

LAPTOP INCOMES

# The AI Starter Kit

A practical beginner path from your first prompt to something useful you can build, publish, or use to create value.

**Phone + Computer + Internet + AI**  
**Learn. Build. Earn.**

BEGINNER IMPLEMENTATION KIT

No hype. No fake urgency. Start small and finish something useful.

# You have AI. Now what?

This kit gives you a short path from a useful prompt to a finished output. It is not a get-rich-quick program. AI can help you think, draft, organize, and build, but you remain responsible for the facts, decisions, privacy, testing, and promises attached to your work.

**Use one stage at a time. Finish the small output before collecting more ideas.**

The goal is not to master every AI feature. The goal is to complete one useful project and recognize the skills you can use again.

## Your working rule

One person. One problem. One useful outcome. One small version you can test.

## What you will finish

- A one-sentence project definition
- A one-page problem brief
- A tangible beginner project
- A test log
- An honest next-step or value statement

# The AI Starter Roadmap

| STAGE   | DO                                                                    | FINISH WITH                      |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| START   | Choose one real person, problem, and useful outcome.                  | One-sentence project definition  |
| LEARN   | Understand the problem, unknowns, and limits. Verify important facts. | One-page problem brief           |
| BUILD   | Create the smallest useful version. Save and test as you go.          | Working draft or prototype       |
| PUBLISH | Remove private data. Check the promise, links, and mobile view.       | Customer-ready version           |
| EARN    | Choose an honest value path and one ethical next action.              | Offer statement or portfolio use |

## Project definition template

I will help [person] solve [specific problem] by creating [useful output].

# Project 1 - Create a practical decision guide

Pick a repeated question people ask in your work, hobby, household, or community. Create a one-page guide that helps someone make the next decision.

## Starter prompt

**Help me create a one-page decision guide for [audience] who needs to [decision]. Ask me up to five questions first. Then organize the guide into: what to gather, choices to compare, warning signs, next action, and when to ask a professional. Do not invent facts or guarantees.**

## Build steps

1. Answer the AI's questions from your own knowledge.
2. Mark every statement that needs verification.
3. Replace generic advice with clear, safe actions.
4. Format the result as one readable page.
5. Test it with one realistic example.

**Tangible finish:** A PDF or web page another person can use.

**Transferable skills:** Interviewing, knowledge organization, plain-language writing, fact checking, formatting, and testing.

# Project 2 - Build a reusable three-template pack

Turn a task you repeat into three related templates, such as a client welcome email, project brief, and follow-up checklist.

## Starter prompt

**Help me turn this repeated task into a three-template pack: [describe task]. The audience is [audience]. Keep each template short, editable, and specific. Add bracketed placeholders where the user must supply facts. Do not include fake testimonials, urgency, or income claims.**

## Build steps

1. List the repeated task from beginning to end.
2. Choose the three moments where a template saves the most effort.
3. Draft, edit, and test each template.
4. Add instructions and an example using fictional data.
5. Package the files with consistent names.

**Tangible finish:** Three editable templates plus a one-page instruction sheet.

**Transferable skills:** Workflow mapping, template design, product packaging, examples, and documentation.

# Project 3 - Prototype a small calculator or intake tool

Choose a repeated calculation, qualification decision, or intake process. Start with a spreadsheet or form before considering a custom app.

## Starter prompt

**Help me define the smallest safe prototype for [problem]. Identify the user, required inputs, rules, output, exceptions, private information, and situations requiring human review. Keep confidential logic out of public output. Create a test table with normal, missing, and edge-case examples.**

## Build steps

1. Write the rules in plain language.
2. Separate public information from confidential information.
3. Build the smallest version in a spreadsheet, form, or simple app.
4. Test normal, missing, and unusual inputs.
5. Record what failed and change one thing at a time.

**Tangible finish:** A functioning prototype and a completed test log.

**Transferable skills:** Requirements, data boundaries, validation, testing, troubleshooting, and responsible automation.

# Real case study: the Waterproofing Estimator

Laptop Incomes used a real waterproofing-estimating problem as a learning project. Preparing preliminary estimates manually took time, including for people who might only be comparing prices. The goal became a simpler first step: collect basic project information and return a limited, customer-safe preliminary result while routing uncertain cases for professional review.

The app did not appear from one perfect prompt. Business knowledge was translated into questions, inputs, rules, outputs, exceptions, and unknowns. The work was divided into smaller decisions. Early versions were tested, corrected, and backed up. Later versions separated customer-facing information from confidential business logic and moved sensitive work to a protected backend. The estimator was then connected to an existing business platform.

**Problem -> Requirements -> Small version -> Test -> Protect -> Connect -> Improve**

## What transfers to another project

- Start with a real repeated problem.
- Explain the rules you already use.
- State what is unknown and what must not change.
- Build the smallest useful version.
- Test expected, missing, and edge cases.
- Back up before risky changes.
- Keep customer output separate from private logic.
- Know when a human must review the result.

This case study demonstrates experimentation and skill building. It does not prove that every app will make money or that AI removes the need for technical, legal, financial, or professional judgment.

# Your project canvas

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Person I want to help          |  |
| Repeated problem               |  |
| Useful outcome                 |  |
| Information required           |  |
| Rules I already know           |  |
| Facts I must verify            |  |
| Private information to protect |  |
| When human review is required  |  |
| Smallest useful version        |  |
| Three tests I will run         |  |
| What I will publish or deliver |  |
| Possible value path            |  |
| Next action                    |  |

# One-change-at-a-time test log

Write the expected behavior before testing. If it fails, change one thing, record it, and test again.

| VERSION | EXPECTED | WHAT HAPPENED | ONE CHANGE | RETEST |
|---------|----------|---------------|------------|--------|
| 1       |          |               |            |        |
| 2       |          |               |            |        |
| 3       |          |               |            |        |
| 4       |          |               |            |        |
| 5       |          |               |            |        |
| 6       |          |               |            |        |

# Resources and next steps

## Tools actually used by Laptop Incomes

**ChatGPT** - Thinking, planning, explanations, and troubleshooting.

**Codex** - Project files, bounded implementation, testing, and reports.

**Systeme.io** - Landing pages, forms, contacts, tags, campaigns, checkout, and delivery.

**Canva** - Visual design and document assembly.

**Cloudflare** - Hosting and protected backend infrastructure for the estimator.

**Excel and Word** - Manual workflows and practical prototype starting points.

**Zoho** - Business estimating and administrative workflow experience.

## Affiliate disclosure

No affiliate links are included in this edition. If affiliate links are added later, they must be clearly labeled near the link and in the product disclosure.

## Your next 60 minutes

1. Pick one of the three projects.
2. Write the one-sentence project definition.
3. Run the suggested prompt.
4. Create the first rough output.
5. Test it with one example containing no private information.
6. Save your first version.

**Learn by making something small. Build until it works. Earn only after you can explain the value honestly.**