

Figures to the Max!



Disclaimers

- Please excuse my s****y photography skills
- Due to lack of time, hold ques & comments till end
 - Also, panel right after this ~.~;
- I have handouts & business cards with my contact info.
 - Blog & resources will be available online
 - Feel free to get one at any point of the panel

How/Where to Begin



Iskander/Broskander (Fate/Zero) M.M.S. Collection/MegaHouse



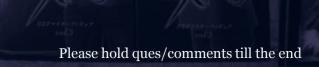
Kayneth & Waiver (Fate/Zero) Banpresto



Rider (Fate/Stay Night) Figma

- Talk to friends!
- Get figures from series you like
 - Easier to curtail your spending habits if you have specific characters you want
 - However, kami-sama forbid if you like OP, Type-Moon, Vocaloid, Jo Jo, Queen's Blade, etc.
 - THEY WILL BREAK YOU 🕾
- Browse around an import site
 - AmiAmi, HLJ, or Hobby Search
 - Follow their FB page/blog site
 - Esp. check out their sale section
- At first, would stick to import specific sites
 - Amazon & eBay present more pitfalls than anything else









- The bigger the figure, the more it costs (usually)
 - Isn't always necessarily true for the opposite
- On eBay: if everywhere else has a 1/7 or 1/8 scale figure listed as being ~\$120 & this *China based seller* has it listed for \$60 + free shipping, it's a bootleg
 - Amazon has this issue too but not as rampant
- For pre-orders, stick to import sites
 - Don't get a "pre-order" item from eBay
 - Still have to pay that \$\$\$ upfront
 - But you can w/ Amazon





Currency

- Currency
 - Move decimal point 2 places to the left (give approx. value in US \$)
 - ¥4500 = ~\$45.00
- Due to constantly fluctuating currency markets, item price can also fluctuate
 - So delaying paying for an item will affect how much you pay in the end for better/worse

Where to Buy



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Import Specific Sites

- Hobby Link Japan
- Hobby Search
- AmiAmi
- Big Bad Toy Store
- Toy Arena
- Play-Asia
- Image Anime
- Rakuten: Global Market
 - Buncha others but you really only need 2-3 sites

Before you start going "Hey, use this site..!"







- All sites have their pros, cons, & exclusive items
- In either case, always check multiple sites before committing to buying from one
 - Esp. w/ released figures
- W/ unfamiliar sites, check others' reviews of it to make sure it's legit
 - Can even use the BBB site to check for seller rating
- Should be common sense, but for pre-orders ask yourself if you'll have the \$\$\$ by the time it releases



- To cut down on shipping costs
 - Also, shipping time
- Places that sell figures
 - Anime Stuff Store
 - Anime Wild
 - Image Anime, etc.
- Usually can find <u>Image Anime</u> & <u>Anime Stuff Store</u> @ conventions (& many others)
 - However, some exclusively sell @ cons
- Ultimately, makes it easier to return items
 - Granted, you lose out on preordering (depending on the site)

