ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

NeoMutt

The Insider's Guide

Command-line mail reader forked from Mutt with extra features



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among email apps, read from NeoMutt's own pages.

Made by The NeoMutt Project · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
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 NeoMutt's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on NeoMutt'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

2.8

GPA, above 88 of the 122 other email apps we grade

NeoMutt is a command-line mail reader, or MUA, that began as a fork of Mutt with added features. The project says many old Mutt patches were brought up to date, tidied and documented, and that its Sidebar patch was adopted by upstream Mutt. Features such as Notmuch, NNTP and a trash folder are documented on its site.

> "
>
> **It's all text and all config files, and there is no Windows build.**
>
> From our report card of NeoMutt

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

1 **Best for reading mail in a terminal, with extra features**

NeoMutt is a free terminal mail reader forked from Mutt, with a sidebar, header caches and Notmuch support.

2 **It is free**

NeoMutt has no paid plan at all. Free to download and build from source, or to install from distribution packages.

3 **It runs on 2 platforms**

Linux and macOS.

4 **Fork of Mutt**

Adds features to Mutt in the form of patches that were updated, tidied and documented, according to the project's home page.

5 **Documented feature list**

The features page lists items including Notmuch, NNTP, Sidebar, Lua, Fuzzy Search, Global Hooks and Multiple FCC.

6 **Sidebar**

The Sidebar patch was adopted by upstream Mutt, and NeoMutt documents sidebar intro and search options.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 88 of 122**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

NeoMutt at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Linux
MADE BY The NeoMutt Project	CATEGORY Email Apps
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for reading mail in a terminal, with extra features

NeoMutt is a free terminal mail reader forked from Mutt, with a sidebar, header caches and Notmuch support. It's all text and all config files, and there is no Windows build.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	NeoMutt	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free to download and build, or to install from a package. Nobody needs a server to run it.
Free plan and trial	A	The whole program is free, with no paid plan or limits. Donations are optional.
Features	B	Mail reading, a sidebar, header caches, NNTP, Notmuch and more, in a long documented feature list. Nothing in the listing shows a gap in reading mail, though you set it all up yourself.
Ease of use	D	It needs config files and a command line. You write the setup before you read a single message.
Platforms and integrations	C	A program for computers only: Linux, BSD and macOS through package managers. No phone app, no web version.
Grade point average		Good, out of 4.0 **2.8**

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 NeoMutt is for

- ✓ Fits if you live in a terminal and want your mail there too
- ✓ Works for people who like to edit a config file and keep it forever

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you don't want to write config files
- ✗ Not for you if you need a window with buttons, as it's text only
- ✗ Skip it if you use Windows, where only a Cygwin listing exists
- ✗ Watch out: support is GitHub, IRC and mailing lists, not a help desk

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Terminal users who already know Mutt and want more features
- ✓ People who configure their mail client with text files and hooks

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Text-only interface with no graphical window; configuration is by editing files.
- ⓘ Packaging pages list Linux, BSD and macOS package managers; no Windows build beyond a Cygwin listing.
- ⓘ Support is through GitHub, an IRC channel and mailing lists rather than a help desk.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

NeoMutt is free to use.

> **Free to download and build, or to install from a package.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

Free software; the site has a sponsor page for donations.

The free plan

Free to download and build from source, or to install from distribution packages.

Read from neomutt.org on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

2

Places it runs: macOS and Linux

Command-line mail reader forked from Mutt with extra features. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, keyboard-first, email client.

> **Mail reading, a sidebar, header caches, NNTP, Notmuch and more, in a long documented feature list.**
>
> From our grade for features

Fork of Mutt

Adds features to Mutt in the form of patches that were updated, tidied and documented, according to the project's home page.

Documented feature list

The features page lists items including Notmuch, NNTP, Sidebar, Lua, Fuzzy Search, Global Hooks and Multiple FCC.

Sidebar

The Sidebar patch was adopted by upstream Mutt, and NeoMutt documents sidebar intro and search options.

Header cache options

Header cache compression and LMDB and Kyoto Cabinet backends are in the feature list for large mailboxes.

