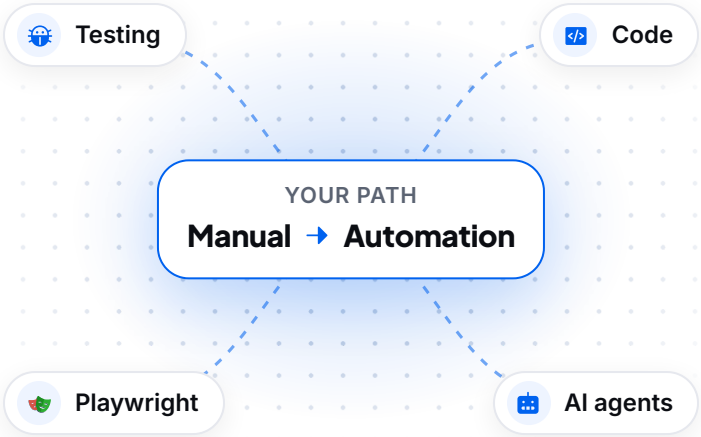
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2026 EDITION · FREE GUIDE

Manual QA → Automation Roadmap

A step-by-step path for freshers and manual testers, from zero coding to AI-powered test automation.

For freshers | For manual testers

THE JOB MARKET

Why automation, why now

Testing skills still matter. But the jobs that grow now ask for testers who can also write automation.

80%

About 80% of QA job posts now emphasise automation skills. Only 15 to 20% focus on manual testing.

TestDino, QA job market 2026

India

Playwright is growing fast in job posts, and India is its fastest-growing market.

TestDino, Playwright market share

AI + Playwright

Postings that pair Playwright with AI tools and AI-powered test generation are showing up more often in 2026.

TestDino, Playwright job market 2026

Good news: your manual testing knowledge is not wasted. Automation is built on top of it.

Sources: TestDino, QA job market 2026 (testdino.com/blog/is-selenium-dead); TestDino, Playwright market share (testdino.com/blog/playwright-market-share); TestDino, Playwright job market 2026 (testdino.com/blog/playwright-job-market).

BEFORE YOU START

Find your starting point

The roadmap has 7 steps. You don't have to start at Step 1. Pick the line that sounds like you.

I'm a fresher.

Little or no work experience, maybe some manual testing from a course or internship.

→ Start at Step 1

I'm a manual tester.

You test software at work, but you don't write code yet.

→ Skip Step 1, start at Step 2

I already do some automation.

You've written some Selenium or scripts, but not a full framework or anything with AI.

→ Start at Step 4, focus on Steps 6 and 7

Each step ends with a **"Done when"** check. Don't move on until you can honestly tick it.

The 7-step roadmap

Time estimates assume 8 to 10 hours of self-study a week.

1 Testing foundations

about 2 weeks

- SDLC, STLC and how Agile teams test
- Test design with boundary values and equivalence classes
- Writing clear test cases and bug reports in Jira

Done when you can write 20 good test cases for a login page and one bug report a developer can act on.

2 Programming basics in TypeScript

about 4 weeks

- Variables, conditions, loops
- Functions, arrays and objects
- Async code with promises and async/await

Done when you can write a small program on your own, without copying from a video.

3 Web basics, Git and tools

about 2 weeks

- HTML, the DOM and browser DevTools
- Locators by role, text and test ID
- VS Code, Git and GitHub

Done when your code is on GitHub and you can find any element on a page in DevTools.

4 Playwright core

about 4 weeks

- First test, locators, assertions, auto-wait
- Page Object Model and data-driven tests
- Debugging with the Trace Viewer

Done when you have 15 to 20 stable tests for a real app, organised with Page Objects.

The 7-step roadmap, continued

5 API testing and CI/CD

about 2 weeks

- API requests and checks with Playwright
- Status codes and JSON responses
- Running tests in GitHub Actions, with reports

Done when your tests run automatically every time you push code.

6 AI-powered testing

about 2 weeks

- Using AI to plan test cases and write tests
- Playwright MCP and AI agents
- Reviewing and fixing AI-written code

Done when you can spot when an AI-written test is wrong, and fix it yourself.

7 Portfolio and interview prep

about 2 weeks

- One framework project on GitHub, with a README
- Explaining your design choices
- Writing a test live, in 15 minutes

Done when you can open your laptop in an interview and demo a framework you built.

On your own, all 7 steps take roughly **4 to 5 months**. With a structured, live programme it is usually faster.

AVOID THESE

5 mistakes that slow people down

1. **Collecting certificates**
   A certificate doesn't write code. Recruiters ask you to show it, not prove you attended.

2. **Learning three tools at once**
   Selenium, Cypress and Playwright together means none of them properly. Pick one and go deep.

3. **Skipping programming basics**
   Jumping straight to a tool leads to copy-paste tests that break, and you won't know why.

4. **Watching, not typing**
   Tutorials feel like progress. Real learning starts when you write code and it fails.

5. **Trusting AI blindly**
   AI writes tests fast, and gets them wrong in quiet ways. You need to read and judge its code.

START THIS WEEK

Your first 30 days

You can start today, for free. About 1 hour a day is enough.

Week 1 — Install VS Code and Node.js. Write your first TypeScript program: variables and printing output.

Week 2 — Conditions and loops. Solve 10 small exercises, like checking whether a password is valid.

Week 3 — Functions, arrays and objects. Write a function that checks a list of test results and counts the failures.

Week 4 — Install Playwright. Run your first test on a practice website and push it to GitHub.

Free official resources

- playwright.dev
- typescriptlang.org/docs
- git-scm.com/docs

WANT A FASTER PATH?

Learn it live with MoventAI

At MoventAI, we believe testers should build, not just check. So we teach automation the way it's done at work.

- Live, trainer-led batches with Uday Shankar, 12+ years in software testing and automation
- TypeScript, Playwright and AI-powered testing in one path
- Real projects on GitHub
- Mock interviews with working engineers, and a resume and LinkedIn rebuild
- Every class recorded for revision

Freshers
QA Career Track
4 months, 160+ hours live

Working testers
NextGen SDET (Playwright)
2 months, 100+ hours

Guaranteed placement assistance through our network of 100+ hiring partners.

Book a free career call

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