

CHAPTER 2
ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS
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ANNEXES

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CHAPTER 2
ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

1. AUTHORITY.

a. Officers who patrol on horseback have the legal authority to make enforcement contacts with individuals and/or vehicles whenever a violation of law is observed, or other probable cause exists. These statutory authorities include:

(1) Section 2800 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC)—It is unlawful to willfully fail or refuse to comply with a lawful order, signal, or direction of a peace officer.

(2) Section 830.2 of the California Penal Code—The following persons are peace officers whose authority extends to any place in the state:

(a) Any member of the Department of the California Highway Patrol including those members designated under subdivision (a) of Section 2250.1 CVC, provided that the primary duty of the peace officer is the enforcement of any law relating to the use or operation of vehicles upon the highways, or laws pertaining to the provision of police services for the protection of state officers, state properties, and the occupants of state properties, or both, as set forth in the Vehicle Code and Government Code.

2. POLICY.

Due to the specialized enforcement of the Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU), personnel assigned to the MPU shall adhere to the policies contained in this chapter.

3. GENERAL.

a. Personnel need to be aware the public may react unpredictably when contacted by a law enforcement officer mounted on horseback. The MPU officers must remain alert to the public's proximity to the horse at all times and act accordingly to ensure safety.

b. Control of the horse is paramount to public safety due to the horse's size and strength. Horses may become excited for a number of reasons. Therefore, an officer must remain confident and in control of both their emotions and the horse at all times.

c. Mounted Patrol Unit officers should not position their horse so close to a person sitting or lying on the ground as to constitute a hazard.

d. Mounted Patrol Unit officers should consider the following factors when initiating an enforcement contact of a person or vehicle:

- (1) Safety of the officer(s) and the subject(s).
- (2) Safety of the public.
- (3) Traffic conditions.
- (4) Surrounding environment/terrain.
- (5) Lighting conditions.
- (6) Safety of the horse.

4. ENFORCEMENT CONTACT.

a. Traffic Stops. Normally, officers assigned to the MPU should not initiate traffic stops on vehicles, unless the violation is of a serious nature or, in the officer's opinion, a traffic stop is necessary. When a traffic stop is conducted, the following should apply:

- (1) The MPU officer initiating a traffic stop on a vehicle should utilize either a verbal command, whistle, or hand gesture to stop the vehicle.
- (2) The MPU officer should dismount before approaching the driver or occupant(s) of a vehicle.
- (3) The MPU officer shall follow the procedures contained in Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 4, Officer-Violator Contact, for approaching a vehicle and contacting the occupant(s).

b. Pursuits. Officers assigned to the MPU shall not pursue a driver who fails to comply with a lawful order to stop unless the violation is of a serious nature and, in the officer's opinion, apprehension of the driver is necessary for the safety of the public.

The Officer shall follow the procedures contained in HPM 70.6, Officer Safety Manual, Chapter 5, Pursuit Policy and Emergency Vehicle Operations. When pursuing a vehicle, the following shall apply:

(1) An officer may follow a vehicle from a safe distance, which allows the officer to keep the vehicle in view. However, the officer shall discontinue following the vehicle when the risk of following outweighs the danger of permitting the subject to escape. Under most circumstances, the officer should discontinue following a vehicle when:

- (a) The circumstances of following present a safety hazard to the public, the officer, the suspect, or the horse (e.g., congested sidewalk or street).
- (b) Information about the suspect's identity is known to the officer, which would allow for later apprehension.
- (c) A marked patrol vehicle arrives to assist with the enforcement stop.
- (d) The officer loses sight of the vehicle.

(2) Officers shall provide the following information to the appropriate communications center:

- (a) Reason for contact.
- (b) Location and direction of travel.
- (c) Speed of the fleeing vehicle.
- (d) Description of the vehicle, including license plate number.
- (e) Number of known occupants.
- (f) The identity of the occupants, if known.
- (g) Any information concerning the use of firearms, threats of force, or unusual hazards.

