

Builder's Cheat Sheet

file	cheat-sheet
ver	v1.0
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stack	claude-code

five substrate patterns · take it home, build yours, bring it back.

THE FIVE PATTERNS · STEAL THESE

01 Skills · auto-invoking capability
every skill is a SKILL.md the harness scans against your prompt.

```
~/.claude/skills/<name>/SKILL.md
```

front-matter description: is the trigger. write it like a search query, not a manual. when the prompt matches, the skill loads. count: **124 today**.

03 Memory · append-only frontmatter
karpathy-style. not embeddings. an LLM reads the index, pulls the matches.

```
~/.claude/projects/<id>/memory/MEMORY.md
```

one-line index entry per topic file. topic files are full-context. agent reads index first, fetches matches. never delete – append, supersede, link.

05 Counts · the inventory ritual
you can't diagram what you can't count. these go on the canvas.

```
ls ~/.claude/agents/*.md | wc -l
```

```
find ~/.claude/skills -name SKILL.md | wc -l
```

```
ls ~/.claude/hooks/*.{sh,py} | wc -l
```

```
ls ~/.claude/projects/*/memory/*.md | wc -l
```

02 Hooks · the safety net
fires on lifecycle events. the part that catches misses before they ship.

```
~/.claude/hooks/<event>.sh
```

events: UserPromptSubmit, PreCommit, PostEdit, Stop. one-liners, not frameworks. wake-check reads a JSON manifest, surfaces dormant agents on keyword match.

04 Paired docs · diagram + fact base
every diagram has a sibling .md. picture argues; doc anchors.

```
sources/<dir>/<basename>.{excalidraw,md}
```

when a number changes, edit the .md first (canonical). then surgically update the json. mark uncertain claims <verify>. mermaid block = offline-renderable.

06 Drift cron · weekly self-audit
sundays 9am. surfaces every number that drifted between diagram, paired-doc, and disk.

```
bash ~/.claude/scripts/diagram-drift-detect.sh
```

diff Source Data blocks vs. wc -l of the dirs they describe. small code; outsized signal.

THE LOOP · WHAT ONE PROMPT DOES

prompt → hooks fire → skills load → memory grounds → agents dispatch → produce → audit + compound.

one prompt activates the whole substrate. memory grounds it before agents dispatch – that's why the system speaks in facts, not vibes.

GROUND RULES · BEFORE YOU DRAFT

1 no filler · **2** counts must be real · **3** ≤ 9 component cards · **4** workflow = real session · **5** thesis is a claim · **6** ship the draft.

TAKE IT FURTHER · PICK ONE



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