ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Kdenlive

The Insider's Guide

Free, open-source non-linear video editor from the KDE community



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among screen recording and video tools, read from Kdenlive's own pages.

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

3.0
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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 Kdenlive's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Kdenlive'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

3.0

GPA, above 120 of the 133 other screen recording and video tools we grade

Kdenlive is a non-linear video editor developed by the KDE community. It covers multi-track editing, effects and transitions with keyframes, color correction with scopes, audio mixing and subtitles, and it is free to download. Donations are requested but not required.

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

> "
>
> **No store rating on record, and a timeline editor has a learning curve.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for free multi-track video editing**

It's desktop only, has a learning curve, and its daily builds can corrupt projects.

2 **It is free**

Kdenlive has no paid plan at all. Free to download and use on Windows, macOS and Linux; the site asks for optional donations.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Multi-track timeline**

A non-linear workflow with multicam and 3-point editing, nested sequences, markers and automatic backups.

5 **Proxies and asset bins**

Imports footage in most audio and video formats, shows metadata, and can use proxies for smoother playback on slower machines. Clips can be tagged and sorted into several bins.

6 **Effects and transitions**

Hundreds of audio and video effects that can be keyframed, plus transitions and layer compositions.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 120 of 133**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Kdenlive at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY KDE	CATEGORY Screen Recording & Video
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for free multi-track video editing

Kdenlive is a free multi-track video editor from the KDE community for Windows, Mac and Linux, with effects, keyframes, color grading and subtitles. It's desktop only, has a learning curve, and its daily builds can corrupt projects.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Kdenlive

Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free to download and use, and anyone can run it. The project asks for optional donations.
Free plan and trial	A	The full editor is free on all three systems, with no caps or watermark.
Features	B	Multi-track timeline, proxies, hundreds of effects with keyframes, color tools, audio mixing and subtitles. Nothing in the listing is missing from the core editing job.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record, and a timeline editor has a learning curve.
Platforms and integrations	C	Desktop only: Windows, Mac and Linux, with no mobile or browser version.

Grade point average — Very good, out of 4.0 **3.0**

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 Kdenlive is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a free editor for projects with several tracks
- ✓ Works for people who edit on Linux

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you need a phone or browser editor, since it's desktop only
- ✗ Watch out: daily builds can be unstable and can corrupt existing projects
- ✗ Tight if your computer is old, because Windows needs 10 and macOS needs 13
- ✗ Not for you if you want templates and a quick result, since it's a full editor with a learning curve

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Editors who want a free, open-source desktop editor
- ✓ Linux users who need a full timeline editor
- ✓ Projects that need subtitles and basic color grading

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Desktop only: the download page lists Windows, Linux and macOS builds, with no mobile or browser version.
- ⓘ Windows needs version 10 or newer, and macOS needs 13 (Ventura) or newer.
- ⓘ Daily builds are offered for testing, and the site warns they can be unstable and can corrupt existing projects.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Kdenlive is free to use.

> **Free to download and use, and anyone can run it.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

The full editor on Windows, macOS and Linux. The project asks for optional donations.

The free plan

Free to download and use on Windows, macOS and Linux; the site asks for optional donations.

Read from kdenlive.org on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

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

3

Places it runs: macOS, Windows and Linux

Free, open-source non-linear video editor from the KDE community. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, transcription, video editing.

> **Multi-track timeline, proxies, hundreds of effects with keyframes, color tools, audio mixing and subtitles.**
>
> From our grade for features

Multi-track timeline

A non-linear workflow with multicam and 3-point editing, nested sequences, markers and automatic backups.

Proxies and asset bins

Imports footage in most audio and video formats, shows metadata, and can use proxies for smoother playback on slower machines. Clips can be tagged and sorted into several bins.

Effects and transitions

Hundreds of audio and video effects that can be keyframed, plus transitions and layer compositions.

Color tools

LUTs, basic corrections and detailed grading, with histogram, vectorscope, RGB parade and waveform views.

Subtitles and titles

Subtitles can be created with automatic transcription. Simple title clips are built in, and projects can connect to Glaxnimate for motion graphics.

