ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

# Marta

## The Insider’s Guide

Native macOS file manager with keyboard control and Lua plugins



**Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from Marta’s own pages.**

Made by Yan Zhulanow · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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ToolGPA put this guide together from Marta's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Marta'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 69 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade

Marta is a file manager for macOS written in Swift, with tabs, an action panel and archive support. It is customized through a configuration language and Lua plugins, and the vendor invites support through Patreon.

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

> "
>
> **Keyboard-driven use and Lua scripting mean a learning curve.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

**1** **Best for a keyboard-driven file manager on a Mac**

Marta is a native Mac file manager with keyboard control and Lua plugins, free.

**2** **It is free**

Marta has no paid plan at all. The download page lists no price and invites support on Patreon; the release is labeled beta.

**3** **It runs on macOS**

macOS.

**4** **Native macOS app**

Written entirely in Swift, according to the vendor.

**5** **Keyboard and mouse**

Works by keyboard or mouse, with an Actions Panel opened by Command-Shift-P.

**6** **Archives as folders**

Opens and writes ZIP and opens RAR, 7Z, XAR, TAR, ISO, CAB, LZH and more, including nested archives.

**7** **A 2.6 GPA, above 69 of 186**

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

**8** **Keep it**

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

### Marta at a glance

| | |
|---|---|
| PRICING<br>Free | FREE PLAN<br>Yes |
| FREE TRIAL<br>None stated | RUNS ON<br>macOS |
| MADE BY<br>Yan Zhulanow | CATEGORY<br>Desktop Utilities |
| OUR GRADE<br>2.6 GPA, good | |

## The report card

### Best for a keyboard-driven file manager on a Mac

Marta is a native Mac file manager with keyboard control and Lua plugins, free. The download page calls it beta at version 0.8.2 and its copyright runs only to 2024.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Marta** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

| SUBJECT | GRADE | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|
| **Value for money** | A | No price on the download page; it asks for Patreon support. |

| SUBJECT | GRADE | COMMENT |
|---|---|---|
| **Free plan and trial** | A | Free with no cap and no trial. No cap, no trial and no paid tier. |
| **Features** | C | Archives as folders, Lua plugin API, built-in terminal and disk usage, but the release is labelled beta. |
| **Ease of use** | C | No rating on record. Keyboard-driven use and Lua scripting mean a learning curve. |
| **Platforms and integrations** | D | Mac only, macOS 11 or later. Mac only, with no Windows, Linux, phone or web version. |
| **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 Marta is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a keyboard-first file manager on a Mac
- ✓ Works for people who like scripting their tools in Lua

### Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want a finished release, since the download page says it is in beta
- ✗ Skip it if you use Windows or Linux, as it is Mac only
- ✗ Watch out: it needs macOS 11 or later
- ✗ Watch out: the site's copyright ends at 2024 and lists no paid support

# Good to know

## Good for

- Mac users who want a keyboard-driven alternative to Finder
- People who like to script or theme their tools

## Worth knowing

- The download page says Marta is in beta; the latest version listed is 0.8.2.
- Requires macOS 11.0 or later.
- The site shows a 2016 to 2024 copyright and lists no paid support.

# What it costs

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

**Free**

No paid plan at all

Marta is free to use.

> **No price on the download page; it asks for Patreon support.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

## $0

Download listed without a price; optional Patreon support.

### The free plan

The download page lists no price and invites support on Patreon; the release is labeled beta.

Read from marta.sh 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: macOS

Native macOS file manager with keyboard control and Lua plugins. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: keyboard-first, file management, file compression.

> **Archives as folders, Lua plugin API, built-in terminal and disk usage, but the release is labelled beta.**
>
> From our grade for features

### Native macOS app

Written entirely in Swift, according to the vendor.

### Keyboard and mouse

Works by keyboard or mouse, with an Actions Panel opened by Command-Shift-P.

### Archives as folders

Opens and writes ZIP and opens RAR, 7Z, XAR, TAR, ISO, CAB, LZH and more, including nested archives.

### Lua plugin API

Plugins written in Lua can adapt the app, and configuration uses a dedicated DSL.

## Built-in terminal and disk usage

A terminal syncs its directory with a file pane, and Analyze Disk Usage shows what takes space.

### Where it runs

macOS

### What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Marta is made by Yan Zhulanow.

# Where it stands

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

**69/186**

Other desktop utilities it is graded above

Marta's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 69 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 46.

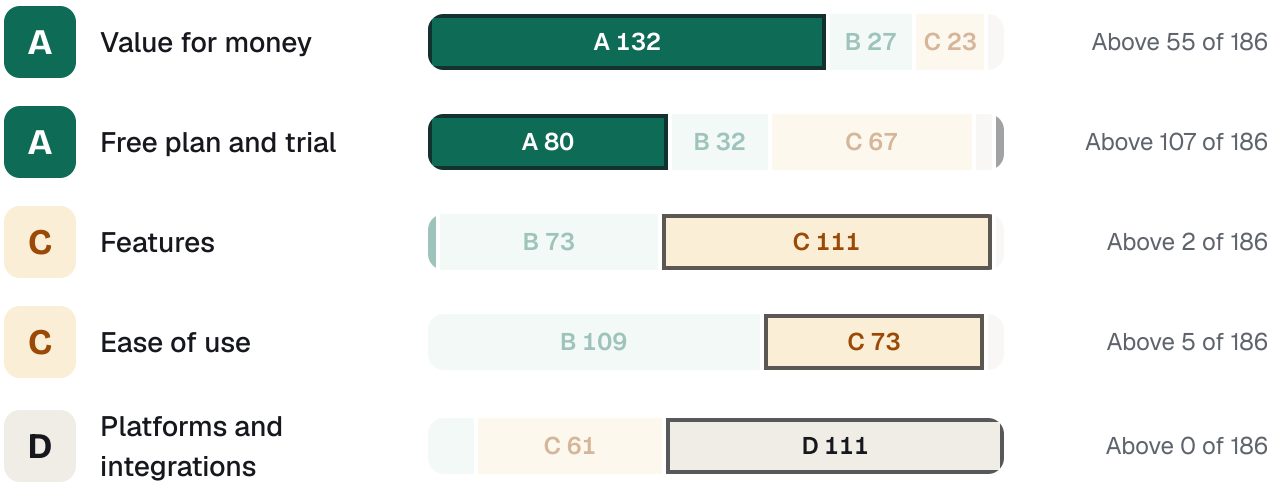
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 107 of 186) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Marta 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.