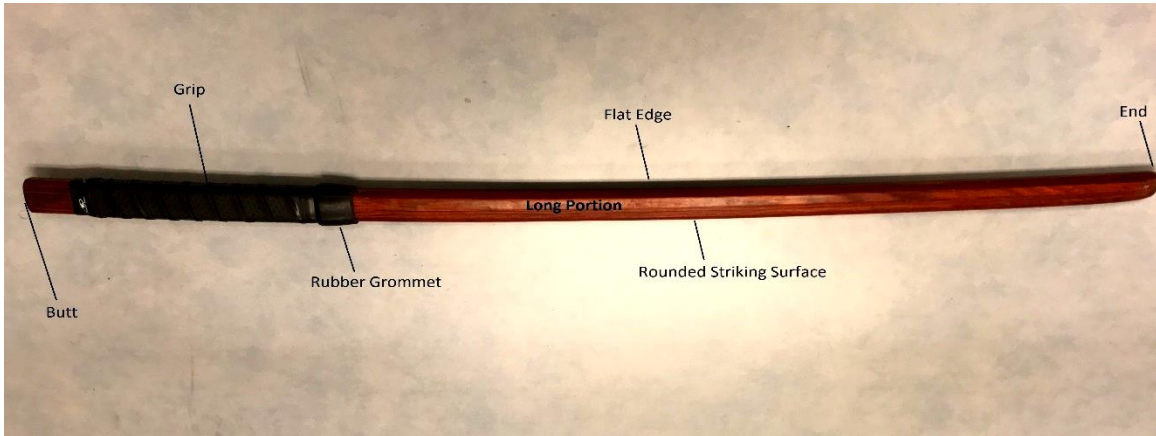
(3) Officers in pursuit of a driver who fails to comply with a lawful order to stop shall request assistance from a marked patrol unit.

5. MOUNTED PATROL BATON.

a. Description. The Mounted Patrol Baton is used by MPU officers internationally. It is an effective defensive weapon when used by an officer who has become proficient through training and continued practice. The nomenclature and dimensions are as follows:

- (1) Length: 40 inches

- (2) Width: Oval shaped, approximately 1 1/4 inches by 3/4 inches
- (3) Length of handle: Approximately 10 1/2 inches
- (4) Long portion from grommet to end: Approximately 29 1/2 inches
- (5) Material: Wood.
- (6) Weight: Approximately 24 oz. Weight varies with type of wood.

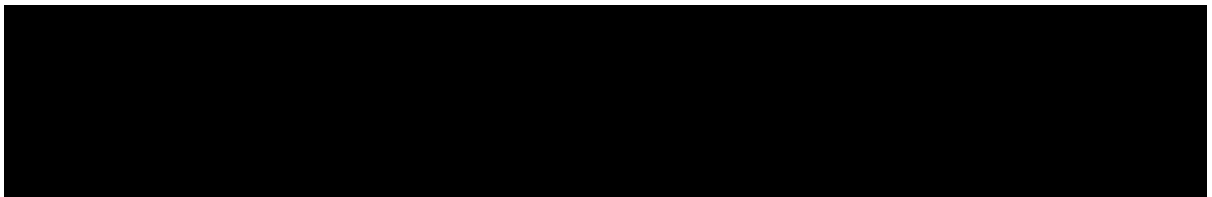


NOTE: The baton is curved slightly upward approximately one inch from center to butt and to end. It is tapered larger at the butt to smaller at the end.

