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Displaying Order Details in Express Checkout

PayPal has enhanced the Express Checkout buyer experience by including critical checkout-relevant information, such as order details, shipping, tax and other fees as well as eBay auction incentives into the flow.

By passing these parameters in the `SetExpressCheckout` request, buyers are informed throughout the checkout process, and are more likely to complete the transaction.

NOTE: The `DoExpressCheckoutPayment` request includes the same order details and eBay auction incentive parameters as `SetExpressCheckout`. It is strongly recommended that you submit the same parameters in both API calls.

This document describes these parameters and explains how to integrate them into your existing Express Checkout flow.

PayPal Review Page Order Details

When a buyer logs into PayPal to check out, the merchant can present the buyer with detailed information about each item in the shopping cart (see [Figure 1.1](#)):

(1) – Item name. The item name can identify this item to distinguish it from other line items in the order.

(2) – Item number. Each item can be further identified by an item number. If the item is an eBay auction item, it is recommended that you provide the eBay item number in this field.

(3) – Item description. This field identifies which of several items the buyer is purchasing. For example, the merchant may be offering an item in different sizes. Knowing the size helps the buyer decide whether the one they selected was appropriate. If the item is an eBay auction item, it is recommended that you provide the phrase “eBay item” in this field.

(4) – Item unit price. This field specifies exactly how much one unit of the item costs. It can be a positive or negative value but not zero.

(5) – Item unit quantity. This field identifies the number of units the buyer is ordering.

PayPal calculates the value in the Amount **(6)** column as the product of line-item unit price and line-item unit quantity.

The merchant can also show other detailed information about the order:

(7) – Item total and tax. These are the respective total of all items in the order and the tax, as determined by the merchant.

(8) – Shipping and handling. PayPal sums the shipping and handling amounts in this field. (Actual shipping and handling amounts are determined by the merchant.)

(9) – Shipping discount. If the buyer is receiving a discount on shipping, the value appears as a credit in this field.

(10) – Insurance. If there is insurance on shipping, the insurance fee is shown in this field.

(11) – Total. This is the total of the order, including shipping, handling, tax, and other price adjustment-related items.

NOTE: The ‘Enter gift certificate, reward, or discount’ link enables the buyer to redeem certificates, rewards, or discounts that PayPal or eBay issues. The link does not enable the buyer to redeem incentives the merchant issues.

(12) – Note. You can allow the buyer to add special instructions to the merchant about the order in a text box that appears when the buyer clicks this link.

FIGURE 1.1 PayPal Review Page With Order Details

Your Website

Review your information

If the information below is correct, click **Continue**. You will confirm your payment on the next page.
[View PayPal policies](#) and your payment source rights.

Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
10% Decaf Kona Blend Coffee Item # 623083 Size: 8.8-oz	\$9.95	2	\$19.90
Coffee Filter bags Item # 623083 Size: Two 24-piece boxes	\$39.70	2	\$79.40

[Add special instructions to merchant](#)

	Item total: \$99.30
	Tax: \$2.59
	Shipping and handling: \$5.99
	Shipping discount: -\$3.00
	Insurance: \$1.00
	Total: \$105.88 USD

[Enter gift certificate, reward, or discount](#)

Continue

Payment Method: Credit Card : Visa XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-1501
This credit card transaction will appear on your bill as "SAMPLE TRANSACTION"
[Change](#)

Ship to: J Smith
1 Main St
San Jose, CA 95131
United States
[Change](#)

Contact Information: jsmith01@example.com
408-555-5948

Continue

Cancel and return to [yourwebsite](#).

PayPal. The safer, easier way to pay.
 For more information, read our [User Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Special Instructions to the Merchant

You can allow the buyer to send the merchant special instructions about an order. This feature is especially helpful to buyers who want to customize merchandise. A buyer also might want to tell the merchant to ship their order at a later date because they are out of the country.

NOTE: Merchants who use this feature should be sure to read the instructions the buyer sends.

This feature appears as the link just below the item description on the PayPal Review page (12). When the buyer clicks the [Add special instructions to merchant](#) link, a text box opens, as shown in Figure 1.2. After the buyer enters special instructions and clicks **Continue**, the instructions are returned in the responses to `GetExpressCheckoutDetails` and `DoExpressCheckoutPayment`.

FIGURE 1.2 Special Instructions Text Box

Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
10% Decaf Kona Blend Coffee Item # 623083 Size: 8.8-oz	\$9.95	2	\$19.90
Coffee Filter bags Item # 623083 Size: Two 24-piece boxes	\$39.70	2	\$79.40

Add special instructions to merchant <input type="text"/>	Item total: \$99.30 Tax: \$2.59 Shipping and handling: \$5.99 Shipping discount: -\$3.00 Insurance: \$1.00 Total: \$105.88 USD Enter gift certificate, reward, or discount
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Payment Method:	Credit Card: Visa XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-1501 This credit card transaction will appear on your bill as "ELWJEFESTACO".
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Integrating Order Details into the Express Checkout Flow

To integrate order details into the checkout flow, pass the Express Checkout parameters described in Table 1.1 in the call to `SetExpressCheckout`.

