ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

# Civitai

## The Insider's Guide

Community hub for AI image models, with an on-site generator



**Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI image and video generators, read from Civitai's own pages.**

Made by Civitai · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
GPA



# Contents


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

**02 What it costs**
Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

**03 What it does**
Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

**04 Where it stands**
Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

**05 The alternatives**
The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side

**06 Quick answers**
The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

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


ToolGPA put this guide together from Civitai's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Civitai'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

**2.0**

GPA, above 31 of the 168 other AI image and video generators we grade

Civitai is a community site where creators share AI image models and LoRAs, and members generate images and train models on its servers. Generation is paid for in an on-site currency called Buzz, which free accounts can earn and memberships top up each month.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Civitai**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> **Three colours of Buzz, each with its own earning and spending rules, take time to understand.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

**1** **Best for community AI models and an image generator**

Civitai is a community hub where people share image models and LoRAs, with an on-site generator paid for in Buzz.

**2** **Paid plans start at $10 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $10 per month (Bronze membership).

### 3 There is a free plan

Free accounts can upload, download, generate and earn Buzz; new accounts get 100 Blue Buzz.

### 4 It runs on Web

Web.

### 5 Model and LoRA library

Creators upload checkpoints and LoRAs, and others download them or run them in the on-site generator.

### 6 On-site image generator

Images are priced in Buzz on a sliding scale based on step count and model architecture.

### 7 LoRA training

The on-site LoRA trainer lets members train their own models on Civitai's servers, paid for with Buzz.

### 8 A 2.0 GPA, above 31 of 168

That is against the other AI image and video generators we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

### 9 Keep it

To replace Civitai you would be making an image model, which you can rent by the picture but not make. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

## Civitai at a glance

| | |
|---|---|
| PRICING<br>Free plan, from $10 per month (Bronze membership) | FREE PLAN<br>Yes |
| FREE TRIAL<br>None stated | RUNS ON<br>Web |
| MADE BY<br>Civitai | CATEGORY<br>AI Image & Video Generators |
| OUR GRADE<br>2.0 GPA, fair | |

# The report card

## Best for community AI models and an image generator

Civitai is a community hub where people share image models and LoRAs, with an on-site generator paid for in Buzz. Free accounts can generate and earn Buzz, but buying Buzz by card is no longer offered on civitai.com, and the content rules differ between sites.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Civitai** — Graded Nov 12, 2026

| SUBJECT | GRADE | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|
| **Value for money** | C | Bronze is $10 a month, the middle of image-tool prices. Each paid tier gives Green Buzz, which covers only PG and PG-13 content. |
| **Free plan and trial** | C | Free accounts upload, download, generate and earn Buzz, with 100 Blue Buzz on sign-up and daily claims. Buzz limits how much you can generate. |
| **Features** | C | A model and LoRA library, an on-site generator, LoRA training, video and audio engines and creator earnings. Card payments for Buzz are gone, and content rules split across two sites. |
| **Ease of use** | C | No store rating on record. Three colours of Buzz, each with its own earning and spending rules, take time to understand. |
| **Platforms and integrations** | C | Web only, with Civitai Link as the one integration. No desktop or phone app is listed. |

**Grade point average** — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

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 Civitai is for

- ✓ Fits if you want to find and download community image models and LoRAs
- ✓ Works for creators who would train a LoRA or earn from their models

## Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want to pay by card for extra Buzz, as that is no longer offered on civitai.com
- ✗ Watch out: Yellow Buzz is bought with cryptocurrency, and unrestricted content lives on civitai.red
- ✗ Watch out: the monthly Buzz on Bronze to Gold is Green Buzz, for PG and PG-13 content only
- ✗ Watch out: prices come from Civitai's own guide, which says tiers change over time

# Good to know

## Good for

- ✓ Finding community-made image models and LoRAs
- ✓ Generating images without owning a GPU, paid with earned Buzz
- ✓ Creators who want to publish and monetize their own models

## Worth knowing

- ⓘ Per the education guide, buying Buzz by card is no longer available on civitai.com; Yellow Buzz is bought with cryptocurrency.
- ⓘ Unrestricted content creation now lives on civitai.red, which uses Yellow Buzz, according to the membership guide.
- ⓘ The monthly grant from Bronze to Gold is Green Buzz, which is for PG and PG-13 content.
- ⓘ Prices come from Civitai's own education guide; the guide says the membership page is the source of truth and tiers change over time.

PART 02 · PRICING

# What it costs

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

**$10**

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Civitai has a free plan. Paid plans start at $10 per month (Bronze membership).

FREE

## $0

Upload, download, generate and earn Buzz by taking part; 100 Blue Buzz on sign-up, claimable daily from the generator.

BRONZE

## $10

per month

10,000 Green Buzz a month, 5% bonus on Buzz purchases, 3 private models, 8 images per job, priority support.

