How to Make Extra Money from Home | 10 No B.S. Ways

By
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There are a lot of people online who will tell you how to make extra money from home. If you read that stuff, I hope your brain is equipped with a B.S filter because a lot of that advice is bogus.

I recently read a post from a prominent personal finance site on how to make money fast for Christmas. One of the suggestions was to start blogging.

The post didn't mention the cost of hosting, domain registration, or any of the other tools you would need to succeed in making money with a blog. Plus, blogging has a learning curve involving search engine optimization (SEO) and other considerations. If you want to make extra money for Christmas and it's already August, you are too late to the game.

So in this post, I'm going to give you ten legitimate ways on how to make extra money from home.

Most of these ideas require a skill of some sort.

But if you don't have any skills don't worry, because you can learn most of them. Reading this post will give you ideas on skills you can learn fast and get a side hustle going.

How to Make Money From Home - The 10 No B.S. Ways
Usually, when you read a post like this, it is a list that a content writer has put together. The writers who make these list posts have never done any side hustles and are rehashing information from other blog posts they have collected.

What makes this post different is that I, or someone I know, have made money from home doing these gigs.

I'm sure anyone can duplicate our success if they have the will and are committed to doing whatever it takes.

1. Make Money From Home Fixing Things

I believe everyone should learn how to fix something because you never know when it will come in handy. There are so many different things you can learn to fix; it would make your head spin.

Not only that, but you can learn how to fix just about anything by watching videos that people post on sites like YouTube.

**Small Engine Repair**

I live in a rural area of Kentucky, and right down the road from my house is a guy named Johnny. Johnny is an older gentleman who repairs small engines out of his garage.
When you drive past his house, his entire driveway is full of lawn tractors and equipment people want him to fix.

So far, Johnny has added a new motor to our lawn tractor using one that he salvaged from another lawn tractor. He has welded the deck on our other vehicle, and he does yearly maintenance on all of our equipment.

Johnny is in his 70s, and every time I talk to him, I thank him because he is vital to our rural community.

If you have a garage, some tools, and a brain, you can learn from online at sites that teach small engine repair. However, it is far better to go to a local community college or trade school if you can.

Even Smaller Engines

As I was thinking about how to make extra money from home one day, I asked Johnny if he repaired chainsaws.

He told me he did, and I asked if he thought someone could specialize in chainsaw repair. He thought you could, but it wouldn't be as much business as fixing small engines.

In his opinion, if you wanted to fix, maintain, and sharpen the blades on chainsaws you could make some good extra money on the side. Not only that, but after you learned
how to repair chainsaws, you could expand into fixing lawnmowers and other smaller engines.

**Kitchen Appliance Repair**

My wife loves her Kitchen-Aid mixer.

Anyone who uses one of these appliances is addicted to them, and my wife was devastated when her machine broke down. The mixer was making annoying sounds, and then it went into hyperdrive and started spinning like crazy.

My wife is mechanically inclined and seems to have inherited that knack from her father. Her dad can analyze a car over the phone and know what's wrong with it based on the information you give him. He can also tell you how to get it fixed.

So, it was no surprise to me when she told me she wanted to try fixing her mixer.

As it turns out, there are videos online on how to do that. After watching the videos, she ordered the broken parts and replaced them. Now she's locating broken Kitchen-Aid mixers and then repairs and sells them.

You wouldn't believe how easy these mixers are to fix because it took my wife only 20 minutes from start to finish.

I also know a guy who fixes electric stoves from his garage at his home and makes good money repairing them. He charges $50 to $200 to fix the electric stoves, plus the cost of the parts. I've been to his workshop, and it's full of appliances he's either repairing or refurbishing.

**Band Instrument Repair**

Fixing band instruments is one of the how to make extra money from home businesses I'm very familiar with.

Several years ago, my wife and I went to a summer school in Castle Rock, Colorado. We went there to learn band instrument repair at a school called CIOMIT (Colorado Institute of Musical Instrument Technology).

She learned how to repair flutes and clarinets, and I learned how to fix trombones, trumpets, and saxophones. When we finished, we went back to Kentucky and started repairing instruments.

