ARTISPRENEUR ACADEMY COURSE GUIDE

How to Set Up a Business Bank Account for Artists

Empowering Artists for Business Success

COURSE GUIDE | WORKBOOK | FULL TRANSCRIPT

Empowering Artists for Business Success

Artist Business | 02:48 video companion

Course Overview

This course will guide independent artists through the process of setting up a business bank account, from selecting the right type of account to choosing the best online and traditional banking platforms. You'll learn why a business bank account is essential, what documents you need, and how to find free online banking platforms (neobanks) that offer financial services tailored for artists and small businesses.

What You Will Learn

- Explain the fundamentals of Business Banking
- Evaluate options related to the Right Business Bank Account
- Apply the process for Set Up a Business Bank Account
- Understand and apply Free Online Platforms for Business Banking
- Understand and apply Maintaining and Managing Your Business Bank Account
- Resolve common questions and identify where expert guidance may be needed

How to Use This Guide

- Read the chapter write-up while or after watching the matching video lesson.
- Complete the action steps and reflection prompts in the context of your own creative business.
- Use the transcript appendix to review exact narration, terminology, and key phrases.

> **ART MEANS BUSINESS** Learning matters most when it becomes a decision, a system, or an action.

Chapter 1: Introduction to Business Banking

This chapter focuses on Why Do You Need a Business Bank Account?, Personal vs. Business Accounts, and Benefits of Business Banking for Artists. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Why Do You Need a Business Bank Account?

A business bank account is crucial for separating your personal finances from your business income and expenses, which is essential for tax filing, tracking revenue, and establishing business credibility. As an independent artist, this separation allows you to:

- Track Business Finances: Monitor income from gigs, music royalties, and other sources of revenue.
- Simplify Tax Filing: Separate records make it easier to deduct expenses and avoid confusion at tax time.
- Build Business Credit: Establish a financial history that can be used to apply for loans or credit in the future.

Personal vs. Business Accounts

While it may be tempting to use a personal bank account for your artistic income, having a dedicated business bank account offers:

- Clear Financial Records: Keeps your personal spending separate from your business expenses.
- Legal Protection: Helps legitimize your business in case of legal disputes.
- Professionalism: Makes your business appear more professional to clients, collaborators, and financial institutions.

Benefits of Business Banking for Artists

Opening a business bank account offers specific benefits for artists

Easier Payment Processing: Accept payments from clients or licensing deals more easily.

- Track Royalties: Clearly see when royalties are deposited, and monitor income from streaming services.
- Tax Deductions: Easily separate business expenses like equipment, studio time, and marketing from personal expenses.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to why do you need a business bank account?.
- Gather the information or documents you need for personal vs. business accounts.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 2: Choosing the Right Business Bank Account

This chapter focuses on Types of Business Bank Accounts (Checking, Savings), Features to Look For (No Fees, High Interest Rates, etc.), and Traditional Banks vs. Neobanks (Online Banks). Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Types of Business Bank Accounts (Checking, Savings)

There are different types of business bank accounts, each serving a specific purpose:

- Business Checking Account: Used for daily transactions, such as paying for supplies, equipment, and receiving income.
- Business Savings Account: A place to hold profits and earn interest, useful for long-term business goals and taxes.

Features to Look For (No Fees, High Interest Rates, etc.)

When choosing a business bank account, consider

Low or No Fees: Look for accounts with no monthly fees, transaction fees, or minimum balance requirements.

- High Interest Rates: If you plan to hold cash reserves, find a bank that offers a high-interest savings account.
- Convenient Online Access: Make sure the bank offers robust online or mobile banking options, especially for tracking income and expenses on the go.

Traditional Banks vs. Neobanks (Online Banks)

Traditional Banks offer physical branches but often come with higher fees and minimum balance requirements. Neobanks, also known as online-only banks, often provide free or low-cost business accounts with better interest rates but lack physical locations.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to types of business bank accounts (checking, savings).
- Gather the information or documents you need for features to look for (no fees, high interest rates, etc.).
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 3: How to Set Up a Business Bank Account

This chapter focuses on Required Documents for Opening a Business Account, Step-by-Step Guide to Opening an Account, and Choosing the Best Bank for Your Needs. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Required Documents for Opening a Business Account

Before opening a business bank account, gather these documents

EIN (Employer Identification Number) or Social Security Number for sole proprietors.

- Business License (if applicable).
- Articles of Incorporation (for LLCs or corporations).
- Operating Agreement (for partnerships).

