ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

HoudahSpot

The Insider's Guide

Advanced file search for Mac built on Spotlight indexing



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from HoudahSpot's own pages.

Made by Houdah Studios GmbH · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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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 HoudahSpot's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on HoudahSpot'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

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GPA, above 13 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade

HoudahSpot is a Mac search app that builds on Spotlight's index to find files by name, text, tags and metadata. Searches combine criteria, cover several folders at once and show previews of matches.

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

> "
>
> **Install it and search; nothing to build.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for a more detailed file search on a Mac**

It leans on Spotlight, so if Spotlight is off or wrong, so is this.

2 **What it costs**

Paid plans start at $39 one-time, single user.

3 **You can try it first**

Free trial; in demo mode it shows a message and adds a delay when you open a result

4 **It runs on macOS**

macOS.

5 **Combined criteria**

Start with a simple search and add boolean-combined criteria such as name, text, tags, dates and metadata.

6 **Several folders**

Search many folders at once while excluding others.

7 **Columns**

Add and sort by any of hundreds of available columns.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 13 of 186**

That is against the other desktop utilities we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Your call**

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

HoudahSpot at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $39 one-time, single user

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
Free trial; in demo mode it shows a message and adds a delay when you open a result

RUNS ON
macOS

MADE BY
Houdah Studios GmbH

CATEGORY
Desktop Utilities

OUR GRADE
2.2 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for a more detailed file search on a Mac

HoudahSpot adds combined criteria, several folders and a preview to Spotlight's index, at $39 one-time. It leans on Spotlight, so if Spotlight is off or wrong, so is this.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD **HoudahSpot** Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	$39 one-time for one named user on unlimited computers, under two years of the typical utility subscription.
Free plan and trial	C	A free trial, but demo mode shows a message and adds a delay when you open a result. The listing doesn't say a card is needed.
Features	C	Combined criteria, several folders, columns and preview, but it sits on Spotlight indexing and Apple Mail search isn't available on macOS Sonoma or newer.
Ease of use	B	No rating on record. Install it and search; nothing to build.
Platforms and integrations	D	Mac only, macOS 10.14 or newer. Mac only, with no Windows, Linux, phone or web version.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 HoudahSpot is for

- ✓ Fits if Spotlight finds too much or too little for you
- ✓ Works for people who search across several folders with exact criteria

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want free search, as the trial slows you down and the licence is $39
- ✕ Watch out: it needs Spotlight indexing turned on
- ✕ Watch out: a licence covers one major version, and the upgrade from earlier ones costs $24 for a single user
- ✕ Not for you if you search Apple Mail on Sonoma or newer, since that search is gone

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Mac users who have outgrown Finder and Spotlight search
- ✓ People who search by metadata or text content often

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Needs macOS 10.14 or newer with Spotlight indexing enabled; Apple Mail search is not available on macOS Sonoma or newer.
- ⓘ A license covers one major version; the upgrade from earlier versions costs $24 single-user.
- ⓘ A family license exists, but its price could not be read from the buy page.

What it costs

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

$39 one-time

To start

HoudahSpot is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $39 one-time, single user.

> **A free trial, but demo mode shows a message and adds a delay when you open a result.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

SINGLE-USER LICENSE

$39

one-time, one named user, unlimited computers

Valid for the current major version (HoudahSpot 6).

SITE LICENSE

Custom

Volume pricing for five or more users; contact the vendor.

Trying it first

Free trial; in demo mode it shows a message and adds a delay when you open a result

Read from houdah.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

EDUCATION

Student pricing on request

Student pricing is available on request from a .edu or equivalent email address.

Stated on houdah.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: macOS

Advanced file search for Mac built on Spotlight indexing. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: one-time purchase, file management.

> **Mac only, with no Windows, Linux, phone or web version.**

From our grade for platforms and integrations

Combined criteria

Start with a simple search and add boolean-combined criteria such as name, text, tags, dates and metadata.

Several folders

Search many folders at once while excluding others.

Columns

Add and sort by any of hundreds of available columns.

Preview

Preview files and text matches before opening them.

Spotlight-based

Works with Spotlight indexing, which must be enabled, and runs on Intel and Apple Silicon Macs.

Where it runs

macOS

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

HoudahSpot is made by Houdah Studios GmbH.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

