EDITING WITH CLAUDE

the free workflow

How I let Claude edit my talking-head video with free, open source tools, with everything you need to install, the four prompts I used and the people who made the tools.



I let Claude edit my video

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BEFORE YOU START

What you need

You don't need to know how to edit video. You need a paid Claude plan so you can use Claude Code, a laptop, and a video of yourself talking to the camera. Everything else in this guide is free.

What to install

Download each tool straight from the people who made it. If you start with Prompt 1, Claude checks what's already on your laptop and asks you before it installs anything.

TOOL	WHAT IT DOES	WHERE TO GET IT
Claude Code	Runs the whole edit from a folder on your laptop	claude.com/claude-code
FFmpeg	Cuts, framing, sound levels and exports	ffmpeg.org/download.html
HyperFrames by HeyGen	Captions, graphics, transitions and the final render. Sound effects come with it	github.com/heygen-com/hyperframes
sherpa-onnx with NVIDIA Parakeet	Writes down every word and when you say it, on your own laptop	github.com/k2-fsa/sherpa-onnx
faster-whisper (optional)	Another speech-to-text option if you prefer Whisper	github.com/SYSTRAN/faster-whisper

Skills and setups from other creators

I learned this from other creators who shared their work for free. It's theirs, so get it from them directly.

CREATOR	WHAT THEY SHARE	LINK
Vibha Ramprakash	claude-video-effects, 51 starter effects for talking-head videos, plus her setup guide	github.com/Vibha-Ramprakash/claude-video-effects
Bradley Bonanno (bradautomates)	claude-video, a Watch skill that lets Claude study reference videos	github.com/bradautomates/claude-video
kurbaitaev	Ghost Editor, a full talking-head editor for Apple Silicon Macs	github.com/kurbaitaev/ghost-editor
Austin Myers, Multitaskers	AI Video Editor 2.0 and a DIY guide. I followed his order of rough cut, storyboard, opening and full edit	instagram.com/itsaustinmyers
arti.miller	A three-prompt setup for editing reels in Claude Code	instagram.com/arti.miller
Brand Nat	Brand Nat Style Pack, named style codes for planning a look	Brand Nat Style Pack

STEP BY STEP

Set up once

You only do this part the first time. After that, every video starts with your tools and your style already saved.

1

Make a folder

Make a folder called AI Video Editor with three folders inside it, named raw, references and done. In the Claude desktop app, open the Code tab, set it to Local, and choose this folder.

2

Install and test the tools

Paste Prompt 1. Claude checks what you already have, asks before installing anything, and tests each tool on a short clip. At the end it shows you a table of what works.

> **PROMPT 1 · SET UP THE TOOLS**
>
> Set up this folder as my video editor for vertical talking-head videos. Check what's already installed, then install anything missing from official sources: FFmpeg, a speech-to-text model that gives word timings, and HyperFrames. Ask me before installing anything. Test each tool for real by burning a subtitle into a test clip, transcribing a few seconds of speech and rendering a short title, then show me a table of what works.

3

Give it your taste

Paste Prompt 2 with your fonts, your colour codes and 3 to 5 reels you like. Screen recordings of the reels are fine. Claude writes your style down and shows it to you before it saves anything.

> **PROMPT 2 · GIVE IT YOUR TASTE**
>
> Here are my fonts, my colour codes and [3 to 5] reels I like. Study the reels frame by frame: pacing, cuts, caption style, how graphics come in and leave, sound, and the first three seconds. Take inspiration but don't copy any shots, text, logos or brand elements. Write my own style down with exact values and show it to me before saving it.

STEP BY STEP

Every video

This is the part you repeat. Bring a new recording and your notes, and Claude does the editing.

1

Film and drop it in

Film your video and put the file in the raw folder. Filming paragraph by paragraph and stitching the clips together is fine, because Claude hides the joins. Export at 1080p if you can. Mine was 720p and my face came out a little soft.

2

Let Claude edit

Paste Prompt 3. You'll see a rough cut first and then a storyboard of stills. Nothing gets rendered until you've said yes to both.

> **PROMPT 3 · EDIT THE VIDEO**
>
> My raw video is in the raw folder. Transcribe it word by word and ask me about any words you're unsure of. Make a rough cut first: keep the best take of each line, cut breaths and pauses that drag, never speed up my voice, and switch the framing slightly at each cut. Show me the rough cut. After I approve it, plan the graphics beat by beat in my style and show me a storyboard before rendering anything.

3

Send all your notes at once

Write every change in one message, like a brief to an editor. Each round becomes a new draft, so you never lose the version before. I only needed one round.

> **PROMPT 4 · SEND YOUR NOTES**
>
> Here are all my notes at once: [your notes]. Apply them, update the storyboard, and render the next draft as a new file. Check the file yourself, including the sound, before showing me.

GOOD TO KNOW

What to check in every edit

- Your face is never covered. Titles sit above your head and captions sit below your chin.
- Text stays inside the safe area of the app you're posting to, away from the top bar and the buttons at the bottom.
- There's even space at the top and bottom of the frame, so nothing feels squeezed.
- Every animation has a small sound effect, and the sounds stay quieter than your voice.
- Reference reels are only for ideas, so nothing gets copied from their shots, text, logos or brand elements.
- Unclear words get checked before the captions go on. The speech model heard my website as "buycomiliacol.com".

If something gets blocked

Some setups can't download from every website. Ask Claude to find an official copy of the same tool on GitHub or npm, and to tell you what it changed. That's how my edit got past two blocked downloads.

Adding music

I added my background music myself in CapCut, because I still had credits there and it was quicker for me. You can do it in Claude too. Give it a track you have the rights to and ask it to mix the music quietly under your voice.

See the whole story

The case study has the video, the numbers, what went wrong and the full list of sources.

bycamillenicole.com/portfolio/claude-video-workflow