Picici direc Research

CMP: ₹ 326

Target: ₹ 380 (17%) Ta

Target Period: 12 months

May 8, 2021

Strong growth across segments...

Q4 revenues grew a robust 40.5% YoY to ₹ 533 crore tracking strong growth across both segments. Pharma posted 31.5% YoY growth to ₹ 298 crore whereas crop protection grew 53.8% YoY to ₹ 235 crore. EBITDA margins expanded 188 bps YoY, 81 bps QoQ to 20.5% amid lower staff expenses stemming from better operational leverage. Subsequently, EBITDA grew 54.7% YoY to ₹ 109 crore. PAT more than doubled to ₹ 51 crore.

Expertise in APIs to drive pharma growth

Hikal ventured into the pharma API business by virtue of acquisition of Novartis' Panoli plant in the year 2000. In a short span of time, banking on its chemistry skills, the company has been able to tap incremental customers via the CDMO route. Hikal also operates as a dedicated API supplier as it expands its portfolio. We expect the pharma segment to grow at 15% CAGR in FY21-23E to ₹ 1407 crore on the back of new offerings and repeat business from CDMO customers.

Crop protection growth to piggyback on client relationship

Hikal started operations as a crop protection company in 1991 after acquiring Merck's facility in Mahad. Since then, it has come a long way with a predominantly CDMO focused business model catering mainly to global innovators. Over the years, the company has increased its product offerings with a foray into niche products and specialty chemicals. We expect crop protection segment to grow at 15% CAGR in FY21-23E to ₹ 872 crore due to sustained product offerings and optimum capacity utilisation.

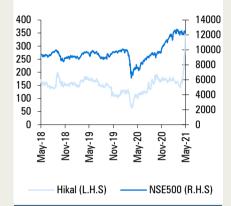
Valuation & Outlook

The Q4 performance was above I-direct estimates across all fronts. Q4 margin performance was the highest in the past five years, showcasing Hikal's focus on high margin products and backward integration besides cost control measures. Going ahead, the management expects a margin improvement of 50-100 bps from this year onwards on the back of several cost rationalisation and efficiency improvement measures undertaken during the pandemic. Going by the capex guidance, (₹ 200 crore over the next 18 months) things are looking promising for FY22 onwards. Despite the recent stock run-up, Hikal remains a fair value proposition as it continues to expand in both pharma, crop protection segments with separate focus and a calibrated approach. This bodes well in the current scenario when Chinese supply disturbances, government incentives are likely to create opportunities for Indian players both in APIs, crop protection CDMO. We maintain **BUY** and arrive at a valuation of ₹ 380 (earlier TP: ₹ 230) based on 20x FY23E EPS of ₹ 19.0.



BUY

Particulars	
Particular	Amount
Market Cap	₹ 4018 crore
Debt (FY21)	₹ 610 crore
Cash (FY21)	₹ 37 crore
EV	₹ 4591 crore
52 week H/L (₹)	345/97
Equity capital	₹ 24.7 crore
Face value	₹2
Price performance	



Key risks to our call

- Margin performance consistency
- Lumpiness in crop protection segment

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Result Update

(₹ Crore)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	CAGR (FY21-23E) %
Revenues	1507.3	1720.4	1985.5	2283.3	15.2
EBITDA	273.2	322.9	381.7	456.0	18.8
EBITDA Margins (%)	18.1	18.8	19.2	20.0	
Adjusted PAT	99.8	133.2	185.6	234.9	32.8
EPS (₹)	8.1	10.8	15.1	19.0	
PE (x)	40.2	30.2	21.6	17.1	
EV to EBITDA (x)	16.8	14.2	11.7	9.6	
Price to book (x)	4.9	4.3	3.6	3.0	
RoE (%)	12.2	14.3	16.8	17.7	
RoCE (%)	12.8	15.1	16.7	18.9	

