ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

PairDrop

The Insider's Guide

Browser-based file and text transfer between nearby devices



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from PairDrop's own pages.

Made by PairDrop project · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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

3.0

GPA, above 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade

PairDrop is an open-source web app for sending files, images and text between devices over a peer-to-peer connection, inspired by Apple's AirDrop. It works in a modern browser on any platform with no signup. Devices on the same network appear automatically, and others connect by pairing code or a temporary public room.

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

> **Both devices need it open to start a transfer, and iOS and Android limit how files can be saved from a web page.**
>
> From our report card of PairDrop

1 **Best for sending files between nearby devices in a browser**

PairDrop sends files and text between devices through a browser, with no sign-up.

2 **It is free**

PairDrop has no paid plan at all. Free to use in the browser, with no signup; the project accepts sponsorship through GitHub Sponsors.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Local network transfers**

Send images, documents or text peer-to-peer to devices on the same network.

5 **Device pairing**

Pair devices with a 6-digit code or a QR code so they find each other even on different networks.

6 **Temporary public rooms**

Enter a room with a 5-letter code or QR code to connect across the internet; rooms close when PairDrop does.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 154 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**

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

PairDrop at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY PairDrop project	CATEGORY Desktop Utilities
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for sending files between nearby devices in a browser

PairDrop sends files and text between devices through a browser, with no sign-up. Both devices need it open to start a transfer, and iOS and Android

limit how files can be saved from a web page.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	PairDrop	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free in the browser, with no sign-up. You can run your own copy too.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright, with sponsorship optional.
Features	C	Local transfers, pairing, temporary rooms and a share menu. It does that job fully, but it is a smaller job.
Ease of use	B	No rating on record, but there is nothing to install or set up.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only. It works on any device with a browser but has no native app.
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 PairDrop is for

- ✓ Fits if you want to send a file from a phone to a laptop without a cable
- ✓ Works for people who want no account or app install

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want to send while the other device is closed, as both must have it open
- ✗ Watch out: devices outside your network connect through the project's TURN server
- ✗ Watch out: iOS and Android limit how files can be saved from a web page
- ✗ Too light for sync or backup, as it only moves files once

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Moving a file from phone to laptop without cables
- ✓ Sharing between Android, iOS and Linux devices
- ✓ People who want to host their own transfer service

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Both devices must have PairDrop open in a browser for a transfer to start.
- ⓘ Devices outside your network behind a NAT connect through the project's TURN server.
- ⓘ The project says iOS and Android limit how files can be saved from a web page.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

PairDrop is free to use.

> **Free outright, with sponsorship optional.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Public instance at pairdrop.net; you can also run your own.

The free plan

Free to use in the browser, with no signup; the project accepts sponsorship through GitHub Sponsors.

Read from pairdrop.net 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: Web

Browser-based file and text transfer between nearby devices. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, file sharing, qR codes.

> **Local transfers, pairing, temporary rooms and a share menu.**

From our grade for features

Local network transfers

Send images, documents or text peer-to-peer to devices on the same network.

Device pairing

Pair devices with a 6-digit code or a QR code so they find each other even on different networks.

Temporary public rooms

Enter a room with a 5-letter code or QR code to connect across the internet; rooms close when PairDrop does.

Share menu and command line

Send from the Android or iOS share menu, a Windows or Ubuntu context menu, or a command-line client.

Installable web app

Runs as a progressive web app that can be installed from Chrome, Edge, Safari and some other browsers.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

PairDrop is made by PairDrop project.

Where it stands

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

154/186

Other desktop utilities it is graded above

PairDrop's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 27.

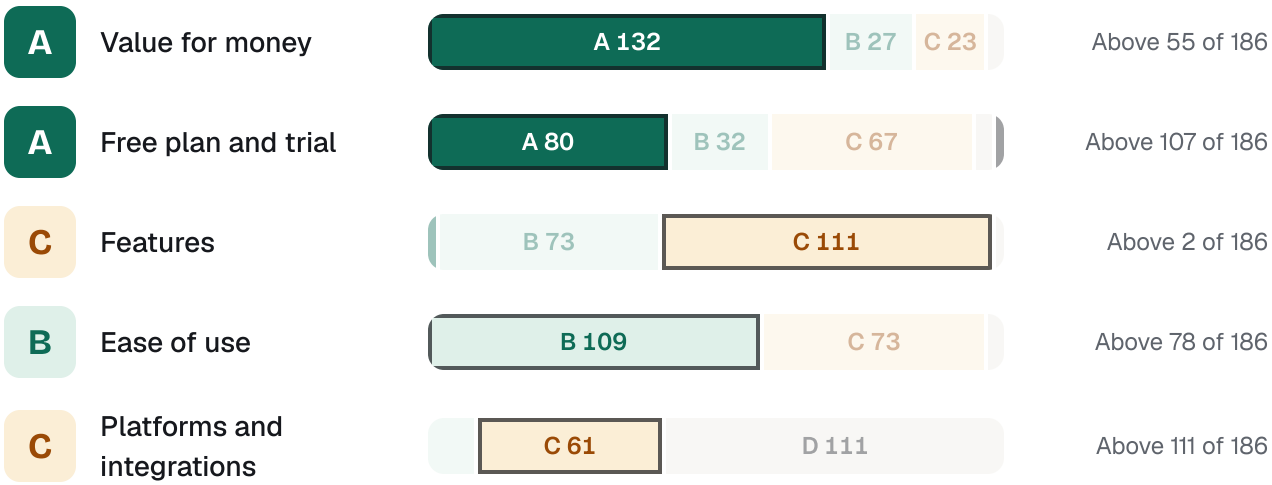
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 107 of 186) and worst on features (C, above 2).

