ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Cotton Bureau

The Insider's Guide

Curated tee marketplace where designers sell on demand or pre-order



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among print-on-demand and dropshipping services, read from Cotton Bureau's own pages.

Made by Cotton Bureau · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
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 Cotton Bureau's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Cotton Bureau's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

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

2.6

GPA, above 45 of the 70 other print-on-demand and dropshipping services we grade

Cotton Bureau is a marketplace for printed apparel and other goods. Designers submit artwork, the company reviews it, and accepted designs go on sale on its own site. Cotton Bureau prints and ships the orders and handles customer service, and sellers set their price above a base cost. Larger creators can ask about fully branded stores.

> "
>
> **Designs are submitted for review and wait for an answer.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for designers selling tees on demand or by pre-order**

Cotton Bureau is a curated tee marketplace where selling costs nothing up front and you keep what you charge above the base price.

2 **It is free**

Cotton Bureau has no paid plan at all. Selling on Cotton Bureau is free for on-demand and pre-order tees, with no upfront cost; sellers earn what they charge above the base price.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Design review**

Submissions are reviewed before they go live; the help center says up to 90% of submissions are rejected.

5 **Seller-set pricing**

Sellers choose a retail price above the base number set by Cotton Bureau and keep the difference.

6 **Customer service handled**

Cotton Bureau deals with lost packages, returns, refunds, exchanges and wrong sizes or addresses.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 45 of 70**

That is against the other print-on-demand and dropshipping services we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

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

Cotton Bureau at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Cotton Bureau	CATEGORY Print on Demand & Dropshipping
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for designers selling tees on demand or by pre-order

Cotton Bureau is a curated tee marketplace where selling costs nothing up front and you keep what you charge above the base price. The catch is that its help centre says up to 90% of designs are rejected, and sales run through its marketplace, not a shop you own.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Cotton Bureau	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	No fees to list. You earn the gap between your price and the base price, paid on the 15th once you reach $25.
Free plan and trial	A	Selling is free for on-demand and pre-order tees, with no upfront cost at all.
Features	C	Design review, seller-set prices, customer service handled for you and pre-order campaigns. It sells tees on its own marketplace, with branded stores only as a paid extra.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. Designs are submitted for review and wait for an answer.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, sold through Cotton Bureau's own marketplace, with no store integrations listed.
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 Cotton Bureau is for

- ✓ Fits if you are a designer who wants tees sold without running a store
- ✓ Works for people who can live with a monthly payout

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you need every design accepted, as up to 90% are rejected
- ✗ Skip it if you want your own store, since sales go through Cotton Bureau's marketplace
- ✗ Pricey if you want a branded store, which has an upfront development cost and a 4 to 6 week build
- ✗ Watch out: payouts come once a month, and balances under $25 wait until December

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Illustrators and designers who want to sell tees without handling production
- ✓ Creators with an audience who want a branded merch store
- ✓ Sellers who prefer not to manage customer service

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Designs are curated and the help center says up to 90% are rejected, so acceptance is not guaranteed.
- ⓘ Products are sold through Cotton Bureau's own marketplace, not through a store the seller owns, unless a branded store is arranged.
- ⓘ A branded store carries an upfront development cost and a typical 4-6 week build.
- ⓘ Payouts run monthly, on the 15th, once earnings reach $25; smaller balances are paid in December.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Cotton Bureau is free to use.

> **Selling is free for on-demand and pre-order tees, with no upfront cost at all.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

SELLER ACCOUNT

$0

No upfront cost. Accepted designs are sold on Cotton Bureau; payouts go out on the 15th of each month once earnings reach $25.

The free plan

Selling on Cotton Bureau is free for on-demand and pre-order tees, with no upfront cost; sellers earn what they charge above the base price.

Read from support.cottonbureau.com on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Curated tee marketplace where designers sell on demand or pre-order. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: online store, print on demand.

> **Design review, seller-set prices, customer service handled for you and pre-order campaigns.**
>
> From our grade for features

Design review

Submissions are reviewed before they go live; the help center says up to 90% of submissions are rejected.

Seller-set pricing

Sellers choose a retail price above the base number set by Cotton Bureau and keep the difference.

