MAVERICKAI/2026EDITION

The AI Tools I Actually Use

52 tools and platforms. Find your next useful workflow.

Find an AI tool for what you want to do, with a practical explanation and a guide to getting started. Some links are affiliate links.

Browse the current tools page

Quick Reference

Select a tool to open its website or setup guide.

TOOL	CATEGORY
ChatGPT	Core model
Claude	Core model
Gemini	Core model
Grok	Core model
Cytd	Getting found by AI
Codex	Automation
Claude Cowork	Automation
Genspark	Automation
Manus	Automation
Lovable	Building
Claude Code	Building
Cursor	Building
Higgsfield	Images and video
ChatGPT's image generator	Images and video
Nano Banana	Images and video
HeyGen	Video without filming
Synthesia	Video without filming
Claude Design	Design
Canva AI	Design
Meta Ads in Claude	Ads
Opus Clip	Content
Manychat	Instagram DMs
Descript	Editing
CapCut	Editing
Fish Audio	Voice
Suno	Music

Quick Reference, Continued

Select a tool to open its website or setup guide.

TOOL	CATEGORY
Artlist	Images and video
Wispr Flow	Speed
Granola	Meetings
Gamma	Presentations
Notion	Organisation
Perplexity	Research
Gemini Notebook	Learning
Kit	Newsletter
Vibe Prospecting	Sales
Mercury	Business ops
GoHighLevel	Business ops
Shopify plus Claude	Ecommerce
Teal	Job hunting
Big Interview	Interviews
Originality AI	Study
Claude Finance Agents	Finance
Claude Legal Skills	Legal
AI Marketing Skills	Marketing
Apple Health in ChatGPT	Health
Superpower	Health
Claude Travel Agent	Travel
Meta Muse	Automation
Microsoft Copilot	Work
HubSpot	Business ops
Dropbox Dash	Research
Fiverr	Business ops

The AI Models

ChatGPT

I use ChatGPT in the desktop app, and I love ChatGPT Work. It lets me work with my files, connected apps and browser in the same place. Astra is my pick for design, especially turning a rough idea into a page or layout I can see and refine. I give it the goal, the material and a clear example of what I want. Start with one real task, then use the complete guide for the setup and prompts.

Try ChatGPT
Read the complete guide

Claude

Claude is where I work through the thinking and get the writing right. I use Opus for deeper reasoning, working through a complicated problem and figuring out how a project should be built. Give it the full context, ask it to compare approaches and have it explain the tradeoffs. I use Cowork for tasks across my files, Claude Code for building and debugging, and Claude Design for prototypes and visual work. The complete guide walks through the setup and useful first projects.

Try Claude
Read the complete guide

Gemini

I use Gemini when the work is already in Google. It saves me moving material between Gmail, Docs and Drive. Start with a specific question or document, then choose the tool that fits: Deep Research for a sourced report, a Gem for repeated instructions, Canvas for a draft, or Live for a conversation. Connected apps can add useful context when you choose to enable them. The complete guide covers models, plans, creative tools, Spark and the settings that affect your data.

Try Gemini
Read the complete guide

Grok

I open Grok when I want to see what people are talking about on X right now. It can also help with web research, writing, files and creative work. Give it a time window and ask for original sources when you need current information. Keep reactions on X separate from verified facts, and open the important links yourself. The complete guide takes you through setup, research, uploads, voice, images and practical prompts for a first useful result.

Try Grok
Read the complete guide

Automation

Codex

I use Codex for work that involves files, apps and repeated steps. It is where I turn a task into a finished result.

Open the setup guide

Claude Cowork

I give Cowork the task and the files, then let it work through the job. It handles the admin that would otherwise keep pulling me away from creating.

Open the setup guide

Genspark

I use Genspark when I want a finished presentation, document or research output from one brief.

Try Genspark
Read the Genspark quick start

Manus

I use Manus for longer jobs with several steps that can run while I work on something else.

Try Manus
Read the Manus quick start

Building and Dictation

Lovable

I built this site with Lovable. I use it to turn ideas into pages and make changes to the site by describing what I want.

Try Lovable
Read the Lovable quick start

Claude Code

I use Claude Code when I need to work directly on a project: reading the files, making changes and checking that they work.

Open the setup guide

Cursor

I use Cursor when I want to work in the code editor and make changes as I go.

Try Cursor
Read the Cursor quick start

Wispr Flow

I use Wispr Flow to talk instead of type. Prompts, notes and messages go into whichever app I am already using.

Try Wispr Flow
Read the Wispr Flow quick start

Images and Video

Higgsfield

I use Higgsfield for images and video, and connect it to Claude when I want to build the creative from the same conversation.

Try Higgsfield
GPT-6 Astra and Higgsfield use cases

ChatGPT's image generator

I use ChatGPT for images that need readable text, and for working through visual ideas in the same chat.

Open the setup guide

Nano Banana

I use Nano Banana to change a specific part of an image while keeping the parts that already work.

Open the setup guide

HeyGen

I use HeyGen for avatar videos and versions in other languages without recording each one again.

Try HeyGen
Read the HeyGen quick start

Synthesia

I use Synthesia for presenter-led explainers and training-style videos.

Try Synthesia
Read the Synthesia quick start

Artlist

I use Artlist for music, sound effects and video assets when I am putting content together. Its creative toolkit also includes AI image, video, music and voice generation. Use it to assemble the visuals and sound for a project, then check the output and the license for the assets and plan you use.

Try Artlist
Read the Artlist quick start

Design and Content

Claude Design

I use Claude Design for decks, prototypes and marketing visuals. I describe what I need, then refine it in the conversation.

Open the setup guide

Canva AI

I still use Canva when I want a template that someone else on the team can pick up and edit.