SILVER

## $25

per month

25,000 Green Buzz a month, 10% purchase bonus, 10 private models, 10 images per job, premium support.

GOLD

## $50

per month

50,000 Green Buzz a month, 20% purchase bonus, 100 private models, 12 images per job, VIP support.

### The free plan

Free accounts can upload, download, generate and earn Buzz; new accounts get 100 Blue Buzz.

Read from education.civitai.com on Nov 12, 2026.

# What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Community hub for AI image models, with an on-site generator. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, community, image generation.

> **A model and LoRA library, an on-site generator, LoRA training, video and audio engines and creator earnings.**
>
> From our grade for features

### Model and LoRA library

Creators upload checkpoints and LoRAs, and others download them or run them in the on-site generator.

### On-site image generator

Images are priced in Buzz on a sliding scale based on step count and model architecture.

### LoRA training

The on-site LoRA trainer lets members train their own models on Civitai's servers, paid for with Buzz.

### Buzz currency

Buzz comes in Blue, Yellow and Green colors with different rules for earning and spending, and reactions and daily rewards earn free Blue Buzz.

## Creator earnings

Creators can price model versions or earn a cut when their resources are used in the generator; the Creator Program needs an active membership.

## Video and audio generation

Civitai's education pages describe video and audio engines in the generator, each priced in Buzz.

### Where it runs

Web

### What it works with

Civitai Link

Civitai is made by Civitai.

# Where it stands

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

**31**/168

Other AI image and video generators it is graded above

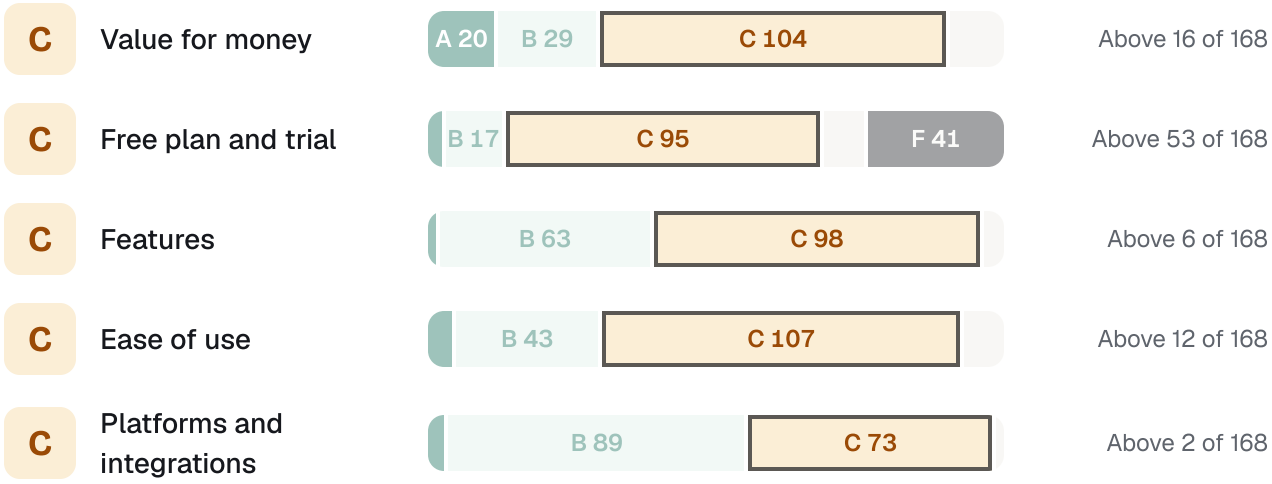
Civitai's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 31 of the 168 other AI image and video generators we grade, and level with 31.

Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $11.88 for the category: 51 of the 120 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 41 tools score higher and cost less.

