ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Albert

The Insider's Guide

Plugin-based keyboard launcher for Linux and macOS



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among window managers and launchers, read from Albert's own pages.

Made by Manuel Schneider · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Albert's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Albert's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.6

GPA, above 14 of the 28 other window managers and launchers we grade

Albert is a keyboard launcher built on C++ and Qt, with a plugin system for extra functions. It ships with maintained plugins and can be extended in C++ or Python. Prebuilt packages exist for Linux and macOS; Windows is not supported.

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about Albert**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> **It is not a window manager, there's no Windows version, and the Mac app is unsigned and installed through a Homebrew tap.**
>
> From our report card of Albert

1 **Best for a keyboard launcher for Mac and Linux**

Albert is a keyboard launcher with plugins for Mac and Linux, and it's free.

2 **It is free**

Albert has no paid plan at all. Free; the site accepts optional donations.

3 **It runs on 2 platforms**

macOS and Linux.

4 **Plugin system**

Functionality comes from plugins, so it can act as an app launcher or a system command palette.

5 **Bundled plugins**

Ships with a set of maintained plugins out of the box.

6 **Extension APIs**

Write extensions in C++ or Python.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 14 of 28**

That is against the other window managers and launchers we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

Albert is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

Albert at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Linux
MADE BY Manuel Schneider	CATEGORY Window Managers & Launchers
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for a keyboard launcher for Mac and Linux

Albert is a keyboard launcher with plugins for Mac and Linux, and it's free. It is not a window manager, there's no Windows version, and the Mac app is unsigned and installed through a Homebrew tap. Look elsewhere if you want an installer you can double-click.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Albert	Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free, with optional donations. Nothing in the listing costs money.
Free plan and trial	A	The whole app is free to use, with no tiers.
Features	C	A plugin system with bundled plugins and extension APIs. It launches and searches, and doesn't arrange windows, which is what this category is for.
Ease of use	D	On a Mac you install it through a Homebrew tap, and the cask turns off Gatekeeper for the unsigned app. That's a command line job.
Platforms and integrations	C	Mac and Linux only. No Windows version, as the install page says.

Grade point average Good, out of 4.0 **2.6**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Albert is for

- ✓ Fits if you live on the keyboard and run a Mac or Linux
- ✓ Works for people happy to install from a Homebrew tap

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you need Windows, which is not supported yet
- ✗ Skip it if you want window snapping, as it doesn't resize or tile windows
- ✗ Watch out: the Mac app is unsigned and installing it disables Gatekeeper for it
- ✗ Watch out: its own license allows personal use and bars redistributing modified versions, so it's not open source

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Linux users who want a plugin-driven launcher
- ✓ Developers who want to script their own launcher actions

Worth knowing

- ⓘ No Windows version; the install page says Windows is not supported yet.
- ⓘ The macOS app is unsigned, installed through a Homebrew tap, and the cask disables Gatekeeper for it.
- ⓘ Under Albert's own license, not an open-source one: it permits personal use and bars redistributing modified versions, and forbids binaries targeting Microsoft or Apple platforms.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

Free

No paid plan at all

Albert is free to use.

> **The whole app is free to use, with no tiers.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Free to use; donations are optional.

The free plan

Free; the site accepts optional donations.

Read from albertlauncher.github.io on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

2

Places it runs: macOS and Linux

Plugin-based keyboard launcher for Linux and macOS. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: keyboard-first, launcher.

> **A plugin system with bundled plugins and extension APIs.**

From our grade for features

Plugin system

Functionality comes from plugins, so it can act as an app launcher or a system command palette.

Bundled plugins

Ships with a set of maintained plugins out of the box.

Extension APIs

Write extensions in C++ or Python.

Fast keyboard use

Speed is a stated design goal.

Where it runs

macOS · Linux

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Albert is made by Manuel Schneider.

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

14/28

Other window managers and launchers it is graded above

Albert's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 14 of the 28 other window managers and launchers we grade, and level with 6.

