

Substack has one big limitation: you can charge for subscriptions, but you *can't* offer a simple donation button. Readers who want to contribute to your work without committing to a monthly or yearly plan are stuck.

I kept seeing creators ask about it, and the answer was always, "Sorry, you can't."

So I decided to fix it.

With a quick Stripe setup and a custom button inside Substack, you can add a clean, native-looking **donation button** right into your posts or pages. No Buy Me a Coffee, third-party widgets or clunky workarounds. Just a direct way for your readers to support you on their terms.

Here's how it works—and how you can set it up in minutes.

Use a button and a CTA, like this:

Want to support without a subscription? Make a one time donation below.

Yes, I loved this post!

Go ahead and click it. You'll see how it just pops up right here without sending you somewhere else. It works in app, on desktop and mobile. It allows your reader to donate whatever they feel led to, no pressure and NO SUBSCRIPTION COMMITMENT.

Step 1 – Go to your Stripe Dashboard.

If you have subscriptions enabled here on Substack you already have a Stripe account. If you don't have a Stripe account, you'll need to create one.

Step 2 – Create a Payment Link

Click on "Payment Links" in the sidebar under Shortcuts (desktop is best for this, it's difficult to find your way around on mobile). Click the big "New" button in the upper right corner.

Select Type = Customers Choose What to Pay

Fill in your other info, upload and image if you want to. It should look like this:

× | Create a payment link Create link ✓

Select type

Customers choose what to pay

[Payment page](#) [After payment](#)

Title

Show Solo Stack Some ❤️

Description Optional

Thank you for supporting my work!

Image Optional

Currency

USD - US Dollar

☐ Suggest a preset amount

☐ Set limits

Advanced options ▾

Preview

Solo Stack Studio

Show Solo Stack Some ❤️

\$0.00

Thank you for supporting my work!

Payment method

☐ Card

☐ Klarna

☐ Affirm

☐ Cash App Pay

☐ Amazon Pay

Pay

Powered by Stripe | Terms | Privacy

Then, hit that Create Link button in the top right.

Step 3 – Copy the Payment Link

Go back to the Payment Links page and hover over the link you just created and use the “copy URL” key to grab the link.

Step 4 – Create your Substack Button

Inside your post or page, choose the Button pull down on the toolbar and select "Custom."

Name your button and paste the link in the URL.

Voila, when you publish the post or page your donate button is LIVE.