

Content Creator Tax Deduction Checklist

Turn everyday creator costs into legitimate business deductions · Current as of July 2026

If you earn from YouTube, Twitch, sponsorships, affiliate links, or digital products, that income is self-employment income and is reported to you (and the IRS) on Form 1099-NEC or 1099-K. You owe self-employment tax plus income tax on the net, and you can deduct the ordinary and necessary costs of running the channel.

Common creator deductions

- Equipment: camera, microphone, lighting, computer, capture cards (expensed or depreciated)
- Software and subscriptions: editing suites, stock assets, scheduling and analytics tools
- Home studio: simplified home office at \$5 per square foot, up to 300 sq ft
- Internet and phone (business-use percentage), props and set materials
- Contractors you pay (editors, thumbnail artists): issue Form 1099-NEC at \$2,000+
- Platform and payment processing fees, travel for shoots and events

What you owe

- Self-employment tax of 15.3% on net earnings (the Social Security portion caps at \$184,500)
- Quarterly estimated tax when you expect to owe \$1,000+ after withholding
- 1099-K is issued at \$20,000 and 200 transactions; report all income even below that

Keep: a separate business bank account, every receipt, and a simple income log by platform. Clean records are most of the work of a low, defensible tax bill.

Estimate your quarterly tax: arcandledger.com/calculators/quarterly-tax/