THE FOUNDRY

AI Agent Team Creation Framework

Guided by The Caster — where ideas become specialists.

Installation & Usage Guide

Blueprint/Technical Edition • Version 1.0

A Cowork Skill by Liquid Style Digital
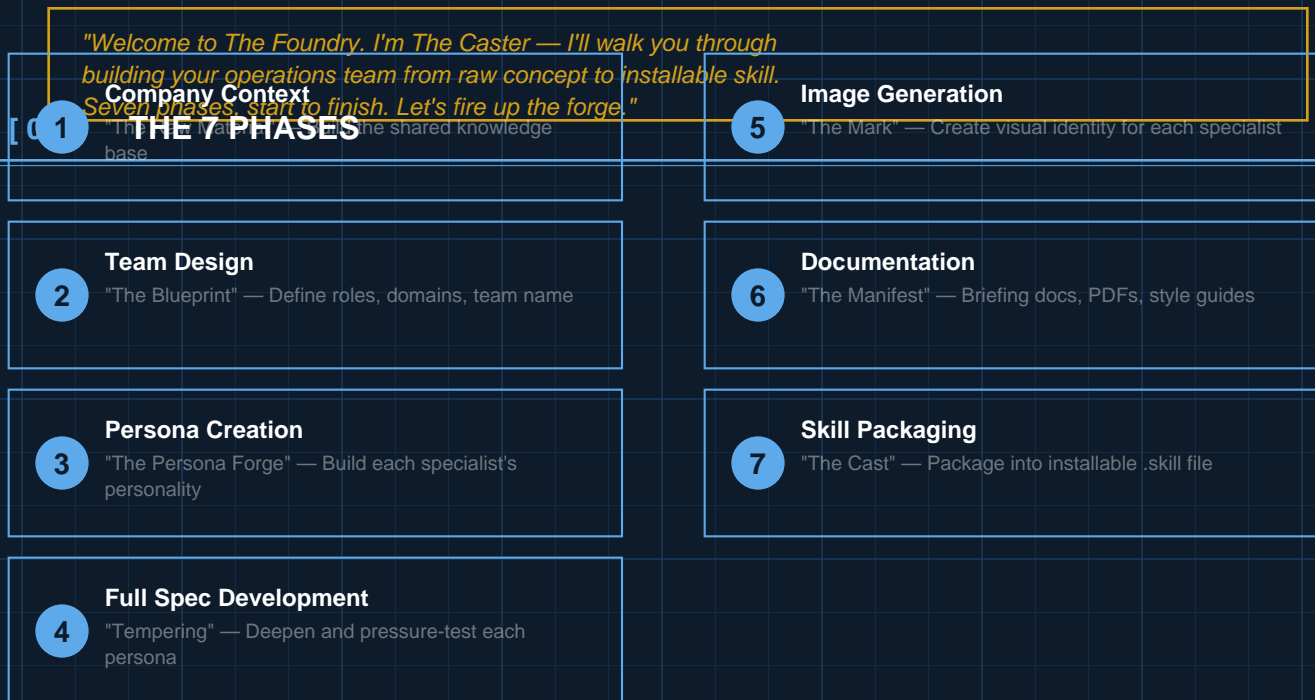
Designed for Claude Desktop • Cowork Mode

WHAT IS THE FOUNDRY?

Overview & Concept

The Foundry is a Cowork skill that guides you through building a custom AI operations team from scratch. It walks you through seven structured phases — from defining your company context all the way to packaging an installable skill file your colleagues can drag-and-drop into their own Claude Desktop.

[01]   YOUR GUIDE: THE CASTER

The Caster is your guide throughout the entire process — a patient, experienced craftsperson who treats agent design like metalwork. Raw material (your company context) goes in, refined specialists come out. The Caster is direct but encouraging, and uses forge metaphors naturally.

"Welcome to The Foundry. I'm The Caster — I'll walk you through building your operations team from raw concept to installable skill. Seven phases, start to finish. Let's fire up the forge."

