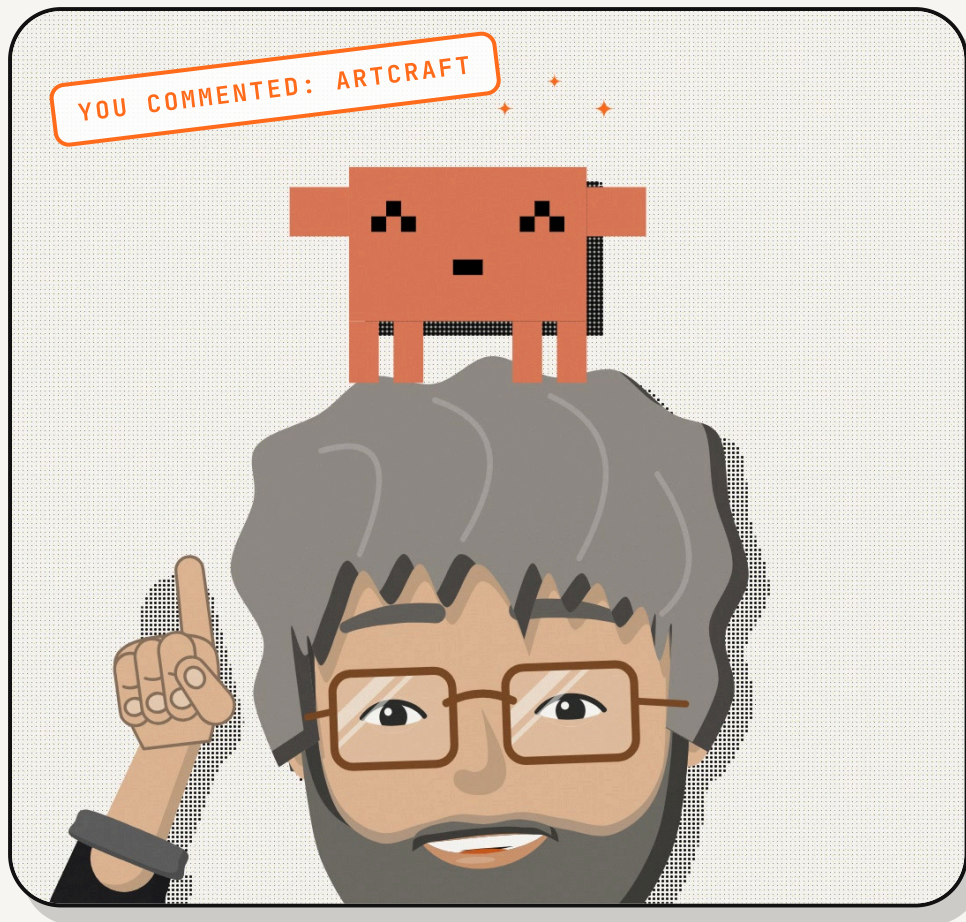




ArtCraft: 13 free apps instead of *a subscription*

All 13 Crafting Apps with links, what they can already do, how to connect them to Claude via MCP, and where the limits are.

// 01

At a glance

QUESTION	SHORT ANSWER
What	13 desktop apps by ArtCraft, open source, free, written in Rust
For	Photos, image editing, video, effects, vector, layout, PDF, text, spreadsheets, slides, CAD, audio, interface design
Runs on	macOS, Windows, Linux (plus FreeBSD and a web build)
Speed	12,497 commits in 7 days, a new release every 3 days for every app
Claude	At least every fifth commit carries "Co-Authored-By: Claude"; every app can be driven via MCP
Maturity	Everything is alpha or earlier, roughly 40 to 65 % "ready for real work" by their own numbers

// FROM THE VIDEO



What the video doesn't say

- **Rebuilt means clean room here.** PhotoCraft says: "implemented from public specs and observed behaviour only. No proprietary code, shaders or assets." VectorCraft is even stricter and forbids its agents from using Adobe software at all.
- **Not only Adobe.** 7 of the 13 apps follow Adobe programs, the rest follow Word, Excel, PowerPoint, AutoCAD, Pro Tools and collaborative design tools.
- **Not yet a replacement for pro work.** PhotoCraft says it itself: "not yet a Photoshop replacement for daily professional work". It is fine for playing, learning and simple tasks; test carefully before client work.
- **The stars are high, but young.** PhotoCraft has 75,518 stars, and the repo only exists since 30 September 2026.
- **The apps are free.** Only ArtCraft Studio, the same team's AI image and video app, has an optional subscription.
- **Who is behind it is not stated.** The sources only say "ArtCraft Team", without names.



THE MENTOR SAYS

Rebuilt, not copied. That's exactly why ArtCraft is exciting: its own code, open to everyone.

The 13 apps with links

APP	FOR	LINK
PhotoCraft	Image editing with layers, opens PSD	github.com/storytold/photocraft
LightCraft	Photo library and RAW development	github.com/storytold/lightcraft
FilmCraft	Video editing	github.com/storytold/filmcraft
EffectCraft	Motion graphics and effects	github.com/storytold/effectcraft
VectorCraft	Vector graphics	github.com/storytold/vectorcraft
DesignCraft	Page layout, reads INDD/IDML	github.com/storytold/designcraft
PdfCraft	Read and edit PDFs	github.com/storytold/pdfcraft
WordCraft	Word processing	github.com/storytold/wordcraft
GridCraft	Spreadsheets	github.com/storytold/gridcraft
DeckCraft	Presentations	github.com/storytold/deckcraft
CADCraft	2D and 3D CAD	github.com/storytold/cadcraft
SoundCraft	Audio workstation	github.com/storytold/soundcraft
FigCraft	Interface design, opens .fig	github.com/storytold/figcraft

All apps • getartcraft.com/apps

download pages for every app, free for every platform.

getartcraft.com ➤

Craft Launcher • [storytold/craft-launcher](https://github.com/storytold/craft-launcher)

one app that installs, updates and opens all Crafting Apps.

github.com ➤

How to install

1. Easiest: pick the app on getartcraft.com/apps and download it. Or install the Craft Launcher, which fetches all apps.
2. macOS gets a signed and notarized `.dmg`, Windows a signed `.msi`, Linux Applmage, Flatpak, `.deb` and `.rpm`.
3. Languages: the apps share a translation repo with 41 locales.