Since we needed as much experience as possible, we started our business by buying beat-up instruments and repairing them.
Most of the instruments were in bad shape, but I worked my butt off to get them into playing condition. I then put them up on a musician site called Reverb to resell them for more money.

Here is a demonstration of one of the trombones I repaired:

**Fixed Trombone Demonstration**

You can make good money doing this too.

To give you a good example, I had a guy who came to me with a trumpet he bought at a yard sale. He thought he got a good deal on it until he got home and found out there was a big dent in the valve casing, and the valves wouldn't work.

He brought it to me, and I fixed it in 15 minutes and charged him $40.

To make this happen, you'll need to get some schooling. One place you can learn is where my wife and I went for a summer.

And guess what? You're in luck because the school now offers online courses on how to do this, so you don't even have to go to Colorado.

However, with this particular trade, you will need to buy at least $2,000 in specialized tools to get started.

To check out the school, use this link: [CIOMIT](#)

**Fixing Computers**

My son started his career in IT, building computers at home in his bedroom. After he received his A+ certification in computer repair, he made money fixing them. We had neighbors paying him to come to their houses to fix their computers and he was very proud of the work he could do.

He ended up joining the Air Force as a computer technician. Some of the techies he worked with were working side hustles like replacing cracked laptop screens and upgrading other people's computers.
2. Make Extra Money from Crafting Businesses

This is one category in the how to make extra money from home businesses I'm very familiar with because one of my biggest home-based businesses was in the craft niche.

However, everyone thinks they can paint vases, pictures, or whatever and make money on Etsy, eBay, or Facebook Marketplace. You can make extra money, but if your items are easy to make and other people are making similar items, it will be an uphill battle.

But there are ways you can do this if you know what you are doing.

**Embroidery Business**

I started my own embroidery business called Ellistrations back in 2001. I knew nothing about the embroidery business, and I made mistakes at first.

We bought a twelve-needle embroidery machine for around $17,000, and I ran the business out of a room in my basement.
At first, I thought about working at one of the kiosks at the local mall and going full-time with it, but the mall wanted $3,000 a month, and during November and December, they wanted $5,000. So, I decided to build my business online.

I had no experience in eCommerce, but I had learned HTML enough to build my website.

The big mistake I made was trying to build a business where people could order any design of hat or shirt they wanted. I had many digitized designs, but producing specialized hats for every hobby or idea took too much time. Plus, being a generalist is not a good idea.

Dan Kennedy, a famous marketer, once said marketing to everybody is marketing to nobody. So, I decided to find a niche to work in.

Since I was a musician, I decided to focus on apparel for musicians. I created shirts and hats for every kind of instrument.

I once created a beautiful oboe hat and put it up on eBay. It went for $90! Bear in mind I was buying hats wholesale, and my cost out of pocket was about $5. However, after a year, everyone caught on and started creating cheap silkscreened knock-offs, and I had a lot of competition.

I did well for a few years but got burned out because I was a full-time teacher. On average, I made an extra $20,000 a year from that business, but it was a lot of work.

Sewing

My wife is a master of sewing.

She has all kinds of sewing machines, and she has made extra money with every one of them. One of the machines she owns is an industrial-level sewing machine, and she once had to design and sew a canvas cover for a horse trailer.

Recently, she has been sewing designer cushions for outdoor furniture.

It turns out that many people have outdoor sets and don't want to buy new cushions, so they keep the furniture frames and get her to make new ones for them.
Painting Stuff Can be Profitable and Fun

If you want to know how to make extra money from home and have some fun, this is the way to do it. Painting things like pictures, shoes, murals, and other items can be profitable. Of course, it pays to have some artistic ability, and the better you are at it the more money you can make. If you're going to paint images on things, here is a comprehensive list of what sells:

- Landscapes both traditional and impressionist
- Native American or primitive images
- Seascapes
- Local scenes from towns and cities
- Family portraits
- Family pets

However, you can paint all sorts of things. My wife has a friend who is making excellent money painting canvas shoes and selling them on eBay and Etsy. Each shoe is totally unique and she is very artistic in how she designs and paints them. Because she is so good she makes customed designed shoes and sells them for a very good profit.
If you want to make money with your art like this, you have to think outside of the box. There are all kinds of venues for painting out there and I'm amazed every time I come across one of them. I know of one company called Anuschka and they sell the most amazing hand-painted bags I have ever seen.
I could go into more depth on this, but if you are interested in the idea of creating painted works of art, you will need to do more research on your own.

