// prestashop · user guide

Instant Search

Version 1.0.2
ecom-addons.com

Instant Search is a search box that answers while the customer types, without asking the database. The shop keeps **JSON files** with what can be searched, and the customer's browser searches them: every key gets an answer at once, even with typos or the letters out of order. The files rebuild themselves when something changes.

Requirements

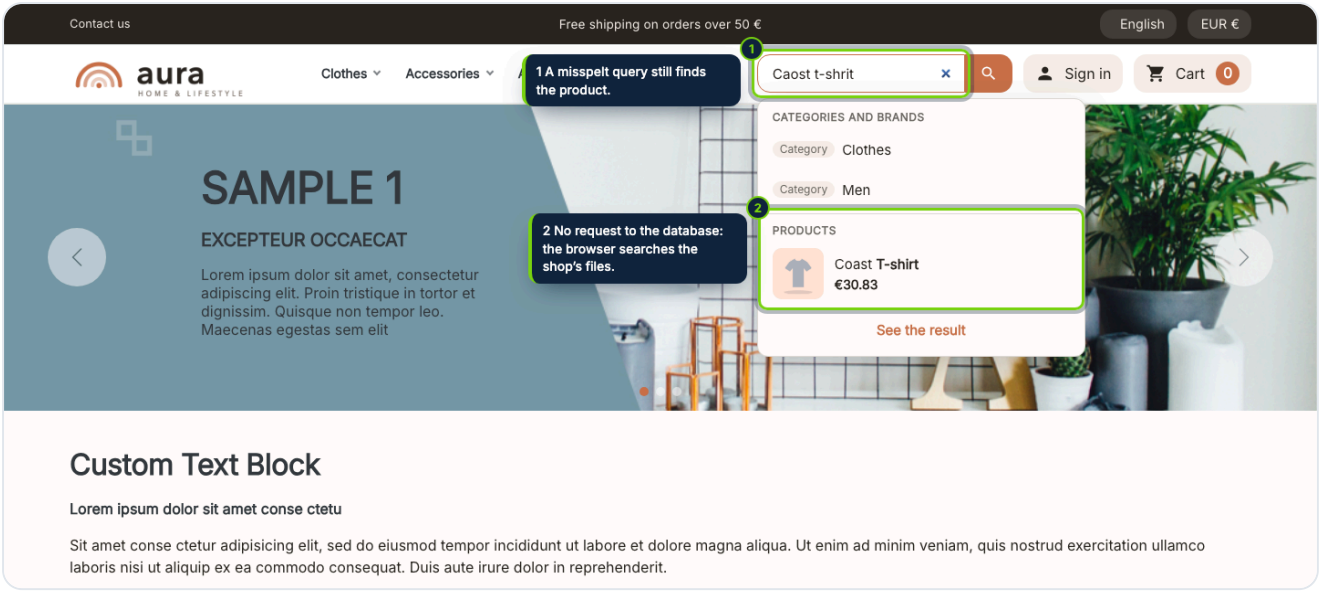
Component	Version
PrestaShop	8.2 · 9.0
PHP	8.1 or later
Theme	Any with the stock search bar (Classic, Hummingbird, Aura...)
Catalogue	Tested with 20,000 products per language and customer group

Installation

1. Download the latest version from **My account › Downloads** on ecom-addons.com.
2. In the back office, go to **Modules › Module Manager**, click **Upload a module** and choose the zip.
3. Open the module's **Configure** page. The first files are written by the first visits to the shop; to have them at once, open **Files** and click **Rebuild all files now**.

Nothing to change in the theme: the module takes over the search box that is already there.

What customers see



- From the second letter, a list under the search box with the matching **products** (picture, price, old price when discounted) and the **categories and brands** whose name matches.
- Capitals and accents do not matter: “poster” finds “Póster”.
- It searches while the customer types: “hum” already finds “Hummingbird”.
- **Typos** are forgiven: one wrong letter in words of four letters or more, two in words of eight or more, and letters out of order count as one typo (“caost t-shrit” finds “Coast T-shirt”).
- When no product has every word, the products with the most of them are shown.
- The shop's own **aliases** (**Catalog › Search › Aliases**) work: a customer typing an alias finds what it stands for.
- Arrow keys walk the list, Enter opens the chosen product, Escape closes it. Screen readers hear how many products were found.