Source: ICICI Direct Research, Compa

₹ crore	Q4FY21	Q4FY20	Q3FY21	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)	Comments
Revenue	532.5	379.0	463.3	40.5	14.9	YoY improvement amid better sales volumes of key existing products and strong performance in newly commercialized CDMO as well as own generic products
Raw Material Expenses	279.7	194.2	246.8	44.0	13.4	
Gross Margins (%)	47.5	48.8	46.7	-129 bps	72 bps	
Employee Expenses	42.3	40.0	41.1	5.7	2.9	
Other Expenditure	101.2	74.2	84.1	36.5	20.3	
Operating Profit (EBITDA)	109.3	70.6	91.3	54.7	19.6	Adjusting for Covid-19 related additional cost of ₹ 1.1 crore, EBITDA grew 21.4% YoY to ₹ 58.4 crore
EBITDA (%)	20.5	18.6	19.7	188 bps	81 bps	YoY improvement mainly due to lower staff cost
Interest	10.0	13.7	8.1	-27.2	23.9	
Depreciation	21.6	20.9	21.8	2.9	-1.2	
Other Income	2.9	1.7	0.5	65.9	451.9	
PBT	80.6	37.7	62.0	113.7	30.1	
Exceptional Items	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	NA	
Tax	29.7	13.3	21.7	124.1	36.8	
Tax Rate (%)	36.8	35.1	35.0	4.9	5.2	
Reported PAT	50.9	24.5	40.3	108.1	26.4	
Adjusted PAT	50.9	24.5	40.3	108.1	26.4	YoY improvement amid strong operational performance and lower interest cost
EPS (₹)	4.1	2.0	3.3	108.1	26.4	
Key Metrics						
Pharma	297.7	226.4	269.0	31.5	10.7	YoY growth amid strong growth in volumes of own and CDMO products
Crop Protection	234.8	152.6	194.3	53.8	20.8	YoY growth on the back of execution of deferred orders from H1 due to pandemic

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Exhibit 2: Chang	e in Estir	nates					
	FY22E FY23E				FY23E		Comments
(₹ Crore)	Old	New %	Change	Old	New %	Change	
Revenue	1,882.4	1,985.5	5.5	2,108.2	2,283.3	8.3	Changed amid management guidance and better-than-expected growth in H2FY21
EBITDA	357.7	381.7	6.7	411.1	456.0	10.9	
EBITDA Margin (%)	19.0	19.2	22 bps	19.5	20.0	47 bps	Changed amid management guidance and better-than-expected improvement in H2FY21
PAT	150.9	185.6	23.0	204.4	234.9	14.9	Changed mainly in sync with operational performance
EPS (₹)	12.2	15.1	23.0	16.6	19.0	14.9	

Source: ICICI Direct Research

		Current			Earlier		
(₹ crore)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E	FY22E	FY23E	
Pharma	886.9	1,059.6	1,223.6	1,407.2	1,176.5	1,318.0	Changed amid management guidance and better-than-expected growth in H2FY21
Crop Protection	620.4	660.8	758.5	872.3	683.6	766.0	Changed amid management guidance and better-than-expected growth in H2FY21

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Conference Call Highlights

- FY21: Higher volumes of key products aided by strong performance in newly commercialised CDMO as well as own products and penetration in new market
- Strong Q4FY21 margin performance amid favourable product mix, better sales realisation and better absorption of fixed costs due to business excellence
- The management is confident of maintaining growth trajectory over the next two to three years
 - Strong order book outlook for FY22 in both segments
 - On the back of opportunities arising out of Atmanirbhar scheme and China + 1 strategy
- WC days: 112; Net D:E 0.61x; Net Debt: EBITDA 1.8x
- Gross debt ₹ 610 crore in FY21 vs. ₹ 646 crore in FY20
- Tax rate in FY22: 25-26%
- Gross margin (GM) to go above 50%, three to four years from now
- Margin guidance of 50-100 bps improvement per annum maintained
- Capex updates:
 - Recently completed construction of an additional plant to the new development and launch facility at Bangalore
 - Capacity addition under capex programme has been completed and commissioning of these units will be done in phases over the next two quarters
 - Next 18 months: Capex outlay to be ~₹ 200 crore + ₹ 50 crore maintenance in FY22

