ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

InvoiceShelf

The Insider's Guide

Open-source invoicing and expense tracking you host yourself



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among accounting and invoicing tools, read from InvoiceShelf's own pages.

Made by InvoiceShelf · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
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 InvoiceShelf's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on InvoiceShelf'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

2.0

GPA, above 22 of the 127 other accounting and invoicing tools we grade

InvoiceShelf is open-source invoicing software released under AGPL-3.0 that you run on your own server. It handles invoices, estimates, recurring billing, expenses and payments, and can run several companies from one install. The site says every feature is free, with no seats or subscription.

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

> **It isn't a double-entry ledger, support is a Discord community, and you handle PHP and security updates.**
>
> From our report card of InvoiceShelf

1 **Best for self-hosted invoicing and expenses**

InvoiceShelf is open-source invoicing you run on your own server, with estimates, recurring billing, expenses and a customer portal.

2 **It is free**

InvoiceShelf has no paid plan at all. Fully free to self-host under AGPL-3.0, with unlimited invoices and estimates and no seat limits.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Invoices and estimates**

Builds branded invoices and estimates with custom fields, taxes and notes.

5 **Recurring billing**

Retainers and subscriptions are scheduled once and repeat invoices are generated automatically.

6 **Expenses and reports**

Tracks expenses, sales, taxes and overdue balances, with multi-currency support listed.

7 **A 2.0 GPA, above 22 of 127**

That is against the other accounting and invoicing tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

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

InvoiceShelf at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY InvoiceShelf	CATEGORY Accounting & Invoicing
OUR GRADE 2.0 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for self-hosted invoicing and expenses

InvoiceShelf is open-source invoicing you run on your own server, with estimates, recurring billing, expenses and a customer portal. It isn't a double-entry ledger, support is a Discord community, and you handle PHP and security updates.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

InvoiceShelf

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Free under AGPL-3.0 with no seat limits, but it only counts as free if you host it, which needs a server.
Free plan and trial	B	Every feature is free and unlimited, once you've installed it yourself.
Features	C	Invoices, estimates, recurring billing, expenses, multi-company and ZUGFeRD e-invoicing. The listing says it isn't a full ledger.
Ease of use	D	Installed with Docker or by hand on your own server, with updates yours to apply.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, and Stripe is the one online payment option named.

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 InvoiceShelf is for

- ✓ Fits if you bill clients regularly and can run your own server
- ✓ Works for German B2B sellers who need ZUGFeRD or Factur-X files

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a full double-entry ledger, as it covers invoicing and expenses only
- ✗ Not for you if you don't want to run PHP, since security updates are yours
- ✗ Watch out: support is a community on Discord, with no paid help
- ✗ Tight if you take card payments other than Stripe, the only one named
- ✗ Watch out: it needs a server you pay for

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Freelancers and small agencies that bill clients regularly
- ✓ Businesses that want customer records on their own server
- ✓ German B2B sellers who need ZUGFeRD or Factur-X invoices

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It covers invoicing, expenses and payments, not a full double-entry ledger.
- ⓘ Self-hosting means you handle PHP and security updates; the 2.4.7 release notes describe a PHP security fix.
- ⓘ Support is through the community on Discord.
- ⓘ Stripe is the online card payment option the site names.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

InvoiceShelf is free to use.

> **Every feature is free and unlimited, once you've installed it yourself.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

SELF-HOSTED

$0

Every feature is free; you install it with Docker or a manual install on your own server.

The free plan

Fully free to self-host under AGPL-3.0, with unlimited invoices and estimates and no seat limits.

Read from invoiceshelf.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

Open-source invoicing and expense tracking you host yourself. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, invoicing, reports, expense tracking, quotes and estimates.

> **Invoices, estimates, recurring billing, expenses, multi-company and ZUGFeRD e-invoicing.**
>
> From our grade for features

Invoices and estimates

Builds branded invoices and estimates with custom fields, taxes and notes.

Recurring billing

Retainers and subscriptions are scheduled once and repeat invoices are generated automatically.

Expenses and reports

Tracks expenses, sales, taxes and overdue balances, with multi-currency support listed.

Customer portal

Clients get a private place to view, download and pay invoices.

Multiple companies

Several businesses can run from one install, each with its own branding, currency and tax rules.

