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We'd like to remind Forumites to please avoid political debate on the Forum... Read More Meet your Ambassadors by A Chickens Butt Fantastic App for Winning eBay Auctions! 10/10 Highly RecommendI recently downloaded Sniper, and it has been a game-changer for my eBay shopping experience. On my first day using it, I won several bids, which was beyond my expectations. Sniper is incredibly user-friendly, making it easy to navigate and place bids. It provides real-time updates and notifications, ensuring I never miss out on an opportunity to bid on items I want.One of the standout features is the bidding strategy options, which help you stay competitive without overspending. The interface is intuitive, and the quick response times have been crucial in those last-minute bidding wars. Sniper also offers great filtering options, so you can quickly find the exact items youre looking for.Overall, I cant recommend Sniper enough if youre an avid eBay bidder or just looking to score some great deals. Whether youre new to eBay or a seasoned pro, Sniper will enhance your bidding experience and help you win more auctions. Download it ASAP and start winning auctions today! 10/10 would recommend! esniper was a simple, lightweight tool for sniping ebay auctions. It runs onall flavors of linux, unix and Windows, and should adapt easily to otheroperating systems. It does no longer work.The development of esniper stopped in 2020 because ebay changed the login mechanism in a way we could not handle in the existing code.You can download the sourcecode of the latest released version, reportbugs,and do a bunch of other things from sourceforge.net.To be informed of new releases and major bugs, subscribeto the esniper-announce mailing list. To compile and run esniper you need SSL and libCurl.Most recent linux releasesshould have these libraries already installed. If your system doesn't havethese libraries or they are out of date, you will need to download, build andinstall these libraries first. You must build and install SSL before buildingand installing libCurl. If you are using Windows, you will need to use either cygwin or MinGW and MSYS for a development environment,and SSL and libCurl. I hope to have a prebuilt Windows binary available in thefuture. If you need documentation, you can read the manual page, or download a unix man compatible version and place it in /usr/local/man/man1 on yourcomputer. esniper can use configuration and auction files to tell it how to bid andwhat to bid on. Sample files (configuration, auction) are available. If you want to be notified of updates to esniper, subscribe to the esniper-announcemailing list. FAQ: What is sniping? Sniping is the act of bidding on an auction with just a few seconds remaining. Why snipe? Because it is better than bidding early. For more information on sniping, including reasons for and against, click here. What's wrong with bidding early? In a perfect world, nothing. The world isn't perfect, though. Most eBay bids are proxy bids. If everybody understood that, figured out how much they wanted to pay, and bid their maximum, sniping would not be useful. However, many bidders have no idea how much they want to pay, so they bid in small increments until they beat your proxy. If you bid your maximum at the end of the auction, you greatly reduce the chances of being bid up by such a bidder. Is sniping against eBay policy No. You may bid at any time in an eBay auction. I think sniping is evil Is using a program to snipe against eBay policy This is a difficult question to answer. In paragraph 7 of eBay's user agreement, "you will not user any ... automatic device, or manual process to monitor or copy our web pages". From this, it appears just reloading an auction page a few times could be illegal (manual monitoring). Auction services which automatically retrieve closing prices, such as Andale and PayPal, seem to go against this clause, too. When I try to run esniper, it complains it can't find cygwin1.dll Did you download cygwin1.dll and place it in the same directory as esniper.exe? What is cygwin1.dll, anyway? It is part of cygwin, a package that emulates unix on top of Windows. esniper is complaining about a CAPTCHA. What's that? It's a security measure to prevent 'bots (like esniper) from working. See here for more details. When eBay asks to solve a captcha this might be related to a weak eBay password. Try to change your password. Today we have a slightly different, and I hope very interesting post, all about eBay Snipers! For those of you who have never come across the term before, what exactly are snipers? No, its nothing to do with war or police snipers are tools that allow you to bid on eBay auctions at the very last possible moment. And thats actually where the term sniping comes from, when you steal an item with a last second bid. The process is extremely simple, once youve registered an account with one of the many eBay snipers online all you have to do is enter the item number of the auction youre interested in, set your maximum bid and the sniper will take care of the rest! It really couldnt be easier. But why!? I hear you asking Isnt is easier to just set your bid and leave it after all that is the whole point of how auctions work on eBay? Yes technically that is true but in practice there are some clear disadvantages to bidding for items in the conventional way: 1) If an auction has no bids you dont want to be the first! Herd/sheep mentality is strong on eBay so an auction with no bids makes people think something is wrong. Its best to leave it like that and swoop in at the last second when theres no competition for the item. 2) Many people DO NOT set a maximum bid as youd expect. Instead they bid a certain amount and see if theyre beaten, and then they might bid more. This sniping method doesnt give them the chance to do so, meaning you win more auctions and at cheaper prices. 