13/186

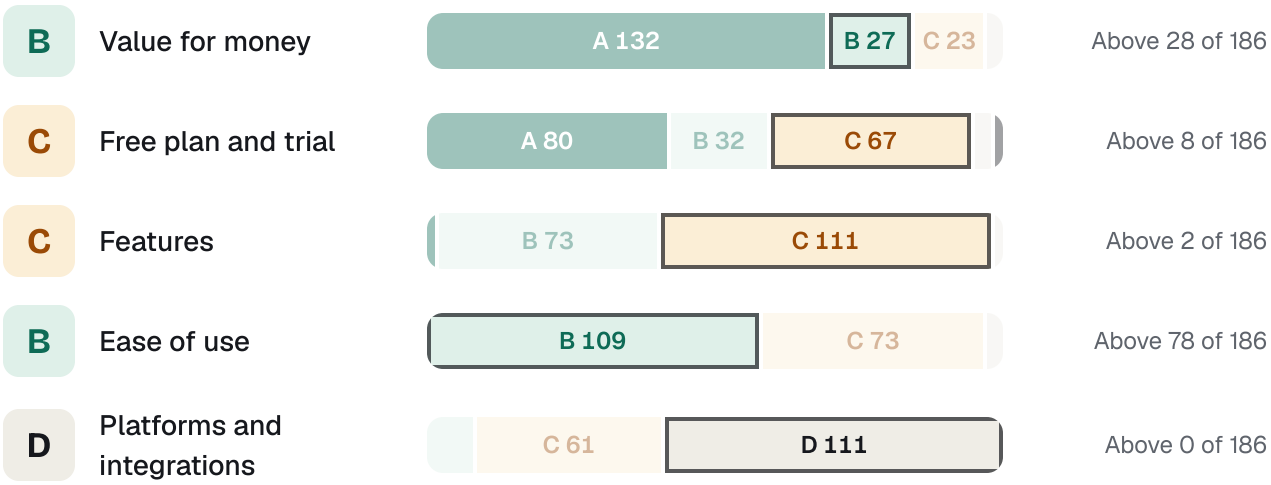
Other desktop utilities it is graded above

HoudahSpot's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 13 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 21.

It stands best on ease of use (B, above 78 of 186) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 187 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. HoudahSpot's own letter is outlined.



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.

Your call

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

HoudahSpot sits between: not beyond making, and not a weekend's work either. What you would give up is listed below. Whether that is worth the price is your call. At $39, paid once, it costs less than the weekend it would take to replace, which is the argument for keeping it.

What you could not

- ✕ A file manager working directly on your disk.
- ✕ A real app for macOS. Something home-made would be a web page.

What this rests on. HoudahSpot'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



Find Any File, Alfred, Raycast, Path Finder and Everything

The 5 tools HoudahSpot is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

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Find Any File

Free trial · from $6 one-time

Mac file finder that searches by name, date, size and content.

HoudahSpot and Find Any File compared in full

2.4 GPA

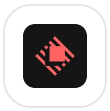
Alfred

Free plan · from £34 one-time

Mac launcher with hotkeys, snippets and custom workflows.

- Alfred has a free plan. HoudahSpot does not, though it has a free trial.
- HoudahSpot also covers file management.
- Alfred also covers workflow automation, launcher, clipboard manager and text expansion.

HoudahSpot and Alfred compared in full



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Raycast

Free plan · from $96/yr

Keyboard launcher with extensions, clipboard history and AI.

- Raycast has a free plan. HoudahSpot does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Raycast lists Windows and iOS apps.
- Only Raycast lists a browser extension.

HoudahSpot and Raycast compared in full



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Path Finder

Free trial · from $2.95/mo

Dual-pane file manager for Mac, built as a Finder alternative.

- HoudahSpot can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Path Finder also covers file sync.

HoudahSpot and Path Finder compared in full



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Everything

Free

Instant file and folder name search for Windows.

- Everything has a free plan. HoudahSpot does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only HoudahSpot lists a macOS app.
- Only Everything lists a Windows app.

HoudahSpot and Everything 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 HoudahSpot free?

No, HoudahSpot is a paid product, but you can try it first. Free trial; in demo mode it shows a message and adds a delay when you open a result.

How much does HoudahSpot cost?

HoudahSpot lists 2 plans. Single-User License: $39 one-time, one named user, unlimited computers.

What platforms does HoudahSpot work on?

HoudahSpot is available on macOS.

Does HoudahSpot offer any discounts?

HoudahSpot publicly lists the following: Student pricing on request.

Does HoudahSpot have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. HoudahSpot is listed for macOS.

Does HoudahSpot have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. HoudahSpot is listed for macOS.

Is HoudahSpot open source?

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

Does HoudahSpot have a student discount?

Student pricing on request. Student pricing is available on request from a .edu or equivalent email address.

Who makes HoudahSpot?

HoudahSpot is made by Houdah Studios GmbH.

What are the alternatives to HoudahSpot?

The closest alternatives to HoudahSpot in our directory are Find Any File, Alfred, Raycast, Path Finder and Everything.

How does HoudahSpot compare with other desktop utilities?

HoudahSpot's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 13 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 21.

Could I make my own version of HoudahSpot?

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from HoudahSpot'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 Houdah Studios GmbH'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 Houdah Studios GmbH. Prices change, so check houdah.com before you buy.

houdah.com/houdahSpot/
houdah.com/houdahSpot/download.html
houdah.com/houdahSpot/buy.html

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

HoudahSpot, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/houdahspot

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, "HoudahSpot: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/houdahspot
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after HoudahSpot, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Desktop Utilities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 187 desktop utilities we grade, compared

Just Color Picker Insider's Guide

Free portable color picker and editor for Windows and macOS

3.2 GPA

LocalSend Insider's Guide

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud

3.2 GPA

Mos Insider's Guide

Free Mac menu bar utility for smooth mouse wheel scrolling

3.2 GPA

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Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what HoudahSpot'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. HoudahSpot is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Houdah Studios GmbH. Prices and plans change: check houdah.com before you buy.