3. Make Money from Home Writing

Writing is one area that is in high demand and is very easy to start. All you need to get started is a laptop, Internet access, and your brain.

By the way, you don't need a degree in journalism to get started. It would help, but it is not necessary. One of the best writers I know is a lady named Carol Tice. Carol quit college to become a copywriter, and now she writes for some of the world's biggest companies.

However, you have to pay your dues in this business.

A fast way to get started is to start blogging on a free platform like Google's Blogger or Medium. (As I told you earlier, it takes time to make money from blogging, but you can get a lot of practice writing, so get started.)

But before you do that, you need to pick at least three niches to work in. Remember what I told you earlier marketing for everybody is marketing for nobody.

When you write for businesses and clients, you are a copywriter.

It is one of the easiest how to make extra money from home ideas. So, I'm going to tell you about a few ways you can use to make money to do that.

You could write fiction to make money, but it takes years and is a competitive market. Not only that, you could write for a year or two, and then nobody would publish your work.

With copywriting, you talk to the client, get a contract and then start writing what they need. But if you love to write stories, you can still use that talent in copywriting because advertisements use stories frequently to sell their products.

Take a look at this ad by the famous copywriter Gary Halbert:
Here's a list of the kinds of copywriting I've made money at:

- Website Copy
- Sales pages
- Blog posts
- Speeches
- Whiteboard videos
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Infographics
- Ghostwriting
- Manuals

You can see some of these samples like these on my portfolio page.

4. Web Design and WordPress Set Up
Once again, all you need for these businesses is a laptop and Internet access.

**Make Extra Money Designing Websites**

In the year 2001, I wanted to start designing websites for people. Back then, you had to know how to code them.

I bought this gigantic book on hypertext markup language (HTML) from a bookstore and taught myself. Now, you can go to online sites and take a course on HTML for half the price that I spent on that book.

Once I built my website, I started advertising my services as a website designer.

So, I went to all the local bulletin boards and advertised my services as a web designer. I wound up working for a guy who was selling tons of information products.

He had so many websites that he was the only client I needed at the time. This is one of those how to make extra money from home opportunities that you can learn in about two months if you put in the time.

**WordPress Set Up**

The beauty of setting up a WordPress site is that it is easy, and you don't have to know or use HTML. (I would still learn HTML because it will come in handy.)

The best way to learn how to set up these sites is to build your own. Most business owners don't have a clue about how to set up a site.

Here is a list of what you will need to help them with:

- Get a hosting plan
- Purchasing a domain
- Getting a WordPress Theme
- Formatting the Theme
- Setting up their pages and blog

Usually, hosting companies have all of these services. In other words, you don't have to buy the domain from one website and then get the hosting at another. You can get all of the services from one platform.

The two companies I like to use are HostGator and Bluehost. Both companies have hosting and domain plans with an easy WordPress setup.

So, knowing how to set up a blog or website for clients is very desirable and you can make good money doing this.
My wife and I live near a ferry boat here in Kentucky, and I am friends with the guy who is the boat captain.

One day, while my wife and I were on board, the captain walked up to my car and asked me if I could build him a website for a side business he had. I told him I could set up his site and have it working by the end of the weekend. A few days later, he handed me $400 for setting up his website.

Since I was also a graphic artist and copywriter, I also did those services for his site and got paid for them.

Guess what else?

If he had a problem with his site or needed upgraded pages, he called me and had me do the work.

5. How to Make Extra Money from Home with Music

I started writing my own music when I was 18 years old in the 1970s. In those days, you had to use a pencil and staff paper and write all the parts yourself.
The only way you knew what your music sounded like was to get a band to play it for you. (And woe be unto you if you made a mistake transposing a trumpet part.)

