



PHOS//PHENE

User guide

BEAT-LOCKED VISUALS · TIKTOK · REELS · YOUTUBE

LUKE TYLER

LUKETYLER.XYZ/PHOSPHENE

Welcome

PHOSPHENE turns your photos and your track into a short video that moves in time with the music. Every cut, glitch and flash lands on the beat, and each hit is scaled by how loud the track is at that moment.

It runs in your web browser at **luketyler.xyz/phosphene**. There is nothing to install. Your photos and music stay on your own computer: nothing you load is uploaded anywhere.

What you need

- Chrome, Edge or Safari on a laptop or desktop for the full controls. Firefox works too, but saves WEBM files instead of MP4.
- A few photos (JPG or PNG) and a track (WAV, MP3, AIFF or M4A). A 15 to 60 second clip works best.

Free and full version

	FREE	FULL VERSION
Looks, colours, effects, type	All of them	All of them
Export length	Up to 8 bars	Any length, up to the whole track
PHOSPHENE mark	Small mark in the lower part of the video	No mark
Updates	Yes	Yes, every update included

Unlocking the full version

- 1 Buy PHOSPHENE from the shop at **luketyler.xyz/shop/phosphene**. Your order email has an access code that looks like `ABCD-EFGH-JKMN`.
- 2 Open PHOSPHENE and press **Unlock full version** in the top right corner.
- 3 Type or paste the code and press **Unlock**. The button changes to **Full version**, and the browser stays unlocked from then on.

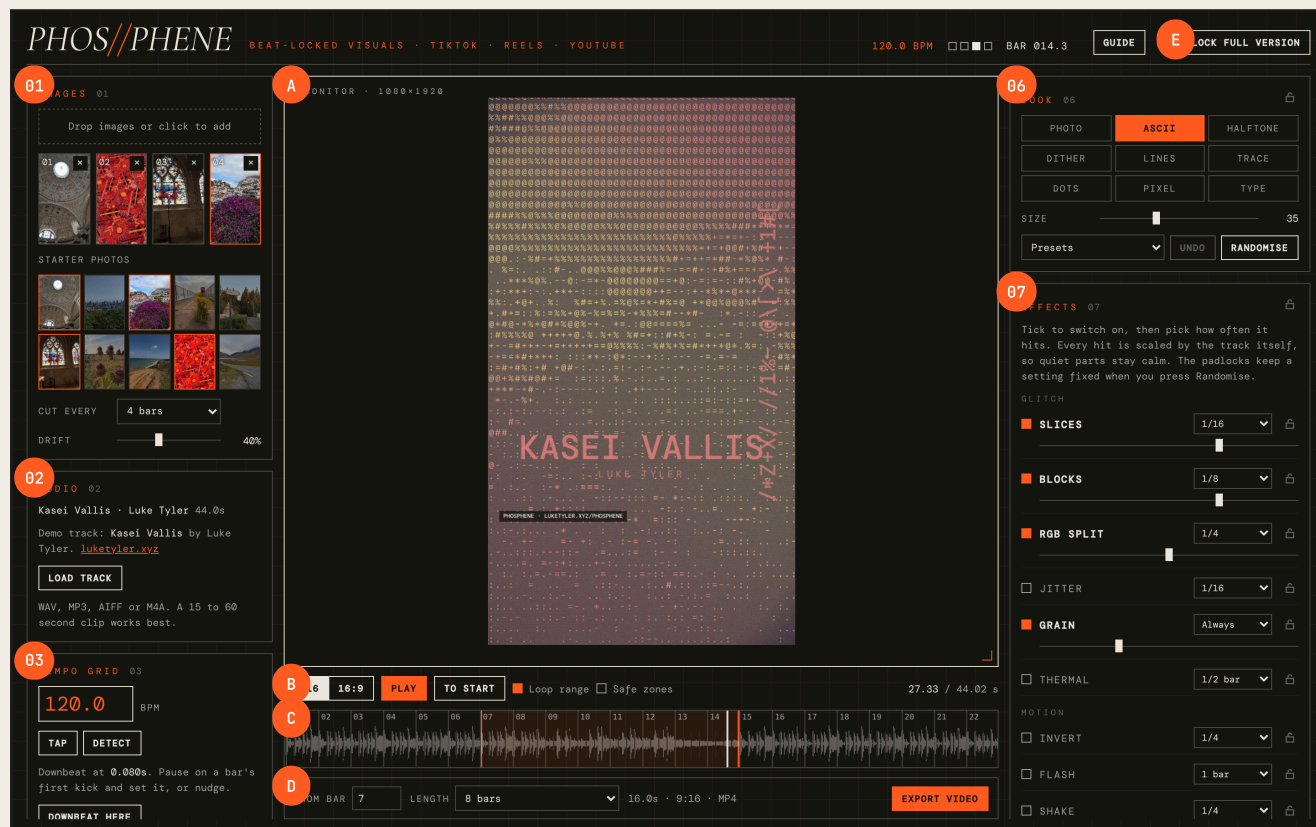
Each code works on up to 3 browsers, for example your laptop, your desktop and your phone. If you change computers, email me with your code and I'll reset it. To free up a browser yourself, press **Full version** and then **Remove from this browser**.

