PakistanMadeOnline.com

The $0 Store

Launch an online shop with AI and no monthly fees

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Everything in this book describes a real store, pakistanmadeonline.com, as it was in November 2026. Services, prices and free-tier limits change; check the current terms of each provider before relying on them. This is not legal, tax or financial advice.

Before you start

This book is about one store, built one way, and what it cost: nothing a month.

PakistanMadeOnline.com sells cushions, pillows, car accessories and salon equipment. It takes card and wallet payments, confirms orders by email, tracks stock, handles returns, publishes a blog every morning without anyone typing, and runs on hosting that costs $0 a month. It was built in a few weeks by a shop owner who does not write code, working with an AI assistant that does.

Everything in here happened. Where I give a number, it is the real one. Where something went wrong, it is in Chapter 10, because the mistakes are the expensive part of this story and you may as well get them for the price of the book.

What "$0 a month" means, exactly. The hosting, the database, the image storage, the email, the analytics and the search tools all run on free tiers that are generous enough for a small shop. Two things are not free: a domain name (about $10 a year) and your payment processor's cut of each sale (around 3% plus 30 cents in the United States). There is no monthly bill. Shopify's cheapest plan is $39 a month before apps; over a year, the difference pays for a lot of stock.

What you need. A laptop, a Google account, a product you can describe honestly, about two weeks of evenings, and an AI assistant that can write and run code (I used Claude; the method works with any assistant that can edit files and run commands, and I say where the differences matter). You do not

need to know how to code. You do need to read what the AI tells you and ask when you don't understand, which is most of what this book teaches.

How to read it. Chapters 1 to 4 are decisions. Chapters 5 to 7 are the build. Chapters 8 and 9 are the first month after launch. Chapter 10 is the mistakes. The appendices hold the 40 prompts I actually used, cleaned up, and the checklists.

1. What this book gets you

By the end you will have:

- A store at your own domain, fast on phones, that Google can read properly.
- Product pages with photos, prices, options (sizes, colours), stock that updates, and the structured data that lets Google show your price in search results.
- A cart and checkout that takes cards through a processor with no monthly fee.
- Order emails to you and the customer, an admin page to mark orders paid, shipped and delivered, and a returns flow.
- Policies (delivery, returns, privacy, terms) written in plain words, which matter more than they look, because they are what stop disputes.
- A blog that publishes itself every morning, if you want one (Chapter 8).
- Search Console, a sitemap, a feed, analytics with no cookie banner.

What you will not have: an app store, a theme marketplace, or a support line. You will have the AI, which is better at the first two and patchier at the third. When something breaks at 11 pm, you describe the symptom and it fixes it. That has been my experience for a month; your mileage depends on how clearly you describe things, which is why Chapter 5 is the longest.

Time. Two weeks of two to three hours an evening got the store live. Another two weeks of odd hours added the blog, the promotions, the analytics and the polish. The build is not the

slow part; deciding what to sell and writing honest product pages is.

2. The real story, with the numbers

I had stock: a few hundred units of cushions, memory foam pillows, a car armrest box, and later a professional salon machine. I had tried Daraz, Pakistan's biggest marketplace, and Instagram. I wanted a shop that was mine, where the customer's email and the Google ranking belonged to me rather than to a marketplace.

The first decision was money. Marketplaces take 10 to 20 percent and pay you weeks later. Shopify and its local equivalents take a monthly fee whether you sell or not. In a country where the average online order is under $20, a $39 subscription is two sales a month gone before you start.

The AI suggested a build with no monthly cost: a static site (pages built in advance and served from a global cache, which is why it is free and fast) on Cloudflare, with a small database for orders and stock, and a payment processor that charges per sale. I did not understand half the words at first. I understood "no monthly bill" and "you own everything".

The numbers, one month in:

- Hosting, database, storage, email, analytics: $0.
- Domain: about $10 a year.
- Pages served in the last 24 hours when I checked while writing this: 146 page views from 63 visits, 126 of them from Pakistan, 100 on phones. Small. New stores are small.

- Google: 20 pages indexed after a month; the sitemap and a feed submitted; the first blog posts picked up within a day of the feed going in.
- Build time: roughly 60 hours of my evenings across a month, most of it reading, deciding and testing on my phone, not typing.
- Lines of code I wrote: zero.

I am not going to put a revenue figure here, because one month of a new store is not a figure, it is noise. The point of this chapter is that the thing exists, runs, and costs nothing to keep running, so every sale from here is margin.

Get the full book

This sample has the opening chapters. The full book, with every chapter, the prompts and the checklists, is at **pakistanmadeonline.com/international**: $19 on its own, or both books for $27. Updated editions are sent free to everyone who bought.