Packaged for many systems

The distro page gives install steps for Arch, Debian, Gentoo, Homebrew, MacPorts, NetBSD, NixOS and others.

Where it runs

macOS

Linux

What it works with

Notmuch

NNTP

Lua

LMDB

Kyoto Cabinet

NeoMutt is made by The NeoMutt Project.

Where it stands

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

88/122

Other email apps it is graded above

NeoMutt's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 88 of the 122 other email apps we grade, and level with 11.

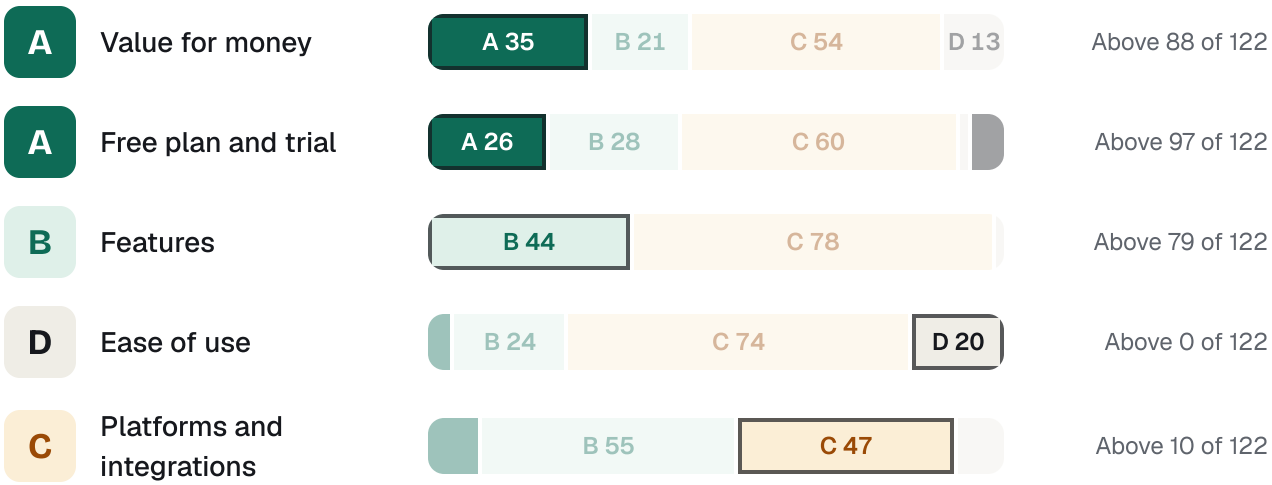
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 97 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

NeoMutt has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

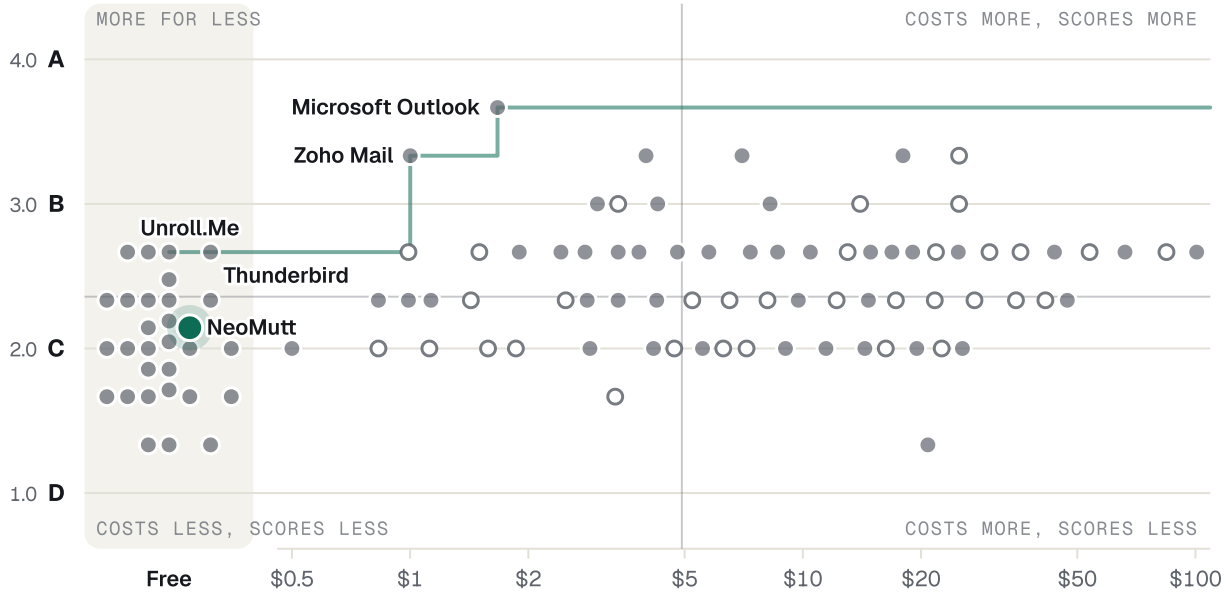
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 email apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. NeoMutt's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 107 email apps. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. NeoMutt 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

