ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

RenderCV

The Insider's Guide

Open-source CV builder that turns YAML into a typeset PDF



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among resume builders, read from RenderCV's own pages.

Made by RenderCV · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
GPA



RenderCV

Resume Builder for Academics and Engineers

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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 RenderCV's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on RenderCV'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 37 of the 45 other resume builders we grade

RenderCV generates a CV from a structured YAML file, keeping the content separate from the layout, and outputs a PDF plus Typst, Markdown, HTML and PNG files. The command-line tool is open source under the MIT license, and a hosted web app with a form editor and an AI assistant is sold as a subscription.

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

1 **Best for a resume written in YAML and typeset to PDF**

RenderCV turns a YAML file into a typeset PDF, and the open-source command-line tool is free.

2 **Paid plans start at $10 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $10 per month, billed every 3 months ($31 per quarter).

3 **There is a free plan**

The open-source command-line tool is free to install and run locally. The pricing page's description also says RenderCV can be used for free, without saying which web app features are limited.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **YAML input**

The CV is written as a YAML file, so it can be kept in Git, diffed and copied into variants for different roles. A form editor is offered for people who prefer not to write YAML.

6 **Several output formats**

A run produces a PDF, the Typst source, a PNG for each page, a Markdown file and an HTML file.

7 **Design options and validation**

Themes and layout settings live in the same YAML file, and the input is checked against a schema so mistakes are reported before rendering.

8 **A 2.6 GPA, above 37 of 45**

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

9 **Your call**

You could make the core of RenderCV for yourself: resume builder, Markdown and templates.

RenderCV at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $10 per month, billed every 3 months ($31 per quarter)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY RenderCV	CATEGORY Resume Builders
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for a resume written in YAML and typeset to PDF

RenderCV turns a YAML file into a typeset PDF, and the open-source command-line tool is free. It needs Python 3.12 and a terminal, the themes are fixed, and the pricing page doesn't spell out what the web app includes for free.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **RenderCV** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	The command-line tool is free to install and run. The web app starts at $10 a month billed every 3 months, under the category's $14.41 middle.
Free plan and trial	A	The open-source tool has no cap, so a person can make resumes for nothing, though the web app's free limits aren't spelled out.
Features	C	YAML input, several output formats, design options and validation, GitHub sync and any language. Output is a PDF from fixed themes, not a template gallery.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. The command-line tool needs Python 3.12 or newer and a terminal, which is aimed at technical users.
Platforms and integrations	C	A web app, plus the command-line tool and GitHub, Typst and VS Code. No phone apps are listed.

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 RenderCV is for

- ✓ Fits if you are comfortable with YAML and a terminal and want a version-controlled resume
- ✓ Works for people who want a typeset PDF with no monthly fee

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want drag-and-drop templates, as output is a fixed-theme typeset PDF
- ✗ Not for you if you don't use a terminal, since the CLI needs Python 3.12 or newer
- ✗ Watch out: the pricing page doesn't say what the web app includes for free
- ✗ Watch out: the paid plan shows only a per-month figure for the 1-year term, with no yearly total

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers and academics who want a CV kept as versioned text
- ✓ People who want a free, self-run tool with no account
- ✓ Anyone maintaining several CV variants from one master file

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The command-line tool needs Python 3.12 or newer and a terminal; the YAML workflow is aimed at technical users.
- ⓘ The web app's plan is paid after a guest option; the pricing page does not spell out what the free web use includes.
- ⓘ The paid plan shows only a per-month figure for the 1-year term, with no yearly total.
- ⓘ Output is a typeset PDF from fixed themes, not a drag-and-drop template gallery.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$10

A month to start. There is a free plan too

RenderCV has a free plan. Paid plans start at $10 per month, billed every 3 months ($31 per quarter).

> **The command-line tool is free to install and run.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPEN-SOURCE CLI

$0

Command-line tool you install and run yourself; the documentation shows it installing with pip, pipx, uv or Docker.

RECRUIT (1 MONTH)

$15

per month, billed monthly, renews automatically

Web app plan with unlimited PDF downloads, the AI assistant, cover letters, public links and GitHub sync.

RECRUIT (3 MONTHS)

$10

per month, billed every 3 months ($31), renews automatically

Same plan, shown as the default term on the pricing page.

RECRUIT (1 YEAR)

$5

per month on the 1-year term; the yearly total is not shown

Same plan on the longest term. The page shows only the monthly figure for this term.

The free plan

The open-source command-line tool is free to install and run locally. The pricing page's description also says RenderCV can be used for free, without saying which web app features are limited.