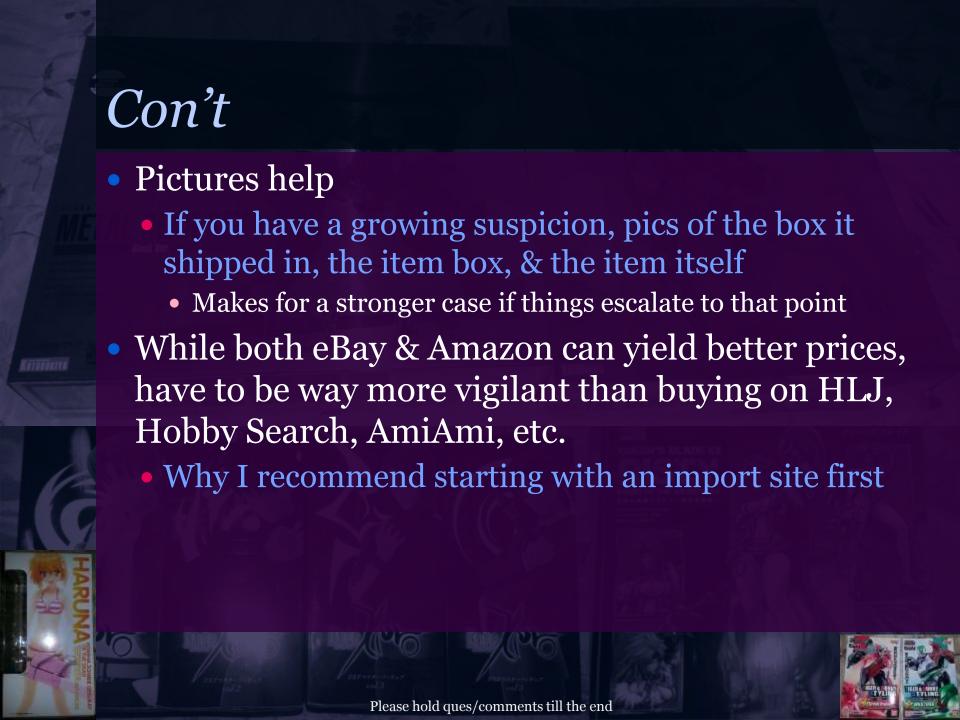


- Can give you far better prices than any import site
 - Esp. if released
- Guaranteed shipping costs upfront
- Better systems to deal with any possible issues
 - 'Cause you can @ get your \$\$\$ back most times
- Can find hard-to-get figures for not that much
 - Not always
- Can make it easier to network sellers to get certain hard-tofind figures for you
 - eBay
- Don't have to worry about fluctuating currency markets
- Competitive price market, so you can get lower prices than most import sites

In General...

For both:

- Read the *entire* listing
 - The description, info. on the seller, seller rating, percentile of positive feedback, how much feedback they have, when they opened shop, where they are located/shipping from, return policy (restocking fees/how long do you have to return it), *everything*
- Do this especially for eBay since it's the worse for having bootlegs
 - Amazon's better but they still have the same problem
- Be aware of window of time to file claims, who w/ (Paypal vs. site), etc.
 - Also, keep all emails w/ sellers if you're going to file a case



Product Lines, Makers, Sculptors, Oh My



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Examples of Each

- Product Line
 - Brave-Act, Figma, S.H. Figuarts, Revoltech Yamaguchi,
 Real Action Heroes, Movie Masterpiece, Nendoroid,
 Beach Queens, Ultra Detail Figure, etc.
- Maker/Manufacturer
 - Sentinel, MegaHouse, Bandai, Kaiyodo, FREEing, WAVE, Square-Enix, Banpresto, AmiAmi, Good Smile Racing, Gift, MAX Factory, Medicom Toy, etc.
- Sculptor
 - Koei Matsumoto, PULCHRA, Yuuki Ishiyama, Takayuki Shiragami, Touru Saegusa, Hajime Kouzuki, etc.



- Usually, the product line can help you attain a general idea of the price range
 - Can give you a better general price range more so than anything else
- Of course, still ultimately a crapshoot depending on supply & demand



For product lines:

- Higher end
 - Real Action Heroes, Movie Masterpiece
- 'Gray Area'/Craspshoot/Middle Ground
 - Beach Queens, *BRAVE-ACT
- Lower end (\$50 & under) usually
 - Revoltech Yamaguchi, Nendoroid, S.H. Figuarts, Figma, Ultra Detail Figure
- Again, nothing's set in stone, just on average