Customer service handled

Cotton Bureau deals with lost packages, returns, refunds, exchanges and wrong sizes or addresses.

Sales methods

Designs can be sold on demand or as pre-order campaigns; stock sales are available to larger sellers.

Branded stores

A fully branded store covering many product types is available with an upfront development cost, and it is aimed at creators with substantial audiences.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Cotton Bureau is made by Cotton Bureau.

Where it stands

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

45/70

Other print-on-demand and dropshipping services it is graded above

Cotton Bureau's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 45 of the 70 other print-on-demand and dropshipping services we grade, and level with 8.

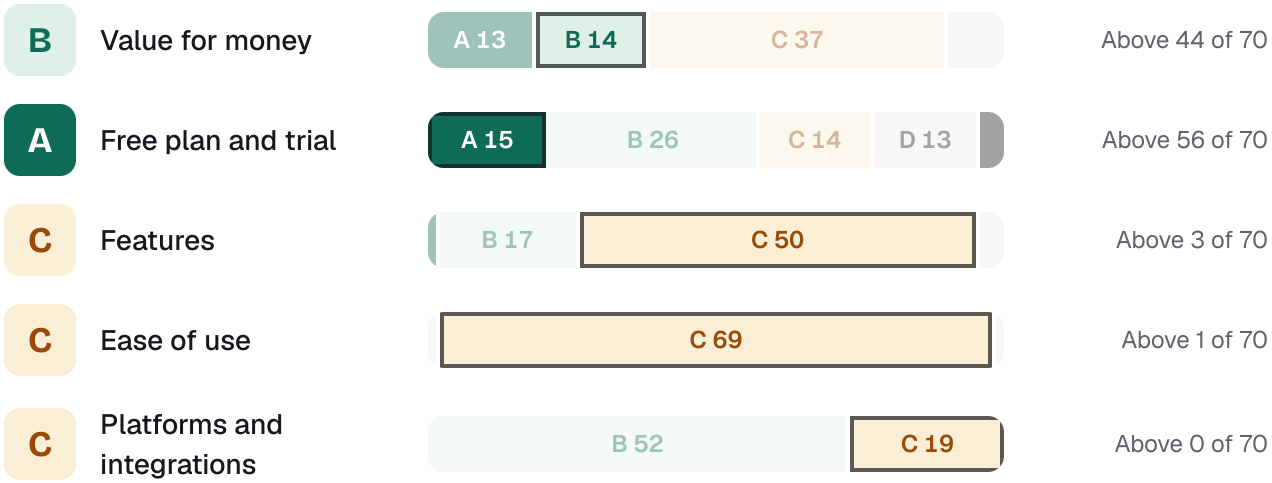
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 56 of 70) and worst on platforms and integrations (C, above 0).

Cotton Bureau has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

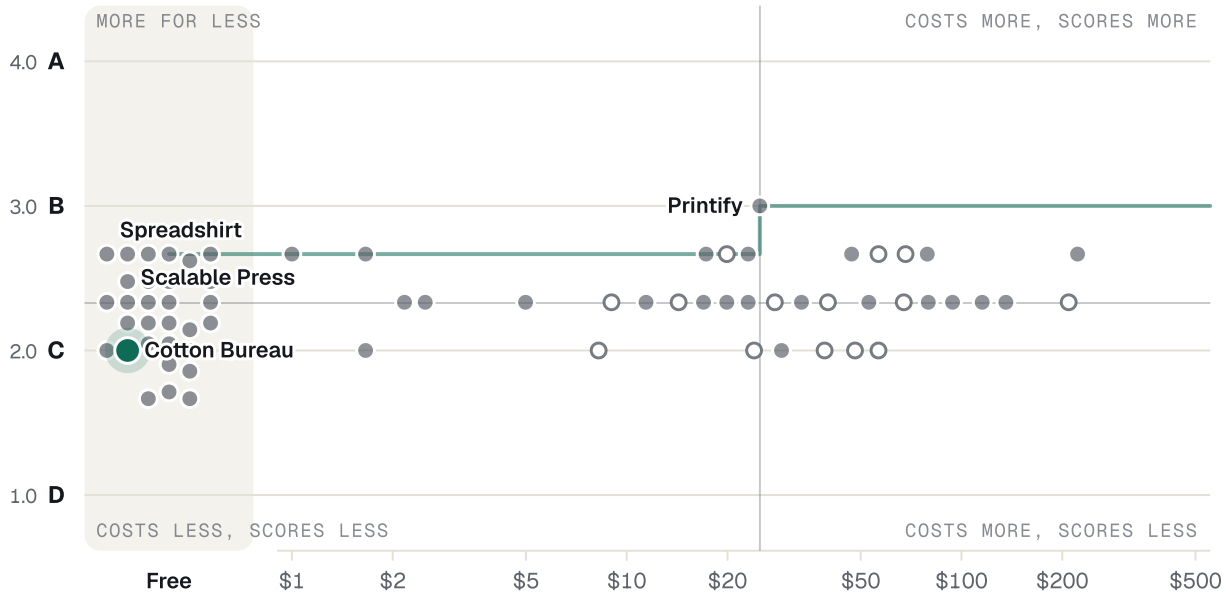
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 71 print-on-demand and dropshipping services we grade, cut by the letter each got. Cotton Bureau's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 68 print-on-demand and dropshipping services. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Cotton Bureau 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