3) Bidding wars! Bidding wars are great when youre selling an item, but not when youre buying! Once again the sniping method removes this worry as there simply isnt time for other bidders to react. 4) Human error how many times have you added an item to your watchlist with the intention of bidding on it but then completely missed the end of the auction? And how annoying is it when you later check and see that the item went for peanuts, and youve now lost out on some easy profit? Or how many times have you set a max price and then bid more than that so you can win the item (the bidding war syndrome that I just mentioned). Sniping removes all of these human errors by automating the bidding process and that by itself would probably make it worthwhile for most people. 5) Shill biding. This is a much more specific benefit, and not something that I consider to be widespread on eBay, but snipers do also stop shill biding. This is when the seller (through another a friends account) bids on an item until theyre the high bid, therefore knowing what your max is, then retract those bids and then use yet another account to bid on the item again so that it reaches your maximum bid amount. With snipers they cant do this of course, as your bid isnt placed until seconds before the end of the auction. So now that weve covered what eBay snipers are and the main benefits of using one, who exactly are they for? Well the main groups that come to mind are: For either of the above, then eBay snipers are an invaluable tool! Of course this isnt an all-inclusive list and anyone who buys items from eBay would benefit from using a sniper, for all the reasons that weve just discussed. But which sniper!? After all a quick search on Google for eBay sniper UK yields over 500,000 results so which of the many available options should you use? Well thats what were going to find out today! I have researched countless options and narrowed it down to three well-known and highly regarded sniping tools, and its time to put them to the test! First up we have Auction Sniper: Now let me quickly point out that Im not going to go through all the features and differences between each sniper. This is because they are all very similar and you can find all of that information easily on their websites anyway. What were interested in today is an actual real-life test, not copying and pasting their sales patter. The only thing I will mention is pricing, as thats obviously a very important factor. For Auction Sniper, their charges are simple: As you can see their fee is calculated in US Dollars, and not Pounds. On their site they note that all foreign currency auctions will be converted to American dollars at the daily exchange rate before the 1.5% fee is determined. For simplicitys sake, I suggest you just use 1GBP = 1.25USD. You may be slightly surprised that this service costs anything at all? A lot of people I speak to expect snipers to be free, as it is a fairly simple tool at the end of the day. But dont fear as one of the next sniper tools that were testing is 100% free so itll be interesting to see if our two paid options are better than the free alternative! The second sniper service that were testing is Gixen: As already mentioned, Gixen is 100% free to use, with an unlimited number of snipes. One quick point that Id like to mention in regards to the free vs paid options: I had a problem when creating an account with Auction Sniper and it said my username was incorrect: Knowing that it wasnt, I clicked the Contact Support option to get it sorted out, but was greeted by this page: I then tried to create an account on Gixen and got an error there as well (turns out it was because I had recently changed my eBay password) but in this case I was given the correct error message which actually solved my problem: Well have to see how the sniping goes, but so far its not looking great for the paid Auction Sniper! Last but not least in our showdown we have Goofbid. Goofbid isnt only a sniper tool, but actually has a lot of Buyer Tools and Search Tools that are supposed to help you uncover bargains on eBay. Of course the focus of todays post is all about the sniper they offer, but if you want a full review of Goofbid and all the other search, buyer, and seller tools they provide, then please check out my post on it here. Now previously Goofbids sniper was FREE to use (there was a premium option that included grouping) but sadly they recently made it so that you have to pay a monthly subscription. Yes, this does include some extras in comparison to the previously free sniping tool (such as grouping or importing your eBay watchlist) but it costs 2.99 a month, which while obviously not a huge amount is fairly expensive for something that used to cost nothing at all Now lets quickly compare Goofbids 2.99 a month fee to Auction Snipers commission model of 1.5% of the items price on winning snipes. So 2.99 in fees would work out at roughly 200 in winning snipes using Auction Sniper. That means if you snipe less than 200 worth of items a month, Auction Sniper would work out cheaper more than 200 a month and Goofbid will work out cheaper. And there we go, those are the 3 contestants in todays showdown Auction Sniper vs Gixen vs Goofbid. Im going to test each sniper individually and then pit them head to head in the ultimate eBay sniper battle by bidding on one item using all three snipers! Lets get to the results! First up is Auction Sniper, and after creating an account their site is very easy to use and quite well designed. The