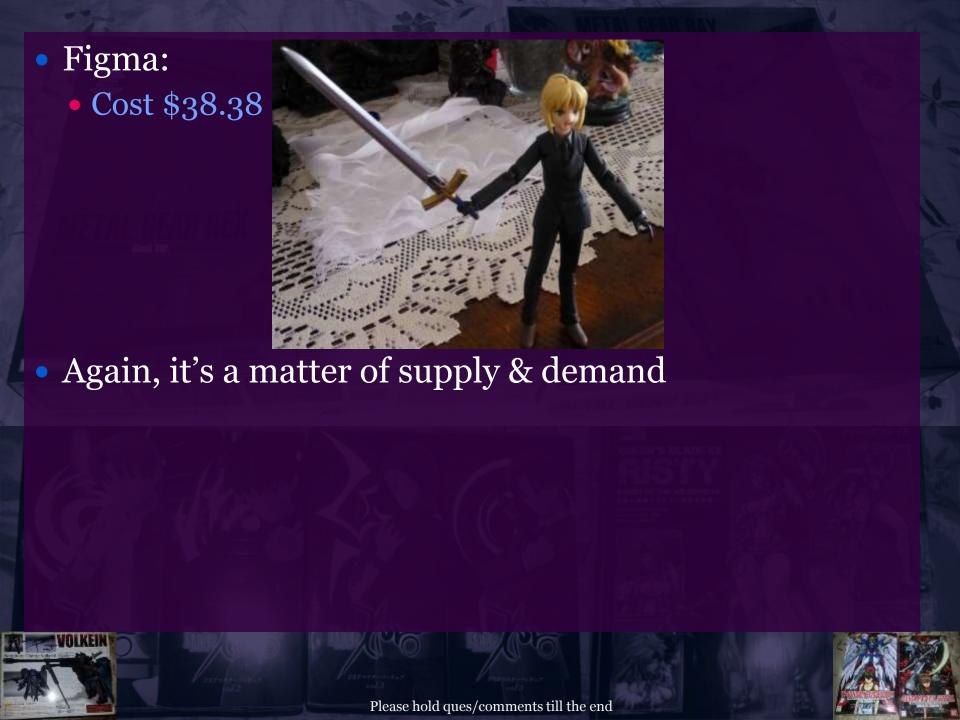
 Seriously, sometimes it's a total crapshoot with product lines & their prices

• Figma:

• Cost \$112.23



Clearly not my photography >.>



Tracking Figures & Other Mail Stuff



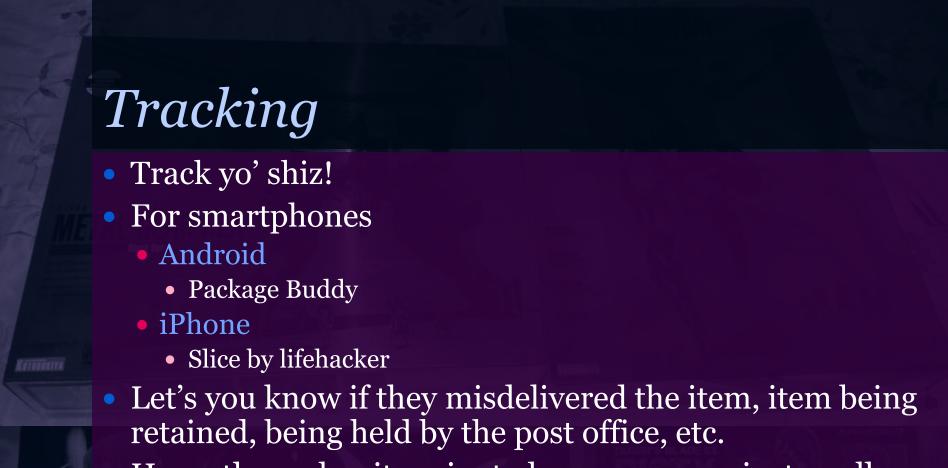
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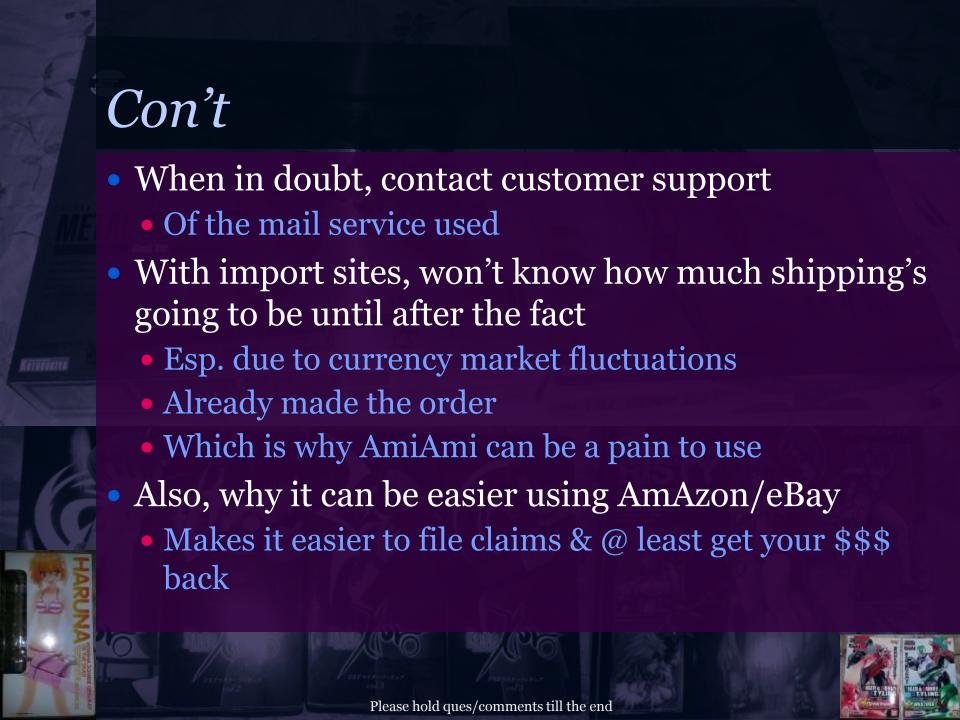
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- Honestly, makes it easier to have a case against a seller on eBay when they don't included shipping
- Esp. for eBay, although sometimes sellers don't have it readily obvious, can pay a little more for tracking info.



