. Flanking J. S. Bach and his six entries, for example, are the little-known R&B singer Baby Huey and the '80s Rastafarian hard-core punk band Bad Brains. Farther down the list: The Band, Samuel Barber, Cecelia Bartoli, Count Basie, and Afropop star Waldemer Bastos. Each entry is passionately written, with expert listening notes, fascinating anecdotes, and the occasional perfect quote—Your collection could be filled with nothing but music from Ray Charles, said Tom Waits, and you'd have a completely balanced diet. Every entry identifies key tracks, additional works by the artist, and where to go next. And in the back, indexes and playlists for different moods and occasions.

epmd strictly business album: *Blues & Soul* , 1990-12

epmd strictly business album: *Nuthin' But a "G" Thang* Eithne Quinn, 2005 In the late 1980s, gansta rap music emerged in urban America, giving voice to, & making money for, a social group widely believed to be in crisis: young, poor, black men. Quinn probes the origins of the genre, & follows its development, focusing on artists such as Ice Cube & Tupac Shakur.

epmd strictly business album: *The Abstract Griot* Troy L. Thompson, 2006-04 The sign greets you like a warm hug as you enter Washington D.C.'s premiere supper club your five senses are assaulted.

epmd strictly business album: *The History of Rap and Hip-Hop* Soren Baker, 2012-06-22 Hip-hop culture has grown from its humble beginnings in the South Bronx section of New York City into a significant and influential cultural movement. This volume examines the rich history and promising future of this musical genre. Created in the mid-1970s by poor Bronx residents with few resources, hip-hop has become a billion-dollar industry whose reach now stretches around the world. Hip-hop has influenced the way people make music, the way they dance, and the way they wear their clothes. It has also shaped people's political views and turned many people into entrepreneurs.

epmd strictly business album: *SPIN* , 1993-04 From the concert stage to the dressing room, from the recording studio to the digital realm, SPIN surveys the modern musical landscape and the culture around it with authoritative reporting, provocative interviews, and a discerning critical ear. With dynamic photography, bold graphic design, and informed irreverence, the pages of SPIN pulsate with the energy of today's most innovative sounds. Whether covering what's new or what's

next, SPIN is your monthly VIP pass to all that rocks.

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epmd strictly business album: *History Comics: Hip-Hop* Jarrett Williams, 2024-01-02
MUSICAL REVOLUTION SWEEPS NATION AND BEYOND How did a bunch of young people from the inner city create a genre of music that became a global phenomenon? From its humble origins at house parties in the Bronx, where DJs mixed old records to create new sounds, charismatic MCs let their clever lyrics flow, and B-boys and B-girls pioneered inventive dance moves, hip-hop quickly became a musical and cultural revolution. Hip-Hop: The Beat of America Meet Aaliyah, a hip-hop superfan who is about to get a lesson in all things "old school" courtesy of her dad, who grew up in the 1970s when rap music first hit the scene. The pair take a day trip to the Bronx where Aaliyah discovers the many unsung heroes who helped create the foundations of the hip-hop we all enjoy today. So get ready to drop the beat, bust a move, and get down with some fresh rap knowledge! Perfect for readers of Can't Stop, Won't Stop and Nathan Hale's Hazardous tales.

epmd strictly business album: *Boxing* Kasia Boddy, 2013-06-01 Throughout history, potters, sculptors, painters, poets, novelists, cartoonists, song-writers, photographers, and filmmakers have recorded and tried to make sense of boxing. From Daniel Mendoza to Mike Tyson, boxers have embodied and enacted our anxieties about race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. In her encyclopedic investigation of the shifting social, political, and cultural resonances of this most visceral of sports, Kasia Boddy throws new light on an elemental struggle for dominance whose weapons are nothing more than fists. Looking afresh at everything from neoclassical sculpture to hip-hop lyrics, Boddy explores the ways in which the history of boxing has intersected with the history of mass media. Boddy pulls no punches, looking to the work of such diverse figures as Henry Fielding and Spike Lee, Charlie Chaplin and Philip Roth, James Joyce and Mae West, Bertolt Brecht and Charles Dickens in an all-encompassing study that tells us just how and why boxing has mattered so much to so many.

epmd strictly business album: *Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists* Sacha Jenkins, Elliott Wilson, Jeff Mao, Gabe Alvarez, Brent Rollins, 2014-03-25 Ego Trip's Book of Rap Lists is more popular than racism! Hip hop is huge, and it's time someone wrote it all down. And got it all right. With over 25 aggregate years of interviews, and virtually every hip hop single, remix and album ever recorded at their disposal, the highly respected Ego Trip staff are the ones to do it. The Book of Rap Lists runs the gamut of hip hop information. This is an exhaustive, indispensable and completely irreverent bible of true hip hop knowledge.

epmd strictly business album: *The Periodic Table of HIP HOP* Neil Kulkarni, 2015-10-01 Welcome to The Periodic Table of Hip Hop. Instead of hydrogen to helium, here you'll find James Brown to Kendrick Lamar - 94 artists that have defined Hip Hop arranged following the logic of The Periodic Table of Elements. MCs, DJs, rappers and producers are the elements here, and this expert guide orders them to reveal their contrasts and connections, along with key movements and moments in the history of this music genre. Includes: James Brown, P-Funk, Kool Herc, Melle Mel, Sugarhill Records, Fab Five Freddy, Whodini, Run DMC, Rick Rubin, LL Cool J, Kendrick Lamar and Jay Z and many, many more...