Audio mixing

Audio mixers, built-in voiceover recording and an audio spectrum view.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Glaxnimate

Kdenlive is made by KDE.

Where it stands

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

120/133

Other screen recording and video tools it is graded above

Kdenlive's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 120 of the 133 other screen recording and video tools we grade, and level with 8.

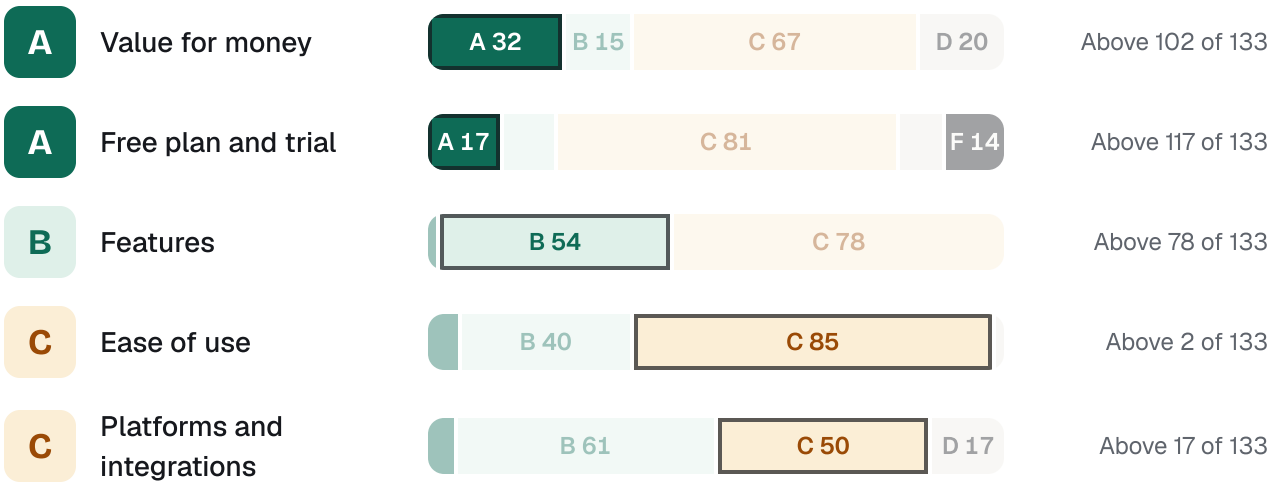
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 117 of 133) and worst on ease of use (C, above 2).

Kdenlive has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4, and no tool on the category's chart scores higher without costing more.

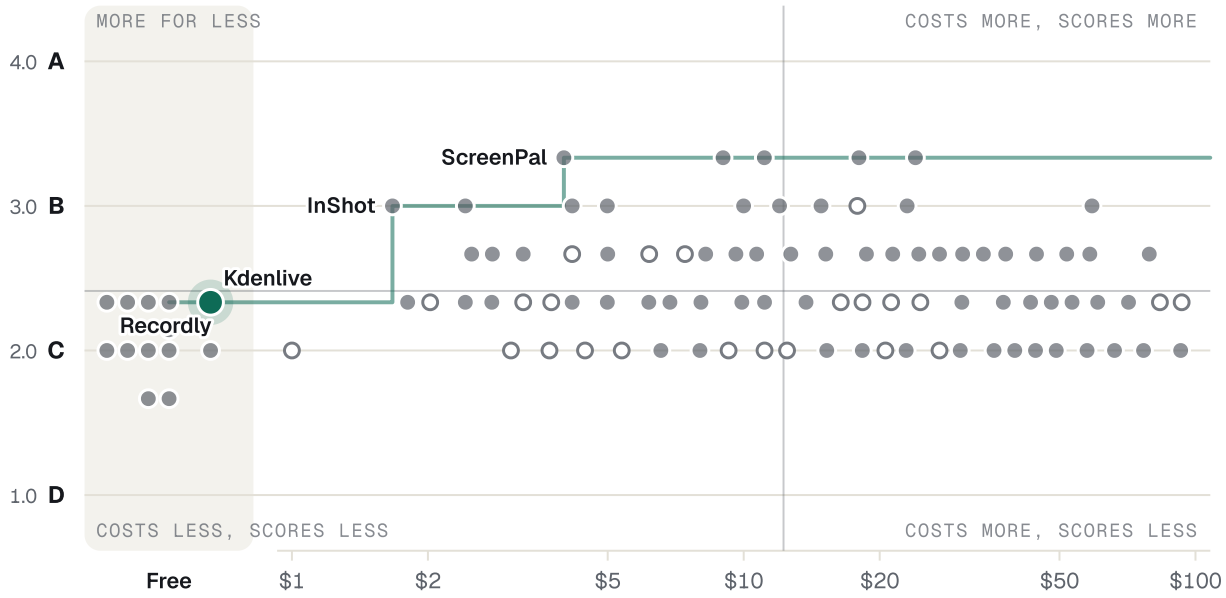
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 134 screen recording and video tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Kdenlive's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 102 screen recording and video tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Kdenlive 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.0 is higher than 120 of the 133 other screen recording and video tools we grade.

