

What is a “signature-based” transaction?

As you know, all debit card transactions pass through your checking account. These transactions are processed in one of two ways:

- Debit – through the PIN-based ATM network. These funds are withdrawn from your checking account immediately.
- Credit – through the signature-based MasterCard system. These funds are usually withdrawn from your checking account within 24 hours, placing the funds on “hold” in your account until processing is complete.

What is a signature-based transaction?

There’s an easy way to remember the difference: **It’s any time you do NOT enter your PIN.**

- For example, when you use your debit card to purchase gas, you usually don’t sign, but you don’t enter your PIN, either. That means it was processed as a signature-based transaction.
- What about at the check-out line? Most check-outs default to the PIN-based screen. However, all you have to say to the clerk is, “I’d like to run it as credit.” You will be provided instructions, usually to hit “cancel,” the red button, etc. Then, you will select “credit” and continue the check-out process. Normally, you will be asked to sign the receipt. Some transactions, often those below \$25.00, do not always require a signature though.
- What about at a self-serve or “u-scan” check-out lane? Just be sure to choose “credit.”

Why does Interra encourage, or even “reward” signature-based transactions (My Rewards and INTunes Checking)?

MasterCard transactions are more efficient and cost the credit union less than those processed through the PIN-based ATM network.