

MCP QUICK START

Connect Your First Colored Tube

WHAT'S AN MCP?

Model Context Protocol. A way for Claude to talk directly to other tools — so YOU don't have to copy and paste.

Brass tubes = data flowing INSIDE your project (the mine)

Colored tubes = connections to the OUTSIDE world (real apps)

WITHOUT MCPs: You are the tube. Copy. Paste. Repeat. Cry.

WITH MCPs: The tube does it. You drink tea.

YOUR FIRST COLORED TUBE: AIRTABLE

Your data needs a home. Airtable gives it one.

STEP 1: Open Claude Desktop

STEP 2: Go to Settings (gear icon, bottom left)

STEP 3: Click "Connectors" on the left sidebar

STEP 4: Find "Airtable" and click Connect

STEP 5: Follow the authorization steps

STEP 6: Done! Claude can now read and write to your Airtable

TEST IT: Open a new chat and say: "Can you see my Airtable bases? List them for me."

THE COLORED TUBE LINEUP

- **AIRTABLE** (blue/teal) — Your database. Start here.
- **SLACK** (purple) — Get notifications
- **GOOGLE DRIVE** (green) — Read/write files
- **GMAIL** (red) — Read/send emails
- **CLOUDFLARE** (orange) — Manage your hosting
- **CALENDAR** (blue) — Schedule things

Each one = one superpower.

THE ONE-AT-A-TIME RULE

DO NOT connect everything at once. Each connection uses resources. Start with what you NEED. Add more when you need more.

"Do not lick the colored tubes. (Especially the red one — it's spicy.)"