PHP BID 2.0

User Manual

Installation, configuration and daily use of the PHP Bid auction software: the website, the members area and the admin panel.

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phpbid.com

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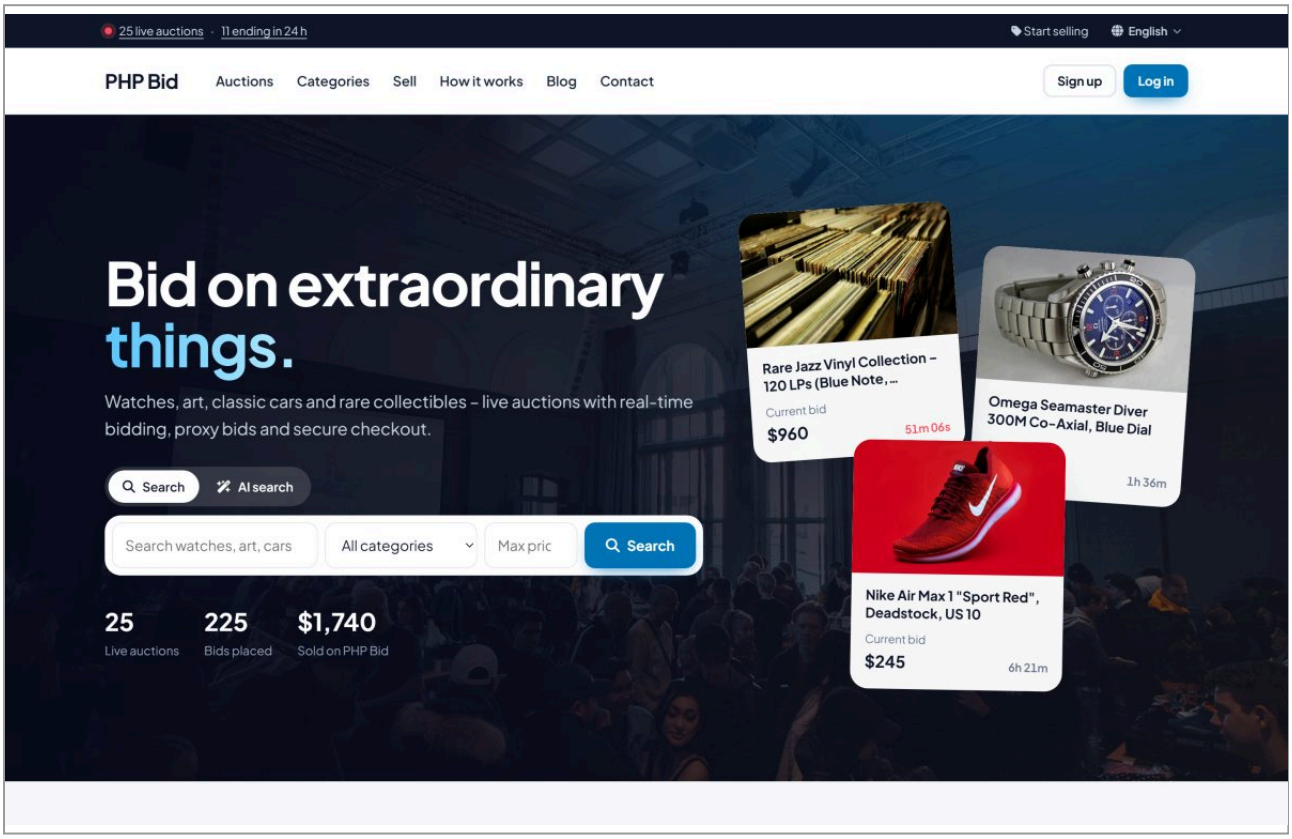
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CHAPTER 1 · GETTING STARTED

Introduction to PHP Bid

PHP Bid is a self-hosted auction script written in plain PHP and MySQL. With it you run your own online auction marketplace - like a small eBay for your niche - on your own domain, with your own rules and your own fees.



PHP Bid 2.0: the auction website, the members area and the admin panel.

What you can build with PHP Bid

PHP Bid gives you a complete auction marketplace out of the box. Typical uses are:

- **A niche marketplace** where members sell to each other - watches, collectibles, vintage cars, art, coins, sneakers, electronics.
- **An auction house** that puts its own lots online, with reserve prices, buyer's premium and scheduled sales.
- **A charity or school auction** run for a few days a year.
- **A B2B surplus or liquidation platform** that sells stock with fixed prices, offers and bulk CSV import.

Because you get the full PHP source code, an agency can also use PHP Bid as the base for client projects and change anything.

The three parts of PHP Bid

This manual follows the structure of the software:

Part	Who uses it	What it does
The website (front end)	Visitors, bidders, buyers	Home page, categories, search with filters and AI search, auction pages with live bidding, Buy it now, offers, questions, blog, FAQ and contact pages.
The members area	Registered buyers and sellers	One account for buying and selling: bids, won items, watchlist, saved searches, listing items with the AI assistant, CSV import, sales, shipping, offers, messages, invoices and feedback.
The admin panel	You and your staff	Auctions and approval, categories and category fields, moderation, sales, invoices, members, website pages, blog, templates, every setting, payments, AI and administrator permissions.

Main features at a glance

- **Two ways to bid:** exact bids ("bid this amount") and automatic proxy bidding up to a secret maximum. See Bidding.
- **Auction formats:** classic auctions, reserve price, Buy it now during the auction, fixed price items, Make an offer, scheduled start dates and anti-sniping extensions.
- **AI built in:** listing assistant with price estimate, description writer, AI search, "Ask AI about this lot", AI moderation and translation. See AI settings.
- **Money:** seller commission, buyer's premium, listing fees and featured listing fees, invoiced automatically and paid by Stripe, PayPal or bank transfer. See Earning money with PHP Bid.
- **VAT and shipping:** VAT rates per item and on the fees, several shipping methods per item.
- **Trust and safety:** listing approval, banned words, "Report this listing", seller ratings and feedback, questions and answers.
- **Design:** 8 templates, your logo and colours, mobile-friendly pages, multi-language website and search engine friendly URLs.

How to read this manual

If you are installing PHP Bid for the first time, read Requirements and installation and First steps after installation, then go through the configuration chapters. The chapters about the website and the members area are useful when you explain the site to your members or write your own help pages.

> **Try it first:** the live demo shows the website, the members area (as a buyer and as a seller) and the admin panel with demo data, so you can follow this manual step by step.

CHAPTER 2 · GETTING STARTED

Requirements and installation

PHP Bid runs on any ordinary PHP hosting account. The installation takes about ten minutes: upload the files, create a database, import one SQL file and enter the database details in config.php.

Server requirements

Component	Requirement
PHP	7.4 or newer (tested up to PHP 8.2), with the extensions `pdo_mysql`, `mbstring`, `curl` and `gd`.
Database	MySQL 5.7+ or MariaDB 10.3+.
Web server	Apache with `mod_rewrite` (for the search engine friendly URLs - optional). Nginx and LiteSpeed also work.
HTTPS	Strongly recommended, and required by Stripe for live payments.
E-mail	The PHP `mail()` function must be able to send e-mails (it can on almost every hosting).

Almost every shared hosting plan with cPanel, Plesk or DirectAdmin meets these requirements.

Step 1 - Upload the files

Unzip the PHP Bid package on your computer and upload the content of the `PHPBid` folder to your hosting with an FTP program (FileZilla, WinSCP) or the file manager of your hosting panel. Upload it to the web root of your domain (often `public_html`) or to a sub-folder such as `/auctions`.

Step 2 - Create the database

1. In your hosting panel open **MySQL Databases** and create a new database, for example `mysite_phpbid`.
2. Create a database user with a strong password and give it **all privileges** on the new database.
3. Open **phpMyAdmin**, select the database, click **Import** and import the file `database/install.sql` from the package.

The SQL file creates all the tables with the prefix `phpbid_` and adds demo categories, auctions and pages, so you can see the site working immediately. You can delete the demo content later from the admin panel.

Step 3 - Edit config.php

Open `config.php` in the main folder with a text editor and enter your details:

```
$DOMAIN_NAME="www.yourdomain.com";

$DBHost="localhost";
$DBUser="your_database_user";
$DBPass="your_database_password";
$DBName="your_database_name";
$DBprefix="phpbid_";

$DEBUG_MODE=false;

$SECURITY_SALT="change-this-to-a-long-random-text";
```

- **$DOMAIN_NAME** - your domain, without `http://`. If you installed in a sub-folder, add it: `www.yourdomain.com/auctions`.
- **$DBHost** - almost always `localhost`.
- **$SECURITY_SALT** - replace it with a long random text (40+ characters). It protects the sessions, forms and the cron link. Set it once and do not change it later.
- **$DEBUG_MODE** - keep it `false` on a live website. Set it to `true` only for a short time if you need to see PHP error messages.

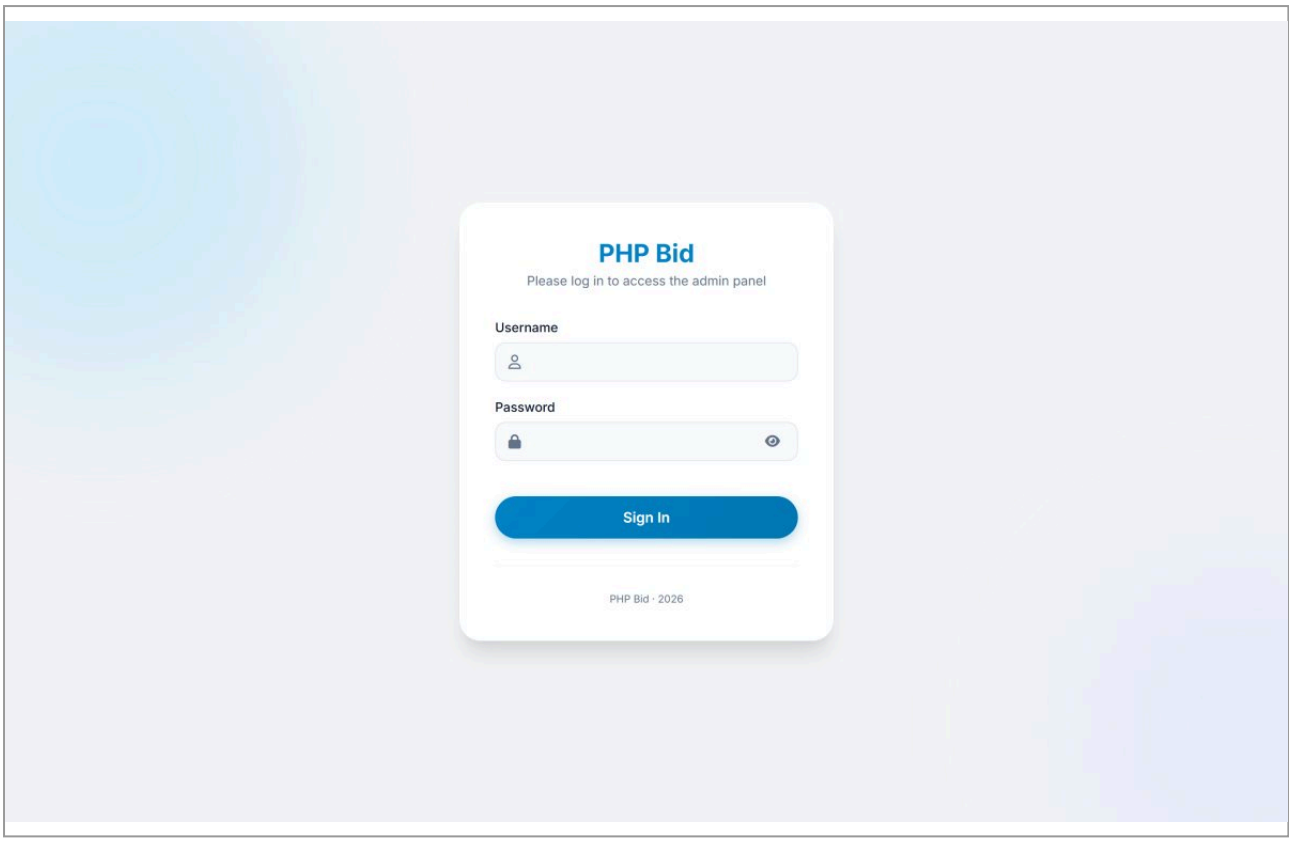
Step 4 - Folder permissions

The folders `uploaded_images` and `thumbnails` must be writable by PHP, because the photos of the items, the logo and the blog images are saved there. On most hosting accounts they are writable already; if uploads fail, set them to `755` (or `775`) in your FTP program.

Step 5 - Log in to the admin panel

Open `https://www.yourdomain.com/ADMIN/` and log in with the default administrator account:

- Username: `administrator`
- Password: `abc123`



The login page of the admin panel.

> **Change the password now:** go to **Home › Change Password** and set a strong password before your site goes public. See Admin login and dashboard.

Search engine friendly URLs

The package includes an `.htaccess` file with the rewrite rules for short URLs like `/en-auction-rolex-submariner-7`. Upload it together with the other files (it is a hidden file, so make sure your FTP program shows hidden files). Then turn the URLs on in **Settings › Configuration Options › Languages & URLs**. See SEO, tracking and social media.

Moving to another server later

Copy all the files, export the database with phpMyAdmin and import it on the new server, then update the database details (and the domain, if it changed) in `config.php`. Keep the same `$SECURITY_SALT`.

CHAPTER 3 · GETTING STARTED

First steps after installation

Follow this checklist once after the installation. In about an hour your auction website has your name, your design, your categories and your rules, and is ready for the first real listing.

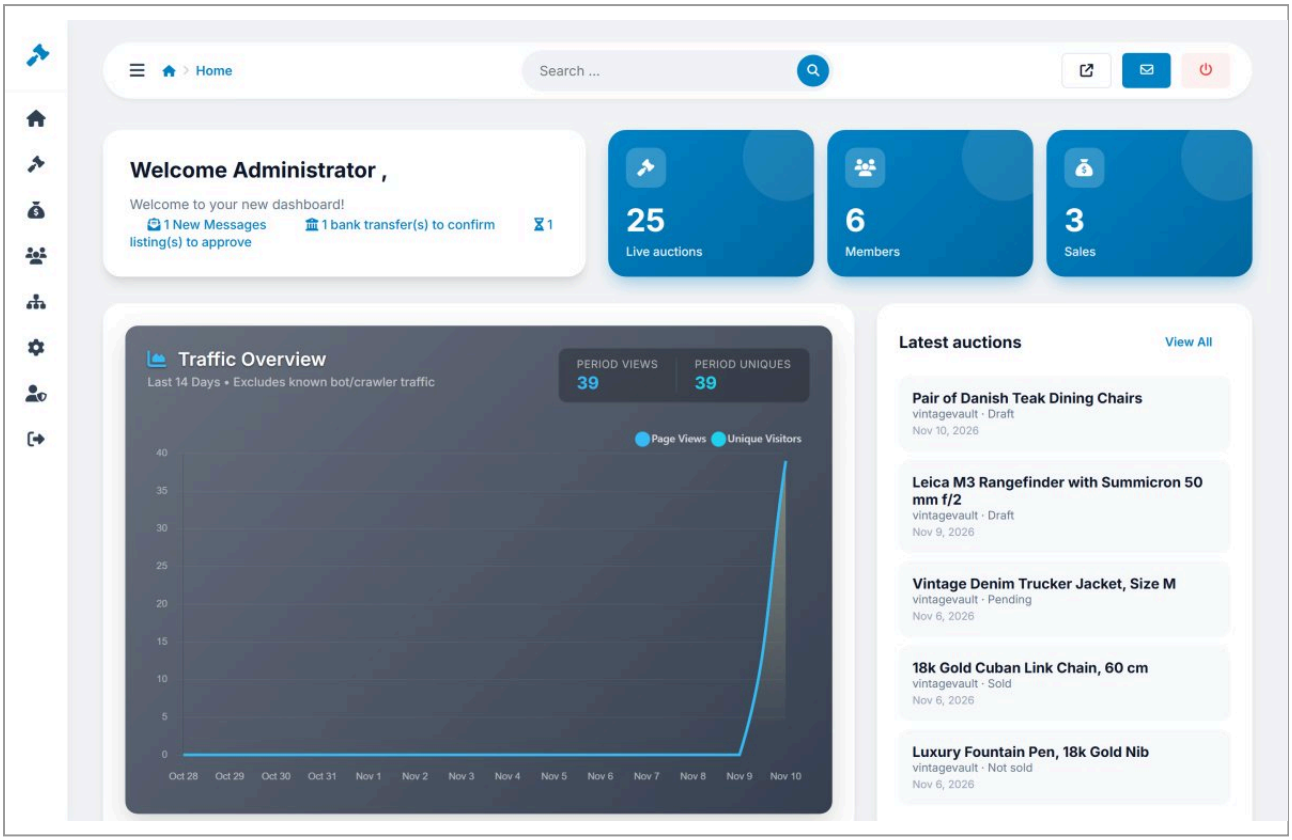
The launch checklist

1. **Change the admin password** - *Home › Change Password*. Add more administrators later in Admin users and permissions.
2. **Enter your website details** - name, tagline, contact e-mail, address and time zone in General settings. The time zone matters: auctions end by this clock.
3. **Choose a template and upload your logo** - Templates, logo and interface texts. Pick the colours in *Configuration Options › Design*.
4. **Set up your categories** - rename, add or delete the demo categories and add category fields (brand, size, year...). See Categories and category fields.
5. **Decide the auction rules** - can members sell, must listings be approved, durations, bid increments, anti-sniping. See Auction rules.
6. **Set your fees and currency** - commission, buyer's premium, listing and featured fees. See Currency and fees.
7. **Configure VAT and shipping** if you sell to consumers in a VAT country. See VAT and shipping.
8. **Connect the payments** - Stripe, PayPal and/or bank transfer for the invoices of the website. See Payment gateways.
9. **Turn on the AI** - add a free Groq key or an OpenAI/DeepSeek key. See AI settings.
10. **Edit the pages** - About us, Terms & Conditions, Privacy Policy, How it works and FAQ. See Pages and blog.
11. **Delete the demo content** - demo auctions, members, blog posts and messages.
12. **Test everything** - register a test buyer and a test seller, list an item, bid, win, pay and leave feedback.

Demo data

The installation includes demo members, auctions, bids, sales and blog posts so you can see every screen with real-looking content. The demo members are `buyer@demo.com` and `seller@demo.com` with the password `Demo123!`. Delete them, or change their passwords, before you launch: *Members › All members*.

Where things are in the admin panel



The dashboard of the admin panel. The menu on the left gives access to every module.

Menu	What you find there
Home	Dashboard, contact messages, admin login logs, change password.
Auctions	All auctions, pending approval, add auction, bids, questions, offers, reported listings, CSV import, categories.
Sales	All sales, awaiting payment, to ship, shipped, completed, cancelled, invoices & payments, feedback.
Members	All members, newsletter subscribers, member messages.
Website	Pages, news (blog), logo & favicon, templates, interface texts, advertisements.
Settings	Configuration options, payments, AI settings, tracking codes, social media, language versions.
Admin Users	Administrators, groups and permissions.

CHAPTER 4 · GETTING STARTED

Files, folders and customization

PHP Bid is written in plain, readable PHP without a framework, so a web developer can change any part of it. This chapter shows where everything lives.

The main folders

Folder / file	Content
`config.php`	Database details, domain, security salt and debug mode.
`index.php`	The entry point of the website. Every page of the front end goes through it.
`extensions/`	The pages of the website: `home.php`, `auctions.php` (search), `auction.php` (auction page), `categories.php`, `sell.php`, `login.php`, `register.php`, `news.php` (blog), `faq.php`, `contact.php`, `seller.php` (seller profile). Files ending in `_tag.php` are small widgets used inside the templates.
`templates/`	The 8 website templates (Modern, Atelier, Bazaar, Boutique, Gallery, Heritage, Midnight, Pulse). Each has its HTML layout, CSS and JavaScript.
`USERS/`	The members area: buying (`bids/`), selling (`selling/`), messages, billing, profile.
`ADMIN/`	The admin panel, one sub-folder per menu (`auctions/`, `sales/`, `members/`, `site_management/`, `settings/`, `user_groups/`).
`include/`	The core classes: `Auction.class.php` (search, bidding, sales), `Payments.class.php` (invoices, Stripe, PayPal), `Offers`, `Messages`, `CategoryFields`, `CsvImport`, `AIClient`, the AJAX handlers and `cron.php`.
`languages/`	The texts of the website and the members area, one file per language (`en.php`, `es.php`…). The texts of the admin panel are in `ADMIN/en.php`.
`uploaded_images/`, `thumbnails/`	Uploaded photos and their small versions. Must be writable.
`database/`	`install.sql` for a new installation. Do not leave SQL files on the live server longer than needed (the included .htaccess blocks them anyway).

Changing the design without code

Most design changes need no programming: choose another template, change the colours, upload a logo and a hero image, and edit any text of the interface in **Website › Interface Texts**. See Templates, logo and interface texts.

Changing the HTML of a template

In **Website › Templates** each template has an *Edit HTML* button that opens its layout in a code editor. Place tags such as the menu, the language switcher or an advertisement zone where you want them. Make a copy of the template folder before big changes, so you can always go back.

Adding your own page types

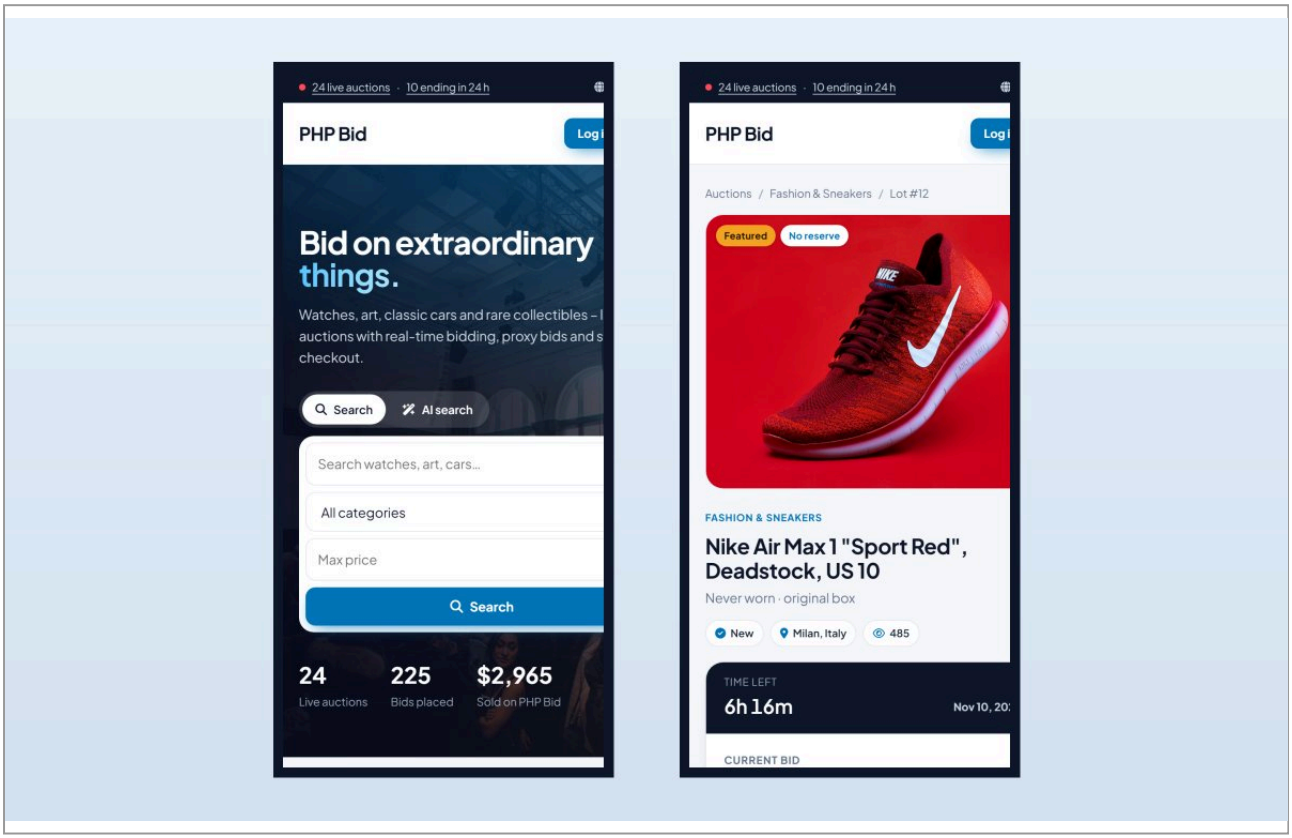
A page in **Website › Pages** can show normal text, or it can be linked to a PHP file of the `extensions` folder. A developer can add a new PHP file there (for example a "Consign with us" form) and connect it to a page without touching the core.

> **Updates:** keep a list of the files you changed. When you install a new version of PHP Bid, compare those files with the new ones before you overwrite them.

CHAPTER 5 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

The home page of your auction website

The home page is the shop window of your marketplace. It is built automatically from your live auctions, so it always looks busy and fresh - you never have to edit it by hand.



The home page adapts to phones and tablets automatically.

The sections of the home page

Section	What it shows
Top bar	A live counter ("20 live auctions · 8 ending in 24 h") that links to the matching searches, a "Start selling" link and the language switcher.
Header	Your logo, the main menu (Auctions, Categories, Sell, How it works, Blog, Contact) and the Sign up / Log in buttons. Logged-in members see their name, the "Sell" button and the links to the members area.
Hero	Your title and subtitle with a big search box. When the AI is turned on, visitors can type what they want in their own words - see AI search.
Featured auctions	Listings marked as featured, by the seller (paid upgrade) or by you in the admin panel.

Section	What it shows
Ending soon	The auctions that close next - the best section for urgency.
Browse by category	Your categories with their photos and the number of live items.
Just listed	The newest listings.
Coming soon	Scheduled auctions that have not started yet, so bidders can add them to the watchlist.
How it works	A short explanation of bidding (exact bids or automatic bidding) and of buying and selling.
Statistics	Live auctions, bids placed and items sold.
Call to action	"Start selling" box that invites visitors to list their items.
Footer	Your pages, up to 8 categories with a "See all categories" link, the newsletter sign-up form and your social media links.

Auction cards

Every listing on the home page, in the search results and in the categories is shown as a card with the main photo, the title, the current bid or the price, the number of bids and a countdown. Labels such as *Featured*, *Buy it now* and *No reserve* help bidders decide quickly. The countdown and the prices are updated live without reloading the page.

Changing the texts and the look

- The hero title, subtitle and all section titles are interface texts: edit them in **Website › Interface Texts**.
- The hero image and the colours are set in **Settings › Configuration Options › Design**.
- The layout of the sections depends on the template. See Templates, logo and interface texts.
- An advertisement zone in the middle of the home page can show your own banner or AdSense code. See Featured listings and advertisements.

Mobile and tablet

All 8 templates are responsive. On phones the menu becomes a hamburger menu, the cards stack in one or two columns and the bid box stays easy to use with one thumb.

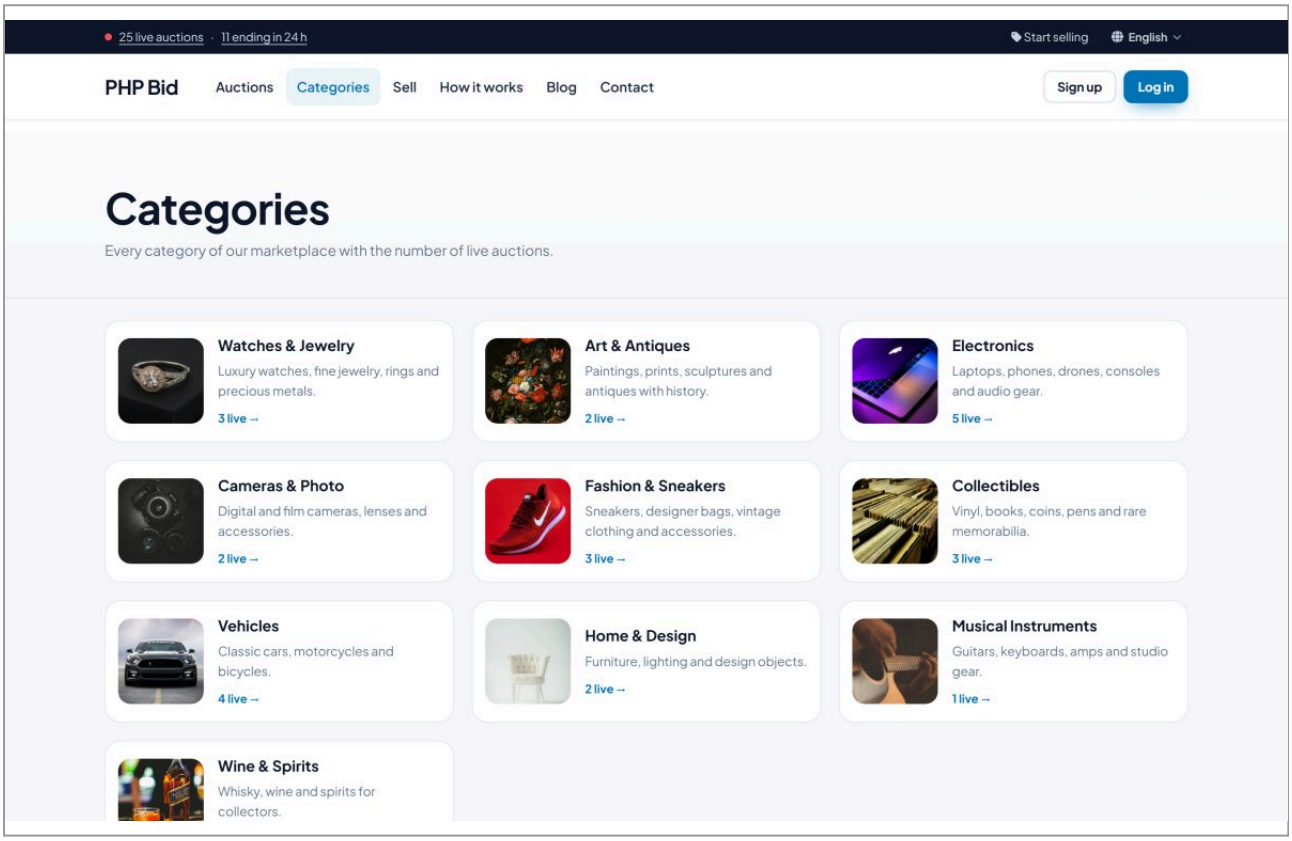
CHAPTER 6 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Browsing categories and searching auctions

Bidders find items in three ways: by category, with the search and its filters, or by simply describing what they want to the AI search.

The categories page

The **Categories** page lists all your categories with a photo, a short description and the number of live auctions. Categories can have sub-categories. Clicking a category opens the search results for it.



The categories page. Photos and descriptions are set in the admin panel.

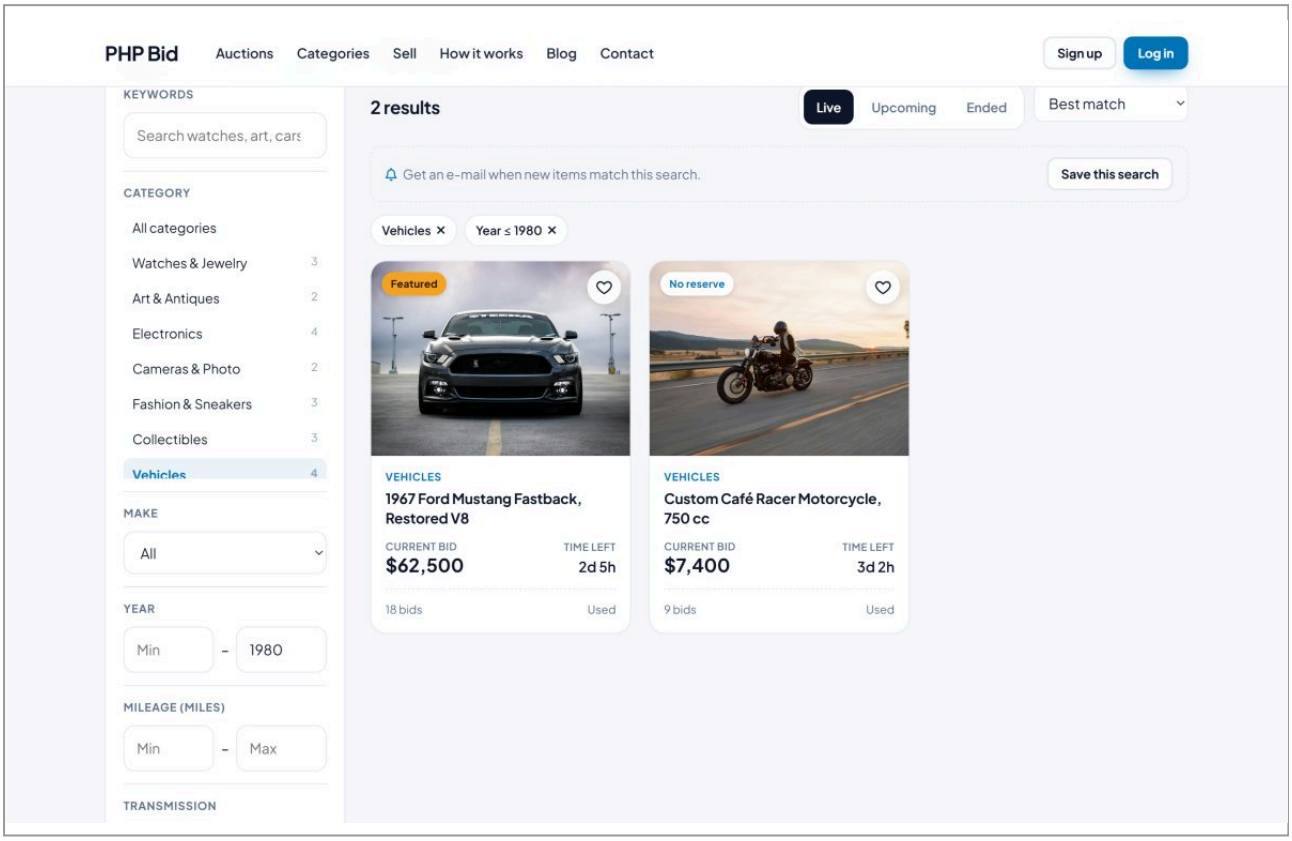
The search page and its filters

The **Auctions** page shows all the live listings with filters on the left (or at the top on phones):

- **Keywords** - searched in the title, subtitle and description.
- **Category** - including its sub-categories.
- **Price** - minimum and maximum.
- **Format** - auctions or Buy it now / fixed price items.
- **Condition** - new, like new, used, for parts...
- **Ending within 24 hours** and **featured only**.

- **Category fields** - when a category is selected, its own filters appear, for example brand, size, year or mileage. See Categories and category fields.

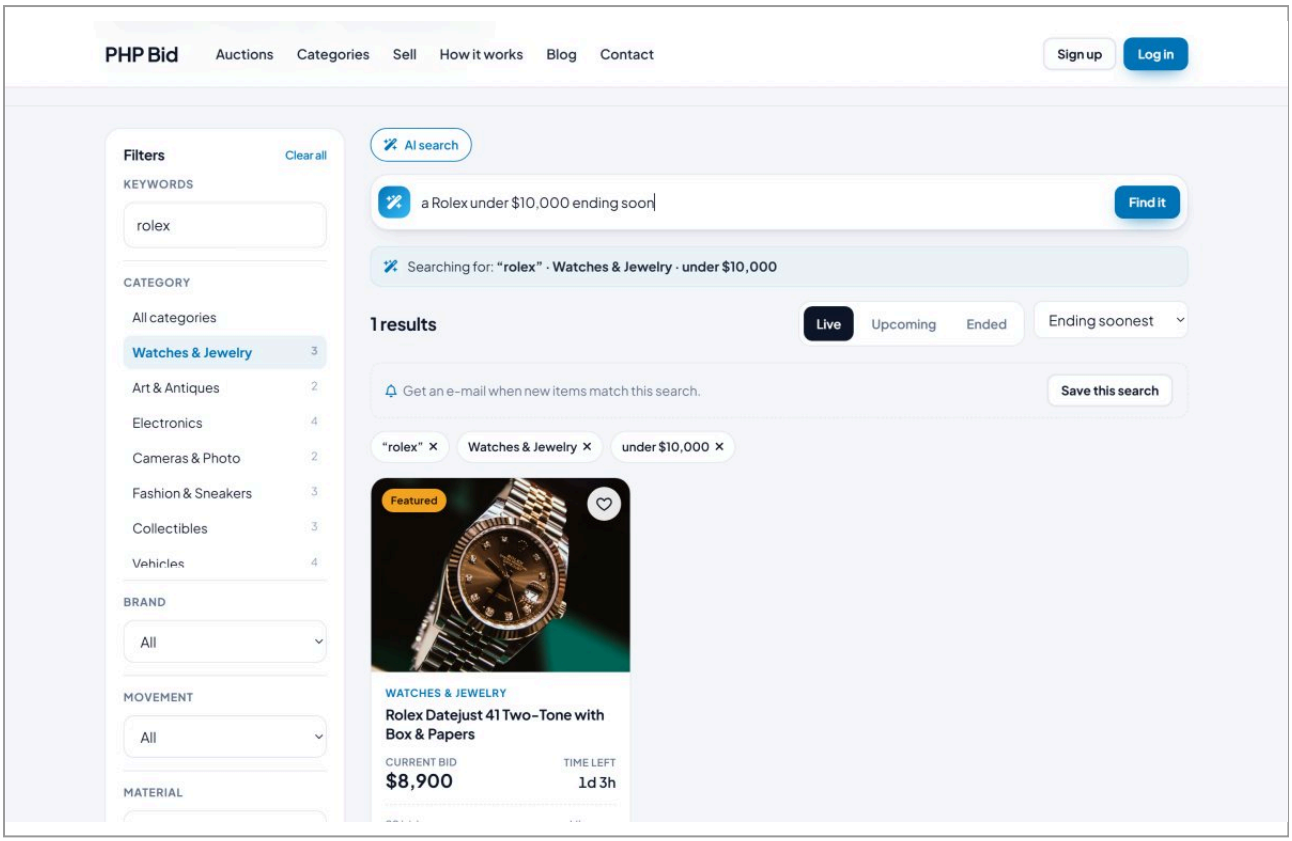
The results can be sorted by best match, ending soonest, newly listed, price low to high, price high to low, most bids and most popular.



Category fields become search filters: here make, model and year for vehicles.

AI search

When the AI search is turned on (AI settings), visitors can type a sentence such as *"vintage watch under 3000 ending today"*. The AI turns the sentence into the right filters - category, keywords, maximum price, ending soon - and shows the results. Without an AI key a simple built-in rule engine still understands prices and common words.



The AI search understands plain sentences and fills in the filters.

Save a search

Logged-in members can save any search with its filters and receive an e-mail when new matching items are listed. See Watchlist, saved searches and recently viewed.

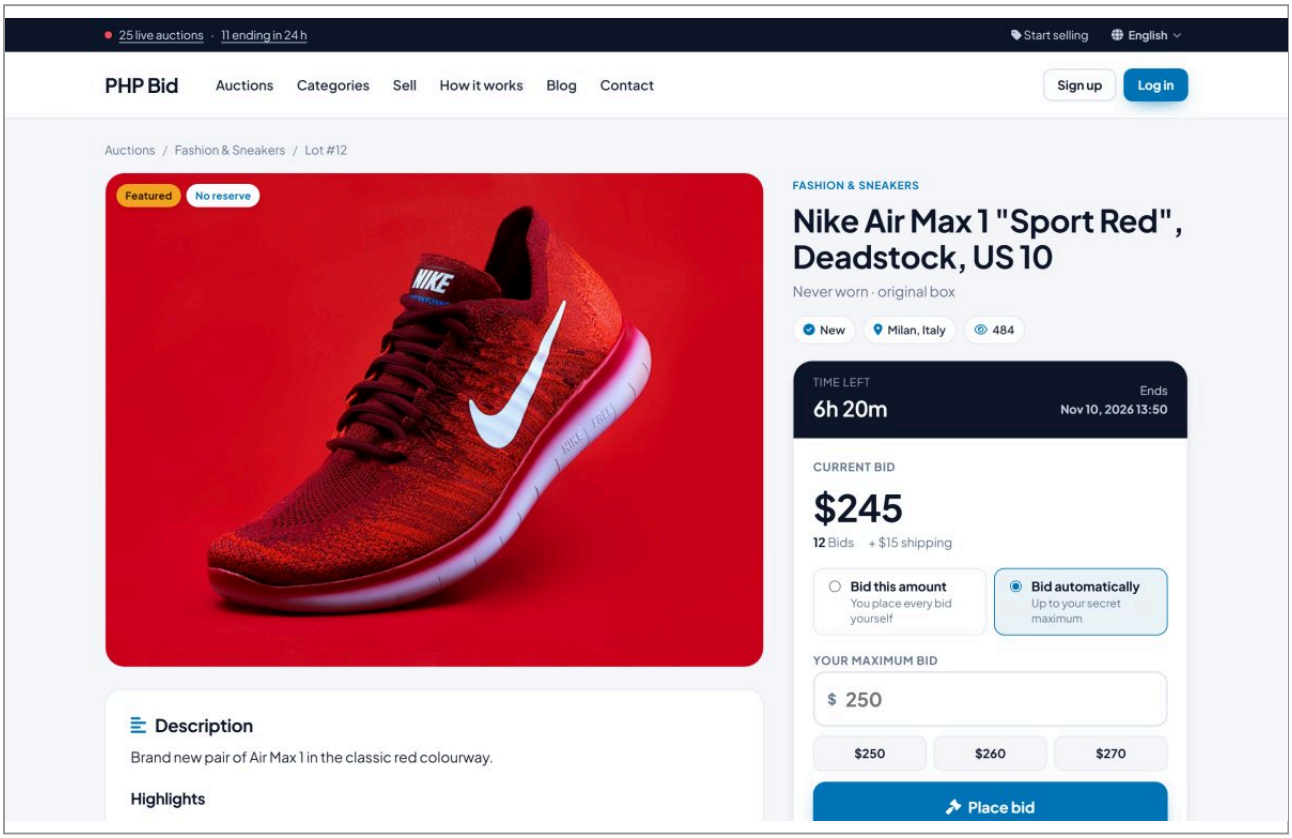
Live counters

The links in the top bar ("20 live auctions · 8 ending in 24 h") open the search with the matching filter, so visitors land directly on the most active items.

CHAPTER 7 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

The auction page (lot page)

The auction page is where bidders decide. It shows the item with all its details, the live price and countdown, and every way to buy: bid, Buy it now or make an offer.



An auction page with the photo gallery, the live countdown and the bid box.

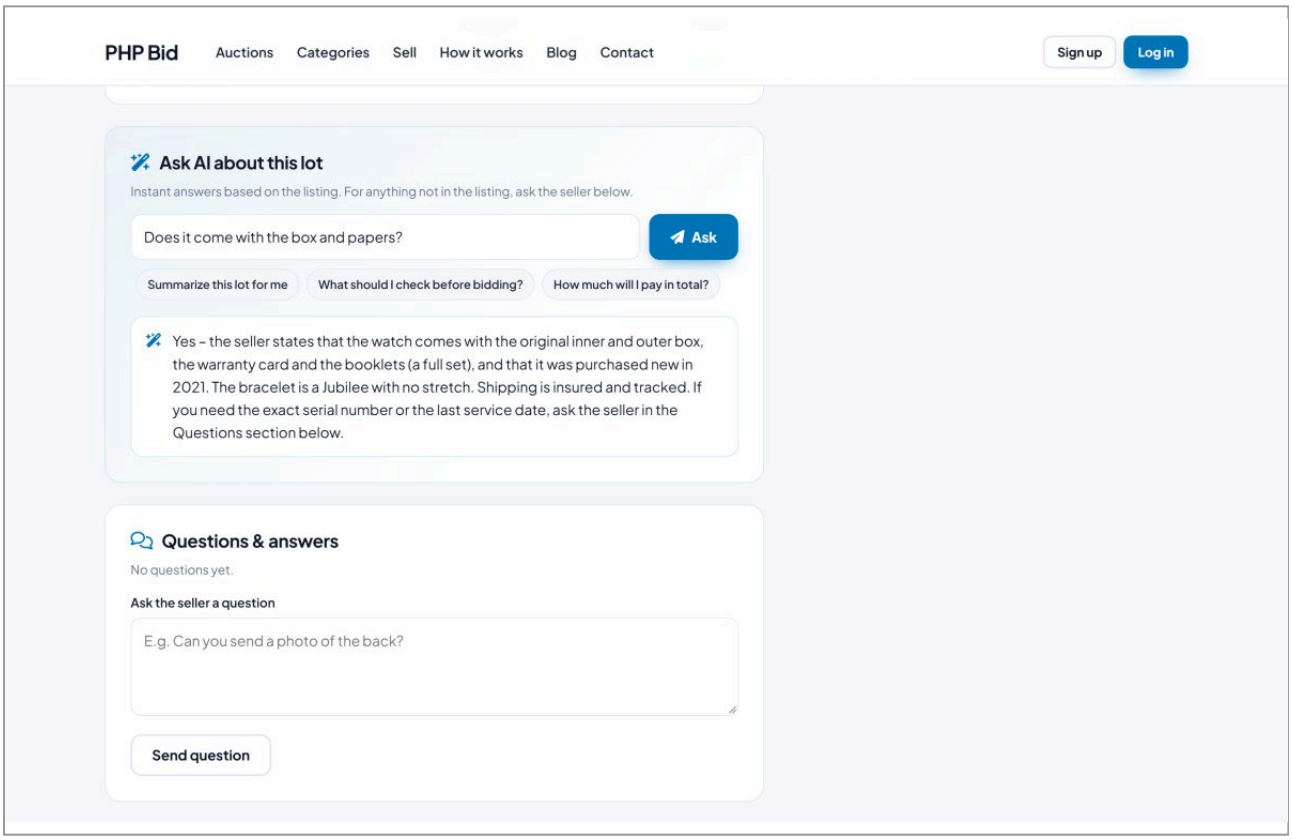
What the page contains

- **Photo gallery** - up to 10 photos (you set the limit), with thumbnails and a large view.
- **Title, subtitle and lot number**, category, condition and location.
- **Current bid, number of bids and time left.** The countdown, the price and the bid history update automatically every few seconds, without reloading the page.
- **Reserve status** - "Reserve not met" or "Reserve met" when the seller set a reserve price; "No reserve" otherwise.
- **The bid box** with the two bid modes. See Bidding.
- **Buy it now** and **Make an offer** buttons when the seller allows them. See Buy it now and offers.
- **Shipping** - the shipping methods with their costs, returns policy and location.
- **VAT label** - for example "incl. 20% VAT", when VAT is turned on. See VAT and shipping.
- **Buyer's premium** - shown when you charge one, so the buyer knows the final cost.

- **Description** and the **item details** from the category fields (brand, model, year...).
- **Bid history** - with masked bidder names (for example *j***r*) for privacy.
- **Questions and answers** - public questions to the seller and their answers.
- **Ask AI about this lot** - instant answers based on the listing. See below.
- **Seller box** - name, rating, number of ratings, member since, a link to the seller profile with all their items, and "Contact the seller".
- **Watchlist button**, number of watchers and views, share links.
- **Similar items** from the same category.
- **Report this listing** link. See Questions, reports and moderation.

