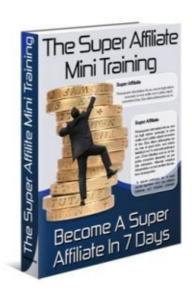# The Super Affiliate Mini Training

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Lesson #1: Stop Selling Directly to Customers – Build A List

I want to share with you one of the biggest mistakes affiliates make. I want to share this with you so you wont make the same mistake:

The one major mistake many affiliates make is not setting up a list. Affiliates will often send traffic that they generated to affiliate links, rather than a list. When they do this, they are unknowingly making a bet that visitor will buy on first contact. Unfortunately, this is generally not the case. Visitors often need to be warmed up to a product – through the course of multiple visits and additional information – before they are willing to purchase from a person or a business. This is where building a list comes into play.

By building a list, affiliates can fix this problem. Additionally, they can retain traffic, warm it up, and then direct it to different purchases in the future. This means that it isn't a one-shot deal: instead, they can attempt to sell the same person multiple products over the course of time.

Now, in order to do this successfully, the affiliate in question must purchase the necessary tools. I personally suggest using http://www.getresponse.com for the actual autoresponder service. Getresponse is relatively inexpensive ($20/mo.) and comes with a formidable range of services, including spam checkers and macros. Best of all, it is whitelisted by many email clients and boasts a delivery rate of 99%. This service will not only manage your list, but it will also help you build it. It includes free tools that allow you to create web forms, pop-ups, and hover-ins – all of which can be used to increase your opt-in rate.

Now, in addition to purchasing the autoresponder service, you will need to setup your own site if you do not already own one. If you already own a related site, you can simply add your opt in form to a page on your existing

site. If not, I suggest purchasing cheap domain and hosting and using this to host your list forms. http://www.hostgator.com currently offers some of the cheapest hosting available on the market.

Once you have your site and your autoresponder setup, there are only two steps left: the first is building a course of some sort that is related to the affiliate products you will sell; and the second is creating an opt-in form that converts.

The first part is relatively easy. Start by determining your topic and then outline it over the course of five to seven days. Remember that everything should be written as if you are talking to a person, rather than as if you were writing a formal article.

If you don't feel comfortable writing these articles yourself, you can always hire a ghostwriter at http://www.elance.com for $5-15 per issue, depending on the size.

Once you have created your autoresponder series, you will want to feed it into your autoresponder, setup advertisements in the text for the affiliate product you are planning to sell, and then create an opt-in form for your list.

Once you have setup your opt-in form, the only remaining step is to drive various traffic sources to your opt-in list, collect their email addresses – and then wait for the commissions to roll in.

Lesson #2: Using Classified Ads In Conjunction with an Affiliate Program

This lesson is especially important if you don't have any particular expertise with this technique. Please pay attention carefully, print it out, and then re-read it later:

The process of using classified ads to generate sales for any product – whether it be an original product or an affiliate product – is often over-simplified and discouraged. This is, in part, because it actually is one of the harder ways in which you can advertise. It requires you to use a small amount of words to communicate an important point, which will either make or break your ability to garner interest in the product in question. In most cases, supposed experts will discourage you from using classified ads because they themselves have never had much luck using them – not because classified ads aren't a viable method of advertising.

So how can you use classified ads correctly to generate a considerable amount of traffic to your affiliate product sales page?

The first step entails finding viable places to advertise. Again, many of the so-called experts will jump in and either tell you to use free sites or that

free sites never work. The truth here, too, is somewhat in between: free sites can work, but you must use them carefully. For instance, if you want to generate traffic from sites that allow you to post free classifieds, you will have to find ones that actually receive traffic themselves.

One example of a site that receives a massive amount of traffic, but also allows you to post classified ads for free is craigslist, which you can find at the following URL: http://www.craigslist.com.
As long as you post classified ads in the proper section, you can do it completely free of charge. Additionally, you can do this on each of the craigslist sites for the metropolitan areas in the United States.