[02]   THE 7 PHASES

1 Company Context
"The Vault" — Define shared knowledge base

2 Team Design
"The Blueprint" — Define roles, domains, team name

3 Persona Creation
"The Persona Forge" — Build each specialist's personality

4 Full Spec Development
"Tempering" — Deepen and pressure-test each persona

5 Image Generation
"The Mark" — Create visual identity for each specialist

6 Documentation
"The Manifest" — Briefing docs, PDFs, style guides

7 Skill Packaging
"The Cast" — Package into installable .skill file

[03]   PREREQUISITES

- Claude Desktop application (latest version)
- Cowork mode enabled in Claude Desktop
- The Foundry skill file (the-foundry.skill)
- A workspace folder on your computer for project files

[04]   INSTALL THE SKILL

Step 1:   Open Claude Desktop and make sure you are in Cowork mode.

Step 2:   Locate the-foundry.skill file in your TheFoundry folder.

Step 3:   Drag the .skill file directly into the Cowork chat window.

Step 4:   Claude will confirm the skill was installed. You'll see it appear in your skills list.

Step 5:   Select a workspace folder when prompted — this is where all project files will be saved.

[05]   VERIFY INSTALLATION

After installation, test the skill by typing a trigger phrase into Cowork chat. Any of these will activate The Foundry:

```
"I want to build an AI team"
"Help me create agent personas"
"Start The Foundry"
"I need a custom operations team"
```

The Caster should greet you and begin Phase 1. If the skill doesn't activate, confirm it appears in your installed skills list in Cowork settings.

WORKSPACE STRUCTURE

How Your Project Gets Organized

[06]   FOLDER STRUCTURE

As you progress through the 7 phases, The Caster builds files in your workspace folder. Here is the typical structure after completing all phases:

```
YourTeamName/
        company-brief.md
        specialist-1.md
        specialist-2.md
        specialist-3.md
        spec-specialist-1.md
        spec-specialist-2.md
        spec-specialist-3.md
        [TEAM]-Briefing.md
        [TEAM]-Meet-The-Team.pdf
        [TEAM]-Strategic-Brief.pdf
        skills/
            SKILL.md
            references/
                company-brief.md
                specialist-1.md
                ...
        your-team.skill
```

[07]   FILE DESCRIPTIONS

File	Phase	Description
company-brief.md	1	Your company context — shared by all specialists
[callsign].md	3	Individual specialist persona definitions
spec-[callsign].md	4	Deep personality specs with scenarios
[TEAM]-Briefing.md	6A	Master briefing document — everything compiled
Meet-The-Team.pdf	6B	Visual team presentation with portraits
Strategic-Brief.pdf	6C	Optional business case for leadership
SKILL.md	7	Routing logic for the packaged skill
your-team.skill	7	Installable skill file for colleagues

USING THE FOUNDRY

Phase-by-Phase Walkthrough

[08]   HOW A SESSION WORKS

When The Foundry activates, The Caster takes over as your guide. Each phase is clearly marked with a progress tracker so you always know where you are:

> **THE FOUNDRY — Phase 3 of 7: PERSONA FORGE**
>
> ████████████████████   3/7
>
> Time to shape your specialists. Let's cast.

The Caster asks questions one at a time, building incrementally. You approve each deliverable before moving to the next phase. You can go back or skip ahead, but The Caster will warn you about missing dependencies.

[09]   TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

- Be specific about your company challenges. The more detail you give in Phase 1, the better your specialists will be tailored to your actual needs.

- Keep your team small. 4-7 specialists is the sweet spot. More than that creates overlap and confusion about who handles what.

- Give each specialist a distinct personality. The "X meets Y" archetype formula works well — like "Surgeon meets McKinsey Partner" or "Sports Coach meets Data Scientist."

- Use consistent visual style for images. Pick one style from the guide and apply it to all specialists so they look like a team.

- Test your packaged skill before distributing. Install it yourself and try invoking each specialist to confirm routing works.