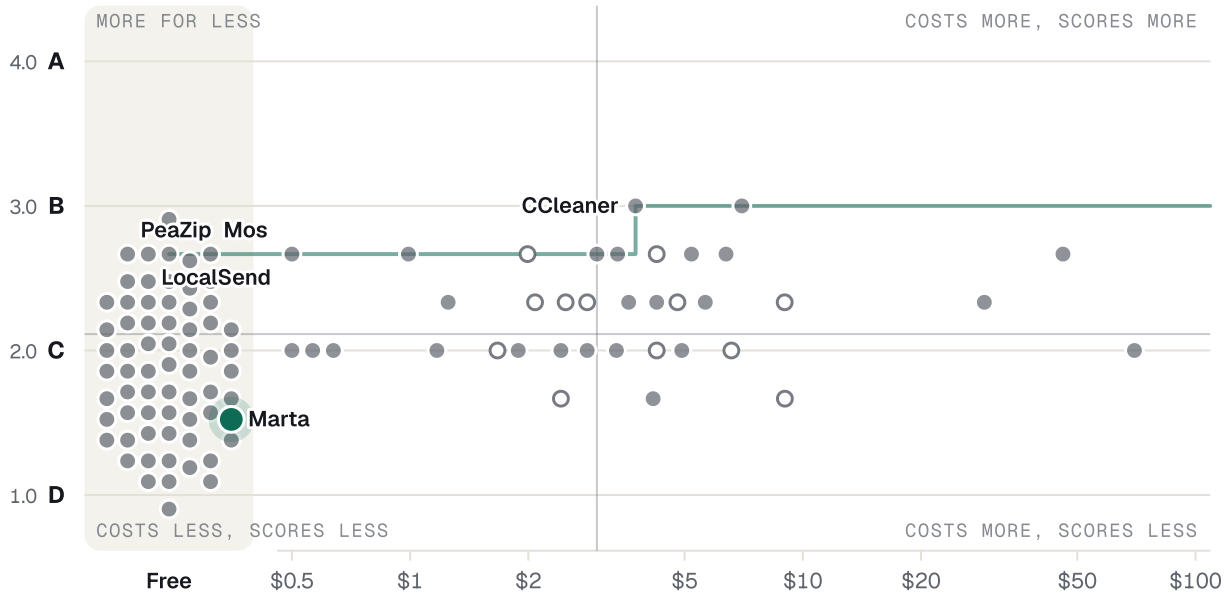
## Each grade against the category

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



## Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 103 desktop utilities. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Marta 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

#### What you could make

- File compression: an app builder makes this well.

#### 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| | × Sharing with other people, which means accounts and invitations. |

**What this rests on.** Marta'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



Path Finder, ForkLift, Commander One, Nimble Commander and fman

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

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## Path Finder

Free trial · from $2.95/mo

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

- Marta has a free plan. Path Finder does not, though it has a free trial.
- Marta also covers file compression.
- Path Finder also covers file sync.

Marta and Path Finder compared in full

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## ForkLift

Free trial · from $19.95 one-time

Dual-pane file manager and file transfer client for macOS.

- Marta has a free plan. ForkLift does not, though it has a free trial.
- ForkLift can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Marta also covers file compression.

Marta and ForkLift compared in full



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## Commander One

Free plan · from $29.99 one-time

Dual-panel file manager and FTP client for Mac.

- Commander One can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Marta and Commander One compared in full



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## Nimble Commander

Free

Free dual-pane file manager for macOS, no longer actively maintained.

- Nimble Commander is open source, according to its own site.
- Marta also covers file compression.

Marta and Nimble Commander compared in full

F

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## fman

Free trial · from €39 one-time

Dual-pane file manager for Mac, Windows and Linux with plugins.

- Marta has a free plan. fman does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only fman lists Windows and Linux apps.
- fman can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Marta and fman 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 Marta free?

Yes. Marta is free to use.

### How much does Marta cost?

Marta lists one plan. Free: $0.

### What platforms does Marta work on?

Marta is available on macOS.

### Does Marta have an Android app?

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

### Does Marta have an iPhone app?

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

### Is Marta open source?

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

### Who makes Marta?

Marta is made by Yan Zhulanow.

### What are the alternatives to Marta?

The closest alternatives to Marta in our directory are Path Finder, ForkLift, Commander One, Nimble Commander and fman.

### How does Marta compare with other desktop utilities?

Marta's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 69 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 46.

### Is Marta good value for money?

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

### Could I make my own version of Marta?

Marta 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 Marta'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 Yan Zhulanow'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 Yan Zhulanow. Prices change, so check marta.sh before you buy.

marta.sh/
marta.sh/download

marta.sh/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

### Marta, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/marta

### 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, "Marta: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/marta
```

### Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

# See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after Marta, 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

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### 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 Marta'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. Marta is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Yan Zhulanow. Prices and plans change: check marta.sh before you buy.