Another place you can post free classified ads is Yahoo. You can find this feature at the following URL: http://classifieds.yahoo.com/. Again, as long as its on topic, you can post a classified at for whatever you want.

Now, with this in mind, you will want to consider the best way in which you can construct your classified ad. I personally suggest creating a headline or first line that uses psychological triggers. Remember: with classifieds, you're not paying by the click.

It's either free or you're paying for a certain period of time or impressions, so **your goal should be to generate as many clicks as possible**, so use words like "cheap," "free," "proven," and "shocking" to draw attention to your ad.

Once you have successfully drawn attention to your ad through the headline, you will then want to seal the deal by providing viewers with a reason to click through, provided that your affiliate product is something they will want to buy. You can do this by explicitly stating a quantifiable benefit in the second line of the classified ad – and then stating a crucial feature in the third line.

Once you have gained some experience posting ads on free classified ad mediums, you will want to move on to major electronic publications, including large e-zines and authority sites; however, before you do this, you could be confident in the classified ad and your conversion rate.

Lesson #3: The Cheapest, Fastest Way to Advertise on the Internet: Forum Posting

Posting on forums is one of the cheapest and fatest ways in which you can advertise affiliates products on the Internet; however, in order to do this successfully, you must do a number of things carefully. Simply starting a thread that contains an affiliate link might be a good way to get banned from a particular forum board, but it will never be a good way to make sales.

The general procedure involves making multiple posts on a forum board before you even setup a signature file, which includes a link to your site. Even if the particular forum you are using does not specifically mandate this, you will want to do this, anyway, as it will increase your credibility – which is your real goal.

You can start by finding a number of forums for your particular niche or marketing angle. You can find massive lists of forums at the following two

URLs:
http://www.big-boards.com/
http://board123.com/forum_directory.php

The first resource is currently the largest forum directory on the Internet. The second resource contains less directories, but includes some that are not listed on Big Boards.

Now, once you have selected a number of directories that match your specific marketing angle and affiliate product, you will want to investigate to determine whether or not they have excess rules regulating signature files. For instance, some sites do not allow any links in signature files; others, by contrast, allow links, but do not allow any commercial links. Make sure you know what the rules are before you post. Otherwise, you are simply setting yourself up to be banned from the forum.

Next, take the list of forums you have created – that are both relevant to your topic and allow commercial links – and begin developing a reptuation on those forums. Post regularly, avoid meaningless fights and flamming, and contribute useful, on-target information to discussions. In a matter of 1-2 weeks, you will have developed a reptuation, provided that the forum receives a considerable amount of traffic.

Once you have developed a good reputation, you will want to begin advertising through your forum signature. Ideally, you will want to include some eye-catching assortment of colors, symbols, and words in your signature. This will draw people's attention. You will then want to link them to something other than an affiliate page – whether it be a page you created to sell an affiliate product or an autoresponder course used to capture email addresses.

Remember to repeat this process in all applicable forums. Look for high traffic forums that allow commercial link posting in signature files – and that also happen to fit with your specific audience-targeting and marketing angle goals. Next, create a reputation. Last, add your signature in some attractive way that draws visitors' attention, but is also likely to convert them into interested clickers. You will find that this form of advertising pays off considerably – and does so faster than other methods available.

Lesson #4: Social Networking Sites Aren't Just for Teenagers Anymore

You might not know this, but social networking sites aren't just for teenagers anymore. In fact, social networking sites have evolved into something different altogether than what they once were – networks composed mainly of teenage girls. Today, social networking sites span the spectrum of demographic groups. While teenagers are still more apt to use them than older people, there are now niche social networking sites, which target people who all share some common interest, such as a skateboarding or investing.

Now, in addition to teenagers and adults, social networks are increasingly becoming used by another group – businesses. That's right: many businesses are now infiltrating social networks to advertise in some subtle manner – and then replicate their message through systems that are already available within the social network.

The most prominent social network is http://www.myspace.com, which boasts a membership base of over a hundred million.