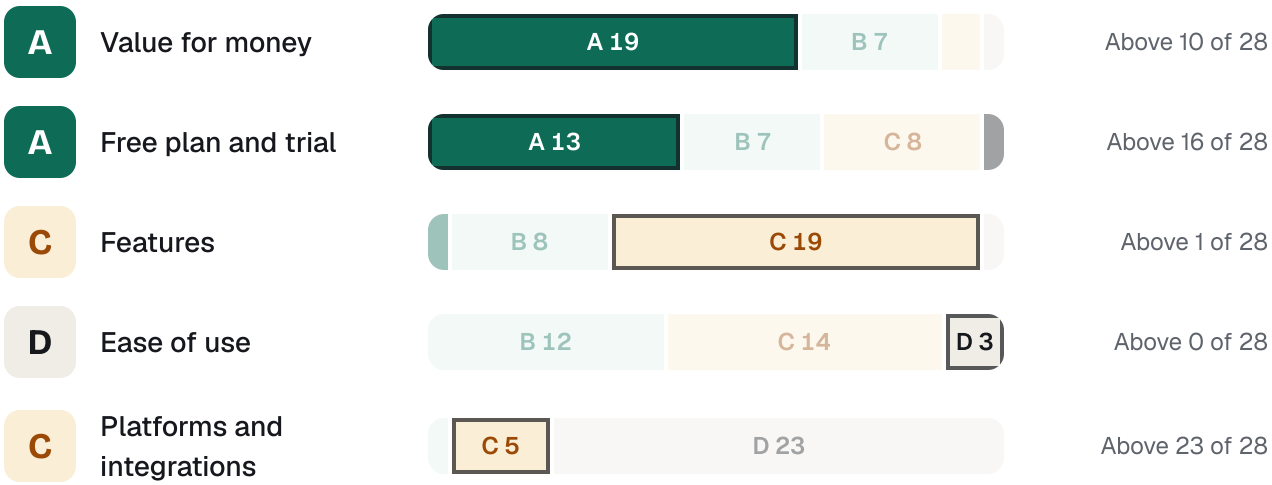
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 16 of 28) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Albert has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

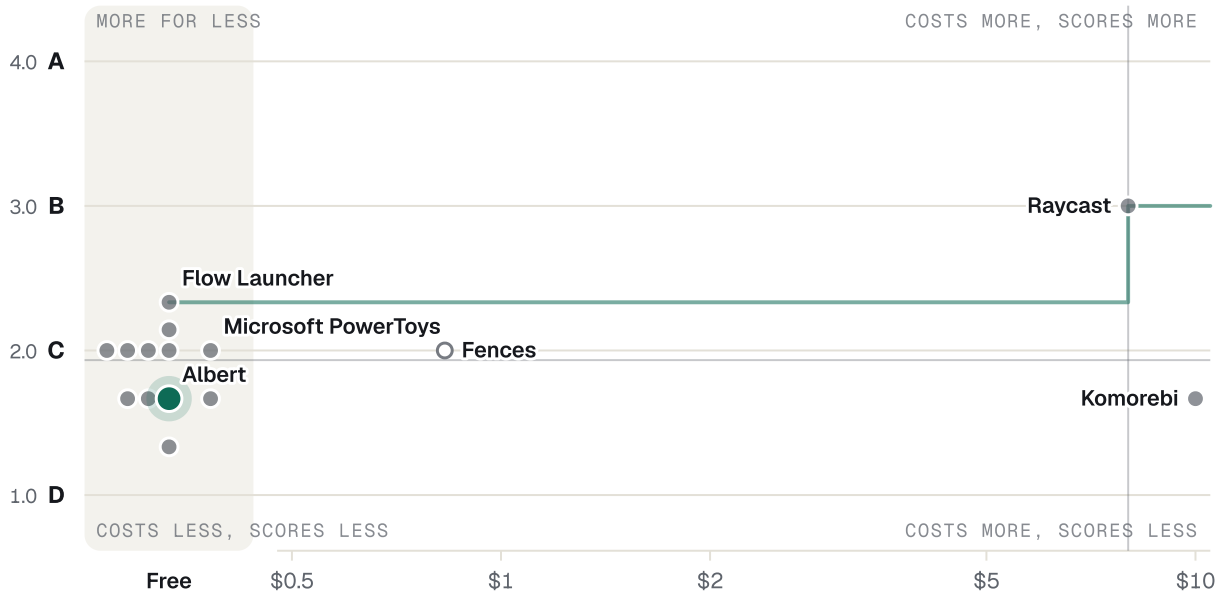
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 29 window managers and launchers we grade, cut by the letter each got. Albert's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 15 window managers and launchers. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Albert is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