Now, you can compose music with software all you want to. I use a program called Finale. This software will allow you to hear what the music sounds like before you put it in front of a band.

I have a friend who writes music parts out for people who don't know how to.

There are a lot of people who play instruments like piano or guitar by ear. In other words, they don't know how to read notes on a page. So when they make up their own songs, they need a trained musician or arranger to write the parts out for them.

Music software makes it very easy to write music for the songwriter. So this is a service you can offer for people who want their music translated into notes on a page.

**Composing for Gaming Software**

There are all kinds of computer games and applications that use original music. I have a relative who creates music for video games and has a piano hooked up to his computer.

The notes he plays go right into the music software he uses. He has built a network of clients who need music for their computer games. He also writes music for local TV commercials and other venues.

**Teaching Music Lessons**

Musicians can teach lessons and make money from home.

But hold on a minute.

You can be a good musician, but that does not mean you will be a good teacher. As a matter of fact, I've known some virtuosos who couldn't teach if their lives depended on it.

If you have never taught music, you may want to network with a few people who are teachers first.

Before I went to college, I had already started teaching while in the U.S. Army Band program. The Army had sent me out with a team of bandsmen to run clinics at high schools.

Years later, I went to college to get my education in this field. It's a good thing I did because I had a lot to learn about teaching methods (pedagogy).
If you are going to teach music, network with some experienced teachers first, and get some ideas on methods.

One other thing I want to mention.

There are many books for students you can use to teach lessons. My favorite books are the Hal Leonard - Rubank Method books because they have carefully planned lessons.

There are newer books, like the Essential Elements series, that have music discs or mp3 files. These are great because parents love listening to their kids play along with a band on an mp3 or CD player.

Tip: The sooner you can get a kid to play a short piece of music, the more the parents will be impressed.

6. Make Stuff to Sell at Farmer's Markets

I know this is supposed to be a post on how to make extra money from home, but hear me out.

Many businesses start by selling at farmer's markets on the weekends and evolve into home-based businesses.

My next-door neighbor started selling flowers and plants at farmer's markets and now sells them from their home. (Bear in mind, we live in the country, and some people, like my neighbors, have outbuildings they can work from.)

Another one of my neighbors started selling worm castings to help plants grow, and he started selling them at farmer's markets.

While selling at these markets, he networked with farmers and wineries and got their addresses and phone numbers. He's really good at talking casually to these people, so when he calls them up to see how their businesses are doing, he asks them if they need his products.

Since he collects email addresses, he also sends his seasonal newsletters to them about his worm castings.

Now he doesn't have to go to farmer's markets to sell anymore.

7. Cash-in on Bookkeeping Services
Another way to use computer programs to make money from home is by providing financial services. Again, there is a multitude of these services you could offer, but I am only reviewing the opportunities I've witnessed in action.

**Tax Services**

My wife has an accounting degree and yearly makes extra money doing taxes. She uses tax software purchased at office stores to help her.

Before you try to help do taxes on your own, you should get some experience first.

One easy way to get that experience is to take courses online or at a school, and you can work for a tax service, where they will train you. Once you get comfortable doing taxes, you can do them for others.

But if you are going to do taxes for people, be sure you get the proper training first. You don't want to face legal problems by making mistakes or being negligent.

**Bookkeeping**

Bookkeeping is a vast opportunity for people who have an accounting background.

Everyone who has a business needs a bookkeeper, and experienced professionals can save business owners a lot of time by organizing their financial information. Bookkeepers can also inform owners how to make budgeting and tax decisions.

Bookkeeping is a service that ties into tax services and is a low-stress way to make extra money from home. I have friends who do this business and charge anywhere from $30 to $50 an hour.

**8. Graphic Design Opportunities - Think Outside the Box**

Thanks to computers and the Internet, there is so much work for graphic designers it's unreal. In the past, graphic designers created everything from brochures to billboard signs.

But you'll need to be professional and think outside the box because it is very competitive.