- Usually, shipping for any of the import sites I frequent is around \$15-35
 - Of course, depends on how much is being shipped & the weight
- EMS & FedEx take the least amount of time whereas SAL can take 2+ weeks
- Oftentimes, things can take long to ship, namely for SAL
 - EMS & FedEx, you can order Monday & have the item(s) by the end of the week
 - However, time of year can/will effect shipping times



Displaying & Storing Figures



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Shelving, Display Case, Book Case, etc.

- Depending on your living situations, one can be far better than the others
 - I wouldn't do shelving for an apartment/renting (depending)
 - Granted, can use command hooks which can (usually)
 be easily removed but are still very strong/long-lasting
- Display cases are good b/c they typically come with a light & will keep out the dust
 - However, can get your stuff custom made
- Book cases are good b/c figures can help you fill in empty space
 - ...that is, assuming you don't also collect art books >.>



- All of these things can be built by hand
 - In which case, Home Depot & Lowes are your friends
- Or can be bought relatively cheaply
 - If you don't mind the risk, can even try Craig's List
 - Ikea, Target, Wal-Mart, etc.
- Instead of these options, can also put things on various furnishings throughout your abode
- The better your figures are displayed, the less cleaning you're going to have to do in general



- Cool dry area
 - Or figures can "sweat"
- Not in direct sunlight
- Out of harm's way
- Not in a super crowded/hard to access room
 - i.e., hoarders situation
- In a light traffic area
 - God forbid you have a lot of ppl. running in & out the room
 - Or thieving relatives, roommates, friends, etc.

Cleaning



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- Q-tips
- Air blower lens cleaner
 - Available on Amazon for ~\$7
 - Or camera/sports stores
- Be careful, b/c if you manhandle some figures they'll break just to spite you X/





Fixing Figures



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- Super glue
- Epoxy
 - Can acquire @ comic book stores (besides Amazon/eBay)
- Depending on the material & thickness could try melting the pieces back together
 - Lolz, don't do that, that's just silly



- Panel available on my blog (link on handouts)
- I have business cards & other handouts upfront
 - Feel free to take one before you go
- E-mail me feedback/critiques, complaints, flaming,
 & pics/vids
 - The.codarl.ii@gmail.com

Packing & Moving Figures



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- Packing them up
 - Original box vs. regular packing box
- Keeping original box vs. throwing it away
- Why you might want to curtail how much you buy
 - Moving is a nightmare, fragile things make it infinitely worse X/
 - Why action pose 1/7 scale & bigger type figures can be a

pain in the butt

• & Gundams ~.~

Why all of these are going to be a pain in the arse to move





Get some of these...







