*how I edit my videos*

# EDIT WITH CLAUDE

A free skill that takes your graded clips and your voice to a vertical "How I Did It" video you can publish.

CLAUDE CODE | ALSO FOR CHATGPT | MIT LICENSE

MAX FREYSS

MAXFREYSSFILMS.COM/EDITING

WHAT IT IS

*not an editing app, but*

# A GUIDELINE TO A V1

Default rules for the voiceover, the rhythm, the captions and the sound, measured on real videos. The first version is already publishable. Then you correct it, and your corrections become the rules for your next videos.

## YOU

- have the idea
- shoot and grade
- record your voice
- validate three gates

## CLAUDE

- sorts your clips
- proposes the structure
- writes the script with you
- edits with ffmpeg, checks

## NEVER

- generates your voice
- generates images or music
- posts without your yes

HOW IT WORKS

*one conversation,*

# THREE GATES

Nothing moves to the next step before your answer. No video is rendered before the third gate: every element first, then one render.

**0. SHOOT**
checklist, NOTES.txt

—

**1. STRUCTURE**
one line per moment

—

**2. WORDS**
the script, priced in seconds

—

**YOUR VOICE**
you record or clone

—

**3. EDIT**
one render, the checks

—

**PUBLISH**
you confirm each post

GATE 0 · BEFORE THE SHOOT

*most back and forth comes from*

# A MISSING SHOT

## THE CHECKLIST

- the finished shot, GRADED and UNGRADED, same take
- the "before": the place as it was
- the build, camera still: each light on, one by one
- each light: where it stands, close up, its setting
- all clips graded, exported into one folder

## NOTES.TXT

- the idea, and why now
- the camera that makes the shot
- each light: model, setting, position, price paid
- what to name in the voice, what on screen only
- the call to action at the end

GATE 1 · STRUCTURE

*before a single word,*

# THE ORDER OF THE FILM

## CLAUDE SENDS

- the inventory of every clip, with contact sheets
- one line per moment: the idea, the shot, the duration
- a numbered board of the planned shots
- every missing fact as a question, with a recommendation
- the word budget for the script

## YOU ANSWER

- line by line: "ok", or the correction
- the facts never guessed from the images: camera, prices, settings
- what you want named, which brands may show

GATE 2 · WORDS

# *until it sounds like* YOU

## THE SCRIPT

- English, first person, short full sentences
- the hook first, then the order of making
- each product said once, with its setting
- its word count and its length on a test voice

## YOUR VOICE

- you record it, or generate it with your own clone
- bare text, no emotion tags, one file
- once generated, the text is frozen

GATE 3 · THE EDIT

*on your real voice,*

# ONE RENDER

## THE CUT

- every cut on a word, every gesture on the word that names it
- nothing shown before it is said, no frozen frame
- UNGRADED to GRADED: one wipe, on the music drop
- the end loops back to the first frame

## THE FINISH

- captions from your voice, timed to the word
- gear names in yellow capitals on the object
- music ducked under the voice, mix at -14 LUFS
- delivered in the conversation; you keep it or list changes

THE DEFAULT RULES

*measured on real videos,*

# THE NUMBERS

**60 to 75 s**

film length; over that, Claude gives the cost in seconds and you decide

**3 words/s**

voice rate, 2.8 to 3.3: about 170 to 245 words

**2.5 s**

average shot; never under 1.5 s for a gesture

**3 words**

per caption at most, one line, low in the frame, no animation

**-20 dB**

music under the voice while it speaks; -10 dB in the silences

**1 wipe**

the only transition: UNGRADED to GRADED. Every other cut is hard

BEFORE YOU SEE IT

*every version is*

# CHECKED

## MEASURED

- length, words per second, shot lengths
- frozen frames
- loudness and peak

## LOOKED AT

- one frame per second, read by eye
- text on filmed screens that contradicts the voice
- titles on a face, the loop from last to first frame

Every gap is announced with its number. You decide.

MAKE IT YOURS

*your corrections become*

# YOUR STYLE

When you confirm a correction for all your videos, Claude writes it in one file, outside the skill, so an update never erases it. The next V1 already follows it.

```
# ~/.claude/edit-with-claude/STYLE.md
- Series opening: "Hi, I'm Sam, and this is my series where I light small rooms like film sets."
- Never say "gear", say "kit". (2026-11-20: "all the gear" > "all the kit")
- Captions at 72 % of the height. (2026-11-20: 74 % > 72 %)
- Music: piano or strings, slow; never trap.
```

INSTALL · WHAT YOU NEED

*about ten minutes,*

# FOUR TOOLS

### CLAUDE CODE

The agent that runs the skill on your computer (desktop app or terminal), with a Claude plan that includes it.

### FFMPEG

Cuts, assembles and encodes. No editing app.

### WHISPER.CPP

Hears your voice locally to time every word. Model: 1.6 GB.

### PYTHON 3

Runs the scripts. The skill makes its own environment.

Made on a Mac. Linux works with the same tools; set your own font.

INSTALL · ON A MAC

# THREE STEPS

## 1 The tools, with Homebrew

```
brew install ffmpeg whisper-cpp python
```

## 2 The speech model

```
mkdir -p ~/.cache/whisper && curl -L -o ~/.cache/whisper/ggml-large-v3-turbo.bin https://huggingface.co/ggerganov/whisper.cpp/resolve/main/ggml-large-v3-turbo.bin
```

## 3 Double-click edit-with-claude.zip (it lands in Downloads), then

```
sh ~/Downloads/edit-with-claude/scripts/install.sh   # copies it to ~/.claude/skills, prints "Ready"
```

FIRST RUN

*no footage needed to*

# TRY IT

1 Build a demo project: synthetic clips, a computer test voice, a music bed

```
sh ~/.claude/skills/edit-with-claude/examples/demo/make_demo.sh ~/ewc-demo
```

2 In Claude Code, ask: "run the edit-with-claude demo in ~/ewc-demo". About two minutes.

3 Your real video: open Claude Code in a new folder and type /edit-with-claude. It starts with the shooting checklist.

UNINSTALL

# *one folder,* GONE

```
rm -rf ~/.claude/skills/edit-with-claude          # the skill and its Python environment
rm -rf ~/.claude/edit-with-claude                 # your style file, only if you do not keep it
rm -f ~/.cache/whisper/ggml-large-v3-turbo.bin    # the speech model, if nothing else uses it
brew uninstall whisper-cpp                        # optional, same for ffmpeg
```

Restart Claude Code: /edit-with-claude is no longer offered. Your videos and projects are untouched.

USING CHATGPT

*same rules, same scripts,*

# EDIT WITH CHATGPT

## WHERE IT RUNS

- the ChatGPT desktop app (Codex), the Codex CLI, the Codex IDE extension
- not ChatGPT on the web or mobile: they cannot run ffmpeg on your computer

Use it: @edit-with-chatgpt (desktop app) or $edit-with-chatgpt (Codex).

## INSTALL, UNINSTALL

Steps 1 and 2 as for Claude. Then double-click edit-with-chatgpt.zip and run

```
sh ~/Downloads/edit-with-chatgpt/scripts/install.sh
```

To remove it:

```
rm -rf ~/.agents/skills/edit-with-chatgpt ~/.agents/edit-with-chatgpt
```

*every How I Did It is made this way, by*

# MAX FREYSS

The setup of each video, the gear and the settings: maxfreyssfilms.com

FOLLOW FOR THE NEXT ONE