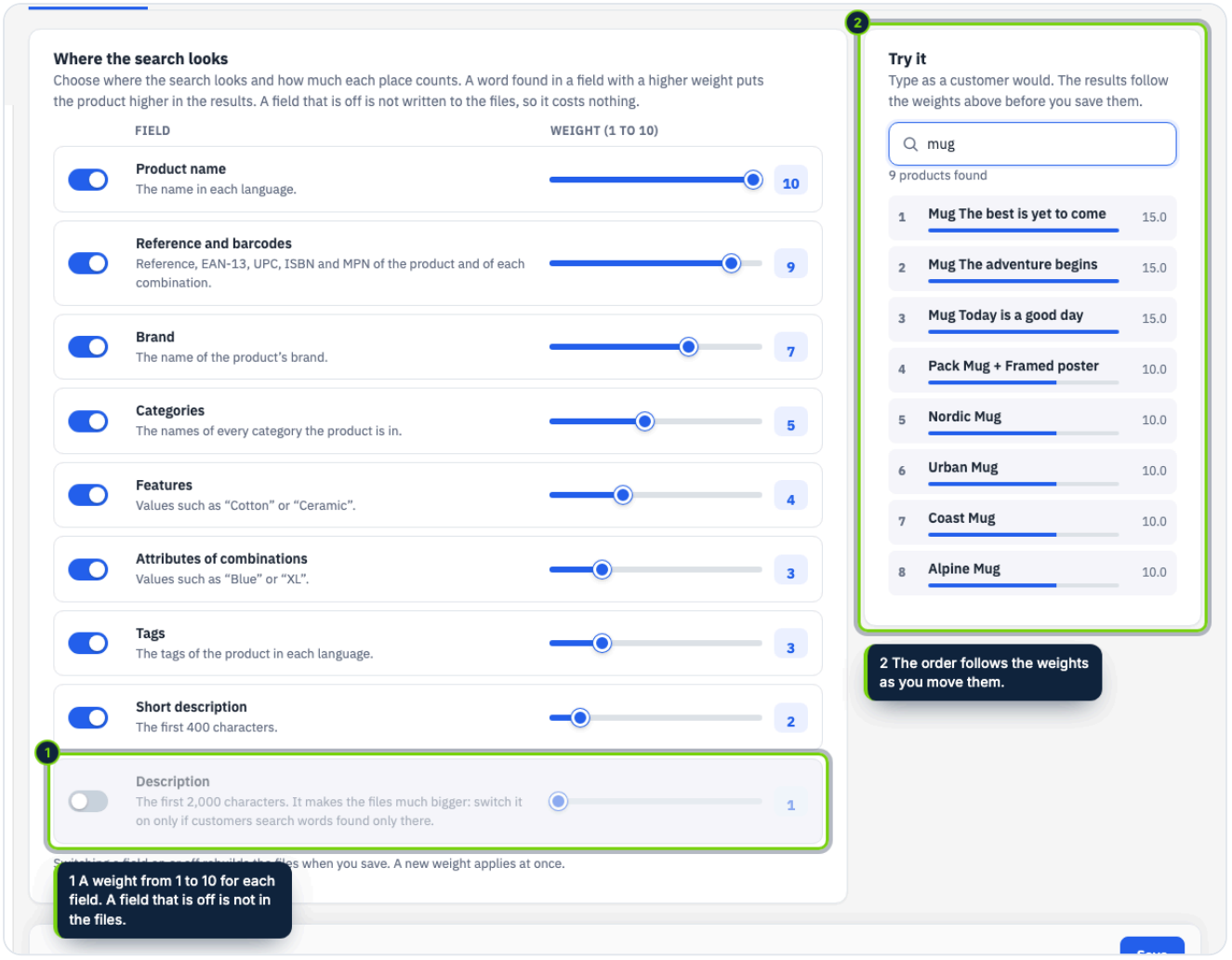
Enter opens the results page: every result, sorted by relevance, price or name, with the categories and brands of the results. It is filled from the same files and is not indexed by search engines.



While the customer types, the browser only reads static files: no request reaches PrestaShop or the database.