Pharma

- Strong growth in volumes of own API's and CDMO products
 - CDMO growth to be accelerated with GMs to be above 50%
- Q4FY21: Filed two DMFs- Favipiravir and Sitagliptin Phosphate Anhydrous (four in FY21)
 - Ready to supply commercial Favipiravir quantities to domestic and global market
 - Capacity utilisation at 95% currently
 - Meaningful capacity to come in H2FY22
- Diabetes and CNS CEPs filed to be a good opportunity
 - Diabetes APIs to come on-stream in two to four years
- Capacity improvement led to meeting increased market demand
- Products commercialised: 14-15 proprietary, 10-11 CRAMS
- Products pipeline: Three to four proprietary, seven to eight CRAMS
- Animal health expected to ramp up to ₹ 400-500 crore over the next five to six years
- In Animal Health: Signed a 10-year contract with a leading global pharma company to develop and supply a portfolio of niche APIs over 10 years. The development will start in FY22 and plant

commercialisation to be undertaken from FY24 onwards. This deal marks entry into a niche area of chemistry and products thereby bolstering the animal health division. Hikal and its customer will together invest at its Panoli site to setup a multipurpose API manufacturing plant.

- To have a similar gross margin to company ~50%
- Also, similar asset turnover of 1.5x
- Minimum volume purchase agreement and large part of capex by partner

Crop Protection

- Strong volume growth of existing products and commercialisation of a new product from new facility at Panoli
- Q4 growth Orders deferred in H1 due to pandemic were executed in H2
- FY22 growth momentum to be maintained based on a healthy pipeline at various stages
- Products commercialised: Nine to 10 proprietary, 10-11 CRAMS
- Products pipeline: Two proprietary, three to four CRAMS
- New capacities have come on stream through the capex incurred over last 12 months
- Commercialised a new fungicide for a Japanese customer for the CDMO business
 - Significant scale-up of this product is expected in FY22
- Global registration processes for two new fungicides are in progress
- A new long-term contract for supply of a fungicide is in final stages of discussion with a leading US-based crop protection company
- Crop protection product/plant gets commercialised much faster than pharma