What you could not

- A video editor.
- Speech turned into text you can trust.
- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Kdenlive'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



Shotcut, OpenShot, DaVinci Resolve, OBS Studio and HandBrake

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

2.8 GPA

Shotcut

Free

Free open-source video editor for Windows, Mac and Linux.

- Kdenlive also covers transcription.
- Shotcut also covers screen recording.

Kdenlive and Shotcut compared in full

3.0 GPA

OpenShot

Free

Free, open-source video editor for Linux, Mac and Windows.

- Kdenlive also covers transcription.
- OpenShot also covers screen recording.

Kdenlive and OpenShot compared in full



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DaVinci Resolve

Free plan · from $94.99

Video editing, color, effects and audio post-production in one app.

- Only DaVinci Resolve lists an iOS app.
- Kdenlive is open source, according to its own site.
- DaVinci Resolve can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Kdenlive and DaVinci Resolve compared in full



2.8
GPA

OBS Studio

Free

Free, open-source software for video recording and live streaming.

- Kdenlive also covers transcription and video editing.
- OBS Studio also covers noise cancellation and screen recording.

Kdenlive and OBS Studio compared in full



2.8
GPA

HandBrake

Free

Free open-source video converter for Windows, Mac and Linux.

- Kdenlive also covers transcription.
- HandBrake also covers file compression.

Kdenlive and HandBrake 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 Kdenlive free?

Yes. Kdenlive is free to use.

How much does Kdenlive cost?

Kdenlive lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Kdenlive work on?

Kdenlive is available on Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does Kdenlive have an Android app?

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

Does Kdenlive have an iPhone app?

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

Is Kdenlive open source?

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

What does Kdenlive integrate with?

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

Who makes Kdenlive?

Kdenlive is made by KDE.

What are the alternatives to Kdenlive?

The closest alternatives to Kdenlive in our directory are Shotcut, OpenShot, DaVinci Resolve, OBS Studio and HandBrake.

How does Kdenlive compare with other screen recording and video tools?

Kdenlive's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 120 of the 133 other screen recording and video tools we grade, and level with 8.

Is Kdenlive good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Kdenlive?

Kdenlive 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 Kdenlive'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 Kdenlive'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 KDE. Prices change, so check kdenlive.org before you buy.

kdenlive.org

kdenlive.org/download/

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

Kdenlive, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/kdenlive

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, "Kdenlive: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/kdenlive
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Know someone choosing between screen recording and video tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded screen recording and video tools after Kdenlive, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Screen Recording & Video Insider's Guide

Every one of the 134 screen recording and video tools we grade, compared



DaVinci Resolve Insider's Guide

Video editing, color, effects and audio post-production in one app

3.4 GPA



Zencastr Insider's Guide

Free podcast recording, chat-based editing and hosting in one app

3.4 GPA



Cap Insider's Guide

Open-source screen recorder with instant share links and an editor

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 Kdenlive'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. Kdenlive is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by KDE. Prices and plans change: check kdenlive.org before you buy.