Read from rendercv.com 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

Open-source CV builder that turns YAML into a typeset PDF. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, AI features, Markdown, templates, resume builder.

> **YAML input, several output formats, design options and validation, GitHub sync and any language.**
>
> From our grade for features

YAML input

The CV is written as a YAML file, so it can be kept in Git, diffed and copied into variants for different roles. A form editor is offered for people who prefer not to write YAML.

Several output formats

A run produces a PDF, the Typst source, a PNG for each page, a Markdown file and an HTML file.

Design options and validation

Themes and layout settings live in the same YAML file, and the input is checked against a schema so mistakes are reported before rendering.

AI assistant (paid web app)

The Recruit plan lists an AI that reads, edits and improves a CV, plus job-specific cover letter generation and job search.

GitHub sync and public links

On the paid plan, CVs can be backed up as a GitHub repository and shared through public links.

Any language

The site and docs describe writing a CV in any language, with locale settings for dates and labels.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

GitHub

Typst

VS Code

RenderCV is made by RenderCV.

Where it stands

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

37/45

Other resume builders it is graded above

RenderCV's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 37 of the 45 other resume builders we grade, and level with 2.

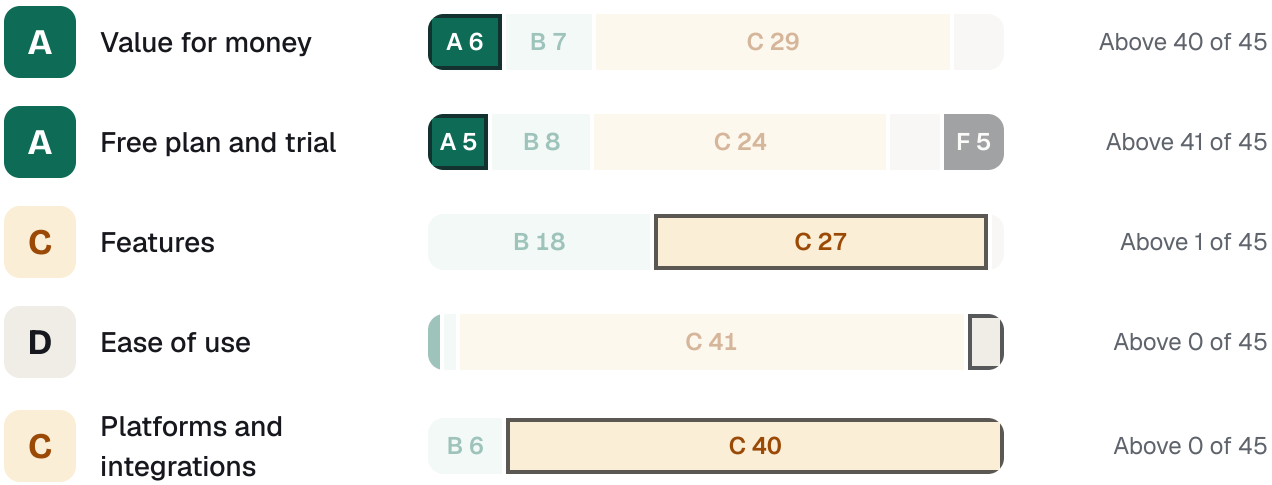
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 41 of 45) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $14 for the category: 8 of the 26 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. 11 tools score higher and cost less.