Ask AI about this lot

Bidders can ask the AI questions such as "Is the box included?" or "What is the reference number?" and get an answer at once. The AI answers only from the listing (title, description, details, shipping) and says so when the information is not there - then the bidder can ask the seller.



"Ask AI about this lot" answers questions from the listing in seconds.

Upcoming and ended auctions

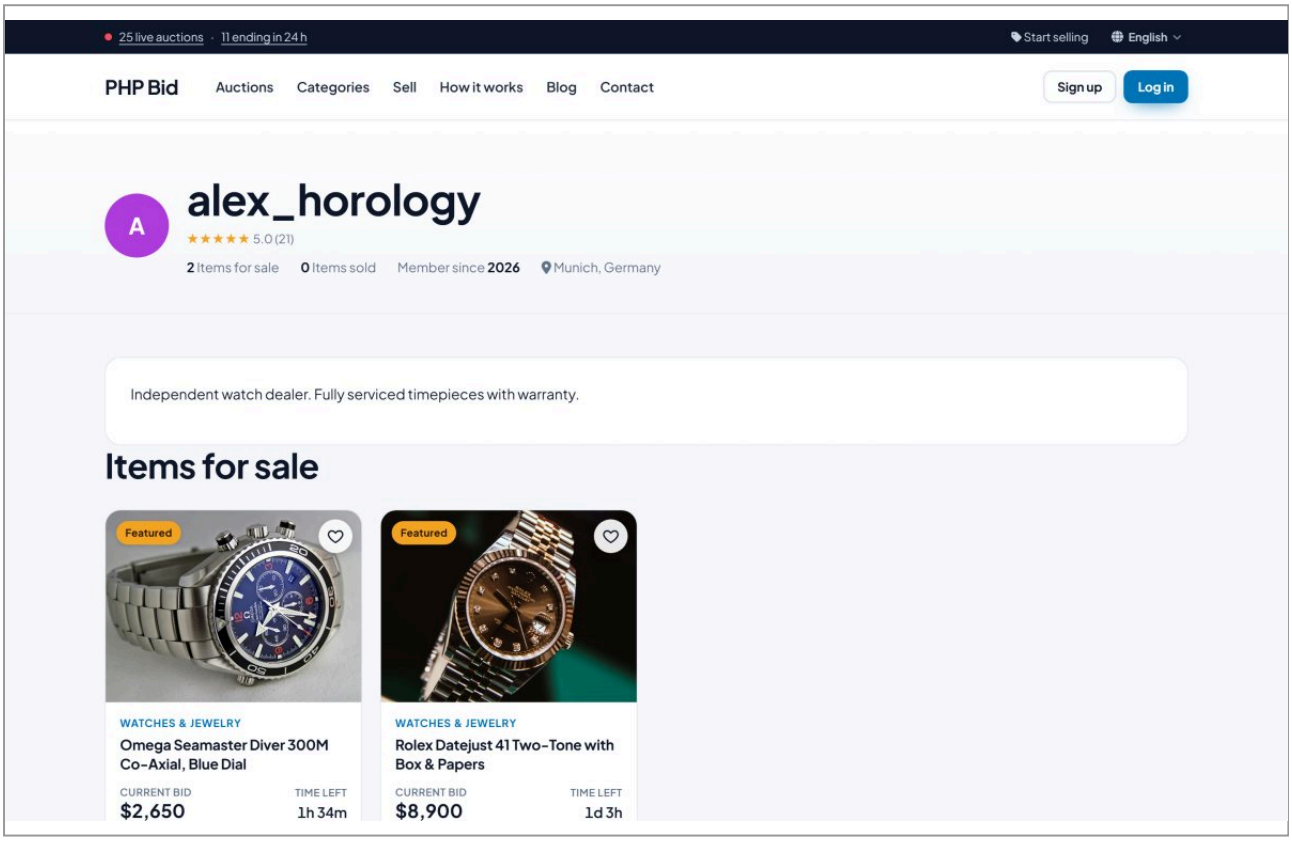
A scheduled auction shows "Starts in ..." with a countdown to the start; bidders can already add it to their watchlist. An ended auction shows "Sold for ..." or "Not sold", and the bid box is replaced by links to similar live items.

The seller's own view

When sellers open their own listing they see "This is your listing" with a link to manage it, instead of the bid box.

Seller profile

Clicking the seller's name opens the seller profile: picture, "about" text, rating with the latest feedback, and all the items the seller has for sale.

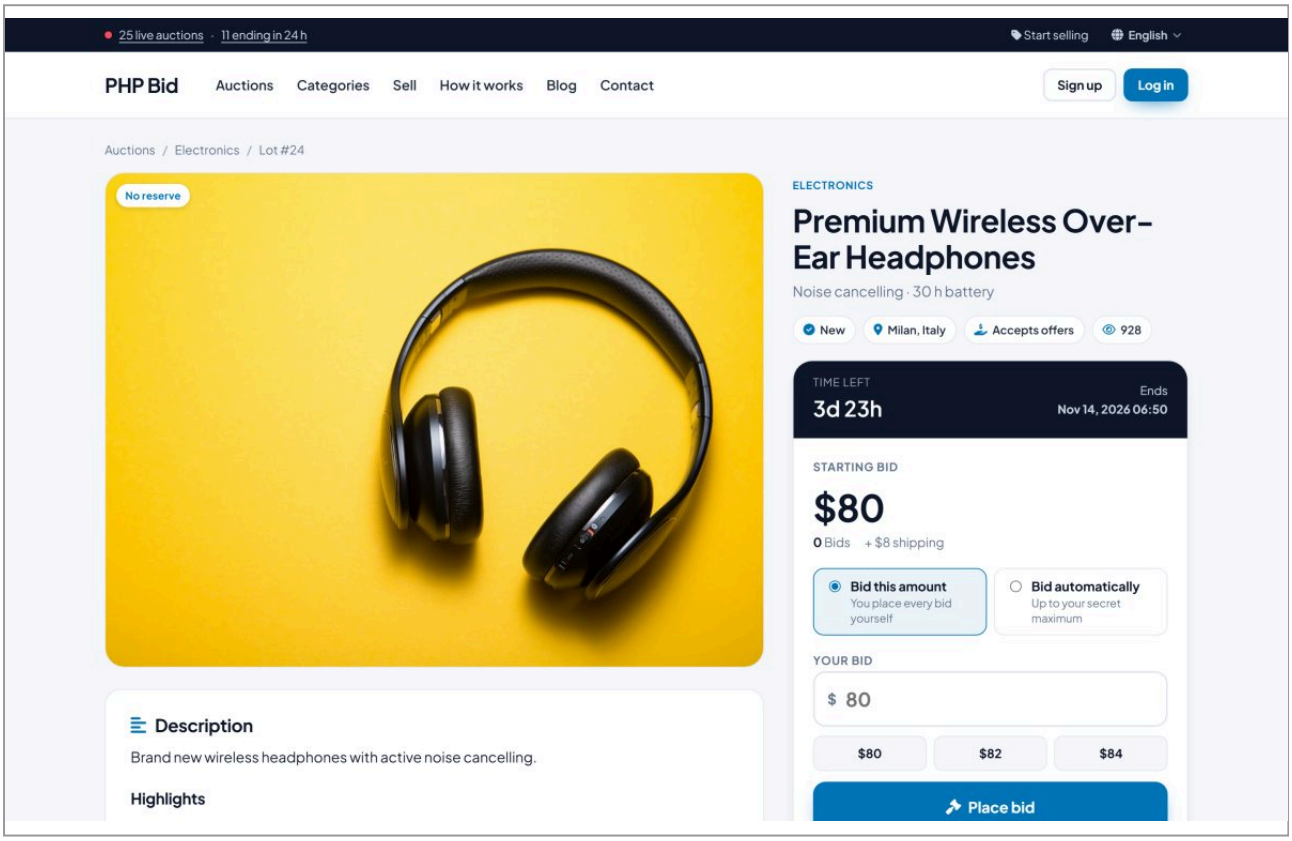


Seller ratings build trust: buyers see the score and the latest comments.

CHAPTER 8 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Bidding: exact bids, automatic bidding, reserve and anti-sniping

PHP Bid lets every bidder choose how to bid: place an exact amount and stay in full control, or set a secret maximum and let the system bid for them. Both modes work together fairly.



The bid box: the bidder chooses "Bid this amount" or "Bid automatically".

The two bid modes

Bid this amount (exact bid)

The bid is placed at exactly the amount the bidder types. Nothing is bid later in their name. This is the default mode, for bidders who want to review every bid themselves. If another bidder outbids them, they receive an alert and decide whether to bid again.

Bid automatically (proxy bidding)

The bidder enters the **maximum** they are willing to pay. The system bids for them only as much as needed to stay in the lead - one increment above the next bidder - and never above the maximum. The maximum stays secret. If someone bids more than the maximum, the bidder is outbid and notified.

The choice is remembered on the bidder's device, so frequent bidders do not have to pick it every time.

An example

Action	Current bid	Leader
Starting price	$100	-
Anna bids automatically, maximum $300	$100	Anna
Ben places an exact bid of $150	$155 (Anna's automatic bid answers)	Anna
Ben places an exact bid of $320	$320	Ben

Automatic maximums of other bidders always answer an exact bid, so nobody can be outbid "cheaply" by an exact bid just above the current price.

Bid increments

The next minimum bid is the current bid plus an **increment** that grows with the price, for example $1 under $100, $5 from $100, $10 from $500 and $25 from $1,000. You set the table in Auction rules. An administrator can also give a single auction its own fixed increment in the auction editor.

Reserve price

A reserve price is a secret minimum set by the seller. While the bids are below it, the auction page shows *Reserve not met*; if the auction ends that way, the item is not sold. As soon as a bid reaches the reserve the page shows *Reserve met*. An automatic bid jumps straight to the reserve when the maximum allows it.

Anti-sniping

"Sniping" means bidding in the very last seconds so nobody can answer. With anti-sniping turned on, a bid placed in the last X minutes extends the auction by Y minutes (both set in Auction rules, for example 2 and 2). The auction page shows the new end time immediately to everyone.

Confirmation and safety

- Every bid is confirmed in a small dialog that repeats the amount and the mode.
- A **maximum bid limit** protects against typos: a bid can not exceed the next minimum bid multiplied by a value you choose (for example 10x).
- Sellers can not bid on their own items.
- Bidders must be logged in. Guests who click "Place bid" are taken to the login page and come back to the same auction afterwards.

Outbid alerts and winning

Outbid bidders get a notification in the members area and an e-mail (members can turn the e-mails off in their profile). Watchers receive an "ending soon" reminder. When the auction ends, the highest bidder wins - provided the reserve is met - and a sale is created automatically. The winner sees it in Won items with the instructions to pay.

> **Closing auctions:** ended auctions are closed automatically on the next page view of the website. On very quiet sites you can add a cron job so they close exactly on time - see Cron job and e-mails.

CHAPTER 9 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Buy it now, fixed price items and Make an offer

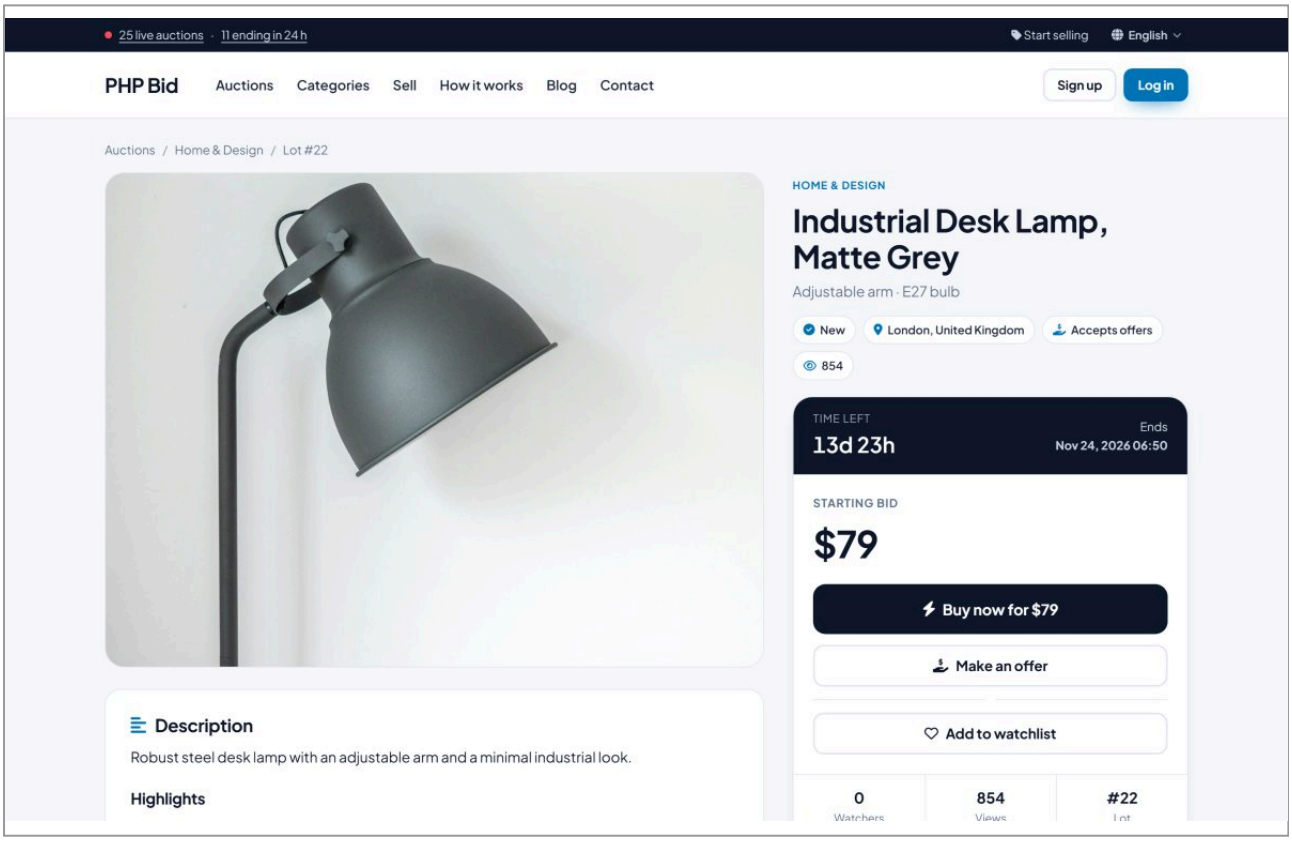
Not every buyer wants to wait for the end of an auction. PHP Bid adds two faster ways to buy: Buy it now at a fixed price, and Make an offer for a lower price that the seller can accept or counter.

Buy it now during an auction

A seller can add a Buy it now price to an auction. Until the first bid is placed, buyers can end the auction immediately by paying that price. As soon as somebody bids, the Buy it now option disappears and the auction continues normally.

Fixed price listings

A listing can also be a pure **Buy it now** item without bidding. It stays online for the chosen duration and the first buyer who clicks Buy it now gets it. Fixed price listings are ideal for shops, dealers and surplus stock.

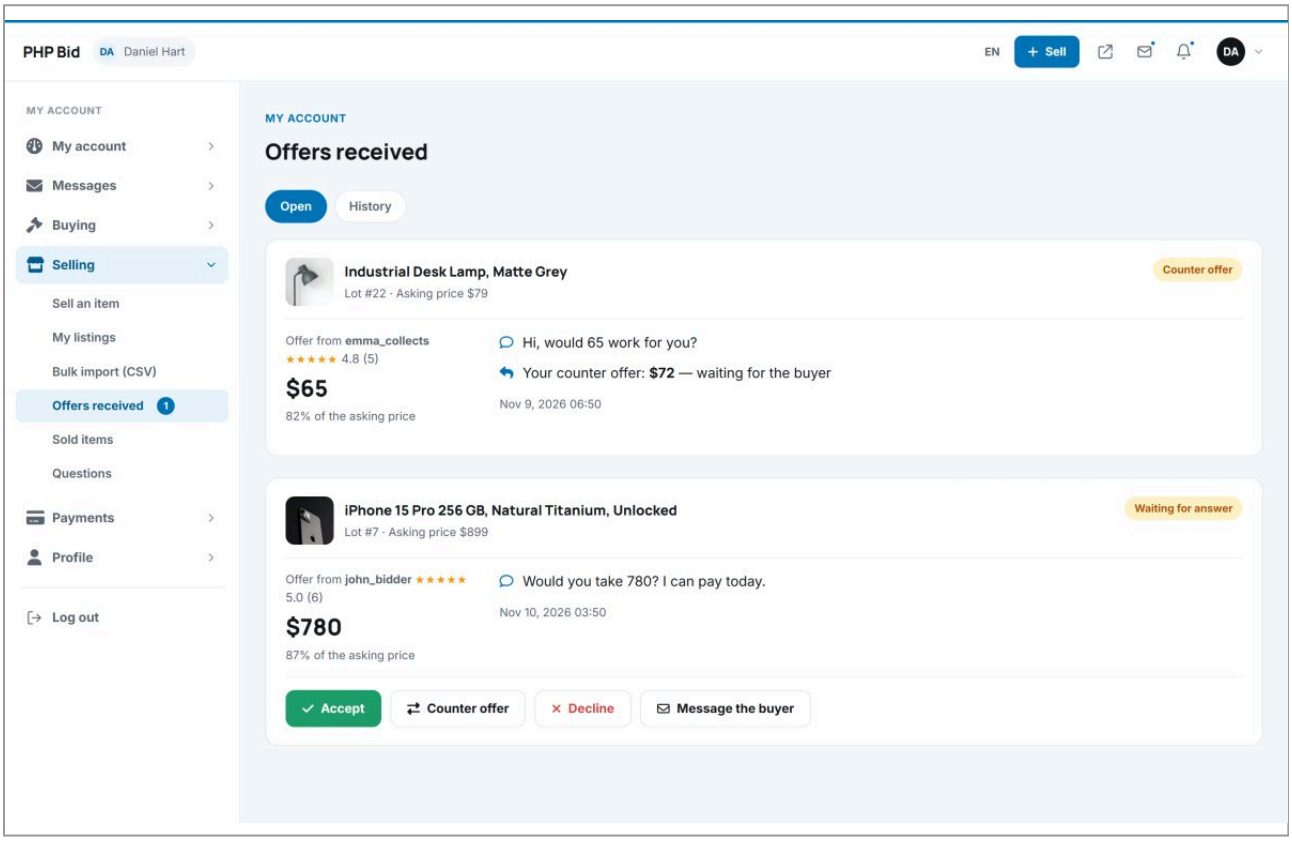


A fixed price listing with the Buy it now button and the Make an offer option.

Make an offer

When the seller ticks *Accept offers from buyers*, the auction page shows a **Make an offer** button - on fixed price items, and on auctions as long as nobody has bid. The buyer enters a price and an optional message.

1. The seller receives the offer and can **accept**, **decline** or **send a counter-offer**.
2. The buyer can accept or decline a counter-offer, or make a new offer.
3. When an offer is accepted, the buyer buys the item at that price with one click and a sale is created, exactly like a Buy it now purchase.



Offers and counter-offers between buyer and seller.

Offers expire automatically when the item is sold to somebody else. The administrator can turn offers on or off for the whole site and can see all offers in **Auctions › Offers**. The members area side is explained in Offers.

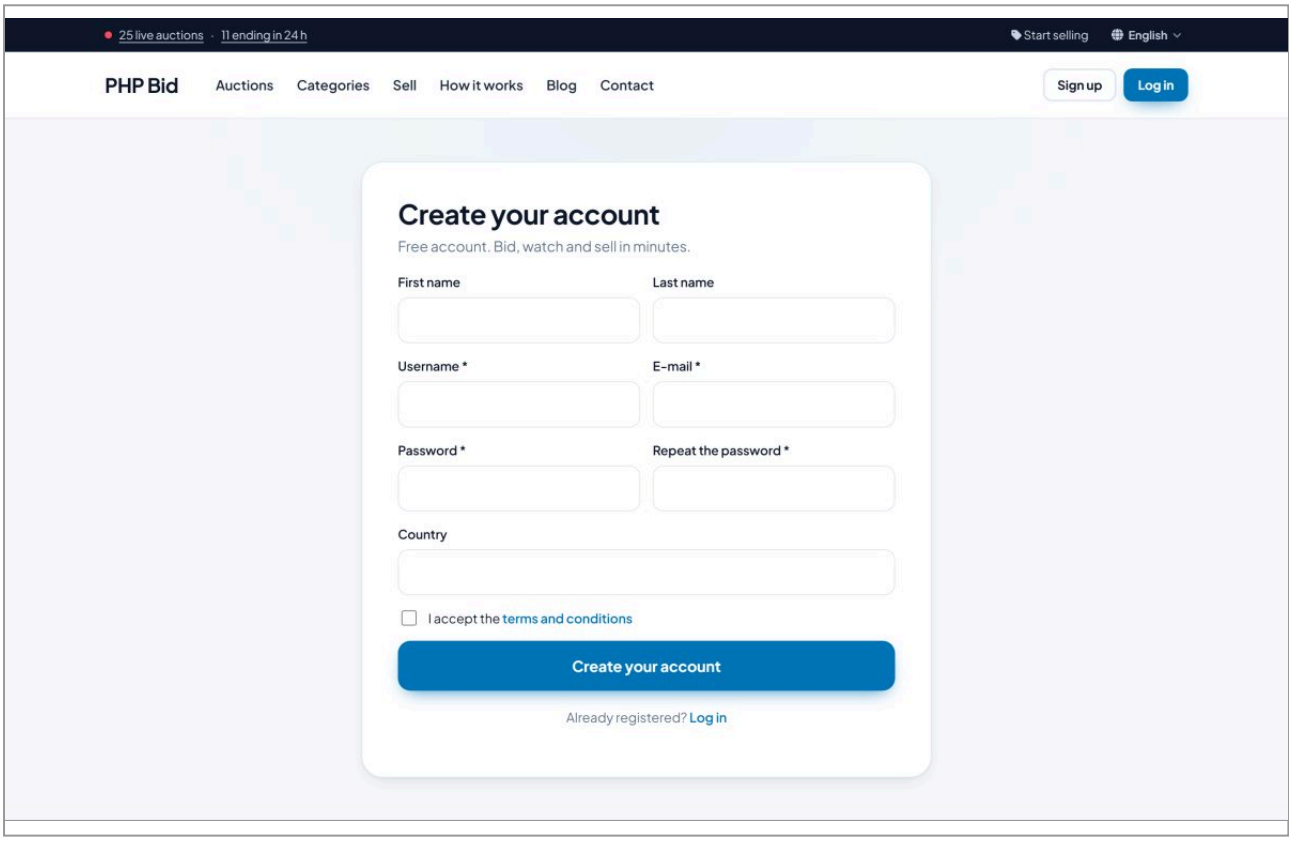
CHAPTER 10 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Registration, login and password reset

One free account lets a member bid, buy and sell. Registration takes less than a minute, and members always come back to the page they were on.

Creating an account

The **Sign up** page asks for first and last name, a username (shown publicly, for example in the seller box), an e-mail address, a password (twice) and the country. The member must accept your terms and conditions; the link opens your Terms page.

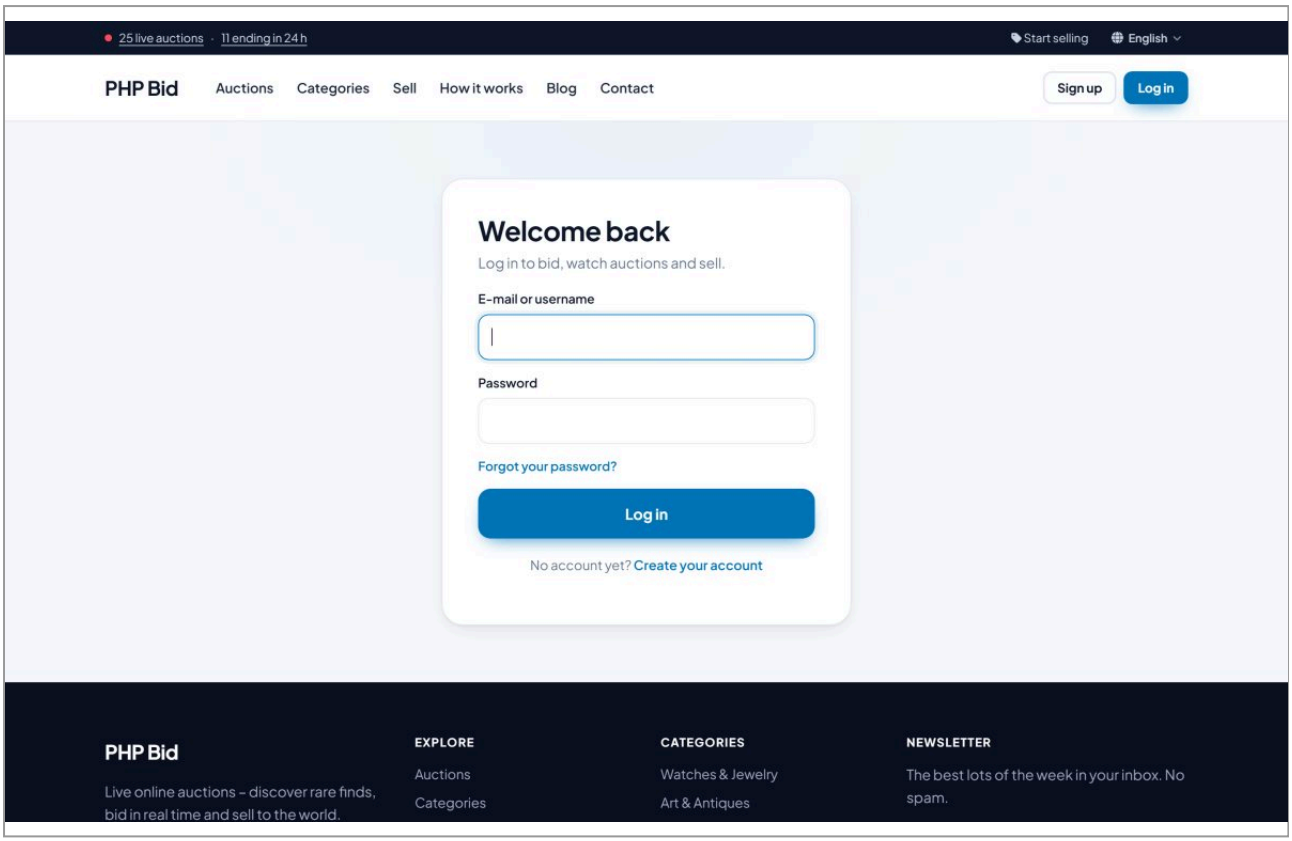


The registration form.

If **E-mail verification** is turned on (*Configuration Options › Members*), the member receives an e-mail with an activation link and can log in only after clicking it. You can also turn new registrations off completely, for example for a private auction.

Logging in

Members log in with their e-mail address *or* username and their password.



The login page.

When a guest clicks an action that needs an account - place a bid, watch an item, contact a seller, sell an item - they are sent to the login page and, after logging in or signing up, they return to the same place. The destination is kept in the session, so no internal addresses of the members area appear in the links.

Forgotten password

The link *Forgot your password?* asks for the e-mail address and sends a link to choose a new password. The link is valid for one hour.

Security

- Passwords are stored encrypted (hashed), never in plain text.
- Logins are recorded with date and IP address; the administrator sees them in the member's page.
- An administrator can deactivate an account at any time in **Members › All members**.

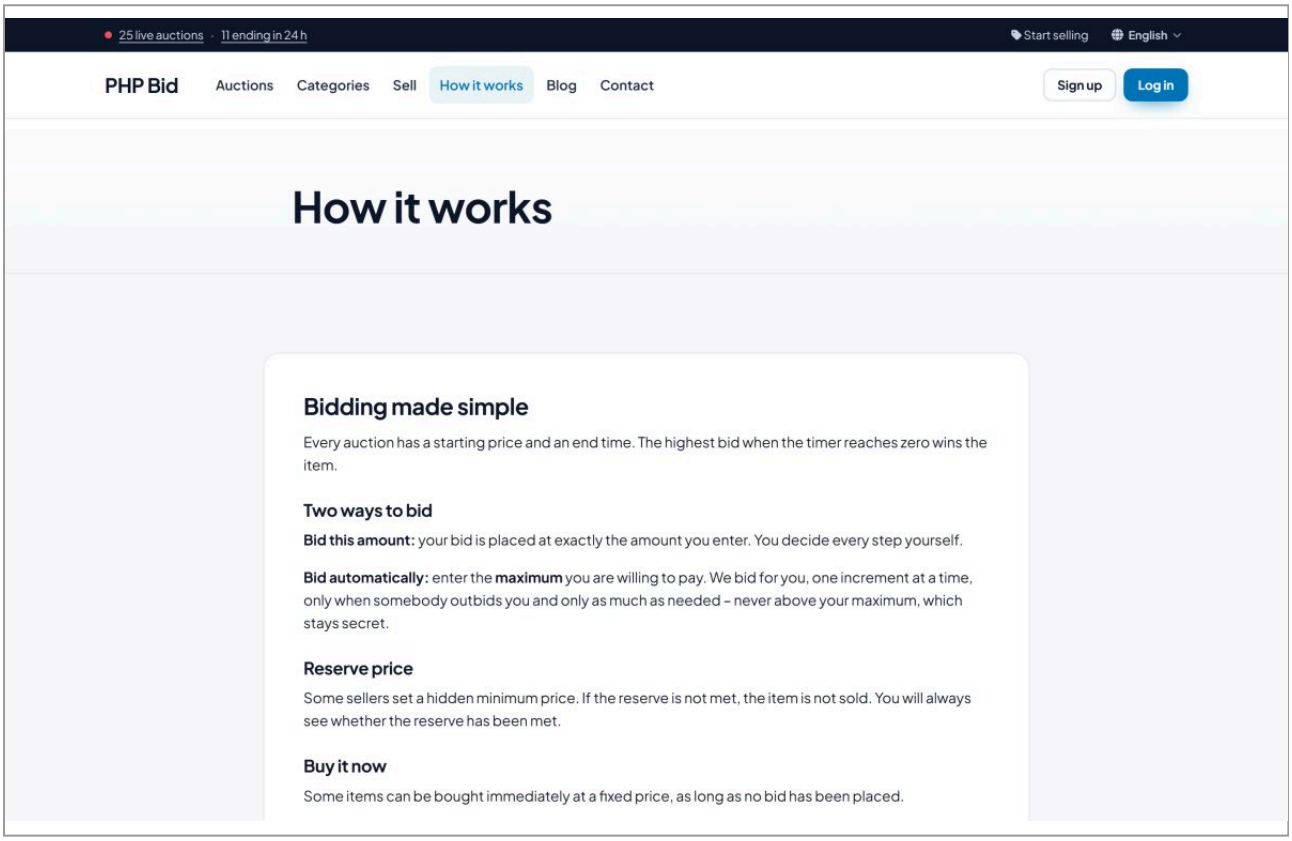
CHAPTER 11 · THE WEBSITE (FRONT END)

Pages, blog, FAQ, contact form and newsletter

Besides the auctions, your website has the pages every marketplace needs: how it works, about us, legal pages, a blog for SEO, a FAQ, a contact form and a newsletter.

Text pages

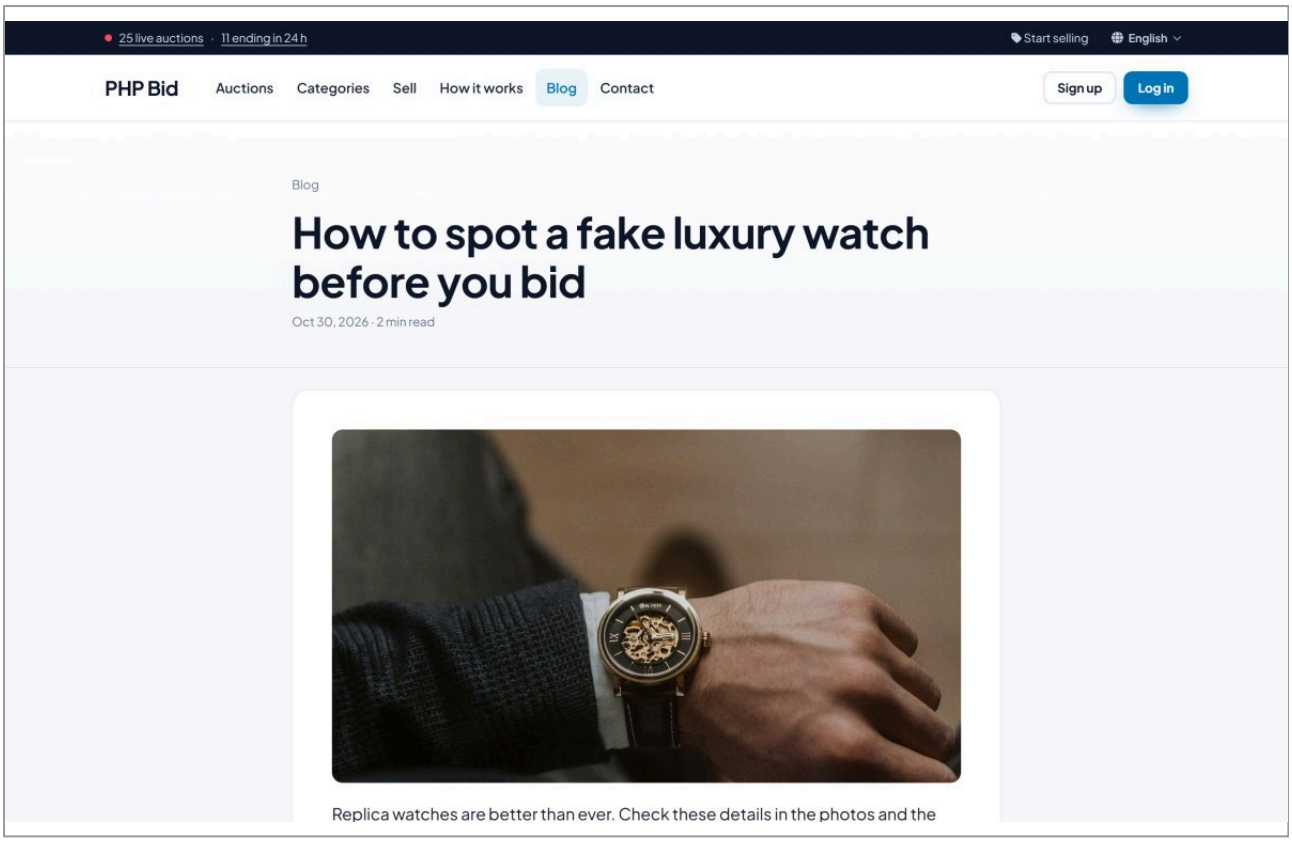
The installation includes *How it works*, *About us*, *Terms & Conditions* and *Privacy Policy*. You edit them, and add as many pages as you like, in **Website › Pages** with a visual editor and the AI page writer. Each page can appear in the top menu, the footer menu or both, and has its own SEO title and description.



The "How it works" page explains bidding, reserve prices and Buy it now to new members.

The blog

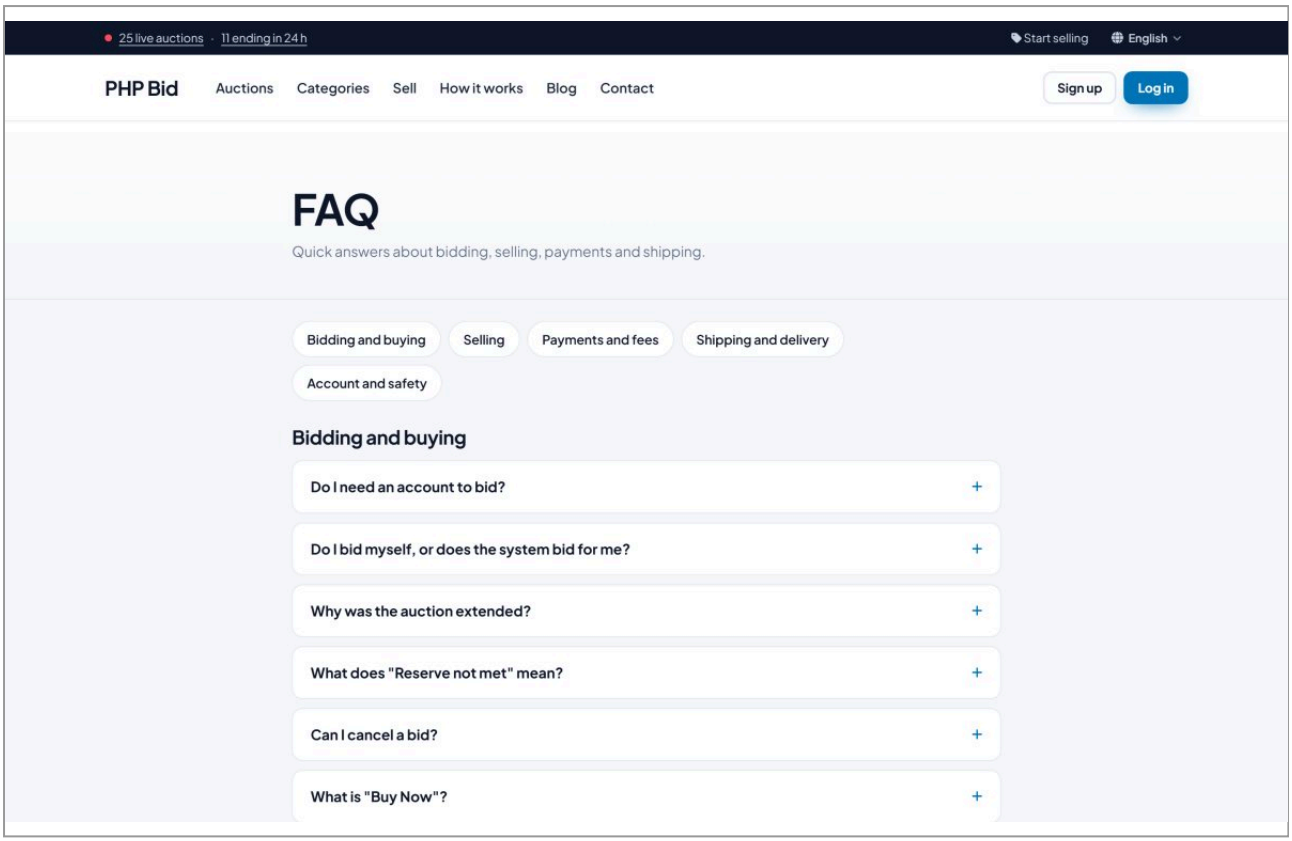
The blog (called *News* in the admin panel) is the easiest way to bring visitors from Google: buying guides, "how to spot a fake", market reports, upcoming sales. Each post has a cover image, a date, a reading time and its own search engine friendly URL.



A blog post. The blog page always shows three posts per row on desktop.

FAQ page

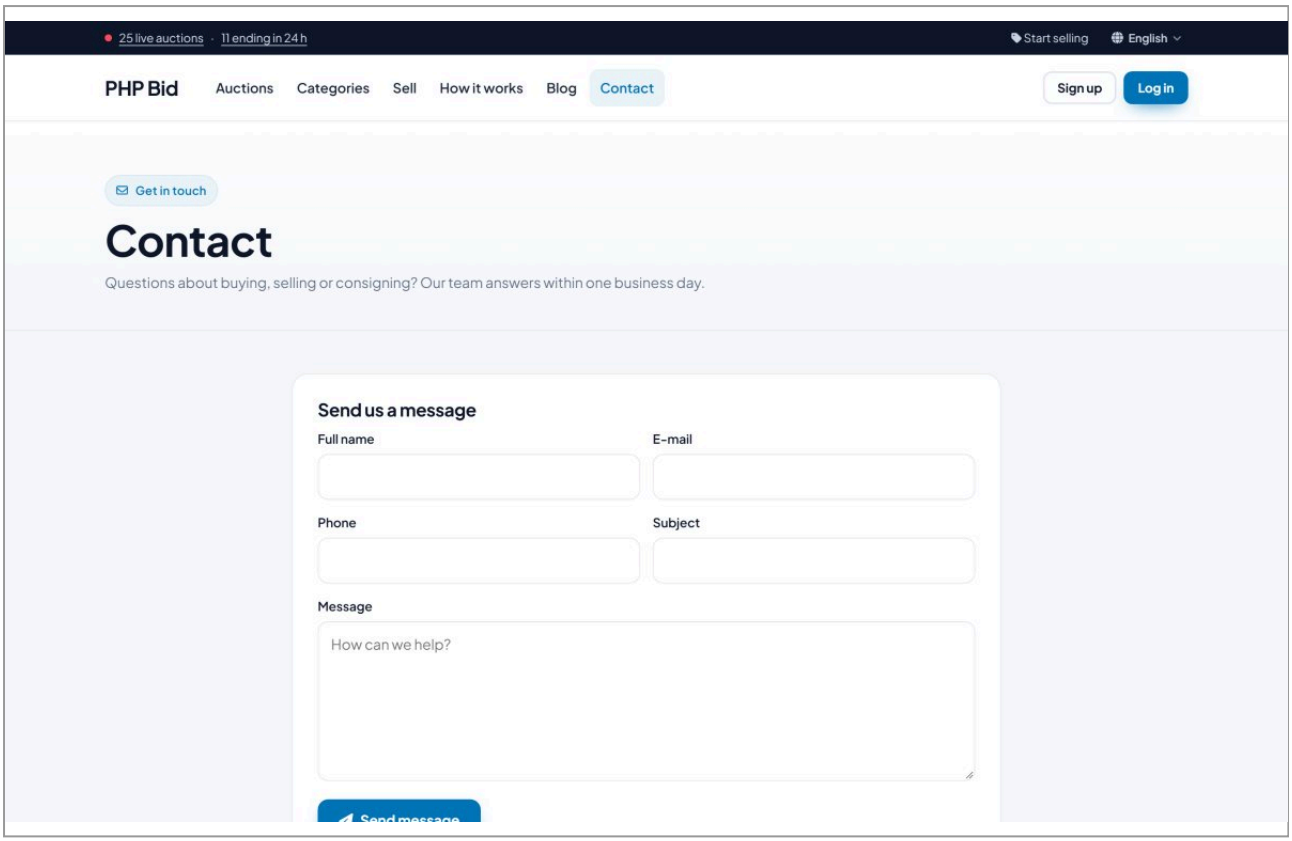
The FAQ page groups questions by topic (bidding and buying, selling, payments and fees, shipping and delivery, account and safety). Answers open with a click. Edit the questions in **Website › Pages › FAQ**: in the editor a *Heading 2* starts a new topic, a *Heading 3* is a question and the text below it is the answer.



The FAQ page with questions grouped by topic.

Contact form

The contact page shows your e-mail, phone and address (from General settings) and a form. The messages arrive in **Home › Messages** in the admin panel and are also e-mailed to your contact address.



The contact page with the contact form.

Newsletter

A newsletter sign-up form is shown in the footer. The subscribers are listed in **Members › Newsletter**, where you can export them as a CSV file for Mailchimp, Brevo or any other mailing tool.

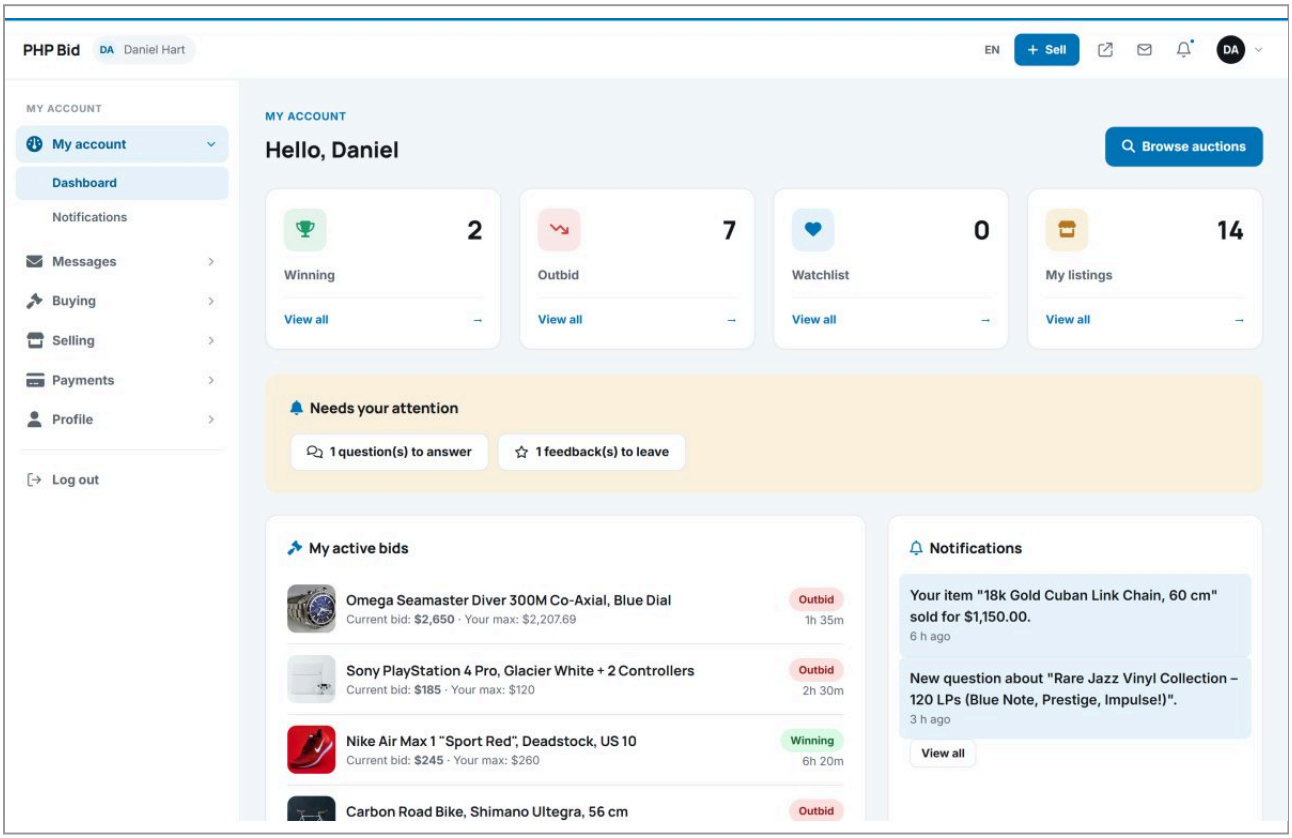
Cookie notice

If you turn on the cookie notice in *Configuration Options › E-mail & privacy*, first-time visitors see a short notice with your own title and text and an "OK" button.

CHAPTER 12 · MEMBERS AREA

The members area and dashboard

Every member gets one account for buying and selling. The members area collects everything in one place: active bids, items won, listings, sales, offers, messages, invoices and the profile.



The dashboard: active bids with their status, notifications and shortcuts.

The dashboard

After logging in, members land on **My account**. It shows:

- **My active bids** - every auction they bid on, with the current bid, their maximum and the status *Winning* or *Outbid*.
- **Needs attention** - items to pay, items to ship, offers and questions waiting for an answer.
- **Notifications** - the latest events: outbid, auction won, item sold, payment received, item shipped, new offer, new message.
- **Shortcuts** to sell an item with the AI listing assistant, to the listings and to the watchlist.

