Claude Code Video Editing Setup

The folder, the tool install and the brand sheet that let Claude Code edit in your style, with every prompt to copy.

Why most Claude Code editing setups never work

Everyone is editing videos with Claude Code right now, and almost nobody shows the setup. The people who do show it usually put it behind a paywall. This guide is the whole system, written out so you can build it yourself.

The version that fails is a chat window with no access to your files. You describe a video, Claude describes an edit, and nothing gets made. The version that works gives Claude a folder it can read and a written description of your style it can follow.

That is the promise here: one folder, one tool install, one brand sheet. Do those three things once and every edit after that starts from your own style.

01

How the system actually works

Three pieces, built in this order. Each one removes a reason Claude would otherwise guess.

1. The folder. You make a folder called AI Video Editor with three subfolders, raw footage, references and exports, and connect it to a Local chat in the Claude Code desktop app. Claude can now read your files.
2. The tools. You give Claude the links to the editing tools and an install prompt. Claude installs them for you instead of you doing it by hand.
3. The brand sheet. You send Claude three to five videos, from a creator you want to mimic or from your own past work. It studies them and writes your editing style down as a brand sheet.

02

The one thing almost everyone gets wrong

Use the Claude Code desktop app. Do not use the browser. The entire setup depends on a Local chat that is pointed at a folder on your own computer.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> If Claude says it cannot see your footage, you are almost always in the wrong place. Open the desktop app, start a new chat, choose Local, and select the AI Video Editor folder. Then ask Claude to list what is inside the raw footage folder to prove it can read it.

03

The folder and what goes in it

Each subfolder has one job. Keeping them apart stops Claude from mixing up what you give it and what it makes.

AI VIDEO EDITOR/

```
AI Video Editor/
  raw footage/   your unedited clips, exactly as you filmed them
  references/    videos from the creator you want to copy, or your own past videos
  exports/       finished edits Claude saves for you
```

You fill raw footage and references. Exports starts empty and Claude writes into it.

Set it up in Claude Code

Follow these in order and check each one before moving on.

1. Install the Claude Code desktop app. Use the desktop app, not the browser.
2. Create a folder called AI Video Editor anywhere you will find it again.
3. Inside it, create three subfolders named raw footage, references and exports.
4. Open the desktop app, start a new chat, choose Local, and select the AI Video Editor folder.
5. Test the connection. Paste the check prompt from the next section and confirm Claude lists your folders.
6. Paste the tool links and the install prompt. Let Claude install, then ask it what it installed and how to test it.
7. Drop three to five reference videos into the references folder and run the brand sheet prompt.

> 💡 **QUICK TIPS**
>
> - Pick reference videos you actually like watching. The brand sheet can only describe what it is shown.
> - Your own past videos are a valid reference. They give you a brand sheet that matches how you already edit.

04

The prompts to copy

Replace anything in [BRACKETS] before you send it.

1. CHECK CLAUDE CAN SEE THE FOLDER

```
List every folder inside the AI Video Editor folder and tell me how many files are in each one.
```

2. INSTALL THE EDITING TOOLS

```
I want to edit videos in this folder. Here are the links to the tools I want to use: [PASTE YOUR TOOL LINKS]. Read each link, install what it describes on this computer, then tell me what you installed and give me one command to test each tool.
```

3. BUILD THE BRAND SHEET

```
Study every video in the references folder. Write down how fast the cuts are, how the captions look, how the pacing feels and how each video opens and ends. Save your findings as a brand sheet called brand-sheet.md in the AI Video Editor folder, and keep it short enough that I can read it in two minutes.
```

4. MAKE THE FIRST EDIT

```
Read brand-sheet.md. Then take [NAME OF CLIP] from the raw footage folder and edit it in that style. Save the finished video to the exports folder and tell me what you changed.
```

5. FIX THE BRAND SHEET

```
The edit does not match the style I wanted. Here is what is wrong: [DESCRIBE IT]. Update brand-sheet.md so the next edit gets it right, then redo the edit.
```

When it breaks

These are the failures that come from this setup, and the fix for each.

ERROR	FIX
Claude says it cannot see your files	You are in the browser or not in a Local chat. Open the desktop app, start a new chat, choose Local and select the AI Video Editor folder.
Claude lists the folder but finds no clips	Your clips are outside the AI Video Editor folder. Move them into raw footage and run the check prompt again.
The edit looks generic	The brand sheet is missing or too thin. Send three to five reference videos and rebuild it, then redo the edit.
The finished video is not where you expected	Tell Claude to save to the exports folder inside AI Video Editor. Name the folder in the prompt.
A tool will not run after install	Ask Claude what it installed and for the test command. Run it and paste any error back into the same chat.

Ready to go deeper?

Want the videos made for you? Paste any link or idea into Content Engine and get a published video in about 3 minutes, with DM automation armed to capture leads.

Meet Content Engine →

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