E-invoicing

An E-Invoicing module issues ZUGFeRD and Factur-X invoices for EN 16931; the site labels it new in 3.0.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Stripe

InvoiceShelf is made by InvoiceShelf.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

22/127

Other accounting and invoicing tools it is graded above

InvoiceShelf's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 22 of the 127 other accounting and invoicing tools we grade, and level with 20.

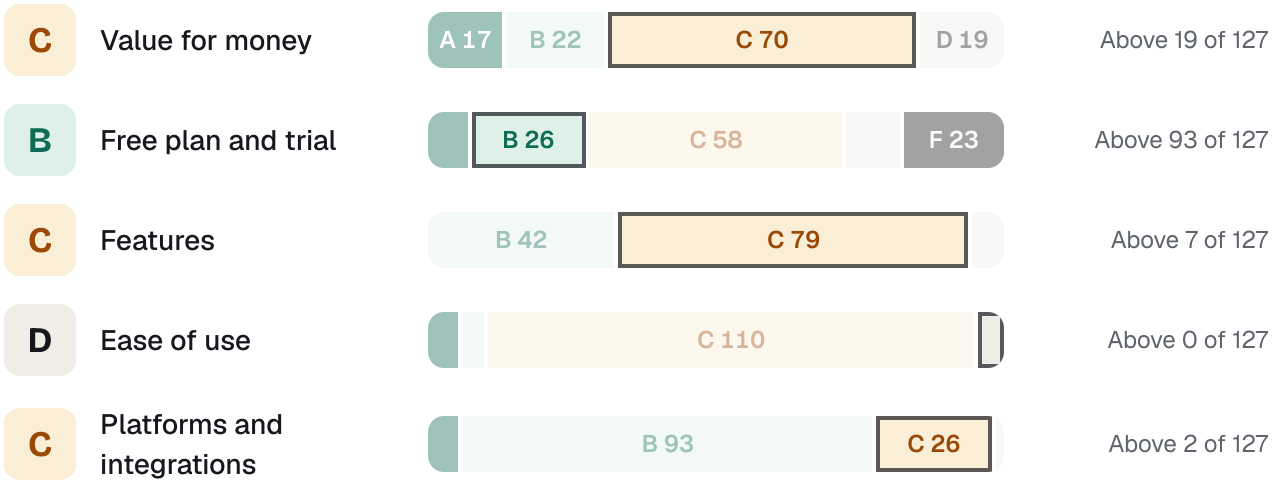
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 93 of 127) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

InvoiceShelf 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.

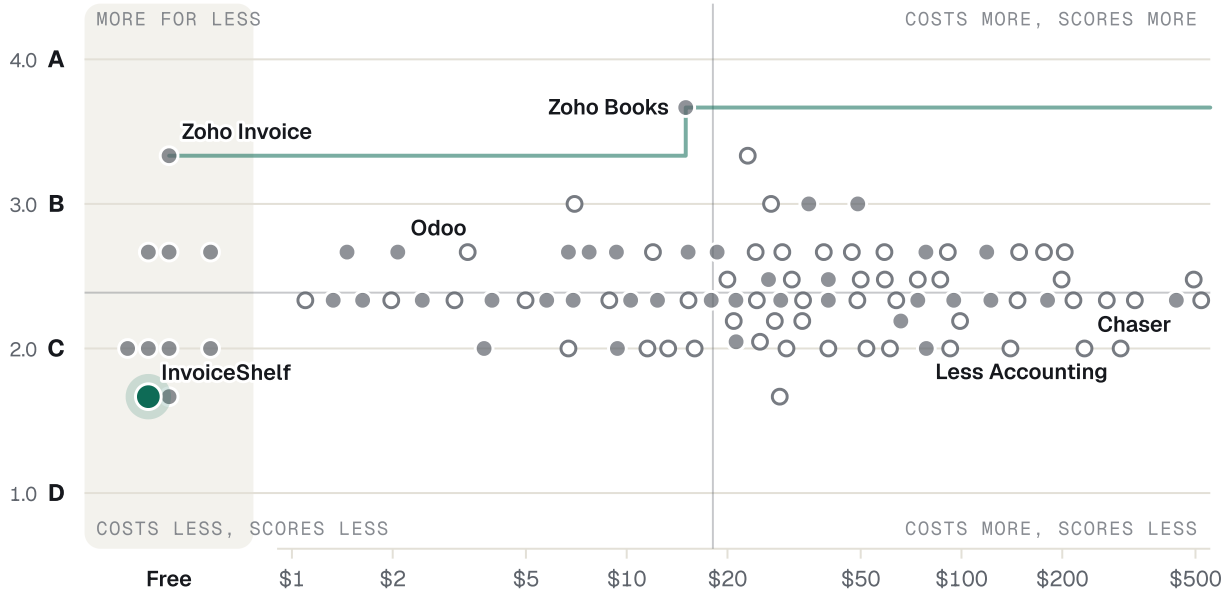
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 128 accounting and invoicing tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. InvoiceShelf's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 101 accounting and invoicing tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. InvoiceShelf 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

