

■■ How to Use Ox Alpha (Free AI Coding) in VS Code

A Beginner's Guide

A foolproof, step-by-step blueprint — simple enough that anyone, even a complete beginner with zero coding knowledge, can set up and start using Ox Alpha in about 15 minutes.

What you're building

Ox Alpha is a free AI model that can look at your code and help you change it. It runs inside **VS Code**, a coding app. You don't install VS Code on your computer — we use a browser version through **GitHub Codespaces**. By the end, you'll have a 'magic helper' that can read a project, explain it, and make edits for you — at no cost.

■ What you need before you start

- A GitHub account (free). If you don't have one, go to github.com and click **Sign up**.
- An OpenRouter account (free). Go to openrouter.ai and click **Sign up**.
- Nothing installed on your computer. Everything runs in your web browser.

The Step-by-Step Blueprint

1■■■ Create an OpenRouter account and API key

- 1 Go to **openrouter.ai** and sign in.
- 2 In the menu on the left, click **API keys**.
- 3 Click the **Create Key** button (you can leave the name box empty).
- 4 Copy the long key it gives you (a long random string).
- 5 Paste it somewhere safe, like a private note on your phone. You'll need it in Step 4.

■ Note: Ox Alpha is listed as **free** right now, but that can change. Before you rely on it, search for 'Ox Alpha' on the OpenRouter models page to double-check.

2■■■ Create a GitHub repository

- 1 A *repository* is just the folder where your project lives on GitHub. If you already have a project there, skip to Step 3.
- 2 On **github.com**, click the green **New repository** button.
- 3 Type any name, like my-project.
- 4 Leave everything else as it is, then click **Create repository**.

3■■■ Open a Codespace

- 1 A *Codespace* is VS Code running in your browser on a cloud computer. This is how you get VS Code without installing anything.
- 2 Open your repository page on GitHub.
- 3 Click the green <> **Code** button.
- 4 Click the **Codespaces** tab.
- 5 Click **Create codespace on main**.
- 6 Wait. After a minute or two, a VS Code window opens in your browser. This is the app you'll use.

4■■■ Add OpenRouter as a model inside VS Code

- 1 In VS Code, click the **chat icon** on the far-left bar to open the Chat panel.
- 2 At the bottom of the chat box, click the model name. It probably says **Auto** right now.
- 3 Click **Manage Models**.

- 4 Click **Add Models**.
- 5 Choose **OpenRouter** from the list.
- 6 VS Code will ask for your API key. Paste the key you saved in Step 1.
- 7 VS Code now shows the models available on OpenRouter. Search for **Ox Alpha**.
- 8 Find **stealth/ox-alpha** and add it.

5■■■ Pick Ox Alpha and use Agent mode

- 1 Back in the chat box, click the model name again and select **Ox Alpha**.
- 2 Set the mode to **Agent** (there's a small selector near the chat box). Agent mode is what lets it actually read your project files.
- 3 Paste this safe first message and press Enter:

Look at this project and tell me what it does. Don't change anything yet.

6■■■ How to know it worked

- You're done when: the model selector shows **Ox Alpha**, and Ox Alpha answers your message by describing your project. That means it's connected and running. You can now ask it to help you change things.

■■■ Important privacy warning — please read

- **Ox Alpha comes from an anonymous company called 'Stealth'.** It keeps a copy of whatever you send it. That means **never** paste passwords, bank or card details, private messages, or secret business files into it. Use it only for things you're okay with an unknown company seeing.

■ If something goes wrong

Problem	Fix
	The key was copied with a space or missing characters. Create a new key in OpenRouter and re-paste it carefully.
"Ox Alpha" doesn't show up	It may have been renamed or the free version changed. Search for 'Ox Alpha' again on the OpenRouter models page to get the current name.
	Make sure you're on the repository's main page (the one showing your project files).
It's very slow or times out	Free models get busy. Ask it to work in smaller pieces, or wait and try again.

■ Next steps (optional)

- Ask it to **explain** a file you don't understand.
- Ask it to **fix** a small thing, then always re-read the change it made.
- Ask it to **build** a simple page (like a small website) step by step.

Ox Alpha is currently free, but that status can change. If 'Ox Alpha' ever disappears from the model list, check the OpenRouter models page for its latest name. Never enter passwords, bank details, or private business files into it.