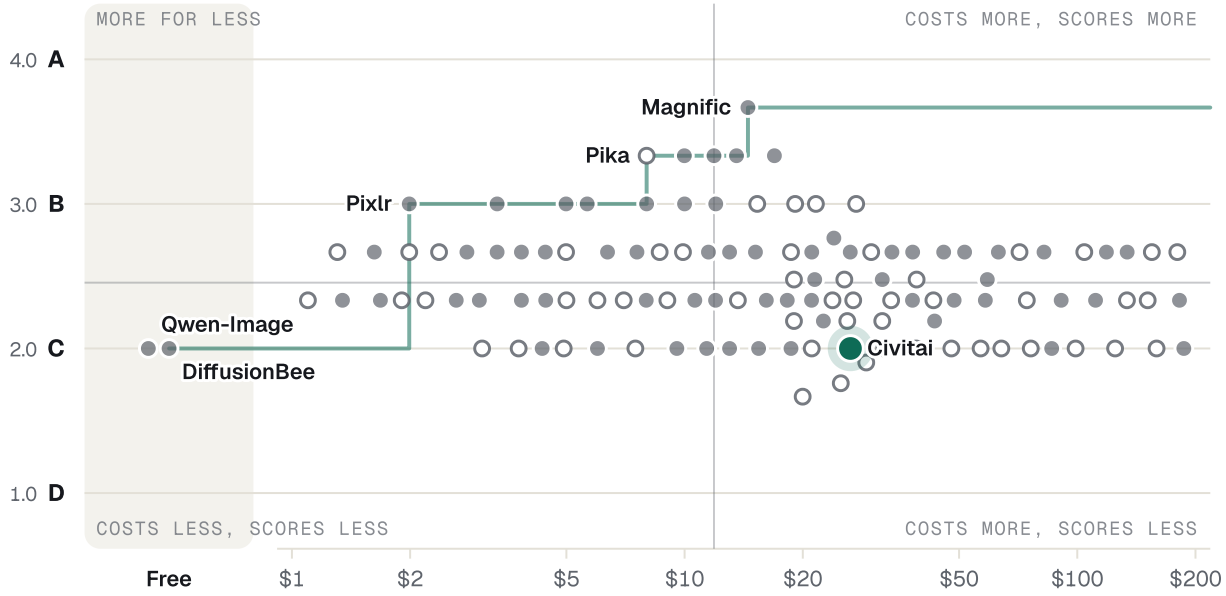
## Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 169 AI image and video generators we grade, cut by the letter each got. Civitai's own letter is outlined.



## Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 123 AI image and video generators. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Civitai 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

To replace Civitai you would be making an image model, which you can rent by the picture but not make. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 106 of the 168 other AI image and video generators grade higher. It costs $120 a year.

**What you could not**

- ✕ An image model, which you can rent by the picture but not make.
- ✕ A members' space with posts, chat and events that people keep coming back to.

- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

**What this rests on.** Civitai'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



OpenArt, Leonardo.Ai and NightCafe

The 3 tools Civitai is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.4 GPA

## OpenArt

Free trial · from $13/mo

AI image and video studio with characters and multi-scene stories.

- Civitai has a free plan. OpenArt does not, though it has a free trial.
- Civitai also covers community.
- OpenArt also covers video editing and video generation.

Civitai and OpenArt compared in full

3.0 GPA

## Leonardo.Ai

Free plan · from $12/mo

Image, video and 3D generator with its own and partner models.

- Only Leonardo.Ai lists iOS and Android apps.
- Civitai also covers community.
- Leonardo.Ai also covers video generation.

Civitai and Leonardo.Ai compared in full



2.4
GPA

## NightCafe

Free plan · from $7.49/mo

Community AI art generator with many models and daily free credits.

- Civitai also covers community.
- NightCafe also covers templates and video generation.

Civitai and NightCafe compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

# Quick answers

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

**12**

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 Civitai free?

Civitai has a free plan. Free accounts can upload, download, generate and earn Buzz; new accounts get 100 Blue Buzz.

### How much does Civitai cost?

Civitai lists 4 plans. Free: $0.

### What platforms does Civitai work on?

Civitai is available on Web.

### Does Civitai have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Civitai is listed for Web.

### Does Civitai have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Civitai is listed for Web.

### Is Civitai open source?

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

### What does Civitai integrate with?

Civitai's listing names Civitai Link. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

### Who makes Civitai?

Civitai is made by a company of the same name.

### What are the alternatives to Civitai?

The closest alternatives to Civitai in our directory are OpenArt, Leonardo.Ai and NightCafe.

### How does Civitai compare with other AI image and video generators?

Civitai's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 31 of the 168 other AI image and video generators we grade, and level with 31.

### Is Civitai good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Civitai C for value for money. On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4.

### Could I make my own version of Civitai?

To replace Civitai you would be making an image model, which you can rent by the picture but not make.

## Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Civitai'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 Civitai'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 Civitai. Prices change, so check civitai.com before you buy.

education.civitai.com/civitais-guide-to-membershi… education.civitai.com/civitais-guide-to-on-site-cur… education.civitai.com

# About ToolGPA

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

**7,721**

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**.

| 7,721 | 95 | 739 | 579 |
|---|---|---|---|
| tools graded | categories | price changes on record | apps priced in 12 countries |

## What else is on toolgpa.com

### Civitai, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/civitai

### 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:

```
ToolGPA, "Civitai: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/civitai
```

### Know someone choosing between AI image and video generators?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

# See our other guides

The best-graded AI image and video generators after Civitai, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

### AI Image & Video Generators Insider's Guide

Every one of the 169 AI image and video generators we grade, compared

### Pixlr Insider's Guide

Browser photo editors with AI image, video and audio tools

3.2 GPA

### Adobe Firefly Insider's Guide

Adobe's image, video and audio generator, with partner models

3.0 GPA

### ComfyUI Insider's Guide

Open-source node editor for image and video AI workflows, plus a cloud

3.0 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 Civitai'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. Civitai is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Civitai. Prices and plans change: check civitai.com before you buy.