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

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 85 of the 127 other accounting and invoicing tools grade higher.

What you could make

- Invoicing, expense tracking, quotes and estimates and reports: an app builder makes these well.

What this rests on. InvoiceShelf'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



InvoicePlane, Invoice Ninja, Akaunting, Bigcapital and Manager.io

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

2.0 GPA

InvoicePlane

Free

Free self-hosted invoicing for quotes, invoices and payments.

- InvoiceShelf also covers reports and expense tracking.

InvoiceShelf and InvoicePlane compared in full

2.8 GPA

Invoice Ninja

Free plan · from $14/mo

Invoicing, expenses and time tracking with a free plan.

- Only Invoice Ninja lists macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS and Android apps.
- InvoiceShelf is open source, according to its own site.
- InvoiceShelf also covers reports.

InvoiceShelf and Invoice Ninja compared in full



2.2 GPA

Akaunting

Free plan · from $72/yr

Open-source accounting you can host yourself or use in the cloud.

- InvoiceShelf also covers quotes and estimates.
- Akaunting also covers bookkeeping.

InvoiceShelf and Akaunting compared in full



2.2 GPA

Bigcapital

Free

Open-source accounting you host yourself, with a cloud version planned.

- InvoiceShelf also covers expense tracking and quotes and estimates.
- Bigcapital also covers bookkeeping and inventory.

InvoiceShelf and Bigcapital compared in full



2.8 GPA

Manager.io

Free plan · from $59/mo

Free offline accounting for Windows, Mac and Linux, with a paid cloud.

- Only Manager.io lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- InvoiceShelf is open source, according to its own site.
- InvoiceShelf also covers quotes and estimates.

InvoiceShelf and Manager.io 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 InvoiceShelf free?

Yes. InvoiceShelf is free to use.

How much does InvoiceShelf cost?

InvoiceShelf lists one plan. Self-hosted: $0.

What platforms does InvoiceShelf work on?

InvoiceShelf is available on Web.

Does InvoiceShelf have an Android app?

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

Does InvoiceShelf have an iPhone app?

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

Is InvoiceShelf open source?

Yes. InvoiceShelf is open source, according to its own site.

What does InvoiceShelf integrate with?

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

Who makes InvoiceShelf?

InvoiceShelf is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to InvoiceShelf?

The closest alternatives to InvoiceShelf in our directory are InvoicePlane, Invoice Ninja, Akaunting, Bigcapital and Manager.io.

How does InvoiceShelf compare with other accounting and invoicing tools?

InvoiceShelf's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 22 of the 127 other accounting and invoicing tools we grade, and level with 20.

Is InvoiceShelf good value for money?

ToolGPA grades InvoiceShelf C for value for money. InvoiceShelf has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of InvoiceShelf?

InvoiceShelf is free, so making your own would save you nothing. That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 85 of the 127 other accounting and invoicing tools grade higher.

Where this guide comes from

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

invoiceshelf.com

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

InvoiceShelf, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/invoiceshelf

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, "InvoiceShelf: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/invoiceshelf
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Know someone choosing between accounting and invoicing tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded accounting and invoicing tools after InvoiceShelf, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Accounting & Invoicing Insider's Guide

Every one of the 129 accounting and invoicing tools we grade, compared

Zoho Invoice Insider's Guide

Free invoicing app from Zoho for freelancers and small businesses

3.6 GPA

Zoho Books Insider's Guide

Online accounting from Zoho, with a free plan and six paid tiers

3.4 GPA

Cash App Taxes Insider's Guide

Free federal and state tax filing inside Cash App

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