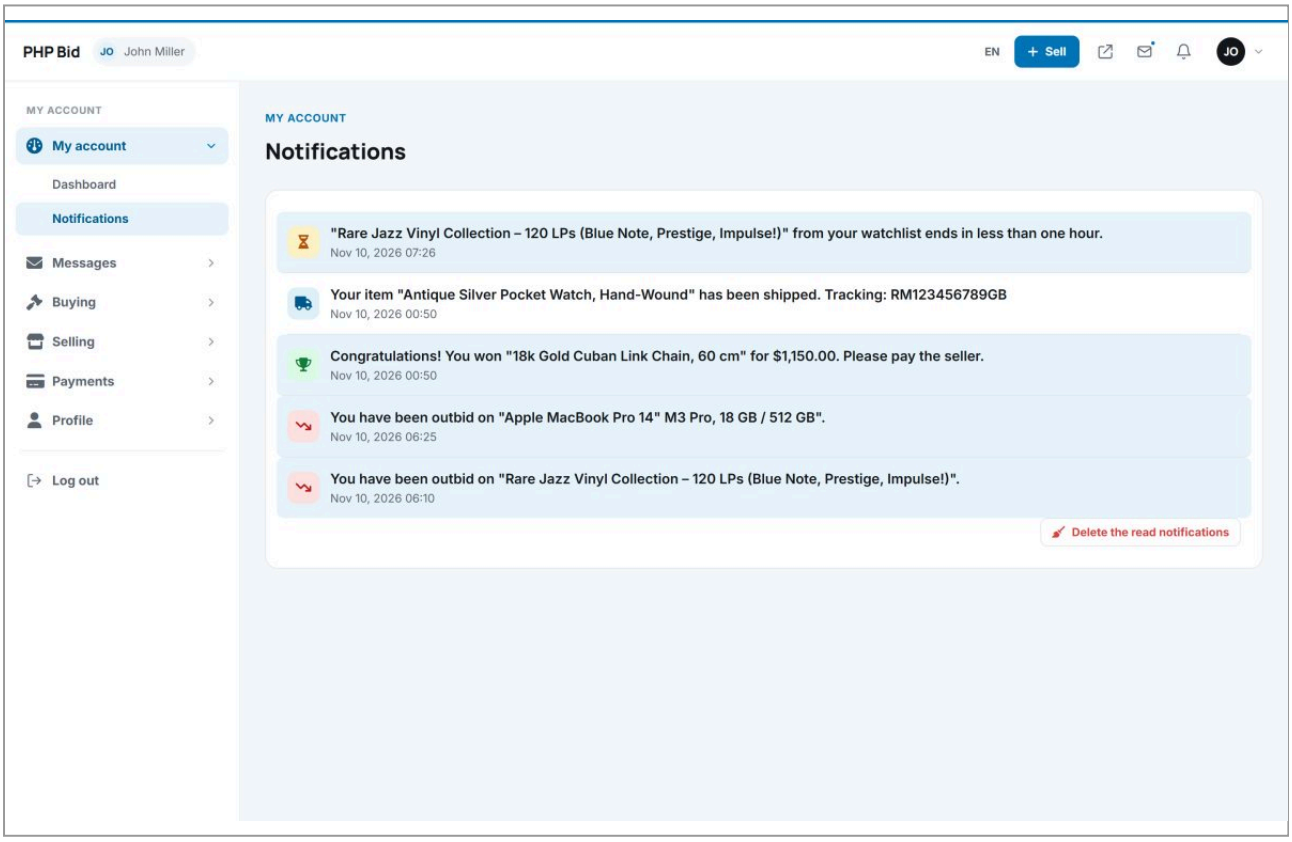
The members menu

Menu	Pages
My account	Dashboard, notifications.
Messages	Inbox with the conversations with buyers and sellers. See Messages.
Buying	My bids, Won items, My offers, Watchlist, Saved searches.
Selling	Sell an item, My listings, Bulk import (CSV), Offers received, Sold items, Questions.
Payments	My invoices (fees of the website). See Invoices and paying fees.
Profile	Edit profile, Feedback, Change password.

The header of the members area keeps the **+ Sell** button, the language, a link back to the website and the notification bell with the number of unread notifications. Counters in the menu (for example offers received) show what needs an answer.

Notifications

Each notification links straight to the auction, sale, offer or message it is about. Most of them are also sent by e-mail; members choose which e-mails they want in their profile.



Notifications for outbids, wins, sales, offers and messages.

Mobile use

The members area is fully responsive. On phones the menu folds into a button and the tables become cards, so members can answer an offer or mark an item shipped from anywhere.

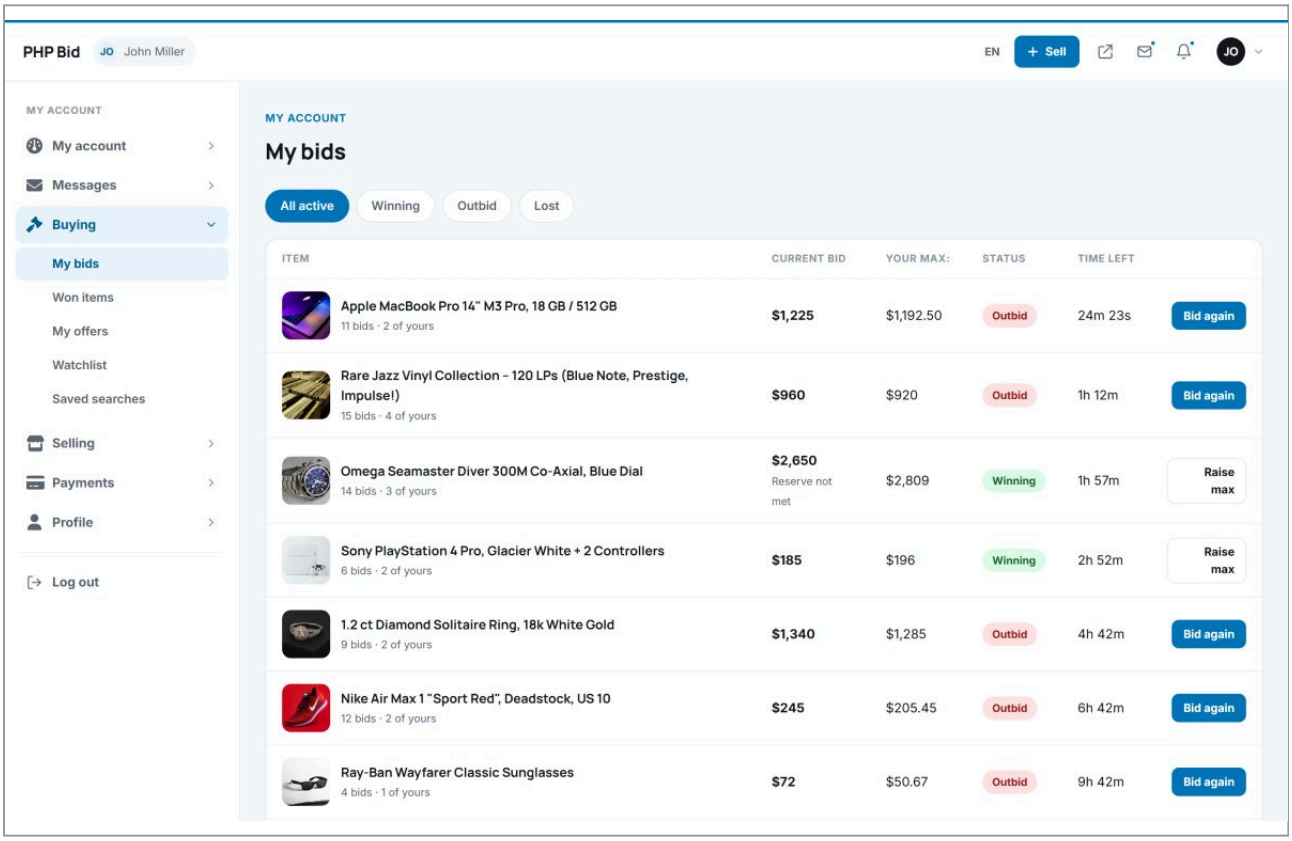
CHAPTER 13 · MEMBERS AREA

My bids, won items, paying the seller and feedback

The Buying menu follows a purchase from the first bid to the feedback. Bidders always see whether they are winning, and winners get clear steps: choose shipping, pay, receive, rate.

My bids

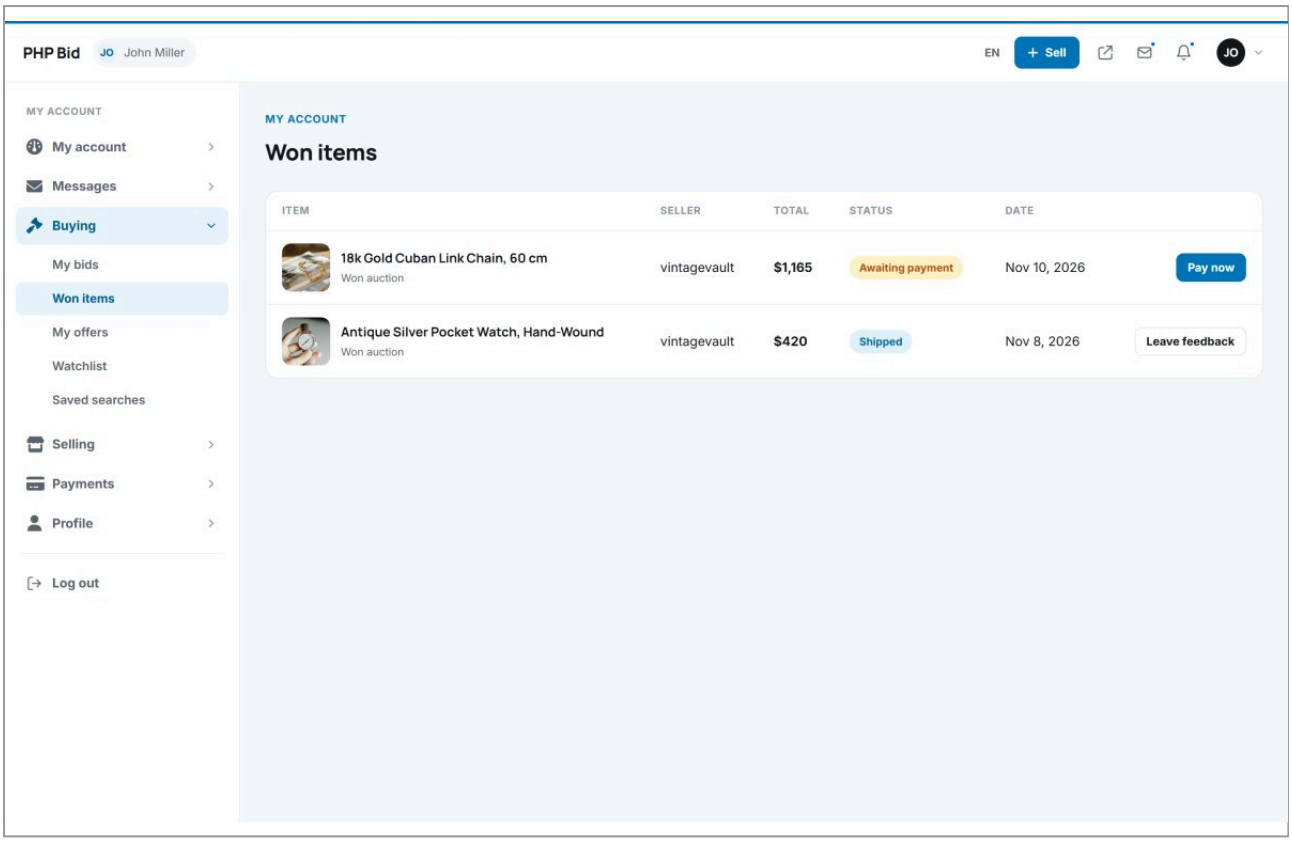
Buying › My bids lists every auction the member bid on, with tabs *All active*, *Winning*, *Outbid* and *Lost*. Each row shows the current bid, the member's maximum, the status and the time left. *Bid again* opens the auction directly at the bid box; *Raise max* increases an automatic maximum.



My bids: winning and outbid auctions with the time left.

Won items

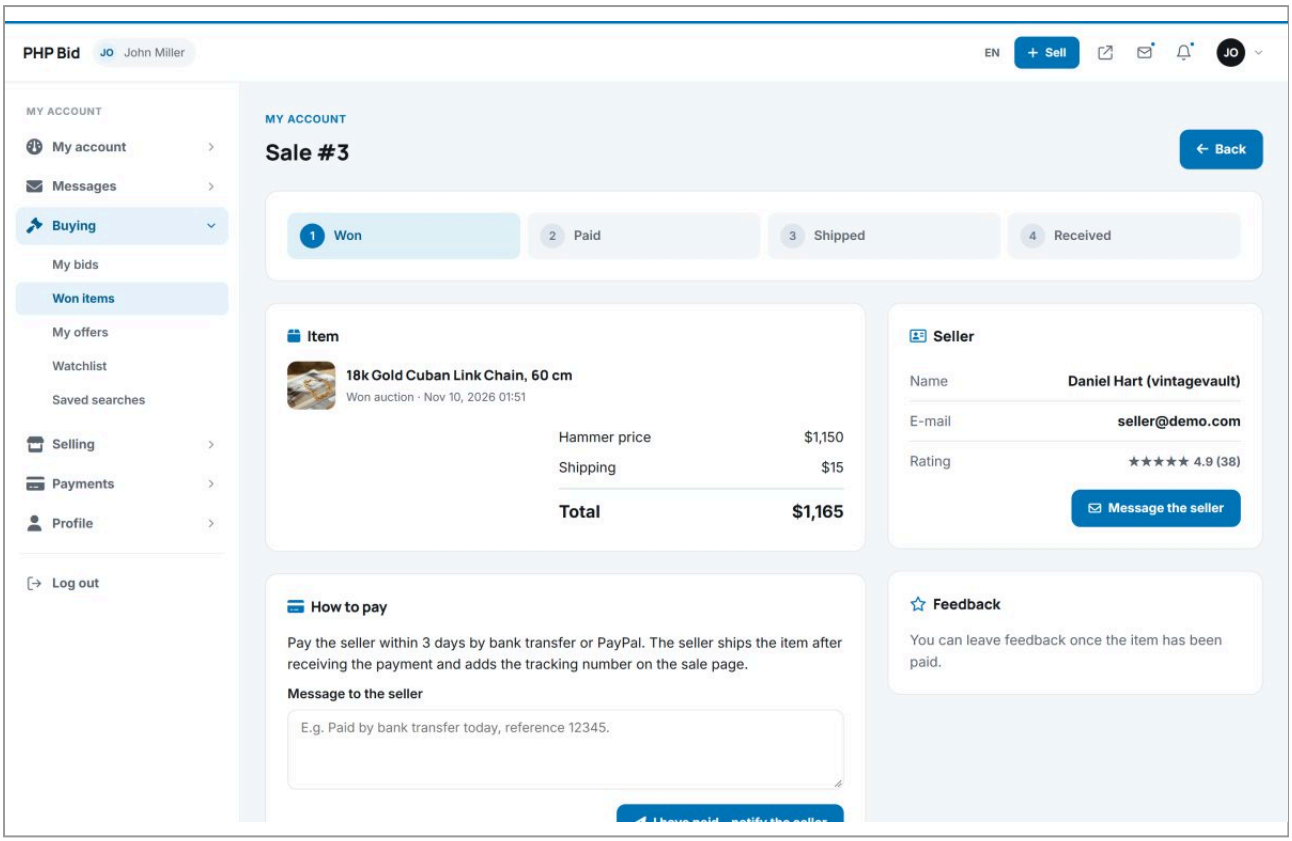
Buying › Won items lists everything the member bought - won auctions, Buy it now purchases and accepted offers - with the seller, the total, the status and a button for the next step (*Pay now*, *Leave feedback*...).



Won items with the status of each purchase.

The purchase page

Each purchase has its own page with a progress bar: **Won → Paid → Shipped → Received**.



The purchase page: price, shipping, total, seller details and payment instructions.

1. **Choose the shipping method** when the seller offers several (standard, express, pickup...). The total is updated at once.
2. **Pay the seller.** The box *How to pay* shows the payment instructions of the website (for example bank transfer or PayPal to the seller within 3 days). After paying, the buyer clicks *I have paid - notify the seller* with an optional message such as the payment reference.
3. **Wait for shipping.** The seller confirms the payment and marks the item shipped with a tracking number, which appears on the page.
4. **Confirm the delivery** with *I received it*. The sale is completed.
5. **Leave feedback** - 1 to 5 stars and a comment about the seller (possible once the item is paid).

The price lines show the hammer price, the buyer's premium (if any), shipping, the VAT included or added, and the total. The buyer can message the seller from the same page.

> **Who receives the money?** In PHP Bid the buyer pays the seller directly, following your payment instructions. The website earns its money from fees that it invoices to the members - see Earning money with PHP Bid.

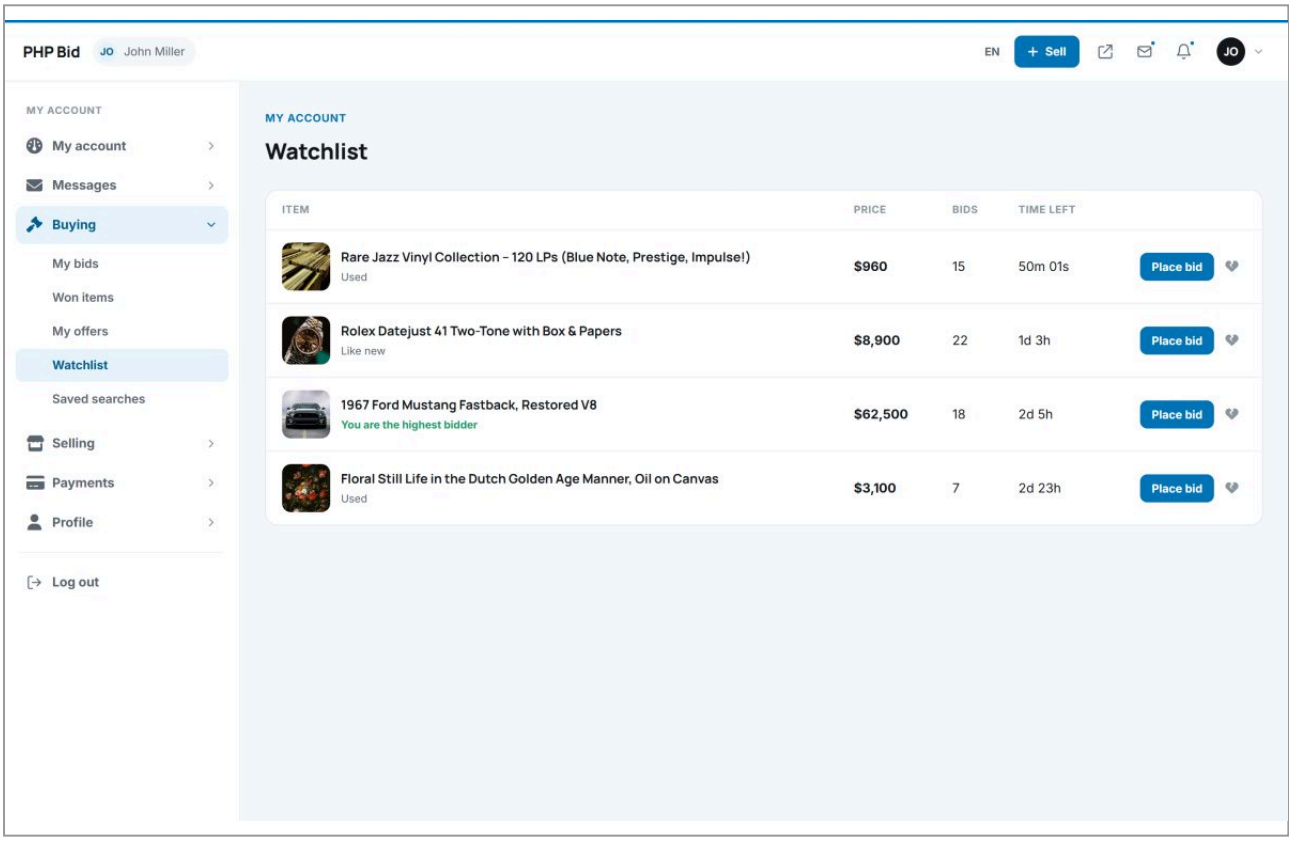
CHAPTER 14 · MEMBERS AREA

Watchlist, saved searches and recently viewed items

Three features bring buyers back to your site again and again: the watchlist, saved searches with e-mail alerts, and the list of recently viewed items.

Watchlist

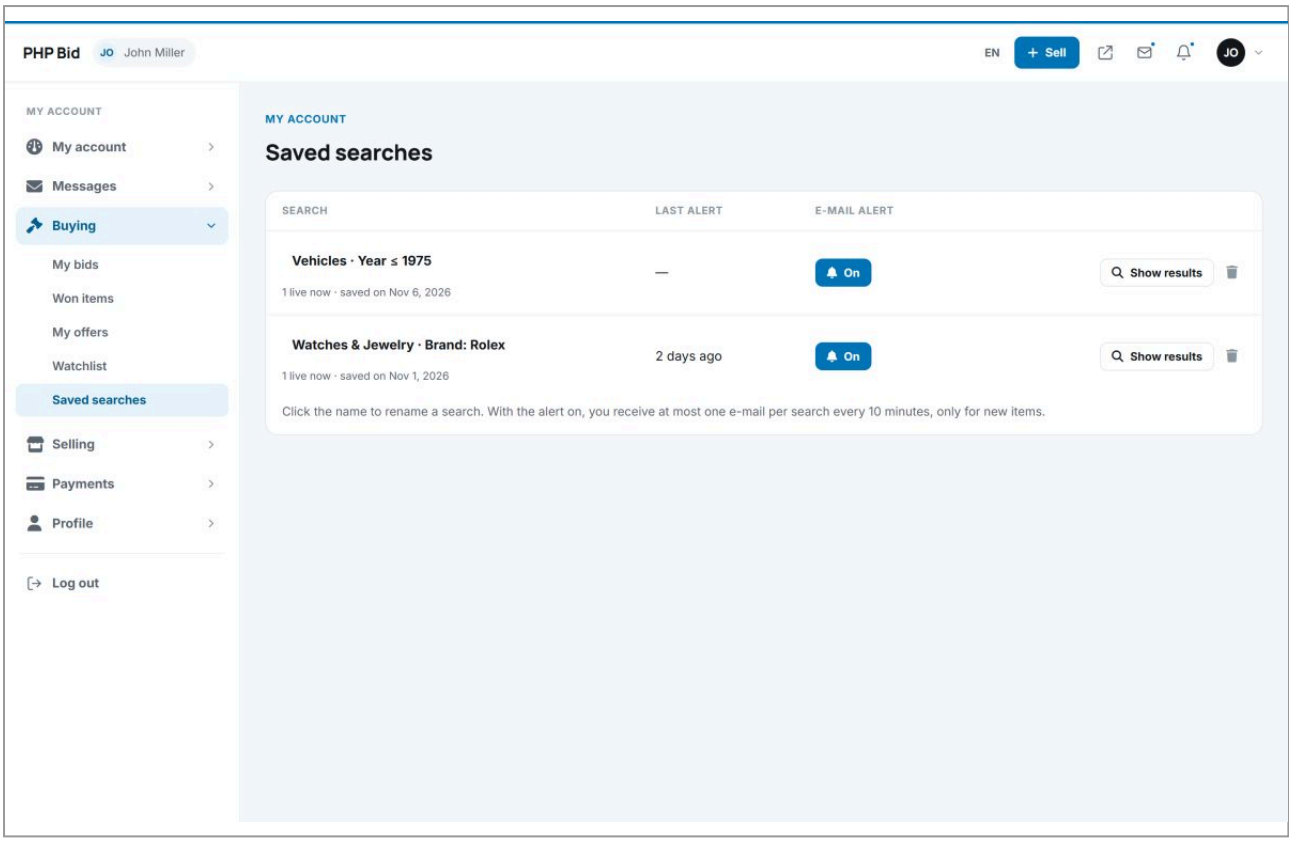
The heart button on each auction adds it to the member's **Watchlist** (*Buying › Watchlist*). Watchers receive an **ending soon** reminder before the auction closes, so they don't miss the last minutes. The number of watchers is shown on the auction page and tells sellers which items are popular.



The watchlist with the time left for each item.

Saved searches with e-mail alerts

On the search page, a logged-in member clicks **Save this search**. The keywords and all filters are stored. When new matching items are listed, the member gets an e-mail with the new items (the check runs at most every 10 minutes, so members never get flooded).



Saved searches: run a search again, turn its e-mail alert on or off, or delete it.

In **Buying › Saved searches** members can run a saved search again, turn its alert on or off, or delete it. The administrator can turn the whole feature off in Auction rules.

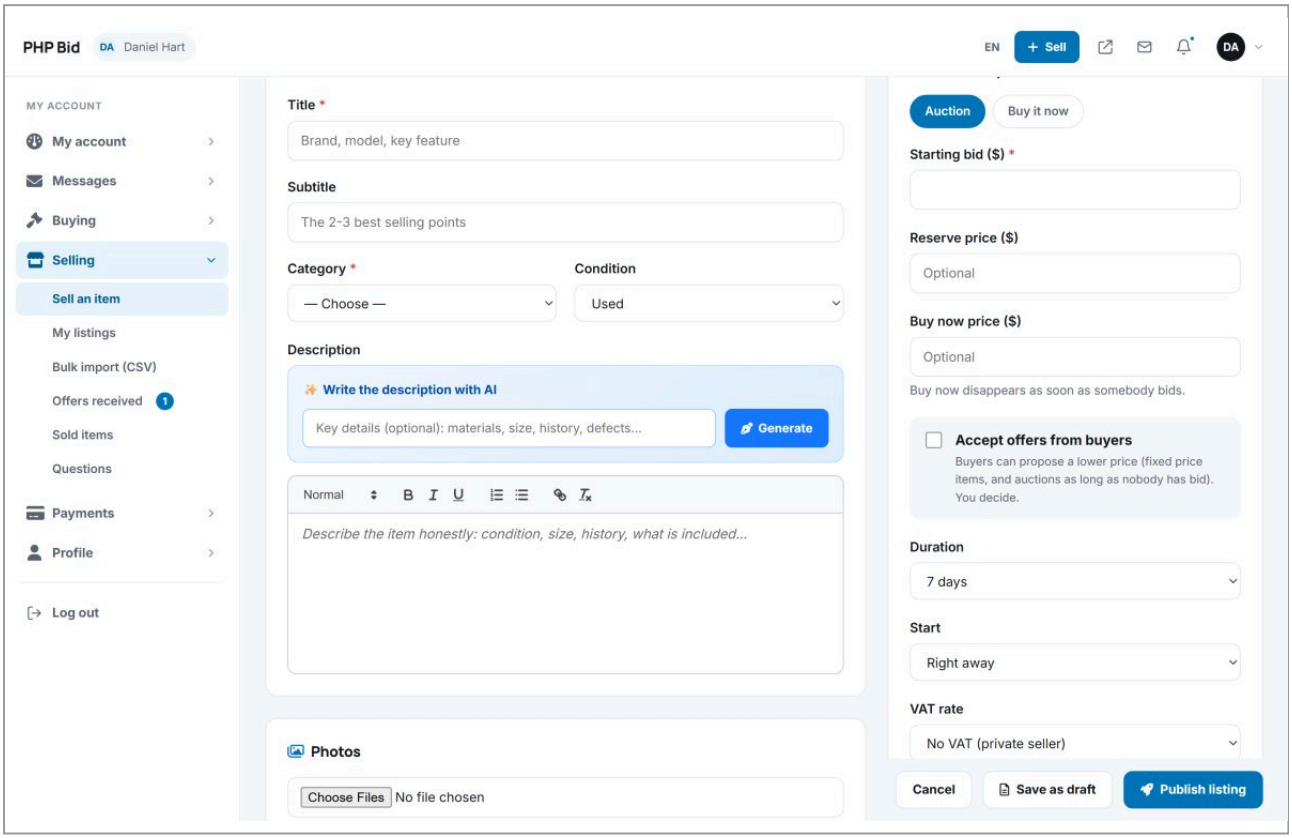
Recently viewed

The website remembers the last items a visitor looked at - also for guests - and shows them in a "Recently viewed" row, so visitors can easily go back to an item they liked. The list is stored only in the visitor's browser.

CHAPTER 15 · MEMBERS AREA

Selling an item with the AI listing assistant

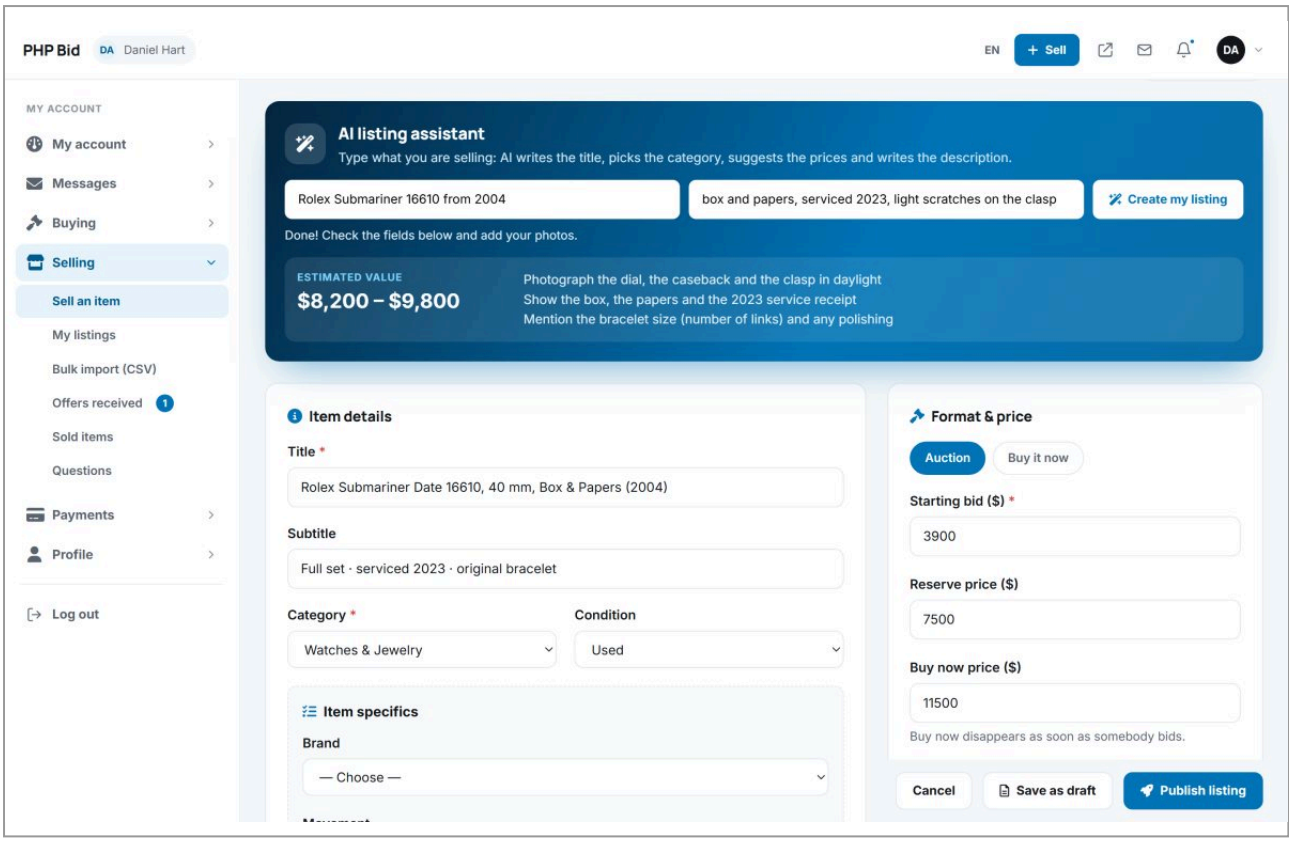
Listing an item takes a few minutes. The AI listing assistant writes the title and the description, picks the category and suggests the prices - the seller only checks and publishes.



The "Sell an item" form in the members area.

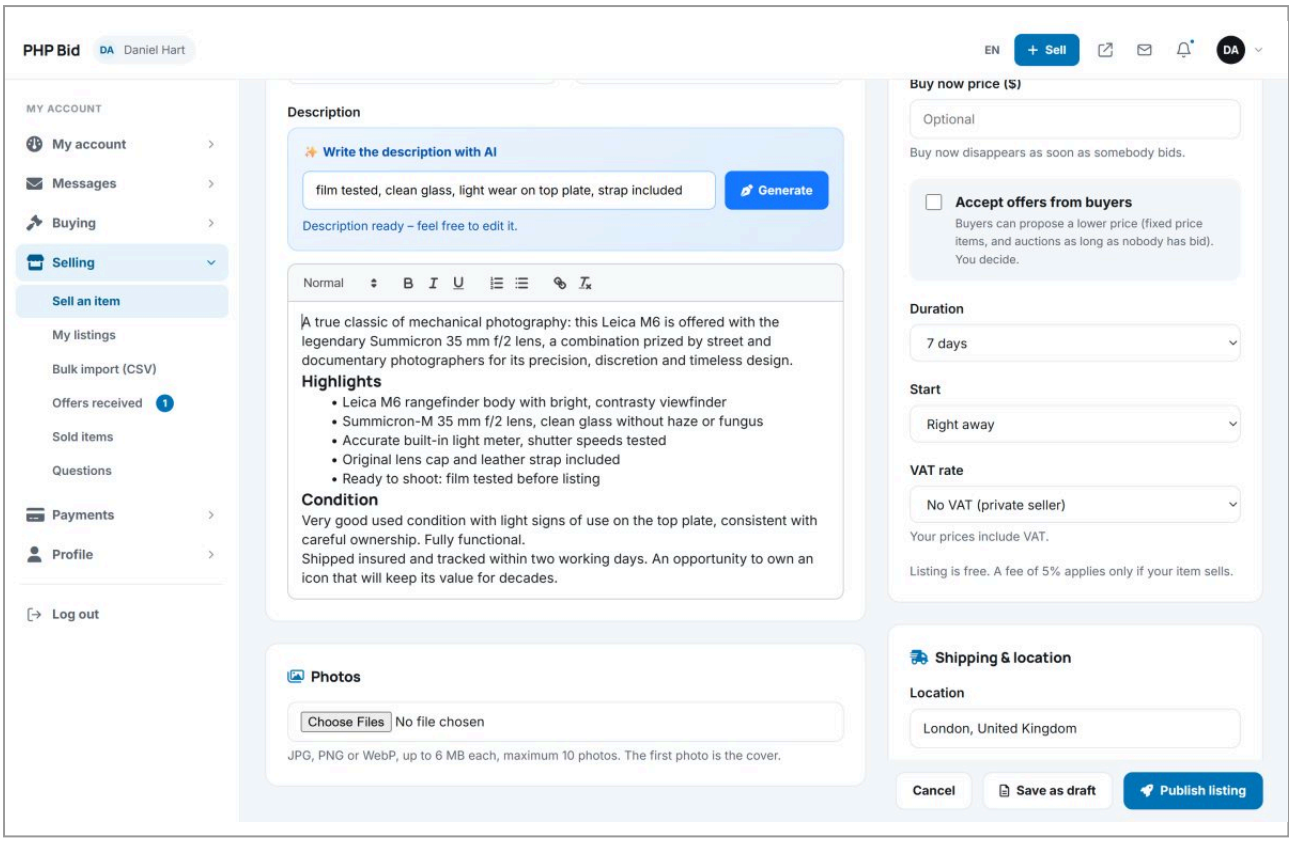
Start with the AI listing assistant

At the top of **Selling › Sell an item**, the seller types a few words such as *"Omega Seamaster 300M blue, 2019, box and papers"* and clicks the AI button. The assistant fills in a title and subtitle, the category, the condition, a value estimate, a starting price, a reserve and a Buy it now price, and gives a few selling tips. Everything can be changed before publishing.



The AI listing assistant suggests the title, category and prices.

The **description writer** button next to the description writes a professional text with highlights and condition from the title and a few notes.



The AI description writer.

The fields of the form

Field	Explanation
Title, subtitle	The title appears everywhere; the subtitle is a short extra line on the cards.
Category and condition	Choosing a category shows its own fields (brand, size, year…). See Category fields.
Photos	Up to the maximum set by the administrator (10 by default). The first photo is the main one.
Description	Full text with formatting.
Pricing format	*Auction* or *Buy it now* (fixed price).
Starting bid	The first bid must be at least this amount.
Reserve price	Optional secret minimum. See Reserve price.
Buy it now price	Optional. On an auction it disappears as soon as somebody bids.
Accept offers	Lets buyers propose a lower price. See Offers.
VAT rate	Shown when VAT is on: the seller picks one of the rates you allow. See VAT and shipping.

Field	Explanation
Duration and start	One of the durations you allow (for example 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 or 14 days). Start now, or schedule a start date and time.
Shipping	Location, one or more shipping methods with their cost (free is possible), shipping information and the returns policy.
Featured listing	Paid upgrade that shows the item in the featured sections. See Featured listings.

Publish or save as a draft

Publish listing puts the item online - or sends it to the approval queue if you approve new listings. **Save draft** keeps it in *My listings › Drafts* to finish later. If you charge a listing or featured fee, an invoice is created and the listing goes online once it is paid.

After publishing

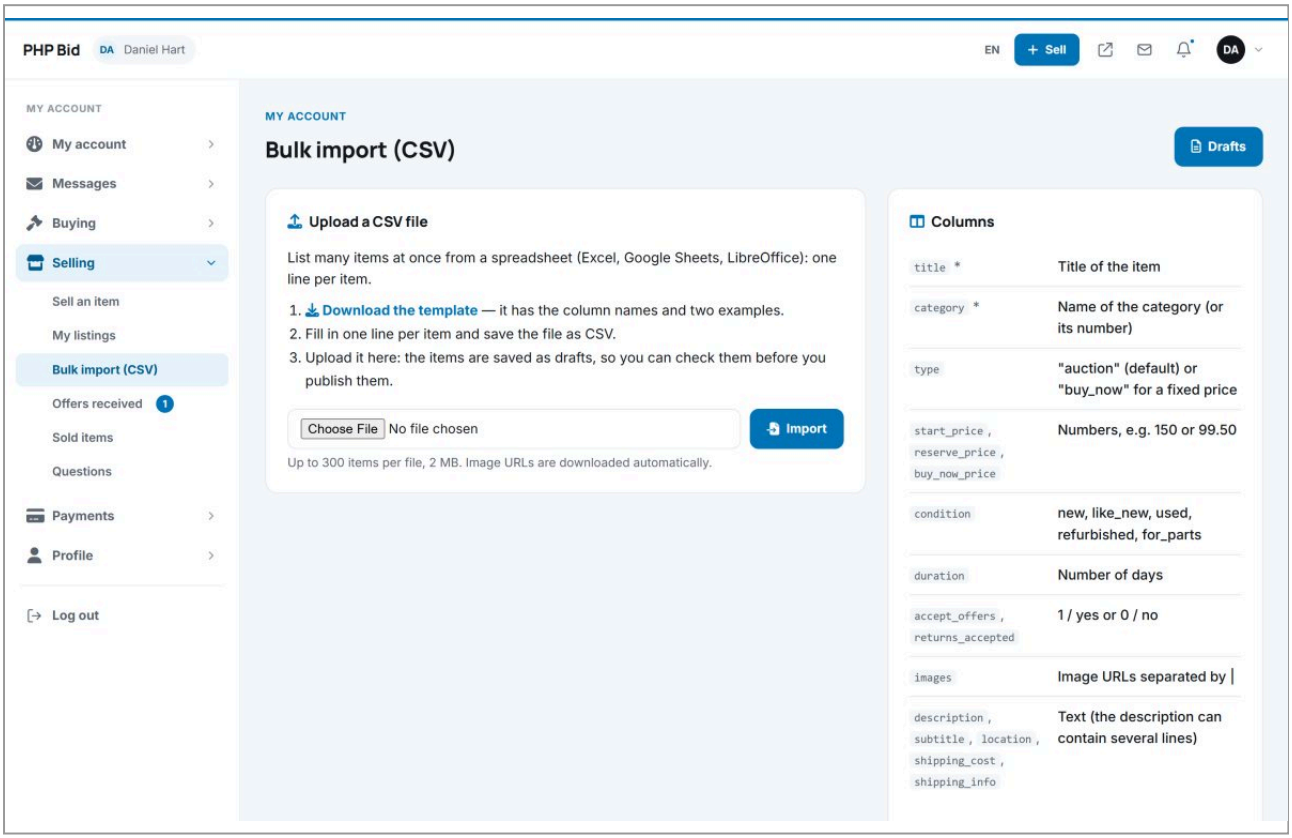
- While nobody has bid, the seller can change everything.
- After the first bid, the format, the starting price and the start date are locked to keep the auction fair; the description and photos can still be improved.
- Questions from buyers arrive in *Selling › Questions*. See Managing listings.

> **Banned words:** if the title or description contains a word on your banned list, the listing is blocked or sent to review, depending on your setting. See Questions, reports and moderation.

CHAPTER 16 · MEMBERS AREA

Bulk import of listings from a CSV file

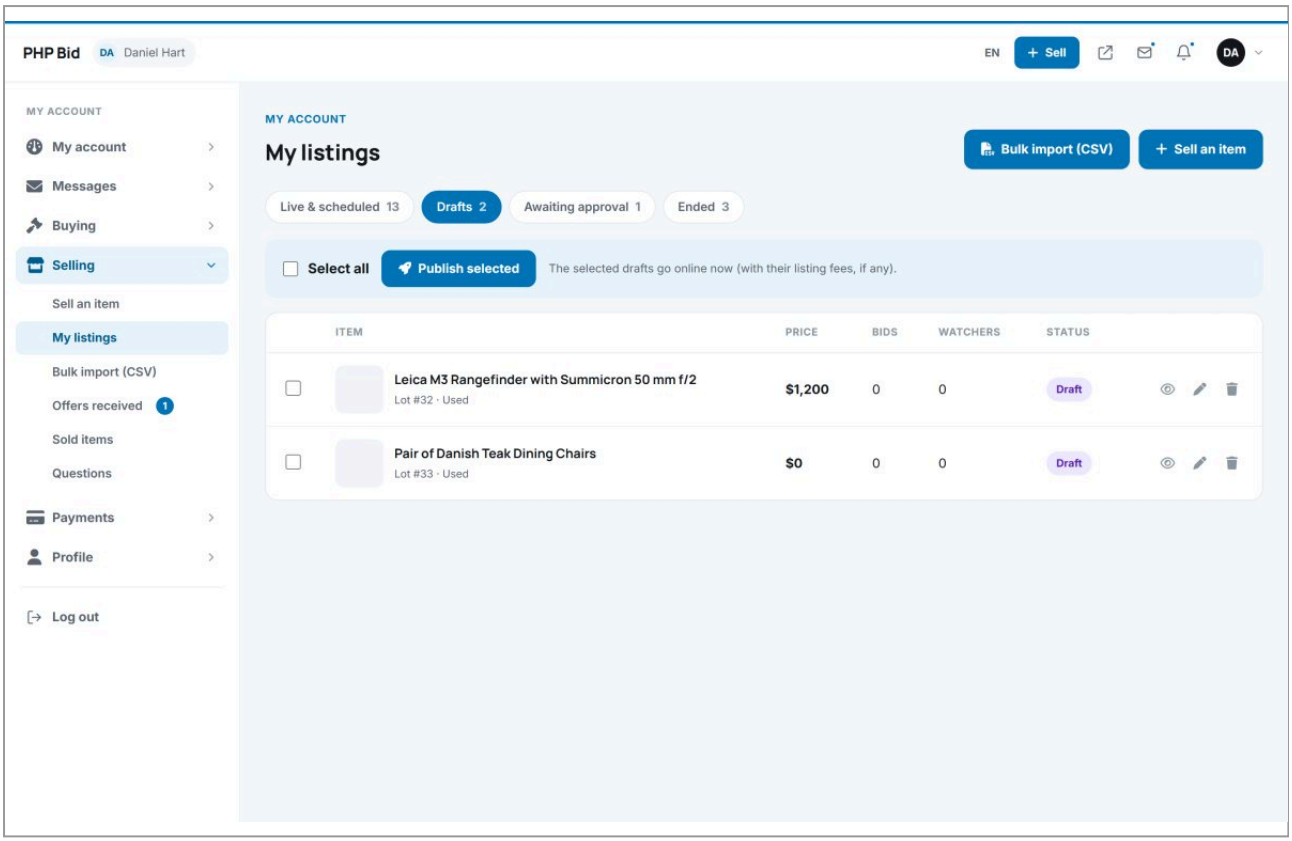
Dealers and auction houses often have dozens of items to list. With the CSV import they prepare them in Excel or Google Sheets and upload them in one go.



Bulk import: upload a CSV file, the rows become drafts.

How it works

1. Open **Selling › Bulk import (CSV)** and click *Download the template*.
2. Fill in one row per item in Excel, LibreOffice or Google Sheets and save as CSV (UTF-8).
3. Upload the file. Every valid row becomes a **draft**; rows with errors are listed with the reason.
4. Check the drafts in **My listings › Drafts**, edit any of them, tick the ones you want and click **Publish selected**. The duration starts at publishing.



Imported drafts: select them and publish them together.

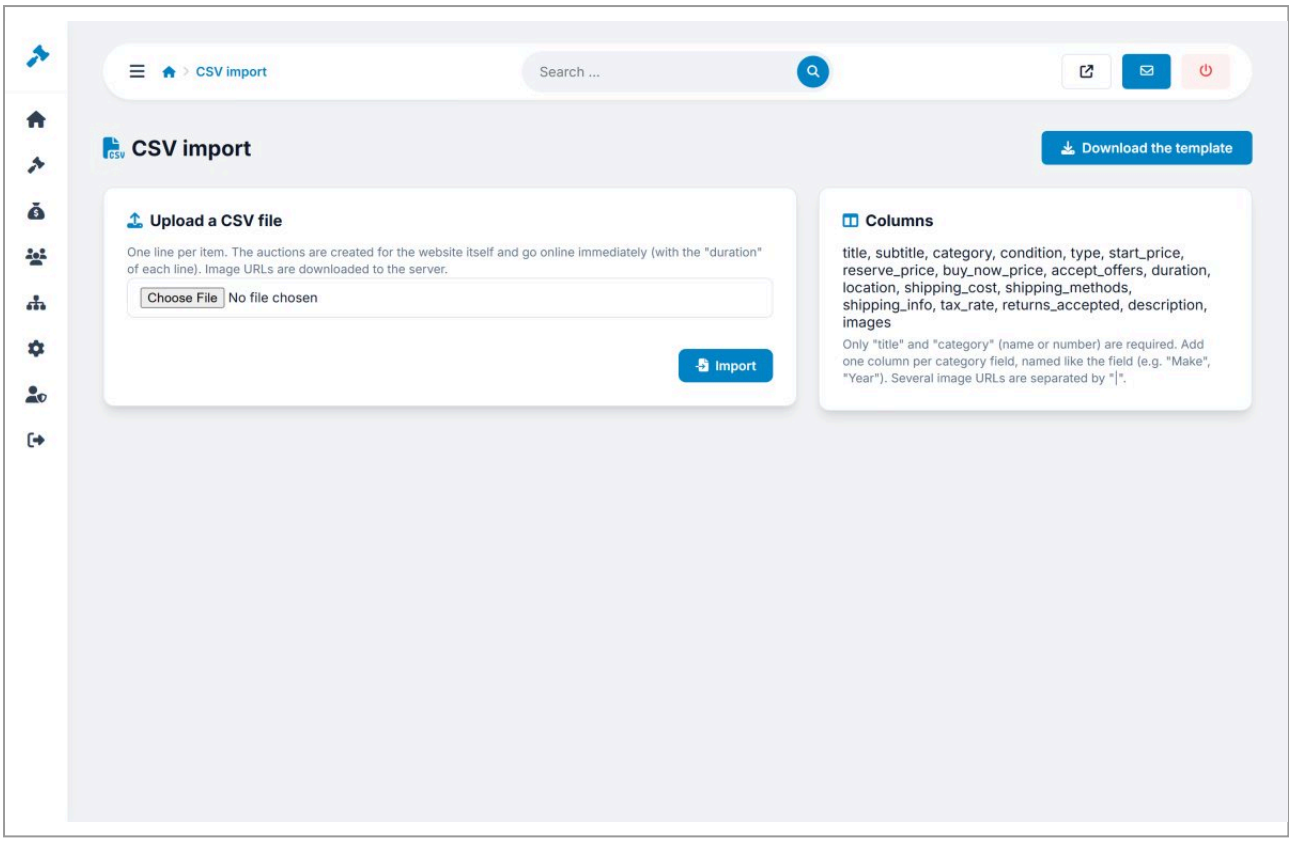
The columns

`title, subtitle, category, condition, type, start_price, reserve_price, buy_now_price, accept_offers, duration, location, shipping_cost, shipping_methods, shipping_info, tax_rate, returns_accepted, description, images`

- Only `title` and `category` are required. The category can be written by name.
- `type` is `auction` or `buy_now`.
- `images` are image URLs separated by `|`. They are downloaded to your server automatically.
- Extra columns named like a category field (for example *Make* or *Year*) fill in that field.

