ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Pencil Project

The Insider's Guide

Free open-source desktop tool for GUI mockups and diagrams



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among whiteboard and mind map tools, read from Pencil Project's own pages.

Made by Evolus · 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 Pencil Project's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Pencil Project'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 85 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade

Pencil Project is a free, open-source desktop application for drawing user interface mockups and diagrams. It ships with shape collections for web, Android, iOS and flowcharts, supports connectors and page links, and exports to PNG, PDF, SVG and other formats. Version 4.0.0 added a built-in MCP server for AI assistants.

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

> **No store rating on record, but you install it and start drawing with nothing to set up.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for free offline mockups and diagrams on a desktop**

It's single-user with no real-time collaboration, there's no web or phone version, and it isn't a freehand whiteboard.

2 **It is free**

Pencil Project has no paid plan at all. Free to download and use; the project accepts voluntary support.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

macOS, Windows and Linux.

4 **GUI prototyping shapes**

Built-in collections cover general shapes, flowchart elements, desktop and web UI parts, and Android and iOS interface elements.

5 **Diagrams with connectors**

Connectors wire shapes together, and the flowchart shape collection supports basic diagram drawing.

6 **Inter-page linking**

Elements can link to another page in the same document, which helps define the flow of an app or website mockup.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 85 of 98**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Pencil Project at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY Evolus	CATEGORY Whiteboards & Mind Maps
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for free offline mockups and diagrams on a desktop

Pencil Project is a free, open-source desktop app for drawing interface mockups and diagrams, with shape sets for web, Android, iOS and

flowcharts. It's single-user with no real-time collaboration, there's no web or phone version, and it isn't a freehand whiteboard.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Pencil Project

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free to download and use, and open source. The category's middle for paid plans is $8.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright with no account or cap; the project accepts voluntary support.
Features	C	Shape collections, connectors, page links and export to PNG, PDF and SVG. It does the mockup job fully, but it's a smaller job, and it has no collaboration.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record, but you install it and start drawing with nothing to set up.
Platforms and integrations	C	Programs for Mac, Windows and Linux only. No web, iPhone or Android version, and OpenClipart is the one connection named.

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 Pencil Project is for

- ✓ Fits if you sketch app or website mockups offline
- ✓ Works for people who want a free desktop alternative to subscription whiteboards

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you need real-time collaboration, because it's single-user
- ✗ Not for you if you want a web or phone version, as none is listed
- ✗ Too light for an infinite freehand whiteboard: it's for mockups and diagrams
- ✗ Watch out: it's offered as standalone packages, so sharing means exporting files

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers and designers sketching app or website mockups offline
- ✓ People who want a free desktop alternative to subscription whiteboards
- ✓ Users who want community stencil collections they can drag in

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a single-user desktop app; the pages read describe no real-time collaboration or hosted version.
- ⓘ It is a mockup and diagram tool, not an infinite freehand whiteboard.
- ⓘ The Linux, macOS and Windows builds are standalone packages; no web, iOS or Android version is listed.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Pencil Project is free to use.

> **Free to download and use, and open source.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

The full application is free and open source, with no paid plans listed.

The free plan

Free to download and use; the project accepts voluntary support.

Read from pencil.evolus.vn on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

3

Places it runs: macOS, Windows and Linux

Free open-source desktop tool for GUI mockups and diagrams. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, AI features, templates, diagrams.

> "
>
> **Shape collections, connectors, page links and export to PNG, PDF and SVG.**

From our grade for features

GUI prototyping shapes

Built-in collections cover general shapes, flowchart elements, desktop and web UI parts, and Android and iOS interface elements.

Diagrams with connectors

Connectors wire shapes together, and the flowchart shape collection supports basic diagram drawing.

Inter-page linking

Elements can link to another page in the same document, which helps define the flow of an app or website mockup.

Export formats

Documents export as PNG files, a web page, OpenOffice or LibreOffice text documents, Inkscape SVG and PDF.

AI assistants through MCP

Since version 4.0.0 a built-in Model Context Protocol server lets AI assistants insert and edit shapes in open documents.