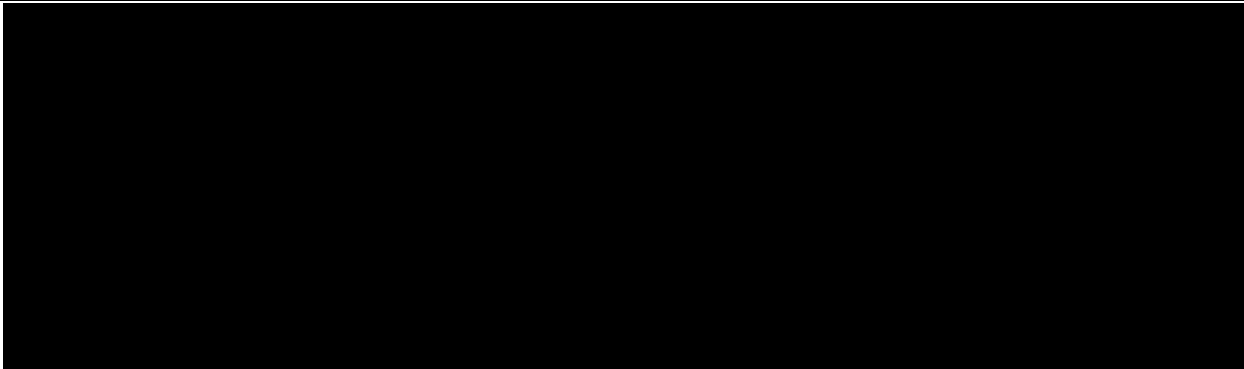
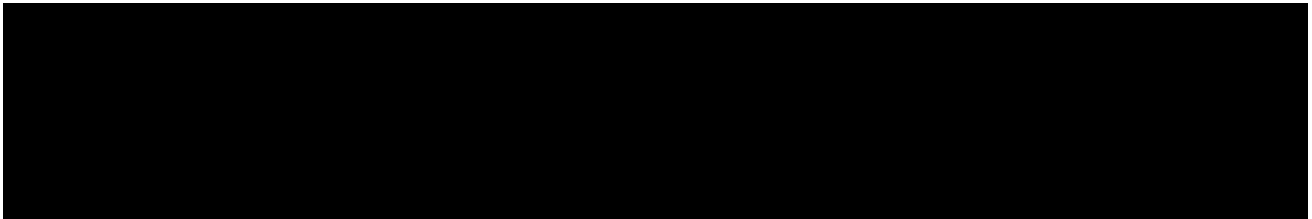
b. Purpose. The Mounted Patrol Baton is designed to be used as a defensive mechanism by mounted officers in situations where a violent overt act toward the officer, the horse, other officers, or other persons occurs. It is designed to deliver one-handed strikes to enable the officer to maintain control of the horse at all times. The length of the baton allows officers to reach assailants without dismounting. Additionally, the baton enables an officer to cause the release of an individual's grip from the bit or reins from the horse without leaning forward in the saddle, therefore allowing the officer to maintain control of the horse without compromising their balance in the saddle.

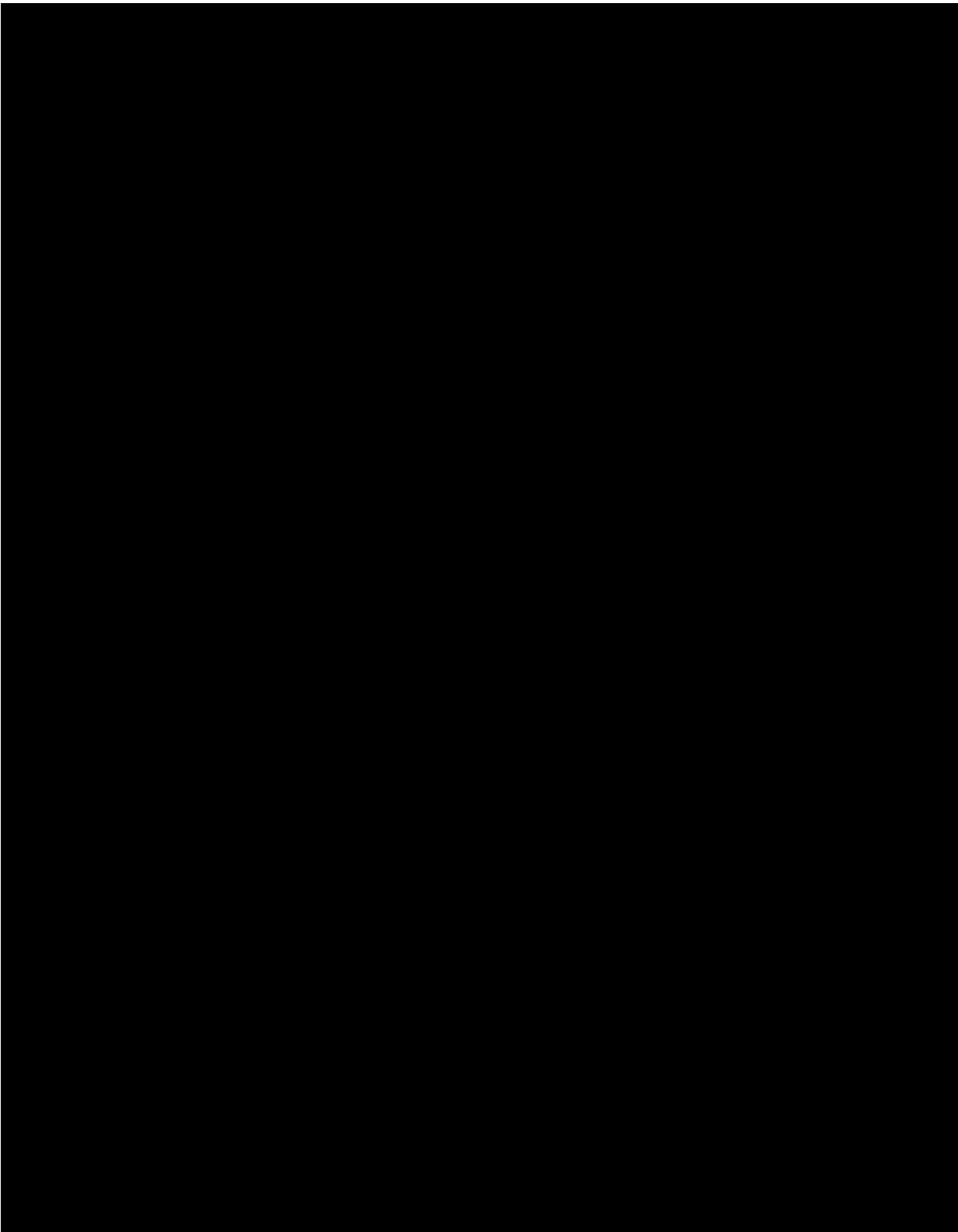
c. Use of the Mounted Patrol Baton.

