

Fionn Tobin

Build your first thing with AI this weekend

You've watched a hundred AI videos and built exactly nothing. This one prompt interviews you about your own life, picks a build small enough to finish today, and walks you through it. No code.

who it's for

time needed

cost

complete beginner

one sitting

free

a free guide

You watched the video, so here's the whole thing in one place, plus the exact prompt that walks you through your first build.

Why this matters

You've watched hundreds of AI videos and built exactly nothing. It's not laziness. Every tutorial is about someone else's problem, so it never feels worth starting, and the tools all look like they need a computer science degree.

Here's the shift: your first build shouldn't come from a tutorial. It should come from your own life, something that annoys you every single week. And you don't need to know how to build it. You just need to describe it. The prompt below makes Claude do the rest, one question at a time.

The prompt

Open Claude, start a new chat, and paste this in:

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I've never built anything with AI before. This is my first build, and I want it to be something from my own life, not a tutorial.
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First, interview me. Ask me questions one at a time, and wait for my answer before the next one:
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1. What do I do by hand every week that I wish I didn't?
2. What's something I've always wanted to have but assumed I couldn't make?
3. How much time do I have today?

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Then pick the smallest version of the best idea, small enough to finish today, and build it with me step by step. No technical words. Before each step, tell me in one line what we're doing and why. If you need anything from me (a list, an example, a file), just ask.
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When we're done, tell me one small way to make it better tomorrow.
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What it looks like when it runs

Say the thing that annoys you is dinner. Every week, the same "what do we eat" chaos. Claude asks you a few questions about what you like, what you hate, what's in your usual shop. Twenty minutes later you have a meal planner that writes your week's dinners and a shopping list, made for your exact tastes.

It's not an app on the app store. It doesn't need to be. It's yours, it works, and you built it.

That's the real win. The first build isn't about the thing you make. It's the moment you stop being someone who watches this stuff and become someone who builds it.

A few more to try

Finished your first build? Get your second idea:

Here's what I built first: [describe it]. Based on that, give me 5 ideas for my next build, each one slightly bigger. Pick the one you'd do next and tell me why.

Make it feel like magic for someone else:

Explain what we just built like I'm 5, so I can show a friend without sounding technical.

If you got stuck halfway:

I'm lost. Tell me exactly where we are in the build, what's left, and give me just the next single step.

The one rule

Your first build lives inside the chat. Nothing on your computer changes unless you choose to use what you built. If you run this in Claude Cowork and it offers to create files or folders, it will ask first, and you can always say no. You stay in control the whole way.

This guide lives at <https://fionntobin.com/guides/build-your-first-thing-with-ai> and gets updated when the tools change. More free guides: <https://fionntobin.com/guides>