

How to Instantly Boost Traffic and Sales for Just Pennies!

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**By Angela Wu**

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Good thing you don't have to be rich to make it work for you. Pay-per-click search engines are one of the best ways to get targeted traffic to your site – and for just a few pennies, too. I'm usually pretty cheap when it comes to paying for advertising ... but this is one place where I'm happy to make the investment.

PPC SEs such as GoTo.com , the largest and best-known of them, allow you to 'bid' on certain search terms. Listings for each search term are displayed in order of highest bid first. You literally 'pay' for your search rank!

Some advantages of PPC SEs include:

== No fiddling with META tags, keyword density, and all that other stuff that goes with search engine optimization. If you've ever played with this stuff, you'll know how frustrating it can be to get a good listing – and then KEEP it! With PPC SEs, you simply buy your way to a better position.

== It's fast! Most PPC SEs will review your listings and make them available within just a few days. Compare this to the regular search engines, where it can take MONTHS to get listed – if you get listed at all!

== It's 'pay for performance'. You only pay the amount you bid when someone clicks on your link. And because

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your visitor comes to your site after finding it from a relevant list of search results, he or she is a \*targeted\* visitor – exactly what you want! Compare this to regular search engines, which give you the option to pay a fee for an 'express review' ... a review that most often \*doesn't\* guarantee a listing.

PPC SEs are a great way to get targeted traffic, quickly. Here are a few pointers on how to work effectively with them:

== Don't obsess about being #1. If you can afford to be on

the first page, that's great ... but remember that you only pay for clicks – even if you're on page 10 and you only get a few clicks each month.

== Track everything. Different PPC SEs will give you different 'quality' clicks. Use a commercial ad tracking program so that you know exactly what works.

== Choose multi-word search terms. For example, instead of 'jewelry', choose 'handcrafted jewelry'. Single word search terms are hyper-competitive. Translation: they cost too much.

== Send visitors directly to a sales page. Instead of listing your home page, where you may offer dozens of choices, list a specific page on your site that is designed to get the visitor to do one thing – whether that's buy something, download a free trial, or subscribe to your newsletter. You're paying for clicks, after all, and you don't want to 'waste' them on a page that doesn't convert visitors into customers.

== Bid only on relevant search terms. This almost goes without saying ... you're paying for clicks, so make sure you're paying for QUALITY clicks.

There are also loads of tools freely available online to help you maximize the effectiveness of your PPC SE campaign. One good place to start for more information is <http://www.payperclicksearchengines.com/>.

Yes, PPC SEs cost money. But if you could consistently

make a profit on your investment, wouldn't you? Remember that it's not how much it COSTS that matters ... it's how much PROFIT you earn in return. Happy bidding!

Angela Wu is the editor of Online Business Basics, an exclusive newsletter for eBusiness beginners. Find out how you too can join the thousands quietly earning a living online:  
<http://www.onlinebusinessbasics.com/article.html>

## **Is Your Internet Business Ready for Holiday Shoppers?**

**By Angela Wu**

### **Is Your Internet Business Ready for Holiday Shoppers? by Angela Wu**

Okay, I confess: I can be a terrible procrastinator when it comes to shopping for the holidays. I don't much like fighting my way through crowded shopping malls. So, instead, I'm ready – even willing – to surf the web looking for the perfect gift.

And I'm not the only one. According to one article from Internet.com, experienced web buyers found online shopping more satisfactory than traditional 'brick-and-mortar' stores or catalog shopping.\*\*

It seems that Internet shopping is poised to become bigger each year. By preparing your online business for the throng of holiday shoppers, you too can pick up additional sales, both from new customers and from repeat business. Here are a few tips to help your business make the most of the holiday season ...

== Offer discounts and specials – free shipping, bonus gifts, whatever's appropriate for your business. Display these offers prominently on your website and make sure the ordering process is simple and obvious.

== Use your customer list! Email a special offer directly to previous customers and newsletter subscribers. They already know you and conversion rates are much higher than for first-time visitors.

== Redo your pay-per-click campaigns. Provided that your bids will still give you a reasonable return, bid on select holiday or gift-related key phrases to boost

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your visibility to holiday shoppers. Read the article, "How to Instantly Boost Traffic and Sales for Just Pennies!" for more on pay-per-click search engines. <http://onlinebusinessbasics.com/articles/payperclick.html>

== Encourage referrals. Put up a 'Tell a friend' button or script on your site so that visitors can let their friends know about your great holiday offer. Or offer a coupon and invite the customer to 'share' it with a friend. More on encouraging referral business is

available in the article, "Building a Referral-Friendly Business": <http://onlinebusinessbasics.com/articles/referrals.html>

== Send out a holiday-related press release. For instance, people love to hear heartwarming stories and acts of charity, particularly during the holiday season.

== Write holiday articles or stories that relate to your product or service. Distribute the article and encourage others to pass it on. At the end of the article, leave a small link or blurb about your business and the current holiday specials.

Sometimes all it takes is a few minutes' work to grab the attention of eager holiday shoppers! Have a safe, happy, and prosperous holiday season.

Angela is the editor of Online Business Basics, an exclusive newsletter for eBusiness beginners. Every issue is packed with helpful tips and useful tools, specially selected to fit a beginner's shoestring budget. Visit her online today at <http://onlinebusinessbasics.com/article.html> OR <mailto:businessbasics@workyourleads.com> for a series of 10 free reports on building a business on the web.

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