ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Luminar Neo

The Insider’s Guide

AI photo editor sold as a one-time license, from Skylum



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI image and video generators, read from Luminar Neo’s own pages.

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

2.4
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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 Luminar Neo's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Luminar Neo'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

2.4

GPA, above 106 of the 168 other AI image and video generators we grade

Luminar is Skylum's AI photo editor for desktop and mobile, sold as perpetual licenses rather than a subscription. It offers sky, portrait and light tools, generative erase, swap and expand, photo restoration and an AI assistant that applies edits from a written request. It also runs as a plug-in for Photoshop, Lightroom and Apple Photos.

> "
>
> **It's a program you install and start editing in.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for AI photo editing you buy once**

Luminar Neo is Skylum's photo editor, sold as a one-time licence from $89 rather than a subscription, with sky, portrait and generative tools.

2 **What it costs**

Paid plans start at $89 one-time, Desktop Only (shown as 77% off $417).

3 **It runs on 4 platforms**

macOS, Windows, iOS and Android.

4 **Generative tools**

GenErase, GenSwap and GenExpand remove, replace or extend parts of a photo using generative AI.

5 **AI Assistant**

Takes an edit described in plain words, applies it, recommends options and answers questions about the photo.

6 **Portrait and sky tools**

Face AI, Skin AI, Bokeh AI and Sky AI target portraits and landscapes with sliders rather than manual masking.

7 **A 2.4 GPA, above 106 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.

8 **Keep it**

To replace Luminar Neo 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.

Luminar Neo at a glance

PRICING Paid, from $89 one-time, Desktop Only (shown as 77% off $417)	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, iOS, Android
MADE BY Skylum	CATEGORY AI Image & Video Generators
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for AI photo editing you buy once

Luminar Neo is Skylum's photo editor, sold as a one-time licence from $89 rather than a subscription, with sky, portrait and generative tools. But the generative tools and AI assistant are only included for a year, after which they need a Luminar Prime subscription, and the discount banner has no end date.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Luminar Neo	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	$89 one time for 2 computers, less than a year of the $11.88 middle subscription ($142). The catch is that the generative tools run out after a year.
Free plan and trial	F	No free plan and no trial on the pricing page.
Features	C	Sky, portrait and light tools, generative erase and expand, restoration and a plug-in mode. The generative tools and assistant lapse after 1 year without Prime.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record. It's a program you install and start editing in.
Platforms and integrations	B	Mac, Windows, iOS and Android, with 3 integrations. No web version yet: the page lists Luminar on Web as coming in Fall 2026.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

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 Luminar Neo is for

- ✓ Fits if you'd rather pay once than subscribe and edit on a Mac or Windows PC
- ✓ Works for photographers who want AI edits inside Lightroom or Photoshop as a plug-in

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want to try before paying, as there's no free plan or trial
- ✗ Watch out: the generative tools and AI assistant are included for 1 year, then need a Luminar Prime subscription
- ✗ Pricey if you want phone editing: Desktop Only at $89 leaves out mobile, which starts at $109
- ✗ Tight on Desktop Only, where the page says big upgrades may need extra payments
- ✗ Watch out: the crossed-out $417 price and the Black Friday banner have no end date

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Photographers who prefer buying a license to renting software
- ✓ Editors who want portrait, sky and generative fixes in one app
- ✓ People who edit on both a computer and a phone

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The generative tools and AI Assistant are included for 1 year, then need a Luminar Prime subscription.
- ⓘ The page says big upgrades may need extra payments on the Desktop Only plan.
- ⓘ Luminar on Web is listed as coming in Fall 2026, so it is not counted as a platform here.
- ⓘ Cross-device editing currently works one way, from mobile to desktop.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$89 one-time

To start

Luminar Neo is a paid product, starting at $89 one-time, Desktop Only (shown as 77% off $417).

> **The catch is that the generative tools run out after a year.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

DESKTOP ONLY

$89

one-time

Perpetual license for 2 Mac or Windows computers; the page shows $417 crossed out and a Black Friday banner with no end date.

ALL PLATFORMS

$109

one-time

Adds Luminar Mobile on 3 devices, cross-device editing and Spaces web galleries; crossed-out price $477.

MAX

$129

one-time

All Platforms plus 1 year of Luminar Prime: yearly feature upgrades and the asset library; crossed-out price $546.

Read from skylum.com on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

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Places it runs: macOS, Windows, iOS and Android

AI photo editor sold as a one-time license, from Skylum. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: one-time purchase, AI features, image generation.

> **Sky, portrait and light tools, generative erase and expand, restoration and a plug-in mode.**
>
> From our grade for features

Generative tools

GenErase, GenSwap and GenExpand remove, replace or extend parts of a photo using generative AI.

AI Assistant

Takes an edit described in plain words, applies it, recommends options and answers questions about the photo.

Portrait and sky tools

Face AI, Skin AI, Bokeh AI and Sky AI target portraits and landscapes with sliders rather than manual masking.

Restoration and upscaling

Photo restoration and an AI upscaler are listed, along with noise reduction, HDR merge and panorama stitching.

Plug-in mode

The desktop app works standalone or as a plug-in for Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom and Apple Photos.

Where it runs

macOS
Windows
iOS
Android

What it works with

Adobe Photoshop
Adobe Lightroom
Apple Photos

Luminar Neo is made by Skylum.