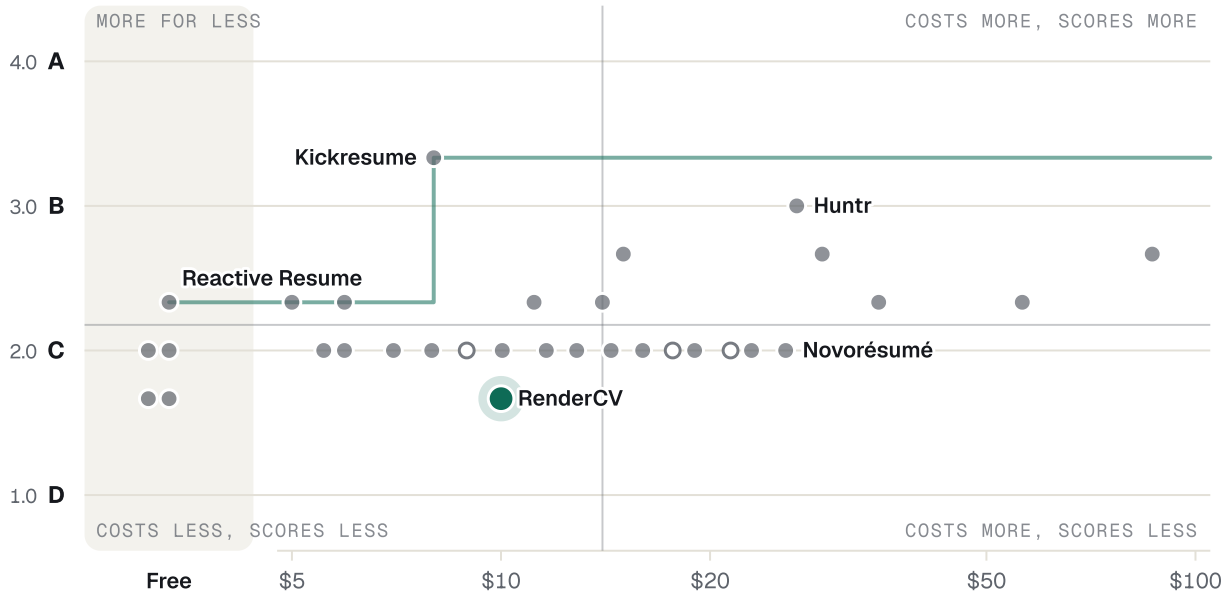
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 46 resume builders we grade, cut by the letter each got. RenderCV's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 32 resume builders. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. RenderCV 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.

Your call

You could make the core of RenderCV for yourself: resume builder, Markdown and templates.

What you would give up is listed below. Whether that is worth the price is your call. It costs $120 a year. RenderCV is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could make

- Resume builder, Markdown and templates: an app builder makes these well.
- It runs in a browser, which is where something home-made would run too.

What you could not

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

What this rests on. RenderCV'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



JSON Resume, Reactive Resume, Open Resume and FlowCV

The 4 tools RenderCV is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.



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JSON Resume

Free

Open resume standard: one JSON file, many community themes.

- RenderCV also covers Markdown.

RenderCV and JSON Resume compared in full



3.0 GPA

Reactive Resume

Free

Free open-source resume builder you can host yourself.

- Reactive Resume is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- RenderCV also covers Markdown.
- Reactive Resume also covers documents.

RenderCV and Reactive Resume compared in full



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Open Resume

Free

Free open-source resume builder and ATS parser, no sign-up.

- RenderCV also covers Markdown and templates.

RenderCV and Open Resume compared in full



2.6
GPA

FlowCV

Free plan · from $5/mo

Free resume builder with watermark-free PDF downloads.

- RenderCV is open source, according to its own site.
- RenderCV also covers Markdown.
- FlowCV also covers documents.

RenderCV and FlowCV 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 RenderCV free?

RenderCV has a free plan. The open-source command-line tool is free to install and run locally.

How much does RenderCV cost?

RenderCV lists 4 plans. Open-source CLI: $0.

What platforms does RenderCV work on?

RenderCV is available on Web.

Does RenderCV have an Android app?

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

Does RenderCV have an iPhone app?

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

Is RenderCV open source?

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

What does RenderCV integrate with?

RenderCV's listing names GitHub, Typst and VS Code. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes RenderCV?

RenderCV is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to RenderCV?

The closest alternatives to RenderCV in our directory are JSON Resume, Reactive Resume, Open Resume and FlowCV.

How does RenderCV compare with other resume builders?

RenderCV's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 37 of the 45 other resume builders we grade, and level with 2.

Is RenderCV good value for money?

ToolGPA grades RenderCV A for value for money. Its paid plans start at $10 a month, against a middle price of $14 for the category: 8 of the 26 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of RenderCV?

You could make the core of RenderCV for yourself: resume builder, Markdown and templates.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from RenderCV'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 RenderCV'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 RenderCV. Prices change, so check rendercv.com before you buy.

rendercv.com/
docs.rendercv.com/
rendercv.com/pricing
docs.rendercv.com/user_guide/

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

RenderCV, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/rendercv

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, "RenderCV: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/rendercv
```

Know someone choosing between resume builders?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded resume builders after RenderCV, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Resume Builders Insider's Guide

Every one of the 46 resume builders we grade, compared

Kickresume Insider's Guide

Resume, cover letter and personal website builder with an AI writer

3.2 GPA

Reactive Resume Insider's Guide

Free open-source resume builder you can host yourself

3.0 GPA

Europass Insider's Guide

Free European Commission CV and cover letter editor

2.8 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 RenderCV'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. RenderCV is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by RenderCV. Prices and plans change: check rendercv.com before you buy.