

# Innovators of Fibre Cement Products

**CEMBLOC.**

## Fibre Cement Flooring - Drybloc 28F

### Drybloc 28F Description.

Technical Datasheet

CEMBLOC® DryBloc® 28 is a high-mass acoustic floor panel designed to **upgrade both airborne and impact sound insulation** in existing lightweight floor constructions. By introducing significant additional mass to an otherwise low-density build-up, the airborne sound reduction is improved in a way that is not usually achieved with standard acoustic overlay boards.

Each DryBloc® 28F panel consists of an 18mm tongued-and-grooved fibre-cement board (1350kg/m<sup>3</sup>) bonded to a 10 mm felt-based resilient layer.

Boards should be laid in a conventional staggered (broken-bond) pattern, with all T&G edges fully glued using Cembond Hybrid Polymer Sealant/Adhesive. This adhesive also performs the function of a perimeter/flanking isolation band and must be applied to isolate the floor panels from walls, skirtings and other rigid abutments to prevent sound bridging. Panels may be cut with standard fibre-cement-compatible tools, cut edges should be supported and re-sealed where necessary. Drybloc 28 is suitable for use over existing timber or boarded floors where improved acoustic performance is required without significantly increasing floor depth.

**Drybloc 28F, a high-mass Fibre Cement composite acoustic overlay board, enhanced by an additional impact mat layer.**

### Advantages Of Use.

- Eliminates the drying period associated with traditional screeds.
- Delivers excellent airborne and impact sound performance when used as part of a compliant floor build-up.
- Can be laid directly onto suitable existing floor substrates.
- Highly resistant to point loading and general impact in service.
- Environmentally considerate formulation – asbestos-free.
- UV-stable surface, suitable for areas exposed to daylight.
- Simple to cut with fibre-cement-capable tools and straightforward to install.
- High board density of approx. 1,350 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, providing effective mass for acoustic improvement.
- Factory-finished board – removes the need for wet screed finishing on site.
- Helps protect and prolong the service life of underlying thermal or acoustic insulation layers.

### Applications.

T&G 4 Overlay board suited to all subfloor types.



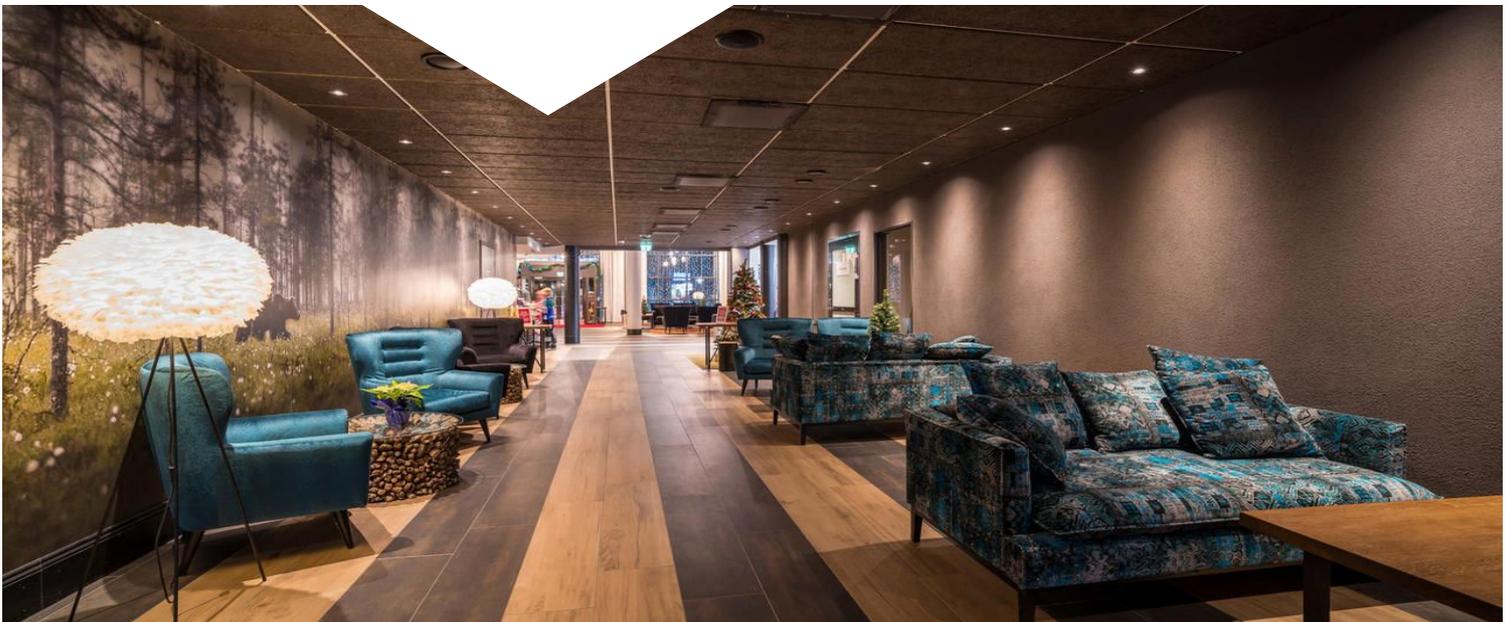
### Standard Dimensions.