TABLE 1.1 `SetExpressCheckout` Order Details Parameters

NVP Field	SOAP Field	Description and Comments
L_NAME <i>n</i>	Name	Item name.
L_NUMBER <i>n</i>	Number	Item number.

TABLE 1.1 SetExpressCheckout Order Details Parameters

NVP Field	SOAP Field	Description and Comments
L_DESCn	Description	Item description. The DESC (NVP) and OrderDescription (SOAP) fields still exist for backwards compatibility. However, L_DESCn and Description enable you to provide a more precise description for each different item purchased such as hiking boots or cooking utensils rather than one general purpose description such as camping supplies.
L_AMTn	Amount	Item unit price. PayPal calculates the product of the item unit price and item unit quantity (below) in the Amount column of the PayPal Review page, as shown in Figure 1.1 . The item unit price can be a positive or a negative value but not 0. The merchant may provide a negative value to reflect a discount on an order, for example.
L_QTYn	Quantity	Item unit quantity.
ITEMAMT	ItemTotal	Sum of cost of all items in this order.
TAXAMT	TaxTotal	Sum of tax for all items in this order.
SHIPPINGAMT	ShippingTotal	Total shipping cost for this order. PayPal calculates the sum of the shipping cost and the handling cost (below) in the PayPal Review page, as shown at (8) in Figure 1.1 . Pass in a shipping amount that is reasonably accurate, because you may need to change it later on your final checkout page. You might assume, for example, the buyer lives in California because your business is in California.
HANDLINGAMT	HandlingTotal	Total handling cost for this order. PayPal calculates the sum of the handling cost and the shipping cost (above), as shown at (8) in Figure 1.1 .
SHIPDISCAMT	ShippingDiscount	Shipping discount for this order. You specify this value as a negative number.
INSURANCEAMT	InsuranceAmount	Total shipping insurance cost for this order.
AMT	OrderTotal	Total of order, including shipping, handling, tax, and any other billing adjustments such as a credit due.
ALLOWNOTE	AllowNote	Provide a value of 1 to indicate that the buyer may enter a note to the merchant on the PayPal Review page during checkout. See “Special Instructions to the Merchant” on page 4.

The following example parameter string shows how to set the parameters in the call to `SetExpressCheckout`.

TABLE 1.2 Setting the Express Checkout Order Details Parameters

Request	<code>[requiredSecurityParameters]&METHOD=SetExpressCheckout&RETURNURL=http://coffee2go.com&CANCELURL=http://cancel.com&PAYMENTACTION=Sale&EMAIL=jsmith01@example.com&NAME=J Smith&SHIPTOSTREET=1 Main St&SHIPTOCITY=San Jose&SHIPTOSTATE=CA&SHIPTOCOUNTRYCODE=US&SHIPTOZIP=95131&L_NAME0=10% Decaf Kona Blend Coffee&L_NUMBER0=623083&L_DESC0=Size: 8.8-oz&L_AMT0=9.95&L_QTY0=2&L_NAME1=Coffee Filter bags&L_NUMBER1=6230&L_DESC1=Size: Two 24-piece boxes&L_AMT1=39.70&L_QTY1=2&ITEMAMT=99.30&TAXAMT=2.59&SHIPPINGAMT=3.00&HANDLINGAMT=2.99&SHIPDISCAMT=-3.00&INSURANCEAMT=1.00&AMT=105.88&CURRENCYCODE=USD&ALLOWNOTE=1</code>
Response	<code>[successResponseFields]&TOKEN=EC-17C76533PL706494P</code>

Passing a Subset of the Order Details Parameters

You can provide values for any subset of the Express Checkout parameters shown in [Table 1.1](#) in the call to `SetExpressCheckout`.

If you pass the generic order description parameter (`DESC`) and any one line-item parameter listed below, both parameter values display on the Review page. If you pass the generic order description parameter (`DESC`) along with any two of the following line-item parameters, the order description value does not display.

- `L_NAMEn`
- `L_NUMBERn`
- `L_DESCn`

If you pass in unit price information (`L_AMTn`) without passing in the unit quantity (`L_QTYn`), the unit price will not display. To show both values, you must pass in values for both parameters. You can pass in a value of 1 even if the item purchase is uncountable.

Incentives for eBay Auctions

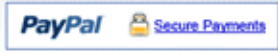
If the buyer's checkout includes eBay auction items, you must set additional fields in the call to `SetExpressCheckout` to enable buyers to choose from eBay-issued incentives such as eBay gift certificates, coupons, vouchers, and gift cards that may apply to their order.