<-Also helps to line the inside of the box with foam sheets

...layer it with these.









Staying Up-to-Date with Figure Releases



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- Figure collecting blogs/sites
 - Collection DX
 - My Figure Collection
 - Neko Magic
 - Etc.
- Always can subscribe to the newsletter of sites you frequent
 - HLJ, Hobby Search, AmiAmi, Play-Asia, etc.
- Ultimately, the Tokyo Wonder Festival showcases all the newest figures & ones to come
 - The best source for finding out the latest figure
 - Usually one of the import sites will have an article every time a show occurs w/ pics of all the latest figures







Sites like AmiAmi & Hobby Link have regular blogs & videos regularly going over the latest figure collecting news

- Also check out reviews of figures
 - Can also check out Anime News Network





GUNDAMS! (& ZOIDS)

I had more but >.>

Ones Stolen/Thrown Away















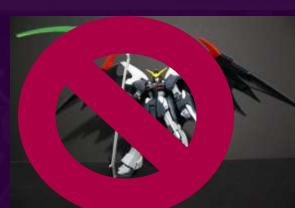
Ones Replaced









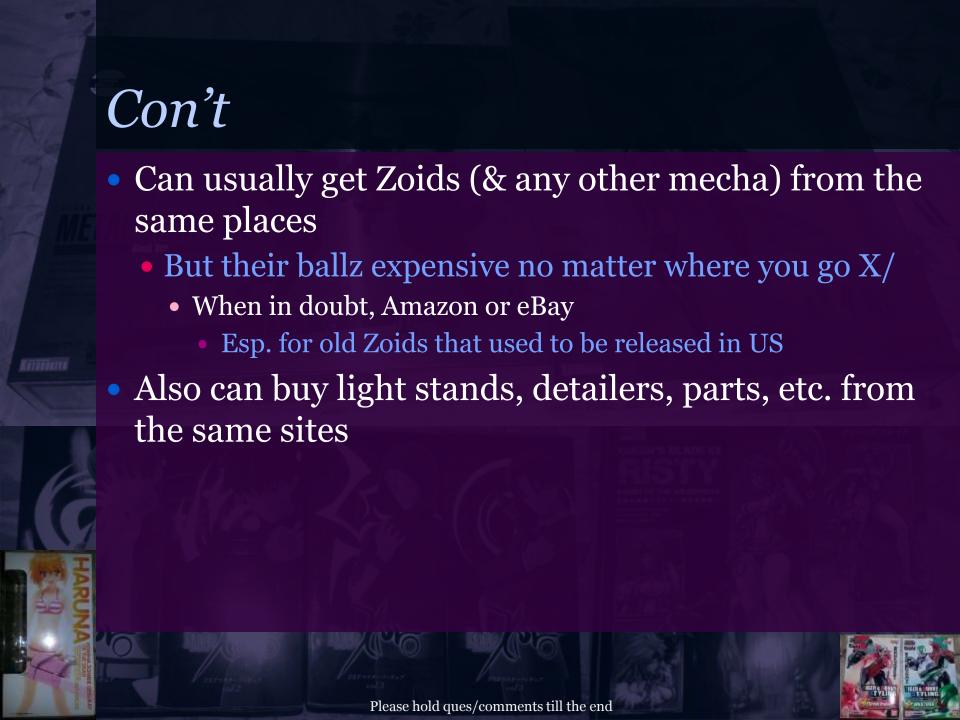


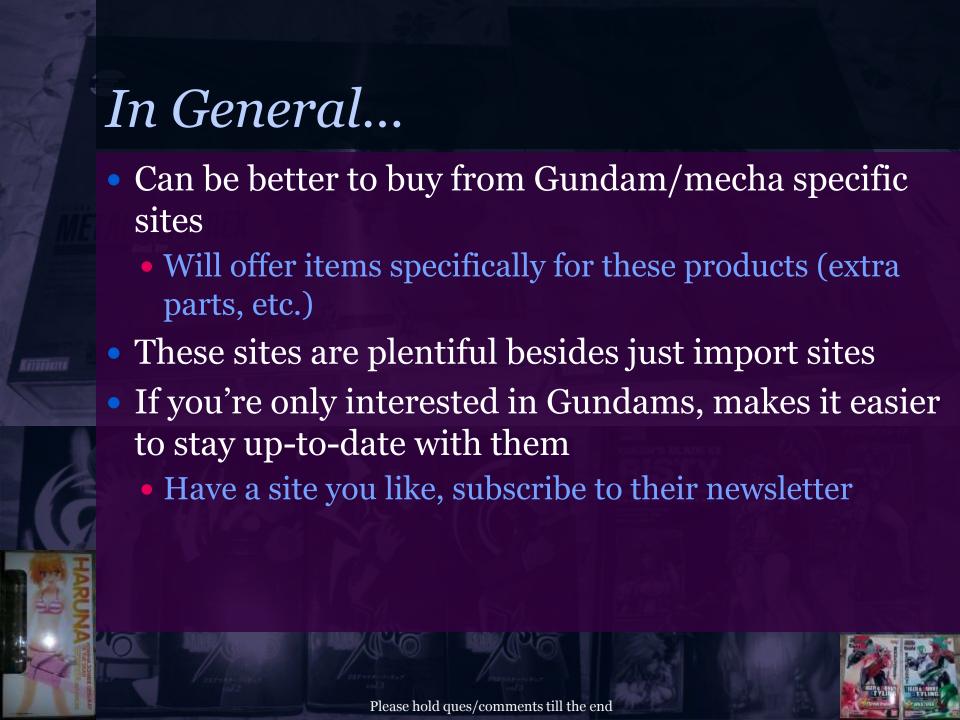






- GundamPlanet.com
- GundamStoreandMore.com
- Hobbywave.com
- Of course...
 - Amazon.com
 - Ebay.com





Pro Tips



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- Always research about a figurine before you buy it
 - So you know what it looks like & you don't wind up unknowingly buying a bootleg
- You should generally avoid buying figures before you know what they look like
 - Why I often avoid buying figures @ fan-ran conventions
 - Quick Google search on your smartphone/tablet/whatever should suffice

• Don't waste your time in the Dealer's Room at cons DRs are a crapshoot X/

- Either...
 - Overpriced or bootleg, take your pick
