The sourcing decision

A low buying price helps only when the item can be identified, sold, found, and delivered at an acceptable cost.

INSPECT BEFORE PAYING

Check condition, missing parts, odors, measurements, and test results. Identify what you can verify today and what would require more time or equipment. A defect changes both the selling price and the work involved.

BUDGET THE FULL PURCHASE

Add pickup or freight, preparation, packing, storage, and selling costs. For a mixed lot, estimate how many units are actually sellable. Decide your maximum total spend before negotiating.

GIVE YOURSELF A PASS OPTION

If the model, condition, shipping, or likely sale price remains unclear, photograph the identifying details and research before buying. A purchase should fit your available money, space, and time.

PUT IT TO WORK

Item / model / condition

Likely sold price and source

Maximum buying price and reason

Set your maximum buy

Start with a realistic sale price, subtract the full selling costs, then protect the profit you want.

USE A CONSISTENT FEE BASE

For a simple estimate, apply your entered percentage to item price plus shipping collected plus any buyer tax included in the platform fee base. Buyer tax is not seller revenue. Add the fixed fee separately.

WORKED EXAMPLE IN USD

Illustrative inputs: sale $50, shipping collected $6, shipping expense $6, packing $1, fee 13% plus $0.30, and no buyer tax in the fee base. Fees are $7.58. To target $20 profit, maximum item cost is $21.42. The fee inputs are examples, not a current platform rate.

LEAVE ROOM FOR THE UNKNOWN

Use the Maximum Buy calculator and consider a lower purchase limit if testing, damage, or sale timing is uncertain. Your maximum is a limit, not an instruction to pay that much.

PUT IT TO WORK

Expected sale / shipping collected

Fees / shipping / packing / other costs

Target profit / maximum buy