#### Thickness

28mm

#### Dimensions

1200 x 600m



## Reference To Acoustic Ratings.

**Concrete Insitu Floor**  
DnT,w + Ctr (Airborne)

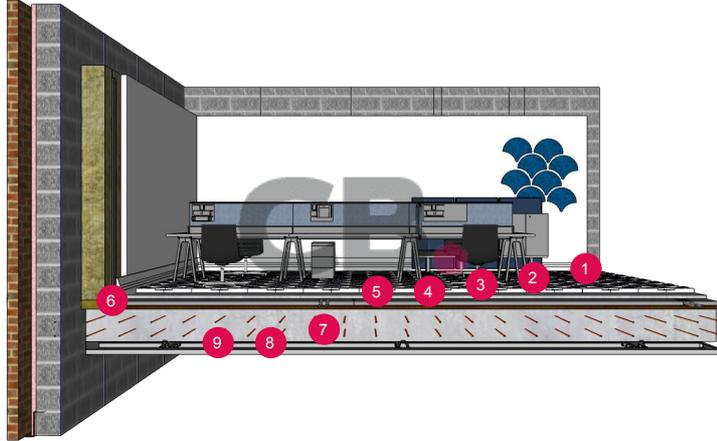
52dB

**LnT,W (Impact Sound)**  
(with 3mm resilient layer)

46dB

**ΔLw (Impact Noise improvement)**  
(with 3mm resilient layer)

23dB



1. Ceramic Tiles
2. Electric UFH cables set in tile adhesive
3. DryBloc® 28F
4. Routed UFH insulation
5. 3mm DeciBloc resilient layer
6. L Shaped Flanking Strip
7. 200mm Reinforced insitu concrete slab
8. MF ceiling (min 100mm void)
9. 1 x 9.5mm acoustic plasterboard