Import by the administrator

The administrator has the same tool in **Auctions › CSV import**, where the listings are created for the website itself and go online immediately with the duration of each row.



CSV import in the admin panel.

CHAPTER 17 · MEMBERS AREA

Managing listings, relisting and answering questions

My listings is the seller's control panel: every item with its price, bids, watchers and status, and one-click actions to edit, end, relist or publish.

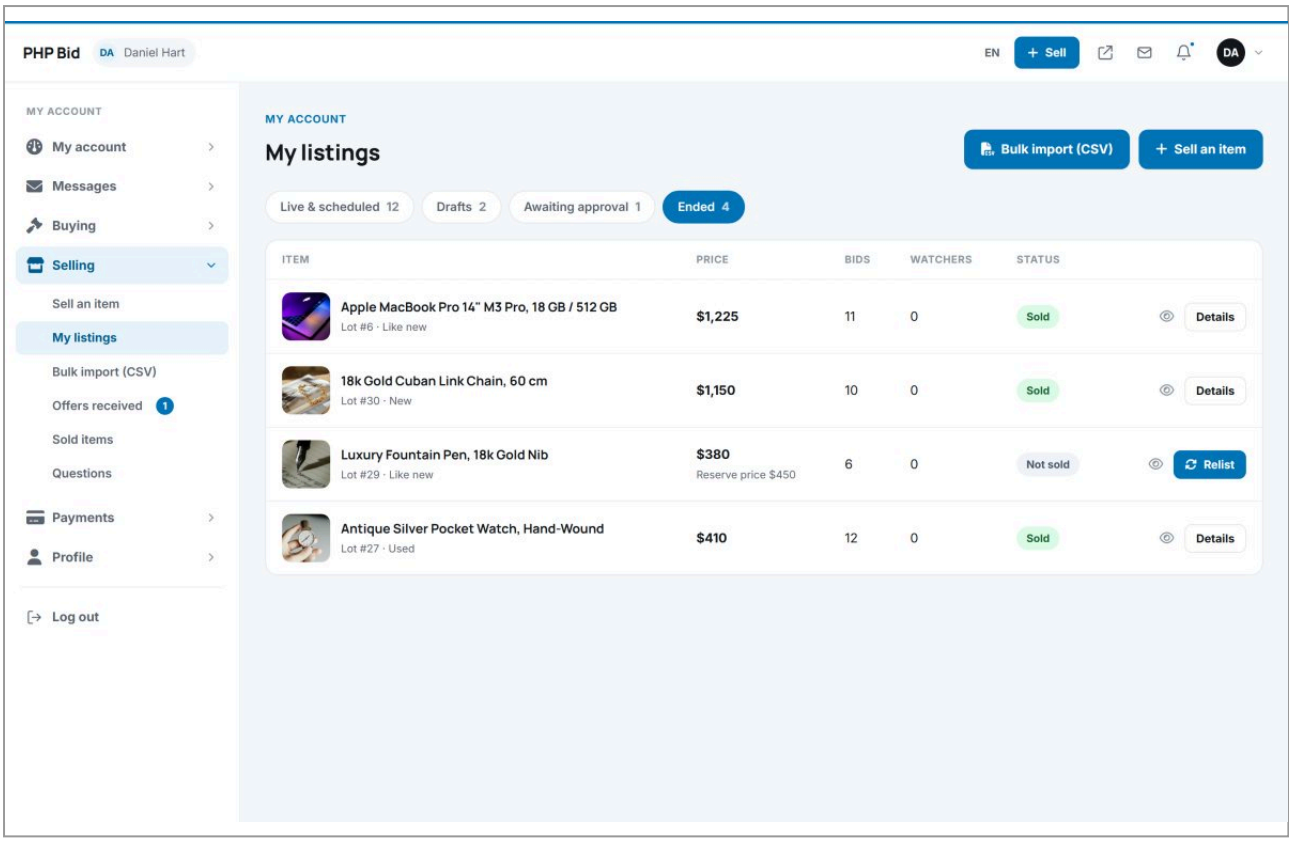
The tabs of My listings

Tab	Content
Live & scheduled	Items online now and items with a future start date.
Drafts	Unfinished listings and CSV imports, with *Publish selected*.
Awaiting approval	Items waiting for the administrator (or for the payment of a listing fee).
Ended	Sold and unsold items, with *Relist*.

Each row shows the price, the number of bids and watchers and the status, with buttons to view, edit, delete a draft or *End the listing* early.

Relisting unsold items

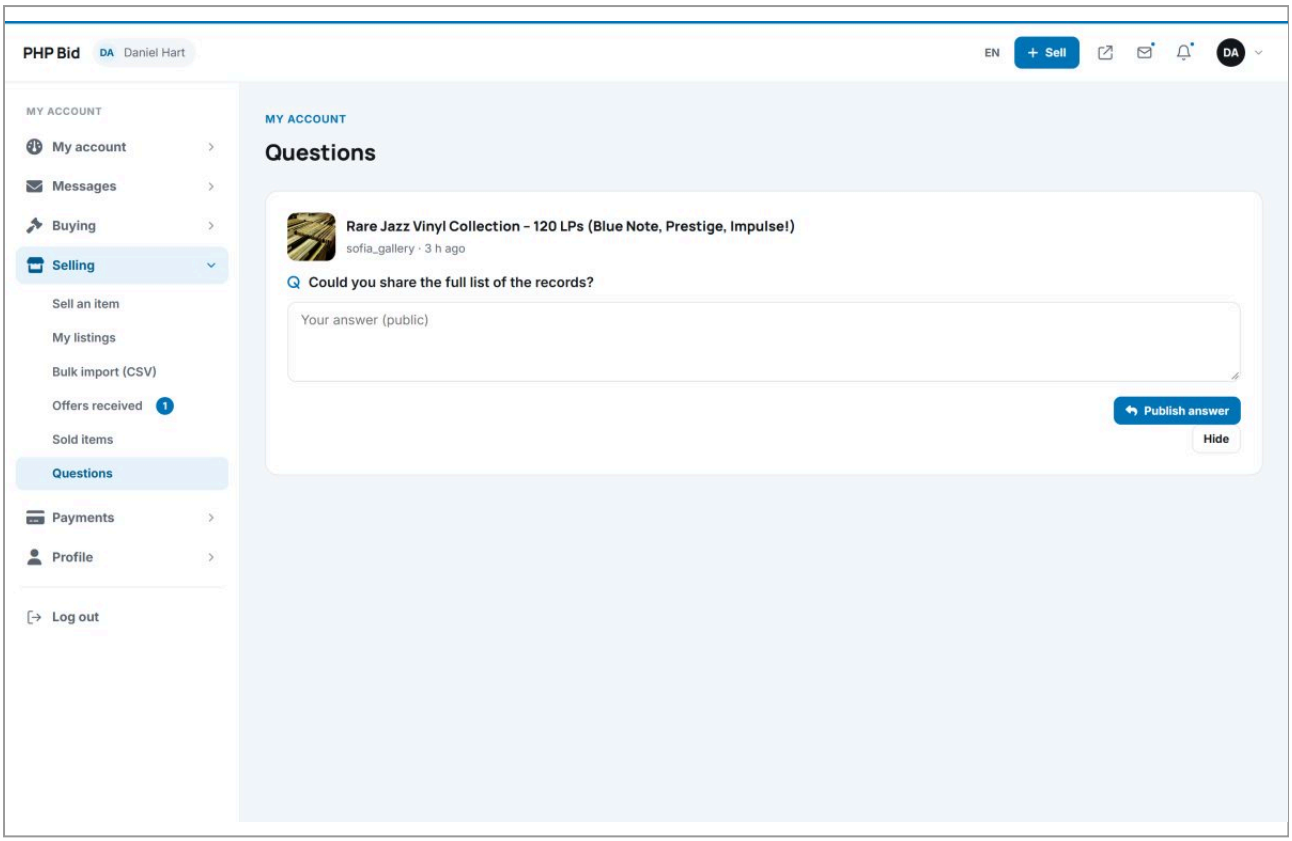
An item that did not sell can be put online again with **Relist**. A new listing is created with the same photos, description, prices, shipping methods and VAT rate; the seller can lower the price or remove the reserve before it starts.



Relist creates a copy of an ended listing in one click.

Questions and answers

Buyers' questions arrive in **Selling › Questions** and as a notification. The seller writes an answer and chooses *Publish answer* - the question and answer then appear on the auction page for all bidders - or *Hide* for private or irrelevant questions.



Answering a question from a buyer.

Rejected listings

If the administrator rejects a listing, the seller sees the reason (the administrator's note) on the listing and can correct it and submit it again.

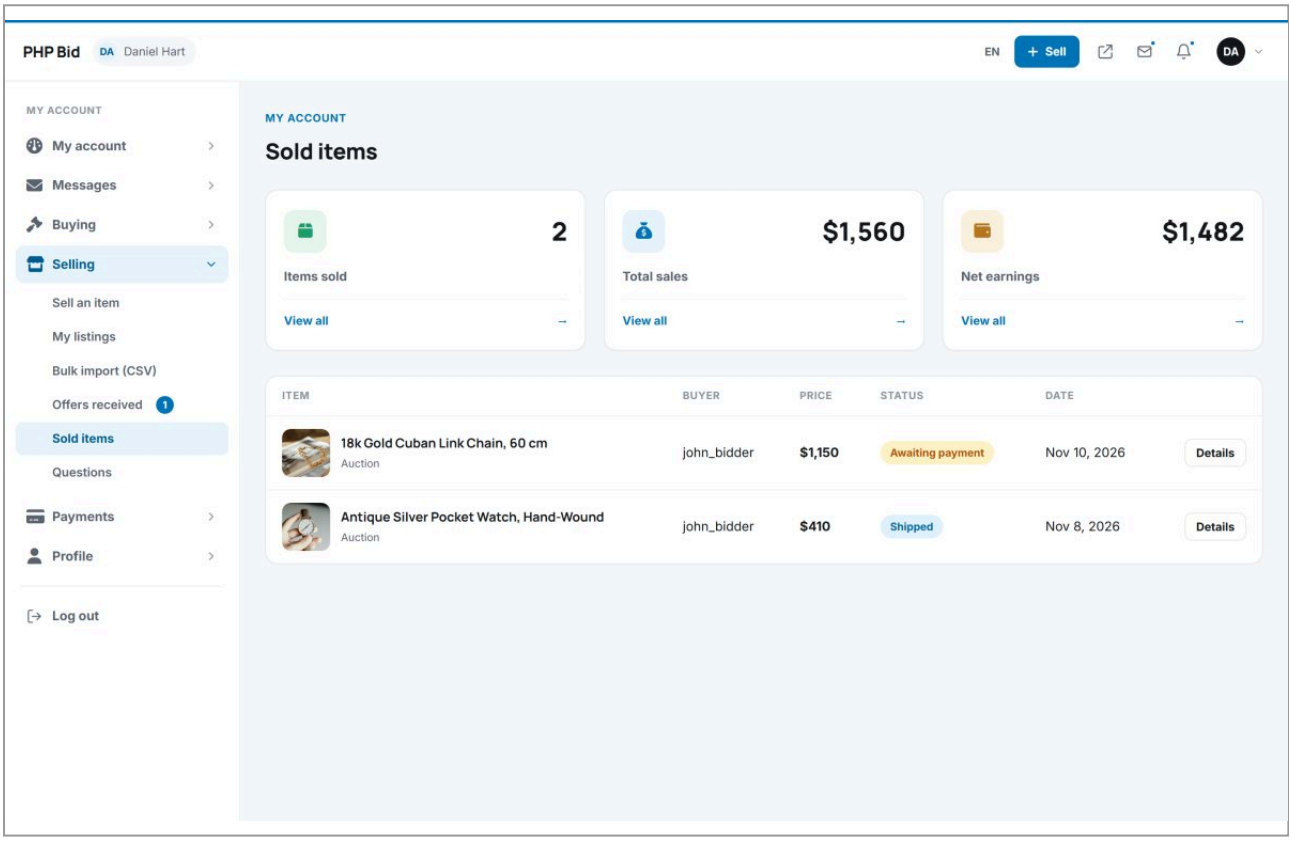
CHAPTER 18 · MEMBERS AREA

Sold items: payment, shipping and tracking

Every sale gets its own page for the seller, with the buyer's shipping address, the total to receive and the next step. Buyer and seller always see the same status.

Sold items

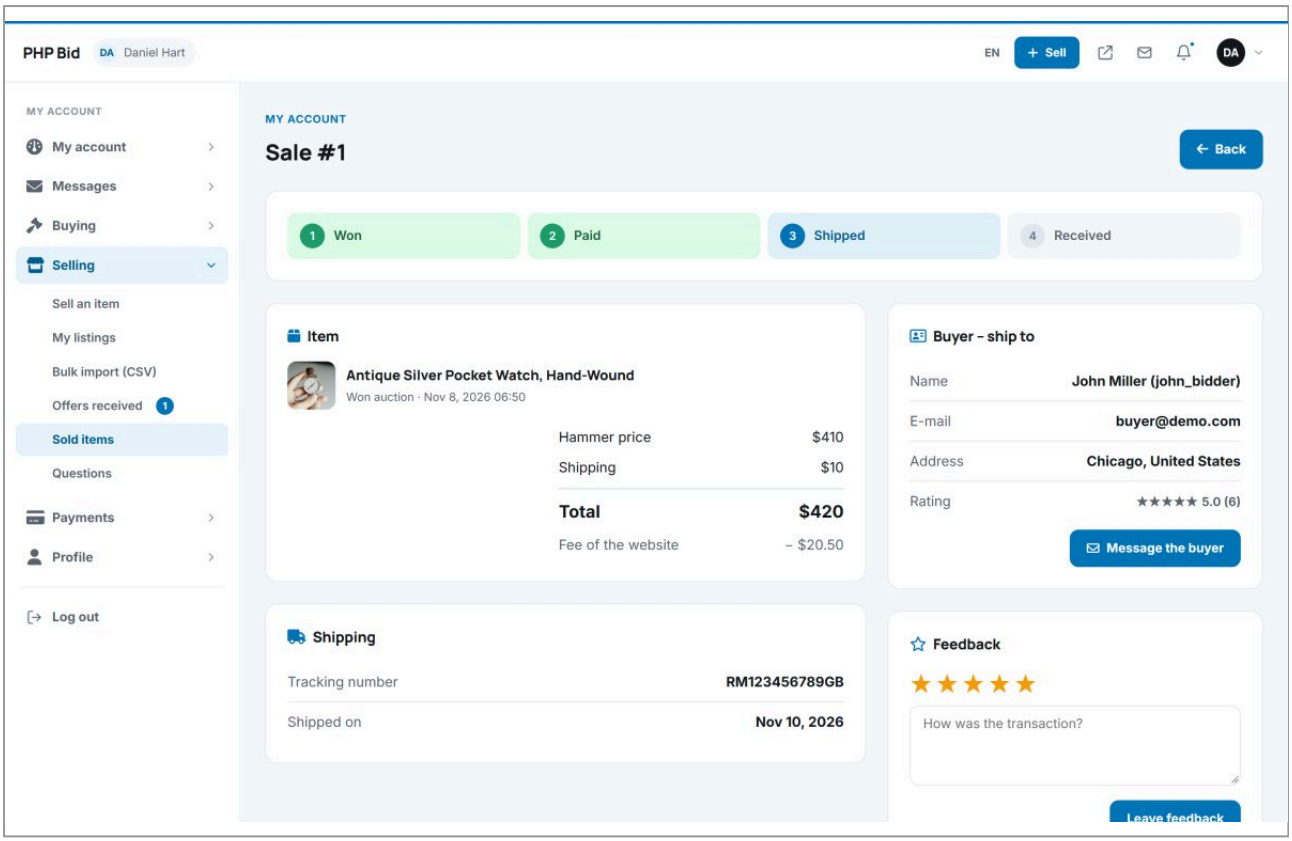
Selling › Sold items shows the number of items sold, the total sales and the net earnings after the fees of the website, followed by the list of sales with the buyer, the price, the status and the date.



Sold items with totals and the status of every sale.

The steps of a sale

1. **Awaiting payment** - the buyer chooses the shipping method and pays. The seller is notified when the buyer clicks "I have paid".
2. **Payment received** - the seller checks the money arrived and clicks *I received the payment*.
3. **Shipped** - the seller clicks *Mark as shipped* and adds the tracking number and a note to the buyer.
4. **Completed** - the buyer confirms the delivery.



Marking a sale shipped with a tracking number.

The sale page shows the hammer price, shipping, VAT, the buyer's premium, the **fee of the website** (seller commission) and the totals, plus the buyer's name, e-mail, phone and shipping address. The seller can message the buyer from the page.

Cancelling a sale

If the buyer never pays, the seller can cancel the sale with *Cancel the sale*. The administrator also sees and can change every sale in **Sales**.

Feedback for the buyer

Once the item is paid, both sides can leave feedback: 1 to 5 stars and a comment. Ratings appear on the member's profile and build trust in your marketplace.

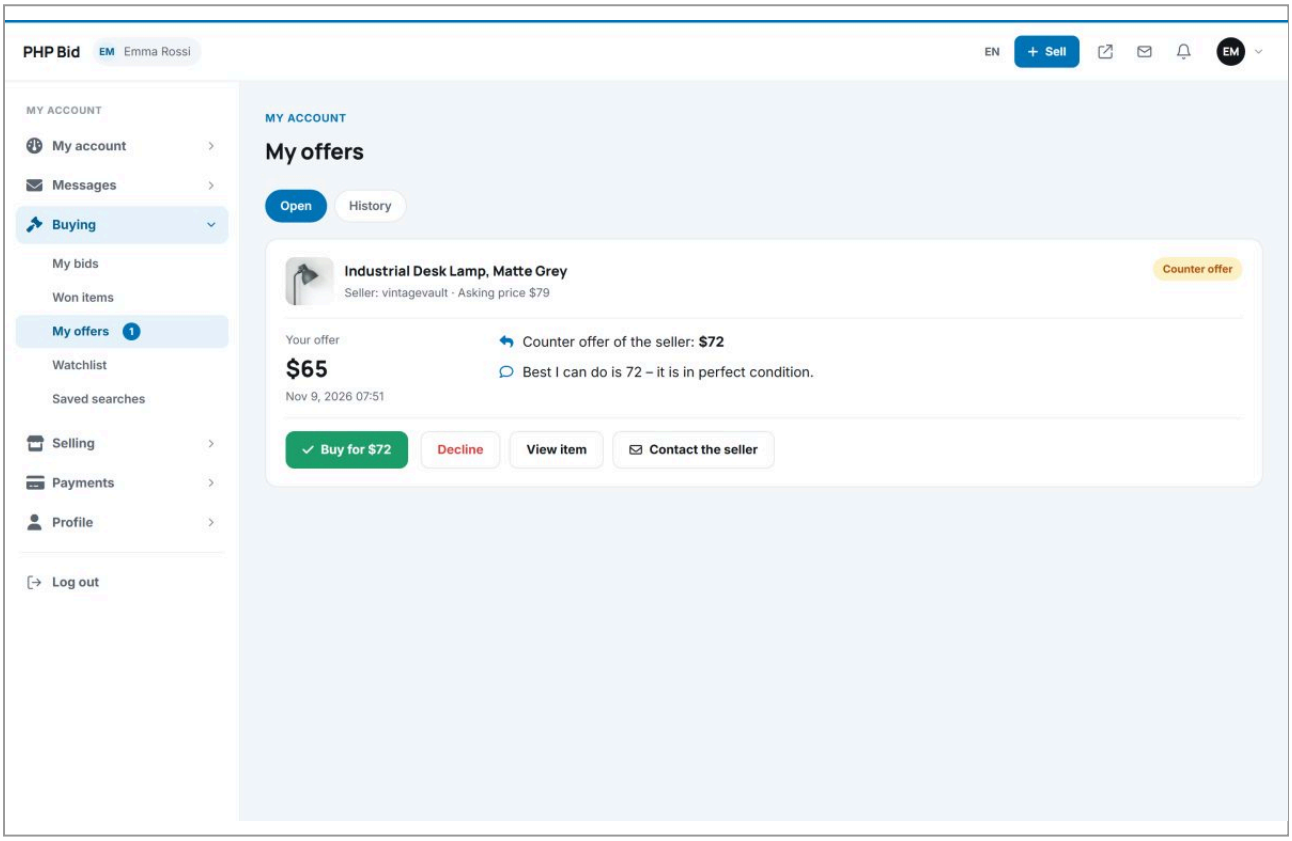
CHAPTER 19 · MEMBERS AREA

Offers and counter-offers

Offers turn "too expensive" into a sale. Buyers propose a price, sellers answer with one click, and an accepted offer becomes a sale like any other.

For buyers: My offers

Buying › My offers shows the open offers and the history. When the seller answers with a counter-offer, the buyer can *Buy for* the counter price at once, decline it, view the item or contact the seller.



A counter-offer from the seller, ready to accept.

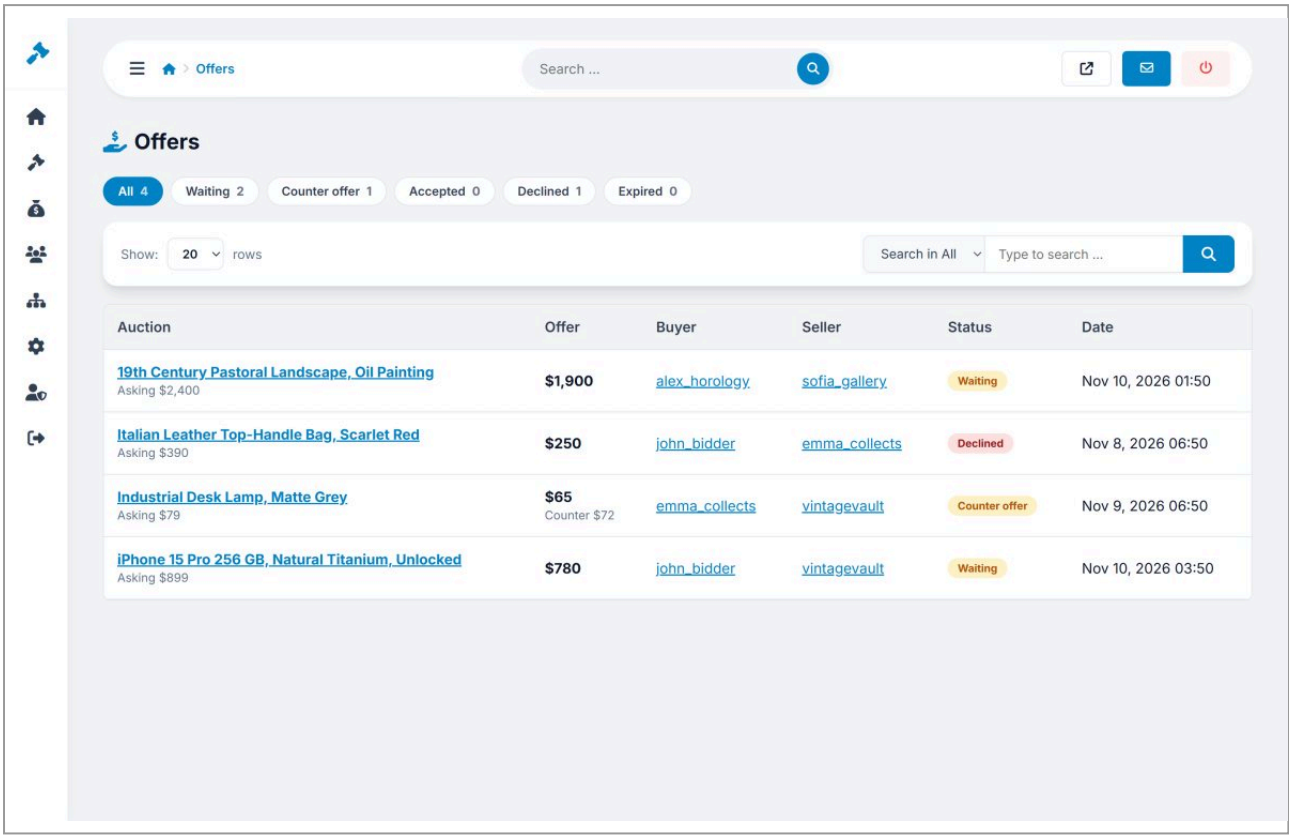
For sellers: Offers received

Selling › Offers received lists the offers per item with the buyer's message. The seller can **accept**, **decline** or **counter** with another price and a message. The menu counter shows how many offers wait for an answer.

Rules

- Offers are possible on fixed price items, and on auctions until the first bid.
- An accepted offer is bought by the buyer with one click; it then appears in Won items and Sold items.

- When the item is sold - by bid, Buy it now or another offer - the other open offers expire automatically and the buyers are told.
- The administrator can turn offers off for the whole website and sees all offers in **Auctions › Offers**.

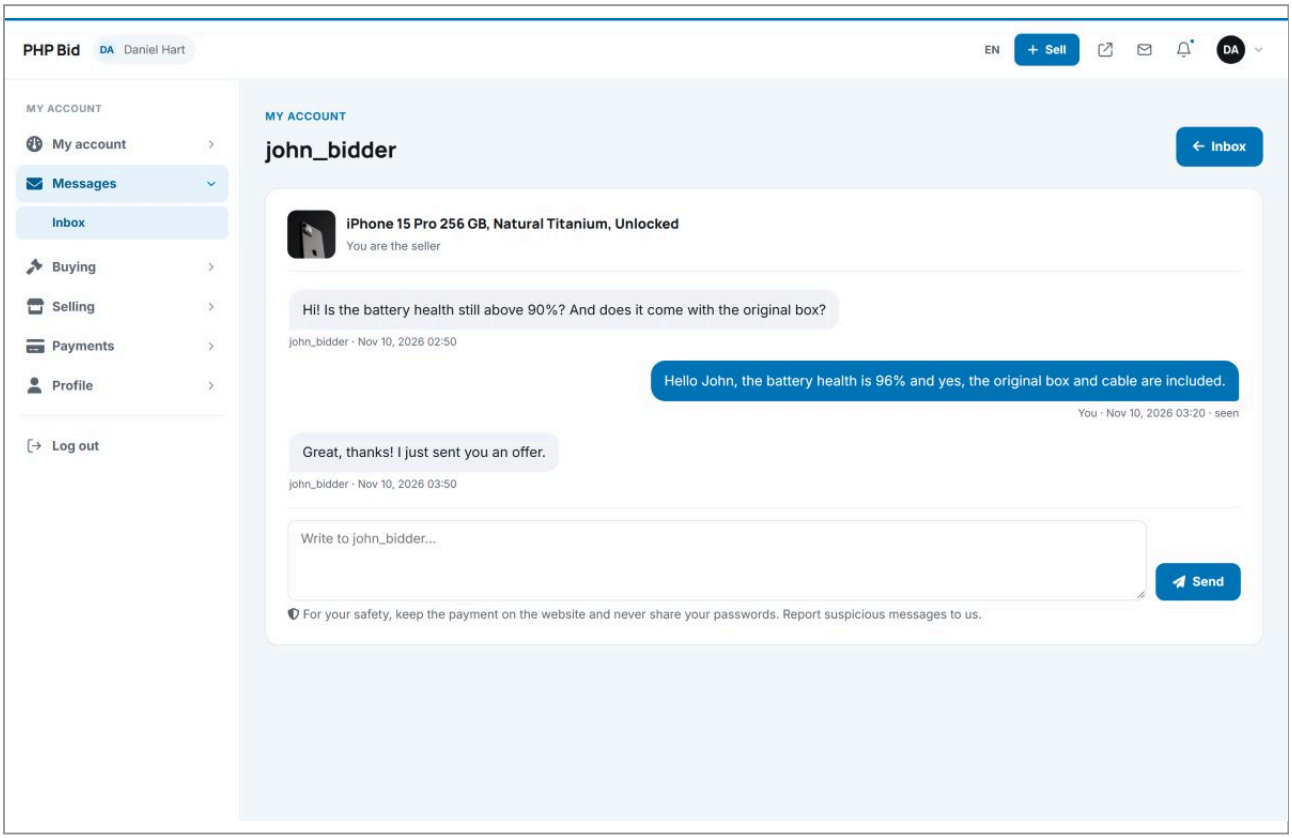


All offers of the website in the admin panel.

CHAPTER 20 · MEMBERS AREA

Private messages between buyers and sellers

Buyers and sellers talk inside your website instead of exchanging e-mail addresses - safer for them, and you keep the transactions on your marketplace.



A conversation about an item.

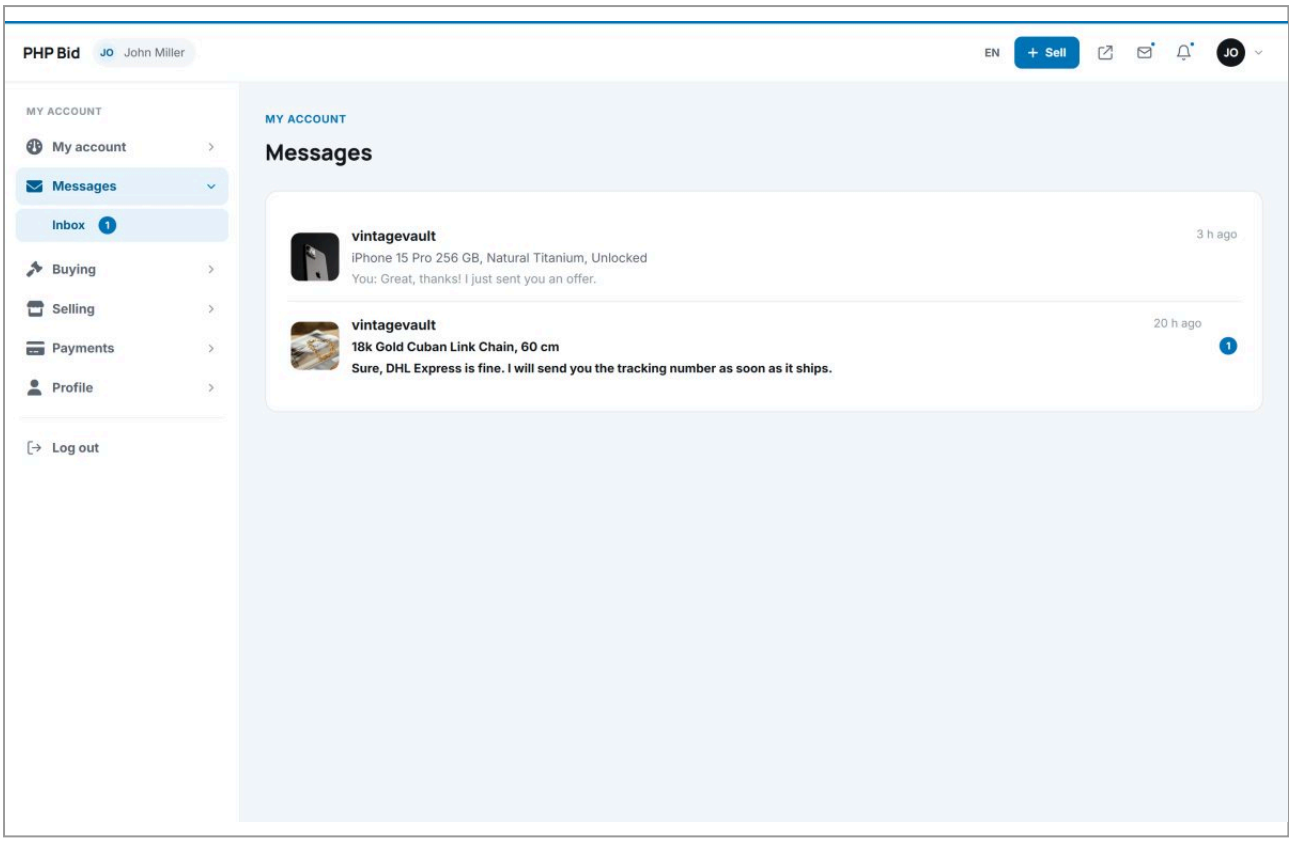
Starting a conversation

- **From an auction page** - *Contact the seller* (guests are asked to log in first and come back to the same item).
- **From a sale** - *Message the seller* or *Message the buyer* on the sale page.

Each conversation is about one item and shows its photo and title, so both sides always know what they are talking about.

The inbox

Messages › Inbox lists the conversations with the newest first and the unread ones highlighted. A new message also creates a notification and an e-mail.



The inbox in the members area.

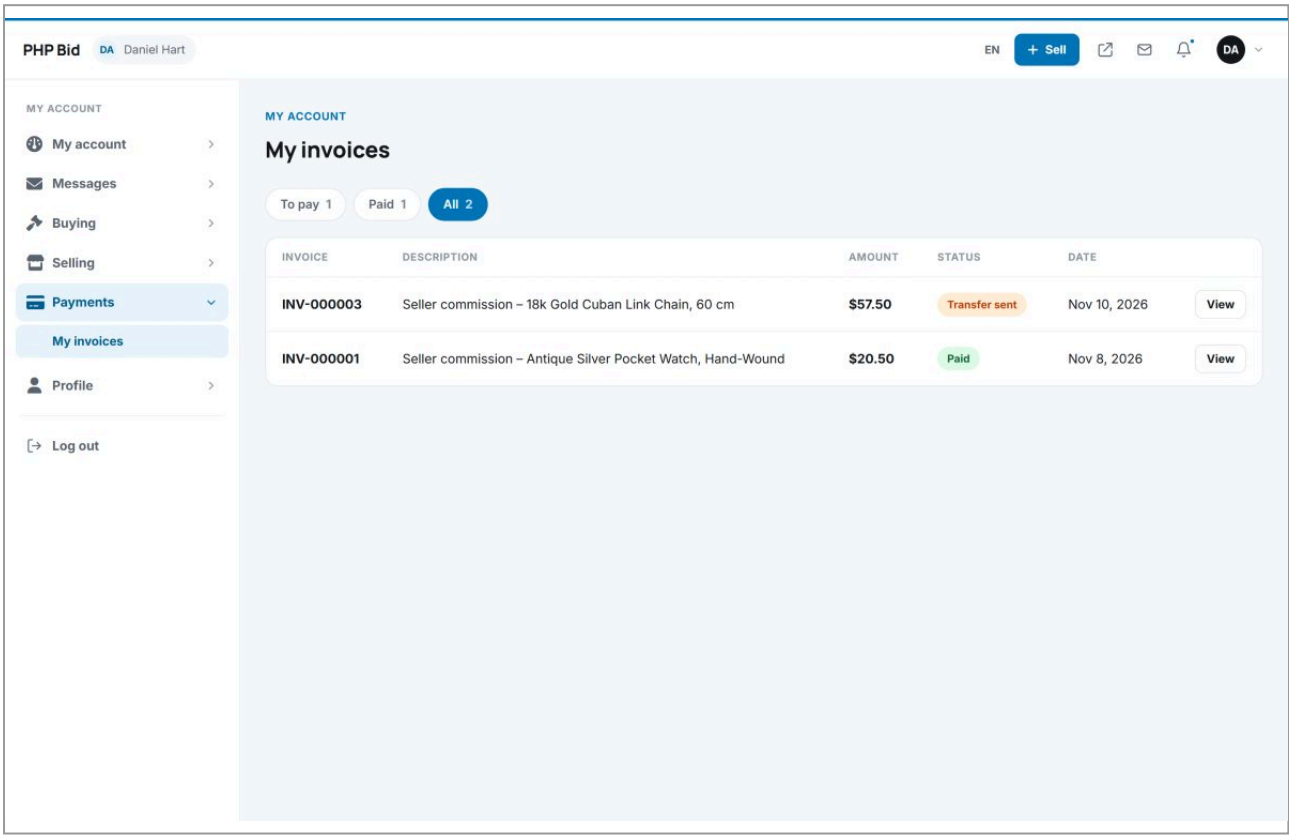
Administration

The administrator can turn the private messages off (Auction rules) and can read the conversations in **Members › Member messages**, for example to settle a dispute. Messages are checked against the banned words list.

CHAPTER 21 · MEMBERS AREA

Invoices and paying the fees of the website

Everything the website charges appears as an invoice in Payments › My invoices. Members pay online in seconds, or by bank transfer with the reference you provide.



The invoices of a member with their status.

Which invoices are created

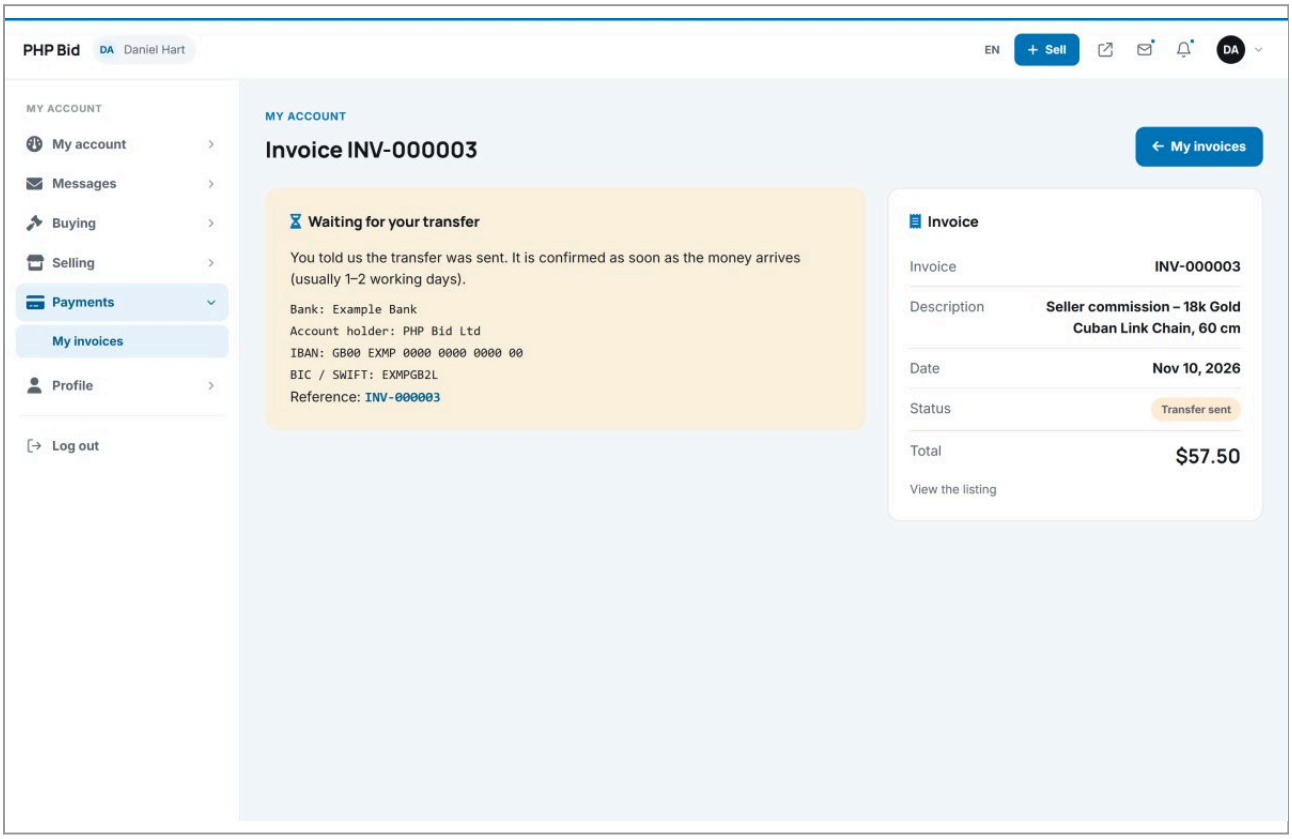
Invoice	When
Listing fee	When a seller publishes a listing (if you charge one). The listing goes online after payment.
Featured fee	When a seller chooses the featured upgrade.
Seller commission	After each sale, a percentage of the hammer price.
Buyer's premium	After each sale, a percentage paid by the buyer to the website.

When VAT on the fees is turned on, each invoice shows the net amount, the VAT and the total.

Paying an invoice

The member clicks *Pay* and chooses one of the methods you enabled:

- **Card with Stripe** - a secure Stripe Checkout page; the invoice is marked paid automatically.
- **PayPal** - paid on PayPal; the invoice is marked paid automatically.
- **Bank transfer** - the member sees your bank details and the invoice number as reference, and clicks "I have sent the transfer". The status becomes *Transfer sent* until you confirm the money arrived.



Waiting for a bank transfer: the bank details and the reference.

Overdue fees

If you set a grace period in **Settings › Payments** (for example 14 days), a member with commission or premium invoices older than that can not list new items until they are paid. A message with a link to the invoices explains why.

CHAPTER 22 · MEMBERS AREA

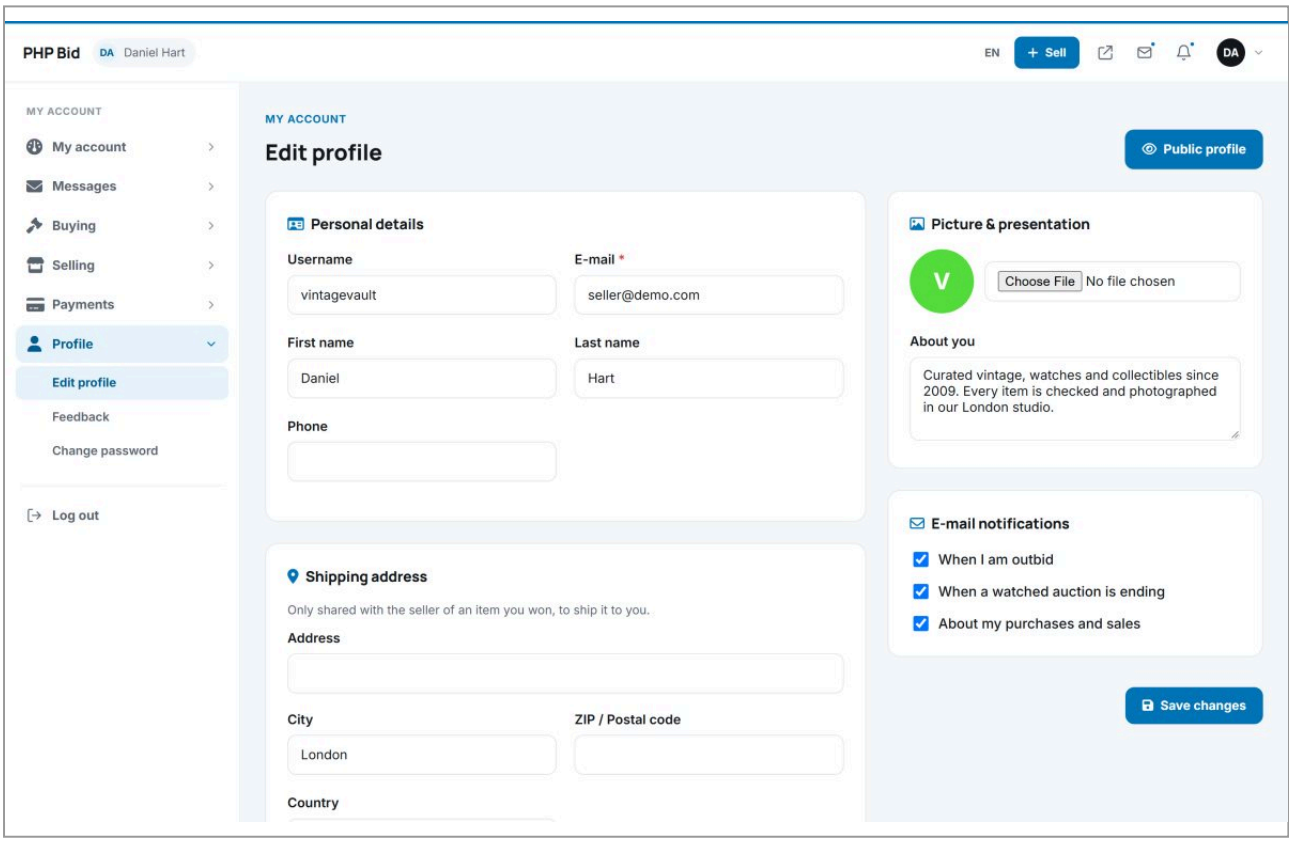
Profile, e-mail preferences, feedback and password

The Profile menu holds the member's personal details, the public seller presentation, the e-mail preferences, the feedback received and the password.

Edit profile

Profile › Edit profile contains:

- **Personal details** - username, e-mail, first and last name, phone.
- **Picture and presentation** - a profile picture and an "About you" text shown on the public seller profile.
- **Shipping address** - address, city, ZIP and country. It is shared only with the seller of an item the member won, to ship it.
- **E-mail notifications** - when I am outbid, when a watched auction is ending, about my purchases and sales.