sniping process itself is extremely easy you just enter the item number (copy and paste it from the eBay listing), your max bid, and the lead time (how long before the auction ends that you want your bid to be placed), which I left at 3 seconds. The first snipe that I set up, for an A Walk Among the Tombstones Blu-ray, lost but everything seemed to have worked fine. My maximum bid did register, without me having to do anything, but someone else happened to bid more: This is probably a good time to point out that the items Im bidding on are for the most part completely random. I am NOT looking for bargains or things that can be resold for a profit so please bear that in mind this is just a test of the snipers. To continue the test of Auction Sniper, I set up a second snipe, this time for a Man of Steel Blu-ray that had a starting price of 2.80 and no bids. This time I won the item, being the only bidder! Comparing the bid times to the auction end times, I can see that my first bid was placed exactly 4 seconds before the end of the auction, so not quite the claimed 3 seconds but close enough! However the winning bid was placed 7 seconds before the end of the auction, which is more than two times longer than it should have been You may think I am nitpicking needlessly here but at the end of the day these tools are all about their accuracy and 7 seconds is probably enough time for another bidder to manually react, defeating the whole purpose of using a sniper! Considering the fact that it did at least place the bids and the first one was only a second out, I will give Auction Sniper a pass, but I am not overly enthused with the results, especially as its not a free tool. Next up is Gixen and Im now very interested to see how the accuracy of this free option compares to its paid-for competitors. I do want to quickly point out that Gixen does offer a premium option Gixen Mirror, which costs $6 a year. Gixen Mirror promises fault-free sniping yes thats right, theyre claiming 100% reliability which is very impressive. This is apparently managed by using two different servers to place every snipe, so if one fails theres still a back up. As well as this, you use get some additional features, such as more control over group bidding and the ability to set the snipe time (from 3-15 seconds). For the free service this is set at 6 seconds but other than that the sniping process is exactly the same, so the review applies either way. Gixens site is really built around simplicity and is incredibly easy to use. Yes, its not the prettiest design but for ease of use its very well made, right from the log in (which just uses your eBay details, so you dont need to create another account) to the actually sniping set up, which asks for the item number, your max bid, and lastly if you want to group it. Grouping is actually a very useful tool, as it allows you to set snipes for multiple items when you only want to win one of them. Lets say I am sourcing a specific PS4 game that usually sells for 15+. I set up snipes for 15 upcoming auctions at 10, and put them all into Group A. As soon as I win one of those auctions, the others will be cancelled so I dont end up with multiples of the same item that I didnt want. Simple but very effective and Im surprised that I didnt see any mention of this or a similar feature at Auction Sniper! On to the actual snipes and once again I lost my first one, a Game of Thrones Blu-ray and won my second, a Blu-ray of The Omen. Im happy to report that the bids were placed exactly 3 seconds before the auction end time! So a pass for Gixen as well, with special mention to the overall simplicity and ease of use. Last up we have Goofbid and my initial impressions are fairly positive the design of the site is excellent (clean and professional and without the obtrusive adverts that plagued Gixen somewhat) and the process of setting up a snipe was very easy. On this occasion it was first time lucky as my snipe for a Batman Blu-ray steelbook won, beating out another bidder by 50p. . And as you can see from the above screenshots, the time of my bid was exactly 3 seconds before the auctions end time, so Im confident in the accuracy of Goofbid. Overall, there was nothing at all that went wrong with the actual snipe itself, so that means 3/3 and another pass for Goofbid. HOWEVER I do have a big complaint about Goofbid regarding transparency. If you go to their homepage, it appears as though the auction sniper is free and just has an option of a professional package if you want the extra features. There is literally no mention of a subscription being required to use the basic sniper until the very last second when youre actually trying to place your snipe! In my opinion this is very misleading. There is nothing wrong with the tool not being free but that needs to be mentioned upfront instead its presented as a free vs professional option which isnt actually the case. But moving on as I mentioned at the beginning of this post, I wanted to pit all three snipers against each other for the final test, and to do this I wanted to find a product that nobody has bid on to keep things simple and easy. Thankfully this wasnt a hard task as I came across this item, sitting with no bids at a 0.99 start price and just under 8 minutes remaining: With much pain I placed my bid (a 2 max) and left the auction to finish, eagerly watching to see who would come out on top. Unfortunately the result was very anti-climatic, with all 3 snipers claiming they won the item! After some investigating I found out this is just due to how these sniping tools work, by actually logging in and placing the bid for you so all three registered the bid as being placed Which means I am now needlessly the owner of a Never Say