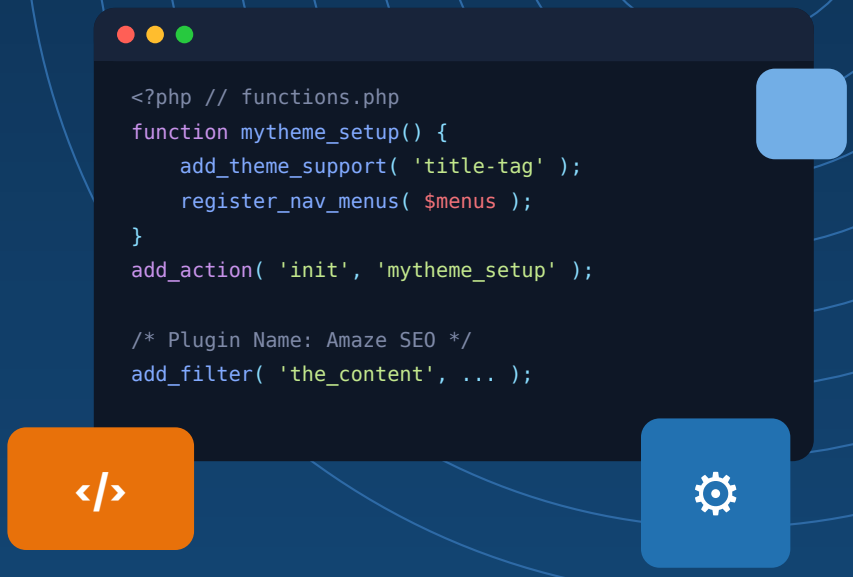
BEGINNER PROFESSIONAL • 2026 EDITION

WordPress Themes & Plugin Development Mastery

A Complete Beginner-to-Professional Guide to Building Premium WordPress Themes & Plugins with Real Projects



105 Chapters | 15 Real Projects | Classic + Block Themes | WordPress 7.x

WRITTEN BY
Suman Biswas

START READING

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Written for WordPress 7.x, PHP 8.3+ and MySQL 8.4 / MariaDB 10.11+.

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About the Author

Suman Biswas is a UI/UX designer, front-end developer and the founder and CEO of Amazebazaar.com, a digital-product store based in Kolkata, India. He designs and builds websites, themes and digital products, and spends much of his time turning hard technical topics into clear, practical learning material.

His work sits right where this book sits: between design and code. He cares about interfaces that feel effortless for users and code that stays maintainable for the developers who inherit it. That combination — a designer's eye with a developer's discipline — is the lens through which every chapter of this book was written.

Suman has written a long list of practical guides for Amazebazaar.com, covering HTML and CSS, JavaScript, PHP, Bootstrap, UI/UX design and full-stack web development. This book brings those threads together into the platform that powers a large share of the web.

You can find more of his books, themes and tools at amazebazaar.com and his code on GitHub.

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How to Use This Book

A map of the journey, and a key to the boxes you will meet on the way.

This book takes you from "I have never opened a theme file" to shipping premium WordPress themes and plugins that people pay for. It is long on purpose. Every concept is explained, justified, shown in a real situation, written as code, and then stress-tested with the mistakes people actually make.

Who this book is for

- **Complete beginners** who know a little HTML and CSS and want to build for WordPress.
- **Front-end developers** who can design a beautiful page but have never turned one into a theme.
- **PHP developers** who want to learn the WordPress way of doing things — hooks, APIs and standards.
- **Freelancers and product builders** who want to sell themes and plugins on marketplaces or their own website.

What you need

You need a computer (Windows, macOS or Linux), a free code editor, and the free tools we install together in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4. Basic HTML and CSS help. You do not need to know PHP yet: the PHP you need is introduced as we go, one idea at a time.

How the book is organised

The book is split into ten parts. Part I builds your foundation: what WordPress is, how to install it, how to set up a professional local workshop and how WordPress is organised on disk and in the database. Parts II–IV are theme development, from your first `style.css` to commercial-grade features. Parts V–VII are plugin development, from your first hook to licensing and selling. Part VIII covers the professional workflow — Composer, Git, testing, caching and performance. Parts IX and X bring everything together with capstone projects and the business of a WordPress career.

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INFOGRAPHIC The Learning Journey



Figure 0.1: *The Learning Journey*

How each chapter works

Every chapter follows the same rhythm, so you always know where you are:

1. **Introduction and theory** — what the topic is and how it works under the hood.
2. **Illustrations, diagrams and infographics** — the idea as a picture.
3. **Code examples and output previews** — what to type and what you should see.
4. **Screenshot placeholders** — exactly which screen to look at, with an explanation.
5. **Exercises, quizzes and assignments** — practice that turns reading into skill.
6. **Summary, interview questions and further reading** — consolidation and next steps.

The boxes you will meet

> ◆ **WHY IT MATTERS**
>
> Explains the real reason a concept exists — the problem it solves for you or your users.

> ⚙ **REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE**
>
> Shows the concept inside a realistic project, client request or product.

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✓ BEST PRACTICE

The approach professionals use, aligned with WordPress coding standards.

✗ COMMON MISTAKE

Errors beginners (and plenty of experienced developers) make, and how to avoid them.

★ PRO TIP

Shortcuts and insider knowledge that save hours.

⚠ WARNING

Something that can break a site, lose data or create a security hole.

i NOTE

Extra context worth knowing, but safe to skip on a first read.

Code conventions

Code is shown in dark editor-style blocks with line numbers and a label for the language and file name. Inline code such as `functions.php` or `wp_head()` appears in a monospace font. When a line starts with `$`, it is a command you type in the terminal (do not type the `$` itself).

PHP functions.php

```php
<?php
// A comment explains the line below it.
add_theme_support( 'title-tag' );
```


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Navigating this PDF

Everything is clickable. The **Contents** page links to every chapter and section. The **Back to Contents** link in every footer returns you to the table of contents from anywhere. The bookmarks panel in your PDF reader shows the whole book as a collapsible outline. The **Index** at the end links every term to the pages where it is explained.

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