Albert is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

What you could not

- A launcher wired into the operating system.
- A real app for macOS and Linux. Something home-made would be a web page.

What this rests on. Albert's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Ulauncher, Ueli, Alfred and Raycast

The 4 tools Albert is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

Ulauncher

2.6 GPA

Free

Open-source application launcher for Linux with extensions.

- Only Albert lists a macOS app.
- Ulauncher is open source, according to its own site.

Albert and Ulauncher compared in full

Ueli

2.8 GPA

Free

Cross-platform keystroke launcher for Windows, macOS and Linux.

- Only Ueli lists a Windows app.
- Ueli is open source, according to its own site.
- Ueli also covers calculator.

Albert and Ueli compared in full



2.4
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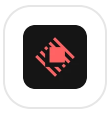
Alfred

Free plan · from £34 one-time

Mac launcher with hotkeys, snippets and custom workflows.

- Only Albert lists a Linux app.
- Alfred can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Alfred also covers workflow automation, clipboard manager and text expansion.

Albert and Alfred compared in full



2.8
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Raycast

Free plan · from $96/yr

Keyboard launcher with extensions, clipboard history and AI.

- Only Albert lists a Linux app.
- Only Raycast lists Windows and iOS apps.
- Only Raycast lists a browser extension.

Albert and Raycast compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

11

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Albert free?

Yes. Albert is free to use.

How much does Albert cost?

Albert lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Albert work on?

Albert is available on macOS and Linux.

Does Albert have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Albert is listed for macOS and Linux.

Does Albert have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Albert is listed for macOS and Linux.

Is Albert open source?

Albert is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Who makes Albert?

Albert is made by Manuel Schneider.

What are the alternatives to Albert?

The closest alternatives to Albert in our directory are Ulauncher, Ueli, Alfred and Raycast.

How does Albert compare with other window managers and launchers?

Albert's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 14 of the 28 other window managers and launchers we grade, and level with 6.

Is Albert good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Albert A for value for money. Albert has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Albert?

Albert is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Albert's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Manuel Schneider's own pages on 12 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Manuel Schneider. Prices change, so check albertlauncher.github.io before you buy.

albertlauncher.github.io
albertlauncher.github.io/installation/macos/
albertlauncher.github.io/donation/
albertlauncher.github.io/installation/
albertlauncher.github.io/installation/linux/
raw.githubusercontent.com/albertlauncher/albert/...

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

5,038

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

5,038	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Albert, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/albert

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Albert: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/albert
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Know someone choosing between window managers and launchers?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/albert/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded window managers and launchers after Albert, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Window Managers & Launchers Insider's Guide

Every one of the 29 window managers and launchers we grade, compared

Flow Launcher Insider's Guide

Free, open-source app launcher and file search for Windows

3.0 GPA

DockDoor Insider's Guide

Free Dock window previews and Alt-Tab switcher for macOS

2.8 GPA

Loop Insider's Guide

Free, open-source macOS window manager with a radial menu

2.8 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Albert's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Albert is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Manuel Schneider. Prices and plans change: check albertlauncher.github.io before you buy.