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The MCP commands for Claude

Every app has a command-line program (`...-cli`) with a built-in MCP server. With it, Claude Code drives the app: add layers, set formulas, mix tracks, export. The commands come from the READMEs. Replace paths with your own.

WordCraft (edit documents without a window):

```
claude mcp add wordcraft -- wordcraft-cli mcp
```

GridCraft (read tables, set cells, evaluate formulas):

```
claude mcp add gridcraft -- gridcraft-cli mcp
```

SoundCraft (demo project to try it):

```
claude mcp add soundcraft -- soundcraft-cli mcp --demo
```

VectorCraft and LightCraft (with the path to your program or photo folder):

```
claude mcp add vectorcraft -- /path/to/vectorcraft-cli mcp
claude mcp add lightcraft -- "$PWD/target/release/lightcraft-cli" mcp
~/Pictures/shoot
```

PhotoCraft starts its MCP server with `photocraft-cli mcp`. Its README gives no ready `claude mcp add` command, so add it yourself:

```
claude mcp add photocraft -- photocraft-cli mcp
```

Check it worked: type `/mcp` in Claude Code, the app must show as connected.

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What the apps can do today

APP	STRONGEST NUMBER PER README
PhotoCraft	307 of 309 PSD test files render the same after saving, 116/116 shape layers pixel-identical, 500+ commands
FilmCraft	650+ commands, 90+ effects, about 30 transitions
EffectCraft	308 effects
DeckCraft	200+ commands with undo
All	3 releases in one week (25, 28 and 31 October 2026)

// 06

Prompts to copy

Prepare a photo for social media (PhotoCraft via MCP):

```
Open [file.psd] in PhotoCraft, add a layer with the text [title] in the top left, export it as PNG at 1080 x 1350 and tell me which commands you used.
```

Analyse a spreadsheet (GridCraft via MCP):

```
Open [file] in GridCraft, calculate the sum and average of column [X], highlight every value above [limit] and save a copy.
```

Write a quote (WordCraft via MCP):

```
Create a quote for [client] in WordCraft with a header, a services table and a total. Use my details: [details]. Save it as [file name].
```

Test first, then switch:

```
I use [program] for [task]. Read the README of [ArtCraft app] and tell me honestly what already works today and what is still missing.
```

// 07

Who gains what

WHO	PROBLEM	WHAT YOU DO
Creators	A subscription for a few images a month	Thumbnails and posts in PhotoCraft, editing in FilmCraft
Students	Expensive licences for learning	Install all 13 apps for free and practise
Freelancers	Quotes, spreadsheets, slides	WordCraft, GridCraft, DeckCraft, automated by Claude
Developers	Want to automate design workflows	Plug the apps' MCP servers into their own agents
Linux users	Missing pro tools	Native apps instead of workarounds

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What you can make of it

- **Automated graphics:** Claude creates series of thumbnails or product images in PhotoCraft via MCP.
- **Content:** a series "I replace my subscription with ArtCraft for a week", app by app.
- **Read and learn:** every repo is open, with AGENTS.md and CLAUDE.md. You see how a team uses Claude as a developer.
- **Your own agent:** a Claude skill that develops raw photos in LightCraft and captions them in PhotoCraft.

// 09

Limits and risks

- **Alpha:** features are missing or change with every release. Back up important files first.
- **File formats:** PSD support is good, but not byte-identical. Check client files before you hand them back.
- **Agent access:** an MCP server gives Claude access to files. Use the folder limits the apps offer (e.g. `--automation-read-root` in VectorCraft).
- **Trademarks:** Photoshop, Excel & co. are trademarks of their makers. Per the PhotoCraft README, ArtCraft is "not affiliated with" Adobe. The ArtCraft logos belong to the ArtCraft Team.
- **Speed:** a release every 3 days also means guides go stale fast. Check the README of the current version.

Your first hour

- ☐ Download PhotoCraft (or the Craft Launcher) from getartcraft.com/apps.
- ☐ Open one of your own PSD files, change a layer, save, compare.
- ☐ Try a second app that fits your day (WordCraft, GridCraft or FilmCraft).
- ☐ Add one of the MCP commands above in Claude Code and check it with `/mcp` .
- ☐ Send one of the prompts above to Claude.
- ☐ Note what is missing and test again after next week's release.

My tip

Don't cancel your subscription yet. Take one small, real task from your week and do it fully in ArtCraft, ideally with Claude via MCP. In one hour you'll see how far the apps already are for you. At this speed, a second look in two weeks is worth it.

All links, commands and numbers checked on 31 October 2026 on the official pages and in the GitHub repos. Stars and commits rise every day.



THE MENTOR SAYS

13 apps, free, open and built with Claude. I'm curious which one you'll try first.

— @reposprites

Want to make animated videos like this too? Visit my website and get the reel engine.

reposprites.com ↗