[10]   GIVING THE SKILL TO COLLEAGUES

Once The Foundry packages your team into a .skill file, you can share it with anyone who has Claude Desktop with Cowork mode. Here's what to provide:

- The .skill file — this is the installable package (single zip archive)
- A workspace folder structure — with any data folders your specialists need (e.g., a "Locker" folder for financial data, a "Docs" folder for reference materials)
- This guide — so they know how to install and use the skill

[11]   RECIPIENT SETUP CHECKLIST

- ■ Install Claude Desktop (latest version)
- ■ Enable Cowork mode
- ■ Create workspace folder with required subfolders
- ■ Drag .skill file into Cowork chat to install
- ■ Select workspace folder when prompted
- ■ Test by invoking a specialist (e.g., "Hey [Callsign], analyze...")
- ■ Confirm all specialists respond correctly

[12]   UPDATING YOUR SKILL

To update a deployed skill, re-run The Foundry from the phase that needs changes. Then repackage in Phase 7. Recipients reinstall by dragging the new .skill file into their Cowork chat — it will overwrite the previous version.

> **PRO TIP:**   Keep your workspace folder synced via cloud storage (Dropbox, OneDrive, Google Drive) so all team members work with the same data. The .skill file itself is self-contained and can be shared via email, Slack, or any file-sharing tool.

[13]   TRIGGER PHRASES

Phrase	What Happens
"Build me an AI team"	Activates The Foundry, Phase 1
"Start The Foundry"	Activates The Foundry, Phase 1
"I need agent personas"	Activates The Foundry, Phase 1
"Resume my team build"	Resumes from last phase
"Skip to Phase 5"	Jumps ahead (with dependency warning)
"Go back to Phase 2"	Returns to an earlier phase

[14]   TROUBLESHOOTING

Skill doesn't activate:

Verify the skill is installed in Cowork settings. Try explicit trigger: "Start The Foundry."

Caster doesn't respond in character:

Start a new conversation. Skills work best at the beginning of a fresh chat.

Phase files not saving:

Confirm a workspace folder is selected in Cowork mode. Check folder permissions.

Image prompts don't work:

Prompts are designed for ChatGPT/DALL-E, Midjourney, or Stable Diffusion. Copy and paste into those tools.

.skill file won't install:

Ensure file has .skill extension. Try re-downloading. Confirm Claude Desktop is updated.

IMAGE PROMPTS

Banner & Profile Images for The Foundry

[15] PROFILE IMAGE: THE CASTER

Use this prompt to generate The Caster's profile avatar. Suitable for skill icons, social media, and documentation headers.

```
Blueprint-style technical illustration of a master craftsperson standing at a forge workstation.
Figure rendered in white and light blue linework on deep navy (#0D1B2A) background. Architectural
grid lines visible in background. Subject wears a workshop apron over modern clothing, holding a
pair of casting tongs. Confident, steady posture — experienced and calm. Face partially illuminated
by forge glow (warm amber accent against cool blueprint palette). Clean geometric lines, technical
drawing aesthetic. Headshot to waist. Square format, suitable for profile avatars and skill icons.
```

[16] BANNER IMAGE: THE FOUNDRY

Use this prompt to generate a wide banner for documentation covers, presentation headers, or social media banners.

```
Wide panoramic blueprint-style illustration of an industrial forge workshop. Deep navy (#0D1B2A)
background with architectural grid overlay. Center: a glowing forge anvil with molten amber light
casting upward, surrounded by technical schematic overlays of AI agent silhouettes being assembled.
Left side: raw material shapes (company documents, data streams) entering the forge. Right side:
refined specialist figures emerging in clean geometric linework. White and light blue linework
throughout. Text space at top center for "THE FOUNDRY" title. Panoramic format (3:1 or 16:9 aspect
ratio). Technical drawing aesthetic — clean, precise, architectural.
```

[17] WHERE TO GENERATE

ChatGPT + DALL-E: Paste the prompt directly into ChatGPT's image generator

Midjourney: Use /imagine command with the prompt

Stable Diffusion: Enter as text prompt, use "technical illustration" model preset

Adobe Firefly: Paste as text prompt in the image generator