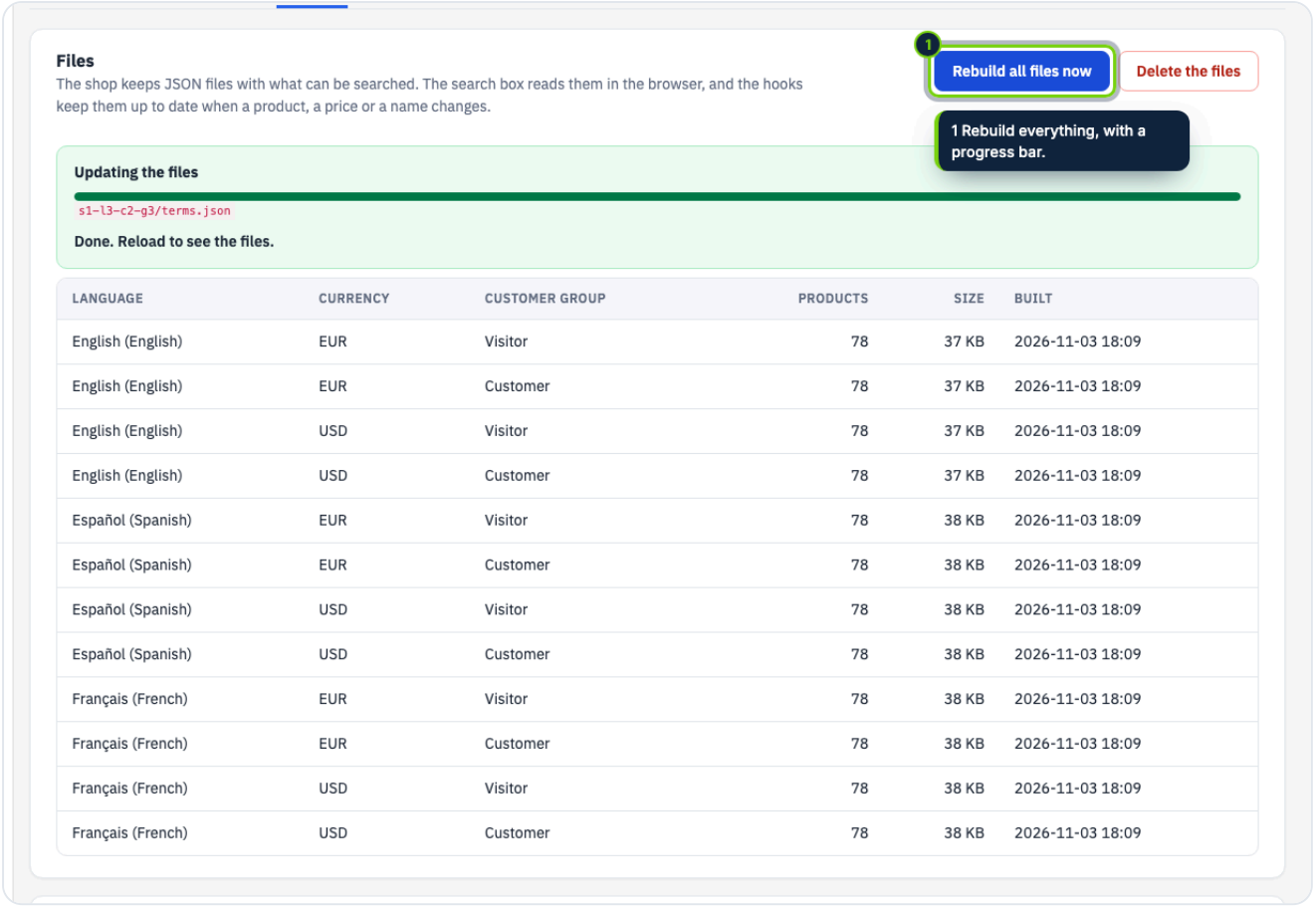
Settings

The module's page has three tabs.



- **Search fields** — where the search looks and how much each place counts, with a weight from 1 to 10: product name, reference and barcodes (EAN-13, UPC, ISBN, MPN, of the product and of each combination), brand, categories, features, attributes of combinations, tags, short description and description. A word found in a field with a higher weight puts the product higher. A field that is off is not written to the files, so it costs nothing; the long description is off by default because it makes the files much bigger. **Try it** ranks the shop's products with the weights on the page, before you save. Switching a field on or off rebuilds the files when you save; a new weight applies at once.
- **Search box** — switch the instant search on or off (off: the stock search works as before), the number of products in the list (3 to 12), the categories and brands above them, and typo tolerance.

- **Files** — the state of every set of files, **Rebuild all files now** with a progress bar, **Delete the files**, the customer groups with their own prices and the command for big catalogues.



The files

The module writes them in `img/ecomsearch/<shop>-<language>-<currency>-<group>/` :

File	What it holds
`terms.json`	Everything that is searched: one compact record per product with the fields switched on, the names of categories, brands, features and attributes, and the aliases
`show-N.json`	What a result shows (name, link, picture, prices), in groups of 500 products. The list reads only the groups of the products it shows

Prices are the ones the visitor pays, with discounts, group reductions and tax as the shop shows them. Each customer group with its own prices needs its own files: choose the groups in **Files**. Visitors of another group use the stock search.

They rebuild themselves

Saving or deleting a product, changing its stock, a price rule, a combination, a category, a brand, a feature value, an attribute, an alias, a currency, a group reduction or a language puts the change in a small queue. Once the page has been shown, a visitor's browser asks the module to work on the queue: nobody waits and no cron job is needed.

For a big import or a deploy, run from the shop folder:

```
php modules/ecomaddonsinstantsearch/cli/rebuild.php
```

or click **Rebuild all files now**. The **Files** tab also shows an address a scheduled task can call.

Good to know

- **Size:** with 20,000 products, `terms.json` weighs between 0.3 and 1.5 MB once compressed by the server, depending on how varied your texts are. The browser reads it once per visit, on the first click in the search box, and prepares it in about 0.2 s on a computer and under a second on a mid-range phone; each search then takes a few milliseconds.
- **Apache:** the module adds a `.htaccess` in `img/ecomsearch/` that lets only the JSON files through. **nginx:** allow `location ~ ^/img/ecomsearch/.*\.json$` in your configuration. Give `version.json` the header `Cache-Control: no-cache` (Apache gets it from the module's `.htaccess`): it tells browsers, page caches and CDNs which files are the latest.
- The files are static, so a CDN can serve them. Each request carries the date of the last build, so a changed file is fetched again and the rest comes from the browser cache.
- Without JavaScript, or when the files cannot be read, the stock search page answers as before.
- Uninstalling deletes the files, the queue and the settings.

Support

Write to us from **My account › Support** on ecom-addons.com. Tell us your PrestaShop version, your theme and what the **Files** tab of the module shows.