**Timber Joist Floor**  
DnT,w + Ctr (Airborne)

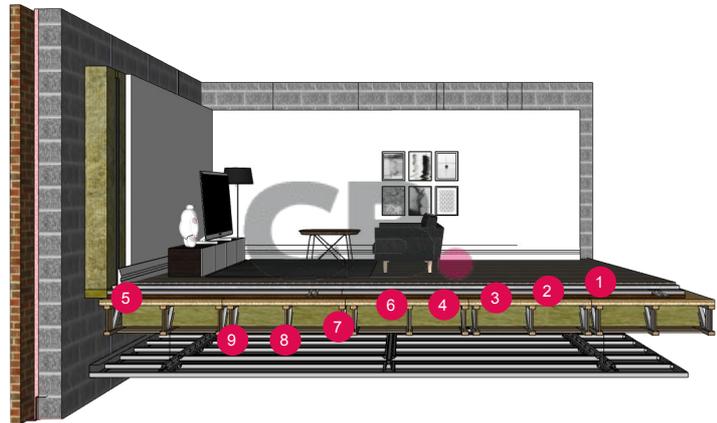
57dB

**LnT,W (Impact Sound)**  
(with 4.5mm resilient layer)

56dB

**DnT,W (Impact Sound)**  
(with 4.5mm resilient layer)

61dB



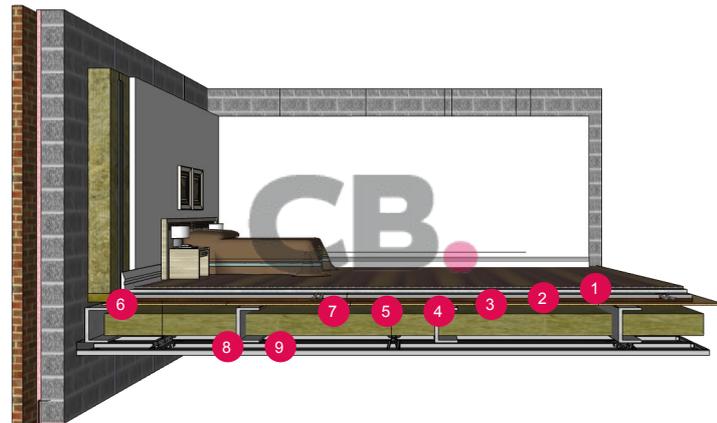
1. Carpet and Underlay
2. DryBloc® 28F
3. Routed UFH Insulation
4. 3mm DeciBloc resilient layer
5. L Shaped Flanking Strip
6. Chipboard Structural Deck
7. Minimum 25mm timber floor joists
8. Heavy duty resilient bars
9. 2 x 15mm acoustic plasterboard

**Steel Joist Floor**  
DnT,w + Ctr (Airborne)

51dB

**LnT,W (Impact Sound)**  
(with 4.5mm resilient layer)

54dB



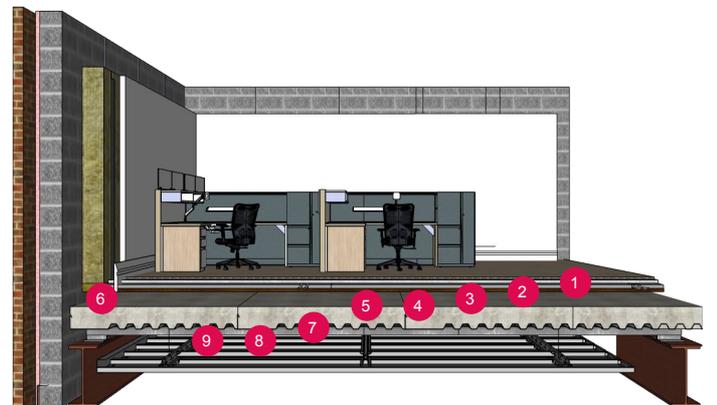
1. Sheet vinyl or LVT flooring
2. Adhesive layer (self levelling)
3. DryBloc® 28F
4. Routed UFH Insulation
5. 3mm DeciBloc resilient layer
6. L Shaped Flanking Strip
7. Minimum 25mm timber floor joists
8. Minimum 225mm steel floor joists
9. Heavy duty resilient bars
10. 2 x 15mm acoustic plasterboard

**Profiled Metal Decking**  
DnT,w + Ctr (Airborne)

54dB

**LnT,W (Impact Sound)**  
(with 4.5mm resilient layer)

47dB



1. Engineered wooden flooring
2. Decoupling layer or adhesive
3. DryBloc® 28F
4. Routed UFH insulation
5. 3mm DeciBloc resilient layer
6. L Shaped Flanking Strip
7. 130mm concrete and profiled metal deck.
8. MF ceiling (min 100mm void)
9. 1 x 9.5mm acoustic plasterboard

The above build-ups are derived from post-completion test data and should be regarded as indicative only. Actual sound transference through the floor will depend on the existing floor and ceiling construction, junction detailing and on-site workmanship. As this is a retrofit solution, performance may in some cases exceed the figures shown, or in other cases be slightly reduced, depending on the condition and make-up of the current structure.

**Reference To Acoustic Ratings.****Flanking Transmission.**

The performance figures quoted above are based on test results for timber floors and can only be achieved where the building has been designed and constructed in line with good practice, ensuring that all potential flanking paths are eliminated.

For wall and floor constructions to perform as intended, particular care must be taken in detailing the junctions between the separating wall or floor and adjoining elements, such as external walls and any penetrations. If these junctions are not correctly detailed, the overall acoustic performance may be compromised and the relevant Building Regulation requirements may not be met in practice.