Where it runs

macOS
Windows
Linux

What it works with

OpenClipart

Pencil Project is made by Evolus.

Where it stands

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

85/98

Other whiteboard and mind map tools it is graded above

Pencil Project's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 85 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 10.

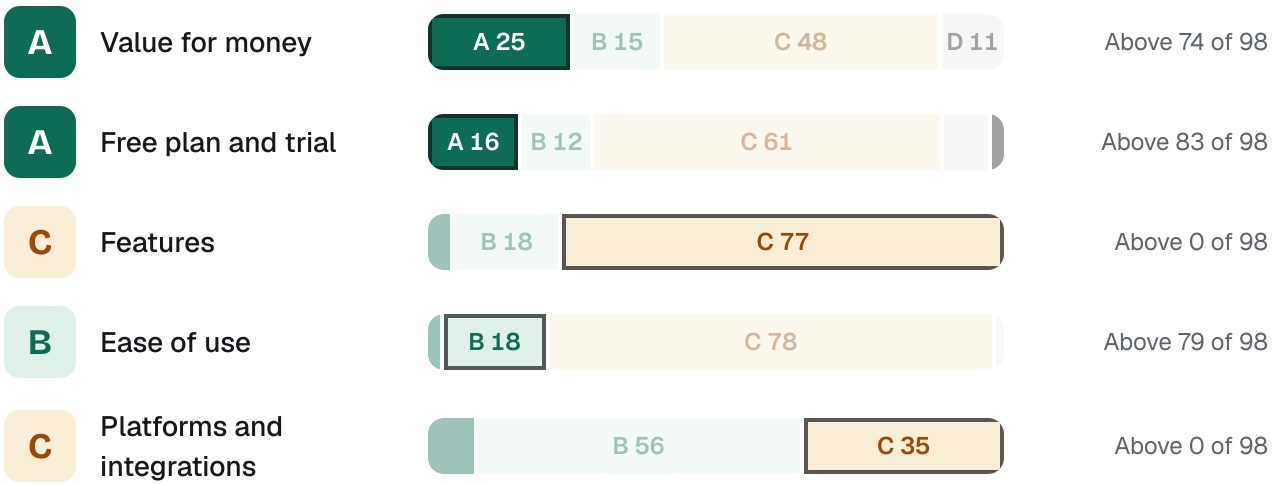
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 83 of 98) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Pencil Project 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.

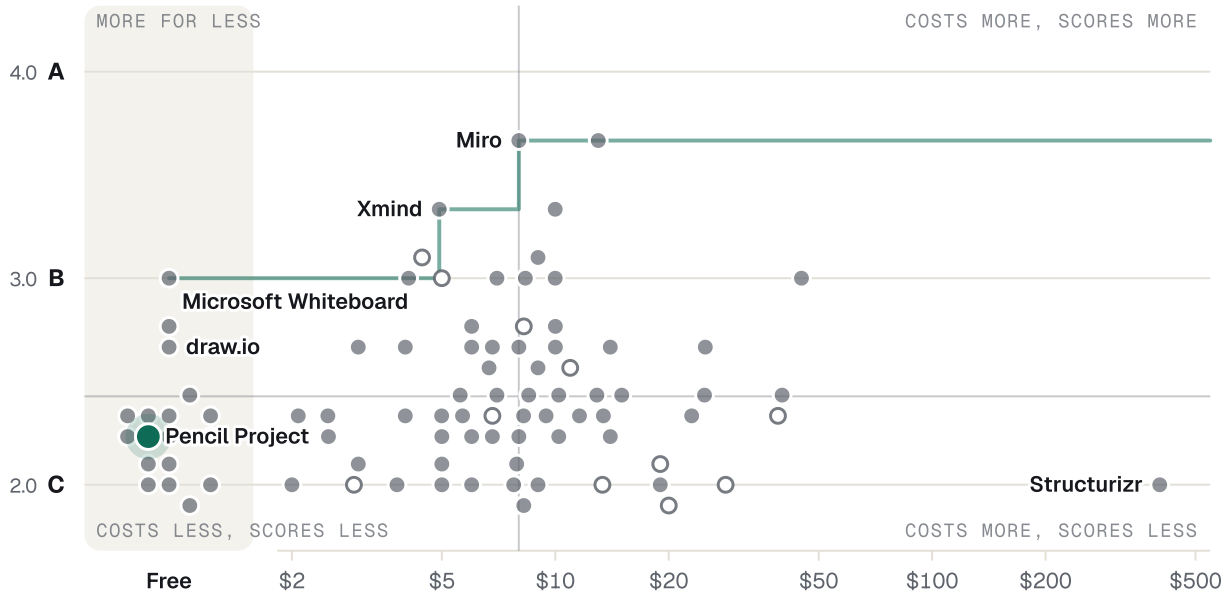
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Pencil Project's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 88 whiteboard and mind map tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Pencil Project 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