 - Think of it this way: *no* refunds & if the item's fake & you realize it post-con, tough s**t
 - Or you can get their business card & buy from them later (when not a con based seller)

• Or...

- Is a relatively good price that's the cheapest you may be able to find it
 - Like (Perfect Grade) Gundams & some Nendoroids
- May find some figures before they're officially released



- If you do venture to buy a figure from the DR, & it is a bootleg (*mofo told ya'so -_-*)
 - Report it to con security & try to get your \$\$\$ back from the dealer

- If you live on campus, have it shipped to your permanent address
 - Especially if you don't trust your roommates/living situation ~.~
 - In general, you don't want that many figures moonlighting in your dorm room
 - Even if it is a single
 - Makes moving a pain
- If you're buying from a site for the first time, make sure it at least offers Paypal as an option
 - Better than no protection at all
 - Internet condoms XD



- On eBay, don't never buy from China based sellers
 - Their idea of shipping something is to put a trash bag inside another trash bag & slap a shipping label on it (trash-ception) *or* it's a bootleg, take your pick
- Usually costs more to ship it back than it did to buy it in the case of returning it
 - Although eBay has better policies now to deal with shipping issues than when I ran into this nightmare
- Depending on your situation, invest in a PO Box
 - Granted, not every site delivers to a PO Box

- Seller told me *after* the fact that the item was most likely going to arrive broken }-|
 - Freakin' lessons learned...
 - Only minor scratches in the paint job & a broken hair piece, but you don't drop \$140+ to have problems















