

FREE GUIDE BY RALPH B.

Your Free AI Video Editor: Setup in 2 Prompts

Copy, paste, and let AI do the setup and the editing for you.

Hi, I'm Ralph.

A dad of 2 and a husband of 1 who's just curious about AI. I was a QA engineer at an NYSE-listed crypto company, where I tested more than 100 app releases and automated more than 400 hours of QA work using AI.

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This guide uses the **Herk Edit Kit**, a free, open-source video editing kit made by Nate Herk: github.com/nateherkai/herk-edit-kit. All credit for the kit goes to Nate. I'm just sharing the simplest way I found to set it up and use it.

What you need

A computer (Mac or Windows)	Phones won't work. Keep about 10 GB free .
The Claude desktop app (Code tab) or the Codex app	Needs a paid plan (Claude or ChatGPT). This is the only part that isn't free.
The Herk Edit Kit	Free
Transcription (Whisper)	Free , built in, runs on your computer
Descript (studio-quality audio)	Free plan to start. Check its limits.
HeyGen (background music)	Free account
Sound effects (HeyGen skill)	Free , works without logging in

How much it uses: on the \$20 Claude Pro plan, one short-form edit took about 40–50% of my 5-hour usage limit. Longer videos use more.

1 Set it up (one time only)

Open the **Claude desktop app**, go to the **Code** tab, and start a new session. Set the environment to **Local** (your computer), **not Cloud**, and pick your **Documents** folder. The kit and your videos live on your computer, so the AI has to work there too.

Using the **Codex** app? Start a local session the same way.

Copy this whole prompt, paste it in, and send it. It installs everything for you. You'll need to step in a few times: clicking **Allow** when it asks to run something, **your computer password** or an admin pop-up during installs, and **logging in to Descript and HeyGen**.

Prompt 1: Setup

```
Set up the Herk Edit Kit for me: https://github.com/nateherkai/herk-edit-kit
```

1. Check what's already on my computer, then install what's missing: Node.js 22 or newer, Git, FFmpeg (with ffprobe), and Chrome. If an install needs my computer password or an admin prompt, stop and tell me exactly what to type or click.
2. Clone the kit into my Documents folder, then run its setup and tests as described in the README.
3. I want to use only free tools. For transcription, use HyperFrames' built-in local transcription (`npx hyperframes transcribe`), which runs Whisper on my computer. Run one short test so the model downloads now.
4. For background music and sound effects, install the HyperFrames media-use skill and the HeyGen CLI. Help me sign in to my free HeyGen account with OAuth (`heygen auth login --oauth`), not an API key. Then check it with:
`npx hyperframes media-use resolve --doctor`
5. To clean my audio to studio quality, I want to use Descript's Studio Sound. Show me the Descript connector so I can click Connect and sign in to my free Descript account. Then check that you can see the Descript tools. (If you can't show a Connect button, tell me where to add it.)
6. If the Claude in Chrome extension isn't set up, tell me how to add it, so you can watch style videos on sites that need my login (like Facebook or Instagram).
7. Skip all other paid services (ElevenLabs, Kie.ai, OpenAI API). Ask me before anything that could cost money.
8. Run every command yourself and explain each step in simple words.
9. When you're done, render the kit's demo video to prove everything works, and tell me the exact folder the kit is in.

Tip: setup can take a while the first time, especially the Whisper download. Let it finish.

2 Open the kit folder DON'T SKIP

The editing skills live inside the **herk-edit-kit** folder. When setup is done, **start a new session inside it**, or the AI won't know the kit exists.

- **Claude desktop app:** go to the Code tab and start a new session. Keep the environment on **Local**, and pick the **herk-edit-kit** folder (in Documents).
- **Codex app:** open the **herk-edit-kit** folder and choose to trust the project. If the skills don't show up, restart Codex.
- **Check it worked:** type / in the chat box (Codex: \$). You should see **edit-video** and **short-form-edit** in the list.
- Use this folder for **every edit** from now on.

3 Find your style

You don't have to be creative. You just need to know what you like.

- Find a video whose **editing style** you like: the captions, graphics, colors, and pacing.
- **Copy its link** (YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, or Instagram). That link is your **style reference**, so you don't need to download the video.
- AI copies the **style**, not the content. Never reuse someone else's footage in your own video.
- The kit **saves your style** after the first edit. Next time, write "use my saved style" instead of a link.

