ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

PDF Annotator

The Insider's Guide

Windows PDF markup and note-taking app sold as a perpetual license



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among PDF editors, read from PDF Annotator's own pages.

Made by GRAHL software design · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4
GPA



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ToolGPA put this guide together from PDF Annotator's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on PDF Annotator'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 14 of the 45 other PDF editors we grade

PDF Annotator is a Windows program for writing on PDFs with a pen or keyboard, highlighting, adding stamps and shapes, measuring on plans, and combining or reordering pages. It is sold as a one-time license for version 10 rather than a subscription, and a 30-day trial converts to the full version with an unlock key.

> "
>
> **No store rating on record, but it installs and starts with nothing to set up.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about PDF Annotator**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

1 **Best for writing on PDFs with a pen on Windows**

It does not list editing of existing text and a later major version costs extra.

2 **What it costs**

Paid plans start at $79.95 one-time per user (version 10).

3 **You can try it first**

30-day trial version, converted to the full version with an unlock key

4 **It runs on Windows**

Windows.

5 **Pen, text and highlighter**

Write by hand or type comments directly on a PDF, and mark passages with a text marker.

6 **Shapes, stamps and images**

Arrows, lines, rectangles and circles, more than 330 predefined stamps, date and signature stamps, and inserted images.

7 **Measuring tools**

Dimension distances and areas and measure angles on PDF plans or technical drawings.

8 **A 2.4 GPA, above 14 of 45**

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

9 **Keep it**

Nothing PDF Annotator does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

PDF Annotator at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $79.95 one-time per user (version 10)

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day trial version, converted to the full version with an unlock key

RUNS ON
Windows

MADE BY
GRAHL software design

CATEGORY
PDF Editors

OUR GRADE
2.4 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for writing on PDFs with a pen on Windows

PDF Annotator is a Windows program for pen, text and highlighter marks, stamps and measuring, sold at $79.95 one-time for version 10. It does not list

editing of existing text and a later major version costs extra.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

PDF Annotator

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	$79.95 one-time is under a year of the $7.99 middle monthly price for PDF editors ($95.88), with updates inside version 10 free.
Free plan and trial	C	A 30-day trial that converts with an unlock key; the listing does not mention a card.
Features	C	Pen, shapes, stamps, measuring, a formula editor and page combining, but no listed editing of existing text. It does the marking-up job fully, which is a smaller job.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record, but it installs and starts with nothing to set up.
Platforms and integrations	D	Windows only; no Mac, mobile or browser version.

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 PDF Annotator is for

- ✓ Fits if you mark up and sign PDFs by pen on Windows
- ✓ Works for people who measure on plans in PDFs

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you use a Mac or phone, as it is Windows only
- ✗ Not for you if you need to edit existing text, which the pages read do not list
- ✗ Watch out: the license covers version 10, and a later major version needs an upgrade or Upgrade Assurance at $39.94
- ✗ Watch out: prices exclude VAT and volume pricing needs a quote

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Students taking handwritten notes on lecture PDFs
- ✓ Engineers marking up and measuring on drawings
- ✓ People who want to buy a PDF annotator once instead of subscribing

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It runs on Windows only; there is no Mac, mobile or browser version.
- ⓘ The license covers version 10; a later major version needs an upgrade purchase or Upgrade Assurance.
- ⓘ Prices exclude VAT, and volume pricing needs a quote for purchase orders.
- ⓘ It is built for marking up and organizing pages, and the pages read do not list editing of existing text.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$79.95 one-time

To start

PDF Annotator is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $79.95 one-time per user (version 10).

LICENSE

$79.95

one-time per user, for 1 to 4 users

Perpetual license for version 10 with free updates within that version; volume prices fall to $23.95 per user at 1,000 or more.

UPGRADE ASSURANCE

$39.94

for 2 years per user, one-time

Optional add-on covering 2 years of all updates, including major ones, and priority support tickets.

