

blogging resource list

BEST PLACES TO BUY A DOMAIN

[Godaddy](#)

[Bluehost](#)

[Hostgator](#)

BEST PLACES TO BUY HOSTING

[Bluehost](#) - reliable option, money-back guarantee

[Siteground](#) - good option for serious bloggers, a little pricier

[Servously](#) - good for bloggers with high traffic spikes

BEST PLACE TO BUY FRAMEWORK

[Studiopress](#)

[Genesis Framework](#) - top theme sold on Studiopress

[Atahualpa](#) - best free framework

BEST SITES FOR CHILD THEMES & GRAPHICS

[Restored 316 Designs](#)

[BlueChic](#)

[Angie Makes](#)

[Creative Market](#)

FAVORITE SITES FOR CREATING GRAPHICS

[PicMonkey](#)

[Unsplash](#)

[Dafont](#)

[1001 Free Fonts](#)

[Photobucket](#)

SETTING UP A SELF-HOSTED WORDPRESS BLOG

1. Pick a domain name, check availability [here](#)
2. If not purchasing domain with hosting package, I recommend purchasing from [GoDaddy](#) or [Hostgator](#).
3. Purchase web hosting ([Bluehost](#), [Siteground](#), [Servously](#), etc). Those are the 3 I'm comfortable recommending.
4. Install the Wordpress icon in your cPanel (web host may do this for you or will send you instructions on how to do so. If not, just call your web host and they will walk you through the steps).
5. Login to your Wordpress blog. The address will be `http://yourblogname.com/wp-admin/`
6. Purchase a framework and install. I highly recommend installing a framework! This will be a framework from a site like [Studiopress](#). [Genesis](#) is the highest rated framework.
7. Depending on your personal preference, purchase a child theme and install. Make sure your child theme is compatible with your framework before you purchase.
8. Play around with your Wordpress dashboard; arrange the widgets around to your liking, edit your profile, basically set up shop.
9. Download some plugins - these are what make self-hosted Wordpress so amazing!
10. Once you have your blog set up the way you like, it's time to write your first post! And if you haven't done so yet, set up social accounts for your blog - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and Bloglovin. Also make an account with StumbleUpon so you can share your articles there.

You can check out all of my blogging advice articles [here](#).

MY FAVORITE PLUGINS

1. **Akismet** - spam comment control
2. **Comment Email Reply** - sends your reply comment to commenters by email
3. **CommentLuv** - Allows commenters to leave a link to a recent post of theirs and thus encourages comments on your blog
4. **Fanciest Author Box** - awesome author box that will go below your posts and link your readers to all of your social media sites
5. **Genesis Simple Hooks** - Anytime you'll need to add any coding, this plugin makes it super simple and prevents you from crashing your blog
6. **Google Analytics by Yoast** - allows Google Analytics to pull data from your blog traffic
7. **Jetpack by wordpress.com** - I love Jetpack for so many reasons, research and you'll see why.
8. **MailChimp for Wordpress** - I use MailChimp to distribute my newsletter and this plugin allows readers to subscribe straight to my MailChimp list.
9. **Optin Forms** - This is the form I have at the bottom of my posts that invites readers to subscribe to my blog and gain access to my free resource library. This is a free optin form and I really like it.
10. **Related Posts by Zemanta** - This will show related posts at the end of your articles. I love the options that you get with Zemanta.
11. **Shareaholic** - Allows readers to easily share or pin your articles
12. **Simple Banner** - This is what I have at the top of my blog that invites readers to sign up for my mailing list. GREAT alternative to a pop-up.
13. **Simple Social Icons** - for your social media icons
14. **Simply Instagram** - for sharing your Instagram feed
15. **Wordfence Security** - the most downloaded plugin for site security
16. **Wp-Insert** - this is what I use for my ads
17. **Yoast SEO** - this plugin will help you improve your SEO with every post, a must-have