HOW TO TELL IT'S WORKING

Press **Play**. The demo track starts, the four squares in the top bar step along with the beat, and the picture glitches in time with the kick.

Around the screen

Your sources and settings are on the left, the monitor is in the middle, and the look and effects are on the right. The panels are numbered 01 to 07 in the order you'd usually use them. Shortcuts: **Space** plays and pauses, **T** taps the tempo.



#	PART	WHAT IT DOES
01	Images	Add your photos, or tick starter photos. How often the picture changes, and how much it drifts.
02	Audio	Load your track. The demo track is Kasei Vallis.
03	Tempo grid	The tempo and where bar 1 starts, so everything lands on the beat.
04, 05	Colour, Type	Below Tempo grid. The palette and moving gradient, your words, title and artist line.
A	Monitor	The video, live. What you see is what you export.
B	Transport	9:16 or 16:9, Play, To start, Loop range and Safe zones.
C	Timeline	The track with bar numbers. Click to move the playhead. The shaded part is what gets exported.
D	Export	The start bar, the length, and the Export video button.
06	Look	How the photo is drawn, presets, Undo and Randomise.
07	Effects	Glitches, motion and layers, each timed to the grid.
E	Guide, Unlock	Guide opens this guide. Unlock is where you enter your access code, and shows Full version once unlocked.

Your first video

The quickest route: load your music and photos, then shuffle until you like it.

- 1 **Load your track.** Press **Load track** in panel 02, or drag the audio file anywhere onto the page. PHOSPHENE detects the tempo and tells you what it found.
- 2 **Add your photos.** Drag them onto the page or click **Drop images or click to add**. Three to six photos is plenty. Remove one with its small cross.
- 3 **Write your text.** In panel 05, type a few words for the kinetic type, then your track title and artist line.
- 4 **Shuffle.** Press **Randomise** in panel 06 until something grabs you. Went too far? Press **Undo**. Lock anything you like with its padlock, then keep shuffling the rest (see page 8).
- 5 **Choose the section.** Set **From bar** to where the video should start, often a few bars before the drop, and pick a **Length**. Press **Play** to watch it loop.
- 6 **Export.** Press **Export video** and keep the tab in front until it finishes. The file saves to your Downloads folder.

Setting the tempo grid

Everything in PHOSPHENE is timed from two numbers in panel 03: the tempo, and the downbeat, which is where bar 1 starts. Get these right and every effect hits with the music.

- **Detect** works out both from the track. It's right most of the time with clear kick drums.
- **Tap** sets the tempo from your taps. Tap along for at least four beats. Or type the tempo straight into the box.
- **Downbeat here:** pause exactly on the first kick of a bar, then press it.
- **-1 beat** and **+1 beat** move the grid if the bars feel a beat off.

CHECK IT

Play from the start and watch the four squares in the top bar. The first square should light on the first kick of each bar. If big hits land a beat early or late, nudge with **-1 beat** or **+1 beat**.

Looks

The look decides how your photo is drawn. **Size** sets how big the characters, dots, lines or blocks are. Smaller sizes keep more detail; bigger sizes read better on a phone screen.