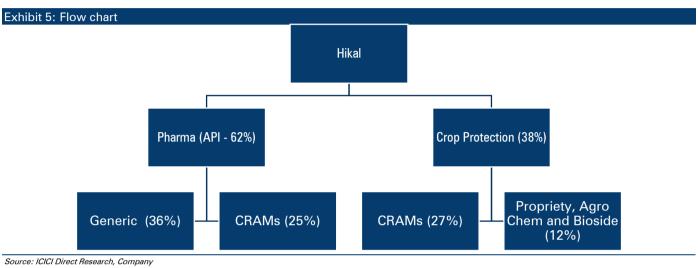
Exhibit 4: Trends in	n qua <u>rt</u>	erly <u>pe</u>	rform <u>a</u> i	nce			_								
(₹ Crore)	Q4FY18	Q1FY19	02FY19	Q3FY19	Q4FY19	Q1FY20	Q2FY20	Q3FY20	Q4FY20	Q1FY21	Q2FY21	Q3FY21	Q4FY21	YoY (%)	QoQ (%)
Total Operating Income	390.5	325.6	394.8	406.0	457.5	403.2	321.1	404.1	379.0	352.8	371.9	463.3	532.5	40.5	14.9
Raw Material Expense	217.8	164.7	205.8	223.0	260.3	228.3	145.0	208.9	194.2	193.3	188.6	246.8	279.7	44.0	13.4
% of revenue	55.8	50.6	52.1	54.9	56.9	56.6	45.2	51.7	51.2	54.8	50.7	53.3	52.5		
Gross Profit	172.7	160.9	189.0	183.0	197.3	174.9	176.1	195.2	184.8	159.4	183.4	216.5	252.7	36.8	16.7
Gross Profit Margin (%	44.2	49.4	47.9	45.1	43.1	43.4	54.8	48.3	48.8	45.2	49.3	46.7	47.5	-129 bps	72 bps
Employee Expenses	32.1	36.2	38.6	39.3	36.2	42.2	43.8	41.9	40.0	42.0	39.0	41.1	42.3	5.7	2.9
% of revenue	8.2	11.1	9.8	9.7	7.9	10.5	13.6	10.4	10.6	11.9	10.5	8.9	7.9		
Other Expenses	69.1	64.0	75.2	71.0	77.0	64.2	74.0	77.7	74.2	64.9	74.6	84.1	101.2	36.5	20.3
% of revenue	17.7	19.7	19.1	17.5	16.8	15.9	23.0	19.2	19.6	18.4	20.1	18.2	19.0		
Total Expenditure	319.0	265.0	319.6	333.4	373.5	334.7	262.7	328.4	308.4	300.2	302.2	372.0	423.2	37.2	13.8
% of revenue	81.7	81.4	81.0	82.1	81.6	83.0	81.8	81.3	81.4	85.1	81.2	80.3	79.5		
EBITDA	71.5	60.6	75.2	72.6	84.0	68.5	58.4	75.7	70.6	52.5	69.8	91.3	109.3	54.7	19.6
EBITDA Margins (%)	18.3	18.6	19.0	17.9	18.4	17.0	18.2	18.7	18.6	14.9	18.8	19.7	20.5	188 bps	81 bps
Depreciation	21.4	22.6	23.6	23.5	23.2	20.3	20.5	20.7	20.9	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.6	2.9	-1.2
Interest	12.5	16.0	16.4	13.4	12.6	12.1	13.6	13.1	13.7	9.7	8.5	8.1	10.0	-27.2	23.9
Other Income	1.6	1.4	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.8	0.5	1.7	0.6	1.0	0.5	2.9	65.9	451.9
Forex & EO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
PBT	39.2	23.4	35.5	36.3	48.2	36.8	9.7	42.3	37.7	22.8	41.1	62.0	80.6	113.7	30.1
Total Tax	13.9	7.5	11.1	12.6	14.8	11.6	3.3	14.0	13.3	7.8	14.1	21.7	29.7	124.1	36.8
Tax rate (%)	35.3	32.0	31.3	34.7	30.8	31.5	34.3	33.0	35.1	34.2	34.3	35.0	36.8	170.4	182.0
Adjusted PAT	25.3	15.9	24.4	23.7	33.3	25.2	21.8	28.4	24.5	15.0	27.0	40.3	50.9	108.1	26.4
EPS (₹)	2.1	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.7	2.0	1.8	2.3	2.0	1.2	2.2	3.3	4.1	108.1	26.4

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Company background

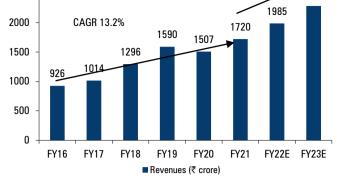
Established in 1988, Hikal is predominantly a B2B player that provides intermediates and active ingredients to global pharmaceutical, animal health, crop protection and specialty chemical companies. For FY21, pharma and crop protection accounted for 62% and 38%, respectively, of operating revenues. The pharma business is currently divided in 59:41 ratio of generic active pharma ingredients (APIs) and contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) businesses. Animal health business accounts for 20-25% of CDMO business. In crop protection, 69% of revenues are derived from CDMO with the remaining from proprietary products, specialty chemicals and specialty biocides. Hikal owns five manufacturing facilities: Taloja, Mahad (Maharashtra), Panoli (Gujarat) Jigani (Karnataka) and an R&D centre at Pune.