**Packaging and Handling.**

Drybloc 28F boards are supplied on non-returnable pallets. They should be stored indoors, under cover, in a dry and well-ventilated area. Boards must be laid flat, raised off the ground, and protected from moisture. Take particular care when handling to avoid damage to edges and surfaces.

**Availability.**

Drybloc 28F, Phonostrip flanking band and Cembond flexible hybrid sealant and adhesive (which also serves as an acoustic sealant and jointing adhesive) are available through a national network of stockists, distributors and builders' merchants. Further details are available on request.

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## Drybloc 28F — Installation Guide (All Floor Finishes, Adhesive-Only)

### 1. Scope

This section covers installation of all common floor finishes (LVT, vinyl sheet, rubber/linoleum, carpet, laminate, engineered timber, poured resin, ceramic/porcelain/natural stone) over Drybloc 28F (fibre-cement board with resilient fleece) using an adhesive-only method.

### 2. System Rules (must comply)

- Board joints: Bond every tongue & groove with Cembond flexible hybrid sealant/adhesive.
- Jointing tape: Not required on Drybloc 28F.
- Perimeter isolation: Install Phonostrip cork-polymer flanking band continuously at all perimeters, thresholds, and abutments (maintains 6–10 mm movement/isolation gap).
- Mechanical fixings: Not permitted anywhere (no screws, nails, pins, plugs, gripper tacks).
- Primer: Cembloc Primer is mandatory wherever a new bonded layer is applied. Follow the Cembloc Primer datasheet for coverage, dilution, number of coats, and drying/overcoat times.
- Uncoupling membrane (when specified for tiles): Schlüter-DITRA or equivalent, fully bonded with C2 S1, do not prime the membrane's fleece.

### 3. Structural Limits

- Joists at 450mm centres: Drybloc 28F may act as the structural deck (permitted).
- Existing floors (overlay): Permitted over sound concrete/screed or timber decks that meet moisture and deflection limits.

### 4. Substrate Preparation (all cases)

- Flatness before the final finish (2 m straightedge):
  - Resilient/LVT/vinyl/poured resin:  $\pm 2$  mm
  - Laminate/engineered timber/carpet:  $\pm 3$  mm
  - Ceramic/stone tiles:  $\pm 3$  mm
- Moisture: concrete/screed  $\leq 75\%$  RH (use a compatible surface DPM if higher), timber  $\leq 16\%$ .
- Cleanliness: firm, dry, dust-free, grease-free.
- Perimeter: fit Phonostrip before boarding/overlay and keep it clean of primer/adhesive.
- Environment: stabilise temperature and RH to typical in-service conditions (especially for timber finishes).

## 5. Base Boarding (both scenarios)

1. Lay Drybloc 28F with staggered long and short joints.
2. Bond every T&G with Cembond, close joints to achieve squeeze-out, wipe excess.
3. Maintain a 6–10 mm isolation gap at all edges using Phonostrip.
4. Prime the Drybloc 28F surface with Cembloc Primer and allow to dry per datasheet. (This precedes any leveller, backer, membrane, adhesive, or finish.)

## 6. Method A — Direct on Joists at 450mm centres (adhesive-only)

- Drybloc 28F functions as the structural deck. No mechanical fixings are used at any stage.

### A1. Perimeter & Boarding

- Ensure joists are at 450mm centres, level, and adequately stiff.
- Install Phonostrip continuously.
- Lay 28F and Cembond all T&G joints as per **5**.

### A2. Rigid Layer Above 28F (choose one, then tile/finish)

- **Thin build (height-friendly):**
  1. Apply 8–12 mm fibre-reinforced, cement-based smoothing/levelling compound (compressive strength  $\geq$  30–35 MPa) over Cembloc-primed 28F to flatness tolerance.
  2. When cured, prime if required by the leveller manufacturer, then proceed with the chosen finish (see §7 matrix).
  3. Tiling only (optional): bond uncoupling membrane (Schlüter-DITRA or equivalent) with C2 S1 and tile (see **7**). Do not prime the membrane fleece.
- **Bonded cement backer overlay (tiling only, bonded-only type):**
  1. Over Cembloc-primed 28F, trowel C2 S1 and bond 6–12 mm cement tile backer boards with staggered joints.
  2. Press/roll to remove voids and allow to cure as specified.
  3. Tile with C2 S1/S2. (Use this option only with backers approved for bonded-only installation, if a board requires screws, use the Thin build.)