Open the setup guide

Meta Ads in Claude

I connect Meta Ads to Claude to review campaigns and work through changes. Higgsfield handles the creative alongside it.

Open the setup guide
Run your ads with AI

Opus Clip

I use Opus Clip to find short clips inside longer videos.

Try Opus Clip
Read the Opus Clip quick start

Manychat

Manychat sends the resource when someone comments a keyword on one of my videos. It connects the content to the guide they came for.

Try Manychat
Connect ChatGPT to your Instagram DMs

Editing, Voice and Music

Descript

I use Descript to edit talking videos through the transcript. Removing a sentence removes that piece of footage too.

Try Descript
Read the Descript quick start

CapCut

I use CapCut for phone edits, captions and reframing clips for vertical video.

Try CapCut
Read the CapCut quick start

Fish Audio

Fish Audio is what I use for voice generation. It lets me turn a script into a voice track.

Try Fish Audio
Clone your voice inside Claude

Suno

I use Suno to turn a music idea into a track I can work with.

Try Suno
Read the Suno quick start

Meetings, Research and Learning

Granola

I use Granola to turn calls into notes and action items I can come back to.

Try Granola
Read the Granola quick start

Gamma

I use Gamma to turn an outline into a presentation, then work through the slides.

Try Gamma
Read the Gamma quick start

Notion

I use Notion to organize work and keep the supporting material together.

Try Notion
Read the Notion quick start

Perplexity

I use Perplexity for research when I want the sources beside the answer so I can open them and check.

Try Perplexity
Read the Perplexity quick start

Gemini Notebook

I use Gemini Notebook to work from a specific set of documents and videos, and turn that material into audio overviews.

Try Gemini Notebook
Turn AI into your personal tutor

SEO / BUSINESS OWNERS

11

CYTD.ai

Get your brand cited by ChatGPT, Claude, and Google AI.

cytd.ai

WHY I USE IT:

SEO is not just about Google anymore. In 2026 you need to show up when people ask AI tools questions about your niche. CYTD.ai is built for exactly that. It tracks how ChatGPT, Claude, and Google AI mention your brand, gives you a visibility score, and generates content to improve your ranking. It connects to WordPress and Shopify so content syncs as drafts ready to publish. Built around three factors: Visibility, Compliance, and Relevance. If you run a business and you have not started thinking about AI SEO yet, you are already behind. This is the tool that catches you up.

Newsletter, Sales and Business

Kit

Kit is where my newsletter lives. I use the Kit MCP to check broadcast performance, compare results and bring the numbers into my newsletter workflow.

Try Kit
Read the Kit quick start

Vibe Prospecting

I use Vibe Prospecting in Claude to find the right person at a company and their contact details.

Try Vibe Prospecting
Find any business contact inside Claude

Mercury

Mercury is where the business banks. I connect it to my AI workflow so I can check what came in without exporting a spreadsheet.

Try Mercury

GoHighLevel

I use GoHighLevel when the job brings leads, follow-ups and a customer pipeline together.

Try GoHighLevel
Read the GoHighLevel quick start

Stores, Applications and Writing

Shopify plus Claude

I connect Shopify to Claude to work on listings, review store numbers and see what is selling.

Open the setup guide

Teal

I use Teal to organize job applications and compare a resume with the role.

Try Teal
AI Job Seekers Guide

Big Interview

I use Big Interview for practice on camera and feedback on the answer and delivery.

Try Big Interview
Read the Big Interview quick start

Originality AI

I use Originality AI to see how a detector reads a piece of writing before it goes out.

Try Originality AI
Make AI writing sound human

Finance, Legal and Marketing

Claude Finance Agents

I use Claude Finance Agents to work through financial research and analysis in one place.

Open the setup guide

Claude Legal Skills

I use Claude Legal Skills for contract review, redlines and working through the terms.

Open the setup guide

AI Marketing Skills

I use AI Marketing Skills for copy, ads, SEO and the pieces of a launch.

Open the setup guide

Health and Travel

Apple Health in ChatGPT

I connect Apple Health to ChatGPT so the conversation can use the actual sleep, steps and heart-rate data.

Try Apple Health in ChatGPT
Connect Apple Health to ChatGPT

Superpower

I use Superpower to understand my blood-test results and what the markers mean.

Try Superpower

Claude Travel Agent

I keep travel preferences and points in a Claude project so I can compare options for a trip with the relevant details already there.

Open the setup guide

More Tools for Work

Meta Muse

Meta Muse is a personal AI agent for tasks that involve browsing and connected apps. Start with a bounded job such as research or a draft, review the result, and decide what it may do next. Availability depends on region and account.

Try Meta Muse
Read the Meta Muse quick start

Microsoft Copilot

Microsoft Copilot helps with writing, research and work across Microsoft apps. It is useful when the material you need is already in documents, email or spreadsheets. Available features depend on your account, license and rollout.

Try Microsoft Copilot
Read the Microsoft Copilot quick start

HubSpot

HubSpot brings customer records, marketing and sales work together. Its AI features and Agent Hub can help with summaries, content and customer workflows grounded in your CRM. Start with one useful task and review the output before automating it.

Try HubSpot
Read the HubSpot quick start

Dropbox Dash

Dropbox Dash helps you find information across connected work apps and files. Ask a focused question, inspect the source document, and check that you are using the right version. Access follows the sources and permissions you connect.

Try Dropbox Dash
Read the Dropbox Dash quick start

Fiverr

Fiverr is a marketplace for finding people who can help build, edit or improve an AI project. Use it when you need specialist help with the work around the tools. A clear brief, relevant samples and defined deliverables make the search more useful.

Try Fiverr
Read the Fiverr quick start

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The bad tool for learning about AI is giving up.
The good one is following me.