NeoMutt 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 2.8 is higher than 88 of the 122 other email apps we grade.

What you could not

- An email client: sending, receiving, threading and searching years of mail.
- A real app for macOS and Linux. Something home-made would be a web page.
- It plugs into other products, Notmuch, NNTP and Lua among them.

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

What this rests on. NeoMutt'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



Mutt, aerc, Thunderbird, Mailspring and Claws Mail

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

Mutt

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Free

Small text-based mail client for Unix systems.

- Only NeoMutt lists a macOS app.

NeoMutt and Mutt compared in full

aerc

2.6 GPA

Free

Terminal email client with Vim-style keys and git-email support.

NeoMutt and aerc compared in full

Thunderbird

3.2 GPA

Free

Free, open-source email app for Windows, macOS, Linux and Android.

- Only Thunderbird lists Windows and Android apps.
- Thunderbird also covers tasks and calendar.

NeoMutt and Thunderbird compared in full

M

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Mailspring

Free plan · from $8/mo

Open-source desktop email client for Mac, Windows and Linux.

- Only Mailspring lists a Windows app.
- Mailspring also covers templates.

NeoMutt and Mailspring compared in full

C

2.8
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Claws Mail

Free

Lightweight GTK email and news client, free under the GPL.

- Only NeoMutt lists a macOS app.
- Only Claws Mail lists a Windows app.
- Claws Mail also covers inbox filtering.

NeoMutt and Claws Mail compared in full

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 NeoMutt free?

Yes. NeoMutt is free to use.

How much does NeoMutt cost?

NeoMutt lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does NeoMutt work on?

NeoMutt is available on Linux and macOS.

Does NeoMutt have an Android app?

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

Does NeoMutt have an iPhone app?

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

Is NeoMutt open source?

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

What does NeoMutt integrate with?

NeoMutt's listing names Notmuch, NNTP, Lua, LMDB and Kyoto Cabinet. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes NeoMutt?

NeoMutt is made by The NeoMutt Project.

What are the alternatives to NeoMutt?

The closest alternatives to NeoMutt in our directory are Mutt, aerc, Thunderbird, Mailspring and Claws Mail.

How does NeoMutt compare with other email apps?

NeoMutt's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 88 of the 122 other email apps we grade, and level with 11.

Is NeoMutt good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of NeoMutt?

NeoMutt 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 NeoMutt'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 The NeoMutt Project'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 NeoMutt Project. Prices change, so check neomutt.org before you buy.

neomutt.org
neomutt.org/distro
neomutt.org/feature

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

NeoMutt, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/neomutt

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, "NeoMutt: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/neomutt
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Know someone choosing between email apps?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded email apps after NeoMutt, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Email Apps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 126 email apps we grade, compared

Microsoft Outlook Insider's Guide

Microsoft's email and calendar app for desktop, mobile and web

3.6 GPA

AOL Mail Insider's Guide

Free webmail with news and weather in a companion mobile app

3.2 GPA

BlueMail Insider's Guide

Cross-platform email client with a unified inbox and built-in AI

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