

TESTED, NOT ASSUMED

The Free-Plan Reality Check

What 4 AI video repurposing tools actually let you do for \$0 —
from real signups, real uploads, and real paywall hits.

OpusClip · Vizard AI · Submagic · Quso.ai

Hands-on tests: April–May 2026 · creatorintelhq.com

HOW THIS GUIDE WORKS

Every claim here comes from a logged test session

Most “best free AI tools” lists are written from pricing pages. This guide is written from evidence: we created accounts, uploaded real video files, generated real outputs, clicked the export button, and recorded exactly where each tool stopped us and asked for money.

For each tool we track the same five things:

Entry	Can you sign up and reach the working product without a credit card?
Allowance	What free credits, videos, or minutes do you actually get — as shown inside the product, not just the pricing page?
Output	Can you generate a real result (clips, captions, reframes) and open it?
The paywall moment	The exact click where an upgrade screen appears.
What you keep	Can you download the result, and does it carry a watermark?

An honesty note before you read

Free plans change often — every figure here is what we observed on the test date shown, on accounts registered from India. Where a test did **not** confirm something (for example, one tool never let us verify a finished download), we say so instead of guessing. When a tool's own pricing page and its in-product behavior disagreed, we report the in-product behavior.

Four tools, same test, very different walls

	OpusClip	Vizard AI	Submagic	Quso.ai
Tested	Apr 22–23, 2026	Apr 24, 2026	May 4, 2026	May 12, 2026
Free allowance	10 trial credits, 7 days	60 credits/month (1 credit ≈ 1 min)	3 free videos + 1 Magic Clip	75 credits/month on paper
Card required?	No	No	No	No
Generated a real result?	Yes — captions + reframe	Yes — AI clip w/ captions	Yes — captioned video	No — blocked before generation
Download confirmed?	Export gated; watermark on free/trial	Yes — with watermark	Not confirmed in our test	Never reached
Paywall moment	“Download HD” click	First download click (closable)	Export click → upgrade, then referral popup	“Generate clips” click
Max free export	Watermarked	720p, 10 min, watermarked	Watermark applied	720p claimed — untested
MKV files	Accepted	Rejected	n/a — MP4/MOV/MP3 only	Rejected

The pattern: every tool lets you in without a card, but they differ wildly on **where** the wall appears. Vizard and OpusClip let you finish the creative work and gate the clean export. Submagic gates at export with stacked popups. Quso.ai — in our test — gated before the core feature ran at all, despite advertising a 75-credit free plan.

OpusClip

AI video repurposing — turns long videos into short clips, captions, and reframes. Note: OpusClip gives a **7-day trial** with credits rather than a permanent free tier, so treat this as a test window, not a forever plan.

What we could actually do for \$0

- Signed up with no credit card; a dashboard popup confirmed **10 free credits for 7 days**.
- Ran the full **AI Captions** workflow twice — once on an AI-voice short, once on a natural-speech screen recording — through template selection, generation, and the full editor.
- Ran **AI Reframe** on a horizontal talking-head clip with 9:16 Fill settings and got a vertical result with transcript analysis.
- Credit accounting is transparent: the visible balance dropped 10 → 9 → 8 → 7, one credit per generation.
- It accepted a local **MKV** upload — the only tool in this guide that did.
- Transcript quality on natural speech was mostly usable but had noticeable wording mistakes.

Where the wall is

Clicking **Download HD** opens an upgrade popup stating free and trial users get an OpusClip watermark on exported clips. The creative workflow is genuinely open; the clean file is what you pay for.

Bottom line: Best free window for evaluating output quality — you can run 10 real generations and judge the results before the 7 days end. Just don't plan a workflow around it long-term.

Vizard AI

AI clipping tool that turns long-form video into short platform-ready clips. The most complete **permanent** free plan we tested — with one visible catch on every export.

What we could actually do for \$0

- Gmail signup, three-step onboarding, straight to a free workspace showing **60 credits/month** (1 credit ≈ 1 minute of video).
- Uploaded an MP4, generated an AI clip with auto-captions, previewed it, opened the full editor, and **downloaded the finished file** — the full loop, confirmed.
- Credits behaved as advertised: 60 → 59 after our upload and processing.
- A 27-second test video processed in under a minute.
- Free-plan ceilings from the pricing table: 720p export, 10-minute export length, 60-minute / 1GB uploads, 3-day storage, one connected social account.
- MKV was rejected with a clear message listing MP4, MOV, 3GP, AVI, MP3, WAV, and M4A as supported.