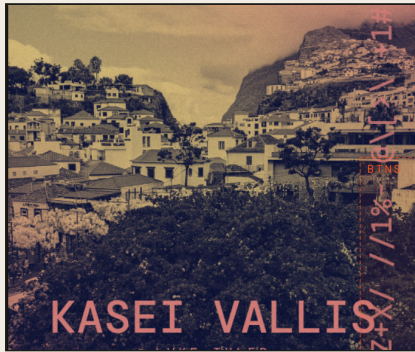
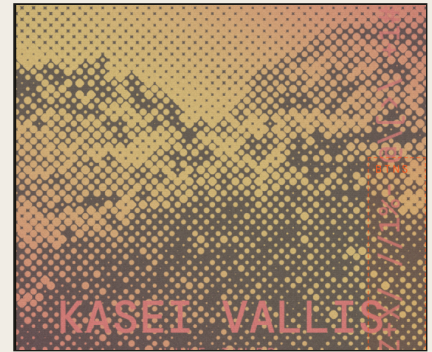


PHOTO
Your photo, coloured with the palette.



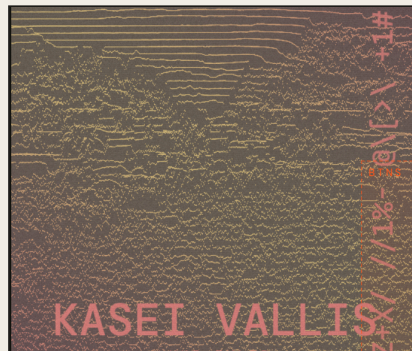
ASCII
Rebuilt from text characters.



HALFTONE
Print-style dots that grow with brightness.



DITHER
Hard 1-bit pixels, like an old computer screen.



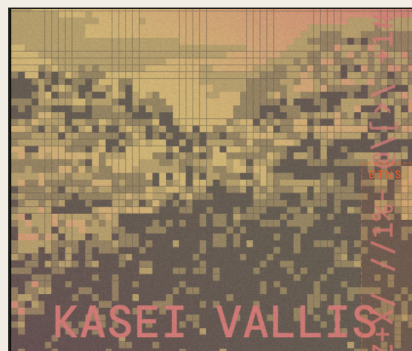
LINES
Horizontal lines that thicken in the bright parts.



TRACE
Outlines of the shapes in the photo.



DOTS
An LED board of round dots.



PIXEL
Big square blocks.



TYPE
Your words, repeated to fill the frame.

Presets

The **Presets** menu loads a look with a matching set of effects: Terminal, Print, Arcade, Scanner, Datamosh, LED, Thermal cam, Pixel grid, Type field and 1-bit. They're good starting points to tweak from.

Images, colour and type

Images

- **Starter photos:** ten photos of mine you're free to use. Tick one to add it, tick again to remove it.
- **Cut every:** how often the picture changes, from every bar to every 16 bars, or Never.
- **Drift:** a slow zoom and pan across each photo between cuts.

Colour

- **Palette:** 111 palettes, each with its own name. **Shuffle** picks one at random.
- **Flip light and dark** swaps the paper and ink colours.
- **Gradient** moves the colours slowly over 8 bars, 4 bars or every bar. **Moving blobs** adds soft shapes behind the image.
- **Contrast** sharpens or softens the photo before the look is drawn.

Type

- **Kinetic type words:** shown whole, on the beat, when Kinetic type is ticked in Effects. Short and punchy works best.
- **Track title** and **Artist line** stay on screen the whole time. Set where with **Title top**, **Title centre** or **Title lower**, and how big with **Title size**.
- **Type face** sets the font for the title and the kinetic type. There are 33 to choose from (see the next page). **Randomise** picks one too, unless the padlock on Type is closed.

Type faces

Four from my own sites, then a set of Google fonts picked for this kind of video: monospace and pixel faces for the glitch and 8-bit looks, heavy display faces for big kinetic type, and a few bold serifs. Lock the one you like with the padlock on **Type**.