epmd strictly business album: *What's Your Hi-Fi Q?* Scott Poulson-Bryant, Smokey Fontaine, 2002-05-21 Two veteran music journalists provide the ultimate trivia test, quizzing on every black music genre from the funk and soul of the '70s to the rap and R&B of today. Two-color throughout. 60 photos.

epmd strictly business album: *Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll* Editors Rolling Stone, 2001-11-08 Completely updated with new entries and extensive revisions of the previous 1,800, The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia Of Rock & Roll is the authoritative volume on the world's

music makers—from the one-hit wonders to the megastars. In 1983, Rolling Stone Press introduced its first Rock & Roll Encyclopedia. Almost two decades later, it has become the premier guide to the history of rock & roll, and has been selected by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & Museum as its official source of information. Giving full coverage to all aspects of the rock scene, it tells the story of rock & roll in a clear and easy reference format, including complete discographies, personnel changes for every band, and backstage information like date and place of birth, from Elvis Presley to Eminem. Since the last edition, the music scene has exploded in every area, from boy-bands to hip-hop, electronica to indie rock. Here, the Encyclopedia explores them all—'NSync, Notorious B.I.G., Ricky Martin, Radiohead, Britney Spears, Blink-182, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Portishead, Fatboy Slim, Fiona Apple, Lil' Kim, Limp Bizkit, Oasis, Outkast, Yo La Tengo, TLC, and many, many more. The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock & Roll, Third Edition includes all the facts, phenomena, and flukes that make up the history of rock. Accompanying the biographical and discographical information on the nearly 2,000 artists included in this edition are incisive essays that reveal the performers' musical influences, first breaks, and critical and commercial hits and misses, as well as evaluations of their place in rock history. Filled with hundreds of historical photos, The Rolling Stone Encyclopedia is more than just a reference book, it is the bible of rock & roll.

epmd strictly business album: *Billboard* , 1997-07-26 In its 114th year, Billboard remains the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events, brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends.

epmd strictly business album: *Skip Tracer* Jive Poetic, 2024-07-23 An innovative memoir—composed of poems, prose, and photographs—that engages with the Afro-Caribbean diaspora, cultural identity, music, and masculinity, by a poetry legend. Blending poetry and prose, music, and genealogy, Jive Poetic's *Skip Tracer* is a memoir structured as a "hybrid sound system" (complete with "records," "tracks," "decks," and "channels"), expertly curated to convey the complexity of Blackness in the Americas. In this ancestral and cultural excavation, Jive conducts archival and oral-history research into his family's connections to Jamaica, Panama, Brazil, and Cuba to explore the impact of culture, environment, and family on first- and second-generation Black Americans in the United States. He also traces the profound influence that hip-hop, soul, R&B, reggae, and other popular musical genres have had on him—all the while performing a dynamic re-creation of his legendary onstage persona on the page. A raw and affecting indictment of police violence and racism in the United States, *Skip Tracer* is also a searingly honest exploration of personal identity, power, and privilege—all expressed in the unmistakable language, rhythm, and style that characterizes Jive's live performances.

epmd strictly business album: *SPIN* , 1992-08 From the concert stage to the dressing room, from the recording studio to the digital realm, *SPIN* surveys the modern musical landscape and the culture around it with authoritative reporting, provocative interviews, and a discerning critical ear. With dynamic photography, bold graphic design, and informed irreverence, the pages of *SPIN* pulsate with the energy of today's most innovative sounds. Whether covering what's new or what's next, *SPIN* is your monthly VIP pass to all that rocks.

epmd strictly business album: *Joel Whitburn's Top Pop Album Tracks, 1955-1992* Joel Whitburn, 1993

epmd strictly business album: *Hip-Hop (And Other Things)* Shea Serrano, 2021-10-26 HIP-HOP (AND OTHER THINGS) is about, as it were, rap, but also some other things. It's a smart, fun, funny, insightful book that spends the entirety of its time celebrating what has become the most dominant form of music these past two and a half decades. Tupac is in there. Jay Z is in there. Missy Elliott is in there. Drake is in there. Pretty much all of the big names are in there, as are a bunch of the smaller names, too. There's art from acclaimed illustrator Arturo Torres, there are infographics and footnotes; there's all kinds of stuff in there. Some of the chapters are serious, and some of the chapters are silly, and some of the chapters are a combination of both things. All of them, though, are treated with the care and respect that they deserve. HIP-HOP (AND OTHER THINGS) is the

third book in the (And Other Things) series. The first two—Basketball (And Other Things) and Movies (And Other Things)—were both #1 New York Times bestsellers.

epmd strictly business album: Billboard , 1999-07-24 In its 114th year, Billboard remains the world's premier weekly music publication and a diverse digital, events, brand, content and data licensing platform. Billboard publishes the most trusted charts and offers unrivaled reporting about the latest music, video, gaming, media, digital and mobile entertainment issues and trends.

epmd strictly business album: Spin Alternative Record Guide Eric Weisbard, Craig Marks, 1995 America's premiere alternative music magazine presents a book of outrageously opinionated reviews of the essential albums of punk, new wave, indie rock, grunge, and rap. Its abundantly illustrated, full-color pages provide in-depth and informative record reviews on the widest possible scale of alternative music. National ads/media.

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