Never Blu-ray. The things I do for my blog readers! But this actually does bring me to an important issue, and something that I did want to bring up in todays post. So far weve covered all the benefits of using a sniper; how they can make things easier for you, and most importantly how they can make you more profitable. So it wouldnt really be fair if I didnt mention some of the negatives, and our failed final test actually illustrates one of these points perfectly you have to give full access to your eBay account to the sniper. Yes, thats how it works they need both your eBay username and password to be able to place these bids. Of course it isnt an individual on the other side, this is all automated, but I can completely understand if this makes some of you feel uncomfortable, as I myself never like to give access to my eBay account to others. Though having said that, I havent really come across any mention of things going wrong in that way from using eBay snipers and the three weve covered today are all highly regarded and reputable services. And really that brings us to the end of todays post and our final question which of these three snipers do I recommend? Well lets go through them one by one. I can start off by eliminating Auction Sniper, for 3 main reasons: Problems with creating an account Inaccurate bid times Cost Point no. 1 I can easily overlook, point no. 2 is not ideal but wouldnt have been a deal breaker if other factors had made up for it. But my main issue is I dont see anything to justify paying for this service when comparing it to the other options. Maybe if I used them extensively I would start to notice some worthwhile differences but at this point I just dont and Auction Sniper actually performed worse than the free option Gixen Which leaves us Gixen and Goofbid and overall I would say its a tie in terms of the actual sniping process tool. They both did their jobs as advertised, they were easy to use, all snipes were editable and cancellable, they both kept a record of lost snipes, won snipes, and upcoming snipes, the bids were placed to within a second of accuracy etc. They just worked! Gixen wins out on simplicity and ease of use but Goofbid has a nicer design and some people might find the ads on Gixen too obtrusive. However, Gixen is FREE! Goofbid costs 2.99 a month and quite frankly, even if they were both free I would give a slight preference to Gixen, so its an easy decision: WINNER GIXEN. And there you have it Gixen is my current recommendation for the best free eBay auction sniper! I hope you found this post useful and for those of you who hadnt previously heard of snipers, I hope this gives you something to consider as we all know how important sourcing is in any business! Using a sniper should allow you to buy your products more efficiently and for less and that just means more money in your pocket at the end of the day. Its as simple as that. As always if you have any questions or just want my advice on anything mentioned in this post, then please dont hesitate to post below in the comments section and Ill personally get back to you within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. All the best, Andrew Weve been helping people be successful on eBay since 2006. You have always given an excellent service and I often recommend you to others. Thanks for helping me secure a washing machine. Thanks for years with a great service. The latest advice, help and tips to succeeding on eBay and our auction sniping tools. January 13, 2017 Read Article January 8, 2017 Read Article January 2, 2017 Read Article Give yourself the edge over other bidders and grab yourself a bargain with our FREE eBay tools! Take advantage of misspelt listings and bid on auctions that would be otherwise hard to find. See just what you can win in your sleep with our late night auction search or maybe take a punt on something as a last minute treat. With Goofbid you can win the items you want/desire for the prices that you deserve. Don't you just hate it when lose out on that eBay auction you have been keeping a close eye on recently? Make sure you never miss out again thanks to eBay auction sniping from Goofbid! By allowing us to snipe in the final few seconds of an auction gives you the best opportunity of winning without the added hassle and stress of entering a bidding war. Just tell us the auction's item ID, confirm and let us do the rest. Get started by clicking here Join the Goofbid newsletter for updates, developments and more! Your e-mail is safe with us! Privacy Statement Home Ebay, auctions, car boot sales, post & parcels We'd like to remind Forumites to please avoid political debate on the Forum... Read More This is to keep it a safe and useful space for MoneySaving discussions. Threads that are - or become - political in nature may be removed in line with the Forums rules. Thank you for your understanding. 