To enable the display of eBay incentives on the PayPal Review page, you also must provide line item detail information for each eBay item. When the buyer clicks the [Enter gift certificate, reward, or discount](#) link, a dialog displays in which the buyer can either enter a redemption code or select from a list of all discounts applicable to eBay items in the cart display as shown

below. If multiple items display, the buyer can select from the discounts they want applied to their order.

Voyage Travel

Review your payment



If the information below is correct, click **Pay now** to complete your payment.

[View PayPal policies](#) and your payment source rights.

Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
Photo Item # 32768923 Plastic Frame- An EBay Item	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Nokia ND Item # 32768924 Nokia Mobile- an	\$25.00	1	\$25.00

[Add special instructions to merchant](#)

Item total: \$50.00
Shipping and handling: \$6.00
Total: \$56.00 USD

[Enter gift certificate, reward, or discount](#)


Enter redemption code.

Or [select from this list](#)

Pay Now

After entering a redemption code or selecting the incentives, the PayPal Review page reflects changes to the order. Incentives appear as credits and a new Total is calculated as shown below.

Voyage Travel

Review your payment 

If the information below is correct, click **Pay now** to complete your payment.
[View PayPal policies](#) and your payment source rights.

Description	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount
Photo Item # 32768923 Plastic Frame- An EBAY item	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Nokia ND Item # 32768924 Nokia Mobile- an	\$25.00	1	\$25.00

[Add special instructions to merchant](#)

Item total:	\$50.00
Shipping and handling:	\$6.00
Subtotal:	\$56.00
Std Coupon Remove :	-\$1.00
Total:	\$55.00 USD

[Enter gift certificate, reward, or discount](#)

Pay Now

Integrating eBay Incentives into the Express Checkout Flow

To integrate eBay incentives into the checkout flow:

1. Pass the following parameters and settings in the call to SetExpressCheckout.

- PAYMENTACTION must be Sale
- CHANNELTYPE must be eBayItem

NOTE: For eBay auctions, you cannot set PAYMENTACTION to Authorization or Order. You must set PAYMENTACTION to Sale.

2. For each eBay line item, do one of the following (mutually exclusive choices):

- For each individual eBay entry, pass the values returned by eBay when setting up the auction item descriptions in the parameters below:
L_EBAYITEMNUMBER*n* and L_EBAYITEMAUCTIONTXNID*n*
- For multiple eBay items offered as a single order, pass the value returned by eBay when setting up the auction order description in the parameter below:
L_EBAYITEMORDERID*n*

3. The value of `useraction` must be `commit` so the Express Checkout flow displays a **Pay** button and the merchant can bypass any order review page.
4. It is recommended to pass the phrase “eBay item” in `L_DESCn` and the eBay Item Number in `L_NUMBERn`.

NOTE: eBay maintains detailed information about each item sold in eBay auctions. If you set the value for `SHIPPINGAMT` in the call to `SetExpressCheckout`, for example, you do not need to be concerned about the shipping cost for individual items. eBay calculates incentives based on its database, not from the values you pass in the `SetExpressCheckout` call.

The following example passes order details and eBay incentives for two eBay auction items:

TABLE 1.3 Setting the Express Checkout Order Details Parameters

Request	<pre>[requiredSecurityParameters]&METHOD=SetExpressCheckout&RETURNURL=http://coffe2go.com&CANCELURL=http://cancel.com&PAYMENTACTION=Sale&EMAIL=jsmith01@example.com&NAME=J Smith&SHIPTOSTREET=1 Main St&SHIPTOCITY=San Jose&SHIPTOSTATE=CA&SHIPTOCOUNTRYCODE=US&SHIPTOZIP=95131&L_NAME0=Photo&L_NUMBER0=32768923&L_DESC0=Plastic Frame- An eBay item&L_AMT0=25.00&L_QTY0=1&L_EBAYITEMNUMBER0=32768923&L_EBAYITEMAUCTIONTXNID0=0&L_NAME1=Nokia ND&L_NUMBER1=32768924&L_DESC1=Nokia Mobile- an eBay item&L_AMT1=25.00&L_QTY1=1&L_EBAYITEMNUMBER1=32768924&L_EBAYITEMAUCTIONTXNID1=7225687004&CHANNELTYPE=eBayItem&ITEMAMT=50.00&SHIPPINGAMT=3.00&HANDLINGAMT=3.00&AMT=56.00&CURRENCYCODE=USD&ALLOWNOTE=1</pre>
Response	<pre>[successResponseFields]&TOKEN=EC-2HX34015EC629990M</pre>

For More Information

The parameters described in this document are a subset of the Express Checkout parameters. For details on the complete set of Express Checkout Name-Value pair parameter fields, see the *Express Checkout Name-Value Pair Reference* accompanying this document. For details on the complete set of Express Checkout SOAP API parameter fields, see the *Express Checkout SOAP API Reference* accompanying this document.

