

Luhn algorithm



The Luhn algorithm or Luhn formula, also known as the “modulus 10” or “mod 10” algorithm, is a simple checksum formula used to validate a variety of identification numbers, such as credit card numbers, IMEI numbers, National Provider Identifier numbers (wikipedia).

The Luhn test is used by some credit card companies to distinguish valid credit card numbers from what could be a random selection of digits.

Those companies using credit card numbers that can be validated by the Luhn test have numbers that pass the following test:

- Double every second digit starting from the first, ie: the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th ...
- If any value is now greater than 9, sum their individual digits together. *(For example if you had originally doubled 7, this would give a new value of 14, so you would sum 1+4 to result 5.)* **except the last value**
- Sum all the new values together.
- If the modulus ten of your sum total is zero, you have passed the Luhn algorithm test.

Worked example...

Original	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9
Double even placed	8	-	0	-	0	-	2	-	6	-	10	-	14	-	18	-
Sum if > 9	8	-	0	-	0	-	4	-	6	-	1	-	5	-	9	-
Final value of each	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	6	4	1	6	5	8	9	9

Sum total of numbers 60

If sum total % 10 == 0 then it is valid, so this passes!

**The
calculated
check digit**

Some fake credit card numbers you can use for testing purposes...

VISA	MasterCard	American Express (AMEX)
4916832471406208	5408608073972181	349916382888946

VISA	MasterCard	American Express (AMEX)
4539515831865208	5448131672611698	379279126081887
4556019822708469278	5345203118153280	372209733301573