Pencil Project 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 3.0 is higher than 85 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade.

What you could make

- Templates: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

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

	× AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Pencil Project'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



Moqups, draw.io, Excalidraw, yEd and MockFlow

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

2.2 GPA

Moqups

Free plan · from $7/mo

Wireframes, diagrams and whiteboards in one browser app.

- Only Pencil Project lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Only Moqups lists a web app.
- Pencil Project is open source, according to its own site.

Pencil Project and Moqups compared in full

3.2 GPA

draw.io

Free

Free diagram editor that saves files to storage you choose.

- Only draw.io lists a web app.
- draw.io is self-hostable, according to its own site.

Pencil Project and draw.io compared in full



2.6 GPA

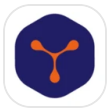
Excalidraw

Free plan · from $6/mo

Open-source whiteboard for hand-drawn style sketches and diagrams.

- Only Pencil Project lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Only Excalidraw lists a web app.
- Excalidraw is self-hostable and end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

Pencil Project and Excalidraw compared in full



2.8 GPA

yEd

Free

Free desktop graph editor with automatic diagram layout.

- Only yEd lists a web app.
- Pencil Project is open source, according to its own site.
- Pencil Project also covers templates.

Pencil Project and yEd compared in full



2.2 GPA

MockFlow

Free plan · from $9/mo

Whiteboard, diagram and wireframe workspace with an AI helper.

- Only Pencil Project lists a Linux app.
- Only MockFlow lists a web app.
- Only MockFlow lists a browser extension.

Pencil Project and MockFlow 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 Pencil Project free?

Yes. Pencil Project is free to use.

How much does Pencil Project cost?

Pencil Project lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Pencil Project work on?

Pencil Project is available on macOS, Windows and Linux.

Does Pencil Project have an Android app?

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

Does Pencil Project have an iPhone app?

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

Is Pencil Project open source?

Yes. Pencil Project is open source, according to its own site.

What does Pencil Project integrate with?

Pencil Project's listing names OpenClipart. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Pencil Project?

Pencil Project is made by Evolus.

What are the alternatives to Pencil Project?

The closest alternatives to Pencil Project in our directory are Moqups, draw.io, Excalidraw, yEd and MockFlow.

How does Pencil Project compare with other whiteboard and mind map tools?

Pencil Project's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 85 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 10.

Is Pencil Project good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Pencil Project A for value for money. Pencil Project has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Pencil Project?

Pencil Project 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 Pencil Project'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 Evolus'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 Evolus. Prices change, so check pencil.evolus.vn before you buy.

pencil.evolus.vn
pencil.evolus.vn/Features.html
pencil.evolus.vn/Downloads.html

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

Pencil Project, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/pencil-project

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, "Pencil Project: The Insider's
Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/pencil-project
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Know someone choosing between whiteboard and mind map tools?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/pencil-project/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded whiteboard and mind map tools after Pencil Project, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Whiteboards & Mind Maps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, compared

Microsoft Whiteboard Insider's Guide

Free collaborative canvas built into Microsoft 365 and Teams

3.4 GPA

draw.io Insider's Guide

Free diagram editor that saves files to storage you choose

3.2 GPA

tldraw Insider's Guide

Free online whiteboard with a local desktop app

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 Pencil Project'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. Pencil Project is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Evolus. Prices and plans change: check pencil.evolus.vn before you buy.