



File Specification for the Exact Change Import file

Applies to Version 6.0 or later

The Exact Change import file is a standard comma delimited text file, also known as a CSV file. The preferred file extension is .ECI simply to denote that this file contains coin data in the order and format described in this document. However, you can import any properly formatted file that has a file extension of ECI, CSV or TXT. You can open an ECI file with any text editor such as Windows Notepad; it's just a regular text file. The ECI file contains one line per coin entry. Each line includes 19 or more data fields pertaining to that coin, each of those fields separated by a comma.

Here's an example of what an ECI file might look like:

```
45,1,1916,,,17,PCGS,10/17/2012,$150.00,$180.00,"Bright White",1,Have,,Safe,False,"C:\coins\Mercury Obv.jpg","C:\coins\Mercury Rev.jpg"  
45,2,1929,,,18,NGC,6/12/2013,$150.00,$170.00,"Slab is chipped",1,Have,,Safe,False,"C:\coins\Mercury Obv.jpg","C:\coins\Mercury Rev.jpg"
```

As per ISO standards, some fields may have double quotes around them; the standard actually requires double quotes for any field that includes one or more spaces. However, Exact Change will happily work with or without the double quotes; they're accepted but not required by the import routine. Any double quotes around a field will not be included in the import field. For example, a variety field that says "Small date" will appear in the program without the surrounding double quotes.

Any text that follows two slash characters is interpreted as a comment and will be ignored by the import process. Some examples of comments are:

```
45,1,1916,,,17,PCGS,10/17/2012,5.00,18.00, ,1,Have,, ,False, , //This bit at the end of this line is just a comment and is ignored  
//This line is entirely commented and has no effect on the import process.
```

The fields for each coin entry are as follows:

1: Series number

The name of any coin series in Exact Change can be changed; perhaps you may prefer the term "Bison nickel" over "Buffalo nickel", for example. So, the import routine cannot designate the series for a coin entry based just on the name. When pulling data in from another program, this issue is exacerbated because the other program may use a completely different name.

Every series in Exact Change has a unique series number. The series number is used to indicate which coin entries go in each series. In Exact Change, you can click on the "Stats" tab to see the series number of the currently selected series.



The series number is the most complicated field to import because it requires some cross referencing. If you're importing data manually (from an Excel spreadsheet, for example) then cross referencing the series numbers will represent the bulk of this task. In that case, you can sort the spreadsheet by coin type so that, for example, you only need to check once for the Exact Change series number for an Indian Cent.

2: Inventory number: Integer

Inventory number is an integer value that designates a particular coin entry. Each coin entry has an item number and no two item numbers are the same. If you enter a value of zero or leave this field blank, Exact Change will automatically assign a unique item number to the coin being imported. If you'd like to keep the item numbers that the old program assigned to the coin, you can enter it in this field. If you enter an item number that isn't unique, Exact Change will assign it a new, unique number.

3: Year

The Year field indicates the year in which the coin was minted. It should be an integer field (it should include four numeric digits)

4: Mint

The Mint field is an alpha-numeric field which indicates the mint at which the coin was produced.

5: Variety

The Variety field is an alpha-numeric field which indicates any differences between this coin and others of the same year and mint. This field usually indicates over-dates or common die varieties.

6: Grade

The grade field indicates the state of the coin's preservation. This is an integer field but it doesn't indicate the grade based on the 70 point Sheldon scale. Instead, this is the row within the price list that as shown in the table at right. Or, Exact Change will accept most variations of the alpha-numeric grade. For example, the grade for an EF-40 could be entered as "EF-40", "EF40", "XF-40" or any other reasonably close representation.

G-4: 0	MS-60: 12	PF-60: 23
VG-8: 1	MS-61: 13	PF-61: 24
F-12: 2	MS-62: 14	PF-62: 25
F-15: 3	MS-63: 15	PF-63: 26
VF-20: 4	MS-64: 16	PF-64: 27
VF-30: 5	MS-65: 17	PF-65: 28
EF-40: 6	MS-66: 18	PF-66: 29
EF-45: 7	MS-67: 19	PF-67: 30
AU-50: 8	MS-68: 20	PF-68: 31
AU-53: 9	MS-69: 21	PF-69: 32
AU-55: 10	MS-70: 22	PF-70: 33
AU-58: 11		

7: Grade Modifier

The grade Modifier field indicates any modifiers which affect a coin's value such as "Full steps" for a Jefferson Nickel or RD, RB & BN to indicate the shade of a copper coin.

8: Graded By

The Graded By field is an alpha-numeric field which indicates the entity that graded the coin. It may indicate a grading service such as “PCGS” or “NGC”, or it may indicate a person’s name if it was privately graded.