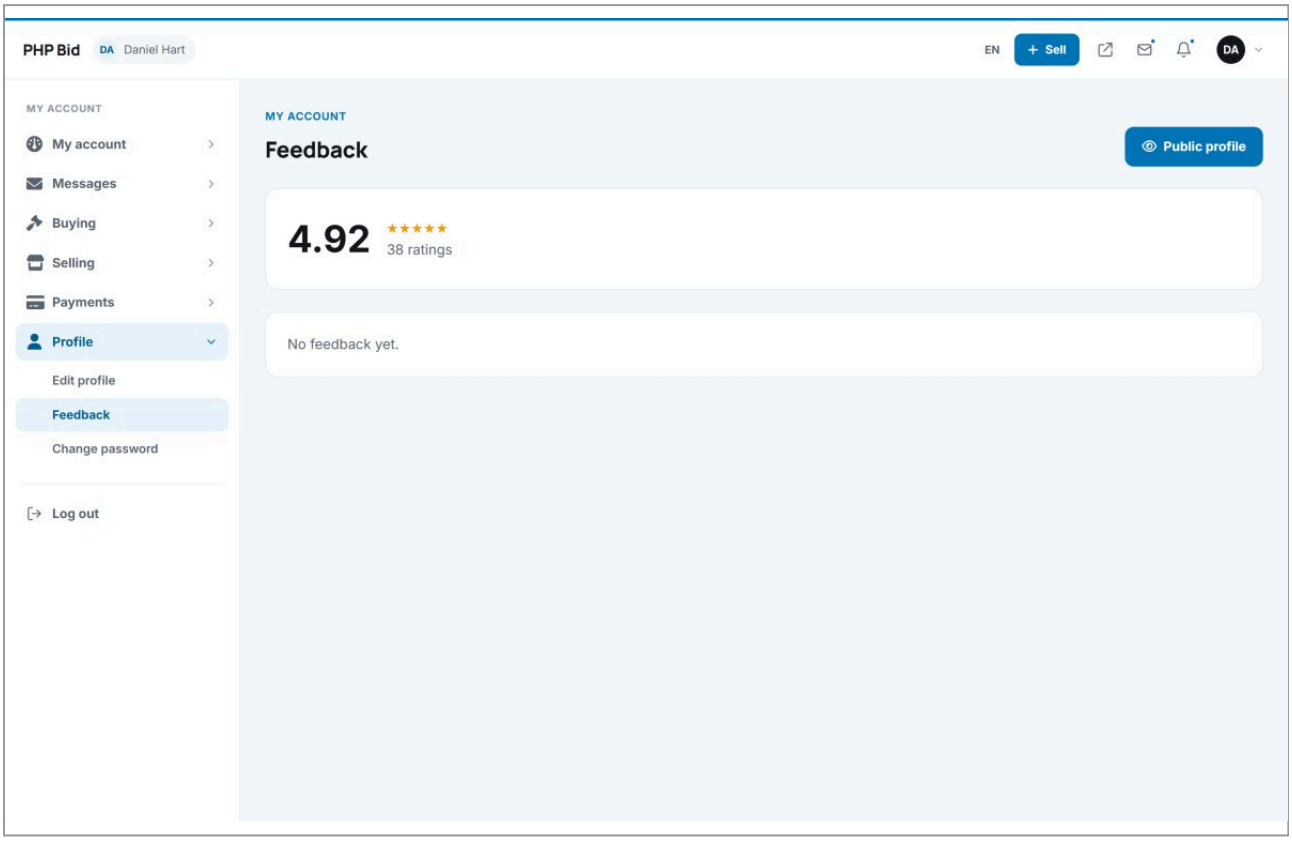


The profile page of a member.

The *Public profile* button shows the profile as other members see it.

Feedback

Profile › Feedback shows the average rating, the number of ratings and every comment received as buyer and as seller.



The rating of a member.

Change password

Profile › Change password asks for the current password and the new one twice.

CHAPTER 23 · ADMIN PANEL

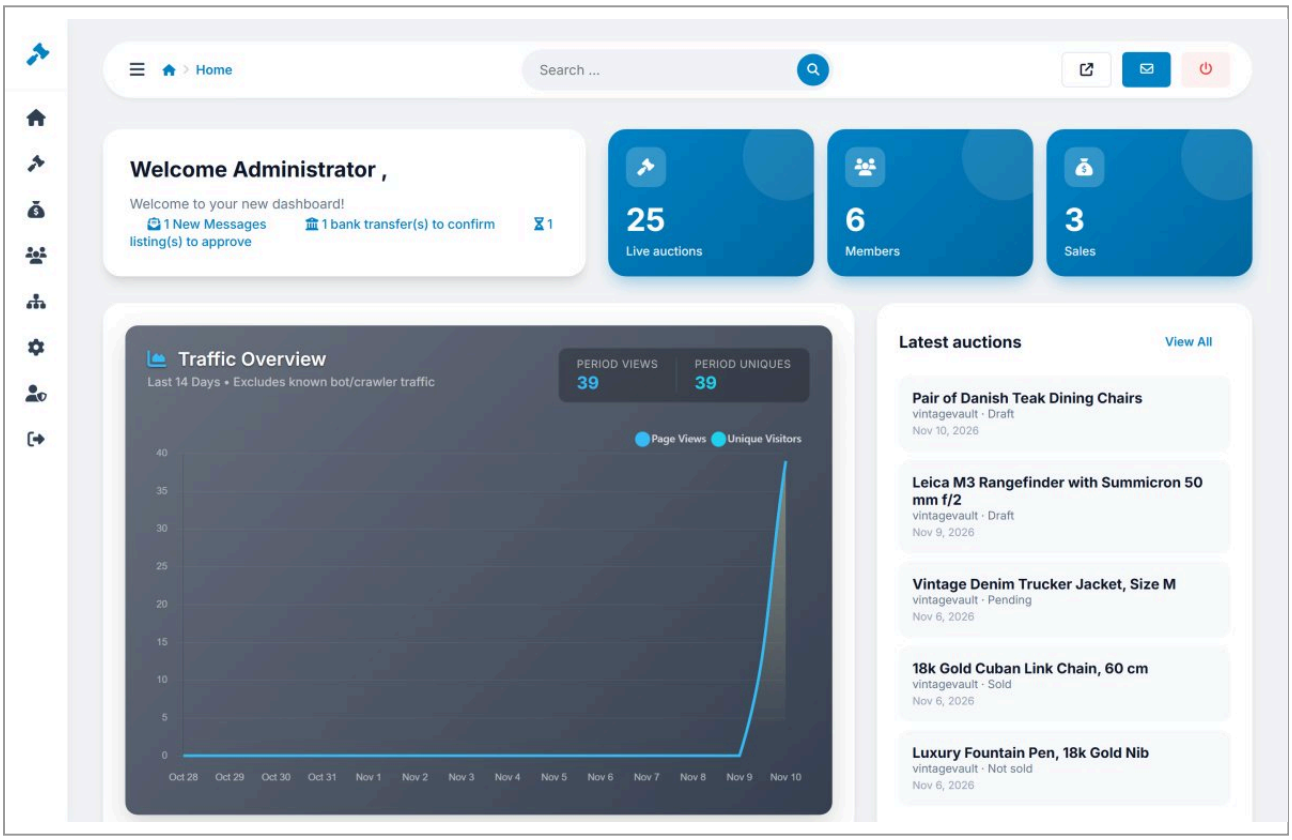
Admin login, dashboard, messages and password

The admin panel is where you run the marketplace. Its dashboard shows at a glance what is happening and what needs your attention.

Logging in

Open `https://www.yourdomain.com/ADMIN/` and log in with your administrator username and password. After a period without activity you are logged out automatically for safety.

The dashboard

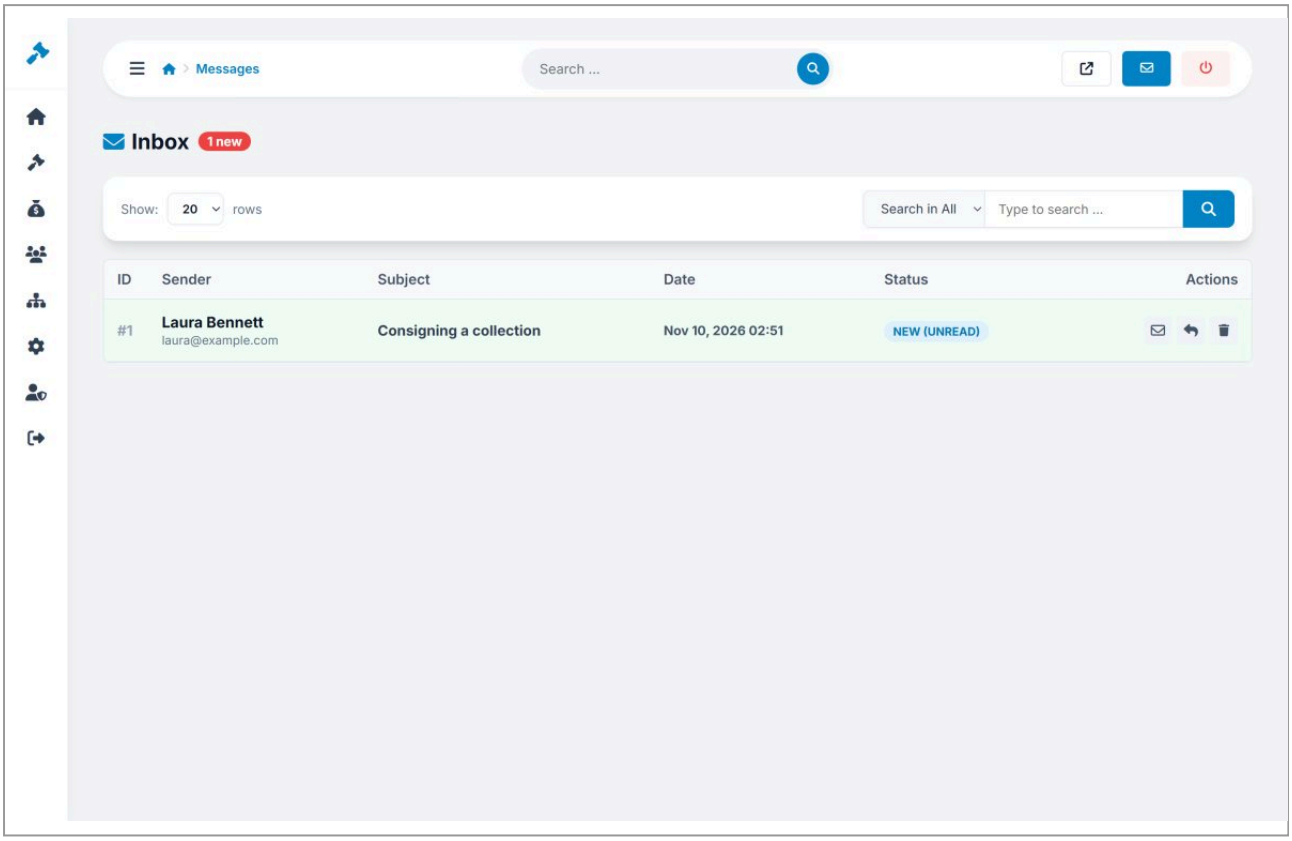


The dashboard with the key numbers, the traffic chart and the latest auctions and members.

- **Key numbers** - live auctions, members, total sales and new messages.
- **Things to do** - listings pending approval and bank transfers to confirm, each with a link.
- **Traffic overview** - page views and unique visitors per day (bot traffic is excluded).
- **Latest auctions and latest members** with links to their details.

Contact messages

Home › Messages collects the messages sent with the contact form. New messages are highlighted; you can read, reply by e-mail and delete them.



Messages from the contact form.

Login logs and password

Home › Login Logs records every login to the admin panel with date, username and IP address, including failed attempts - useful to spot somebody trying to guess a password. **Home › Change Password** changes the password of the administrator who is logged in.

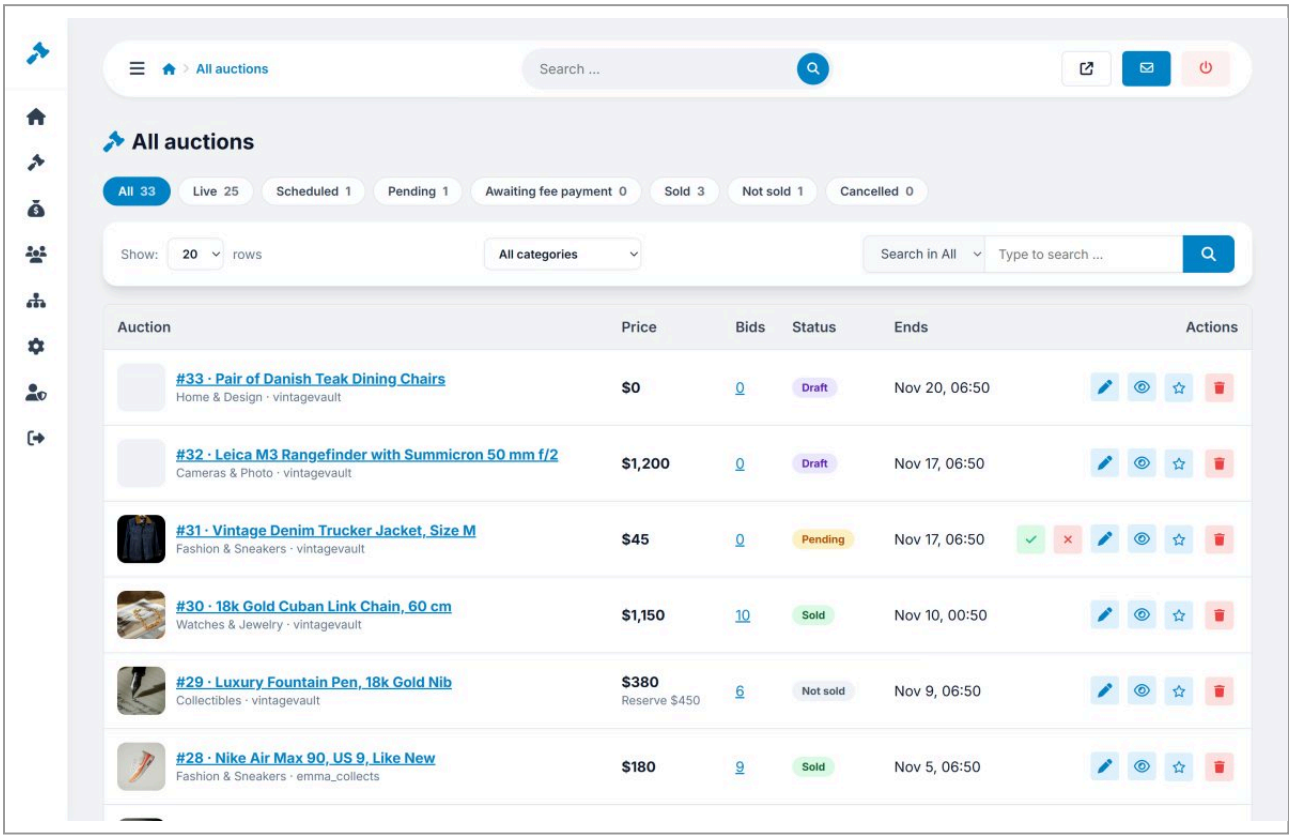
The top bar

The search box in the top bar finds menu pages quickly. The icons open the website in a new tab, show new messages and log you out.

CHAPTER 24 · ADMIN PANEL

Managing auctions: approval, editing and bids

The Auctions menu gives you full control over every listing of the website, whoever created it: approve, edit, feature, end, cancel or delete, and correct bids when needed.



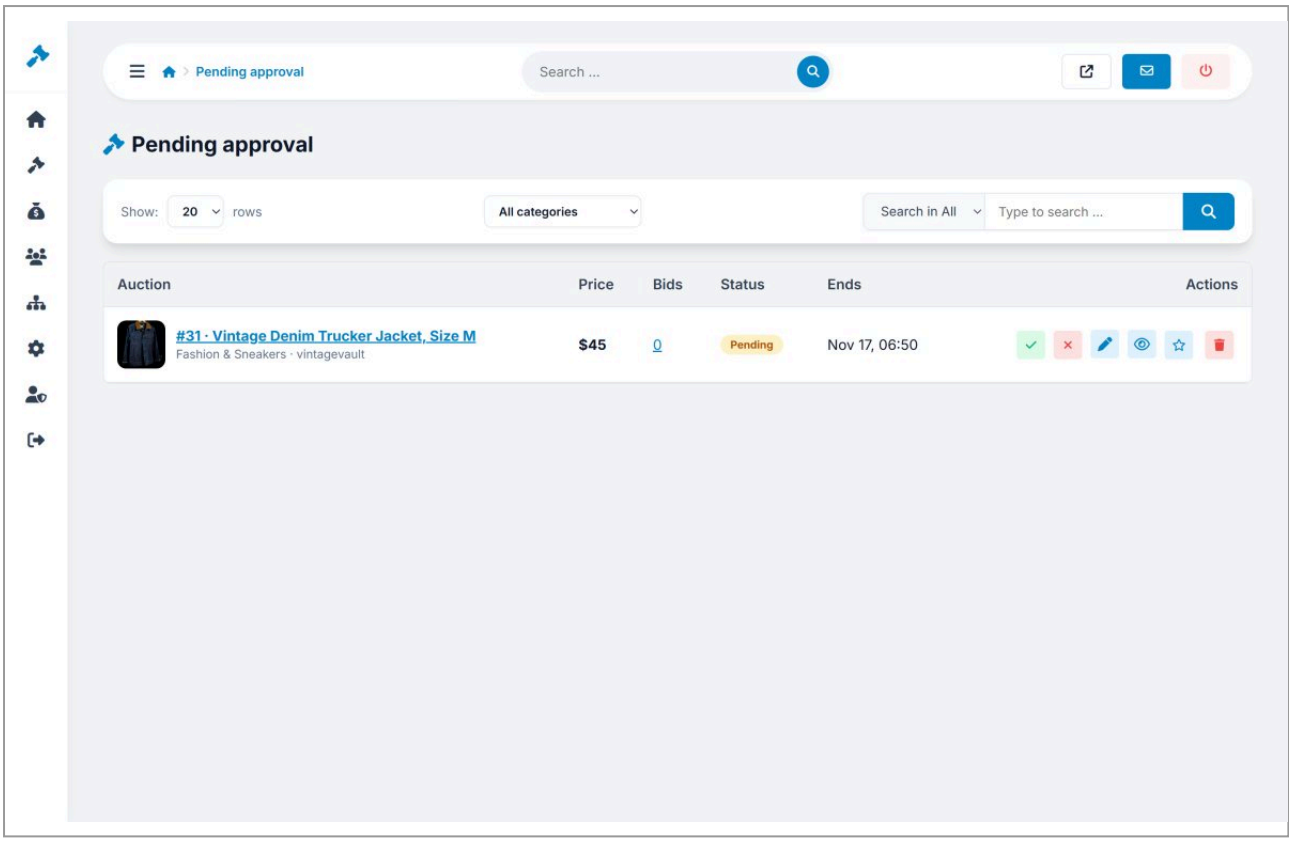
Auctions › All auctions with filters by status, type and category.

All auctions

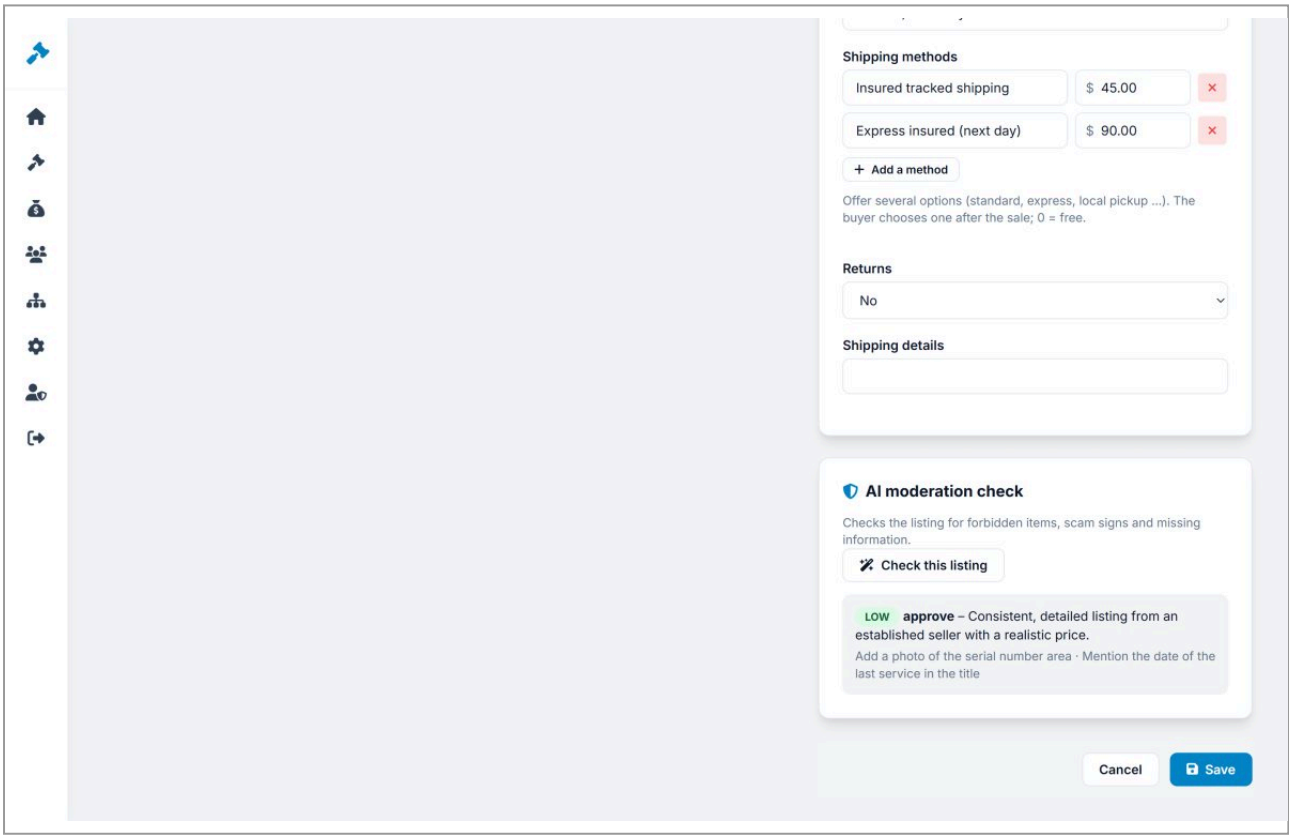
Auctions › All auctions lists every listing with its photo, seller, price, bids, end date and status (live, scheduled, pending, sold, unsold, cancelled, draft). Filter by status, type (auction / Buy it now) and category, or search by title. The actions are: view on the website, edit, *Toggle featured*, *End now* and delete.

Pending approval

If *Approve the new listings* is on (Auction rules), new listings wait in **Auctions › Pending approval**. Open a listing, check it - the **AI moderation check** gives a risk level, problems and suggestions in one click - then **Approve** or **Reject** with a reason. The seller is notified and sees your reason.



Pending listings with Approve and Reject.



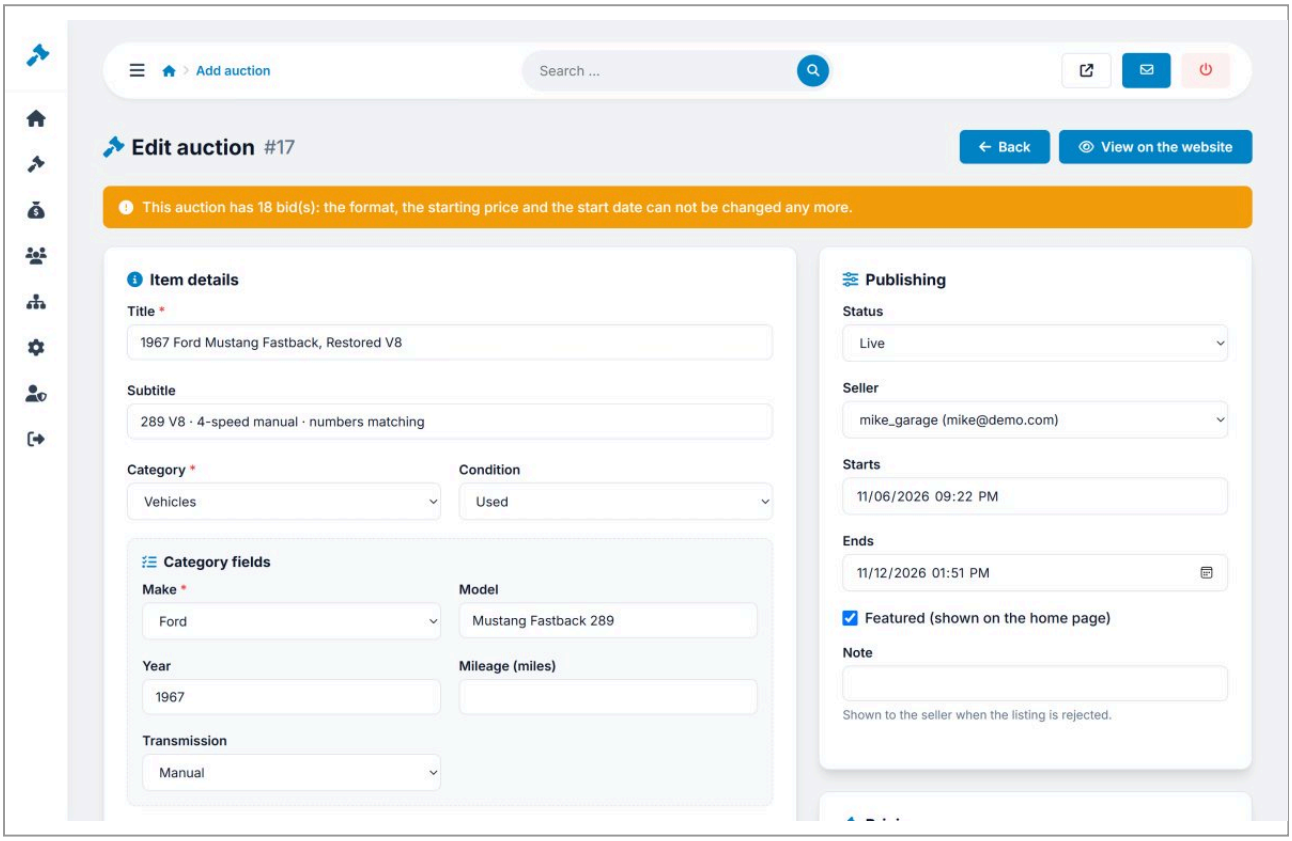
The AI moderation check of a listing.

Listings that contain a banned word also land here with a note that shows the word found.

Adding and editing an auction

Auctions › Add auction creates a listing for the website itself (useful for an auction house) or for any member chosen as seller. The form has the same fields as the members' form, plus:

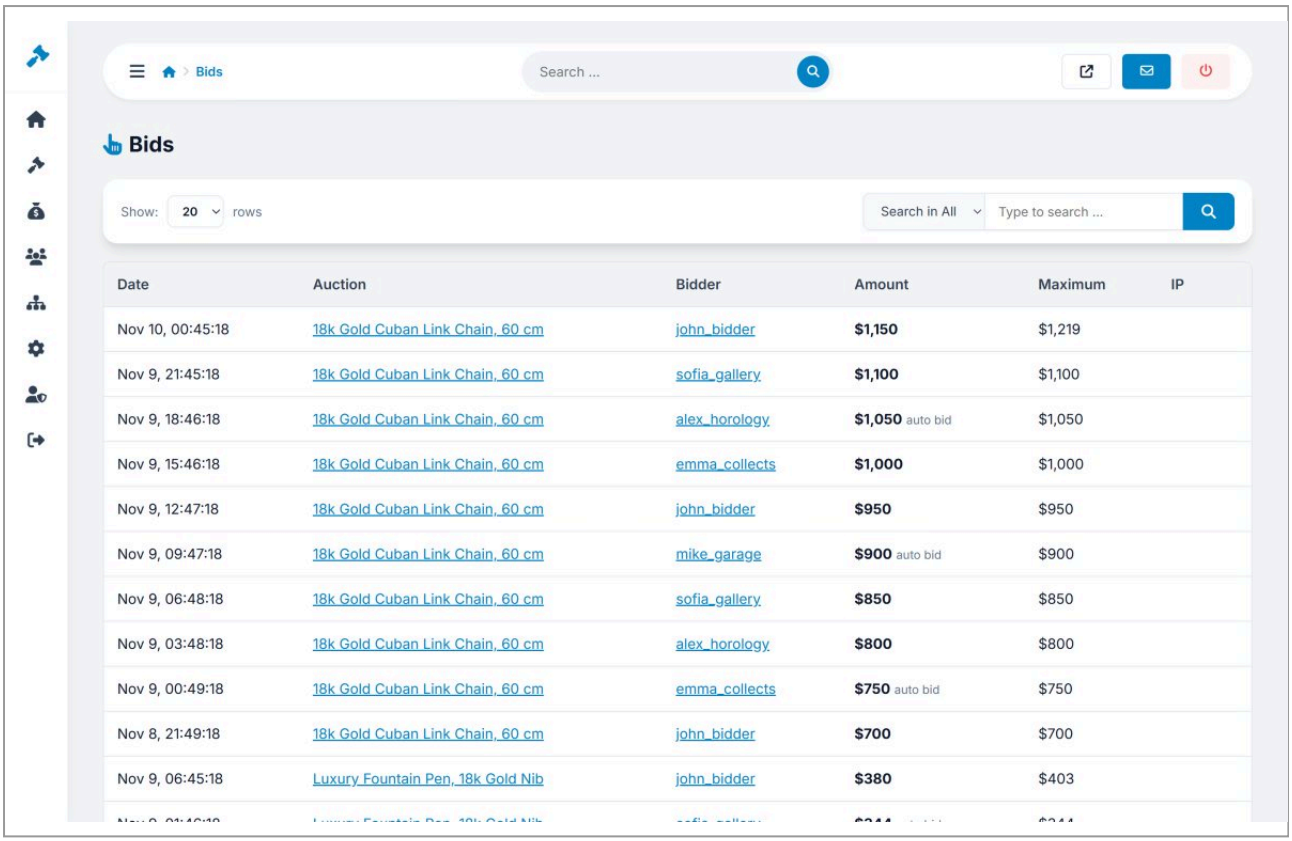
- **Status** - live, pending, scheduled, ended, cancelled...
- **Seller** - any member.
- **Start and end dates** - change them freely, for example to extend an auction.
- **Featured** - shows the item in the featured sections without a fee.
- **Note** - shown to the seller when the listing is rejected.
- **Own bid increment** for this auction only.



Editing an auction. With bids, the format, starting price and start date are locked.

Bids

Auctions › Bids lists all the bids of the website with the bidder, amount, maximum (for automatic bids) and date. A bid placed by mistake can be **retracted**: the auction is recalculated automatically from the remaining bids and maximums.



All bids, with the option to retract a bid.

CHAPTER 25 · ADMIN PANEL

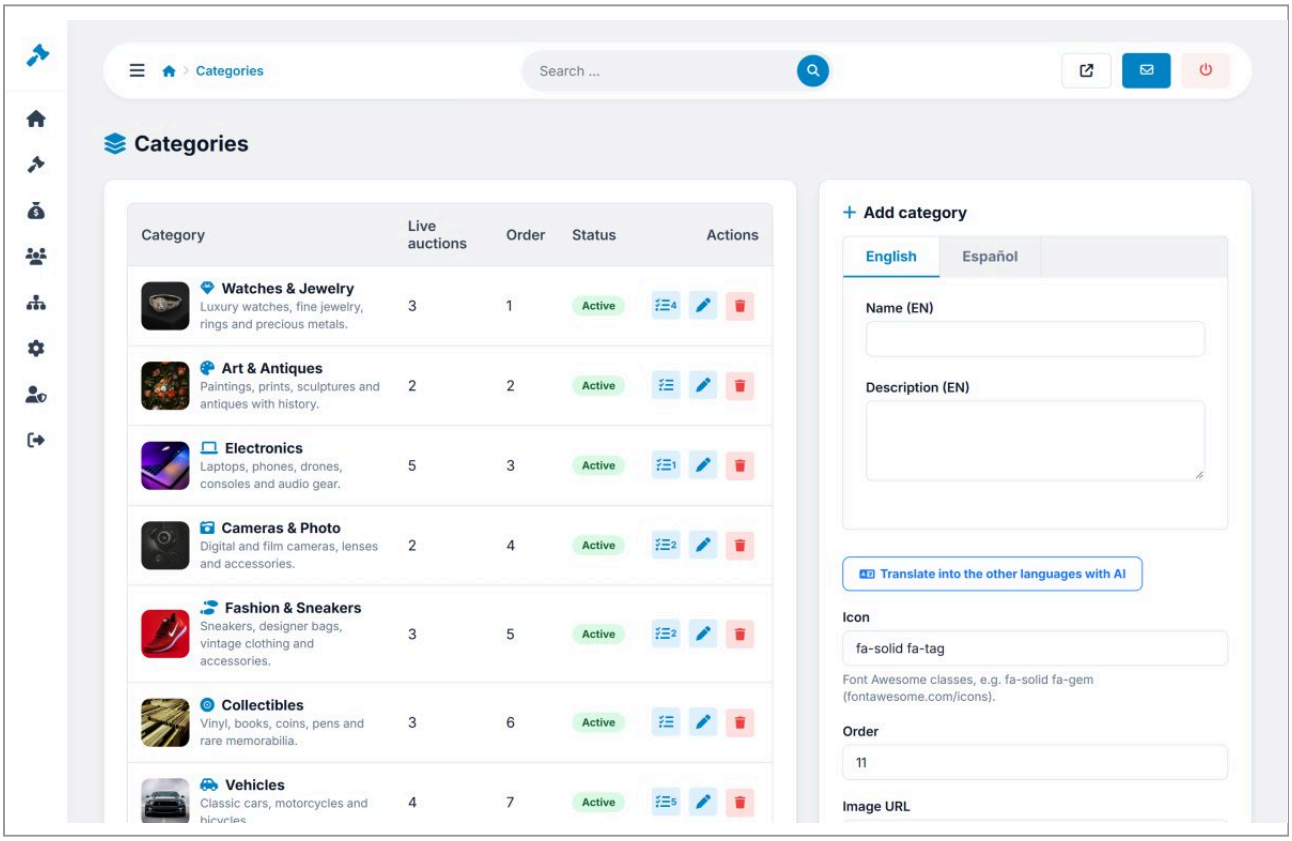
Categories and category fields

Good categories help buyers find items and help Google understand your site. Category fields add the details that matter in each niche - and turn them into search filters.

Managing categories

Auctions › Categories shows the category tree with the number of live auctions in each. For each category you set:

- **Name** and **description** (shown on the categories page and helpful for SEO).
- **Parent** - to make it a sub-category.
- **Image** - upload a photo or enter an image URL. It is shown on the home page and the categories page.
- **Icon** - a Font Awesome class (for example `fa-solid fa-gem`), used when there is no image.
- **Order**, **active / inactive** and **Show on the home page**.

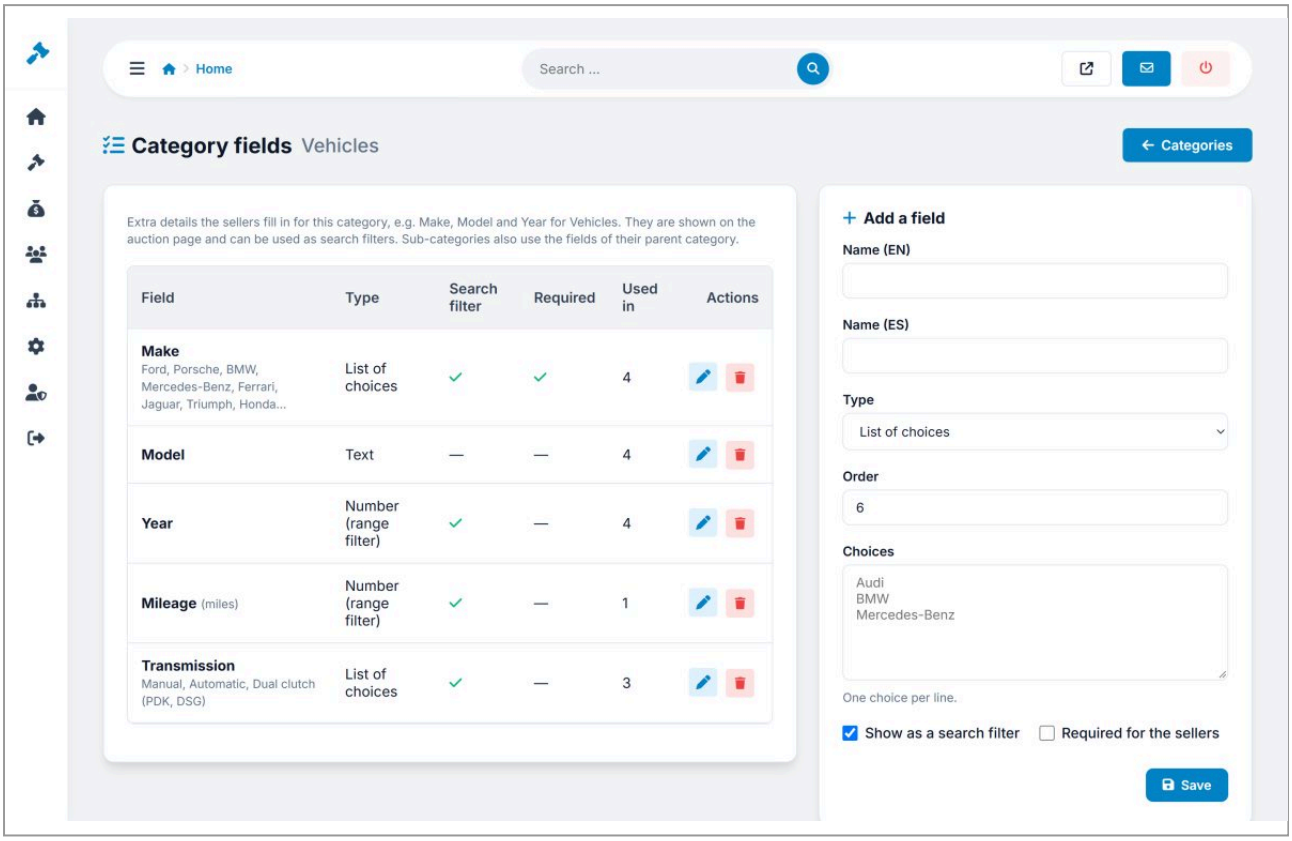


The category tree.

A category that still has auctions can not be deleted; move the auctions first. With the AI turned on, **Translate all** translates the names and descriptions into all the active languages.

Category fields

Click the fields button of a category to add the details sellers fill in for it - for example *Make, Model, Year, Mileage* for vehicles or *Brand, Size, Colour* for sneakers.



Fields for the Vehicles category.

Option	Meaning
Type	*Text*, *Number* (with a unit such as km or cm) or *Select* (one choice per line).
Required for sellers	The listing can not be published without it.
Show as a search filter	Adds the field to the filters of the search page (select = list, number = from / to).
Order	Position in the form and on the auction page.

Sub-categories use the fields of their parent too, so you define *Brand* once for "Watches" and it works for all watch sub-categories. The values appear on the auction page in *Item details*.

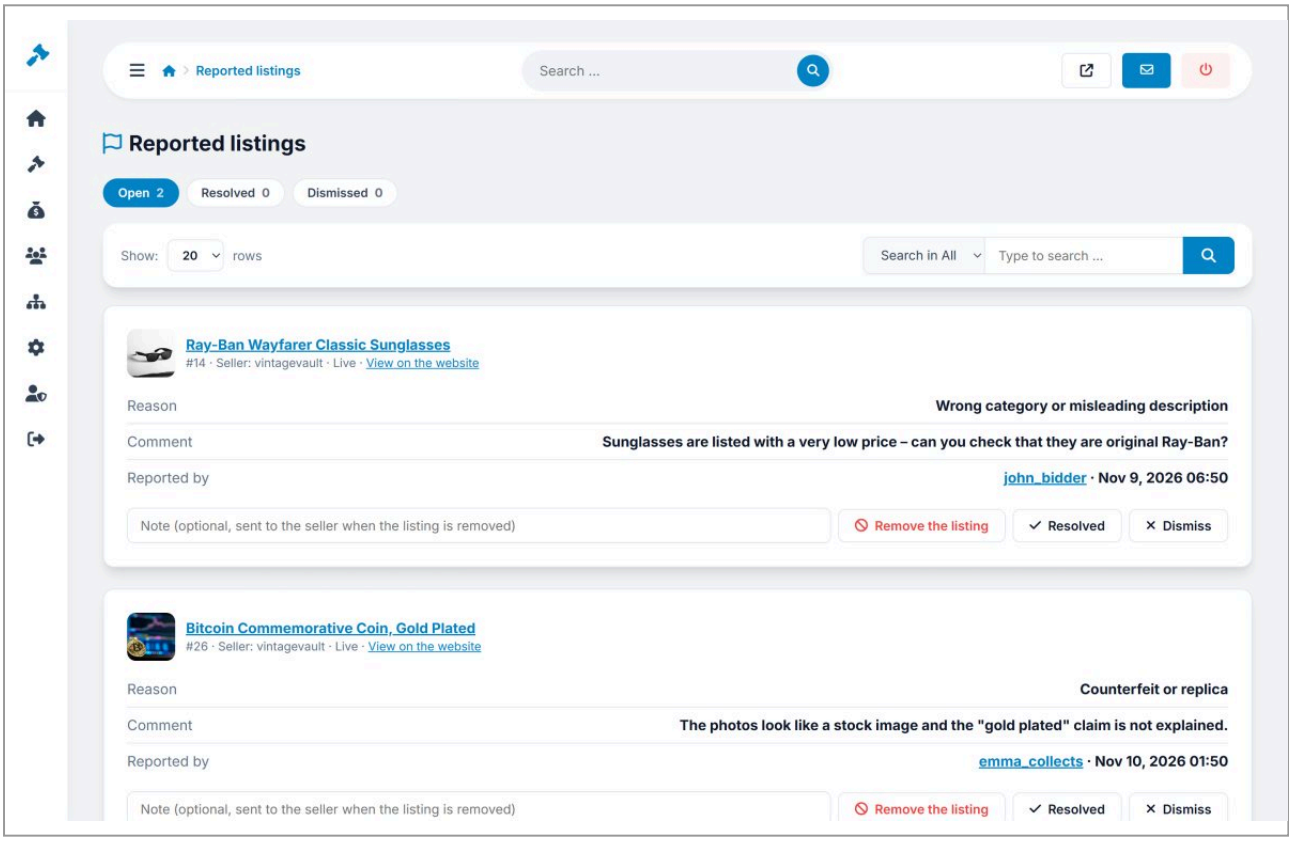
CHAPTER 26 · ADMIN PANEL

Moderation: questions, reported listings and banned words

Trust is what makes buyers bid. PHP Bid gives you four moderation tools: listing approval, banned words, reports from members and control over public questions.

Reported listings

Every auction page has a **Report this listing** link for logged-in members. They choose a reason - counterfeit or replica, prohibited item, suspected fraud or scam, wrong category or misleading description, offensive content, other - and can add a comment. Each member can report a listing once.



Auctions › Reported listings with the open reports.

In **Auctions › Reported listings** (the menu shows the number of open reports) you see the listing, the reason, the comment and who reported it, and choose:

- **Remove the listing** - the auction is cancelled and all its reports are resolved.
- **Mark resolved** - you handled it another way (for example you edited the listing).
- **Dismiss** - the report was unfounded.

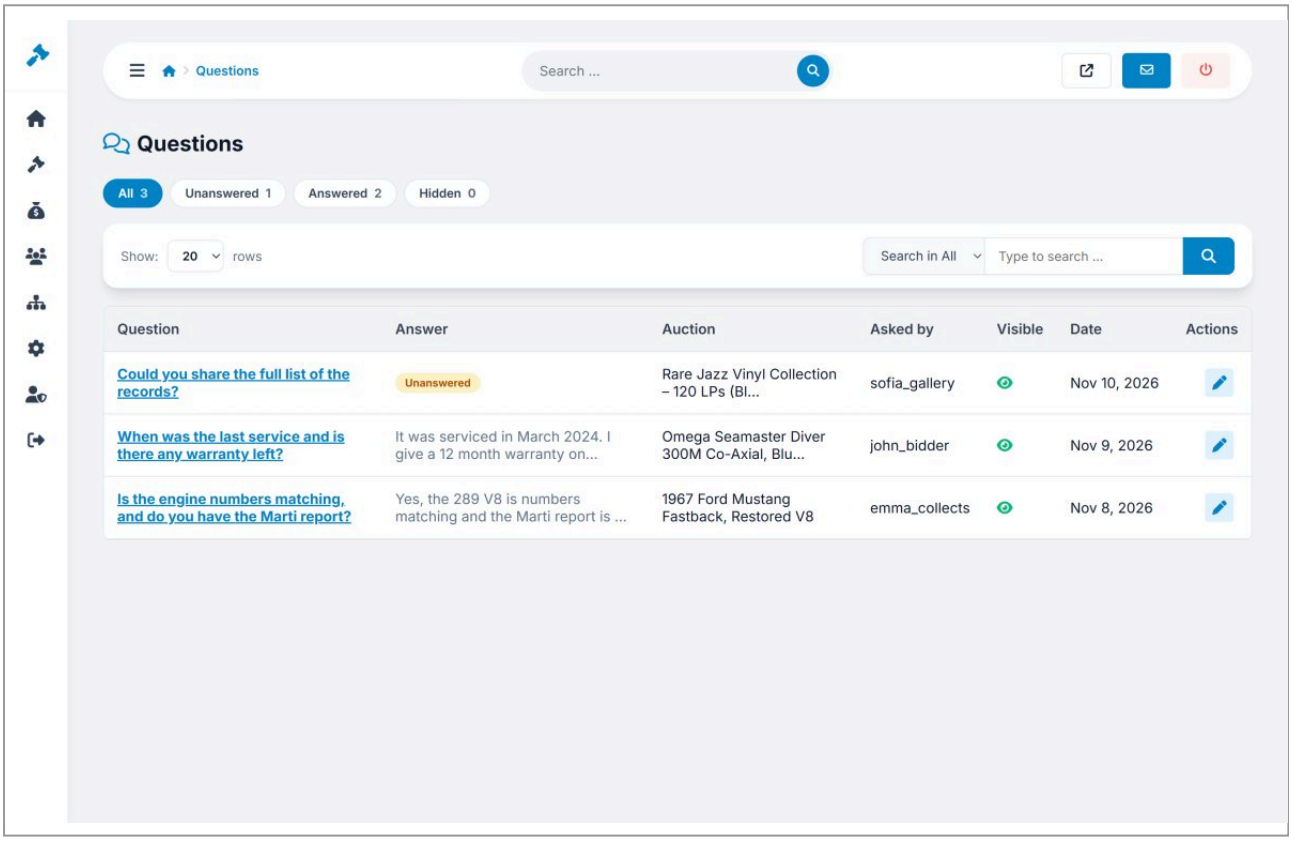
Banned words

In Auction rules enter one word or phrase per line, for example *replica, fake rolex, counterfeit*. A * at the end matches any ending (`replic*` = replica, replicas). The list is checked in titles and descriptions of listings, questions, messages and offers. For listings you choose the action:

- **Go to the approval queue** - the listing is saved but waits for you, with a note showing the word found.
- **Block** - the seller sees an error and must change the text.

Questions

Auctions › Questions shows all questions of the website, filtered by *Unanswered*, *Answered* and *Hidden*. You can edit an answer, hide a question that should not be public, or delete it.



All questions with the answer, the auction and the visibility.

AI moderation

In the auction editor the **AI moderation check** reviews a listing for forbidden items, scam signs and missing information, and suggests improvements - very helpful when you approve many listings. See AI settings.