**7. Method B — Overlay to an Existing Floor (concrete/screed or timber)**

**B1. Assess & Prep**

- Remove weak/loose areas, grind high spots, fill lows, verify moisture limits.

**B2. Prime the Existing Substrate**

- Apply Cembloc Primer to the existing floor (concrete/screed/timber) as specified.

**B3. Bond Drybloc 28F (adhesive-only)**

- Full-bed C2 S1 (or continuous ribbons of an elastic construction adhesive where appropriate).
- Cembond all T&G joints, maintain Phonostrip perimeter.

**B4. Prime 28F & Build Up**

- Prime the 28F surface with Cembloc Primer.
- Proceed with the Thin build or Bonded backer overlay routes exactly as described in Method A (above), then install the chosen finish from **8**.

**8. Finish Selection Matrix (above Cembloc-primed 28F)**

Finish type	Required build-up above primed 28F	Notes (adhesives & thicknesses)
LVT / Luxury vinyl tile	Fibre-reinforced smoothing compound 5–10 mm → (prime if required) → LVT in approved adhesive	Achieve ±2 mm flatness. Use high-temperature acrylic where UFH/solar gain applies.
Vinyl sheet	Smoothing compound 5–10 mm → (prime if required) → vinyl in approved adhesive	Roll to remove air. Flash-cove with compatible cove former, bond only.
Rubber / Linoleum	Smoothing compound 5–10 mm → (prime if required) → finish in approved adhesive	Observe open times carefully.
Carpet (textile)	Smoothing compound 3–6 mm → double-stick system (bond underlay to leveller, bond carpet to underlay)	If gripper is required, use adhesive-bonded gripper (no pins). Skirtings bonded only.
Laminate (floating)	Smoothing compound 3–6 mm → acoustic underlay (bonded) → laminate floated	Tape/lock underlay joints per system, maintain expansion above Phonostrip
Engineered timber (floating)	Smoothing compound 3–6 mm → acoustic underlay (bonded) → boards floated	Acclimatise boards, respect manufacturer's expansion allowances.
Engineered timber (fully bonded)	Smoothing compound 5–10 mm → approved elastic wood adhesive → boards	Use elastomeric/modified-silane adhesive compatible with the primed leveller.
Poured resin (epoxy/PU/MMA)	Smoothing compound 6–12 mm (or system-approved scratch coat) → resin system	Prime DryBloc 28F, then use the resin maker's primers on the cured leveller.
Ceramic/porcelain/natural stone	Option A: Smoothing compound 8–12 mm → (prime if required) → uncoupling membrane ( <i>Schlüter-DITRA or equivalent</i> ) → C2 S1/S2 → tile. Option B: Bonded cement backer boards 6–12 mm → C2 S1/S2 → tile.	No screws. Use backers only if rated for bonded-only installation. Large-format/stone: favour C2 S2.

**Levellers:** fibre-reinforced, cement-based, compressive strength  $\geq 30\text{--}35$  MPa. Always prime interfaces as required (Cembloc on 28F, follow leveller manufacturer for subsequent coats).

## 9. Adhesives & Primers (summary)

- Primer (mandatory): Cembloc Primer on 28F and wherever specified, observe dry-to-bond windows.
- Tile adhesive: C2 S1 (or C2 S2 for large format/stone/UFH).
- Resilient/carpet adhesives: follow floor covering manufacturer, select high-temperature grades where UFH/solar gain applies.
- Timber adhesive (fully bonded): elastomeric/modified-silane type, compatible with the primed leveller.
- Resin primers: use the resin system's primers over the cured leveller (Cembloc remains on 28F).
- Uncoupling membranes: bond with C2 S1, do not prime the fleece face.

## 10. Movement Joints & Edges

- Perimeter: maintained by Phonostrip (6–10 mm). Keep primer/adhesive off Phonostrip faces.
- Internal fields (tiles/resin): joints every 8–10 m each way (tighten to 5–8 m with underfloor heating or strong solar gain).
- Structural/expansion joints: continue through all layers to the finished surface.
- Where Schlüter-DITRA or equivalent is used as part of a waterproof build-up: seal all laps, seams, and upstands with the membrane manufacturer's approved tapes and accessories.