**Product and Equipment Representation**

I have a friend who does product designs and creates images for defense contractors. He also works on manuals and visual representations of equipment and weapon
systems. Since he's a contractor, he gets to work in his home office and puts in a regular eight-hour day.

Graphic Novels

When I was a kid, I was a chronic comic book collector and had piles of comics under my bed. My favorite comic book artist and writer was Jack Kirby. Jack worked for Marvel Comics in the 1960s and moved to DC comics in the 1970s. He was amazing and worked from a studio in his home.

Now, graphic novels are all the rage. If you're an artist and develop a popular series, you can make money. A lot of movies today are adaptations of graphic novels.

Here's a list of some of the graphic novels that became movies:

- The Watchmen
- The Crow
- Sin City
- The Road to Perdition
- Hellboy
- 300
- V for Vendetta
- The Walking Dead
Remember, this is about how to make extra money from home and not about starting a full-time business. You need to remember that the graphic novel business is competitive. Writing and illustrating a graphic novel can take months to years to produce.

The more you know and understand how the entire production process works, the less money you will have to spend.

To produce a graphic novel, you will need to be a good draftsman and how to use graphics programs. Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator have been the professional standard for years now. Knowing how to use those two programs would be very beneficial in the production of graphic novels.

Computer Animation

In the late 1990s, I had a friend named Bruce who made money creating animation for big companies. He made big money with this home-based business and I remember going into his basement, where his studio was. At that time, I thought it was the most fascinating enterprises I had ever seen.

He created animations of devices that companies were producing. Sometimes he serviced lawyers who wanted him to animate how an accident occurred.

After I moved to Kentucky, I called him on the phone once to see how he was doing. Bad news, he was having trouble getting clients like he used to. He told me he couldn't understand why he was having this problem, but I finally figured it out a few years later.

Animation software had evolved, and anyone could create incredible animation with it. The companies who used to call him could get the work done in-house much cheaper.

All it takes now is a home computer and some software, and you’re in the animation business.

Take a look at what animation entrepreneurs are making now:

**D3 Animation Technologies**

**Explainer Videos**

I have created a lot of whiteboard videos for clients and churches.

It is easy to make simple 2D animation.

All you have to do is subscribe to one of the 2D animation sites, and you can create brilliant videos.
Creating videos that explain complex subjects like cryptocurrency mining is popular. These videos help companies promote their services and prove their knowledge while educating prospects and customers.

It is a way to become a thought leader in a niche or business.

There is a huge demand for making explainer videos. These are videos with animations that help clients explain their products and services.

Here is an example of an explainer video:

**Explainer Video Example**

How much can you make creating an explainer video? Projects can range anywhere from $2,500 to 30,000. It all depends on the size and scope of the project.

Creating animated explainer videos can look like a lot of fun, but it can be hard work.

First, you will need to meet with the client and discuss the project. You will also need to gather the information to base your script. Next, you will need to write the script and then storyboard what will happen in the video. After that, you must create the animation and record the soundtrack.

There will probably be more meetings with your clients, and you will probably need to make adjustments.

**Three Dimensional Videos**

You can make money as a 3D artist and video creator.

Yep, that’s right.

You don’t have to be Walt Disney to do it, either.

One of the most lucrative ways is to create animated cartoons for kids to watch online. After making the cartoons, you can upload them to platforms like YouTube.

Many video platforms will let you make an income from advertisements. You can also contract out your services to clients who need animators.

One tip I want to mention is if your animation and services are outstanding, you will stand out from the crowd.
Like many businesses today, much of this work is outsourced to low-bidding people. But many of those vendors have to churn out tons of work in order to make ends meet. And most of the time they don't know how to service customers.

**Video Animation Sample**

9. Make Money Creating and Selling Information Products

Creating and selling information products is one the easiest and most lucrative businesses to start.

Why?

Because it has very low overhead and startup costs, and the potential to make money from home is significant.

Years ago, I took some information marketing courses from [Bill Myers](https://www.billmyers.com).

Bill is a massive information marketer and he has cranked out a lot of products. I bought one of his DVD courses on creating videos using Camtasia software.