9: Date Purchased

The Date Purchased field indicates the date on which you purchased the coin. It should be in the same format as dates entered into Exact Change (whatever your windows preferences use for a date format).

10: Buy Price

The Buy Price field indicates the price paid for the coin. This field may contain a decimal point if the price paid was not an even dollar amount.

11: Date Sold

The Date Sold field indicates the date on which you sold the coin (if applicable). It should be in the same format as dates entered into Exact Change (whatever your windows preferences use for a date format).

12: Sell Price

The Sell Price field indicates the price you’re asking for the coin. If the coin is not for sale, this field can be left blank.

13: Lock Price

The Lock Price field is used to lock the coin’s value at either the buy price or sell price. On the “Coins” page in Exact Change there is a checkbox above the buy and sell prices; a checkmark in either of those boxes will cause the program to use the corresponding price as the coin’s current value, overriding the price list for that coin. This field is used to set those checkboxes. A value of “B” or “Buy” will check the Buy Price lock while a value of “S” or “Sell” will check the Sell Price lock. Any value that does not begin with “B” or “S” will cause both locks to remain unchecked.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buy price	<input type="checkbox"/> Sell price
0.60	0.00

14: Comments

The Comments field may contain a short comment about the coin, up to 25 characters.

15: Quantity

The Quantity field indicates how many coins this entry represents. For example, if you’re entering a roll of quarters, you may enter a quantity of 40.

16: Quantity type

The Quantity Type field is used in conjunction with the Quantity field. It indicates of the Quantity field designates the number of coins you have, need, have for sale or have sold. The field should either be blank or contain one of the words "Have", "Need", "Sell" or "Sold". A blank field or any other text is interpreted as "Have".

17: Notes

Notes is a long form comment. Unlike the Comment field, it can be of any length.

18: Stored In

The Stored In field is an alpha-numeric field which indicates where the coin is being stored. Examples for this field may be "Safe" or "Sock drawer".

19: Mint Error

The Mint Error field is a boolean (true/false) field which indicates if the coin is a mint error. It should be left blank, or contain one of the values "T", "F", "True" or "False". If the field is left blank, it's interpreted as "False", meaning that the coin is not a mint error.

20: Obverse File Name

The Obverse File Name field indicates the name of the image file (if any) that depicts the obverse of this coin. This is the obverse image that appears on the "Images" tab in Exact Change; the image of your particular coin. This is not to be confused with the Stock Image of that coin type which appears on the "Series" tab in Exact Change.

21: Reverse File Name

The Reverse File Name field indicates the name of the image file (if any) that depicts the reverse of this coin. This is the reverse image that appears on the "Images" tab in Exact Change; the image of your particular coin. This is not to be confused with the Stock Image of that coin type which appears on the "Series" tab in Exact Change.

22 and above: User Defined Fields

If there are more than 19 fields on a line in the ECI file, the additional fields are imported into any User Defined fields. They're imported in the order in which they appear in Exact Change; field 20 goes into the first user defined field, field 21 into the second, and so forth.

Importing an Exact Change ICI file



When you select the “Open” option in Exact Change’s “File” menu, a dialog box prompts you to select the collection file you wish to open. In the lower-left corner is a switch which you can click and drag to display the advanced file options.

When the advanced options are shown, the third option in the list can be selected in order to import a CSV file. Exact Change will then display a standard window for selecting the file you want to open.

When you open an ECI file, the import process will add the data from that ECI file to whatever collection file you have currently open in Exact Change. If you import the ECI file without first opening a collection file; the program will create a new collection file before processing the import file. Processing the import file twice will cause each coin entry to be doubled because the import process just adds the ECI data to whatever is already in the collection.

There are a couple of filters at the bottom of the import window which can be used to identify any improperly formatted lines in the import file. Imported lines that have no user-defined fields should be 19 fields long; if a line contained fewer or more fields than this would indicate some error in that data. The drop-down box at the bottom of the import window enables you to specify how many fields should be expected in each line so that improperly formatted lines can be rejected.

The second filter is a checkbox labeled “Reject any entries that do not have a price list entry”. A check in the box will cause a line to be rejected if it does not match a Year-Mint-Variety and Grade Modifier combination for the selected coin type. In other words, if the data indicates a variety that’s not listed in Exact Change’s price list then the line will be rejected.

The import process will tell you how many coin entries were successfully imported and which, if any, were not imported due to a problem in the data. If you have any entries that are not imported, you can make the necessary corrections to that line of the ECI file and then run the import process again.