PairDrop has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

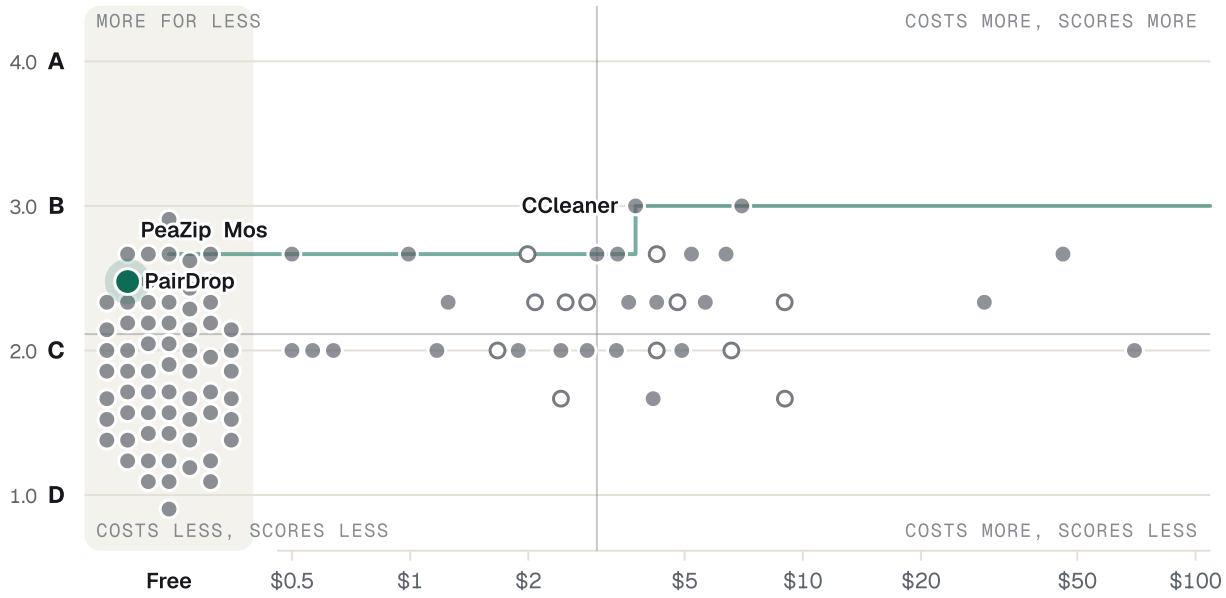
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 187 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. PairDrop'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. PairDrop 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

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

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade.

What you could make

- QR codes: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Storing and serving files for other people.

What this rests on. PairDrop'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



LocalSend, Dropover, Dropshare, Yoink and Synergy

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



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LocalSend

Free

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud.

- Only LocalSend lists Windows, macOS, Linux, Android and iOS apps.
- PairDrop is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- LocalSend is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

PairDrop and LocalSend compared in full



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Dropover

Free plan · from $7.99 one-time

Mac shelf for collecting files before you drop them somewhere.

- Only PairDrop lists a web app.
- Only Dropover lists a macOS app.
- PairDrop is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

PairDrop and Dropover compared in full



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Dropshare

Free trial · from $39

Upload files and screenshots from a Mac to your own storage.

- PairDrop has a free plan. Dropshare does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only PairDrop lists a web app.
- Only Dropshare lists macOS, iOS and Android apps.

PairDrop and Dropshare compared in full



2.4
GPA

Yoink

Free trial · from $8.99 one-time

Drag-and-drop shelf for files and snippets on the Mac.

- PairDrop has a free plan. Yoink does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only PairDrop lists a web app.
- Only Yoink lists a macOS app.

PairDrop and Yoink compared in full



2.0
GPA

Synergy

Free trial · from $15 one-time

Share one keyboard and mouse across Windows, Mac and Linux PCs.

- PairDrop has a free plan. Synergy does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only PairDrop lists a web app.
- Only Synergy lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.

PairDrop and Synergy 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 PairDrop free?

Yes. PairDrop is free to use.

How much does PairDrop cost?

PairDrop lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does PairDrop work on?

PairDrop is available on Web.

Does PairDrop have an Android app?

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

Does PairDrop have an iPhone app?

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

Is PairDrop open source?

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

Who makes PairDrop?

PairDrop is made by PairDrop project.

What are the alternatives to PairDrop?

The closest alternatives to PairDrop in our directory are LocalSend, Dropover, Dropshare, Yoink and Synergy.

How does PairDrop compare with other desktop utilities?

PairDrop's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 27.

Is PairDrop good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of PairDrop?

PairDrop is free, so making your own would save you nothing. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from PairDrop'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 PairDrop'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 PairDrop project. Prices change, so check pairdrop.net before you buy.

pairdrop.net/
raw.githubusercontent.com/schlagmichdoch/Pair...

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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

PairDrop, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/pairdrop

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, "PairDrop: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/pairdrop
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after PairDrop, 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

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 PairDrop'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. PairDrop is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by PairDrop project. Prices and plans change: check pairdrop.net before you buy.