4 Write your script and record

- **Write a simple script first** and save it as a file (a text file, Word file, or PDF works). The AI uses it to **spell names and terms correctly** in your captions. You can still ad-lib. The captions follow what you actually say.
- Record in a quiet room if you can. Descript cleans up a lot, but a quiet room still sounds best.
- Made a mistake? Pause for a second, then say the **whole line again**. The AI keeps your last good take.
- Record vertical for Reels, TikTok, and Shorts, and horizontal for YouTube. Horizontal footage can still become a Reel: the AI reframes your face.

5 Edit with one prompt

For every new video, paste this into a **herk-edit-kit** session and fill in the **[brackets]**. **Drag your video and script** straight into the chat box. Start with **/short-form-edit** for Reels and Shorts, or **/edit-video** for YouTube (Codex: **\$** instead of **/**).

Prompt 2: Edit

```
[/short-form-edit or /edit-video]
```

Edit my video from start to finish in one go. Use the video and script I attached.

- Video: [drag your video file here]
- Script: [drag your script file here]
- Language I speak in it: [English / Taglish / Filipino]
- Style reference: [paste the link to a video whose style you like, or write: use my saved style]
- Format: [vertical 9:16 for reels / landscape 16:9 for YouTube]
- B-roll folder (optional): [drag a folder of your own clips and screenshots here]

For the style reference, watch the video at that link and copy its style (captions, graphics, colors, pacing), not its content. If you can't open it directly, open it in your built-in browser, and if that doesn't work, use my Chrome browser. Play it and take screenshots as it plays to study the style. Don't download it or use any of its footage. Save the style in the kit's style library so I can reuse it next time.

You have my approval for every step: the cuts, the plan, the graphics, the music, and the export. Don't stop to ask me. Make the best choices yourself and keep going until the final video is exported.

First, clean my audio with Descript Studio Sound: upload the video to a new Descript project, apply Studio Sound only (no other edits), download the clean audio, check that its length matches, and put it back on my video. Use this version from here on. If Descript isn't available, use a free FFmpeg noise-reduction pass instead.

Then transcribe locally with HyperFrames' built-in transcription. Cut the silences, long pauses, and mistakes, keeping the last good take of any line I repeated (my script helps you spot those).

Add captions that match what I actually said, including ad-libs. Use my script only to spell names, brands, and terms correctly. Add motion graphics and B-roll. For B-roll, use my own clips first, then screenshots of public websites I mention, then free stock footage from Pexels or Pixabay (search them in your built-in browser, then download the clip file). Don't use anything paid. Add background music and sound effects from HeyGen's free media-use library.

Start the live preview right away and give me the link. When it's done, check it yourself, export the final video in high quality (full-resolution MP4, --quality high), and tell me where the file is.

6 Watch, fix, and you're done

- **Watch the live preview** while it builds your video on its own.
- When it's finished, you get your **high-quality video file**. Watch it all the way through.
- Want something changed? **Give specific fixes**, like "move the title to start on the word 'Automation'," instead of "the timing feels off."
- After your fixes, say "**export it again**" to get the new version.

If something goes wrong

- **An install fails:** copy the error, paste it into the chat, and say "Fix this."
- **It keeps asking permission to run things:** click Allow. To be asked less, switch to a more automatic permission mode in the chat box.
- **"FFmpeg not found" right after installing it:** close the app and open it again.
- **The AI doesn't know the kit's skills:** you're not in the kit folder. Go back to step 2.
- **It can't find your files, or says it's in the cloud:** start a new session with the environment set to **Local**.
- **Dragging a file doesn't work:** paste its path instead. On a Mac, right-click the file, hold Option, and choose "Copy as Pathname." On Windows, hold Shift, right-click, and choose "Copy as path."
- **It can't open your style link:** make sure the video is public, or that you're logged in to that site in Chrome and the Claude in Chrome extension is connected. Then say "watch it in my Chrome browser."
- **It stops to ask you something anyway:** reply "go ahead, use your best judgment."
- **Transcription is slow:** local Whisper depends on your computer's speed. Older laptops take longer, but it still works.
- **A name is misspelled in the captions:** check that it's spelled right in your script, then say "fix the spelling of [name] in the captions."
- **Captions are wrong and you speak Taglish or Filipino:** say so in the prompt, so it uses the multilingual Whisper model.
- **Audio wasn't cleaned:** ask it to "show me the Descript connector," click Connect, then say "clean the audio with Descript and redo the edit."
- **No music:** ask it to "check my HeyGen login," and log in again if needed.
- **It stopped mid-edit with a usage limit:** wait for your plan to reset, then say "continue the edit."