Trying it first

30-day trial version, converted to the full version with an unlock key

Read from pdfannotator.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

EDUCATION

Student and faculty licenses

The shop page has separate Student Licenses and Faculty Licenses tabs; prices are shown there.

Stated on pdfannotator.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Windows

Windows PDF markup and note-taking app sold as a perpetual license. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: one-time purchase, pDF editing.

> **Pen, shapes, stamps, measuring, a formula editor and page combining, but no listed editing of existing text.**
>
> From our grade for features

Pen, text and highlighter

Write by hand or type comments directly on a PDF, and mark passages with a text marker.

Shapes, stamps and images

Arrows, lines, rectangles and circles, more than 330 predefined stamps, date and signature stamps, and inserted images.

Measuring tools

Dimension distances and areas and measure angles on PDF plans or technical drawings.

Formula editor

Creates and edits scientific formulas, with LaTeX support.

Create and combine PDFs

A virtual PDF printer creates PDFs from other applications, and pages can be inserted, merged and reordered.

Full-screen presentation

Presents PDFs full screen, with annotation tools available while presenting.

Where it runs

Windows

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

PDF Annotator is made by GRAHL software design.

Where it stands

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

14/45

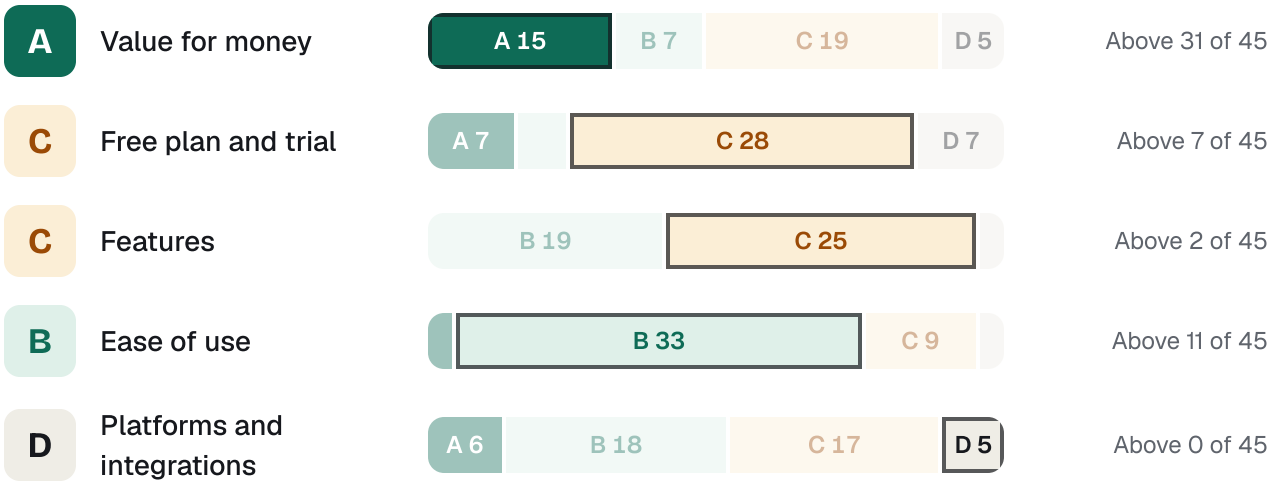
Other PDF editors it is graded above

PDF Annotator's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 14 of the 45 other PDF editors we grade, and level with 5.

It stands best on value for money (A, above 31 of 45) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 46 PDF editors we grade, cut by the letter each got. PDF Annotator'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

Nothing PDF Annotator does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 26 of the 45 other PDF editors grade higher. It costs $79.95, paid once.

What you could not

- ✕ Editing the text inside a PDF without breaking its layout.
- ✕ A real app for Windows. Something home-made would be a web page.
- ✕ It is priced for each person, which means accounts and billing for a team.