## 11. Underfloor Heating (UFH)

- Electric mats: locate above the rigid layer (within the leveller or above bonded backer, below any uncoupling). Embed in adhesive/leveller as specified.
- Water systems: position within/below the structural layer, pressure-test before finishes.
- Commissioning: only after full cures, increase temperature gradually over 7 days.

## 12. Wet Areas

- Over the rigid layer, apply a liquid-applied waterproofing where specified. Use system-compatible primer if required. Reinforce at changes of plane and penetrations. Tile after full cure.

## 13. Prohibitions & Critical Notes

- Do not install finishes directly onto the fleece-faced 28F without the listed rigid layers (where applicable).
- No mechanical fixings at any stage.
- No jointing tape at 28F board joints.
- Ensure chosen levellers, backer boards, membranes, and adhesives are compatible with Cembloc Primer and the adhesive-only method.

### 14. “Equivalent” Definition (for uncoupling membranes)

For substitution, “equivalent” means an uncoupling membrane that:

1. is designed for full adhesive bond (no mechanical fixings),
2. provides uncoupling/crack-bridging and vapour pressure relief comparable to Schlüter-DITRA,
3. is compatible with Cembloc Primer below and C2-class deformable tile adhesives above, and
4. has a manufacturer-approved waterproof seam-taping system where required.

### 15. Site Sign-Off Checklist

- Joist spacing confirmed (450mm centres) or structure engineered to meet deflection criteria.
- Phonostrip fitted continuously, 6–10 mm perimeter isolation maintained and clean.
- All T&G joints bonded with Cembond, squeeze-out observed/cleaned.
- Cembloc Primer applied wherever bonding occurs, correct coats and dry times observed.
- Flatness achieved for the chosen finish (see §4).
- Moisture within limits, DPM used where required and compatible.
- Selected intermediate layers (leveller/backer/underlay/membrane) are bonded-only compatible.
- Finish installed per manufacturer guidance, movement/expansion details formed.
- For membranes: laps/seams/upstands sealed per system (where waterproofing is specified).

## Material Safety (MSDS).

### Health And Safety Best Practises.

**Dust:** When processing the boards, for example, cutting, drilling, sanding etc, these will generate dust. As a result, attention should be paid to the dust particles generated and measures put in place to minimise their effect. Please process the boards in a well ventilated area with the use of localised extraction to avoid dust inhalation.

### Skin Contact:

- **Acute Effect:** The dust from these products may cause irritation of the skin due to friction but is not absorbed through the skin.
- **Precautions:** Direct contact with dust and debris should be avoided by wearing full body covering overalls. .
- **Measures taken if effect experienced:** Wash thoroughly with soap and water.

### Ingestion:

- **Effect:** When processing, the dust may affect food and beverages, indigestion of the dust may result in abdominal discomfort.
- **Precautions:** Do not attempt to eat the board, put the board near the face and avoid touching your face and mouth when previously dealt with the board.
- **Measures taken if effect experienced:** Ingestion is unlikely due to product size. However should this occur, seek medical attention immediately.

### Inhaled:

- **Effect:** The dust from processing may cause irritation of nose, throat, lung and cause coughing and sneezing via breath.
- **Precautions:** During dry cutting ,drilling, routing , sanding and any continuous handling where dust is generated, used an approved particulate dust mask .
- **Measures taken if effect experienced:** Go into a open area with plenty of air circulation outdoors and drink plenty of water, until acute effects have gone.

If any acute effects persist, seek medical attention immediately.

### Handling Requirements.

Minimise the dust generation at the workplace. When there is cutting, sawing, sanding or grinding during the installation and handling of this product, it should be carried out at well ventilated area (e.g. outdoor, open-area). Work area should be cleaned regularly by wet sweeping or vacuuming.

Cembloc panels are stacked on timber pallets. The boards must be stored in a ventilated and dry environment on a flat, level surface protected from contamination. To avoid excessive flexing of the boards, long edges must be supported when lifting and handling.

### Storage.

Store in a dry well ventilated area. The boards should be protected from excessive humidity and temperature changes, such as rain, sun, wind and moisture. The boards must always be stored on flat level surface.



Contact us.

# Let's talk about your project.

We are proud of our reputation for excellent service.

Whether you require, part or full load deliveries, our team will make sure we do everything possible to help you and your project, as together we can build better.



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