1234567 This discussion has been closed. Meet your Ambassadors All Categories350.2K Banking & Borrowing252.8K Reduce Debt & Boost Income453.2K Spending & Discounts243.1K Work, Benefits & Business597.5K Mortgages, Homes & Bills176.5K Life & Family256.1K Travel & Transport1.5M Hobbies & Leisure16.1K Discuss & Feedback37.6K Read-Only Boards Scouring your favorite auction site and bidding on interesting items can get addictive. But we want to make it easier for you. That's why we created this list of the best eBay sniper tools on the market.This post focuses on online auction sniping and specifically helps you find the best eBay sniper service that suits your needs.A sniper works as an eBay bidding software that helps you win auctions by placing the highest bid for an eBay item in the final moments of the auction.So let's look at some of the best eBay auction sniper tools available. We'll then go a bit deeper into the overall bid sniper topic and end on our number 1 pick. Please enjoy!No time to waste?In that case we'll get right to the point and recommend BidSlammer. It's offers a free eBay sniper tool, PLUS an alert service to help you find rare items, an email manager, tracking and monitoring, and the customization options in the industry!Sign up today and start sniping for free Best eBay Sniper Tools: 9 Sniping Services To TryThere are many sniping services out there, the majority of them are inexpensive. When choosing a sniping service, the top things you want to look for are reputation, reliability, features, and cost.Most services are pretty close when it comes to features. The reputation part is obvious, youll be giving them your eBay password after all.Finally, they need to be reliable because theyll be in bidding wars on your behalf on tons of auctions in the last few seconds. If their reliability cant be trusted, might as well snipe manually.Price can be a big deal too. But the good news is that there are some great services that don't cost you anything at all.Best Free Ebay Sniper ToolsBidSlammerGixen JBidWatcherMyIBidderTry Bid Slammer For Free Right Here!The snipers listed above are powerful, reliable, and trustworthy (and I don't get anything for recommending them).These services work as a sort of freemium model. Their free plan is more than enough for the majority of users. If you're getting super serious, then you can take a look at the paid plans. But I doubt that you'll have to do that.If I had to recommend just one or two, I think that BidSlammer and Gixen users are the best two. Worst case scenario, you try them out for free, and you don't love them. You can try another bid sniper tool.Best Paid Ebay Sniper ToolsBidnappereSnipeEZSniperAuctionSniperGoofbid (UK primarily)Some popular Auction & Bid Sniper StrategiesBuy It NowBut It Now, also known as BIN is not a bidding wars strategy per se, as using buy it now circumvents the whole bidding process. Sellers may allow items to have a BIN price as an alternative to the auction. Once the first bid is placed on the auction, the BIN price disappears and its no longer possible to buy using BIN. BIN is generally advantageous if youve spotted an interesting item and do not wish to engage in it and wait for an auction to end. You must also be willing to pay the predetermined BIN price to the seller. This skips the auction and awards you the item. Its worth noting, however, that its generally hard to find bargain-priced BIN items for auctions that allow it, mainly because BIN doesnt really last long, so it may be a good idea to set up a saved eBay search that notifies you when new items matching your criteria appear so that you can jump in and hopefully claim them at BIN price before the auction starts.Bid NibblingThis is by far my least recommended strategy (though others may disagree) because its the most time consuming, nerve wrecking and it drives auction bidding prices up quickly. Bid nibbling is basically watching the auction and increasing your eBay bid occasionally, slightly above the current max bid to remain the highest bidder. People for this strategy argue that early nibbling activity in the auction by multiple bidders typically discourages a lot of non-serious bidders from jumping in because the auction looks intimidating and the price is going up fast early on in the auction (even though its still below market price, otherwise you wouldnt continue bidding). This increases your chances of getting the winning bid in the auction. On the other hand, people against the strategy argue that nibbling is a double-edged sword that may as well attract a lot of bidders due to the increased activity on the item. The social proof gets people interested and excited in an item they may have otherwise ignored.When they see other people actively bidding and seemingly fighting over the item, they decided they want to get a piece of the action.Proxy BiddingThis would be my second recommended bidding strategy after sniping. In fact, my most recommended strategy is kind of a hybrid between proxy bidding wars and bid sniping. Well get into sniping in the next section but in this one, lets focus on proxy bidding. Proxy bidding is actually a system placed by eBay to guarantee that the person willing to pay the most for an item wins the auction regardless of when they actually placed their bid. Its there to ensure the ecosystem remains fair for everyone. Lets illustrate proxy bidding with an example.Say we have two people bidding on an item, John and Jane. They could be watching the auction at the very same time and upping their bids accordingly. So John bids $10, Jane bids $10.5, John bids $11etc. All being done manually. Now that is called nibbling, we talked about it in the previous section above. What about proxy bidding then?Rather than watching the auction and responding manually to competing bids, eBay actually allows you to set a maximum auction price from the very beginning. So, for instance, say there's a new smartphone retailing at $999, with the current highest bid being $10 by John.Rather than bidding $10.5, Jane will set her maximum bid at $800. She knows that she can get that phone locally at $999, so she decides that the maximum shes willing to spend to acquire it through eBay (and still save quite a bit on it) is $800. So what happens now? Does the current bid increase to $800? Does Jane have to pay $800 now? No, not at all. The bid now jumps to $10.5, which is eBays bid increment for items with current bid price between $5 and $24.99. Bid increment increases as current bid price increases, heres a quick reference:$0.01$0.99 > $0.05$1.00$4.99 > $0.25$5.00$24.99 > $0.50$25.00$99.99 > $1.00$100.00$249.99 > $2.50$250.00$499.99 > $5.00$500.00$999.99 > $10.00$1,000.00$2,499.99 > $25.00$2,500.00$4,999.99 > $50.00$5,000.00 and up > $100.00 But then what?So eBays proxy will do automatic bidding for Jane. Itll bid the next least amount thatll allow Jane to outbid the winning bid without surpassing her maximum bid. Say John ups the bid to $11, then Janes proxy will start automatic bidding up it to $11.5. Itll continue doing that all on its own until one of two things happen:Either John (and other potential bidders) finally give up and Jane wins the auction (in which case she'd pay the current maximum bid, not HER maximum bid since it wasn't reached), or the bidding wars continue till someone (John or another bidder) eventually bids more than $800.When this happens, Janes proxy will stop automatic bidding and whoever bids above $800 will win the auction (providing they arent outbid by another bidder).So essentially, Janes proxy did all the dirty work for her while keeping her out of the picture. She could be sleeping or at work while the system continues bidding for her using predefined rules (her maximum bid).This is a professional bidding method and prevents her from getting emotional and bidding more than she's willing to pay for the item during a heated bidding war.So Proxy Bidding clearly has some attractive advantages.So, what are the disadvantages of Proxy Bidding? The main issue with proxy bidding is that it shows your hand early, to an extent. An item thats just sitting there with no bids can gain significant traction and bidders when you jump in with your maximum bid. This is because people will keep getting instantly outbid (by your proxy) and that may encourage and fuel bidding wars as the item gets more attention, quickly driving the bid up.This disadvantage is similar to the Bid Nibbling one. Increased activity on the listing youre interested in does not typically work in your favor if the goal is to win the item at the lowest possible price.eBay Bid SnipingThis is the strategy of choice (with a little twist) and Ill tell you why in a moment, but first, lets get into the mechanics of how it works. Its actually pretty ingenious and university studies in the United States including Yale have analyzed it in-depth.Sniping works by placing a single bid for an item just before an auction ends, usually just minutes or seconds before, in an attempt to quickly claim or snipe the auction.The theory here is that by placing a quick late bid seconds before the auction ends, you make it nearly impossible for other bidders to react to your bid, hence the winning bid in the auction. Before you strike the place bid button in the final few seconds, youre just lurking in the shadows, placing no bids at all. This helps you remain undetected by other bidders, meaning no more bidding wars which also does not add activity to the listing, so as not to potentially attract more bidders.But please keep in mind the limits of eBay snipingNotice that I started the last paragraph with the theory here? This is because, in theory, you should win almost every auction you snipe. Practically, though, that isnt the case. But wait, how would anyone else outbid you 3 seconds before the auction ends? Well, you mightve guessed the answer already. Thats right. A proxy. Recall when I said eBay strives to keep things fair? Now say someone is using proxy bidding and has set a maximum bid of $15 for an item, current bid is $11.5. 3 seconds (or 5 or 10) before the auction, you place your $12 bid and start celebrating, but then you discover that the celebration started a tad too early. You discover that you were outbid, and someone won the auction at $12.5. How? Why? Well, they had originally set a higher maximum bid than your own bid and were using proxy bidding, so when you placed your bid, the system instantly reacted and drove the bid up to outbid you, allowing them to claim the auction.Beware of Proxy BiddersSo even though you placed (what you thought) was the highest bid seconds before the auction ended, the system reacted and allowed someone else to win because they had a higher maximum bid. Recall when we said eBay wants the highest bidder to win, regardless of the time they placed their bid? This is how its done to keep things fair.So then what? If theres a chance someone can easily outbid you and win when sniping, then why snipe at all?Why Seek Out the Best eBay Sniper?As I mentioned earlier, even the best eBay auction sniper tool won't guarantee you win an auction, but there are certainly several advantages involved.There are general advantages to sniping that apply whether youre doing it manually or using a sniping service or software. Additionally, there are advantages to automated sniping services:Avoid unnecessary listing activityNot bidding early helps you avoid attracting non-serious bidders as well as no more bidding wars and nibblers.Less time consumingYou dont have to monitor the listing all day long and place bids accordingly, you can simply set an alarm or a timer and jump in right before the auction ends to place your bid.Minimal chance for other bidders to reactMany people dont place a maximum bid and choose to bid manually.Youd expect most people to do this by default, however, a lot of people dont.Instead, they place a bid, and then wait and see how the auction unfolds before deciding to place a second bid manually. Sniping, in that case, will not give them the chance to react after you place your bid right before the auction ends.Prevents shill biddingShill bidding is when a seller asks family members, friends, or uses another eBay account to bid on their own listing in an attempt to inflate the current bidding price.Sometimes theyd use