Hikal is predominantly a B2B player that provides intermediates and active ingredients to global pharmaceuticals, animal health, crop protection and specialty chemicals companies

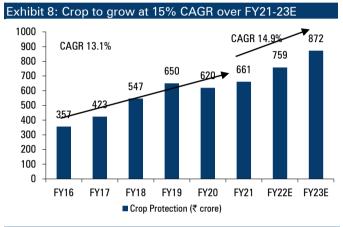


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Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

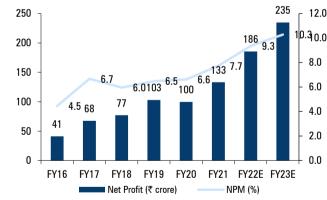


Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

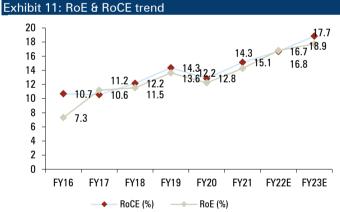


Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

Exhibit 10: PAT & PAT margins trend



Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company



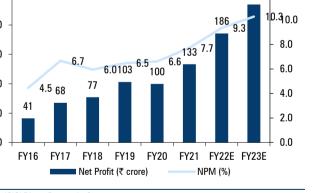
Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

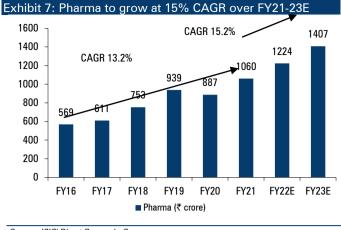
	Revenues	Growth	Adj. EPS	Growth	P/E	EV/EBITDA	RoE	RoCE
	(₹ crore)	(%)	(₹)	(%)	(x)	(X)	(%)	(%)
FY20	1507	-5	8.1	-3	40.2	16.8	12.2	12.8
FY21	1720	14.1	10.8	33.4	30.2	14.2	14.3	15.1
FY22E	1985	15.4	15.1	39.4	21.6	11.7	16.8	16.7
FY23E	2283	15.0	19.0	26.6	17.1	9.6	17.7	18.9

Exhibit 13: Shareh	olding Pattern				
(in %)	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21
Promoter	68.8	68.8	68.8	68.8	68.8
Others	31.2	31.2	31.2	31.2	31.2

Source: ICICI Direct Research, Company

ICICI Securities | Retail Research





Financial Summary

(Year-end March)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Revenues	1,507.3	1,720.4	1,985.5	2,283.3
Growth (%)	-5.2	14.1	15.4	15.0
Raw Material Expenses	776.3	908.4	1,040.6	1,191.0
Employee Expenses	167.8	164.3	189.2	211.9
Other Manufacturing Expenses	290.0	324.9	374.0	424.3
Total Operating Expenditure	1,234.1	1,397.6	1,603.8	1,827.2
EBITDA	273.2	322.9	381.7	456.0
Growth (%)	-8.4	18.2	18.2	19.5
Interest	52.4	36.2	30.6	24.6
Depreciation	82.5	85.2	107.9	123.0
Other Income	3.7	5.0	6.0	6.8
PBT before Exceptional Items	142.0	206.4	249.1	315.2
Less: Forex & Exceptional Items	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBT	126.6	206.4	249.1	315.2
Total Tax	42.1	73.3	63.5	80.4
PAT before MI	84.4	133.2	185.6	234.9
Minority Interest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PAT	84.4	133.2	185.6	234.9
Adjusted PAT	99.8	133.2	185.6	234.9
Growth (%)	-3.2	33.4	39.4	26.6
EPS	6.8	10.8	15.1	19.0
EPS (Adjusted)	8.1	10.8	15.1	19.0

Exhibit 15: Cash Flow Stateme	nt (₹ crore	e)		
(Year-end March)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Profit/(Loss) after taxation	117.7	159.9	185.6	234.9
Add: Depreciation & Amortization	82.5	85.2	107.9	123.0
Add: Interest Cost	52.4	36.2	30.6	24.6
Net Increase in Current Assets	34.6	-98.9	-54.1	-129.5
Net Increase in Current Liabilities	-3.5	41.0	43.3	48.5
Others	1.3	5.54	0	0
CF from operating activities	284.9	229.0	313.4	301.6
(Inc)/dec in Fixed Assets	-158.0	-157.6	-150.0	-150.0
(Inc)/dec in Investments	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Others	89.6	-1.4	0.8	1.1
CF from investing activities	-68.4	-158.9	-149.2	-148.9
Inc / (Dec) in Equity Capital	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Inc / (Dec) in sec. Loan	-25.0	-33.3	-100.0	-100.0
Dividend & Dividend Tax	-23.8	-14.8	-14.8	-14.8
Others	-52.1	-48.8	-30.6	-24.6
CF from financing activities	-100.9	-96.9	-145.4	-139.4
Net Cash flow	115.7	-26.8	18.8	13.2
Opening Cash	-52.1	63.6	36.8	55.6
Closing Cash	63.6	36.8	55.6	68.8
Free Cash Flow	126.9	71.4	163.4	151.6