- If you're struggling to find space to display figures,
 STAHP
 - God forbid if you have a slip/fall incident in a room like this:



- Keep yo' s**t together; there really is no street cred for having way too many figures than what you can afford
- On a similar note, living beyond your means
 - If you can't afford that \$200+ figure, so be it, don't skip out on rent for a figure that can wait
 - Usually, it will be there 1 month, 1 yr., etc. when you actually have the \$\$\$

Miscellaneous



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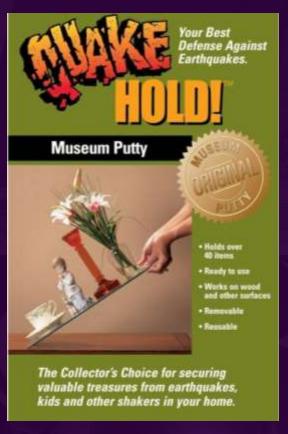
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- Release date
- Series/characters
- Item code
- Buying used
 - AmiAmi sells used figures
 - Can get some off eBay
- Big figures vs. smaller figures
 - More detail vs. easier to fit in places
- Figure poses
 - Action, standing/sitting, etc.
- Etsy & Artist's Alley figures
- Proxy buying
- Generic stands
 - Amazon & import sites

- Backorder, pre-order, tentative preorder, sold out, special releases
- Quake glue/museum wax



Around \$4-\$10 on Amazon





- If you need till next paycheck to pay for an item...
 - Reply to the payment request & see if you can get some more time
 - Don't expect mercy from AmiAmi; HLJ on the other hand...

 Make a spreadsheet that lists out all the preorders you've made

• (Like this)

B	4 A	В	C	D	E.	F	6	H	1	1	K	L
1 2				Pre-Order \$	SS Manage	ment						
3	Item	Site	Date to Be Released	Cost (¥)	Cost (5)	Approx. Shipping	Total			Overall Total for Mon	th	
	Crimson Spell,		Authorities		111.717.4	District Control of the Control of t				I CONTROL CONTROL		
4	-	Amazon	8-Apr-14		\$10.25		\$10.25			Januray	N/A	
	JoJo's Bizarre Adventure: All- Star Battle -											
5		Amazon	29-Apr-14		\$49.99		\$49.99			February	N/A	
6	Metal Gear RAY	HLI	APR Release	¥6,720.00	\$68.00	\$15.00	\$83.00			March	N/A	
.7	Figma Caska	HU	APR Release	¥3,695.00		\$15.00	\$15.00			April	\$158.24	
	of the Shinsengumi	Amazon	6-May-14		\$49.99		\$49.99			May	\$110.99	
9	Figma Eren	HLI	May Release	14,571.00	\$46.00	\$15.00	\$61.00			June	\$326.97	
1	SnK: Limited edition	Amazon	3-Jun-14		\$62.98		\$62.98			July	\$260.00	
١,	Xblaze Code:Embryo - L PlayStation 3	Amazon	24-Jun-14		\$39.99		\$39.99			August		
	REX Black ver.	HLI	June Release	¥6,560.00	\$66.00	\$15.00	\$81.00			September	\$220.99	
	Racing Miku 2013 & Beach Queens Illya	AmiAmi	Late June 2014		\$118.00		\$143.00			October	\$89.00	
1	Senbonzakura Hatsune Miku & Wagaya no Uliana-san	AmiAmi	Late July 2014	¥22,860.00	\$230.00	\$30.00	\$260.00			November		
		2000	200000000000000000000000000000000000000		#10 pp		****			amine process		
1	Beach Queens	Amazon	2-5ep-14		\$39.99		\$39.99			December		
15	Caster & Saber	HLJ	September Release	¥9,000.00	\$91.00	\$25.00	\$116.00					
31	BEACH QUEENS Kill la Kill: P Ryuko Matoi	AmiAmi	Late September 2014	¥4,980.00	\$50.00	\$15.00	\$65.00					
	1000		The second second	34,788.00	yara.00	923.00	905.00	_				
100	No. of Street 1	THREE !	and a							-		





