



Conservation Prompt Builder Basic User Guide

LumaticLAB Image Conservator – **runs on ChatGPT and Gemini**
does NOT run on Claude and Deepseek.

Modes first – start with the default – ‘Faithful Restoration’.

To load an image select ‘Images’ in either the ChatGPT or Gemini - just drag and drop it into the ‘Chat box’ then select ‘Copy Prompt’ on the app, paste it into the ‘Chat Box

For your first run through the app, just accept all the defaults - it will perform a ‘Faithful Restoration’ which is the ‘default’ mode but, it will **NOT colour anything**. Following that check out some more modes and selections, so you gain further experience

Detailed descriptions of the **MODES and SELECTORS** follow.

Mode	Use it when	Main guardrail
Faithful restoration	Repair deterioration while preserving the original photograph.	Mode: faithful restoration.
Colourisation	Add restrained, historically plausible colour while preserving tone.	Do not modernise clothing, objects, architecture, skin, setting, or atmosphere.
Repair only	Remove physical defects without enhancement or reinterpretation.	Preserve fading, softness, grain, original contrast, and age-related photographic character unless they are clearly damage requested for repair.
Enhancement	Improve legibility modestly while keeping the same image.	Avoid HDR, artificial sharpening halos, excessive micro-contrast, plastic skin, cinematic grading, exaggerated dynamic range, or modern clarity effects.
Selective edit	Make only a specified local change while preserving the rest of the image.	Do not restyle, reinterpret, modernise, beautify, or add unrelated creative flourishes.
New image generation	Generate a new image guided by conservation-style constraints.	Do not imply invented content is recovered historical evidence.

NOTE:: Creating the image may take up to 80 seconds



All selector options

Role

What professional stance should guide the assistant?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Careful conservation assistant	Default	Treat the image as historical evidence and edit conservatively.	Professional role
Archive reproduction technician		Prioritise accurate reproduction of the surviving source.	Professional role

Primary principle

What should every edit be tested against?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Restore only what is requested	Default	Keep identity, composition, light, atmosphere, and subject matter intact	Controlling principle
Evidence before improvement		Favour source evidence over polish, clarity, or prettiness.	Controlling principle

Mode

Which editing mode should govern the prompt?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Faithful restoration	Default	Repair deterioration while preserving the original photograph.	Mode
Colourisation		Add restrained, historically plausible colour while preserving tone.	Mode, Mode limits
Repair only		Remove physical defects without enhancement or reinterpretation.	Mode, Mode limits
Enhancement		Improve legibility modestly while keeping the same image.	Mode, Mode limits



Selective edit		Make only a specified local change while preserving the rest of the image.	Mode, Mode limits
New image generation		Generate a new image guided by conservation-style constraints.	Mode, Mode limits

Fidelity rules

How tightly should the source image structure be preserved?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Source-locked fidelity	Default	Protect composition, perspective, lens behaviour, focus, and all visible elements.	Composition and camera fidelity, Digital restraint
Museum reproduction fidelity		Prioritise a stable, accurate reproduction of the original object.	Composition and camera fidelity, Digital restraint

Identity and people

How should people and identity be protected?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Absolute identity preservation	Default	Preserve faces, bodies, age, expression, asymmetry, and cultural markers.	Identity protection, Face reconstruction limits
Supported human repair only		Repair damaged human features only where evidence is clear.	Identity protection, Face reconstruction limits

Restoration rules

How should physical deterioration be repaired?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Remove damage, preserve detail	Default	Repair scratches, cracks, stains, folds, tears, dust, fading, and chemical damage.	Damage removal, Conservative reconstruction
Repair obvious damage only		Fix visible deterioration while leaving age and print character intact.	Damage removal, Conservative reconstruction



Colour rules

How should colour be handled?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
No colourisation	Default	Preserve original monochrome or existing colour; correct only degradation.	Colour handling, Colour restraint
Historical colourisation		Add subdued, plausible colour without disturbing the photograph.	Colour handling, Colour restraint
Restrained colour recovery		Recover faded original colour only where the source supports it.	Colour handling, Colour restraint

Clothing, objects, and materials

How should garments, objects, and surfaces be treated?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Treat as historical evidence	Default	Preserve garment construction, markings, wear, age, and material differences.	Historical objects, Material fidelity
Material-specific repair		Repair each surface according to its surviving texture and age.	Historical objects, Material fidelity

Lighting and tone

How should light, shadow, and tonal range be handled?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Respect original lighting physics	Default	Preserve light direction, shadows, highlights, contrast, and atmosphere.	Lighting fidelity, Tonal recovery
Tonal conservation		Recover legibility without changing the original tonal hierarchy.	Lighting fidelity, Tonal recovery



Detail and texture

How much detail recovery should be attempted?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Recover existing detail only	Default	Preserve natural texture and add only modest supported clarity.	Detail recovery, Texture limits
Texture preservation first		Protect source softness, grain, and surface character.	Detail recovery, Texture limits

Sharpening

Should any sharpening be applied?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
No sharpening	Default	Preserve original softness, blur, grain, and lens character.	Sharpening control
Very gentle sharpening		Use only restrained sharpening where existing detail supports it.	Sharpening control

Background and environment

How should the setting be handled?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Preserve background evidence	Default	Keep old, damaged, indistinct, or inconvenient background elements.	Setting fidelity
Preserve environmental context		Treat the setting as part of the historical record.	Setting fidelity



Authenticity standard

What should the finished image feel like?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Carefully conserved original	Default	The source should look well preserved, not newly generated.	Authenticity standard
Archive-quality reproduction		The result should look like a careful archival restoration.	Authenticity standard

Final QC

Which quality check should gate completion?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Full fidelity checklist	Default	Verify identity, composition, tone, detail, colour, and authenticity.	Final quality check
Identity-first checklist		Make identity and source structure the final pass.	Final quality check

Final principle

What closing instruction should anchor the prompt?

Option	Default	Description	Hidden rule groups
Restore what was there	Default	A concise final restraint against invention.	Final principle
Evidence over invention		Close with a reminder to use source evidence only.	Final principle