The Replica Skill Setup Guide

How to install Claude's free 11-skill Replica system and clone any app, from reverse engineering to a sellable rebuild.

Why I built this

Building an app clone from scratch with a single prompt tends to fall apart. Claude loses track of what it already analyzed, the rebuild misses features, and nobody tests the result before you ship it.

The Replica skill system fixes that by splitting the work into eleven separate skills instead of one long prompt. Each skill has one job: reverse engineer, rebuild, test, or improve. Claude hands off between them so nothing gets lost in a single oversized task.

You paste the link to the app you want to clone, say "install skill," and the chain runs from there. This guide walks through what each stage actually does and how to run it yourself.

01

How it actually works

1. The first skill reverse engineers the target app. It walks the app's pages, structure, and features and writes up what it finds instead of guessing from a screenshot alone.
2. A second skill takes that writeup and rebuilds the app as working code, turning the analysis into a real clone rather than a copy-paste of the original's files.
3. A third skill tests the rebuilt app for bugs before you call it done, catching broken buttons and missing logic so you're not shipping something half-working.

02

The one thing almost everyone gets wrong

People stop at the rebuild step and treat a working clone as the finished product.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> A clone that just matches the original app is a tech demo, not something you can sell. The Entrepreneur skill is the one that makes the difference: it researches the original app, reads through real user feedback, and builds the features people were actually asking for into your version. Skip that step and you've built a copy. Run it and you've built an improvement.

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03 The prompts

INSTALL THE REPLICA SKILL

```
Install the Replica skill from [paste the app's link here]
```

RUN THE FULL CLONE CHAIN

```
Reverse engineer this app, rebuild it, then test it for bugs.
```

RUN THE ENTREPRENEUR SKILL FOR CLIENT WORK

```
Run the Entrepreneur skill on this clone: research the original app's user reviews,
find the most requested missing features, and build them in.
```

Set it up in Claude Code or Codex

1. Open Claude Code (or Codex) in a project folder for the app you want to clone.
2. Paste the link to the app you want to clone directly into the chat.
3. Say "install skill" and let Claude pull in the Replica skill pack. In Claude Code this installs to ~/.claude/skills/replica/ (the folder name has to match the name: field inside the skill's SKILL.md). In Codex, it lands in your project folder or .codex/skills/replica/, with a pointer added to AGENTS.md.
4. Let the first skill run its reverse engineering pass on the app. This is the step that reads the app's structure and features before anything gets built.
5. Once the writeup is done, tell Claude to rebuild the app. The second skill turns that writeup into working code.
6. Run the test skill before you touch anything else. It checks the rebuild for bugs so you're not debugging blind later.
7. If this is for a client or a product you plan to sell, run the Entrepreneur skill last so it can research real user complaints about the original app and add the fixes into your version.

💡 QUICK TIPS

- Run the stages one at a time the first time through so you can see what each skill actually produced before moving to the next.
- Keep the original app's link handy. Both the reverse engineering skill and the Entrepreneur skill use it to go back and check their work.

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04 The commands I actually run

KICK OFF A CLONE

```
Install the Replica skill from [APP_URL] and start the reverse engineering pass.
```

MOVE TO REBUILD

```
The reverse engineering writeup looks good. Rebuild the app from it now.
```

TEST BEFORE SHIPPING

```
Run the test skill on the rebuild and list every bug it finds before I review it.
```

MAKE IT SELLABLE

```
Run the Entrepreneur skill: pull real user reviews for [APP_NAME], find the top
requested features it's missing, and build them into this clone.
```

When it breaks

ERROR	FIX
Claude says it can't find the Replica skill	Make sure you said "install skill" right after pasting the app link, and check the skill folder name matches the name: field in its SKILL.md.
The reverse engineering step misses features	Give Claude the specific pages or flows you want covered, not just the homepage link, so the writeup is based on more than one screen.
The rebuild doesn't match the writeup	Ask Claude to re-read the reverse engineering writeup before rebuilding instead of working from memory of the original app.
The test skill finds the same bug repeatedly	Have Claude fix the bug and re-run the test skill once before moving on, instead of stacking more fixes on top of an untested change.
The Entrepreneur skill can't find user reviews	Point it at a specific review source (app store page, forum, subreddit) instead of leaving it to search blind.

Ready to go deeper?

This playbook is the short version. Inside the hub you get the full build walkthroughs, the prompt library, and the systems I use to ship this in a weekend.

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