LUKE TYLER

DM Mono

KASEI VALLIS

Jost

KASEI VALLIS

MONO AND PIXEL

Space Mono bold

KASEI VALLIS

Press Start 2P

KASEI VALLIS

Sixtyfour

KASEI VALLIS

Workbench

KASEI VALLIS

DISPLAY

Anton

KASEI VALLIS

Big Shoulders

KASEI VALLIS

Bricolage Grotesque

KASEI VALLIS

Michroma

KASEI VALLIS

Rubik Mono One

KASEI VALLIS

SERIF

Instrument Serif italic

KASEI VALLIS

Playfair black italic

KASEI VALLIS

Host Grotesk

KASEI VALLIS

IBM Plex Mono

KASEI VALLIS

Silkscreen

KASEI VALLIS

Doto

KASEI VALLIS

Bebas Neue

KASEI VALLIS

Unbounded

KASEI VALLIS

Space Grotesk

KASEI VALLIS

Monoton

KASEI VALLIS

Climate Crisis

KASEI VALLIS

DM Serif Display italic

KASEI VALLIS

Cormorant italic

KASEI VALLIS

VT323

KASEI VALLIS

Pixelify Sans

KASEI VALLIS

Major Mono Display

KΔSEI ∇ΔLLIS

Archivo Black

KASEI VALLIS

Syne

KASEI VALLIS

Chakra Petch italic

KASEI VALLIS

Bungee

KASEI VALLIS

Tilt Warp

KASEI VALLIS

Fraunces black italic

KASEI VALLIS

Effects

Tick an effect to switch it on, then choose how often it hits: from **1/16** (every sixteenth note) through **1/4** (every beat) to **4 bars**, or **Always**. The slider sets how strong it is. Every hit is scaled by the track itself, so quiet parts stay calm and the drop hits hard. Some effects only fire on some of their hits, which keeps them from feeling mechanical.

GROUP	EFFECT	WHAT IT DOES
GLITCH	Slices	Cuts the frame into strips and slides them sideways.
	Blocks	Shifts rectangles of the image out of place.
	RGB split	Pulls the colours apart, like a misaligned screen.
	Jitter	Small, fast shudders, driven by the hi-hats.
	Grain	Film grain over everything. Usually set to Always.
	Thermal	Swaps the colours for a heat-camera look.
MOTION	Invert	Flips light and dark for a moment.
	Flash	A quick white flash, best once a bar or less.
	Shake	Knocks the whole frame, driven by the kick.
	Shift grid	Moves the look's grid across by a step.
	Zoom punch	A sharp zoom in that eases back out.
LAYERS	Kinetic type	Your words, filling the frame on the beat.
	Tracking	Detection boxes that lock on to the brightest parts of the photo.
	HUD	An 8-bit readout: bar count, tempo, level meter and a scrolling message.

Randomise, padlocks and Undo

Randomise picks a new look, size, type face, set of effects and palette in one go. Each padlock keeps that part as it is:

- The padlock on **Look** keeps the look and its size.
- The padlock on **Type** keeps the type face.
- The padlock on **Colour** keeps the palette.
- The padlock next to each effect keeps that effect exactly as it is, on or off. The padlock at the top of **Effects** locks or unlocks all of them.

Undo, next to Randomise, steps back through your last 100 changes: shuffles, presets, looks, colours, effects and type settings. Press **Cmd Z** on a Mac or **Ctrl Z** on Windows to undo, and add **Shift** to redo. Your photos, track and text stay as they are.

TIP

Find a palette you love and lock it, then press Randomise until the look and effects fit the track.

Exporting

- **9:16** makes a 1080 × 1920 video for TikTok, Reels and Shorts. **16:9** makes 1920 × 1080 for YouTube.
- **From bar** and **Length** set the section, shaded on the timeline. 8 bars at 120 BPM is 16 seconds.
- Export records in real time, so a 30 second clip takes 30 seconds. **Keep the tab in front** until it finishes, or the video can stutter.
- Chrome, Edge and Safari save MP4. Firefox saves WEBM. If the save didn't go through, press **Save again**.
- **Safe zones** shows where TikTok and Reels put their buttons and captions, so you can keep your title clear of them. They never appear in the export.



On your phone

On a phone, PHOSPHENE shows a simpler version: the monitor, a big **Shuffle** button with **Undo** beside it, Look, Colour, Images, Audio and Type. Load a track, write your text, add a photo, shuffle until you like it, and export. Videos are always 9:16.

For tempo, effects and 16:9, use a laptop or desktop.

If something's not right

Effects don't hit with the kick	Check the tempo grid on page 4.
The export stutters	Keep the tab in front, close other heavy tabs, and plug in a laptop.
"This browser cannot record video"	Use Chrome, Edge or Safari.
A track won't load	Try a WAV or MP3 copy of it.
"In use on 3 browsers"	Email me with your code and I'll reset it.

Questions or ideas: hello@luketyler.xyz. Everything you make with PHOSPHENE is yours to post and sell. You need your own rights to the photos and music you put into it.