ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

mdBook

The Insider's Guide

Command-line tool that builds books from Markdown



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among docs and wiki tools, read from mdBook's own pages.

Made by The Rust Project (mdBook contributors) · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
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 mdBook's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on mdBook'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 47 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools we grade

mdBook is a command-line tool, written in Rust, that creates books and documentation from Markdown files. The Rust project uses it for its own documentation. The source and documentation are released under the Mozilla Public License v2.0, and you host the generated output yourself.

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

> "
>
> **It has no hosted editor, accounts or comments, and you host the output.**
>
> From our report card of mdBook

1 **Best for books and manuals built from Markdown**

mdBook is a command-line tool that builds a book from Markdown, with search, code highlighting and testing.

2 **It is free**

mdBook has no paid plan at all. Free and open source under the Mozilla Public License v2.0; you pay only for wherever you host the output.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Markdown books**

Content is written in Markdown and rendered as a book with a navigable table of contents.

5 **Integrated search**

Search is built in; the keyboard shortcut S or / opens it in the output.

6 **Code highlighting and testing**

Code blocks get syntax highlighting, and Rust code samples can be tested automatically.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 47 of 86**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

mdBook at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY The Rust Project (mdBook contributors)	CATEGORY Docs & Wikis
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for books and manuals built from Markdown

mdBook is a command-line tool that builds a book from Markdown, with search, code highlighting and testing. It has no hosted editor, accounts or comments, and you host the output.

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

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free and open source under the Mozilla Public License v2.0; you pay only for the hosting. A program anyone can download and run is graded as free and substantial.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright, with no plan or cap. The only cost is wherever you host the output.
Features	C	Markdown books, search, code highlighting and testing, themes and preprocessors. It builds books fully, and that is a small job.
Ease of use	D	It's a developer tool run from the command line with files you write yourself. No store rating on record.
Platforms and integrations	C	Programs for Windows, macOS and Linux, which count as one device type. Output is a static site.
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 mdBook is for

- ✓ Fits if you write manuals or project guides in Markdown
- ✓ Works for Rust projects, as it's installed with Cargo

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you avoid a command line, as that's the only way to use it
- ✗ Skip it if you want a hosted editor, as there are no accounts or comments
- ✗ Watch out: building from source needs a recent Rust version
- ✗ Watch out: you host the output yourself

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Rust projects and other developers writing tutorials or product docs
- ✓ Teams that want a single-binary docs tool
- ✓ Course material and long-form guides

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a command-line tool with no hosted editor, accounts or comments.
- ⓘ The installation page lists binaries for Windows, macOS and Linux, or building from source with a recent Rust version.
- ⓘ You host the output yourself.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

mdBook is free to use.

> "A program anyone can download and run is graded as free and substantial.
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPEN SOURCE

$0

Free under the Mozilla Public License v2.0. You build books with the mdbook command and host the output yourself.

The free plan

Free and open source under the Mozilla Public License v2.0; you pay only for wherever you host the output.

Read from rust-lang.github.io 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 and Linux

Command-line tool that builds books from Markdown. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, Markdown, documents.

> **Markdown books, search, code highlighting and testing, themes and preprocessors.**
>
> From our grade for features

Markdown books

Content is written in Markdown and rendered as a book with a navigable table of contents.

Integrated search

Search is built in; the keyboard shortcut S or / opens it in the output.

Code highlighting and testing

Code blocks get syntax highlighting, and Rust code samples can be tested automatically.

Themes

Light, Rust, Coal, Navy and Ayu themes are included, and theme files allow custom formatting.

Preprocessors and backends

Preprocessors extend the syntax or change content, and built-in backends render HTML or Markdown.

Where it runs

macOS Windows Linux

What it works with

GitHub Cargo

mdBook is made by The Rust Project (mdBook contributors).

Where it stands

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

47/86

Other docs and wiki tools it is graded above

mdBook's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 47 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools we grade, and level with 17.