If the affiliate product you are selling has a broad appeal, you may want to use Myspace to market your product, as you will be able to reach the largest crowd quickly.

Now, there are a number of different ways in which you can market your affiliate product through Myspace. One way is to setup a profile, purchase what is called an "adder robot," and then begin adding friends to your list on a daily basis. The robot can add as many as 300 per day without any problems. Depending on your goals, you may want to add a personal profile for yourself and then talk about your business/product on your page; or you may want to simply create a profile for your business and use that to market your product. While you can send out bulletins advertising your product through Myspace, this is generally discouraged by the Myspace staff and could lead to your getting banned. It is probably a good idea to avoid this; instead, post related bulletins that don't advertise your product, but talk about something similar. This will drive interested visitors to your page, where they can learn more about the affiliate product you are selling. Note, however, that you will have to link to a non-affiliate page, as affiliate links are expressly forbid on Myspace.

Once you have had some experience marketing to the Myspace crowd, you will want to consider looking at other social networking sites.

One other large site is Friendster, which you can find at the following URL: http://www.friendster.com.

Http://www.facebook.com is another large social networking site, which caters specifically to college and high school students. You will also want to look for

niche networking sites, which will afford you an opportunity to capture a more targeted audience.

Whichever sites you decide to use, keep the following in mind: your goal should be to develop a network of people who share a common interest and could potentially be interested in your specific product. For this reason, it is always a good idea to think long term (i.e. don't do things that are going to get you banned); instead, concentrate on building your network and introducing them to your affiliate product.

Lesson #5: Using Traffic Exchanges to Promote Affiliate Programs

A traffic exchange can serve multiple functions; however, in most cases, it does two important things:

1, it allows you to surf sites, gain credits, and then cash in those credits; and

2, it allows you to put banners or dynamically-generated link boxes on your site that will generate credits, which you can then cash in.

Cashing in credits, with most exchanges, results in a certain amount of traffic being drive to your site via the exchange site or via banners on other sites that are members of the exchange.

A good place to start when working with traffic exchanges is to determine which ones are most reputable and which ones have reasonable point systems. For instance, some traffic exchanges allow users to cheat and some have bad systems of exchange, which heavily favor paying members over non-members. You will want to find the best possible exchange given the amount of money you are willing to spend and the product you are marketing.

I suggest using the following sites, which list top traffic exchanges.

Additionally, you may want to talk to friends to see if any particular exchange has worked well for them:

http://www.paramind.net/paramindtrafficexchanges.html
http://www.trafficexchangelist.com/

Once you have selected an optimal exchange, you will want to determine the best way in which you can use it to maximize the amount of high-quality traffic you extract from it.

You will want to answer the following questions to aid yourself in determining this: do I earn credits from impressions or clicks? And do I lose credits based on impressions or clicks?This is important to ask, as different exchanges have different policies on this issue. If you lose credits based on

impressions, you will want to make sure that you get the absolute largest amount of clicks per impressions.

This will involve over-hyping your ads and creating flashy banners (if they allow them). In contrast, if you are getting charged per click, you will want to make sure your ads ONLY appeal to the most interested buyers. Whichever route you take, make sure that it is matched up with a model for maximum revenue generation.

The last thing you will want to consider when using a traffic exchange is precisely what you should promote. You already have a product in mind – probably an affiliate product – but how will you promote it? Will you direct visitors to the affiliate page? Will you direct them to a page on your site which features the product? Or will you direct them to an opt-in form, which will capture their information and then coax them into buying over a period of time? I personally suggest doing the last or the second – and avoiding the first whenever possible.

Lesson #6 Generate Traffic and Sales with Free Viral Reports

Did you know that the free viral report is quite possibly the most deadly weapon in an affiliate marketer's arsenal? It allows her to quickly multiply her efforts while slashing her marketing costs. All she has to do is develop a viral report for little or no cost, embed an affiliate link in said report, and then find various avenues of distribution that will ensure that the report is perpetuated as far as possible – from group to group to group.

