Claude Code Skills

Reference Links + Installation Guide

This document collects five Claude Code skill resources you sent over, with the direct links and step-by-step instructions for installing each one from GitHub into Claude Code.

Two are official Anthropic skills (skill-creator, pdf), two are mirrored/listed on the community “awesome-claude-skills” index but originate from Anthropic's own example skills (mcp-builder, brand-guidelines), and one is from a separate third-party skills framework (brainstorming, from obra/superpowers). The install method differs slightly depending on which repo a skill lives in, so each section below uses the method that actually works for that specific source.

Before You Start: How Claude Code Finds Skills

Claude Code looks for skills as folders containing a SKILL.md file, in a few possible locations:

- **Project skills:** ./.claude/skills/<skill-name>/ — only active in that project
- **Personal skills:** ~/.claude/skills/<skill-name>/ — active in every project on your machine
- **Plugin skills:** installed via the /plugin command from a marketplace — Claude Code manages the files for you

There are three general ways to get a skill from GitHub into one of those locations, used throughout this doc:

1. **The npx skills installer** — a community CLI (skills.sh) that pulls a single skill folder out of any GitHub repo and drops it into .claude/skills/. No GitHub clone needed.
2. **Claude Code's /plugin marketplace** — the official mechanism for repos that are packaged as plugins (this is how Anthropic distributes its own example skills, and how obra/superpowers distributes brainstorming).
3. **Manual git clone** — clone or download the repo yourself and copy the relevant skill folder into .claude/skills/ or ~/.claude/skills/. Always works, slightly more steps.

Note: Run “claude --version” first. Skills require a reasonably recent build of Claude Code. If /plugin or the skills CLI doesn't behave as described, run “claude update” and try again.

1. skill-creator

Official Anthropic skill. Walks Claude through designing, building, testing, and benchmarking new Skills — a “meta-skill” for making skills.

Link

https://github.com/anthropics/skills/blob/main/skills/skill-creator/SKILL.md

Option A — Install the whole document-skills/example-skills plugin set (recommended)

This is Anthropic's own repo, and it's set up as an installable plugin marketplace. This pulls in skill-creator plus the rest of Anthropic's example skills in one step.

4. Open a terminal and start Claude Code by typing: claude

```
claude
```

5. Register Anthropic's skills repo as a plugin marketplace, by running this inside the Claude Code session:

```
/plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
```

6. Install the example-skills plugin, which includes skill-creator:

```
/plugin install example-skills@anthropic-agent-skills
```

7. Restart Claude Code (exit and run claude again) so the new skill loads.
8. Confirm it's available — just ask Claude to use it:

```
"Use the skill-creator skill to scaffold a new skill called my-test-skill"
```

Option B — Pull just this one skill with the npx installer

If you don't want the whole plugin, grab only skill-creator into your current project:

```
npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill skill-creator
```

This drops the skill into ./.claude/skills/skill-creator/ in your current directory. No Claude Code session needs to be running for this step — it's a plain terminal command.

Option C — Manual clone

9. Clone the repo:

```
git clone https://github.com/anthropics/skills.git
```

10. Copy just the skill-creator folder into your personal skills directory:

```
mkdir -p ~/.claude/skills
cp -r skills/skills/skill-creator ~/.claude/skills/
```

11. Restart Claude Code.

2. pdf

Official Anthropic skill. Toolkit for creating, reading, merging, splitting, watermarking, and filling forms in PDF files.

Link

https://github.com/anthropics/skills/blob/main/skills/pdf/SKILL.md

Option A — Plugin marketplace (recommended)

The pdf skill ships inside Anthropic's document-skills plugin (alongside docx, pptx, and xlsx).

12. Start Claude Code:

```
claude
```

13. Add the marketplace (skip this step if you already added it for skill-creator above):

```
/plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
```

14. Install the document-skills plugin:

```
/plugin install document-skills@anthropic-agent-skills
```

15. Restart Claude Code.
16. Test it:

```
"Use the pdf skill to merge a.pdf and b.pdf into combined.pdf"
```

Option B — npx installer, single skill

```
npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill pdf
```

Option C — Manual clone

17. Clone:

```
git clone https://github.com/anthropics/skills.git
```

18. Copy the folder:

```
mkdir -p ~/.claude/skills
cp -r skills/skills/pdf ~/.claude/skills/
```

19. Restart Claude Code.

Note: Claude.ai (the web app) already includes a built-in pdf skill for paid plans — you only need to install this one manually if you're working in the Claude Code CLI/terminal.

3. mcp-builder

Guide for building high-quality MCP (Model Context Protocol) servers in Python or TypeScript, so Claude can call out to external APIs and services through well-designed tools.

