



The AI Video Creator Playbook

Beginner → Professional.

A complete, practical, self-paced route to making AI videos people actually watch — and getting paid for it.

READ THIS BEFORE ANYTHING

This is a working handbook, not a textbook. From Level 0 you will be making things: clips, then sequences, then finished videos, then paid work.

The method is always the same:
something made, checked and improved.

Every level ends with

One simple stack first, advanced tools later. No hype, no "make \$10,000 in a weekend", no tool recommendations that cost money before you've learned the workflow on free tiers.

LAST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 2026 · Tools, prices, free tiers and tutorial links verified September 2026. The book teaches you to re-verify them yourself — and tells you exactly which parts of it will age. · Edition: September 2026

Welcome. How this playbook works.

This handbook takes one person — you — from "I'm interested in AI video" to "I can confidently show my work and get paid for this." You need no technical background. Everything is explained from zero, with examples.

WHAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO AT THE END

- Come up with video ideas, research them, and write scripts with AI help.
- Create consistent AI images, AI video clips, voiceovers, music and sound effects.
- Edit complete videos — short-form, long-form, commercials, cinematic sequences, faceless content.
- Fix the common AI-generation problems that stop most beginners.
- Run a repeatable workflow instead of randomly trying tools.
- Build a professional portfolio, find clients or a job, and deliver professional work.
- Judge your own output like a professional — the skill that keeps improving you forever.

The learning philosophy

You will not study first and create later. You will create from lesson one. Every level follows the same five-step loop:



LEARN — the idea, in plain English. **WATCH** — one short, curated tutorial. **COPY** — imitate a working example exactly (copying is how every professional started). **BUILD** — make your own version. **REVIEW** — score it with the quality scorecard. **IMPROVE** — fix the weakest part, then move on.

How you will move through it

PACE	WHAT YOU DO
The normal unit	One level = 1–3 days of sessions (each session 30–60 min). Finish the level's project before moving on — the projects are the course.
Fast route	Levels 0–8 get you a complete skill set and a real portfolio piece. That's usually enough to start freelancing at beginner level.
Full route	All 21 levels, all 12 projects. This is the portfolio + career-ready path.
Reference mode	Skip around: the cheat sheets (Part 8), tool guide (Part 3) and glossary (Part 9) work standalone forever.

Do not try to memorize this book. Use it like a cookbook: open the level, do the work, close it. The skills are built by the projects, not the reading.

The whole course on one page

LEVEL	FOCUS	YOU FINISH IT ABLE TO...
0	Orientation	Explain the pipeline; make your first 10–20s clip
1	AI basics & prompting	Write structured prompts for images, video, scripts, voice
2	Image generation	Generate and fix strong, consistent images

3	AI video generation	Generate controllable motion; speak camera language
4	Consistency	Keep characters, clothes, places and style locked
5	Storytelling & directing	Shape content into beginning–middle–end stories
6	Scripting & storyboarding	Produce a full pre-production package with AI
7	Voice, dialogue, lip sync	Narrate, dub and perform dialogue ethically
8	Editing	Edit a polished 60–90s video from scratch
9	Sound design	Make mediocre visuals feel professional with audio
10	Advanced filmmaking	Cut a 90-second cinematic sequence
11	Career paths	Choose a direction and know what it demands
12	Commercial AI video	Deliver client-style ads from a brief
13	Long-form & faceless	Produce a 3–5 minute faceless video
14	Short-form content	Make 5 platform-native short videos
15	Systems & workflows	Run one repeatable production system
16	Quality control	Score your own work like a professional
17	Portfolio	Present 6–10 strong pieces that get replies
18	Getting paid	Find work, price it, win it
19	Professional workflow	Run a client project from brief to delivery
20	Expert development	Keep improving no matter which tool is best next

The three rules of this course

1. **Make something at every level.** If a level has no output, it hasn't been learned.
2. **Finish beats perfect.** A finished average video teaches more than an abandoned masterpiece. Every project here is designed to be finishable.
3. **Judge by the quality scorecard (Level 16), not by your mood.** Your feelings about your own work are unreliable; the scorecard isn't.

WHAT'S COMING

12 portfolio projects, 21 levels, 3 months to professional readiness

The full project ladder lives in Part 5 and appears throughout the levels — each project is a real deliverable with a brief, constraints, workflow and evaluation criteria. You will finish this course with 6–10 strong portfolio pieces and a clear path to work.

PART 2. The roadmap

Three views of the same journey: the level-by-level route, a 30-day beginner sprint, and the 90-day road to professional readiness. Pick the one that matches your available time.

THE THREE VIEWS

use one, not all three

VIEW A · LEVEL ROUTE (THE FULL COURSE)

Work through Levels 0–20 in order. Each level expects the previous level's project. This is the most thorough route and the one the rest of the book is organised around.

VIEW B · 30-DAY BEGINNER ROADMAP

Realistic workload: about 30–60 minutes a day, and a full weekend. Every week ends with something you can show someone. This is the fastest honest route from zero to "I can make good AI videos" — not to professional status, but to real capability.

WEEK	WORK	OUTPUT
1	AI fundamentals + prompting (L0–L1) + image generation (L2 days 1–3)	10 consistent shots (P2 starter)
2	Video generation (L3) + consistency (L4) + editing basics (L8 days 1–4)	30-second animated sequence (P3)
3	Story (L5) + scripting (L6) + voice (L7) + sound (L9 days 1–2)	60-second narrated story (P5/P7)
4	Commercial practice (L12) + quality control (L16) + first portfolio assembly (L17)	15-second advertisement (P8) + first 3 portfolio pieces

Days reference the level's own numbered lessons — each level below is broken into short daily-size lessons.