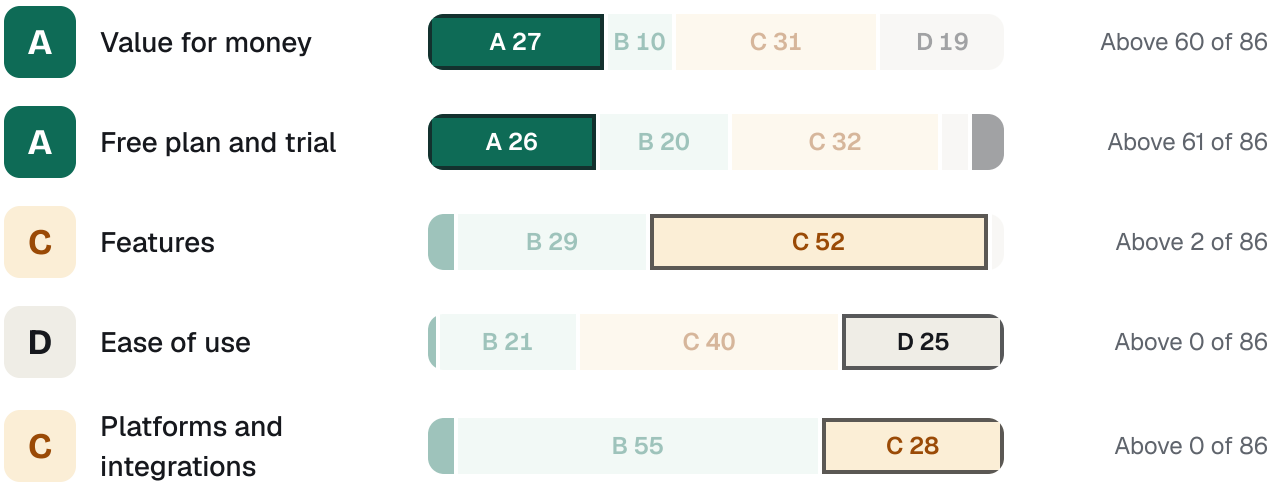
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 61 of 86) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

mdBook 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.

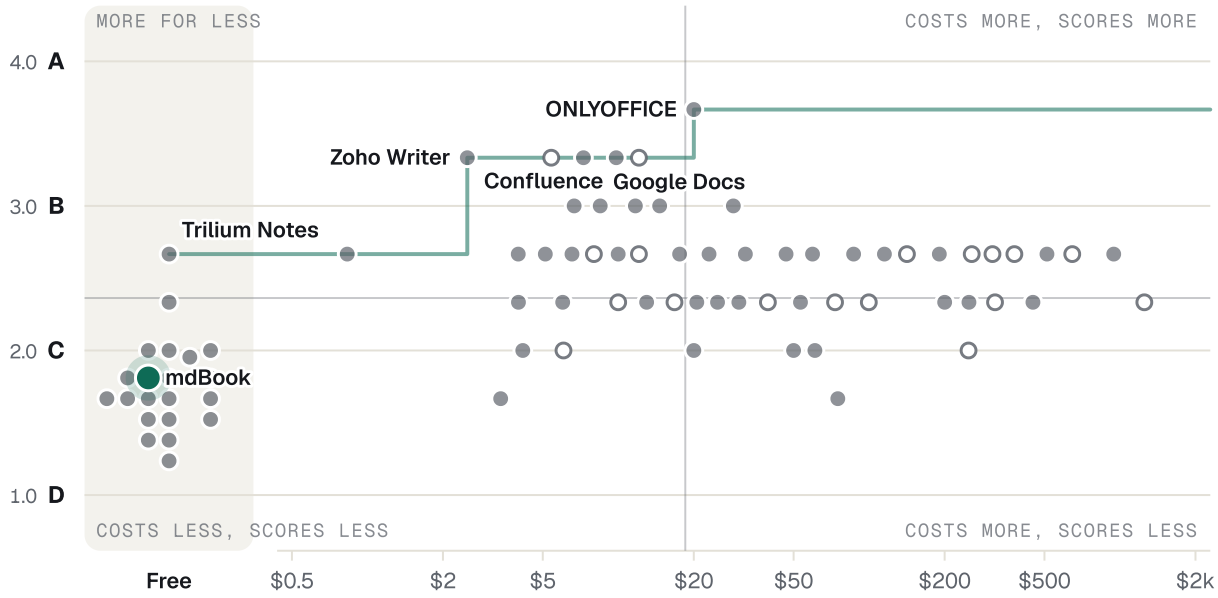
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 87 docs and wiki tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. mdBook's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 79 docs and wiki tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. mdBook 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

