

10 tiny apps making **\$30K to \$1M** a month — and **how to build yours.**

Most were built by one person. Many were built mostly by A.I. This is the whole playbook on six pages: the real apps with their sources, the four money patterns, the exact build stack, copy-paste prompts, and the one lesson that actually separates the winners.

Honest note: every revenue figure is tagged VERIFIED (real press — CNBC, TechCrunch, 404 Media) or SELF-REPORTED (founder's own post). Treat them accordingly. Numbers are point-in-time and will move.

Real apps. Real numbers. Real sources.

#	APP	WHAT IT DOES	REVENUE	BUILT WITH	SOURCE
1	fly.pieter.com	Browser flight sim, money from in-game ad billboards	~\$50K/mo	Cursor	✓ 404 Media
2	Launch Fast	Product-research tool for Amazon sellers	\$30K/mo	Cursor	Indie Hackers
3	Kleo	LinkedIn growth + post-writing tool	\$62K/mo	Claude Code	Indie Hackers
4	UMAX + Rizz	Selfie looks-rating + dating-reply AI	~\$200K/mo	Cursor	Fortune (est.)
5	Plinq	Safety background-checks for dating	~\$38K/mo	Lovable	Lovable blog
6	Formula Bot	Plain English → Excel/Sheets formula	~\$42K/mo	No-code (Bubble)	✓ Documented
7	RankPill	Automated SEO + content for sites	+\$23K/mo	Vibe coding	LinkedIn
8	Cal AI	Photo of food → instant calories/macros	~\$1.4M/mo	AI vision	✓ CNBC
9	PhotoAI / HeadshotPro	Selfies → pro AI headshots	\$150K-\$300K/mo	AI image	✓ Documented
10	Base44	AI app-builder; sold to Wix for \$80M	~\$189K/mo	Cursor + Claude	✓ TechCrunch

» The takeaway isn't any single app – it's that one person + AI tools + a weekend is now a real on-ramp. The next pages show the repeatable shapes.

Almost every one is one of four shapes.

1

The Wrapper

Point AI at one annoying task and do it in a single tap.

[Cal AI](#) · [Formula Bot](#) · [headshot apps](#)

2

The Niche Tool

One audience with money + the one boring thing they'll pay for monthly.

[Launch Fast](#) · [Kleo](#) · [RankPill](#)

3

The Selfie Loop

Analyze a photo, return a score, sell the upgrade.

[UMAX](#)

4

The Fun Object

One shareable thing; money comes from ads/upgrades.

[fly.pieter.com](#)

The build stack — every single time

Describe your idea to [Cursor](#) / [Claude Code](#) / [Lovable](#) → bolt on [Stripe](#) for payments → **ship in a weekend**. The barrier to building is essentially gone.

Audience first. App second.

1 • Pick the audience FIRST

Don't start with the app. Pick who you serve and where you already reach them (a niche, a platform, a following). The app is the easy part now.

2 • Find the one painful task

One repetitive, slightly-too-technical chore that audience does often. That single job is the whole product. Resist adding features.

3 • Describe it to an AI builder

Cursor or Claude Code (for control) or Lovable / Bolt / v0 (for no-code). Describe the app in plain English; let it write the code.

4 • Bolt on Stripe + ship

Add Stripe for payments and a simple landing page, then ship in a weekend. Charge from day one — free users rarely become a business.

Why this order matters: the code is now a weekend, so the build can't be your edge. Picking the right audience and channel is. Most people do this backwards — they build first and then look for users. Flip it.

Steal these. Fill in the brackets.

Find your idea (the niche-task finder)

Act as a startup scout. My audience is [WHO – e.g. Amazon sellers / freelance designers / nurses]. List 10 repetitive, annoying, slightly-technical tasks they do every week that a simple AI tool could automate in one tap. For each: the task, why it hurts, how AI solves it, and a realistic monthly price they'd pay. Rank by (frequency × pain × willingness to pay).

Build the app (the master build prompt)

Build a web app called [NAME] that does ONE thing: [the single task]. Stack: Next.js + Tailwind + a clean modern UI (shadcn/ui), an API route that calls [an LLM / a vision model] to do the work, and Stripe Checkout for a \$[X]/mo subscription gated behind login. Keep it to one core screen: input → result. Add a simple landing page with a headline, 3 benefits, and a pricing button. Generate the full project and tell me the exact commands to run it.

The wrapper prompt (point AI at one task)

I want a single-purpose tool: the user uploads [a photo / a file / pastes text], and the app returns [the result – e.g. macros, a formula, a headshot, a score + advice]. Write the prompt/template I should send to the AI model so the output is consistent and formatted as [JSON / a clean card]. Then build the upload → process → result UI around it.

Validate before you build (1 weekend)

I'm considering building [idea] for [audience]. Give me a 1-page validation plan I can run this weekend with \$0: where these people gather online, the exact post/DM to ask if they'd pay, a simple landing page headline + a 'join waitlist' CTA, and the number of signups that would tell me to actually build it.

If the code is a weekend, the code isn't the moat.

The code is no longer the moat

You can build the core of almost any app on this list in a weekend. So the build is not where you win.

Distribution is the moat

Levels had a huge following. Anderson won on TikTok. Shlomo built the tooling others use. The money came from being seen — an audience, a channel, a wedge.

So: audience first, app second

Choose who you serve and how you'll reach them before you write a line. Then let AI make the app the easy part. That ordering is the whole game.

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TINY

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gumroad.com/l/claude-code-guide

\$19

The OpenAI Codex Guide

gumroad.com/l/codex-guide

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Claude for Cowork & Sales

gumroad.com/l/claude-cowork-sales

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Claude Certified Architect — Prep Kit

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