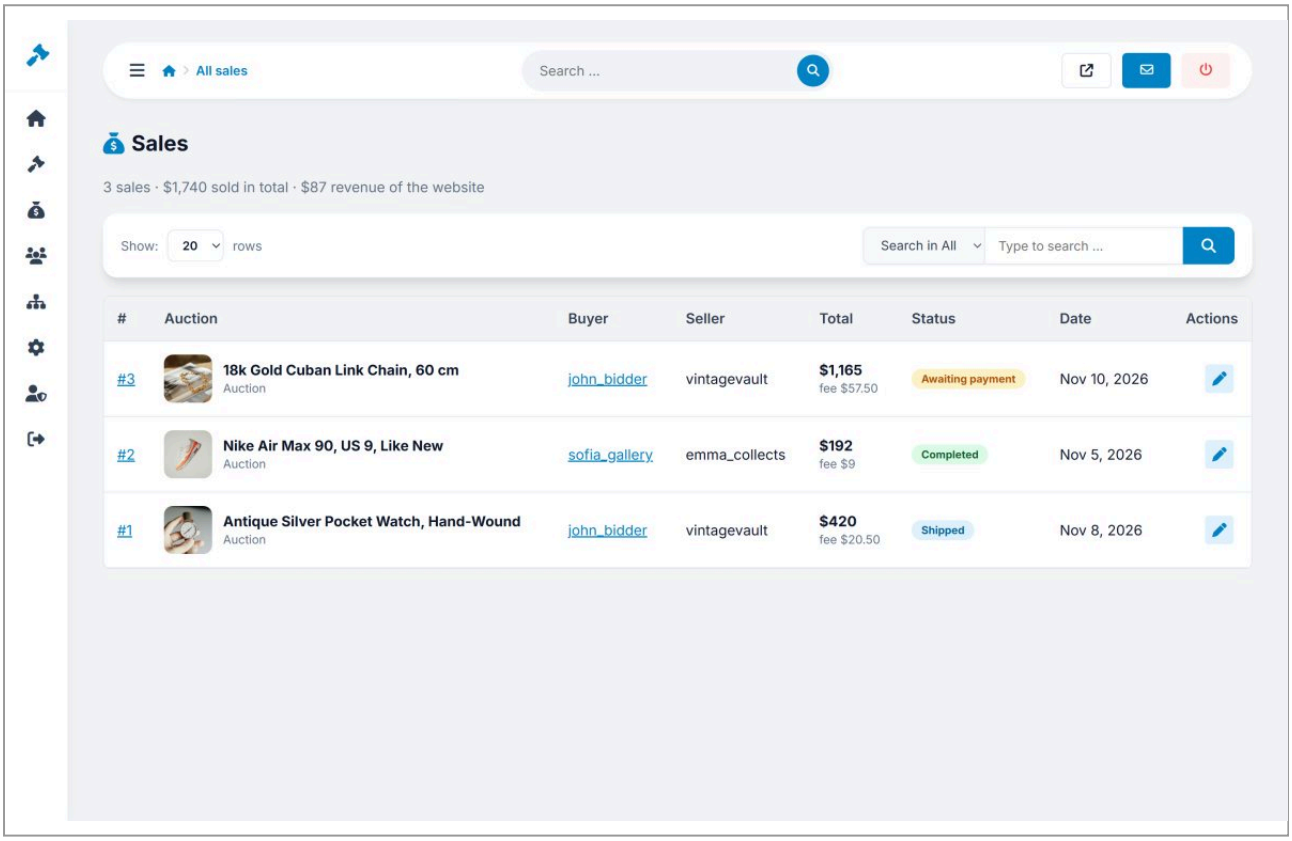
CHAPTER 27 · ADMIN PANEL

Sales, invoices, payments and feedback

The Sales menu follows the money: every sale between members, every invoice of the website and every rating left after a purchase.

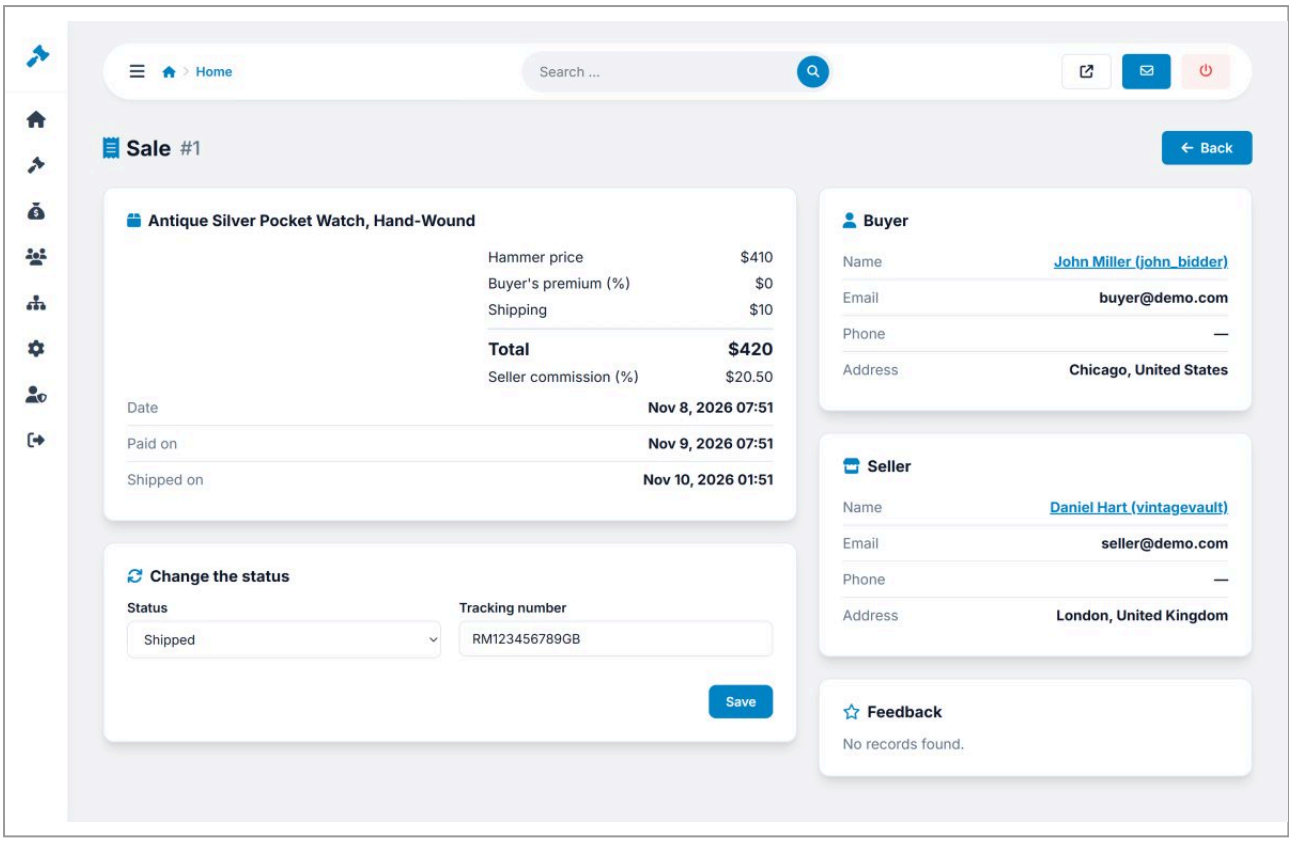
Sales

The sales are grouped by status: **All sales**, **Awaiting payment**, **To ship**, **Shipped**, **Completed** and **Cancelled**. The "to ship" list is the one to check for paid items that sellers have not shipped yet.



All sales with buyer, seller, total and status.

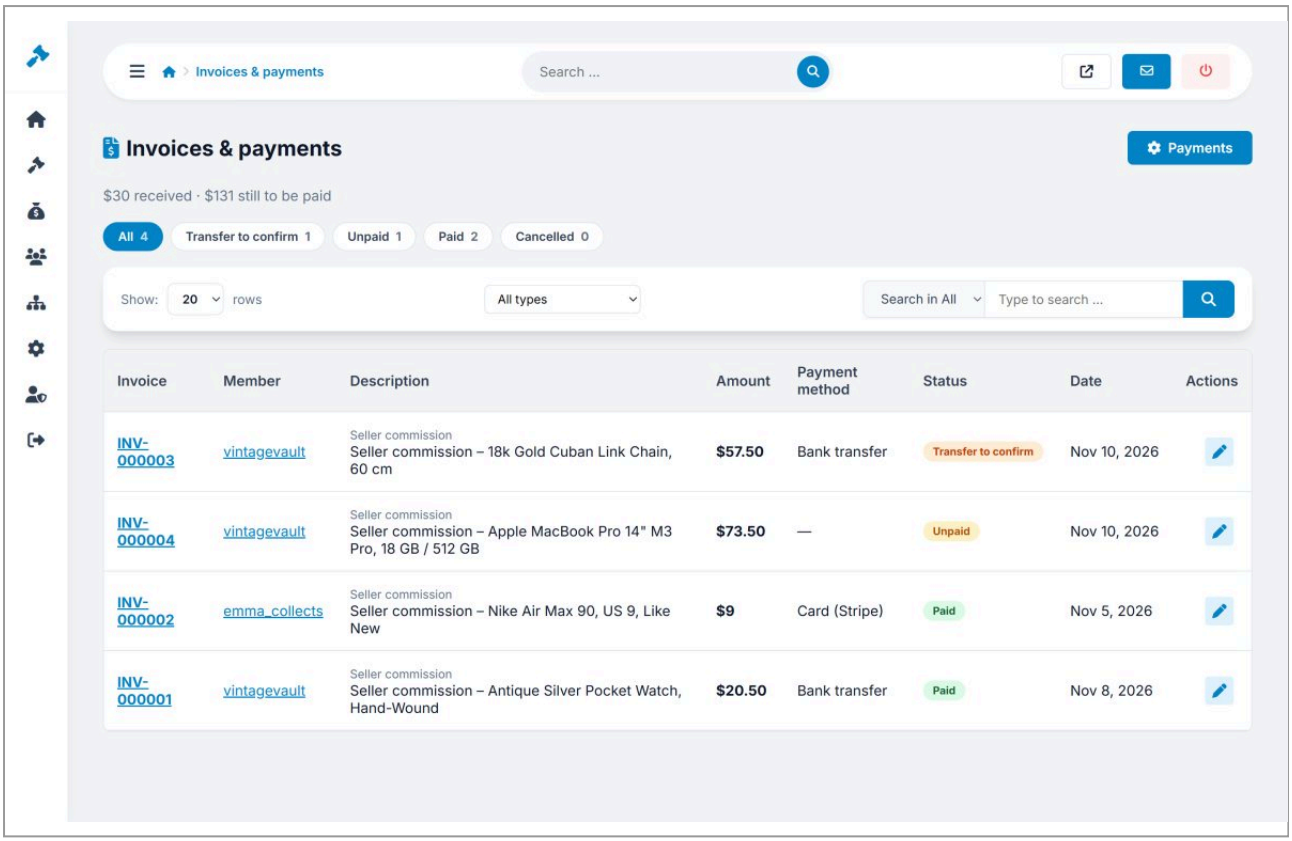
The sale page shows the item, the hammer price, buyer's premium, shipping, total, seller commission, the dates, and the details of buyer and seller. In *Change the status* you can set any status and a tracking number - useful to settle disputes.



A sale with its prices, dates and both members.

Invoices and payments

Sales › Invoices & payments lists the invoices of the website (listing fees, featured fees, commissions, buyer's premiums) with a summary of paid and unpaid amounts.

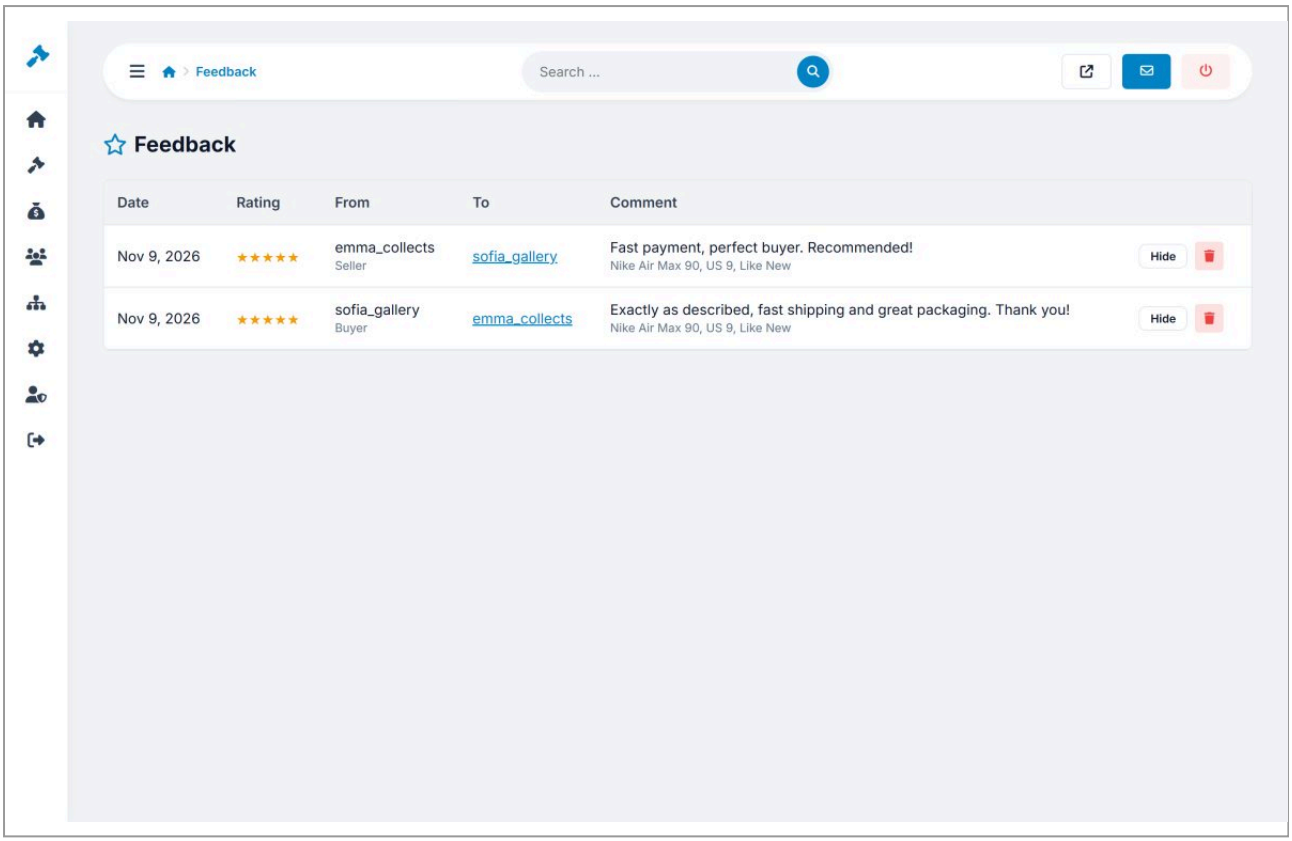


Invoices with their status and payment method.

- Stripe and PayPal payments are marked paid automatically.
- For bank transfers, the member clicks "I have sent the transfer": use **Confirm transfer** when the money arrived, or *Not received*.
- **Record payment** marks an invoice paid that was paid another way (cash, other), with a reference and a note.
- **Cancel** an invoice you do not want to charge.

Feedback

Sales › Feedback lists all ratings with stars and comments. You can hide an unfair or abusive comment, or delete it; the member's average rating is updated.



All feedback, with Hide and Delete.

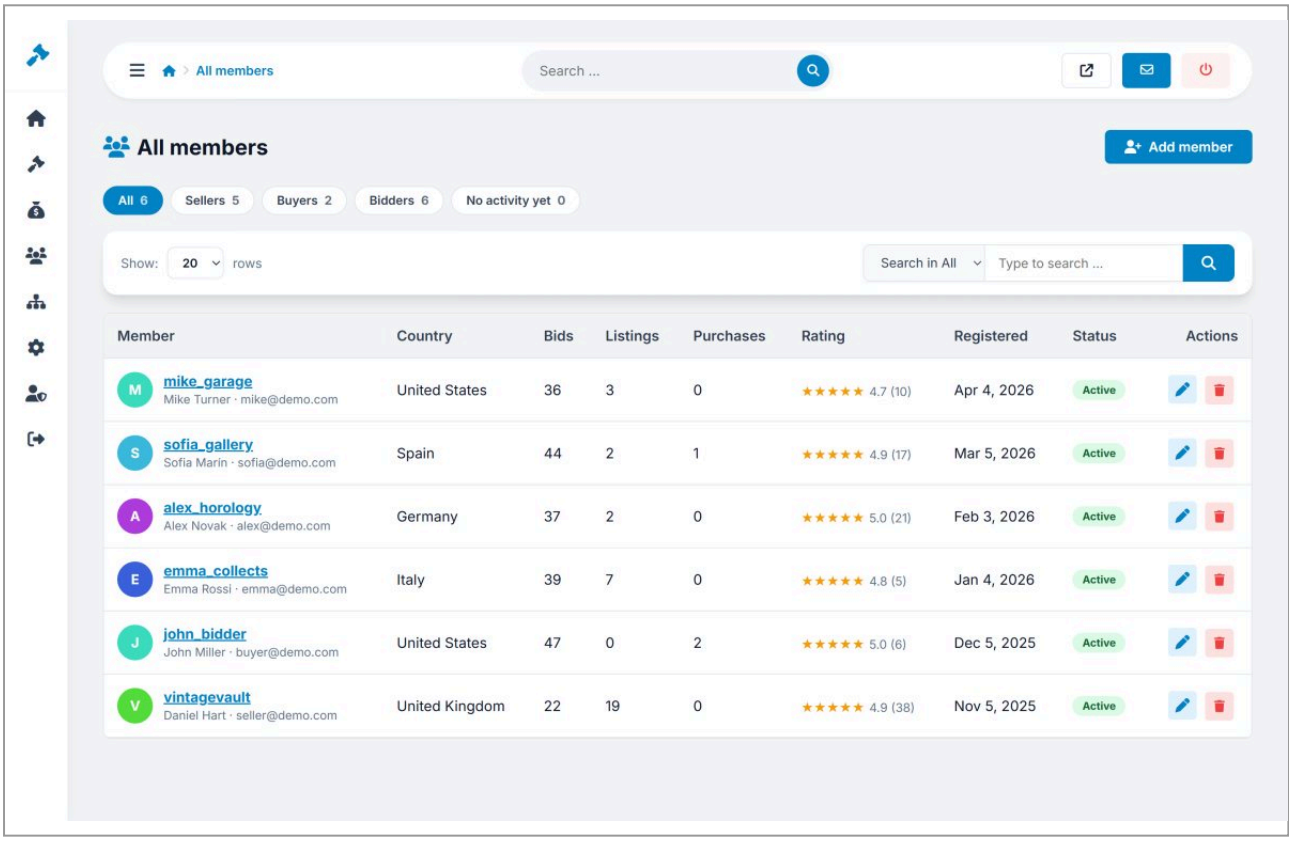
CHAPTER 28 · ADMIN PANEL

Members, newsletter subscribers and member messages

The Members menu holds everyone who registered: their details and activity, their permissions, the newsletter subscribers and the private conversations.

All members

Members › All members lists the members with username, e-mail, country, registration date, listings, purchases, rating and status. Search by name or e-mail, filter buyers and sellers, add a member yourself or open one to edit.



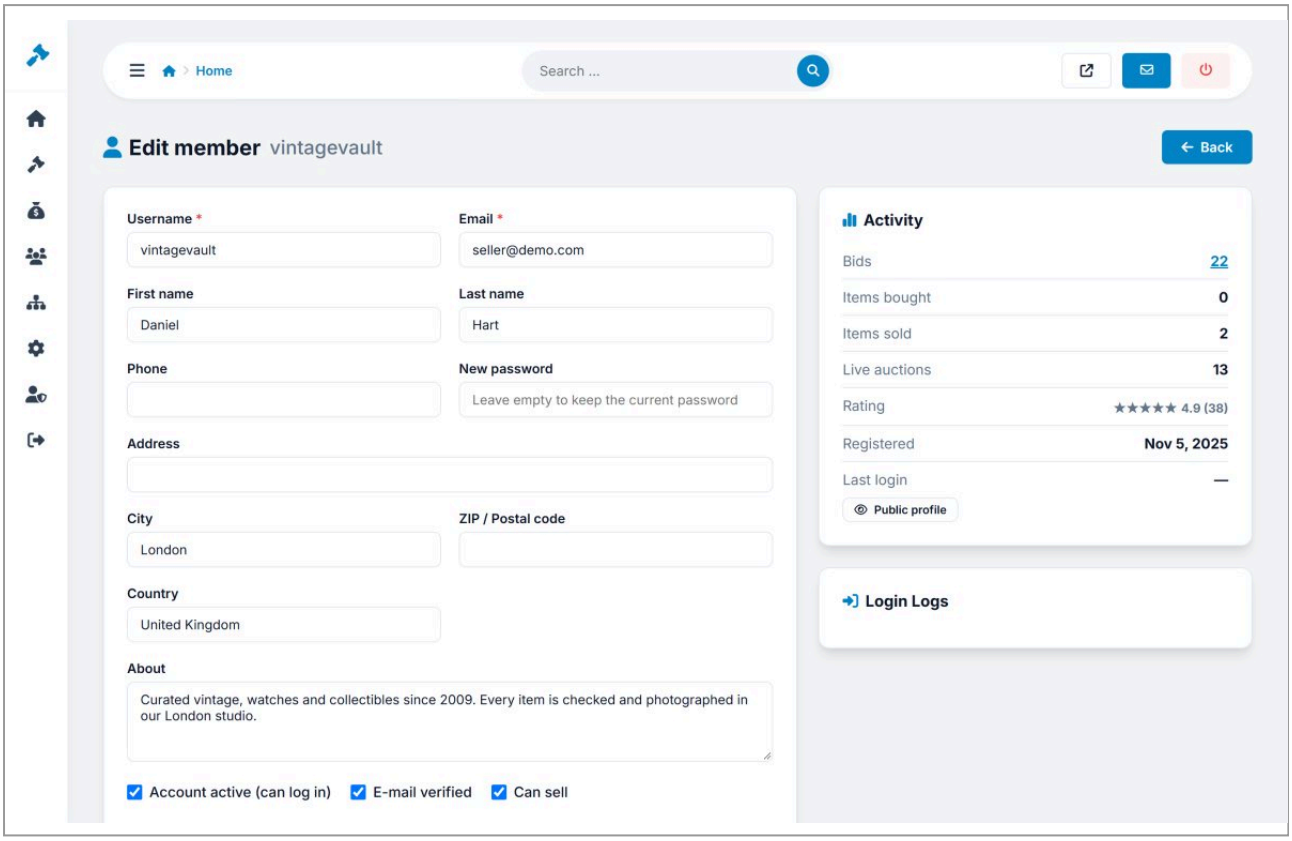
The list of members.

Editing a member

The member page has the personal details and address, a new password field (leave empty to keep the current one), the "about" text, and three switches:

- **Account active** - turn it off to block the member from logging in.
- **E-mail verified** - confirm the address manually.
- **Can sell** - turn off to allow buying only.

The *Activity* box shows bids, items bought and sold, live auctions, rating, registration and last login, with a link to the public profile, and the *Login logs* box shows the latest logins.

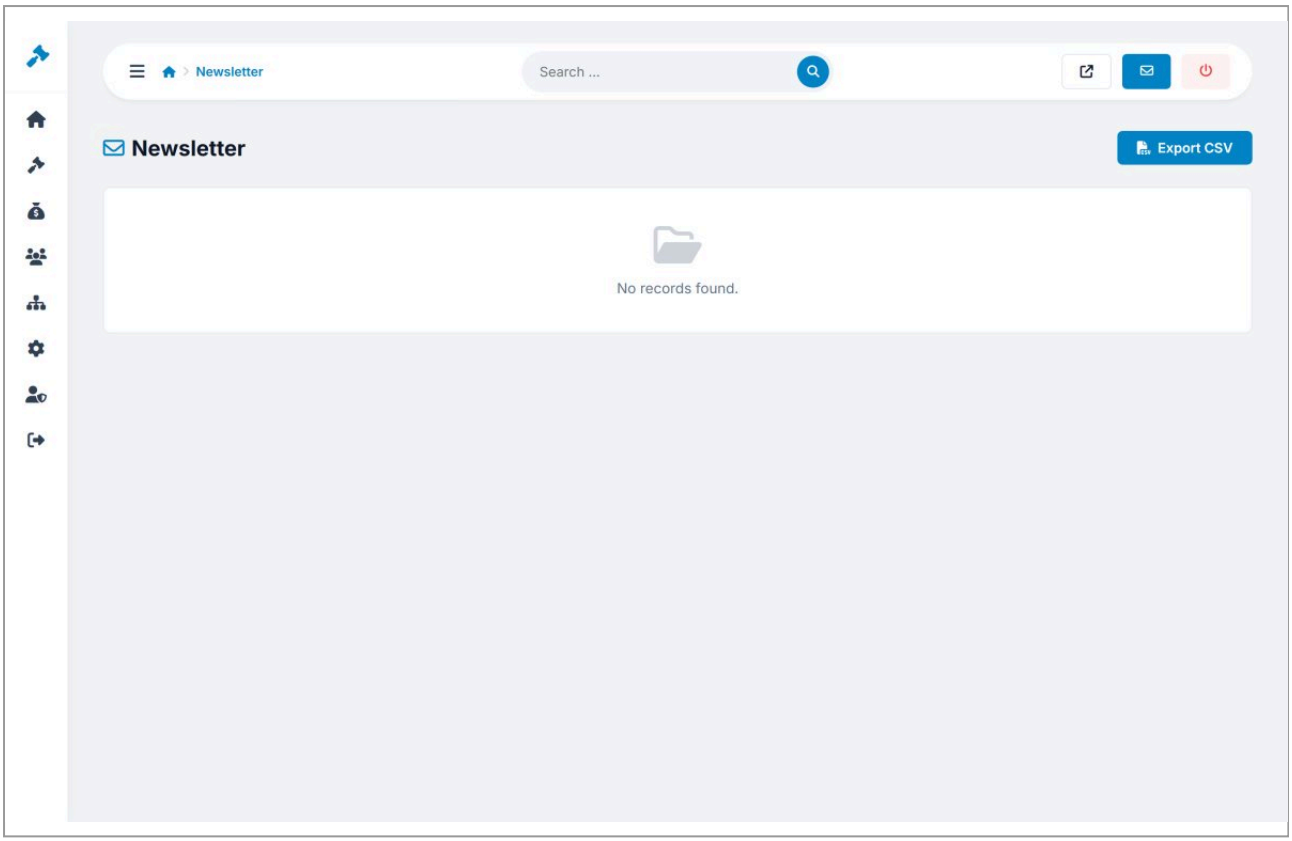


A member with activity and permissions.

A member who has sales can be deactivated, but not deleted, so your sales history stays complete.

Newsletter

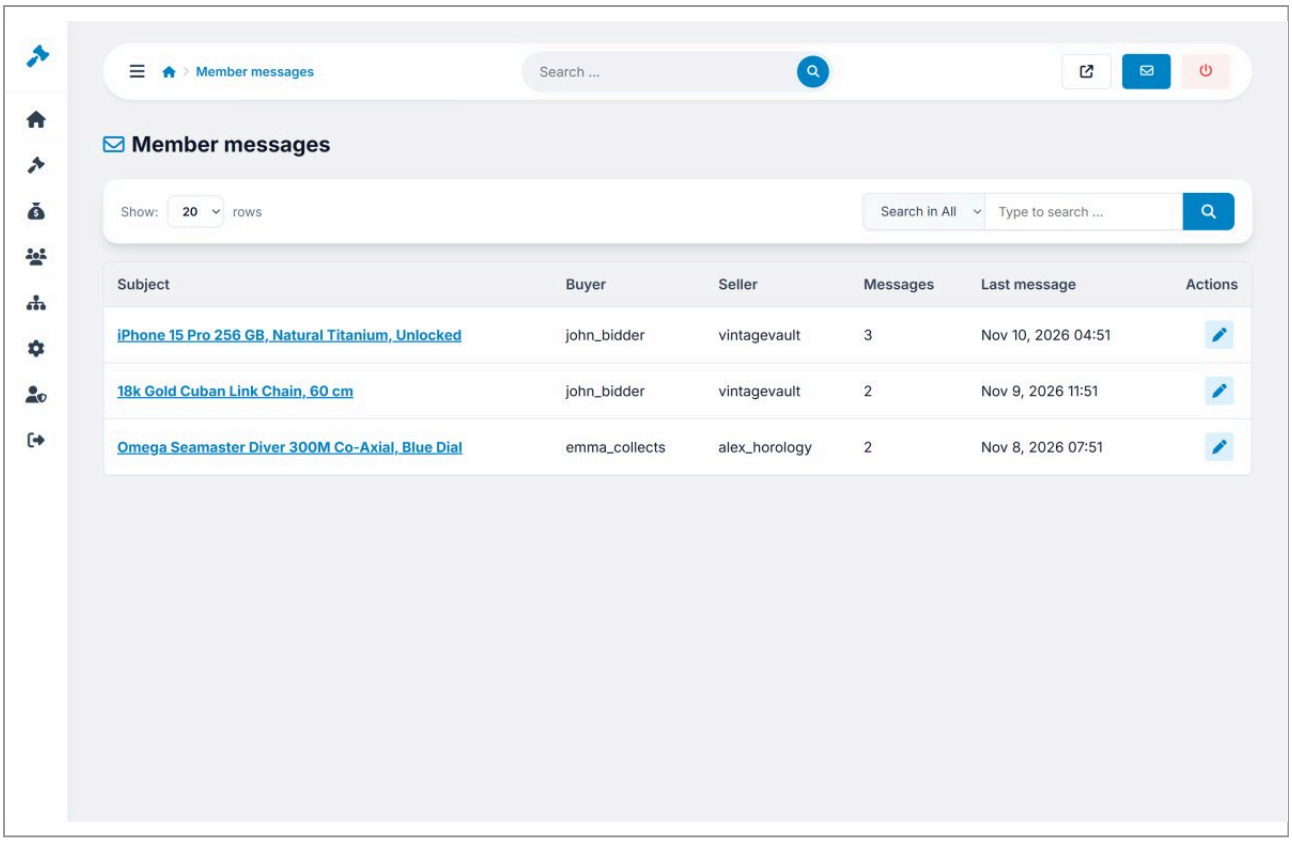
Members › Newsletter lists the e-mail addresses that subscribed in the footer of the website, with the date. Export them as CSV for your mailing tool, or delete addresses.



Newsletter subscribers with CSV export.

Member messages

Members › Member messages shows all conversations between buyers and sellers with the item, the members, the number of messages and the date of the last one. Open a conversation to read it.



Conversations between members.

CHAPTER 29 · ADMIN PANEL

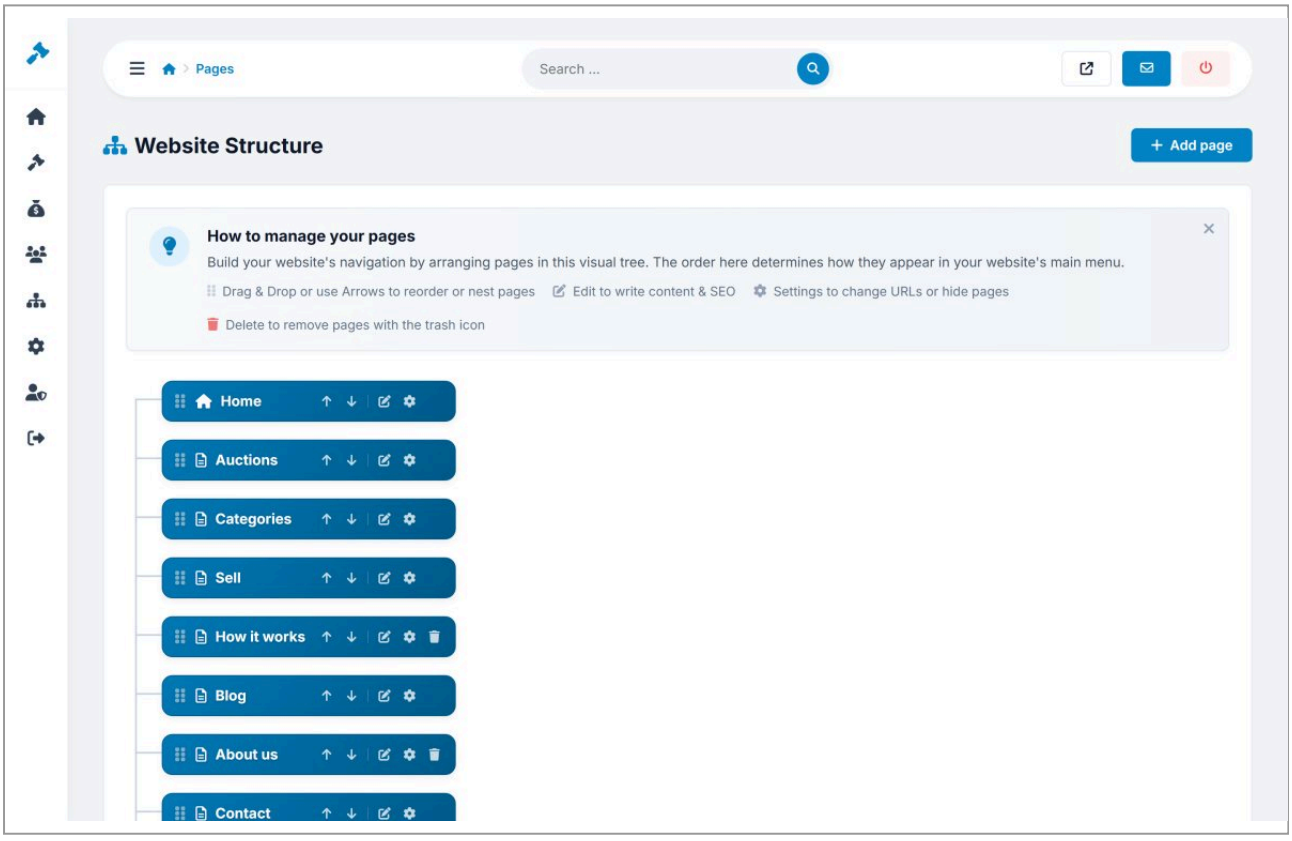
Website pages, menus, blog and the AI page writer

PHP Bid includes a full content management system: pages in a tree, top and footer menus, a visual editor, the AI writer, a blog and SEO fields for every page.

Pages

Website › Pages shows the pages of the website as a tree: Home, Auctions, Categories, Sell, How it works, Blog, Contact, About us, FAQ, Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy. For each page you can:

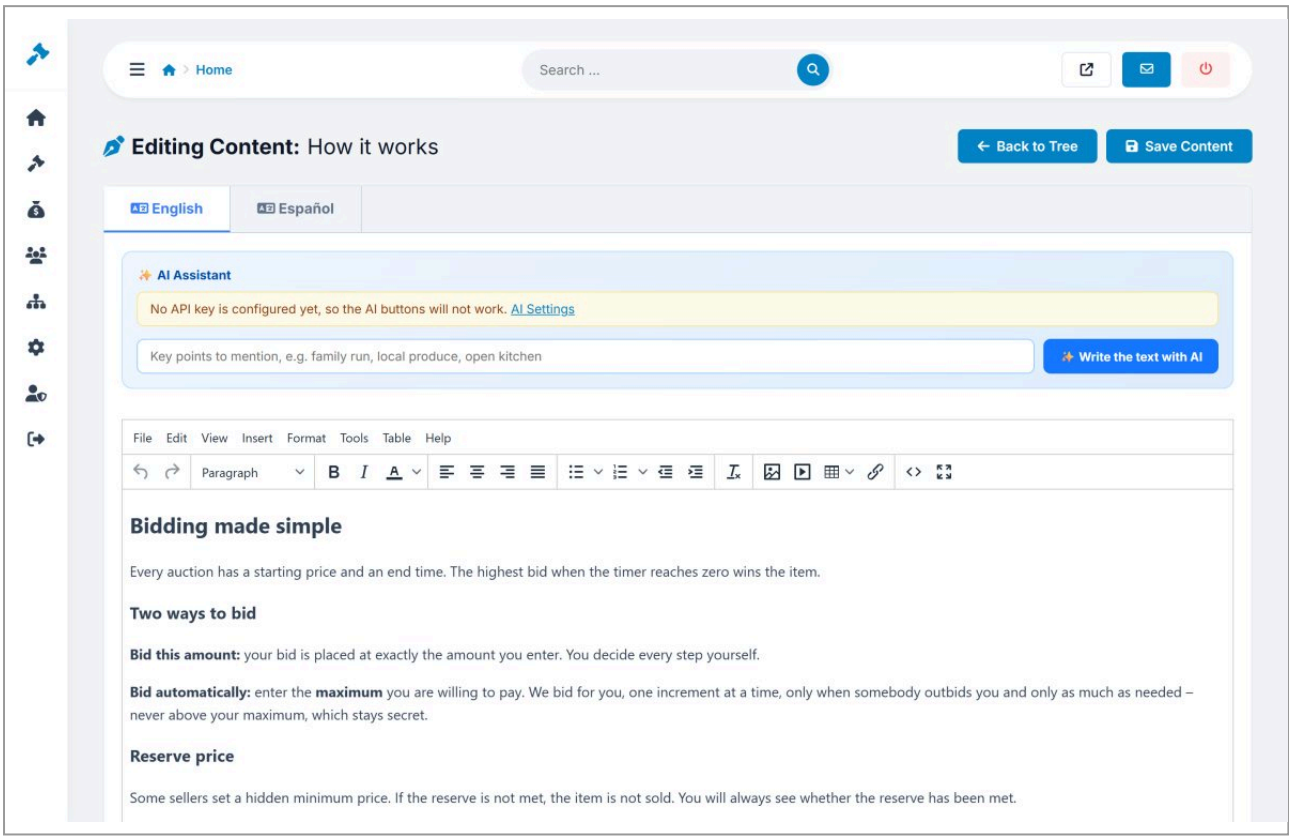
- Edit the content in every language.
- Change the title, the URL name and the order; drag pages to sort them or make sub-pages.
- Show it in the top menu and/or in the footer menu, or hide it.
- Set the **SEO title** and **meta description**.
- Link it to a module (a PHP file in `extensions`) - this is how Auctions, Sell, Blog or Contact work.



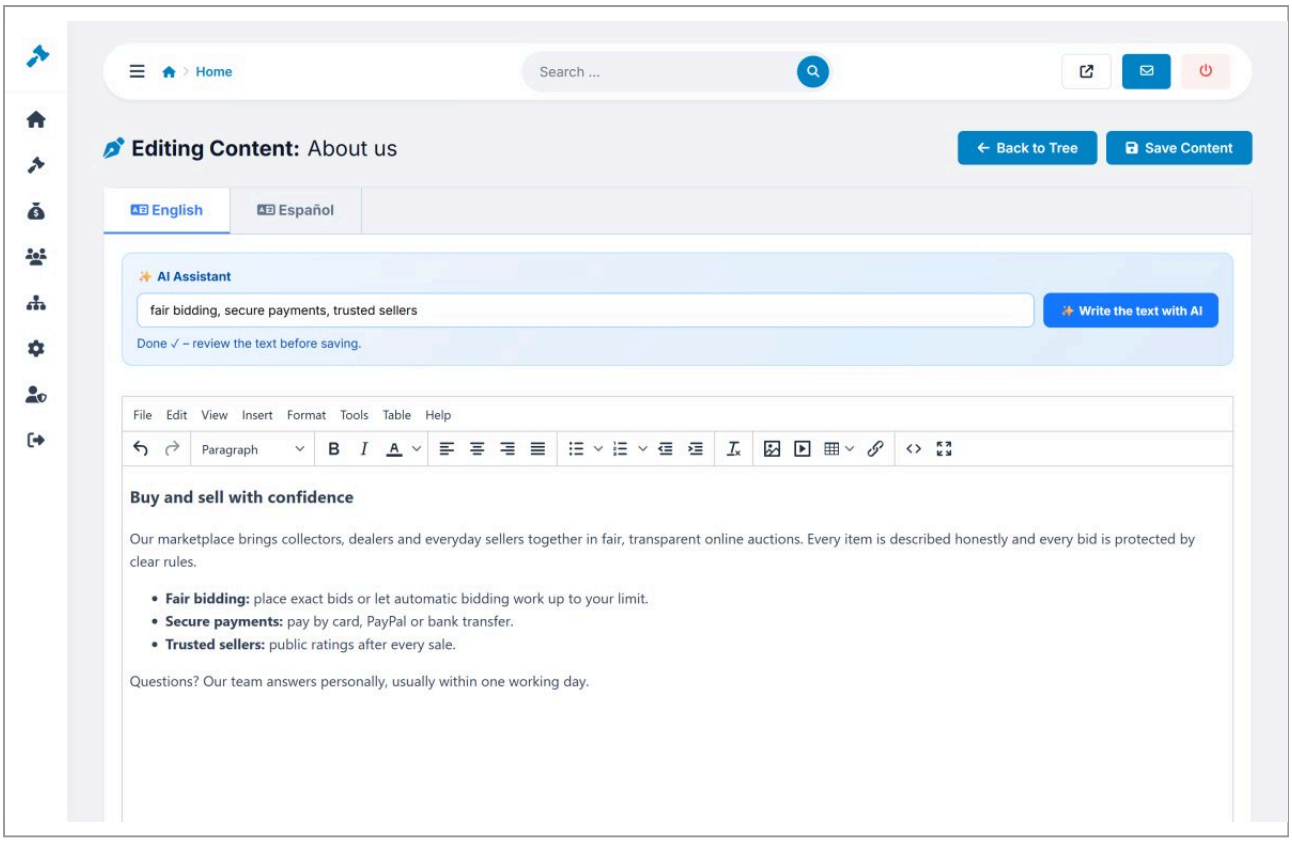
The pages tree.

The editor and the AI writer

The page editor has tabs for each language and a visual editor (headings, lists, images, tables, links, HTML source). The **AI Assistant** box above it writes the text for you: enter key points such as *"how bidding works, reserve price, buyer's premium, friendly tone"* and click *Write the text with AI*.



Editing "How it works" with the AI assistant.

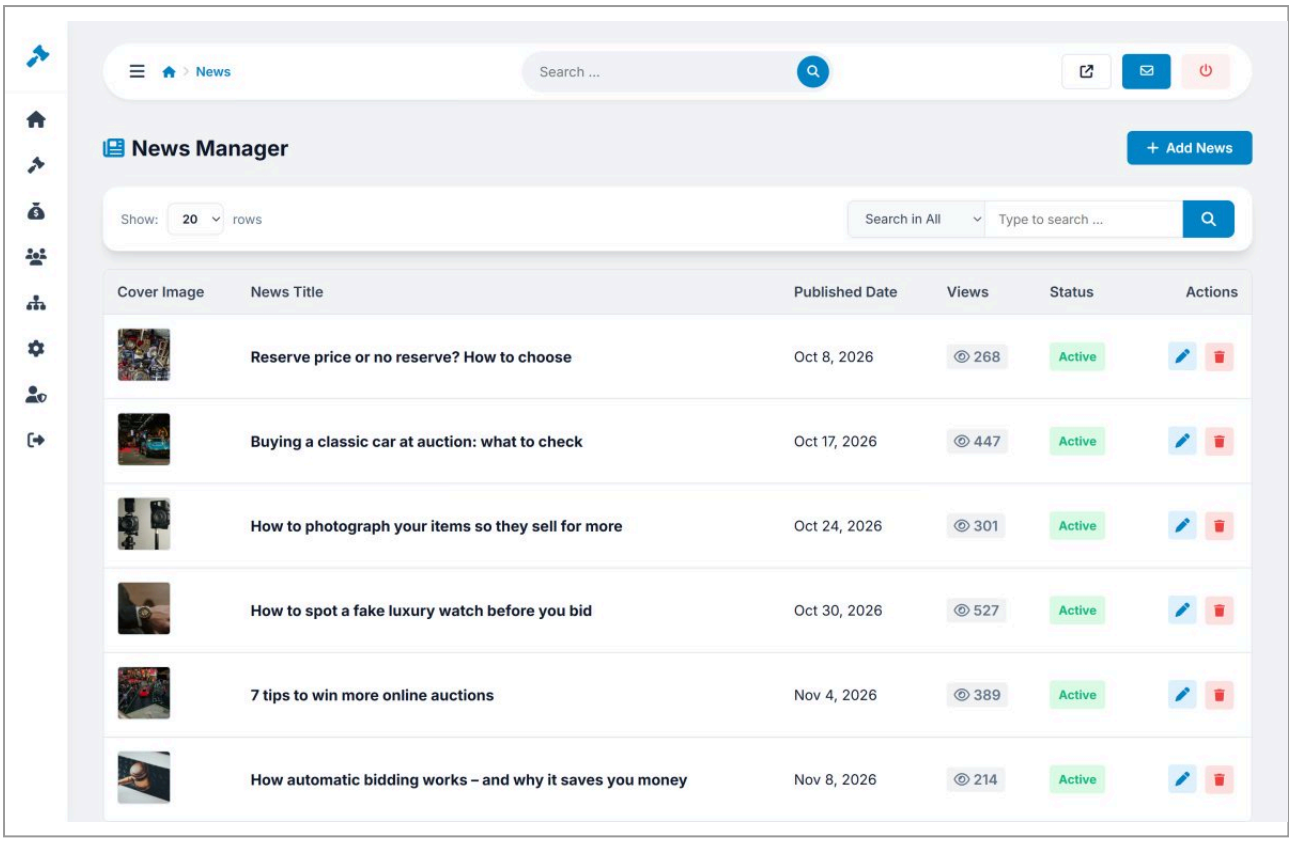


The AI writes a complete page from a few key points.

For the FAQ page, a *Heading 2* starts a topic and each *Heading 3* is a question with its answer below.

Blog (News)

Website › News manages the blog posts: title, cover image, date, text, SEO fields, translations and status. The list shows the views of each post. Regular posts about your niche - buying guides, how to spot fakes, market news - are the best free way to get visitors from Google.



The blog posts with views and status.