Where the wall is

The first download click triggers an upgrade modal — but you can close it and download anyway. The file carries a visible Vizard watermark; removal, 4K, and longer exports are paid. One quality note from our test: the 9:16 auto-reframe didn't keep the subject centered, and some caption words were imperfect.

Bottom line: The strongest true free plan of the four — you finish the entire workflow and keep a real (watermarked) file, every month, for free.

Submagic

AI captioning and short-form editing tool. Advertises “Try out with 3 free videos. No credit card required” — and the first half of that promise held up in our test.

What we could actually do for \$0

- Signup showed no credit-card step and repeated the free-trial promise on the signup page itself.
- The dashboard shows honest counters: **Video projects 0 of 3, Magic clips 1 of 1, API minutes 0 of 10.**
- Upload limits are stated in-product: MP4, MOV, or MP3; max 10 minutes; max 2GB.
- Our test video reached caption setup without payment friction, generated captions with a visible time estimate, and opened in the editor.
- The generated project saved to the dashboard afterward.

Where the wall is

The export panel showed “Watermark applied” — but clicking **Export** opened an upgrade popup for watermark-free exports, and closing that surfaced a **referral popup** (15 free videos for sharing a review). Repeating export led back into the same upgrade-and-referral loop.

What we can't tell you yet: We were never able to confirm a finished downloadable file on the free trial — the export loop kept interrupting. If a watermarked download is possible, it wasn't demonstrable in this session.

Bottom line: Easy to start and honest about its counters, but the export friction is the heaviest of the four — budget patience for the popup gauntlet.

Quso.ai

All-in-one creator platform: AI clips, subtitles, scheduling, analytics. Its pricing page advertises a \$0 plan with 75 credits/month — our hands-on test tells a different story.

What we could actually do for \$0

- Google login worked; onboarding included role/goal questions and a live-training promo, then an upgrade modal appeared over the dashboard before we'd done anything.
- The free dashboard is reachable, with YouTube-link and upload entry points visible.
- Pasting a YouTube link worked up to the pre-generation screen, showing an estimated ~8 credit cost.
- Uploading a local MP4 also worked up to pre-generation, estimated at ~1 credit.
- MKV was rejected — only mp4, webm, and quicktime are accepted for upload.
- Sidebar features (Posts, Planner) opened **locked** screens with upgrade modals; Analytics showed sample data behind a banner; credit top-ups are paid-plan-only.

Where the wall is

Clicking **Generate clips** — on both the YouTube path and the MP4 path — triggered the paid upgrade modal **before any clip was generated**. Despite the advertised 75 free credits, the core feature never ran on our free account in this session.

What we can't tell you yet: This is one session, on one account — it's possible the block was an account or region quirk. But it directly contradicts the public pricing page, which is exactly why we test.

Bottom line: The only tool of the four where we could not generate a single output for \$0. Until the advertised free credits demonstrably work, evaluate it inside its trial expectations, not the pricing page's.

THE BOTTOM LINE

How to choose in 30 seconds

You want a permanent free workflow

Vizard AI — 60 credits/month, full loop confirmed, accept the watermark and 720p.

You want to judge output quality before paying

OpusClip — 10 trial credits are enough for a real evaluation across captions and reframing.

You mainly need captions and can tolerate popups

Submagic — 3 free videos get you to a captioned result fast; the export loop is the tax.

You saw Quso.ai's "75 free credits"

Verify it yourself before planning around it — in our test the generate button was paywalled.

Three rules we'd give any small creator

- 1. The pricing page is a claim, not a fact.** Quso.ai advertises 75 free credits; our free account couldn't generate one clip. Always test the exact workflow you need before committing content plans to a tool.
- 2. The paywall location matters more than the price.** A tool that gates the download (Vizard, OpusClip) still lets you evaluate quality for free. A tool that gates generation (Quso.ai in our test) tells you nothing until you pay.
- 3. Convert your files to MP4 first.** Three of four tools rejected or don't list MKV. One format conversion up front avoids most upload failures.

Go deeper

Full reviews with screenshots of every paywall moment, plus head-to-head comparisons, live at creatorintelhq.com. Questions about a specific tool? Join the community: discord.gg/UR72ZvsmXN

All findings reflect hands-on test sessions dated April–May 2026. Free plans, credits, and prices change; check current terms before deciding. CreatorIntelHQ uses affiliate links on some tools — it never changes what we report. © 2026 CreatorIntelHQ.