mdBook 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

- Markdown and documents: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

What this rests on. mdBook'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



MkDocs, Docusaurus, VitePress, Sphinx and Docsify

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

M 2.6 GPA

MkDocs

Free

Static site generator for Markdown project documentation.

- Only mdBook lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- Only MkDocs lists a web app.

mdBook and MkDocs compared in full

2.8 GPA

Docusaurus

Free

Open-source static site generator for documentation.

- Only mdBook lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- Only Docusaurus lists a web app.

mdBook and Docusaurus compared in full



2.6
GPA

VitePress

Free

Markdown-to-docs static site generator built on Vite and Vue.

- Only mdBook lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- Only VitePress lists a web app.
- VitePress also covers templates.

mdBook and VitePress compared in full



2.6
GPA

Sphinx

Free

Documentation generator for Python projects and beyond.

mdBook and Sphinx compared in full



2.6
GPA

Docsify

Free

Documentation site generator that loads Markdown in the browser.

- Only mdBook lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- Only Docsify lists a web app.

mdBook and Docsify compared in full

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 mdBook free?

Yes. mdBook is free to use. Free and open source under the Mozilla Public License v2.0; you pay only for wherever you host the output.

How much does mdBook cost?

mdBook lists one plan. Open source: $0.

What platforms does mdBook work on?

mdBook is available on Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does mdBook have an Android app?

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

Does mdBook have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. mdBook is listed for Windows, macOS and Linux.

Is mdBook open source?

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

What does mdBook integrate with?

mdBook's listing names GitHub and Cargo. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes mdBook?

mdBook is made by The Rust Project (mdBook contributors).

What are the alternatives to mdBook?

The closest alternatives to mdBook in our directory are MkDocs, Docusaurus, VitePress, Sphinx and Docsify.

How does mdBook compare with other docs and wiki tools?

mdBook's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 47 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools we grade, and level with 17.

Is mdBook good value for money?

ToolGPA grades mdBook A for value for money. mdBook has no paid plan. On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4.

Could I make my own version of mdBook?

mdBook 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 mdBook'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 mdBook'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 The Rust Project (mdBook contributors). Prices change, so check rust-lang.github.io before you buy.

rust-lang.github.io/mdBook/

rust-lang.github.io/mdBook/guide/installation.html

rust-lang.github.io/mdBook/format/configuration/...

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

mdBook, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/mdbook

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, "mdBook: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/mdbook
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Know someone choosing between docs and wiki tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded docs and wiki tools after mdBook, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Docs & Wikis Insider's Guide

Every one of the 87 docs and wiki tools we grade, compared

Zoho Writer Insider's Guide

Free online word processor with AI and document automation

3.6 GPA

Google Docs Insider's Guide

Browser-based word processor, free with a Google Account

3.4 GPA

ONLYOFFICE Insider's Guide

Open-source office suite for documents, sheets, slides and PDFs

3.4 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 mdBook'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. mdBook is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by The Rust Project (mdBook contributors). Prices and plans change: check rust-lang.github.io before you buy.