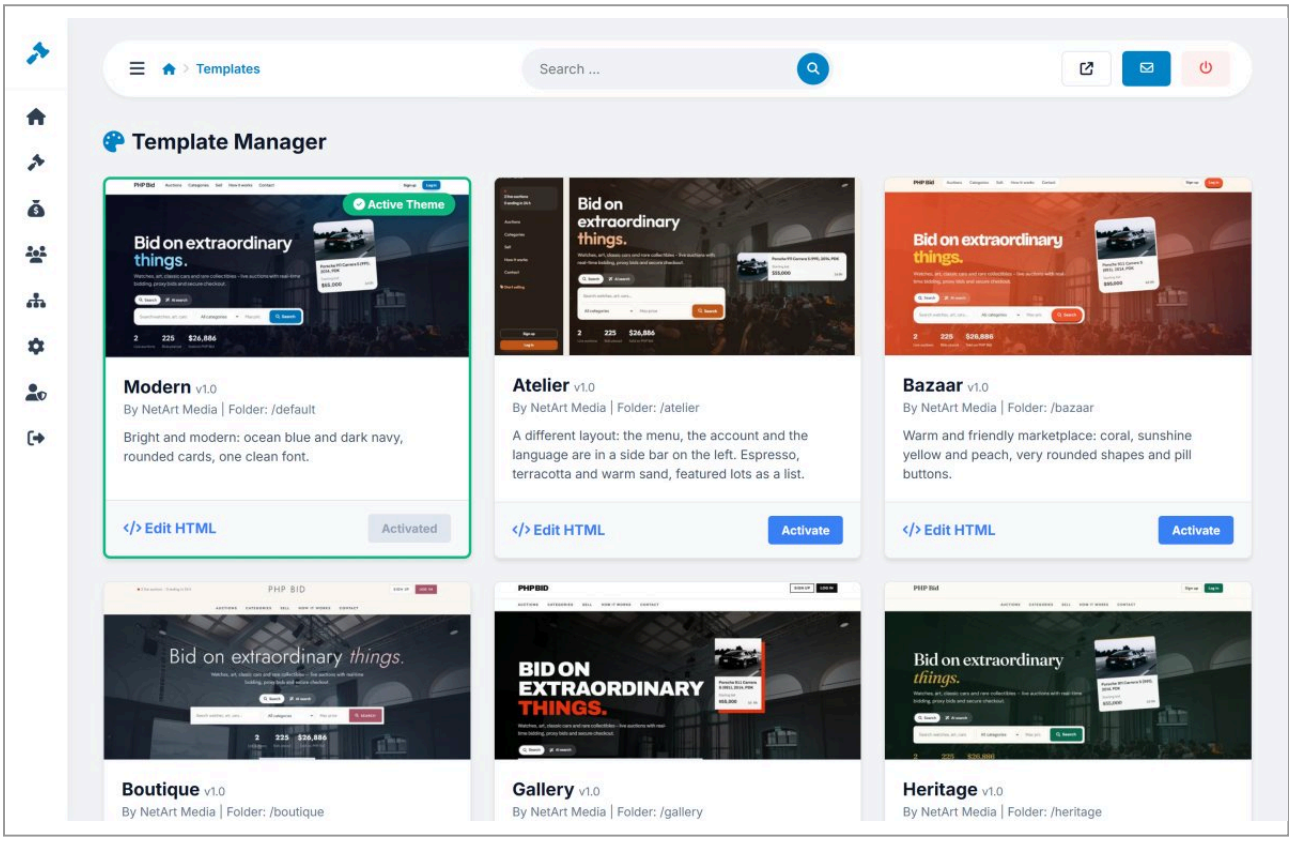
CHAPTER 30 · ADMIN PANEL

Templates, logo, colours and interface texts

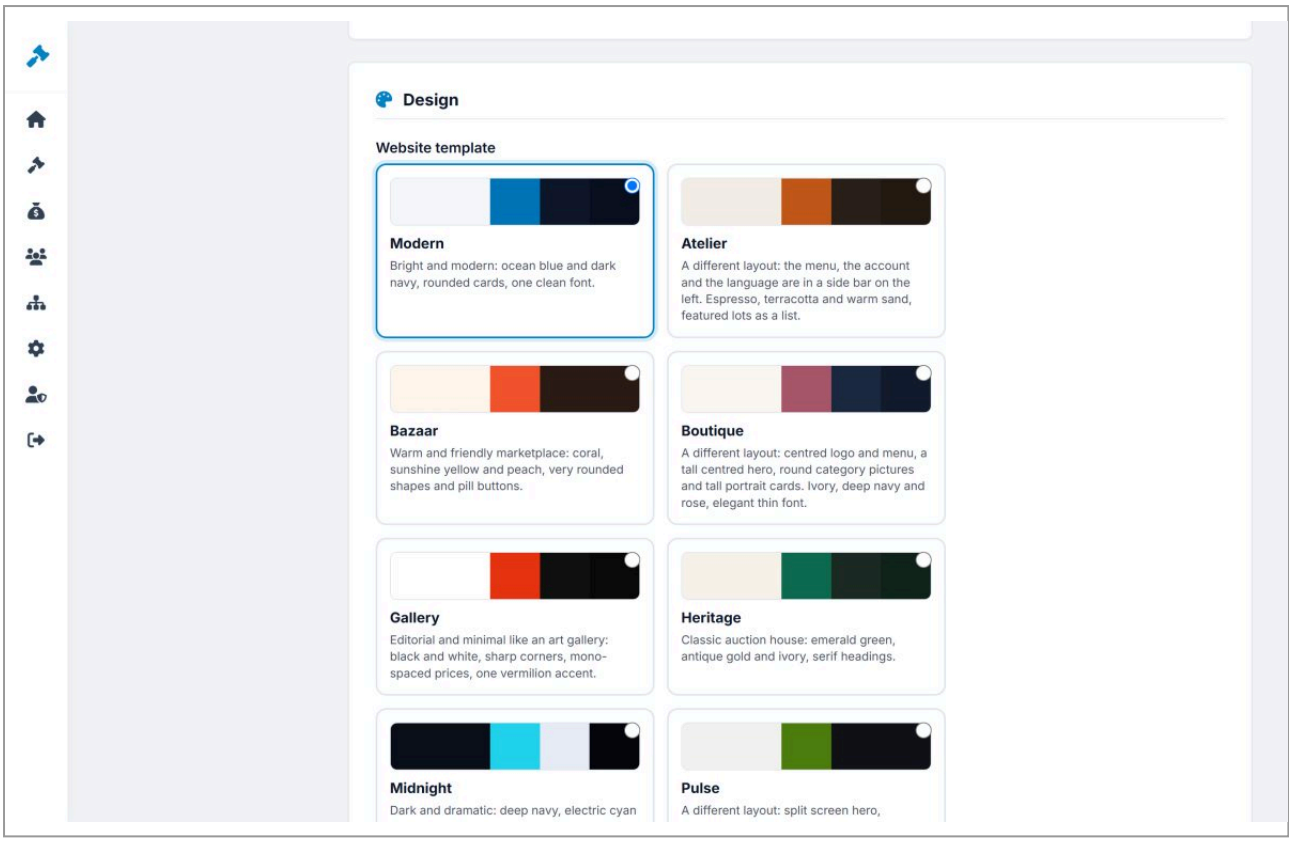
Give the website your brand in minutes: pick a template, upload your logo, choose your colours and change any word of the interface - no programming needed.

Templates

Website › Templates shows the 8 templates with a preview: **Modern**, **Atelier**, **Bazaar**, **Boutique**, **Gallery**, **Heritage**, **Midnight** and **Pulse** - from bright and clean to dark and luxurious. Click *Activate* to switch; your content stays the same.



The template manager.

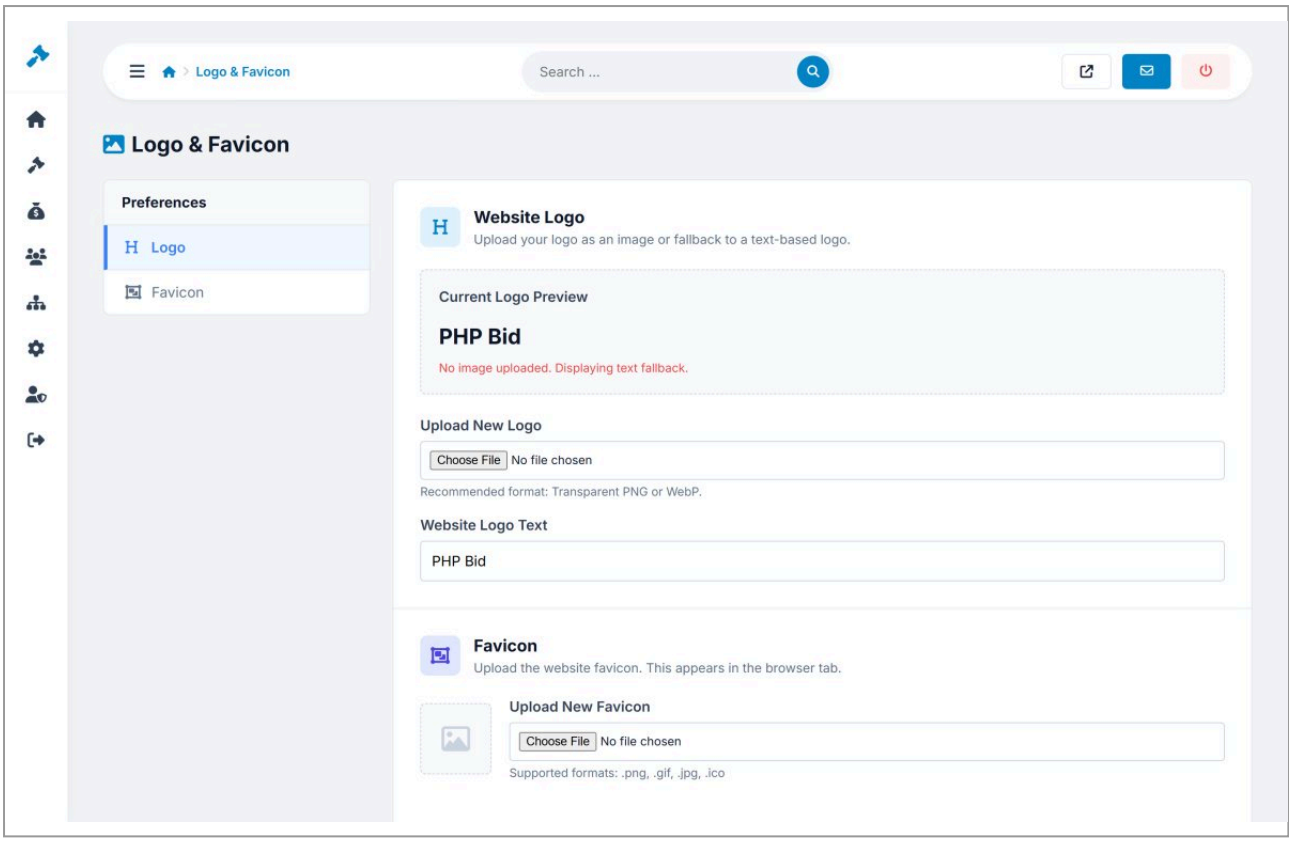


Some of the 8 templates.

Edit HTML opens the layout of a template in a code editor, for web designers who want to move blocks or add their own code.

Logo and favicon

Website › Logo & Favicon uploads your logo (a transparent PNG or WebP works best) and the small icon shown in the browser tab. Without a logo image, the *logo text* is shown in the header.



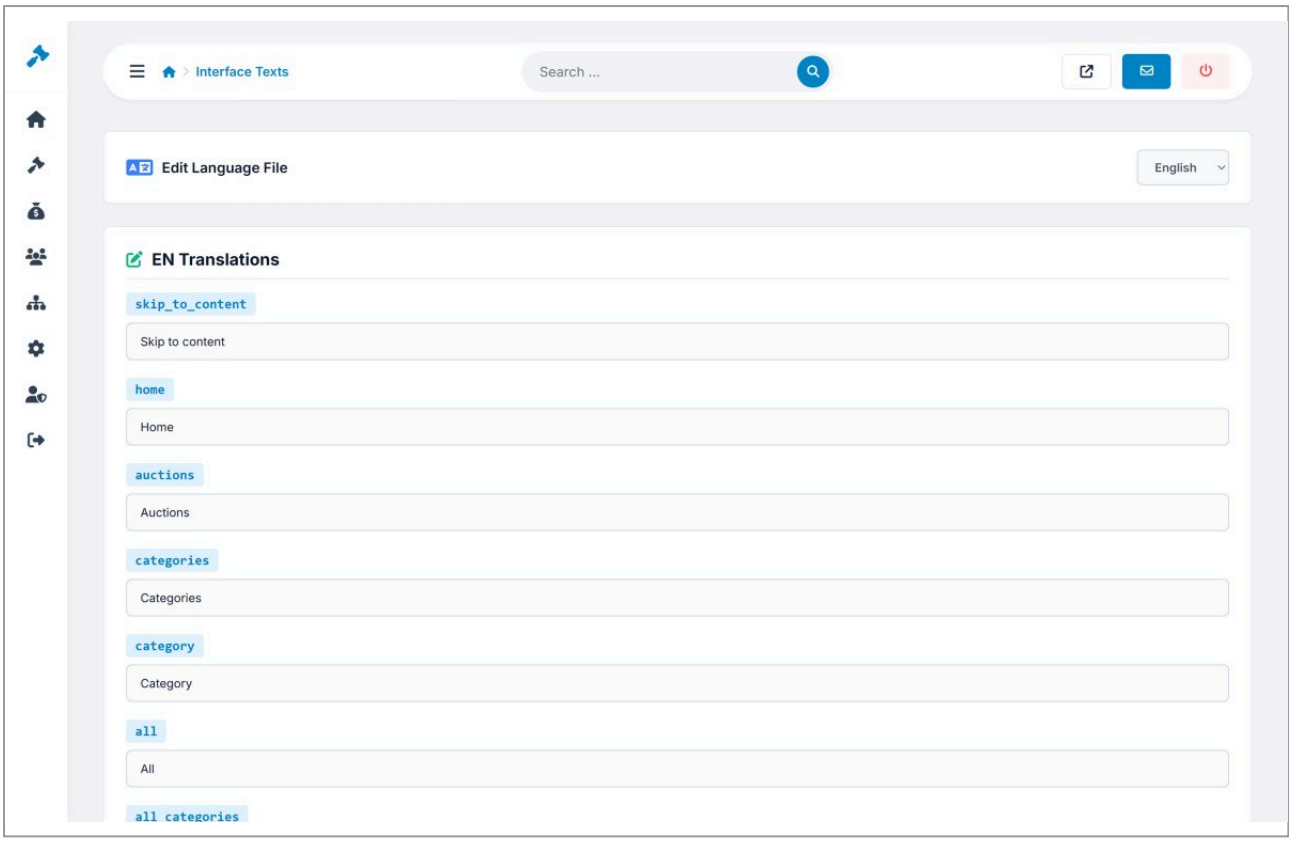
Uploading the logo and the favicon.

Colours and hero image

In **Settings › Configuration Options › Design** you choose the template too, plus the primary, secondary and footer colours and the hero image of the home page. See General settings.

Interface texts

Website › Interface Texts lets you change any text of the website and the members area - buttons, titles, messages, e-mails - in every language, for example "Place bid" to "Bid now" or "Lot" to "Item". The texts are saved in the language files, so they are kept with your website.



Editing the interface texts of a language.

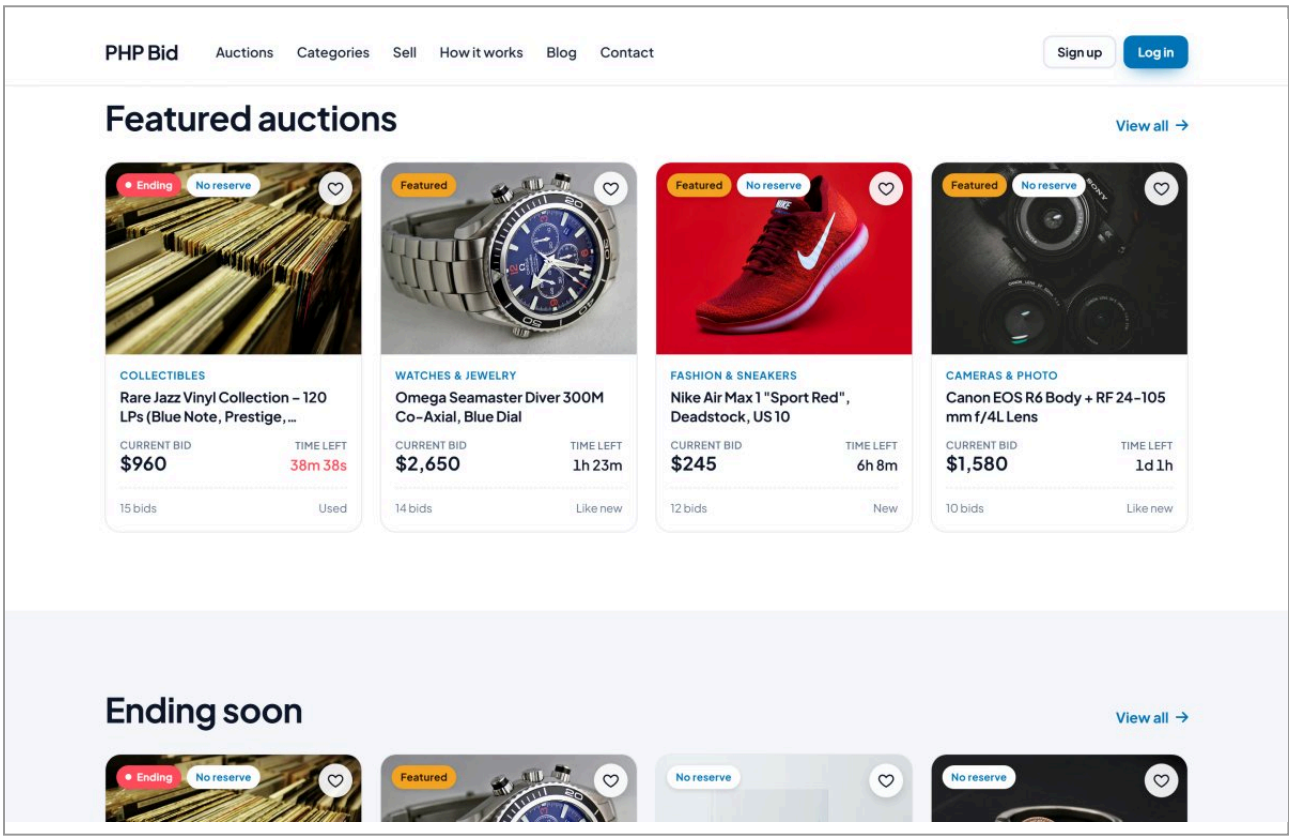
CHAPTER 31 · ADMIN PANEL

Featured listings and advertisement zones

Besides commissions, PHP Bid earns money with featured listings that sellers pay for, and with advertisement zones for banners or AdSense.

Featured listings

Featured items appear in the *Featured auctions* section of the home page and carry a "Featured" label in the search results. Sellers choose the upgrade in the listing form; you set its price in **Configuration Options › Currency & fees** (0 = free). You can also feature any listing yourself with *Toggle featured* in **Auctions › All auctions**.



Featured listings on the home page.

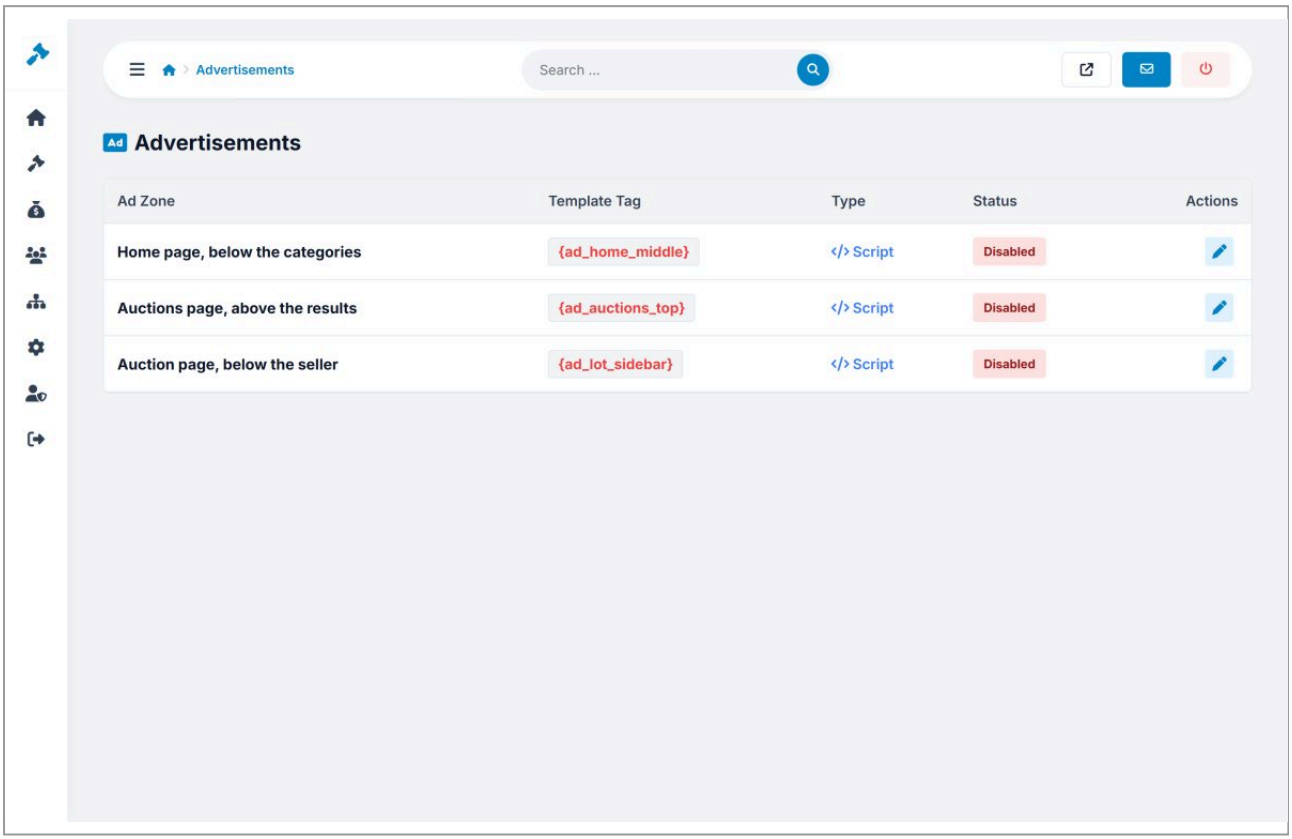
Advertisement zones

Website › Advertisements manages the ad zones of the website:

Zone	Position
`home_middle`	In the middle of the home page.
`auctions_top`	Above the search results.

Zone	Position
`lot_sidebar`	In the side column of the auction pages.

For each zone choose a **banner** (upload an image and enter the target URL) or **custom code** (Google AdSense or any HTML/JavaScript), and enable or disable it. A disabled or empty zone shows nothing.



Editing an advertisement zone.

Each zone has a template tag, so a web designer can place it in other positions of a template too.

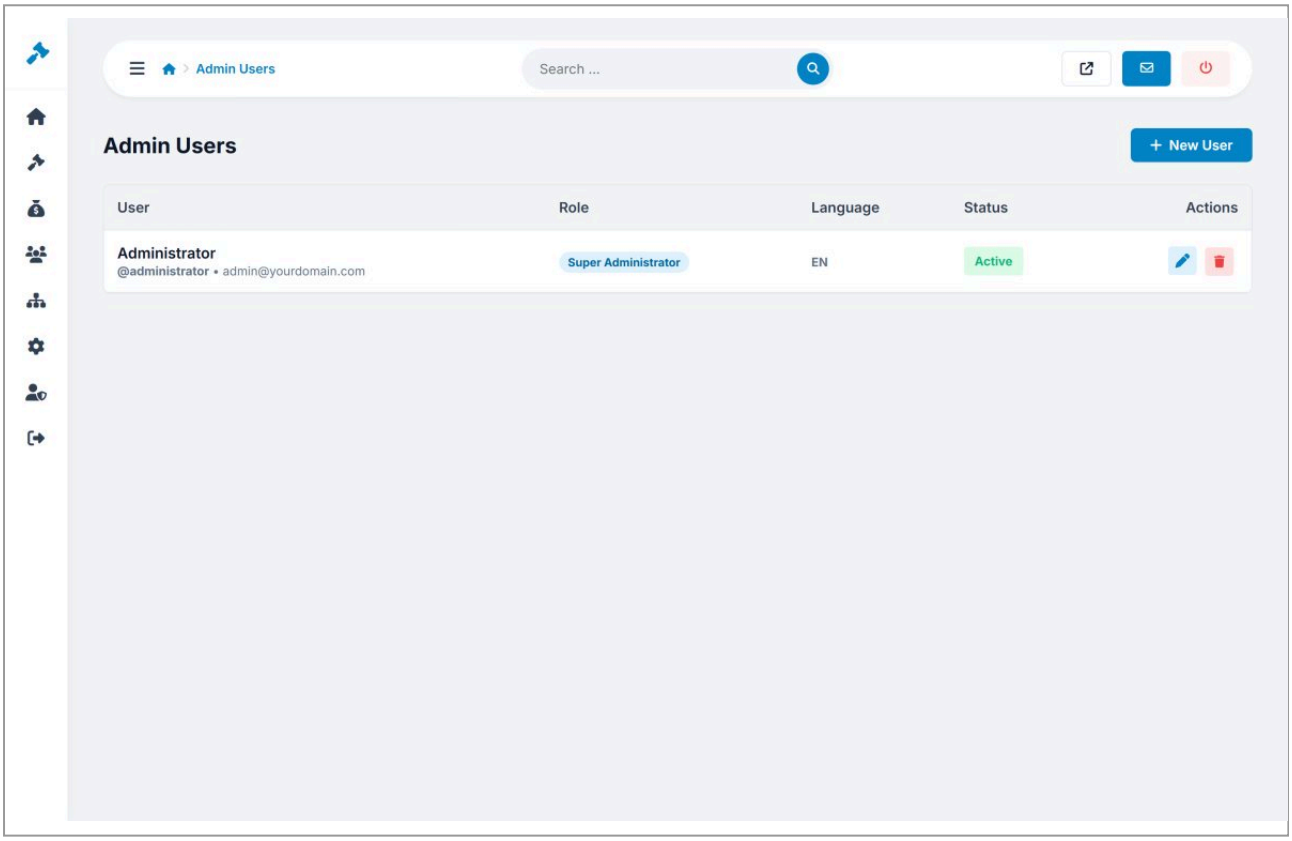
CHAPTER 32 · ADMIN PANEL

Administrators, groups and permissions

As the marketplace grows, you will want help. Create an account for each person and decide with groups and permissions what they may see and change.

Admin users

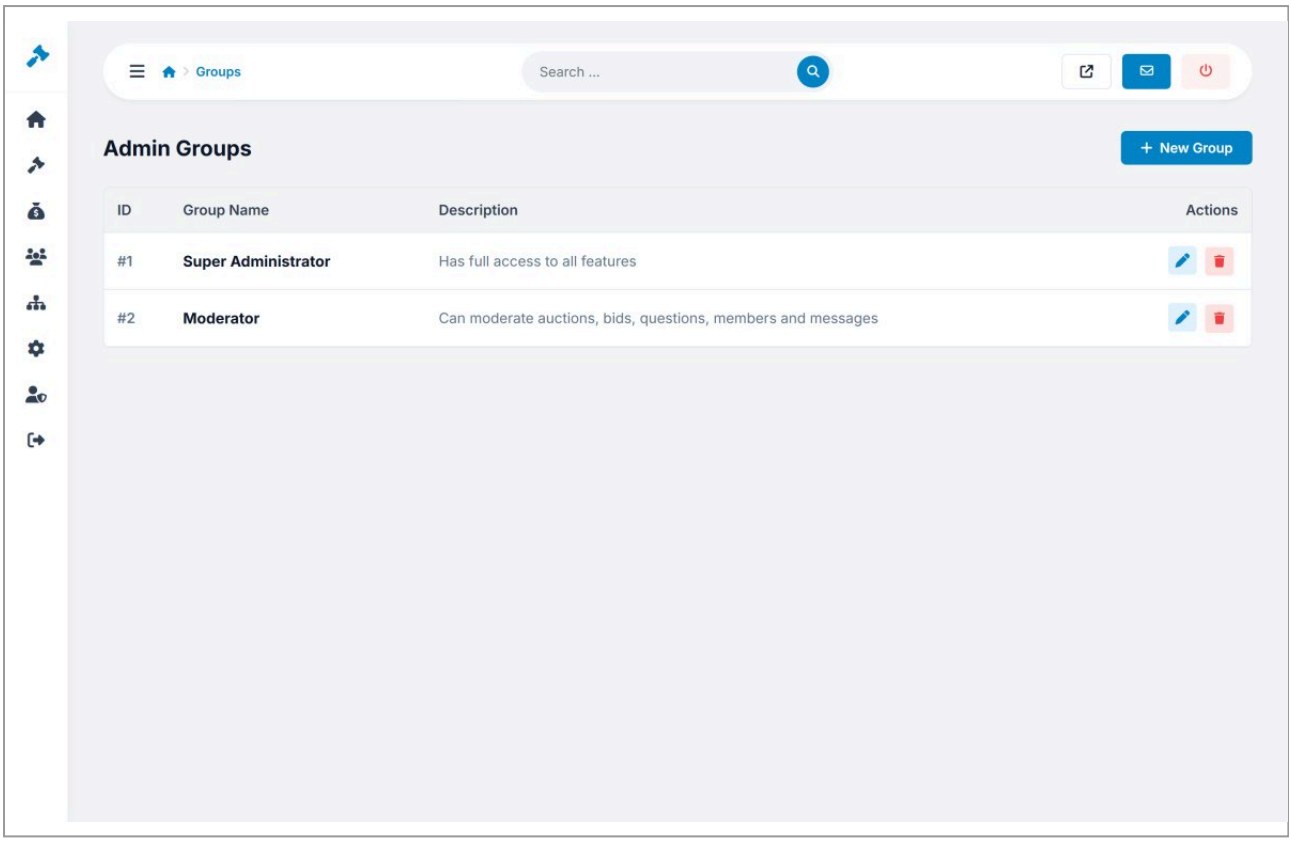
Admin Users › Admin Users lists the administrators with their group, language and status. *New User* creates an account with username, e-mail, password, group and the language of the admin panel. Deactivate accounts of people who no longer work for you instead of sharing passwords.



The administrators.

Groups

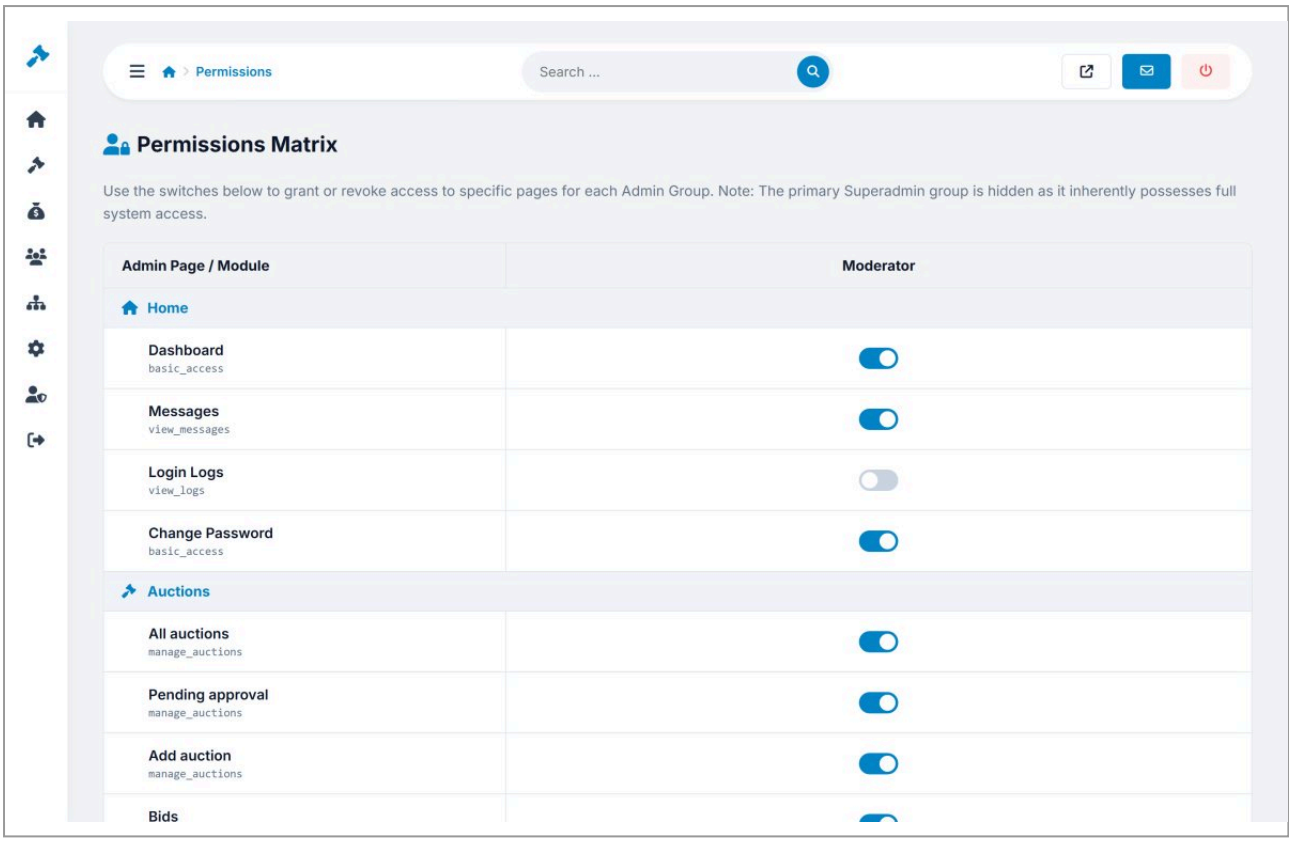
Admin Users › Groups holds the roles. The installation has **Super Administrator** (full access) and **Moderator** (auctions, bids, questions, members and messages). Add your own, for example "Accounting" for sales and invoices only.



Groups of administrators.

Permissions

Admin Users › Permissions is a matrix with every page of the admin panel in the rows and the groups in the columns. Tick what each group may use and save. Pages a group can not use disappear from its menu.



The permissions matrix.

> **Good practice:** keep only one or two Super Administrators, give moderators only what they need, and check *Home › Login Logs* from time to time.

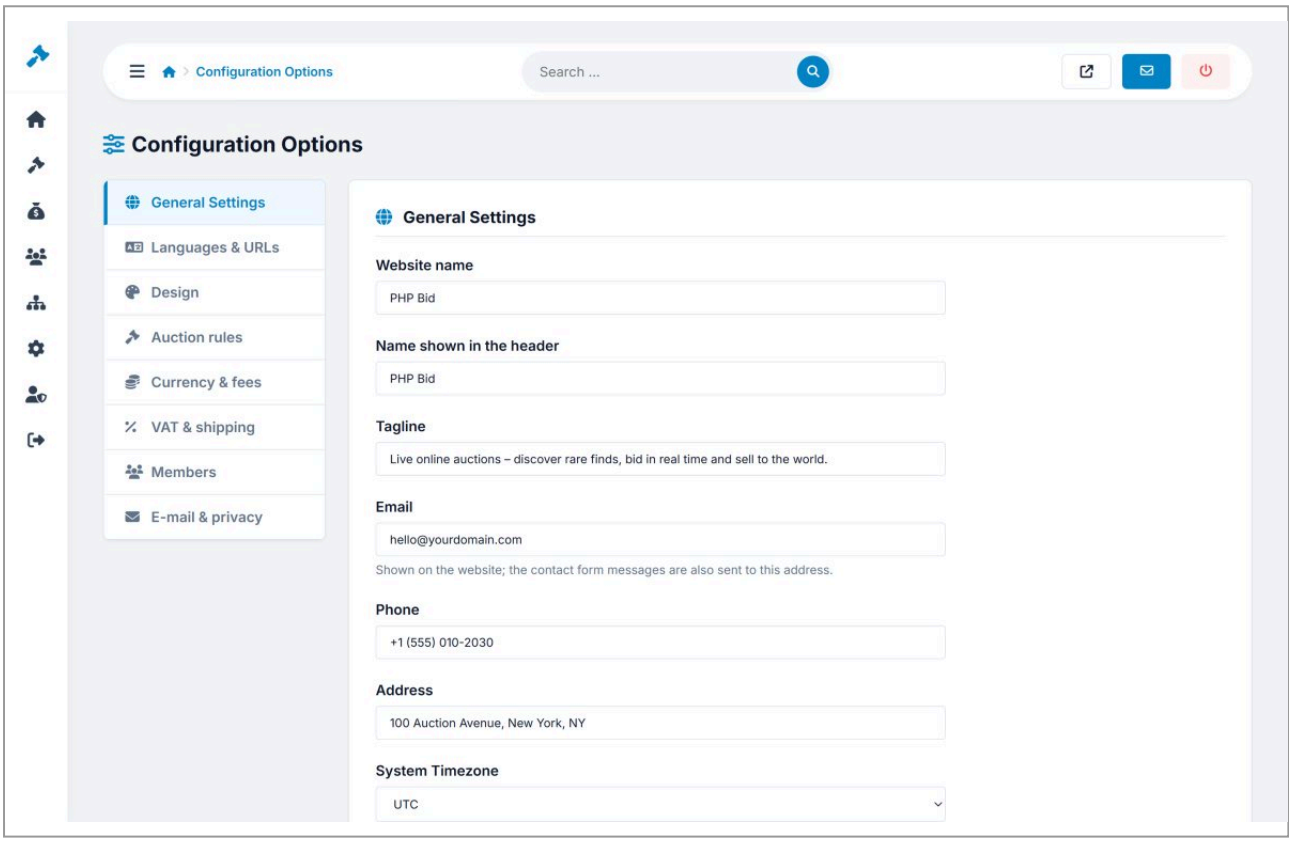
CHAPTER 33 · CONFIGURATION

General settings, design, members and e-mail

Settings › Configuration Options holds every rule of your website, sorted in eight tabs. This chapter covers the general tabs; the auction, fees and VAT tabs have their own chapters.

MENU **Settings › Configuration Options**

The tabs are: **General Settings**, **Languages & URLs**, **Design**, **Auction rules**, **Currency & fees**, **VAT & shipping**, **Members** and **E-mail & privacy**. Click *Save* at the bottom after changes.



Configuration Options with the General Settings tab.

General Settings

Setting	Explanation
Website name	Used in the page titles, e-mails and invoices.
Name shown in the header	The logo text when no logo image is uploaded.
Tagline	Short description of your marketplace, used in the hero and as default meta description.
Email	Shown on the website; the contact form messages are also sent there.

Setting	Explanation
Phone, Address	Shown on the contact page and in the footer.
System Timezone	The start and end times of all auctions use this time zone. Set it before your first auctions.

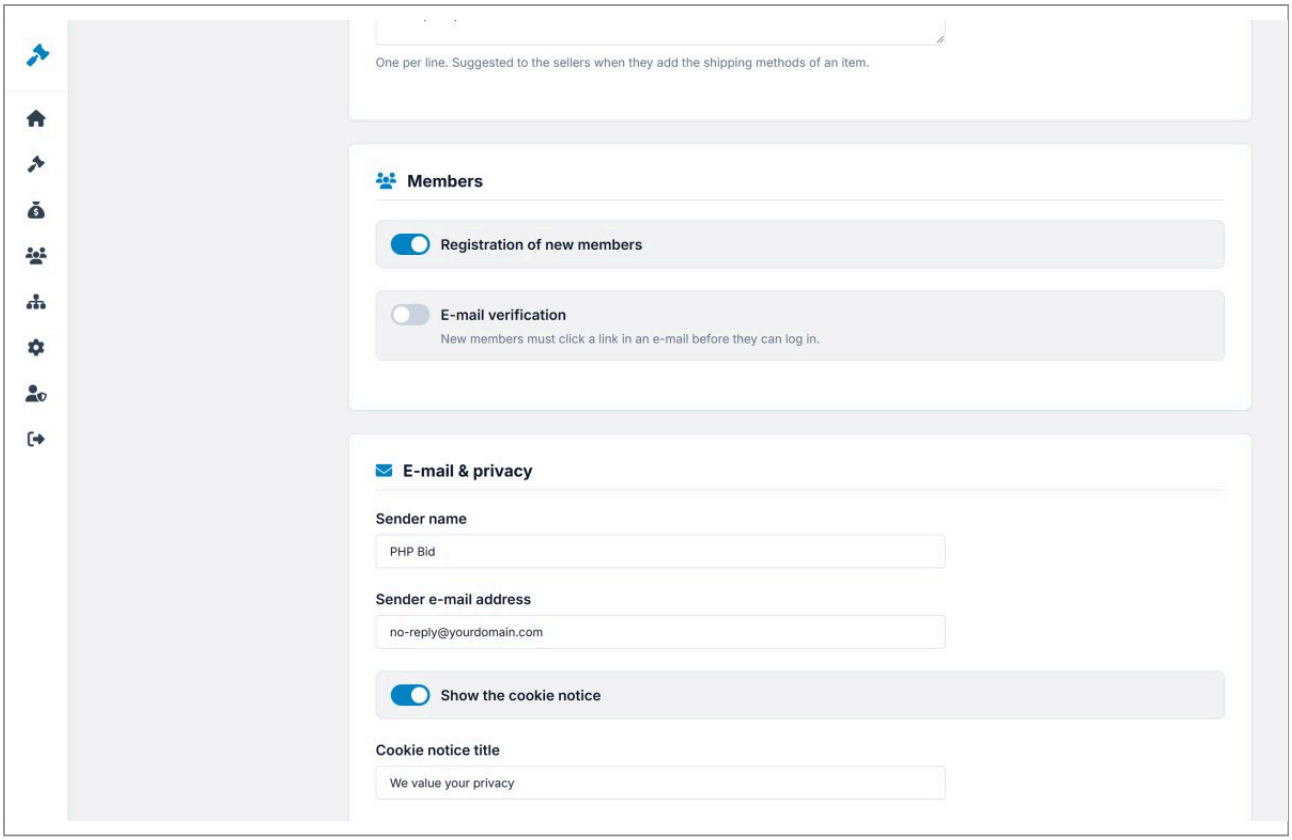
Languages & URLs

Setting	Explanation
Multi-language website	Shows the language switch so visitors choose their language. See Languages.
Default language	The language of first-time visitors.
Search engine friendly URLs	Short URLs like `/en-auction-omega-seamaster-12`. Needs the `.htaccess` file (Apache mod_rewrite).
Show "Home" in the menu	Adds a Home link to the main menu.
Maintenance mode	Visitors see a "we will be back soon" page; you still see the site while logged in as administrator.

Design

Choose the template, the **primary**, **secondary** and **footer** colours, and upload the logo, the favicon and the **hero image** of the home page. See Templates, logo and interface texts.

Members



The Members and E-mail & privacy tabs.

- **Registration of new members** - turn off to close the registrations (private auctions, invitation only).
- **E-mail verification** - new members must click a link in an e-mail before they can log in. Recommended against fake accounts.

E-mail & privacy

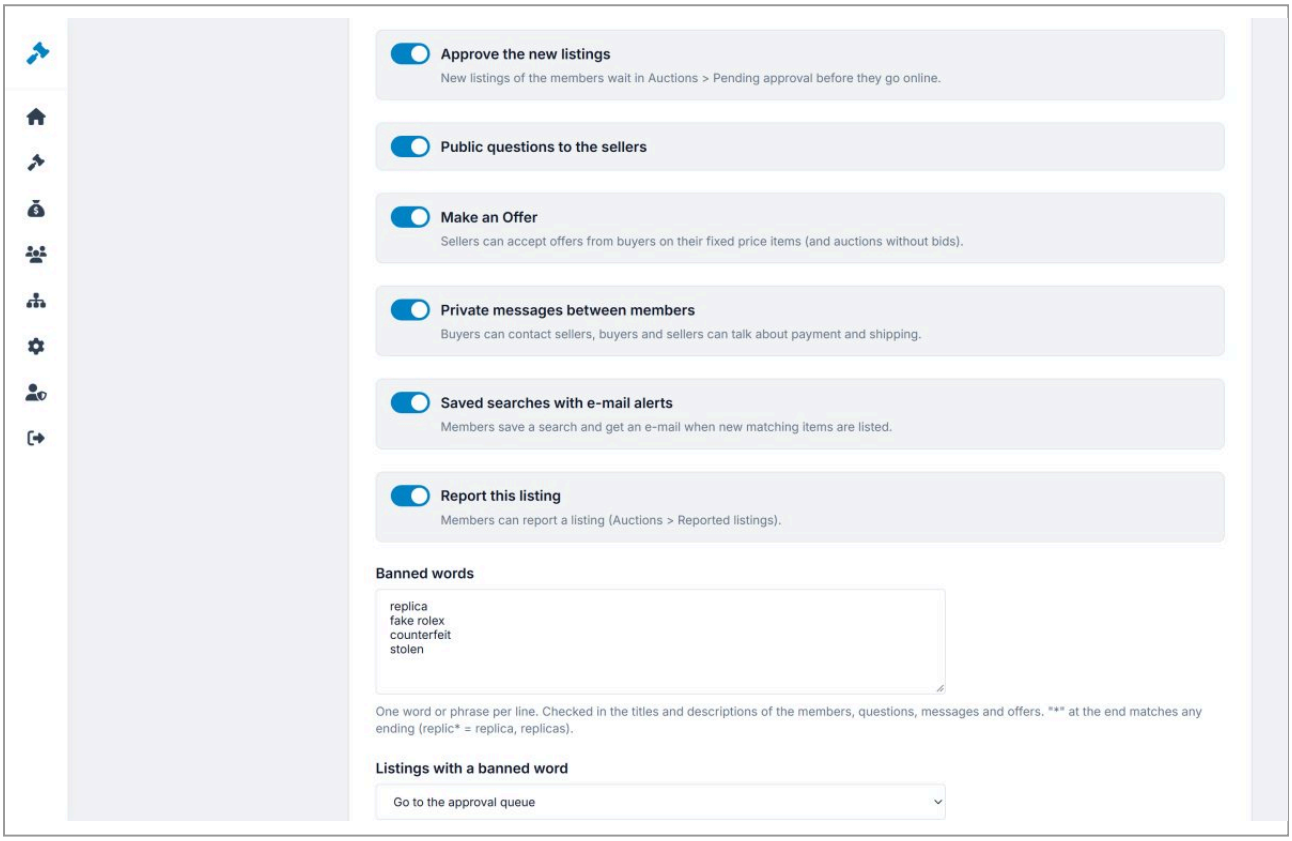
- **Sender name** and **Sender e-mail address** - the "From" of all e-mails, for example *PHP Bid <no-reply@yourdomain.com>*. Use an address of your own domain so the e-mails do not land in spam.
- **Show the cookie notice** with its **title** and **text** - for GDPR and the EU cookie rules.

CHAPTER 34 · CONFIGURATION

Auction rules: listings, durations, increments and anti-sniping

The Auction rules tab decides how your marketplace works: who can sell, what needs approval, which features are on, how long auctions run and how bidding steps up.

MENU **Settings › Configuration Options › Auction rules**



The Auction rules tab.

Features and moderation

Setting	Explanation
Members can list items	Off = only the administrator lists items (an auction house). On = a marketplace where members sell.
Approve the new listings	New listings of members wait in *Auctions › Pending approval* before they go online.
Public questions to the sellers	The Questions & answers block on the auction pages.

Setting	Explanation
Make an Offer	Sellers can accept offers on fixed price items and on auctions without bids.
Private messages between members	Buyers can contact sellers; both can talk about payment and shipping.
Saved searches with e-mail alerts	Members save searches and receive new matching items by e-mail.
Report this listing	Members can report listings to *Auctions › Reported listings*.
Banned words	One word or phrase per line; * at the end matches any ending. Checked in listings, questions, messages and offers.
Listings with a banned word	*Go to the approval queue* or *Block*. See Moderation.

Durations and photos

Setting	Explanation
Auction durations	The durations sellers can choose, in days, comma separated: `1,3,5,7,10,14`.
Default duration	Pre-selected in the form, for example 7 days.
Maximum photos	Photos per listing, for example 10.

Anti-sniping

Anti-sniping window (minutes): a bid placed in the last X minutes extends the auction. **Extend by (minutes)**: how much. With 2 and 2, a bid at 1:30 before the end gives everybody two more minutes. 0 = off. See Anti-sniping.

Bid increments

One line per price level in the format `from:increment`:

```
0:1
100:5
500:10
1000:25
2500:50
5000:100
10000:250
```

Line `100:5` means: from a current bid of 100, the next bid must be at least 5 higher.