this method to try and figure out your maximum bid (if youre using proxy bidding/automated bidding). Then they'll retract that bid and place one directly below your maximum bid, forcing you to win the auction at your maximum bid.While this rarely happens, it can, and sniping will not give an eBay seller the chance to use this shady practice.Human Error PreventionThings like trying to bid at the last moment while being logged out (and hence missing the auction).Or bidding an incorrect amount because youre rushing yourself. Or forgetting to bid entirely, or experiencing internet connectivity issues that lead to you losing the auction.All of these issues can be almost 100% prevented by using automated sniping software packages.Accurate up to the last secondSniping manually means you probably dont want to risk placing your bid in the last 5 seconds of the auction, because you can easily miss it.Automatic bid sniping services allow for more successful late bidding as you can accurately place bids 5 seconds or even less before the auction ends.Bid Sniping GroupsThis is a very interesting functionality that comes with most bid sniping services. Say you want to buy a new iPhone 8 and there are currently 50 running auctions for the iPhone 8.If you bid on them all, you risk winning multiple iPhone 8s, which is not what you want.Instead, by grouping all the iPhone 8 listings together, youre essentially telling the software that while you join multiple auctions, you only need to win one of those listings, not all.In that case, once you win a listing, the software cancels any plans to bid on further listings within this group. This group bidding significantly increases your chances of claiming an iPhone 8 at a great price.Is Bid Sniping Allowed on eBay?The short answer is yes, both sniping manually and sniping using automated software is allowed according to eBay rules. eBays own help center mentions this clearly.That said, eBay sellers typically hate sniping, but thats to be expected. A sellers goal on eBay is to sell their item at the highest possible price (check out this list of the best things to sell on eBay for great options), while the buyers goal is to get it at the lowest possible one. These are two mutually exclusive events, and hence it makes sense for a seller to hate sniping as it may hinder the seller from achieving their goal.This does not mean that sniping is illegal or unethical though, as like we said earlier, people could still easily outbid you by using eBays automated bidding and setting a higher maximum bid.Sniping does not force others into a disadvantageous position and does not earn the sniper an unfairly advantageous one.Because you could easily beat a sniper, and beating them does not depend on the speed at which you react to late biddings (which is what sniping does, helps you bid late). Beating them is as simple as bidding higher than them, at any point during the auction.How to Snipe ManuallyThere are basically two ways to snipe, either manually or using sniping software or services.It might seem like the obvious choice will always be the automated services, however, these services need your eBay username and password to operate correctly. If youre not comfortable sharing these details with a third-party, then automated sniping might not be for you.Your Step by Step Guide to Manual SnipingEnsure youre logged in to eBay before sniping, otherwise, you risk the auction ending before you can place your bid if you get held up logging in within the last few seconds before the auction ends.Locate the item you want to snipe. Make sure you add it to your watchlist or note down the auctions ending time and set an alarm 5-10 minutes before the auction ends.Decide how much youd be willing to spend on the item. Forget the current bid, simply decide how much the item is worth for you. If anyone else wins the auction by a higher bid, you don't have regrets as you didn't want to pay any more than the amount you had set your maximum bid to anyway.Make sure you do not place any early bids.Within the last minute of the auction, place your snipe bid. And thats it, youre done!The Verdict on Best eBay Sniper: My RecommendationI honestly dont see the point of recommending a paid service right off the bat. There are a few free tried and true ones that do a great job and tick the boxes Ive listed above.Additionally, these services also offer premium subscriptions for the super savvy snipers, but I feel that most casual snipers wont need those features.So my two recommendations are BidSlammer and Gixen. Their services are free, trusted, reliable, and come with all the essential features.Of course, feel free to do your own research and choose the service youre most comfortable with. And we also want to give an honorable mention to EZ Sniper.The free snipers are often fine for most people. Paid alternatives differ in pricing strategy, as some charge a monthly or yearly fee. While others charge a flat percentage of the value of the item you've won.But again, even if you intend on going the paid sniping tool route. I highly recommend you try out a free auction bid sniper first. We are an online service provider that helps you to place bid orders at the last moment before the auction on eBay is closed known as auction sniper. With our software application and powerful servers, you can setup the target items at any time and it will just snipe them for you. Just register and enjoy free snipe every week. It is free* and secured SSL registration. No download required. Bidding Has Never Been This Easy! REGISTER NOW! Save your time from bidding at the last seconds Increase your winning chance JustSnipe is the answer for your automated auction sniper tool. Join JustSnipe's eBay auction bid