Since I'm a big fan of Corel's Paint Shop Pro software, so I decided to make a DVD series on how to use it, and I titled it [PaintShop Pro Tips and Basics 2 DVD Set](https://www.paintshop.com).
This was the first time I ever produced a video series, and I sold sets of DVDs on Amazon.

It cost me around $3 to have the cases and the DVDs mass-produced, and I charged $26 for each set. Since then, I have sold eBooks, manuals, and other courses on different subjects.

One of the earliest successes I had back in the year 2000 was an eBook called How to Make Money with Your Bagpipes.

I was a band director at a Military Academy at the time, and some of the students there were bagpipers.

(I had no idea that bagpiping was a niche that had so many passionate followers.)

To cut a long story short, I interviewed students who made money with their bagpipes. It turns out that these bagpiping cadets were playing for weddings, anniversaries, funerals, and other events.

After I had all the information I needed from them, I sat down for a weekend and wrote the eBook.
At the time, online forums were all the rage, and I found the ones where bagpipers hung out online. The book was a hit with them, and I made around $3000 with that eBook.

Not bad for a weekend of writing.

I also bought Bob Bly’s information marketing course, which is excellent.

Bob is a copywriter who is also an information marketer. (I swear, that man must never sleep. He has over one hundred published books to his credit, and that’s not counting all the information products he has produced.)

Here’s a short list of some of the products you can create:

- Infographics
- Membership sites
- Webinars
- Cheat sheets
- Online courses
- Reports and analysis
- Templates and teardowns
- Live events
- Live event recordings
- eBooks
- CD and DVD courses
- Videos
- Podcasts
- Books
- Newsletters (Both email and snail mail.)

One of the best things about writing products like this is you can produce them quickly. I wrote my first profitable eBook in a weekend, and I had no idea what I was doing.

So, if you have any reservations about information marketing, dive in and give it a try. You won't be out of anything but time, but you will have gained valuable experience.
10. Pet Sitting

Pet sitting is one of the easiest businesses you can start, and you can even run it out of an apartment. If you have friends who need to go on trips, you can watch their pets for them and make money. Our dog, Waggles, hates kennels, so we have a friend who takes care of her when we go on trips.

If you know the pet and family, it can be fun.

If you live in a house or on a farm, you can convert a barn or garage into an area to keep more than one animal. Most pet sitters who have watched our low-maintenance dog make over $30 per day taking care of her.

That’s good money for letting someone lay on the floor next to you while you watch TV.

Conclusion

As I said at the beginning of this post, I personally know people who are doing these businesses.
I'm not making them up.

Before I conclude this piece, I have one more thing I want to tell you.

The purpose of this post was to inform you how to make extra money from home. It was not about how to start a career.

That's not to say that you couldn't start a career from some of these ideas. For example, you could make a living by designing websites or becoming a webmaster.

If you want to make full-time money from home, you should do a lot of soul-searching and do research first. Because any full-time business you start will need a lot of work and patience.

It takes the average business almost four years to become profitable.

If you want a new career and don't know what to do, here is my suggestion about this subject: Get a trade first.

Please take the time to watch this video by Mike Rowe:

Mike Rowe Interviews Woman Who Makes Six-Figures

Learn how to build cabinets, lay bricks, do electrical work, fix clocks, whatever. I believe there will be a need for people working in the trades over the next 20 years.

Whenever I hear a kid tell me they want to be a full-time musician, I tell them it's a great idea - but get a skill first.

The actor, Harrison Ford, was a carpenter before he became a famous actor. (As a matter of fact, he was building movie sets for a while, if I'm not mistaken.)

With a trade or a skill, you always have a fallback position until your part-time gig becomes a full-time one. And the beauty of learning a trade is it will only take you a year or two of school. Also, the money you'll spend will be a fraction of what it takes to get through 4 years of college.

But at the end of the day, it's your life and your decisions.

I hope this post helps you reel in some serious extra cash.

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

- Mark Twain
If you liked this post, please leave a comment below, it would really make my day.

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