Maximum bid protection

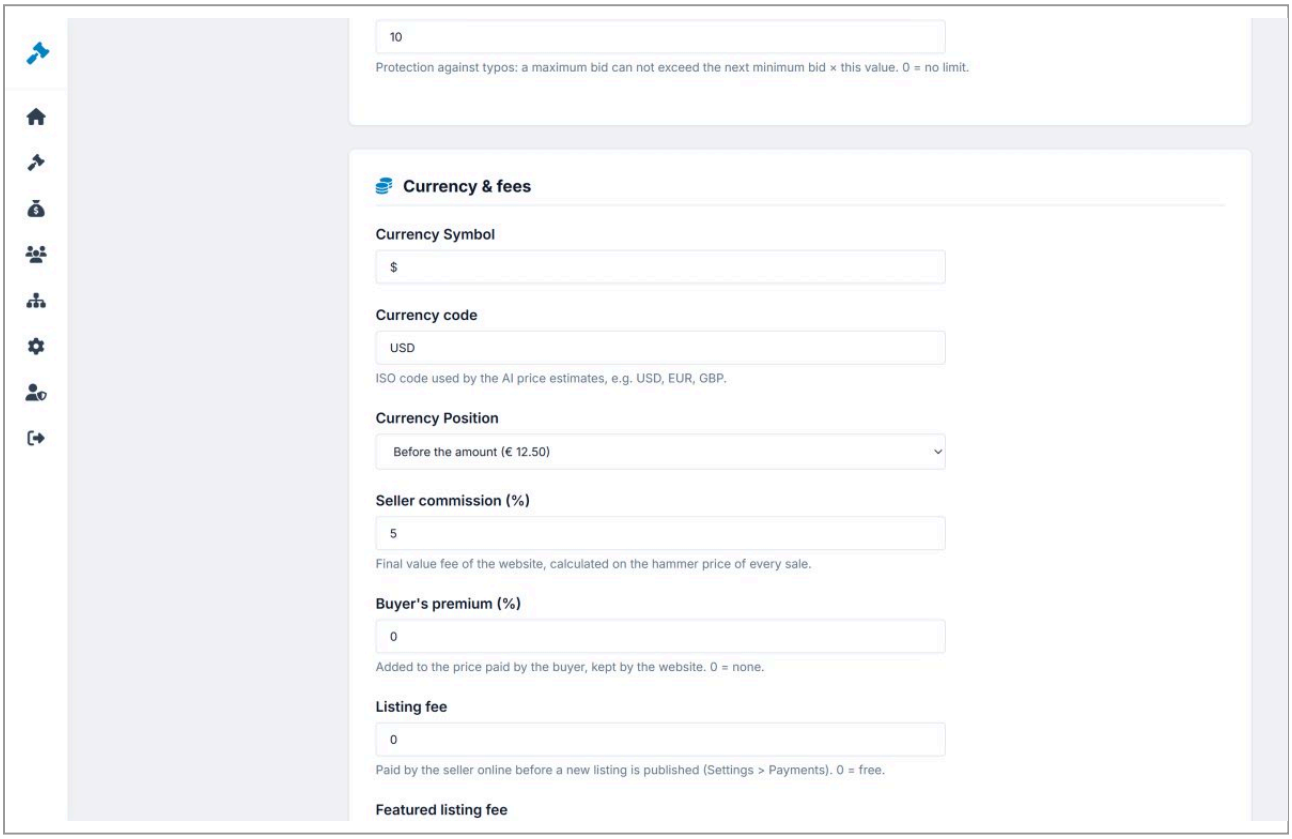
Maximum bid multiplier protects against typos: a bid can not exceed the next minimum bid multiplied by this value. With 10 and a minimum bid of $105, the highest accepted bid is $1,050. 0 = no limit.

CHAPTER 35 · CONFIGURATION

Currency, commissions and fees

The Currency & fees tab sets the money side of the marketplace: how prices are shown and which fees the website charges.

MENU **Settings › Configuration Options › Currency & fees**



The Currency & fees tab.

Currency

- **Currency symbol** - $, €, £...
- **Currency code** - ISO code (USD, EUR, GBP) used for the online payments and the AI price estimates.
- **Currency position** - before ($12.50) or after (12,50 €) the amount.

Fees

Fee	How it works	Example
Seller commission (%)	Final value fee, calculated on the hammer price of every sale and invoiced to the seller.	5% of a $1,000 sale = $50

Fee	How it works	Example
Buyer's premium (%)	Added to the price paid by the buyer and kept by the website - common for auction houses. Shown on the auction page.	10% on $1,000 = $100
Listing fee	Paid by the seller online before a new listing is published.	$1 per listing
Featured listing fee	Paid online for the featured upgrade.	$19

0 turns a fee off. All fees create invoices that members pay in *Payments › My invoices* (Invoices and fees). VAT on the fees is set in VAT & shipping.

Payment instructions

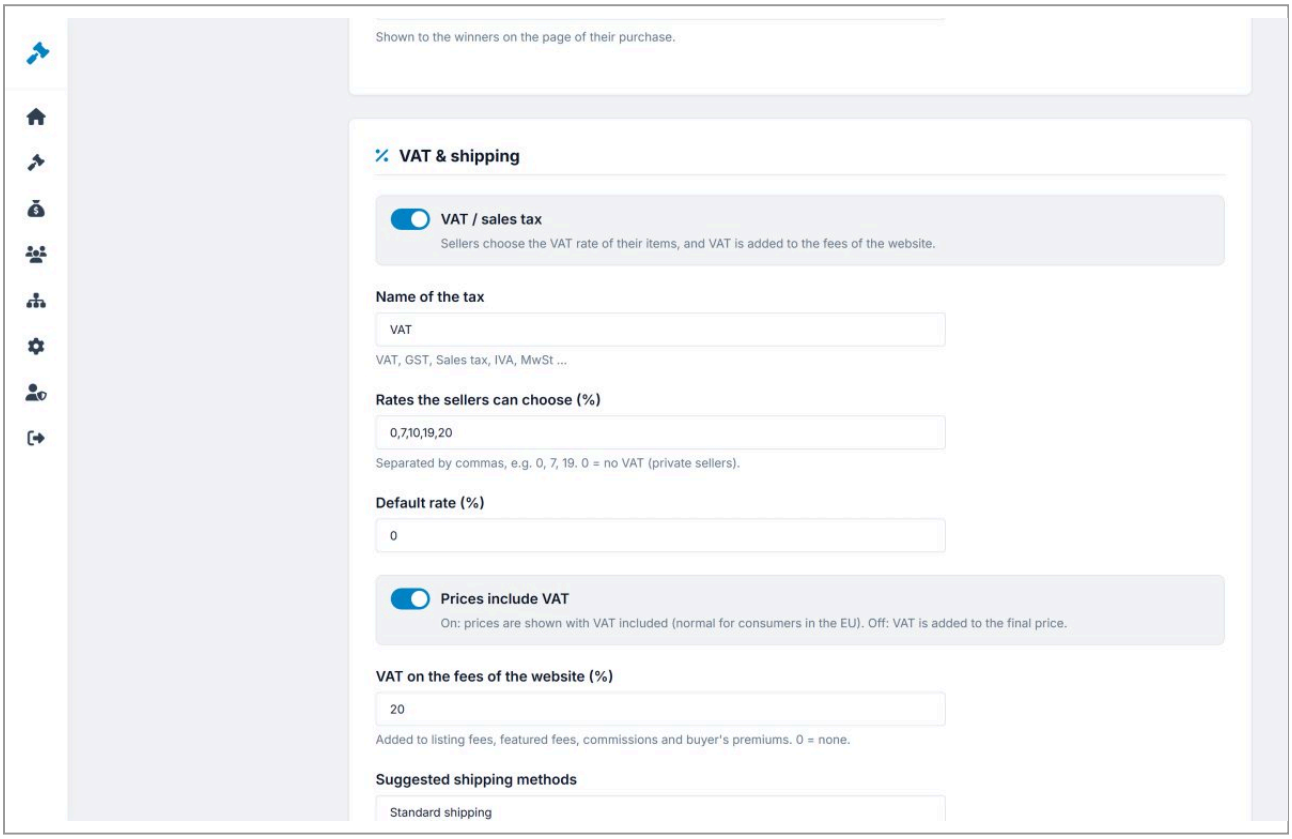
The text shown to the winners on the page of their purchase, telling them how to pay the seller - for example *"Pay the seller within 3 days by bank transfer or PayPal. The seller ships after receiving the payment."*

CHAPTER 36 · CONFIGURATION

VAT / sales tax and shipping methods

If you or your sellers must charge VAT, PHP Bid handles it on items and on fees. Several shipping methods per item let buyers choose between cheap, fast or pickup.

MENU **Settings › Configuration Options › VAT & shipping**



The VAT & shipping tab.

VAT settings

Setting	Explanation
VAT / sales tax	Turns the feature on. Sellers choose the rate of their items, and VAT is added to the fees of the website.
Name of the tax	VAT, GST, Sales tax, IVA, MwSt…
Rates the sellers can choose	Comma separated, for example `0, 7, 10, 19, 20`. 0 = no VAT (private sellers).
Default rate	Pre-selected in the listing form.

Setting	Explanation
Prices include VAT	On: prices are shown with VAT included (normal for consumers in the EU). Off: VAT is added to the final price.
VAT on the fees of the website (%)	Added to listing fees, featured fees, commissions and buyer's premiums. 0 = none.

How VAT is shown and calculated

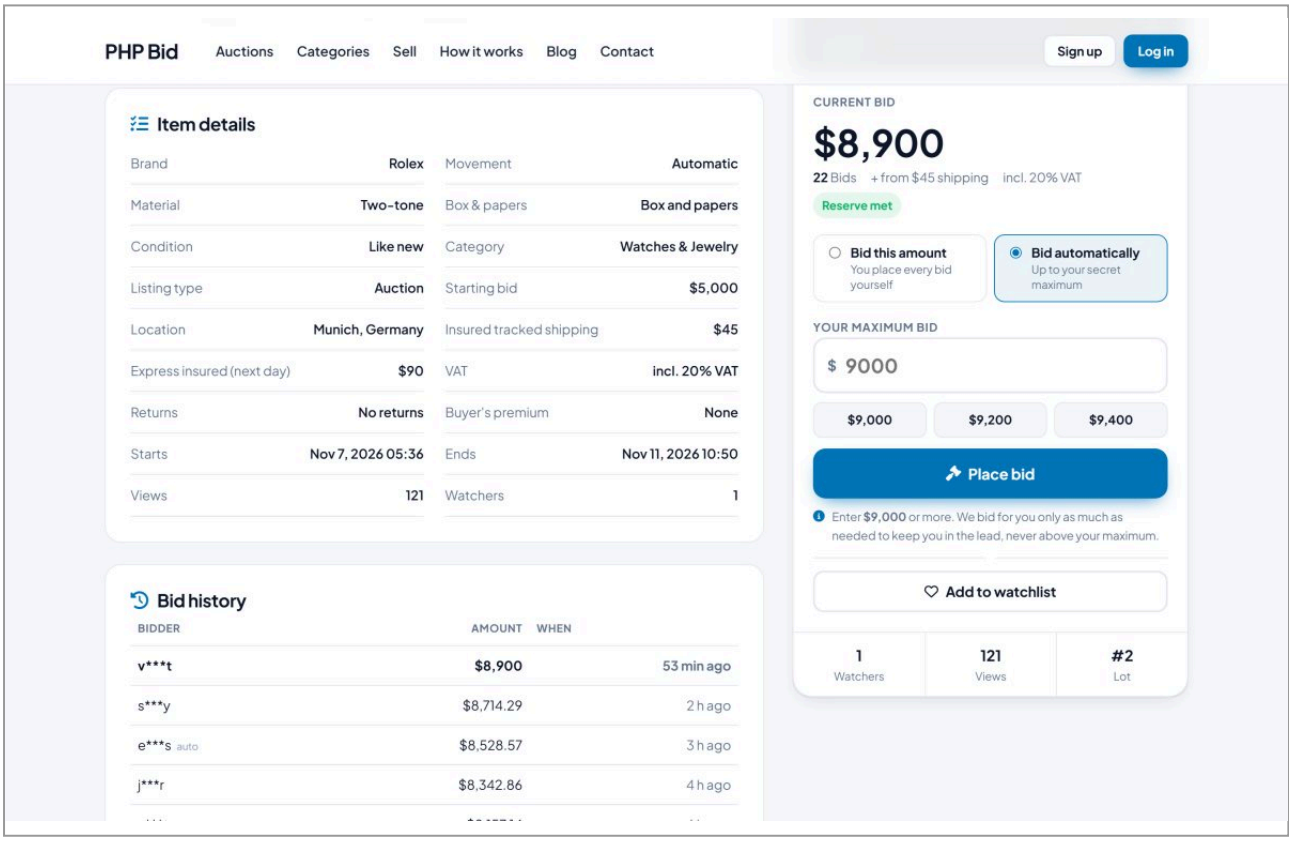
The auction page shows a label such as *incl. 20% VAT* or *+ 20% VAT*. On the sale page the VAT is calculated on the price and the shipping:

- **Included**: a sale of $899 at 20% contains $149.83 VAT - the total stays $899.
- **Added**: $899 + 20% = $1,078.80.

Fee invoices show net, VAT and total, for example a commission of $44.95 + $8.99 VAT = $53.94.

Shipping methods

Suggested shipping methods: one per line, for example *Standard shipping, Express shipping, International shipping, Local pickup*. Sellers pick from these suggestions (or type their own) and give each a cost; 0 = free.



An item with several shipping methods and the VAT label.

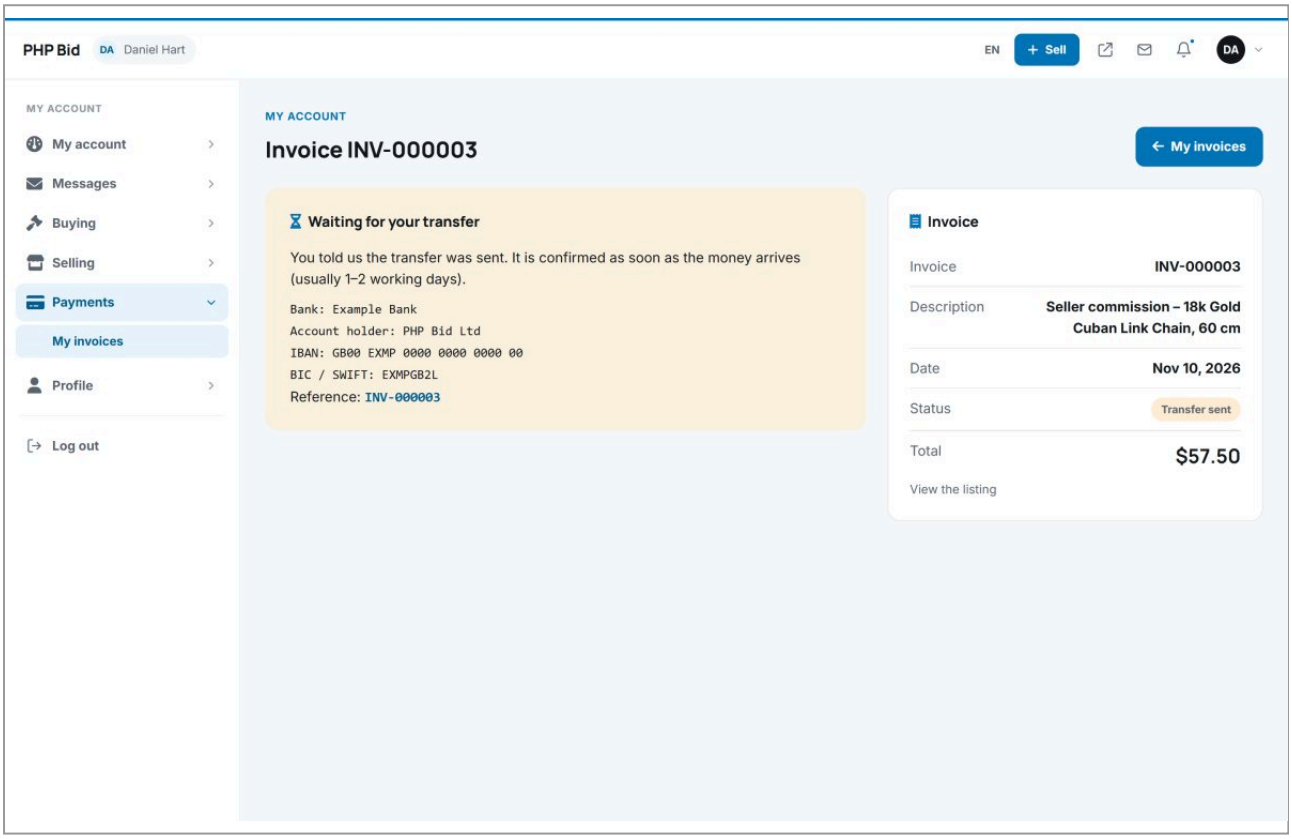
The buyer chooses the method on the purchase page and the total updates at once. Until the buyer chooses, the cheapest option is used.

CHAPTER 37 · CONFIGURATION

Payments: Stripe, PayPal and bank transfer

The fees of the website are paid online by card with Stripe, with PayPal, or by bank transfer. Each method takes a few minutes to set up.

MENU **Settings › Payments**



Settings › Payments with Stripe, PayPal and bank transfer.

Stripe (cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay)

1. Create an account at **stripe.com**.
2. In the Stripe Dashboard open *Developers › API keys* and copy the **secret key**. Use the test key (`sk_test_...`) first to try payments with the Stripe test cards.
3. In *Developers › Webhooks* click *Add endpoint* with the address `https://www.yourdomain.com/include/stripe_webhook.php` and the event `checkout.session.completed`. Copy the **webhook signing secret**.
4. In PHP Bid turn on Stripe, paste the secret key and the webhook secret, and save.

The webhook confirms the payment even if the member closes the browser before returning to your website. When the tests work, replace the test keys with the live keys.

PayPal

1. Open **developer.paypal.com › Apps & Credentials** and create an app.
2. Copy the **Client ID** and the **Secret** into PHP Bid.
3. Tick **Sandbox** to test with PayPal test accounts; untick it and use the live credentials to accept real payments.

Bank transfer

Turn it on and enter your **bank details** (bank, account holder, IBAN, BIC/SWIFT). Members see them with the amount and the invoice number as reference. When the money arrives, confirm it in **Sales › Invoices & payments**.

Block members with unpaid fees

Block after (days): a member with a commission or buyer's premium unpaid for longer than this can not list new items. 0 = never.

Test

Use *Save & test* to check the connection. Then make a test purchase with a featured listing and check that the invoice becomes paid.

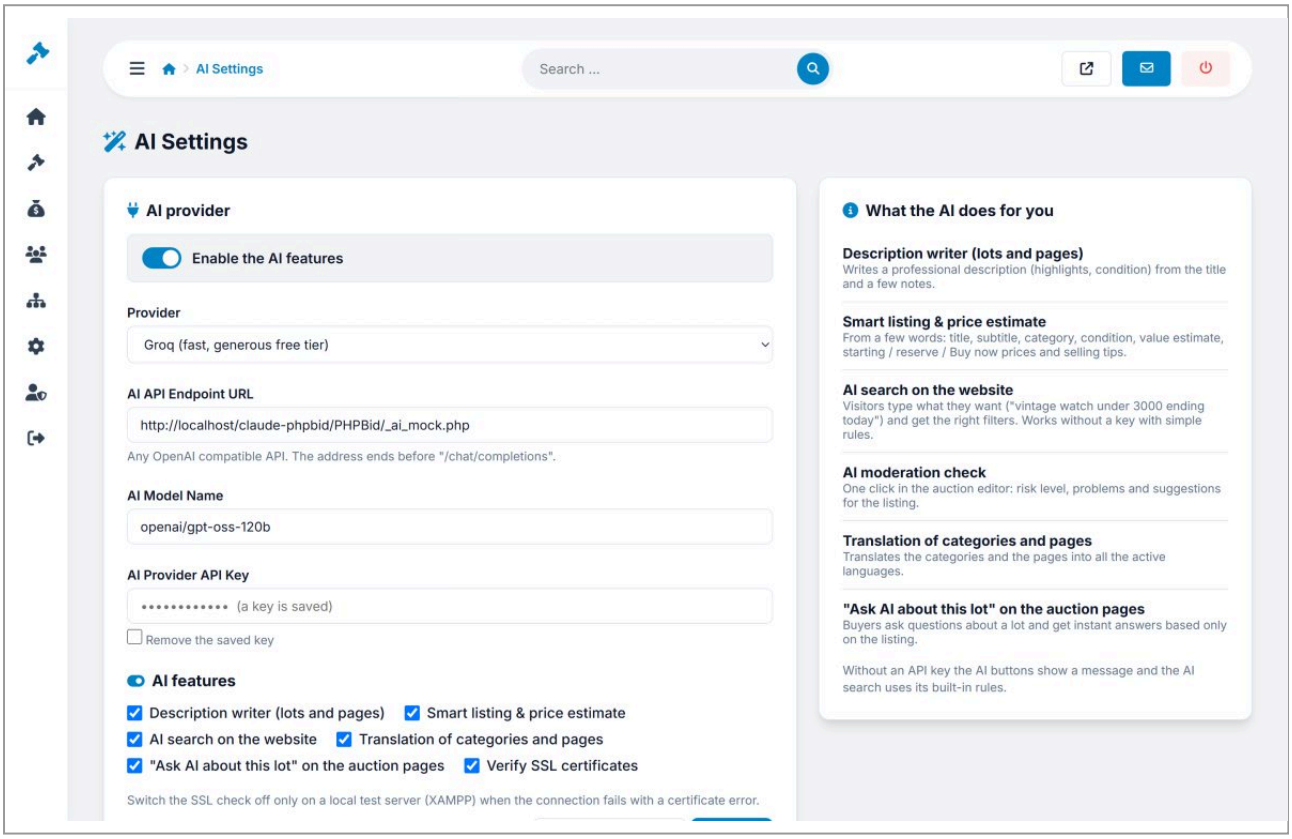
> **HTTPS:** use an SSL certificate (https) on your website before accepting live card payments.

CHAPTER 38 · CONFIGURATION

AI settings: provider, key and AI features

PHP Bid works with any OpenAI-compatible AI service. Add one API key and you get six AI features that save sellers time and help buyers find and trust items.

MENU **Settings › AI Settings**



Settings › AI Settings with the provider, the key and the feature switches.

Connecting an AI provider

Provider	Notes
Groq	Fast, with a generous free tier - the easiest way to start. Get a key at console.groq.com.
OpenAI (ChatGPT)	Model `gpt-4o-mini` by default: very good quality for a low price. Key at platform.openai.com.
DeepSeek	Low cost, good quality.
Custom	Any OpenAI-compatible API (for example a local server): enter the API URL and the model name.

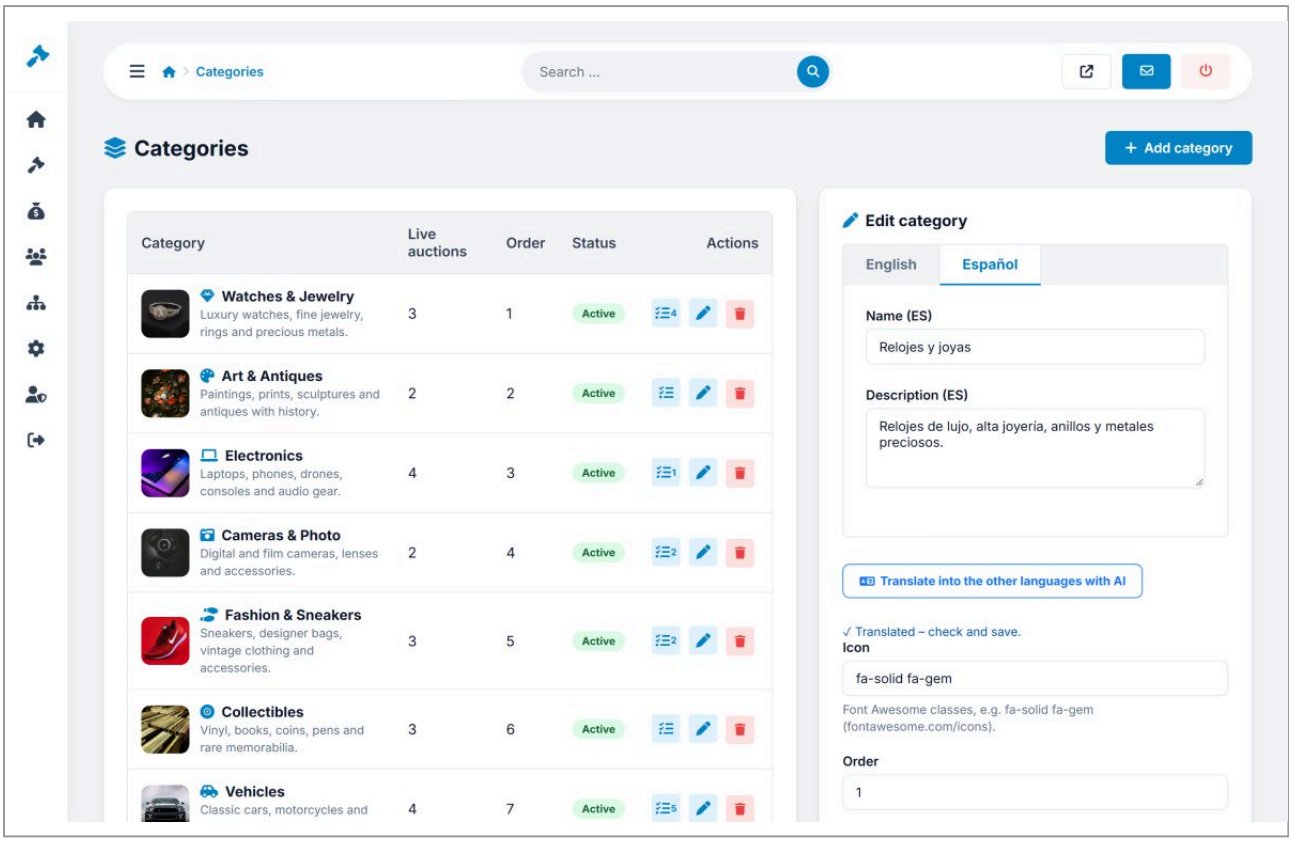
1. Choose the provider - the API URL and the model are filled in for you.
2. Paste your **API key**.
3. Click **Test connection** and save.

The SSL check should stay on. Switch it off only on a local test server (XAMPP) when the connection fails with a certificate error.

The AI features

Feature	What it does
Smart listing & price estimate	From a few words: title, subtitle, category, condition, value estimate, starting, reserve and Buy now prices and selling tips. See Selling an item.
Description writer (lots and pages)	Writes a professional description from the title and a few notes, and the pages of the website in the admin panel.
AI search on the website	Visitors type what they want ("vintage watch under 3000 ending today") and get the right filters. Works without a key with simple rules.
Translation of categories and pages	Translates categories and pages into all active languages.
"Ask AI about this lot"	Buyers ask questions about a lot and get instant answers based only on the listing.
AI moderation check	One click in the auction editor: risk level, problems and suggestions for the listing.

Each feature has its own switch, so you can use only the ones you want. Without a key, the AI buttons are hidden (and the AI search uses its simple rules).



Translating the categories and pages with AI.

> **Costs:** the AI provider charges you per use, not PHP Bid. With Groq's free tier or a small model such as gpt-4o-mini, a busy marketplace usually spends only a few dollars a month.

CHAPTER 39 · CONFIGURATION

SEO, tracking codes and social media links

A marketplace lives from visitors. PHP Bid gives every auction, category, page and blog post its own crawlable URL and SEO fields, and connects to your analytics and social profiles.

MENU **Settings › Tracking Codes**

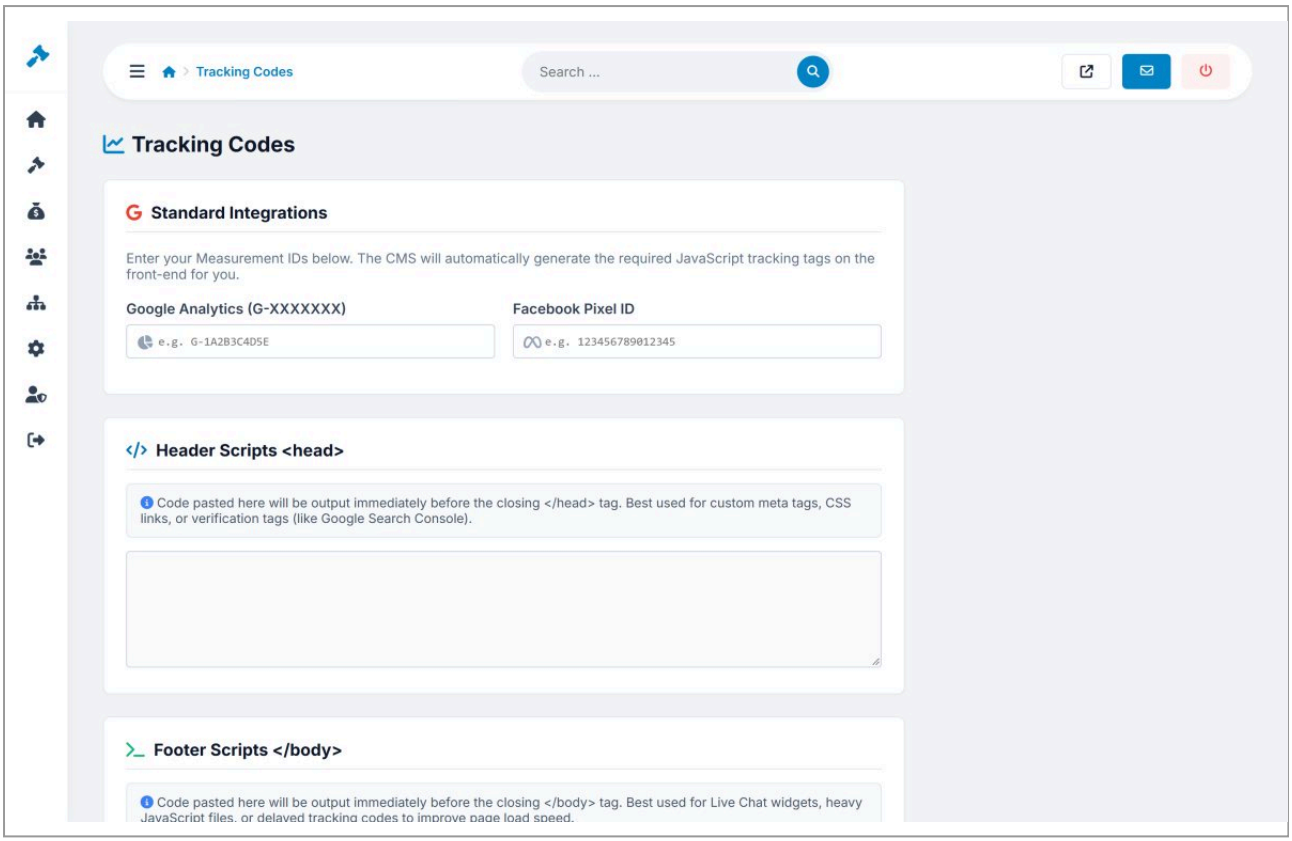
SEO built into PHP Bid

- **Search engine friendly URLs** - turn on in *Configuration Options › Languages & URLs*. Auctions get URLs with their title, such as `/en-auction-omega-seamaster-diver-300m-12`.
- **Titles and descriptions** - each auction uses its title and the start of its description; pages and blog posts have their own SEO title and meta description fields.
- **Category pages** with descriptions and the blog give Google text to rank for your niche.
- **Fast, mobile-friendly templates** - important for Google's ranking.
- **Languages** - each language version of a page has its own URL. See Languages.

Tracking codes

Settings › Tracking Codes:

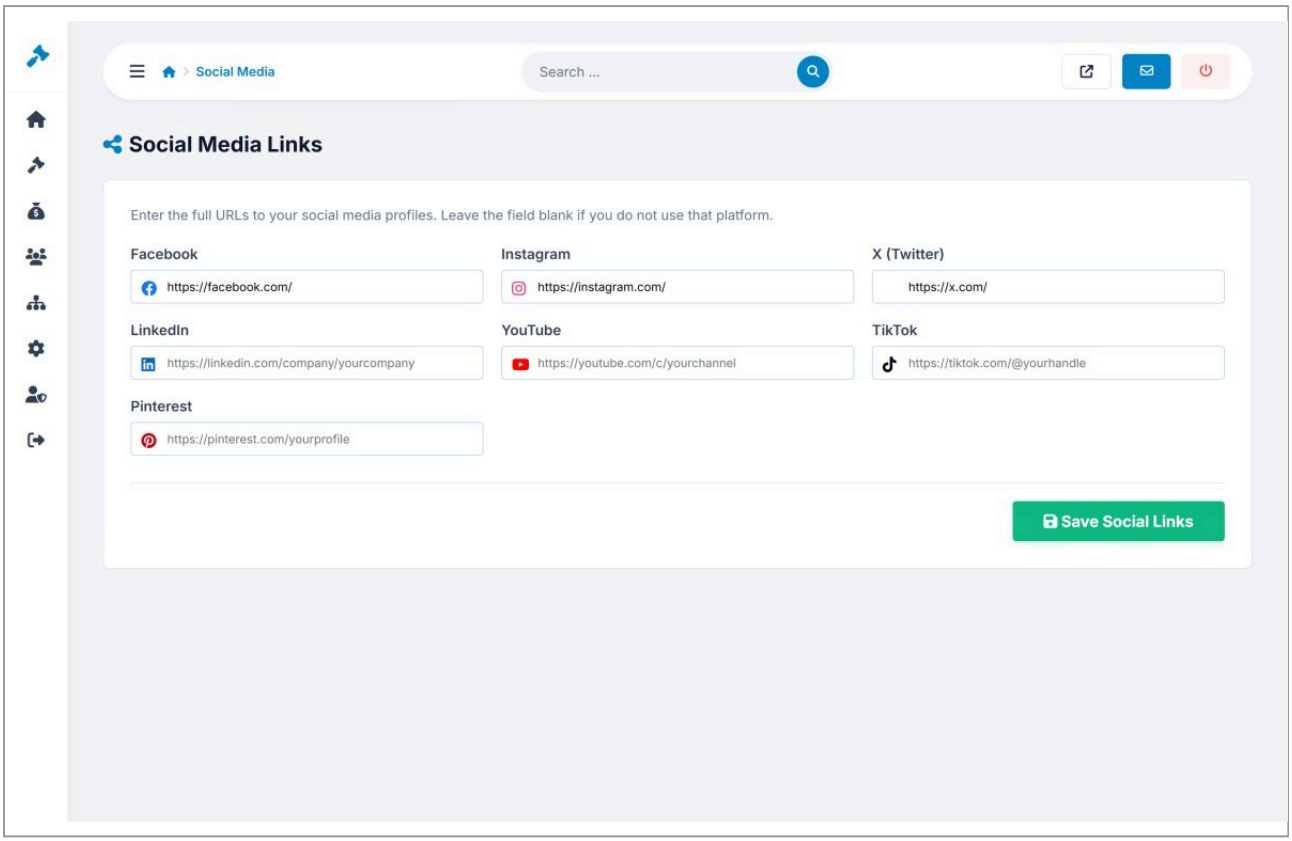
- **Google Analytics** - enter your measurement ID (`G-XXXXXXX`).
- **Facebook Pixel** - enter your Pixel ID.
- **Header scripts** and **Footer scripts** - any other code, for example Google Tag Manager, Search Console verification, a chat widget or another analytics tool.



Settings › Tracking Codes.

Social media links

Settings › Social Media holds the addresses of your profiles on Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok and Pinterest. They appear as icons in the footer; leave a field empty to hide its icon.



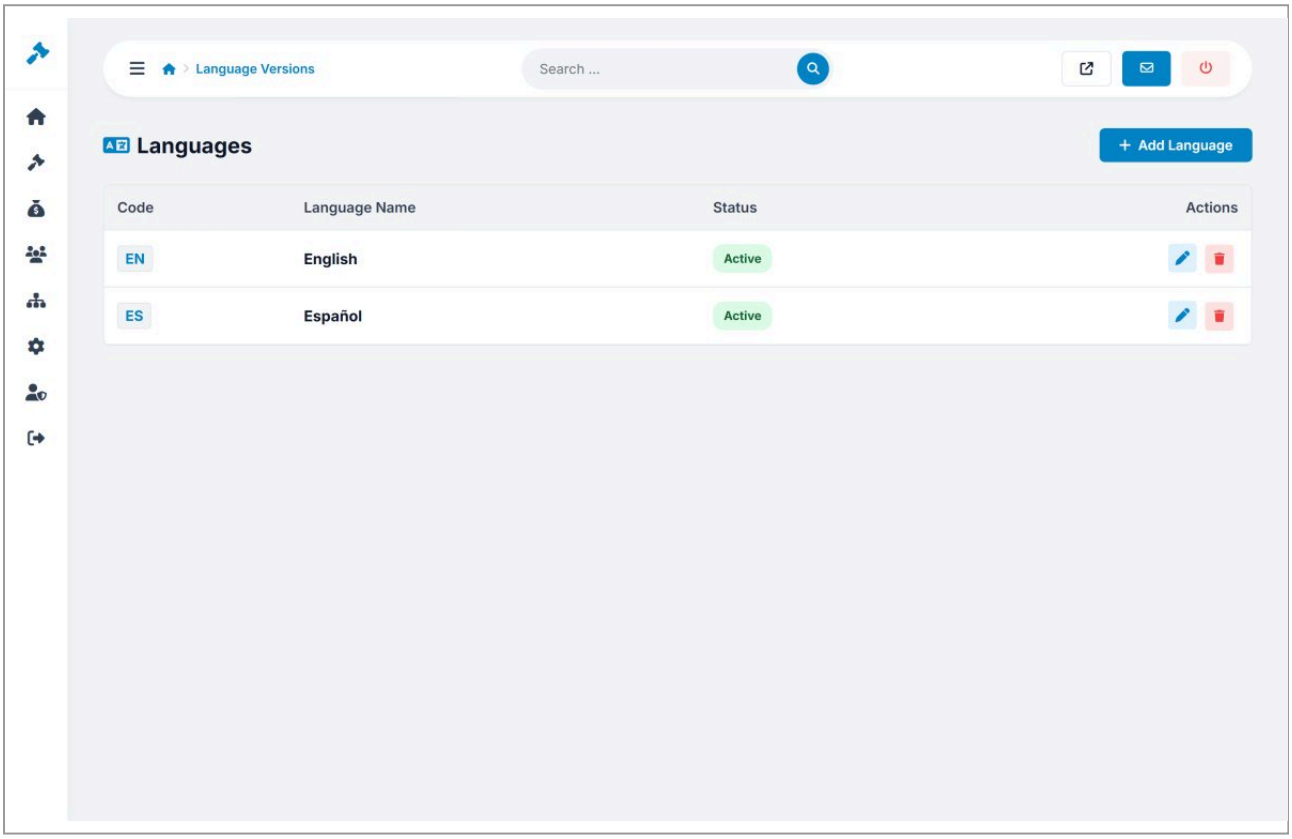
Settings › Social Media.

CHAPTER 40 · CONFIGURATION

Languages: a multilingual auction website

PHP Bid comes in English and Spanish and can run in any number of languages. Visitors switch with one click, and every page has its own URL per language.

MENU **Settings › Language Versions**



Settings › Language Versions.

Adding a language

1. Open **Settings › Language Versions** and click **Add Language**.
2. Enter the two-letter code (`de`, `fr`, `it`...) and the name as it should appear in the switch (*Deutsch*). The code can not be changed later.
3. PHP Bid creates the language file `languages/de.php` as a copy of the English texts.
4. Translate the texts in **Website › Interface Texts** (or give the file to a translator).
5. Translate the pages and categories - by hand in their editors, or with the AI translation.
6. Make the language active and turn on *Multi-language website* in Configuration Options.

What is translated where

Content	Where
Buttons, menus, messages, e-mails	Website › Interface Texts (language files).
Pages and FAQ	Website › Pages - one tab per language in the editor.
Blog posts	Website › News - translations per post.
Categories	Auctions › Categories - or *Translate all* with AI.
Listings	Written by the sellers in their language.

The default language can not be deleted. Deactivate a language to hide it without losing its translations.

CHAPTER 41 · CONFIGURATION

Cron job, live updates and e-mails

PHP Bid does its background work by itself: it closes ended auctions, creates the sales and sends reminders on normal page views. A cron job is optional.

Background tasks

On page views of the website PHP Bid:

- closes the auctions that have ended, finds the winners and creates the sales and the commission invoices;
- sends the "ending soon" reminders to watchers;
- sends the saved search alerts (at most every 10 minutes).

Optional cron job

On a very quiet site nobody may visit at the moment an auction ends, so the winner is notified only at the next visit. A cron job every 5 minutes makes the closing exact. In your hosting panel (cPanel › Cron Jobs) add:

```
*/5 * * * * php /home/youraccount/public_html/include/cron.php
```

If your hosting only allows URLs, call `https://www.yourdomain.com/include/cron.php?key=YOUR_KEY`. The key protects the URL: it is a 16-character code made from your `$SECURITY_SALT`. You can print it with this command (replace the text in quotes with your salt from config.php):

```
php -r 'echo substr(hash_hmac("sha256", "cron", "your-security-salt"), 0, 16);'
```

Without a valid key the URL answers "Forbidden".

Live updates

The auction pages ask the server for new bids every few seconds, so prices, bid history and countdowns are always current without reloading. No special server software is needed.

E-mails

Members receive e-mails for: account activation, password reset, outbid, auction won, item sold, payment notices, shipping with tracking, new offers and counter-offers, new messages, answers to questions, ending soon and saved search alerts. The e-mails use your website name and colours and the sender of E-mail & privacy.

E-mails are sent with PHP's `mail()` function after the page has been delivered, so the website stays fast. Members choose which notification e-mails they want in their profile.

> **Deliverability:** use a sender address of your own domain and ask your hosting to set up SPF and DKIM for it, so your e-mails reach the inbox.

CHAPTER 42 · HELP & REFERENCE

Earning money with your auction website

An auction website can earn money in five ways, and PHP Bid supports all of them. Combine two or three and keep the fees low enough that sellers love your site.

The five revenue streams

Model	Best for	Typical value
Seller commission (final value fee)	Marketplaces where members sell to each other.	3 - 10% of the sale price
Buyer's premium	Auction houses and curated sales.	10 - 25% on top of the hammer price
Listing fee	High-value niches (cars, art) where a small fee filters out spam.	$0.50 - $10 per listing
Featured listings	Every site with enough traffic: sellers pay for visibility.	$5 - $50 per listing
Advertising	Sites with a lot of traffic: banners of partners or Google AdSense.	Depends on traffic

Recommended start

1. **Launch free for sellers** (no listing fee, 0 - 3% commission) to attract the first items. A marketplace without items attracts no buyers.
2. **Offer featured listings** from the first day - sellers who want more visibility pay for it voluntarily.
3. **Raise the commission** when your site brings sellers real sales. Announce it in advance.
4. **Add advertising** only when you have regular traffic, and keep it out of the way of bidding.

How the money flows

Buyers pay sellers directly for the items. The website invoices its fees automatically - commission to the seller, buyer's premium to the buyer, listing and featured fees when they are chosen - and members pay them online with Stripe or PayPal, or by bank transfer. Unpaid fees can block new listings after a grace period, so you do not chase payments by hand. See Invoices and fees and Payment gateways.

Bring visitors

- Pick a **niche** where you know the buyers - a focused marketplace beats a general one.
- Write **blog posts** that buyers search for: guides, price lists, how to spot fakes.

- Use **saved searches and the watchlist**: their e-mails bring buyers back for free.
- Share **ending soon** auctions on social media.
- Build **trust** with approval, ratings and quick moderation of reports.

CHAPTER 43 · HELP & REFERENCE

Troubleshooting and common questions

Most problems have a simple cause: a wrong value in config.php, a missing .htaccess file, folder permissions or e-mail settings of the hosting. Here are the quick fixes.

Blank page or "error 500"

Set `$DEBUG_MODE=true` in `config.php`, reload the page and read the error message. Typical causes: a PHP version older than 7.4, a missing PHP extension (pdo_mysql, mbstring, curl, gd) or a typo in config.php. Set it back to `false` afterwards.

Database connection error

Check `$DBHost`, `$DBUser`, `$DBPass` and `$DBName` in config.php, that the user has all privileges on the database, and that `install.sql` was imported (the tables start with `phpbid_`).

Pages show "not found" after turning on friendly URLs

The `.htaccess` file is missing or `mod_rewrite` is off. Upload the file (it is hidden - make your FTP program show hidden files) or turn the friendly URLs off again in *Configuration Options › Languages & URLs*. On Nginx ask your hosting to add equivalent rewrite rules.

E-mails do not arrive

- Check the spam folder.
- Use a sender address of your own domain in *E-mail & privacy*.
- Ask your hosting whether PHP `mail()` is allowed, and to set up SPF/DKIM.

Photos can not be uploaded

Make `uploaded_images` and `thumbnails` writable (755 or 775). Very large photos may exceed the `upload_max_filesize` and `post_max_size` limits of PHP - ask your hosting to raise them to 10M or more.

Auctions end at the wrong time

Set the right **System Timezone** in General settings. If winners are notified late on a quiet site, add the cron job.

Stripe payments stay "unpaid"

Check the webhook in the Stripe Dashboard: the URL must be `https://www.yourdomain.com/include/stripe_webhook.php`, the event `checkout.session.completed`, and the signing secret must be the one in Settings › Payments. Test keys and live keys must not be mixed.

The AI buttons do nothing

Use *Test connection* in AI settings. Typical causes: a wrong or expired key, no credit at the provider, a wrong model name, or (only on a local test server) the SSL check.

A member can not list items

Check that *Members can list items* is on, that the member's *Can sell* switch is on, and whether the member has overdue fees (Invoices and fees).

I forgot the admin password

Ask another Super Administrator to set a new one in *Admin Users*. If you are the only one, your developer can reset it in the `phpbid_admin_users` table with phpMyAdmin.

CHAPTER 44 · HELP & REFERENCE

Security, backups and updates

A marketplace holds members' data and money flows, so a little routine goes a long way: strong access, HTTPS, regular backups and careful updates.

Security checklist

- Change the default admin password and use long, unique passwords for every administrator.
- Give staff their own accounts with only the permissions they need (Admin users and permissions).
- Use **HTTPS** for the whole website - free certificates (Let's Encrypt) are available on almost every hosting.
- Set your own long `$SECURITY_SALT` in config.php and keep `$DEBUG_MODE=false`.
- Remove or change the passwords of the demo accounts before launch.
- Delete `database/install.sql` from the live server after the installation.
- Check *Home › Login Logs* for unknown logins.

PHP Bid protects its forms against cross-site request forgery, uses prepared database queries, stores passwords hashed, and keeps the internal addresses of the members area out of public links.

Backups

Back up two things, ideally every day with your hosting's backup tool:

1. The **database** - export it with phpMyAdmin or the hosting backup.
2. The **files** - above all `uploaded_images`, `thumbnails`, `languages` and `config.php`.

Test a restore once on a test domain, so you know it works when you need it.

Updating PHP Bid

1. Make a full backup.
2. Read the notes of the new version and run the database changes it includes.
3. Upload the new files, but keep your `config.php`, `uploaded_images`, `thumbnails` and your changed language files and templates.
4. Test bidding, selling and the admin panel.

PHP Bid is a product of NetArt Media.

Product site: phpbid.com · Online manual: phpbid.com/manual/

Order: www.netartmedia.net/order · Support: www.netartmedia.net/contact

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