Step-by-Step Guide to Opening an Account

Choose a Bank: Decide between a traditional bank or neobank.

- Gather Documents: Have your business paperwork ready.
- Apply Online or In-Person: Most banks allow you to apply online for convenience.
- Fund the Account: Make an initial deposit (some banks require this to activate the account).

Choosing the Best Bank for Your Needs

Consider the specific needs of your business

Freelancers: Neobanks might offer better flexibility and lower costs for freelancers.

- Growing Businesses: A traditional bank might offer more advanced business services as you expand.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to required documents for opening a business account.
- Gather the information or documents you need for step-by-step guide to opening an account.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 4: Free Online Platforms for Business Banking

This chapter focuses on Overview of Neobanks (Online-Only Banks), Recommended Platforms for Free Online Banking, and Pros and Cons of Using Neobanks. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Overview of Neobanks (Online-Only Banks)

Neobanks are digital-only banks that offer cost-effective solutions for business banking. They typically have no physical branches, focusing on online and mobile banking.

Recommended Platforms for Free Online Banking

Here are some popular neobanks that offer free business accounts

Novo: No monthly fees, integrates with payment processors like Stripe and PayPal.

- Brex: Offers credit lines and rewards for business spending.
- Bluevine: Free business checking with high interest on deposits.

Pros and Cons of Using Neobanks

Pros

No fees or minimum balances.

- High-interest rates for savings.
- Easy to set up and manage online.

Cons

- No physical branches for cash deposits.
- Limited customer service in some cases.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to overview of neobanks (online-only banks).
- Gather the information or documents you need for recommended platforms for free online banking.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?

2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 5: Maintaining and Managing Your Business Bank Account

This chapter focuses on How to Keep Business and Personal Finances Separate, Tracking Income and Expenses for Your Music Career, and Managing Bank Fees and Hidden Costs. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

How to Keep Business and Personal Finances Separate

To avoid confusion, always

Use Separate Accounts: Never mix personal expenses with business transactions.

- Track All Business Purchases: Use your business debit or credit card for any business-related expenses.

Tracking Income and Expenses for Your Music Career

Use online tools to keep track of your income and expenses, such as

QuickBooks: Accounting software for tracking income, expenses, and managing invoices.

- Wave: Free accounting software for freelancers and small businesses.

Managing Bank Fees and Hidden Costs

Even with free accounts, watch out for

Overdraft Fees: Some banks charge high fees if your balance goes negative.

- ATM Fees: Neobanks may charge for using out-of-network ATMs.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to how to keep business and personal finances separate.
- Gather the information or documents you need for tracking income and expenses for your music career.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 6: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This chapter focuses on What if My Credit Isn't Great?, Can I Use a Personal Bank Account for Business?, and Are Neobanks Safe?. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

What if My Credit Isn't Great?

Many neobanks and online platforms do not perform credit checks, making it easier for artists with low credit scores to open accounts.

Can I Use a Personal Bank Account for Business?

While possible, using a personal bank account for business transactions is not recommended. It makes tax filing more complicated and could affect your business's credibility.

Are Neobanks Safe?

Yes, neobanks are regulated and insured by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), just like traditional banks, offering up to $250,000 in insurance.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to what if my credit isn't great?.
- Gather the information or documents you need for can i use a personal bank account for business?.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Chapter 7: Course Conclusion and Next Steps

This chapter focuses on Recap of Key Points and How to Maximize the Benefits of Your Business Bank Account. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Recap of Key Points

Business Bank Account: Essential for separating personal and business finances, tracking income, and making tax filing easier.

- Neobanks: Offer free online business banking with no fees and great flexibility.

How to Maximize the Benefits of Your Business Bank Account

Monitor Your Finances Regularly: Use online banking tools to track income and expenses.

- Take Advantage of Savings: If your bank offers interest on deposits, use it to grow your savings.

Put It Into Practice

- Review your current approach to recap of key points.
- Gather the information or documents you need for how to maximize the benefits of your business bank account.
- Choose one action from this chapter and assign it a deadline this week.

Reflection

1. Where does your current approach already align with this chapter?
2. What is the single highest-impact improvement you can make next?

Course Summary and Next Steps

You now have a working reference for How to Set Up a Business Bank Account for Artists. Return to the chapters that connect most directly to your current goals, then turn the material into a short, realistic action plan.