(1) The Mounted Patrol Baton is carried either from the saddle horn using a leather strap or secured in a baton holder on the saddle or rider's general utility belt.



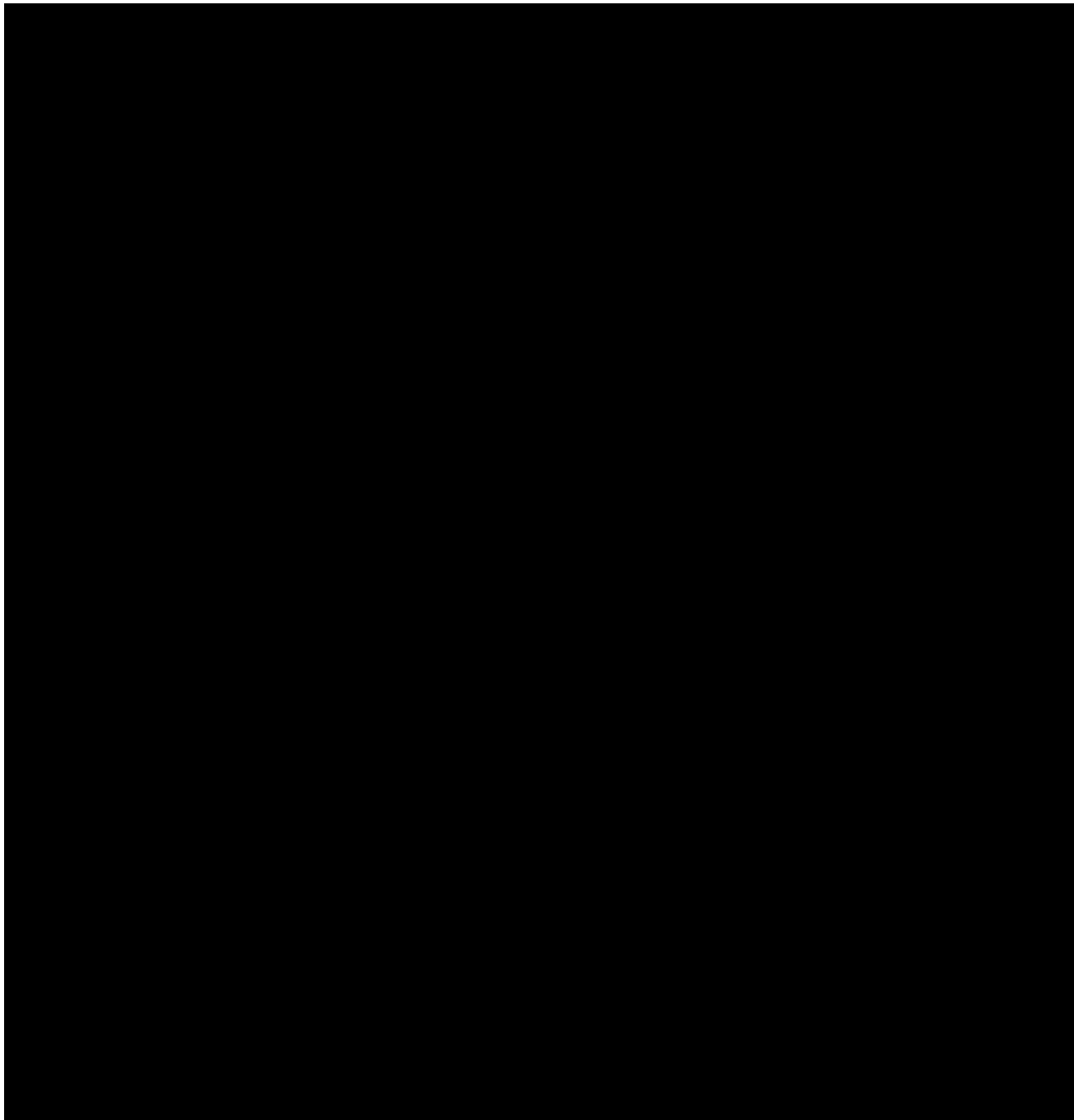
(3) During the course of enforcement duties, all personnel assigned to the MPU shall carry the Mounted Patrol Baton.