Cotton Bureau 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

- ✕ Printers that make and ship each order.
- ✕ Checkout, card payments and sales tax handled for you.

What this rests on. Cotton Bureau'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



Teemill, Bonfire and Spreadshirt

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

2.6 GPA

Teemill

Free

Free store builder with sustainable print-on-demand fulfilment.

- Teemill also covers dropshipping.

Cotton Bureau and Teemill compared in full

2.2 GPA

Bonfire

Free trial · from $8.25/mo

Custom merch store builder with print-on-demand and fundraising.

- Cotton Bureau has a free plan. Bonfire does not, though it has a free trial.

Cotton Bureau and Bonfire compared in full

2.8 GPA

Spreadshirt

Free

Free Spreadshop stores with print-on-demand apparel and gifts.

- Spreadshirt also covers dropshipping.

Cotton Bureau and Spreadshirt 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 Cotton Bureau free?

Yes. Cotton Bureau is free to use.

How much does Cotton Bureau cost?

Cotton Bureau lists one plan. Seller account: $0.

What platforms does Cotton Bureau work on?

Cotton Bureau is available on Web.

Does Cotton Bureau have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Cotton Bureau is listed for Web.

Does Cotton Bureau have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Cotton Bureau is listed for Web.

Is Cotton Bureau open source?

Cotton Bureau is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

Who makes Cotton Bureau?

Cotton Bureau is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Cotton Bureau?

The closest alternatives to Cotton Bureau in our directory are Teemill, Bonfire and Spreadshirt.

How does Cotton Bureau compare with other print-on-demand and dropshipping services?

Cotton Bureau's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 45 of the 70 other print-on-demand and dropshipping services we grade, and level with 8.

Is Cotton Bureau good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Cotton Bureau B for value for money. Cotton Bureau has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Cotton Bureau?

Cotton Bureau 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 Cotton Bureau's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Cotton Bureau's own pages on 13 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 Cotton Bureau. Prices change, so check cottonbureau.com before you buy.

cottonbureau.com/
support.cottonbureau.com/article/57-how-much-...
support.cottonbureau.com/article/58-when-will-i-...
support.cottonbureau.com/category/91-how-it-wo...
support.cottonbureau.com/article/56-fine-let-s-d...
support.cottonbureau.com/article/182-do-you-off...

PART 07 · ABOUT

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

Cotton Bureau, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/cotton-bureau

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, "Cotton Bureau: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/cotton-bureau
```

Know someone choosing between print-on-demand and dropshipping services?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/cotton-bureau/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded print-on-demand and dropshipping services after Cotton Bureau, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Print on Demand & Dropshipping Insider's Guide

Every one of the 71 print-on-demand and dropshipping services we grade, compared

Printify Insider's Guide

Print-on-demand marketplace with 2,000+ products and 70+ printers

3.4 GPA

CJdropshipping Insider's Guide

Dropshipping supplier and sourcing agent with factory-price products

3.2 GPA

Printful Insider's Guide

Print-on-demand company that makes and ships orders in-house

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