Key Takeaways

- Introduction to Business Banking: This chapter focuses on Why Do You Need a Business Bank Account?, Personal vs. Business Accounts, and Benefits of Business Banking for Artists. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- Choosing the Right Business Bank Account: This chapter focuses on Types of Business Bank Accounts (Checking, Savings), Features to Look For (No Fees, High Interest Rates, etc.), and Traditional Banks vs. Neobanks (Online Banks). Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- How to Set Up a Business Bank Account: This chapter focuses on Required Documents for Opening a Business Account, Step-by-Step Guide to Opening an Account, and Choosing the Best Bank for Your Needs. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- Free Online Platforms for Business Banking: This chapter focuses on Overview of Neobanks (Online-Only Banks), Recommended Platforms for Free Online Banking, and Pros and Cons of Using Neobanks. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- Maintaining and Managing Your Business Bank Account: This chapter focuses on How to Keep Business and Personal Finances Separate, Tracking Income and Expenses for Your Music Career, and Managing Bank Fees and Hidden Costs. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): This chapter focuses on What if My Credit Isn’t Great?, Can I Use a Personal Bank Account for Business?, and Are Neobanks Safe?. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.
- Course Conclusion and Next Steps: This chapter focuses on Recap of Key Points and How to Maximize the Benefits of Your Business Bank Account. Use it to connect the lesson to the decisions, systems, and opportunities in your own creative business.

Recommended Next Steps

1. Put this course into practice today
2. Explore more courses in the Academy
3. Keep building your music business

> **REMEMBER** Art means business. Build the systems that give your creativity room to grow.

Full Video Transcript

The transcript below follows the narration-adjusted timing of the exported course video. Minor differences may occur between spoken delivery and punctuation.

[00:00] ARTISPRENEUR LOGO PREROLL

Music only.

[00:05] TITLE

Welcome to the Artispreneur Academy. In this course, you will learn how to set up a business bank account for artists. Let us get started.

[00:14] INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS BANKING

First, Introduction to Business Banking. Why Do You Need a Business Bank Account? Track Business Finances: Monitor income from gigs, music royalties, and other sources of revenue. Simplify Tax Filing: Separate records make it easier to deduct expenses and avoid confusion at tax time. Personal vs. Business Accounts. Benefits of Business Banking for Artists.

[00:37] CHOOSING THE RIGHT BUSINESS BANK ACCOUNT

Next, Choosing the Right Business Bank Account. Types of Business Bank Accounts . Business Checking Account: Used for daily transactions, such as paying for supplies, equipment, and... Business Savings Account: A place to hold profits and earn interest, useful for long-term business goals... Features to Look For . Traditional Banks vs. Neobanks .

[00:58] HOW TO SET UP A BUSINESS BANK ACCOUNT

Now, How to Set Up a Business Bank Account. Required Documents for Opening a Business Account. EIN or Social Security Number for sole proprietors. Business License . Articles of Incorporation . Step-by-Step Guide to Opening an Account. Choose a Bank: Decide between a traditional bank or neobank. Gather Documents: Have your business paperwork ready. Choosing the Best Bank for Your Needs.

[01:22] FREE ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR BUSINESS BANKING

Then, Free Online Platforms for Business Banking. Overview of Neobanks . Neobanks are digital-only banks that offer cost-effective solutions for business banking. They typically... Recommended Platforms for Free Online Banking. Novo: No monthly fees, integrates with payment processors like Stripe and PayPal. Brex: Offers credit lines and rewards for business spending. Pros and Cons of Using Neobanks.

[01:49] MAINTAINING AND MANAGING YOUR BUSINESS BANK ACCOUNT

Moving on, Maintaining and Managing Your Business Bank Account. How to Keep Business and Personal Finances Separate. Use Separate Accounts: Never mix personal expenses with business transactions. Track All Business Purchases: Use your business debit or credit card for any business-related expenses. Tracking Income and Expenses for Your Music Career. Managing Bank Fees and Hidden Costs.

[02:12] FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Almost there, Frequently Asked Questions . What if My Credit Isn’t Great? Many neobanks and online platforms do not perform credit checks, making it easier for artists with low... Can I Use a Personal Bank Account for Business? While possible, using a personal bank account for business transactions is not recommended. It makes tax... Are Neobanks Safe?

[02:35] OUTRO

So, that wraps up set up a business bank account for artists. Put this course into practice today. Explore more courses in the Academy. Keep building your music business. Remember: art means business.