Source: ICICI Direct Research

Source: ICICI Direct Research

(Year-end March)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Equity Capital	24.7	24.7	24.7	24.7
Reserve and Surplus	791.8	908.7	1,079.5	1,299.6
Total Shareholders fund	816.5	933.4	1,104.2	1,324.2
Total Debt	645.9	610.0	510.0	410.0
Others Liabilities	50.9	59.6	63.8	68.4
Source of Funds	1,513.2	1,602.9	1,677.9	1,802.6
Gross Block - Fixed Assets	1,064.9	1,127.5	1,427.5	1,627.5
Accumulated Depreciation	329.7	414.9	522.9	645.9
Net Block	735.2	712.6	904.6	981.6
Capital WIP	160.8	254.2	104.2	54.2
Net Fixed Assets	896.0	966.8	1,008.9	1,035.8
Investments	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Inventory	312.5	266.7	307.8	354.0
Cash	63.6	36.8	55.6	68.8
Debtors	340.4	485.5	489.6	563.0
Loans & Advances & Other CA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Current Assets	774.8	878.6	951.5	1,094.2
Creditors	201.2	229.6	265.0	304.7
Provisions & Other CL	53.6	80.7	88.6	97.4
Total Current Liabilities	254.8	310.3	353.6	402.1
Net Current Assets	520.0	568.3	597.9	692.0
LT L& A, Other Assets	96.5	67.2	70.6	74.1
Application of Funds	1,513.2	1,602.9	1,677.9	1,802.6

Source: ICICI Direct Research

(Year-end March)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Per share data (₹)				
EPS	8.1	10.8	15.1	19.0
Cash EPS	13.6	15.7	22.6	27.8
BV	66.2	75.7	89.6	107.4
DPS	1.2	2.0	1.2	1.2
Cash Per Share	26.7	33.7	42.4	52.4
Operating Ratios (%)				
Gross Margins	48.5	47.2	47.6	47.8
EBITDA margins	18.1	18.8	19.2	20.0
Net Profit margins	6.6	7.7	9.3	10.3
Inventory days	75.7	56.6	56.6	56.6
Debtor days	82.4	103.0	90.0	90.0
Creditor days	48.7	48.7	48.7	48.7
Asset Turnover	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.4
Return Ratios (%)				
RoE	12.2	14.3	16.8	17.7
RoCE	12.8	15.1	16.7	18.9
RolC	14.8	18.1	18.0	19.8
Valuation Ratios (x)				
P/E	40.2	30.2	21.6	17.1
ev / Ebitda	16.8	14.2	11.7	9.6
EV / Revenues	3.1	2.7	2.3	1.9
Market Cap / Revenues	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.8
Price to Book Value	4.9	4.3	3.6	3.0
Solvency Ratios				
Debt / Equity	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.3
Debt/EBITDA	2.4	1.9	1.3	0.9
Current Ratio	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.5

Source: ICICI Direct Research

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RATING RATIONALE

ICICI Direct endeavours to provide objective opinions and recommendations. ICICI Direct assigns ratings to its stocks according to their notional target price vs. current market price and then categorises them as Buy, Hold, Reduce and Sell. The performance horizon is two years unless specified and the notional target price is defined as the analysts' valuation for a stock

Buy: >15%; Hold: -5% to 15%; Reduce: -5% to -15%; Sell: <-15%



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