sniper program today and win your favorite auctions with ease. Our servers and automated sniping software ensure that your bids are placed at the last moment before the auction closes, giving you the best chance to win. And the best part? Our bidding tool is completely free to use! No software installation is required, and you don't even need to turn on your computer. Simply register for our service, log in to JustSnipe, and schedule your bids through your favorite Internet browser. *Not valid with any other offer. Limited time only. Some conditions apply. Only five bids allowed per week per user. JustSnipe.com and its owners. reserve the right to change the conditions of the offer and terminate the service without any notice. Recommended by PC Magazine issue May 10, 2005 So why wait? Join our eBay auction bid sniper program with JustSnipe today and start winning! Nearly everytime I use Myibidder.com I win the auction on EBay. It is extremely easy to use and I have it set to bid on the last 6 seconds and it bids. Then it writes to me via email to say that I have won. I bid on a set of headphones and I put my maximum bid at 34 and I won at 27. Really excellent service and I have no problem in recommending this serviceDate of experience: May 25, 2025Fantastic application. When I discovered this is how achieving glory is the best thing to get what one really wantsDate of experience: May 15, 2025I have successfully used this app for years now, very reliable and has never let me down. Date of experience: April 17, 2025Best app on App Store for Ebay never lets me down Date of experience: April 15, 2025Rock solid, no problems, works exactly as it should. I use it regularly and really appreciate what this does for us on eBay.Date of experience: March 22, 2025I have to say, I've been using this app for maaaaany years now and it has to be the most useful app that I have. At one time you could bid on a number of items but these days I think there is a charge if its more than 1 bid so, I only bid on one item at a time. There have been times when I'm at work or actually in bed sleeping but, honestly, if you use ebay, this app is a 'Must Have'. I guess I would like to use it for bidding on more items at once but because of the charges (very minimal I think), I just stick to one. If you app designers are reading this, it would be nice if it was free but, hey, no complaints from me. Great work, easy to use and above all reliable, so thank you all. Appreciate this app very much. :-)Date of experience: March 08, 2025Best app. Straightforward and effective Date of experience: February 24, 2025Super app! I have already won a lot of products at a great price. Thank you!!! Date of experience: January 31, 2025Won my item with ease, at a very low prie. Very pleased and recommended.Date of experience: January 14, 2025I've been using this service for years and it has saved me a LOT of time and money. I almost always have the winning bid.Date of experience: January 08, 2025Works flawlessly. Every time. Have been using it for years and it never fails. There is one small problem with the program: I win far too much stuff on ebay. Blaming the quality and ease of the program as my excuse to my wife, has not gone over well.Date of experience: December 23, 2024I have used myibidder for years with flawless results.Date of experience: December 02, 2024Most accurate app and helpful service. It literally changed my life years ago when I started deploying it. I often send small sums to them to show my appreciation, I hope youll do that too. Date of experience: November 25, 202490% of my business is to buy used equipment on eBay for resale on eBay. I have relied on Auction Bid Sniper for close to 10 years by now for thousands of auctions. The app is easy to understand and use, and it has been absolutely reliable in my experience. Date of experience: November 24, 2024Works! saved me a lot of money Date of experience: November 11, 2024Been a user for years, never a problem. I just bought a laptop and it feels good to sit and watch the bids in the last few seconds. I set my bid time for one second before the auction wins. Date of experience: November 07, 2024Super easy, excellent experience. It makes fun bididngDate of experience: November 05, 2024It's easy to understand how it works. Uploading eBay items is simple. The system is reliable. Date of experience: November 01, 2024Excellent app! Works perfectly! Nee using since Ive been with E- bay. Thank you! Grayson Date of experience: October 27, 2024I love this software. It just works flawlessly. Load it up, select an auction, set a max price, choose to turn the snipe on - and off you go. No bidding wars. Just off you go. I can easily set up loads of snipes and turn them on and off at will. Also set up groups where one or more auctions are set to win (and no more).Thank you Myibidder. You may have a strange name but you work so well Date of experience: October 05, 2024 Bid once, when it counts, at the end of the auction. And, your bid will only be raised enough to make you the high bidder. 1-Second Lead Time 100% accuracy guaranteed 3-2-WONTM Sniping (Triple-redundant snipes from geographically optimized locations) Bid Groups BidSlammer API Access Nearly everytime I use Myibidder.com I win the auction on EBay. It is extremely easy to use and I have it set to bid on the last 6 seconds and it bids. Then it writes to me via email to say that I have won. I bid on a set of headphones and I put my maximum bid at 34 and I won at 27. Really excellent service and I have no problem in recommending this serviceDate of experience: 25 May 2025Fantastic application. 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By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our