

# Can Sci-Fi Collecting Turn Profitable?

September 10, 2023

Each year thousands of people take steps to collect items that they have an interest in. It is also important to mention that collecting is a hobby that is not only enjoyed by those all around the world. Popular items collected include anime characters, sci-fi collectibles, stamps, and coins. Although collecting is a hobby that many wish to enjoy, many are curious as to what the rewards are for doing so.

What is nice about collecting, whether it be sci-fi or anime collectibles, is the options that you have. For starters, it is important to focus on exactly why collectors collect. Many collectors are considered pure hobbyists. These are individuals who collect for the sole purpose of personal fulfillment. For example, a hobbyist who collects movies, books, figures, and other items surrounding sci-fi, is likely a sci-fi buff. This means that they have an interest in science fiction in general, whether it be films, movies, or a combination of both.

Despite the fact that a large number of collectors do so simply for the sake of enjoyment, there are many other collectors who choose to do so for the sole purpose of making a profit. For example, a sci-fi collector who collects for a profit often spends a great deal of time researching hard to find sci-fi collectibles, as well as those that are valuable. This is because these types of collectors are investors. They are investing their money to purchase sci-fi collectibles, with the hopes of one day selling their collection for a profit.

As nice as it is to hear that there are collectors who collect for the sole purpose of making money, many beginners wonder if

they really can make a profit. Of course, it possible to make a profit with anime or sci-fi collectables, or really anything for that matter. With that in mind, it is often easier said than done. As previously stated, many collectors, who are also known as investors, spend a great deal of time researching and examining collectibles in their particular field of interest. This is the best approach to make money with collectibles, whether those collectables be sci-fi, anime, coins, or stamps.

In addition to researching values and needs, collectors are also urged to familiarize themselves with proper care. To make money on collectibles, including sci-fi collectibles and anime collectibles, all items should be in new or like-new conditions. Anything else will decrease in value and possibly significantly. For that reason, many professional collectors, especially those who collect anime or sci-fi, are encouraged to leave all items as is. This means leaving all figurines or plush characters in the box. The same can be said for movies, puzzles, and books. If they must be taken out, a display case is often advised.

As touched on above, there are thousands of collectors in the United States and many of those collectors choose to collect different items. Sci-fi and anime collectibles were given as examples multiple times above. With that in mind, it is important to remember that you do have other options. One of the best ways to develop a collection of valuable collectibles, which can later be sold for a profit, is to choose a topic, issue, or hobby that you enjoy. For example, if you regularly find yourself tuning into the Sci-Fi channel to watch their science fiction movies or television shows, sci-fi collectibles may be best for you.

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# Are You Too Old to Go Back to School?

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You want to go back to school and continue your education. Perhaps you'd like to earn your first degree or would like to earn a new degree in a different field. You've been dreaming of that degree but haven't dared believe your dream can come true because you think you are too old.

You aren't. It really is that simple. I don't care what your age is, as an experienced college-level educator I can assure you that you are not too old, because there are many nontraditional students on college campuses today (and likely some of those are older than you are), your life experience gives you many advantages over more traditional students, and with the growing nontraditional population many colleges have programs and services especially tailored for the nontraditional student.

I went back to school in my 30s and today I teach college. Yes, I have many traditional students in my classroom but every semester I have a large percentage of nontraditional students as well. I have students in their late 20s as well as 30s, 40s, 50s, and up. I have students who have retired from one career and are looking to move into another. I have students whose children (or grandchildren) have left the nest so they are looking to enter a new stage in their life.

I also have many students balancing school with work and family. I have students who are the traditional age but are in nontraditional circumstances including children and family, work and military service, as well as sports and other activities. You are a unique person, but your situation is not as unique as you might think.

In many ways, your age, or rather your life experience, will

be a tremendous asset for your return to school. Nontraditional students understand much better than traditional students how to manage their time and prioritize tasks. In addition, nontraditional students are often much more motivated and goal-oriented than their more traditional counterparts. Finally, your life experience also gives you a great deal of knowledge and experience to fall back on or pull from when it comes to understanding, applying, or adapting the new knowledge you gain through college. I regularly see my nontraditional students outperform traditional students in many ways, but it ultimately comes down to a maturity of thinking and reasoning that can only come with growing up. I know when I returned to college as a student after working for a number of years that I did much better in the classroom and also handled my work load much better than I did when I was a more traditional student.

Today colleges recognize they have a changing student population and offer classes in a variety of formats including on campus, off campus, televised, and internet as well as a range of schedules including days, nights, weekends, and accelerated. In addition, there are now support services available for students who fall outside the traditional student role. Many financial aid and scholarship programs also exist specifically for the nontraditional student.

In the end, it really comes down to your own gut feeling. Do you really want that degree? Are you ready to change your life? You can do it and there will be help and support available for you. Don't use your age as an excuse not to pursue your dream.

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# Airbrush Art on T-Shirts

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Putting airbrush art on T-shirts can be a fun and creative hobby. For those that want to take it a step further it can also be fun and exciting business. T-shirts containing airbrush art are popular and unique to wear. What makes airbrushed t-shirts so unique is that one of a kind images can be created giving the wearer a shirt that no one else has. Thus making for a pretty fun hobby or profitable business.

The great thing with airbrush art is that you really do not have to know how to draw. All you need to know how to do is successfully use the stencil that you wish to use for your design. The main key is learning how to control the airbrush gun so that you can get the paint only where you want it and not overcast the paint where you do not want it. Once you master that then your options are endless with the vast array of stencils out there.

A bottom feed or siphon feed airbrush works best when putting airbrush art onto a t-shirt. You should always stick with a name brand airbrush when airbrushing. You will save yourself money in the long run when using a name brand versus a generic airbrush.

When choosing an airbrush compressor keep in mind that putting airbrush art on t-shirts does require high pressure. The psi setting should be between 40 to 60. Make sure that your compressor is rated for the type of work you will be doing. In this case it will be airbrushing t-shirts. When airbrushing art onto t-shirts as a business then invest in a commercial air compressor. It will be worth it in the long run.

Most of the times you will need to heat set your paints so that they can be washed without fading or bleeding. There are a few ways that you can heat set your airbrush art onto the t-

shirts so that it lasts. One way is allow the design to fully dry then place a cloth over it and iron the shirt with the cloth between the t-shirt and the iron. Always keep the iron moving though so that you do not burn the material. Another great way if you are doing this at home is to allow the design to dry then turn the shirt inside out and throw it into the dryer for about 40 to 45 minutes on the highest heat setting. After this your design will hold up when laundering.

If you use a paint that does not require heat setting then you should still set the design. A great way to do this with paints that do not require heat setting is to place the t-shirt by itself into a sink full of cold water that has salt mixed into it. The cold water and salt will help to keep the shirt when it is laundered from fading or bleeding.

Placing airbrush art onto t-shirts can be fun and exciting. But you are not limited to t-shirts. Get creative and airbrush designs onto cotton underwear for you significant other. Airbrush socks for your family. The possibilities with clothing and airbrush art are limitless.