Where it stands

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

106/168

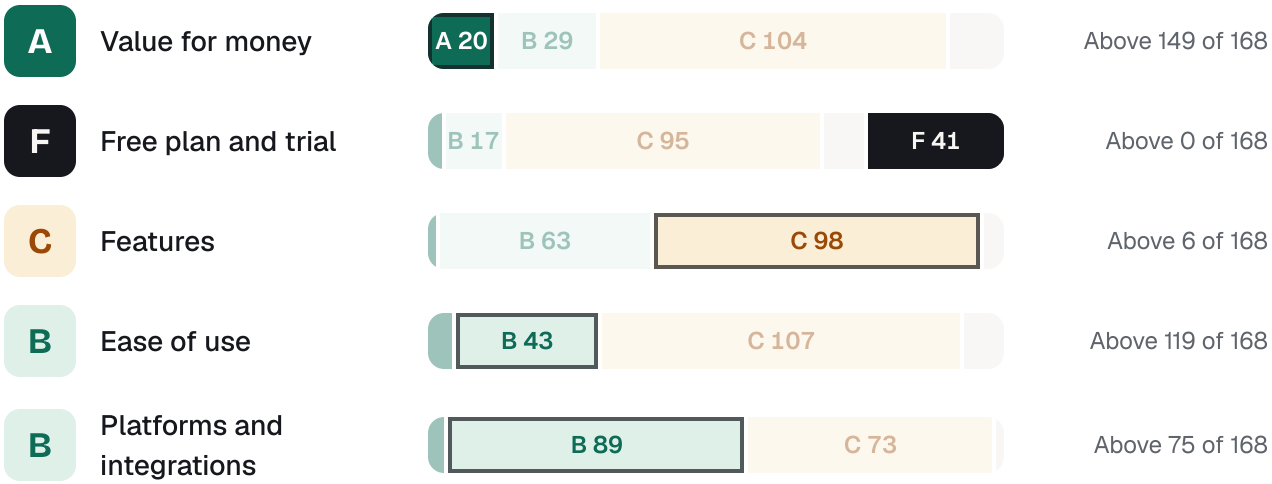
Other AI image and video generators it is graded above

Luminar Neo's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 106 of the 168 other AI image and video generators we grade, and level with 25.

It stands best on value for money (A, above 149 of 168) and worst on free plan and trial (F, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 169 AI image and video generators we grade, cut by the letter each got. Luminar Neo'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.

Keep it

To replace Luminar Neo 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.

It costs $89, paid once.

What you could not

- An image model, which you can rent by the picture but not make.
- Apps for macOS, Windows, iOS and Android that stay in step with each other.
- AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Luminar Neo'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



Topaz Labs, Pixlr, Fotor, Picsart and Photoleap

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

2.0 GPA

Topaz Labs

From $19/mo

AI upscaling and enhancement apps for photos and video.

- Only Luminar Neo lists an Android app.
- Only Topaz Labs lists a web app.
- Luminar Neo can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Luminar Neo and Topaz Labs compared in full

3.2 GPA

Pixlr

Free plan · from $1.99/mo

Browser photo editors with AI image, video and audio tools.

- Pixlr has a free plan. Luminar Neo does not.
- Only Luminar Neo lists macOS and Windows apps.
- Only Pixlr lists a web app.

Luminar Neo and Pixlr compared in full



3.0
GPA

Fotor

Free plan · from $39.99/yr

Photo editor and AI image and video generator with credit plans.

- Fotor has a free plan. Luminar Neo does not.
- Only Fotor lists a web app.
- Luminar Neo can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Luminar Neo and Fotor compared in full



2.0
GPA

Picsart

Paid

Photo and video editor with AI generation and design tools.

- Only Luminar Neo lists Windows and Android apps.
- Only Picsart lists a web app.
- Luminar Neo can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Luminar Neo and Picsart compared in full



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Photoleap

Free trial

iPhone photo editor with AI image generation and layered edits.

- Only Luminar Neo lists macOS, Windows and Android apps.
- Luminar Neo can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Photoleap also covers video generation.

Luminar Neo and Photoleap compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

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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 Luminar Neo free?

No. Luminar Neo is a paid product, starting at $89 one-time, Desktop Only (shown as 77% off $417).

How much does Luminar Neo cost?

Luminar Neo lists 3 plans. Desktop Only: $89 one-time.

What platforms does Luminar Neo work on?

Luminar Neo is available on macOS, Windows, iOS and Android.

Does Luminar Neo have a Linux app?

No Linux app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Luminar Neo is listed for macOS, Windows, iOS and Android.

Is Luminar Neo open source?

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

What does Luminar Neo integrate with?

Luminar Neo's listing names Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom and Apple Photos.

Who makes Luminar Neo?

Luminar Neo is made by Skylum.

What are the alternatives to Luminar Neo?

The closest alternatives to Luminar Neo in our directory are Topaz Labs, Pixlr, Fotor, Picsart and Photoleap.

How does Luminar Neo compare with other AI image and video generators?

Luminar Neo's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 106 of the 168 other AI image and video generators we grade, and level with 25.

Could I make my own version of Luminar Neo?

To replace Luminar Neo 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 Luminar Neo'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 Skylum'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 Skylum. Prices change, so check skylum.com before you buy.

skylum.com/luminar/pricing

skylum.com/luminar

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

Luminar Neo, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/luminar-neo

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, "Luminar Neo: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/luminar-neo
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Know someone choosing between AI image and video generators?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/luminar-neo/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI image and video generators after Luminar Neo, 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 Luminar Neo'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. Luminar Neo is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Skylum. Prices and plans change: check skylum.com before you buy.