 May want to do something like this in general for managing finances, but that's on you

• Did it in Excel

*Again, you don't want to go in debt for some figures

			•		
	4	А	В	С	
	55				
	56	Original Amount		2/21/2014	
	57				
	58				
		Amount to Be Paid	Place		
		\$22.64	Amazon		
1		\$43.00	Primarily scarves		
		\$41.90	eBay		
		\$64.00	Verizon		
	64	\$50.00	Discover		
	65				
	66				
	67				
	68				
J	69				
	70				
	71				
	72		Total =		
	73				
		Original Amount		2/21/2014	
	75	:			
	76				
١		Amount to Be Paid			
		\$60.00	Discover		
		\$297.62	AmiAmi		
		\$34.58	Verizon		
		\$35.37	еВау		
		\$7.00	Etsy		
	83	\$18.00	Fund food		
	84				
	85				
(86				
	86 87				
	86 87 88				
	86 87		Total =		

Pitfalls, Issues, & 1st World Problems



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- Shipping issues
 - Damaged in shipping, taking forever to deliver, missed it's scheduled delivery date, etc.
- The item being damaged
 - Either during shipping, appears mishandled, or you're just a klutz
- Keeping the original box vs. throwing it away
 - You're going to need just as much space storing the figure box as the figures themselves

- Bootleg item
 - Contact seller, open a case, try to get a full refund, potentially need to contact your bank, etc.
 - Always contact the seller first
- Don't buy from China...but you can buy from Hong Kong(?)
 - This amuses me to no end
 - For noobs, just don't buy from anywhere in China
- Sometimes figures are just poorly made



- Cancellations (pre-orders)
 - In general, try to avoid it
 - Best practice: if you're on shaky grounds financially/you don't know what you're finances are going to be around the time the item's released, *don't pre-order it*
 - Most sites have strict policies with (not) cancelling pre-orders (at least once they're available), just don't pre-order it
 - Sites like AmiAmi have sticks up the butt about this; why sometimes it's just better to wait
 - Most import sites will have issues with cancelling after the order is ready to be paid
 - Esp. if done frequently

- Try asking for an extension
 - Did this w/ HLJ, was allowed to pay my next paycheck
 - Same w/ Hobby Search
- I wouldn't do this w/ my first few purchases, but as you build up more of a report w/ them
- Legs bending

Si tengo el tiempo...

What I Own, On their way, & Pre-ordered



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Lastly...

What happens when you have too much of the

figures:













- Help yourself to my business cards & handouts with appropriate links
 - Includes links to my blog, my e-mail address, & list of resources
- If you have any questions, comments, feedback, etc., contact me however
 - E-mail form on my blog, e-mail, comment on a relating blog post, smoke signals, carrier pigeons, whatever tickles your fancy
- If you really enjoyed this panel, would super appreciate if you mention so at any of the feedback sessions or on the forums post-con
 - It's not like I care or anything >.>



- Final Fantasy: Love It or Hate It, They Still Have All Your \$\$\$
 - Friday, 12:30PM 2PM, Panel 1
- Figures to the Max!
 - *Friday*, *5PM 6PM*, *Panel* 4
- Valkyria Chronicles: A Love Story, A War & Some Snipers
 - Friday, 6PM 7:30PM, Panel 3
- Defaming the Sacred: Critical Looks at Popular & Classic Anime
 - Friday, 9PM 10:30PM, Panel 4



- Bleach: Shunpou Edition
 - Saturday, 12AM 1AM, Cosplay Track Room
- Yaoi & Bara Tropes & Trends 3 Bigger, Longer and Harder, MOTTO!!
 - Saturday, 1:30AM 2:30AM, Cosplay Track Room
- How to Become a Quality Panelist
 - Sunday, 12PM 1PM, Panel 1
- Let's Go to "The World": A Panel About the .hack// Games
 - Sunday, 2PM 3:30PM, Panel 3





Thanks for Coming~!

Have a great con >.<