Link you sent (community index, mirrors the Anthropic original)

https://github.com/ComposioHQ/awesome-claude-skills/blob/master/mcp-builder/SKILL.md

This file in the awesome-claude-skills repo is a copy/listing of Anthropic's own mcp-builder example skill. The original — and the one actually wired into Anthropic's plugin marketplace — lives at:

https://github.com/anthropics/skills/blob/main/skills/mcp-builder/SKILL.md

Option A — Plugin marketplace (recommended — installs the maintained original)

20. Start Claude Code:

```
claude
```

21. Add the marketplace:

```
/plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
```

22. Install the example-skills plugin (mcp-builder is bundled in it):

```
/plugin install example-skills@anthropic-agent-skills
```

23. Restart Claude Code, then test:

```
"Use the mcp-builder skill to scaffold a Python MCP server for the Notion API"
```

Option B — npx installer pointed at the original Anthropic repo

```
npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill mcp-builder
```

Option C — Pull directly from the ComposioHQ mirror instead

If you specifically want the copy living in awesome-claude-skills (e.g. to compare differences), clone that repo and copy the folder manually — the npx installer targets single repos cleanly only when the skill sits in its own top-level folder, which is the case here:

24. Clone:

```
git clone https://github.com/ComposioHQ/awesome-claude-skills.git
```

25. Copy the folder into your skills directory:

```
mkdir -p ~/.claude/skills
cp -r awesome-claude-skills/mcp-builder ~/.claude/skills/
```

26. Restart Claude Code.

4. brainstorming

Part of Jesse Vincent's “Superpowers” framework (obra/superpowers) — guides Claude through structured requirements-gathering and design dialogue before any code gets written, then hands off to a writing-plans skill.

Link you sent (marketplace listing page)

https://claudemarketplaces.com/skills/obra/superpowers/brainstorming

The underlying source file in GitHub is:

https://github.com/obra/superpowers/blob/main/skills/brainstorming/SKILL.md

Option A — Install the full Superpowers plugin (recommended)

Brainstorming is designed to work as part of the larger Superpowers workflow (brainstorm → plan → implement), so installing the whole plugin is the intended path.

27. Start Claude Code:

```
claude
```

28. Add the Superpowers marketplace:

```
/plugin marketplace add obra/superpowers-marketplace
```

29. Install the plugin:

```
/plugin install superpowers@superpowers-marketplace
```

30. Restart Claude Code. You'll see a session-start message confirming Superpowers is active.
31. Trigger brainstorming directly, or just describe a new feature and let it auto-trigger:

```
/superpowers:brainstorm
# or simply:
"I want to build a feature that ..."
```

Option B — Pull just the brainstorming skill with npx

If you only want this one skill without the rest of the Superpowers methodology:

```
npx skills add https://github.com/obra/superpowers --skill brainstorming
```

This installs into ./.claude/skills/ of your current project.

Option C — Manual clone

32. Clone the repo:

```
git clone https://github.com/obra/superpowers.git
```

33. Copy just the brainstorming folder:

```
mkdir -p ~/.claude/skills
cp -r superpowers/skills/brainstorming ~/.claude/skills/
```

34. Restart Claude Code.

Note: If you cherry-pick brainstorming on its own (Options B/C), it will try to hand off to a writing-plans skill at the end that won't be installed yet. Either install that skill too, or expect Claude to stop and ask what to do next instead of auto-continuing.

5. brand-guidelines

Applies Anthropic's official brand colors and typography to generated artifacts/documents — useful as a template for building your own brand-consistency skill (e.g. for The AGI Guide's coral/black/off-white system).

Link you sent (community index, mirrors the Anthropic original)

https://github.com/ComposioHQ/awesome-claude-skills/blob/master/brand-guidelines/SKILL.md

The maintained original sits in Anthropic's example-skills set:

https://github.com/anthropics/skills/blob/main/skills/brand-guidelines/SKILL.md

Option A — Plugin marketplace (recommended)

35. Start Claude Code:

```
claude
```

36. Add the marketplace (skip if already added above):

```
/plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
```

37. Install example-skills (brand-guidelines is included):

```
/plugin install example-skills@anthropic-agent-skills
```

38. Restart Claude Code, then test:

```
"Use the brand-guidelines skill to style this one-pager"
```

Option B — npx installer from the original repo

```
npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill brand-guidelines
```

Option C — Pull from the ComposioHQ mirror manually

39. Clone:

```
git clone https://github.com/ComposioHQ/awesome-claude-skills.git
```

40. Copy the folder:

```
mkdir -p ~/.claude/skills
cp -r awesome-claude-skills/brand-guidelines ~/.claude/skills/
```

41. Restart Claude Code.

Once installed, you can treat this as a starting template and swap Anthropic's palette for your own — for example, your coral #E8522A / black #1A1A1A / off-white #FFF9F5 system — by editing the SKILL.md directly after copying it in.

Quick Reference Table

Skill	Source repo	One-line install (npx)
skill-creator	anthropics/skills	npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill skill-creator
pdf	anthropics/skills	npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill pdf
mcp-builder	anthropics/skills	npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill mcp-builder
brainstorming	obra/superpowers	npx skills add https://github.com/obra/superpowers --skill brainstorming
brand-guidelines	anthropics/skills	npx skills add https://github.com/anthropics/skills --skill brand-guidelines

Plugin marketplace shortcuts

If you'd rather install everything Anthropic-made in two commands inside a Claude Code session:

```
/plugin marketplace add anthropics/skills
/plugin install example-skills@anthropic-agent-skills
/plugin install document-skills@anthropic-agent-skills
```

And for Superpowers (brainstorming):

```
/plugin marketplace add obra/superpowers-marketplace
/plugin install superpowers@superpowers-marketplace
```