Now, with this being said, when it comes to developing free viral reports, a considerable amount of finess is needed. Simply jotting down garbage, tossing in an affiliate link, and then attempting to send it to everyone you know in .txt format isn't likely to gain you anything; nor is it likely to multiply your efforts by inducing other marketers to redistribute the report for you.

Instead, you must start from a different point. You must determine what topic people are looking for related to your specific affiliate product. For instance, do they need more information about the product itself? Do they need to know how to use that product effectively? Whatever your angle happens to be, make sure that it lines up with the wants of your customers and also ties in nicely with your affiliate product.

Next, create the actual viral report and embed your affiliate link in multiple places. If you have a site and a list, you may want to instead post a link to your list – and then use back-end mechanisms to make the sale.

Your last step is to actually ensure that this viral report a) gets into as many people's hands as humanly possible; and b) gets into the hands of people who will definitely redistribute it to others without charging any fees. This is where the art of free viral report distribution comes into play.

A good way to distribute your viral report is to create a buzz on forums. You will want to discuss some specific experience you had related to the topic you will cover in the report – andyou will want to do it well in advance of your release date.

You will then want to start talking up your release – and also explain that the report will be completely free. Furthermore, you may want to even start locking people in for immediate distribution via email by getting them to join a list. To learn more about viral marketing through this method, you may want to check out some of the case studies at the following URL: http://www.marketingsherpa.com/.

Additionally, you may want to check out http://www.viralPDF.com, which is an **excellent tool** you can use to create the actual viral reports.

Once you have begun building a forum buzz for the report, you will want to go to e-zine owners in your particular niche and ask them if they are interested in getting a free report on whichever subject you are marketing. The distribution effect will multiply, subsequently mutliplying your sales.

Lesson #7 Effective Ezine Advertising

How can you affectively advertise in ezines and reap a profit from affiliate products?

There are a number of different ways, of which, I will cover three below:

1.Target ezines that are related to your specific affiliate product. Create a viral report that is related to your affiliate product (as we discussed in the previous lesson). Purchase sponsor ads in reputable ezines – and send all of those interested to a page where they can download your viral report for free. This report will have an embedded affiliate link, which will generate sales on your behalf.

2.Create a persuasive solo ad. Again, start off by purchasing solo ad space in cheaper ezines – ones that are responsive, but have a low subscription count. Test your solo ads to determine your approximate conversion rate with the given affiliate product. Once you have a rough handle on your profit margin, attempt to market your solo ads in larger publications, including e-zines with subscriber bases of over 100,000. Keep in mind that this will be expensive, but it will also pay off if you did your homework in the previous steps.

3.Last, consider targeting high-end online publications with your ads. These will include ones that don't normally include their sites in ezine directories, such as authority sites that publish a monthly ezine in PDF format.

These often have high response rates and will similarly draw the best response if you use them correctly.

Once you have selected reputable e-zines to advertise in, you will then want to begin creating your solo ad. There are a number of writing "forumlas" you can use to do this; however, you will always want to keep in mind what it is that your potential customer wants most. In advertising, it is often easy to project our own wants in a given product onto potential buyers; however, it is important – when communicating with them – that you talk about their wants, not yours.

Now, when it comes to creating solo ads, I personally suggest that you spend some time at the following URL, learning about what it takes to convert readers into buyers: http://www.copywritersboard.com/. Furthermore, I suggest that you go beyond simply writing copy and write as you would in the specific medium. For instance, if your solo ad will be featured in an e-zine, then you will want to write as if you are contacting members of a mailing list about a special offer or something similar. You may even want to refer to the owner of the list by his/her first name if he/she allows that.

Keep all of these skills in mind when conducting solo ad campaigns. All you have to do is select the right advertising mediums and create an excellent ad – and your effort will pay off three fold.

Sincerely,
Gabor Olah
http://plrwholesaler.com
http://www.professionalecovertemplates.com