What this rests on. PDF Annotator'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



PDF-XChange Editor, Xodo, Xodo PDF Studio, Drawboard PDF and Bluebeam Revu

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



2.6 GPA

PDF-XChange Editor

Free plan · from $62 one-time

Windows PDF editor with a free edition and perpetual licenses.

- PDF-XChange Editor has a free plan. PDF Annotator does not, though it has a free trial.

PDF Annotator and PDF-XChange Editor compared in full



2.2 GPA

Xodo

Free plan · from $7.99/mo

PDF tools on web, desktop and mobile, sold separately or as a suite.

- Xodo has a free plan. PDF Annotator does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Xodo lists a web app.
- Only Xodo lists macOS, Linux, iOS and Android apps.

PDF Annotator and Xodo compared in full



2.2
GPA

Xodo PDF Studio

Free trial · from $9.99/mo

Offline PDF editor for Windows, Mac and Linux, formerly Qoppa.

- Only Xodo PDF Studio lists macOS and Linux apps.
- Xodo PDF Studio also covers workflow automation.

PDF Annotator and Xodo PDF Studio compared in full



2.6
GPA

Drawboard PDF

Free plan · from $83.92/yr

PDF markup app with pressure-sensitive ink and measurement tools.

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

PDF Annotator and Drawboard PDF compared in full



2.0
GPA

Bluebeam Revu

Free trial · from $260/yr

PDF markup, takeoff and drawing review software for construction.

- Only Bluebeam Revu lists a web app.
- Only Bluebeam Revu lists an iOS app.
- PDF Annotator can be bought with a one-time purchase.

PDF Annotator and Bluebeam Revu 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 PDF Annotator free?

No, PDF Annotator is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day trial version, converted to the full version with an unlock key.

How much does PDF Annotator cost?

PDF Annotator lists 2 plans. License: $79.95 one-time per user, for 1 to 4 users.

What platforms does PDF Annotator work on?

PDF Annotator is available on Windows.

Does PDF Annotator offer any discounts?

PDF Annotator publicly lists the following: Student and faculty licenses.

Does PDF Annotator have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. PDF Annotator is listed for Windows.

Does PDF Annotator have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. PDF Annotator is listed for Windows.

Is PDF Annotator open source?

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

Does PDF Annotator have a student discount?

Student and faculty licenses. The shop page has separate Student Licenses and Faculty Licenses tabs; prices are shown there.

Who makes PDF Annotator?

PDF Annotator is made by GRAHL software design.

What are the alternatives to PDF Annotator?

The closest alternatives to PDF Annotator in our directory are PDF-XChange Editor, Xodo, Xodo PDF Studio, Drawboard PDF and Bluebeam Revu.

How does PDF Annotator compare with other PDF editors?

PDF Annotator's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 14 of the 45 other PDF editors we grade, and level with 5.

Could I make my own version of PDF Annotator?

Nothing PDF Annotator does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from PDF Annotator'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 PDF Annotator'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 GRAHL software design. Prices change, so check pdfannotator.com before you buy.

pdfannotator.com/en/
pdfannotator.com/en/download
pdfannotator.com/en/shop
pdfannotator.com/en/aboutus

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

PDF Annotator, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/pdf-annotator

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, "PDF Annotator: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/pdf-annotator
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Know someone choosing between PDF editors?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/pdf-annotator/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded PDF editors after PDF Annotator, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

PDF Editors Insider's Guide

Every one of the 46 PDF editors we grade, compared

PDFgear Insider's Guide

Free PDF editor for desktop, mobile and web with an AI copilot

3.4 GPA

Stirling PDF Insider's Guide

Open-source PDF editor you can run on your own machine or server

3.2 GPA

Online2PDF Insider's Guide

Free browser tool to convert, merge, edit, compress and unlock PDFs

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 PDF Annotator'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. PDF Annotator is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by GRAHL software design. Prices and plans change: check pdfannotator.com before you buy.