FREE CHEAT SHEET

The 2026 AI Tool *Stack.*

The full list I promised. The best AI tool for every task, ranked bad, good, and great, plus the rest of what's actually in my stack. Save this so you stop wasting time on the wrong one.

7 tasks ranked bad·good·great

6 more from my real stack

My real **working stack**

Every task has a tool that's bad for it, one that's fine, and one that's genuinely great. Most people pick whatever they heard about first and stick with it, even when it's the wrong one for the job.

Here's what I actually reach for, task by task. This is my own working stack, not a sponsored list. Five tasks get the full bad/good/great breakdown below. After that, the rest of what runs my business, one tool per job, no ranking needed because I've only ever used one for each.

Writing

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
Meta AI	ChatGPT	Claude

Why Claude: it holds a voice better than anything else I've tried. Feed it real examples of how you write and it stays consistent across a long piece instead of drifting back to generic AI phrasing.

Building a website

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
Base44	Lovable	Emergent

Why Emergent: it gets you from a plain description to a working, good-looking site with the fewest rounds of fixing. Less wrestling with the tool, more time on the thing you're actually selling.

Content creation

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
Grok	Canva	Blotato

Why Blotato: it's the only one built for actually running a content operation, not just making one post. I use it to get the same content out across every platform without doing the upload five separate times.

Coding

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
Cursor	Codex	Claude

Why Claude: it reads back what it's about to build before it builds it, and it catches its own mistakes more often than it makes new ones. That matters most when you don't code yourself and can't catch the errors either.

Making money

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
Perplexity	ChatGPT	Claude

Why Claude: everything above, the writing, the site, the content, the code, runs through it. It's less "an app that helps you make money" and more the one tool doing the actual work across all the others.

Automation

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
Zapier	Make	Claude

Why Claude: Zapier and Make still make you build the workflow by hand, node by node, before it can run. Claude just does the automation when you ask it to. No diagram required.

Presentations

BAD	GOOD	GREAT
PowerPoint	Canva	Gamma

Why Gamma: point it at a rough outline and it builds a deck that looks done, not just started. PowerPoint still wins for full manual control, but most decks don't need that level of fuss.

More from *my stack.*

These aren't ranked bad, good, great. They're just what I use, one tool per job. I haven't tested enough alternatives on these to fairly call a winner, so I'm not going to pretend I did.

Research	**Sandcastles**	Finds what's actually breaking out on TikTok and IG this week, so I stop guessing what to post.
Images & video	**Higgsfield**	My go-to for AI-generated visuals and short video, when a real photoshoot isn't worth the time.
Finding leads	**Origami**	Points at a city and a business type, pulls the shops, owners, and contact details in minutes.
Cold email	**Smartlead**	Warms up new inboxes on its own, then sends and tracks the actual campaign.

Email marketing	**Kit**	Where my list lives. Sequences, automations, and the emails you're reading this from.
Booking calls	**TinyCal**	The link I send when someone's ready to talk. No back-and-forth on times.

> *The tool doesn't matter until you know the task. Pick the task first, then pick great, not just familiar.*

This list will look different in six months. AI tools move fast, and this one changes with them. Come back and check it before you commit to a paid plan on any of these.

YOUR NEXT STEP

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This guide is one piece. First Site is where you use it. Three days, one website, sent to the business it's for. You answer four questions and a Claude Skill does the building. No code. I did it once and got paid $6,350.

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