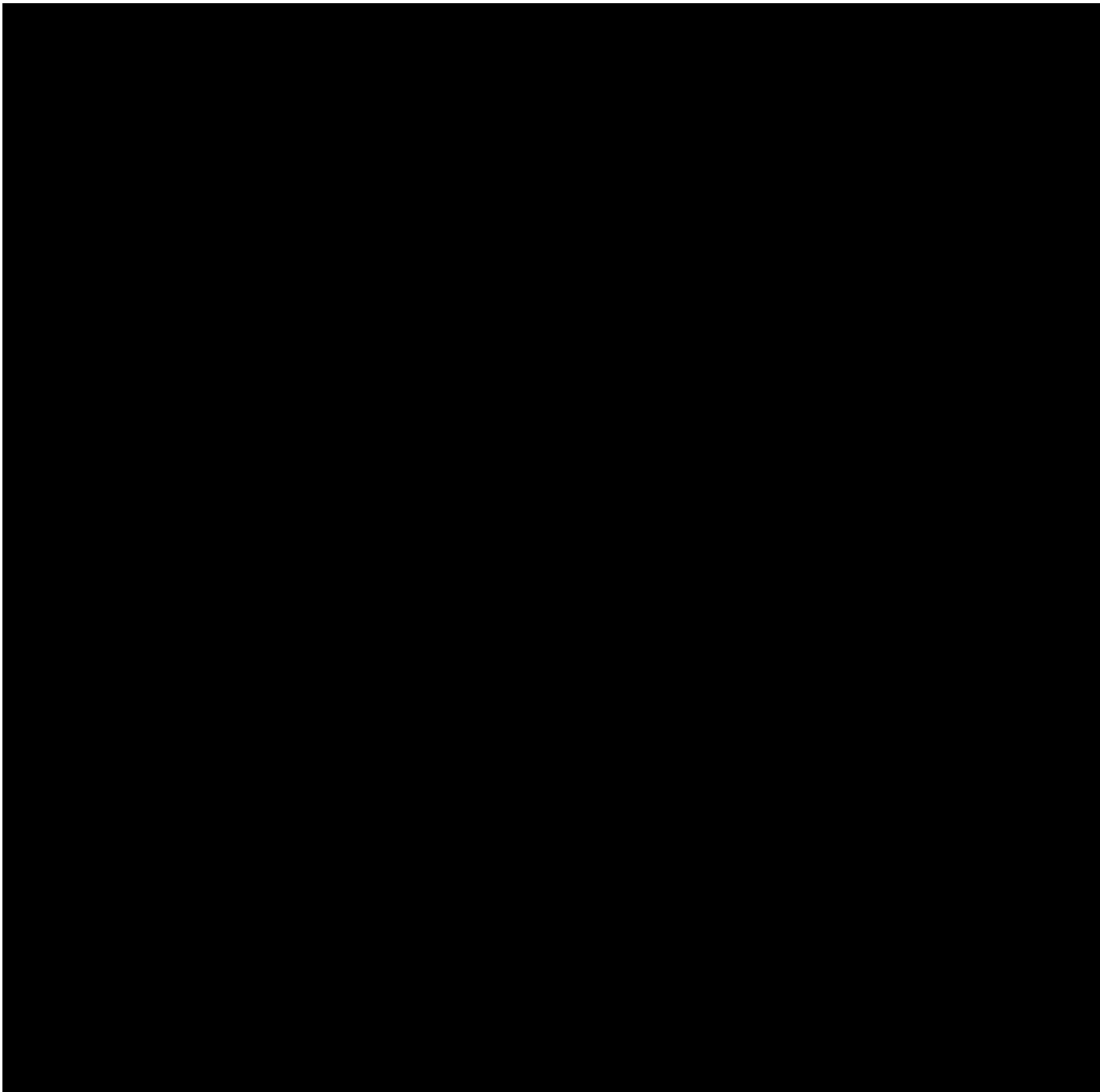


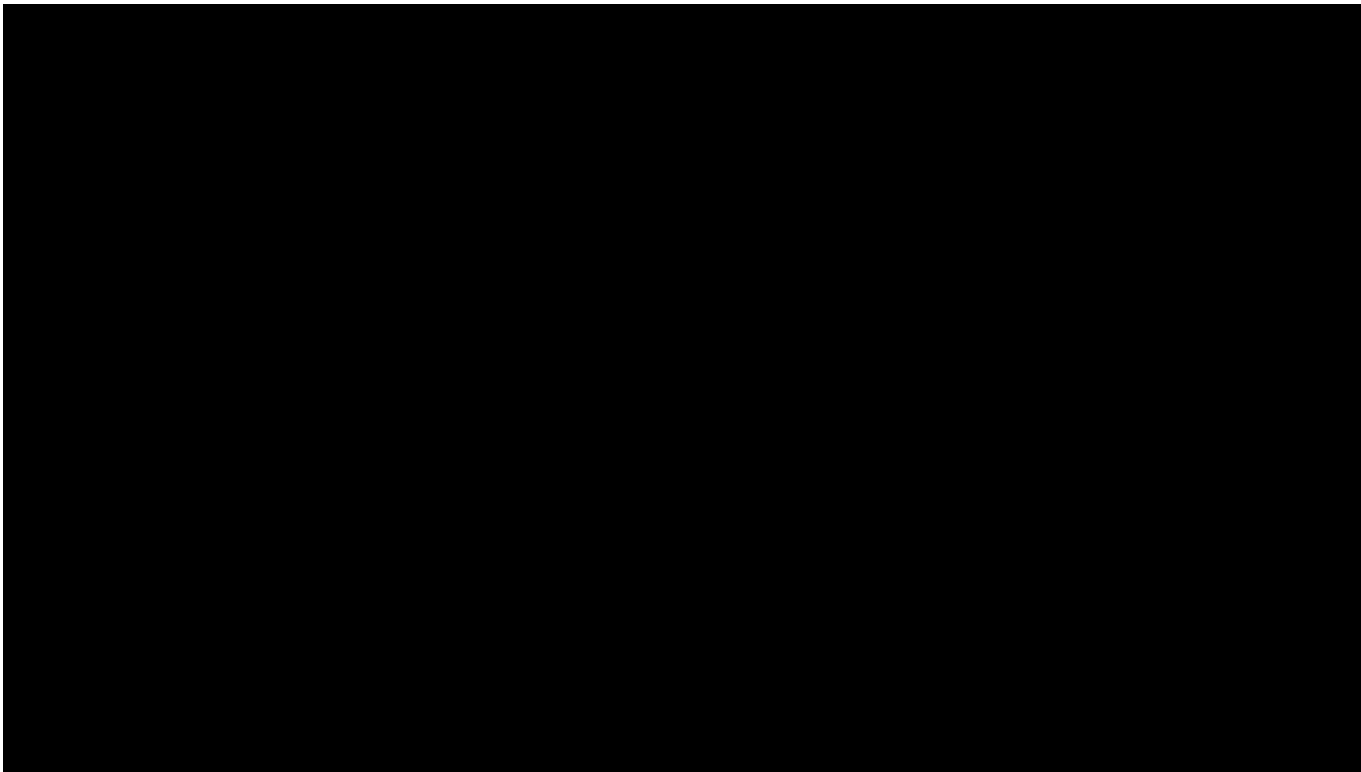




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