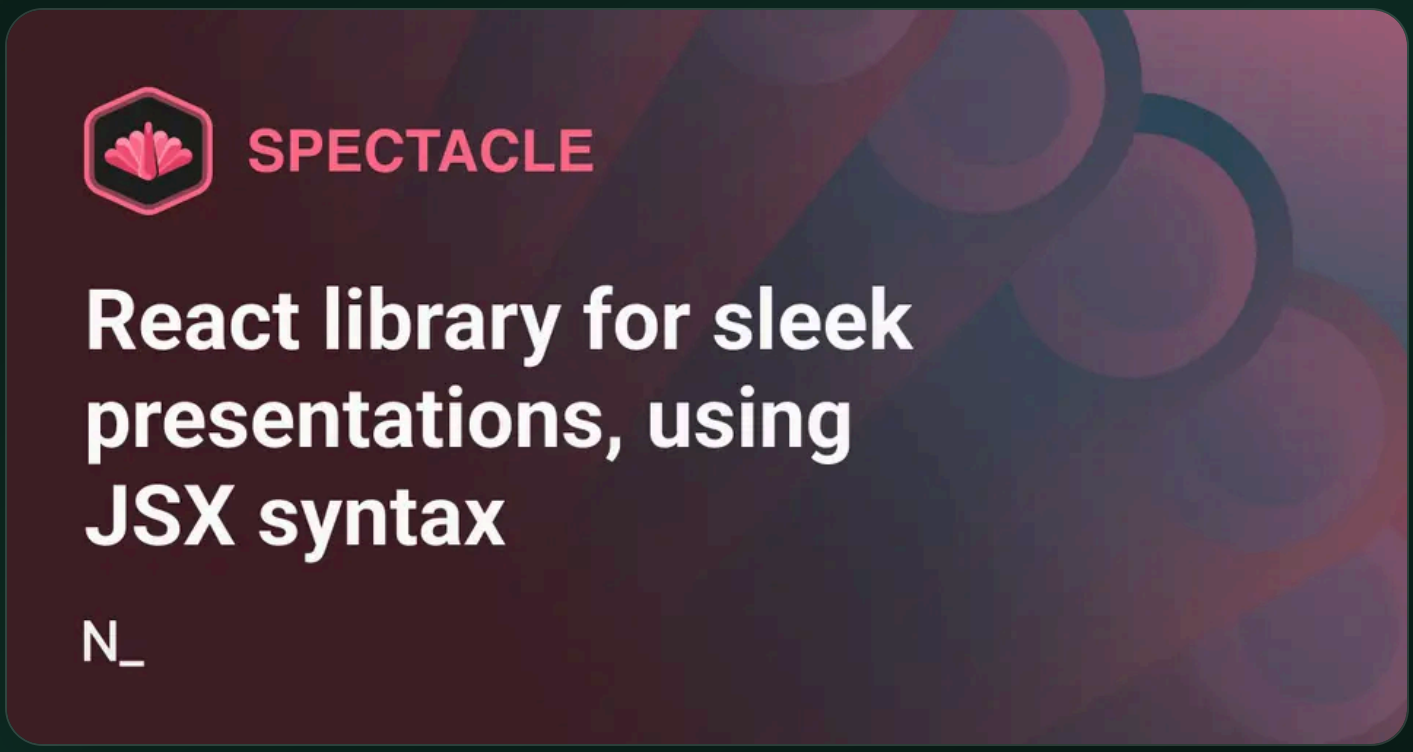
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Spectacle

The Insider's Guide

React library for building presentations in JSX or MDX



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among presentation tools, read from Spectacle's own pages.

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

2.6
GPA



SPECTACLE

React library for sleek presentations, using JSX syntax

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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 Spectacle's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Spectacle'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 65 of the 89 other presentation tools we grade

Spectacle is an open-source React library for writing slide decks as code, using JSX or MDX. Decks can include clickable elements and a live preview of the code being demonstrated, with theming built in. It is installed through npm and maintained by Nearform, formerly Formidable.

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

> "
>
> **It is free, and you need to know JavaScript and React because there is no visual editor.**
>
> From our report card of Spectacle

1 **Best for decks written in React**

Spectacle is an MIT-licensed React library for writing presentations in JSX or MDX.

2 **It is free**

Spectacle has no paid plan at all. Free under the MIT license.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **JSX and MDX decks**

Write slides as React components or as MDX.

5 **Live code preview**

Show the running result of code inside the deck.

6 **Interactivity**

Add clickable elements to slides.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 65 of 89**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Spectacle at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Nearform	CATEGORY Presentations
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for decks written in React

Spectacle is an MIT-licensed React library for writing presentations in JSX or MDX. It is free, and you need to know JavaScript and React because there is no visual editor.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD **Spectacle** Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free under an open licence that anyone can download and run, with no server to host.
Free plan and trial	A	The whole thing is free, with no plan to outgrow.
Features	C	It builds decks in code and does that job fully. The documentation does not list themes or exports in detail, so gaps are likely.
Ease of use	D	You write the deck in code or markup and run it yourself, with no visual editor.
Platforms and integrations	C	Runs in the browser and installs through npm. Works with React and MDX, but there is no desktop or phone app.
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 Spectacle is for

- ✓ Fits if you already write React
- ✓ Works for developers who want decks kept in code

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you do not write React, as there is no visual editor
- ✗ Skip it if you need ready-made themes, since the site does not list them
- ✗ Watch out: exports are not described in detail on its pages

Good to know

Good for

- Developers who give technical talks
- Teams that keep slides in a Git repository
- React users who want live demos inside slides

Worth knowing

- Requires JavaScript and React knowledge; there is no visual editor.
- Decks run in the browser; the pages describe no desktop or mobile app.
- The documentation site does not list ready-made themes or exports in detail.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Spectacle is free to use.

> **Free under an open licence that anyone can download and run, with no server to host.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPEN SOURCE

$0

Installed with npm install spectacle; MIT-licensed code on GitHub.

The free plan

Free under the MIT license.

Read from nearform.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

React library for building presentations in JSX or MDX. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, Markdown, presentations.

> **It builds decks in code and does that job fully.**
>
> From our grade for features

JSX and MDX decks

Write slides as React components or as MDX.

Live code preview

Show the running result of code inside the deck.

Interactivity

Add clickable elements to slides.

Theming

Includes auto-formatting, theming and image dimming out of the box.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

React · MDX · npm

Spectacle is made by Nearform.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

65/89

Other presentation tools it is graded above

Spectacle's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 65 of the 89 other presentation tools we grade, and level with 12.

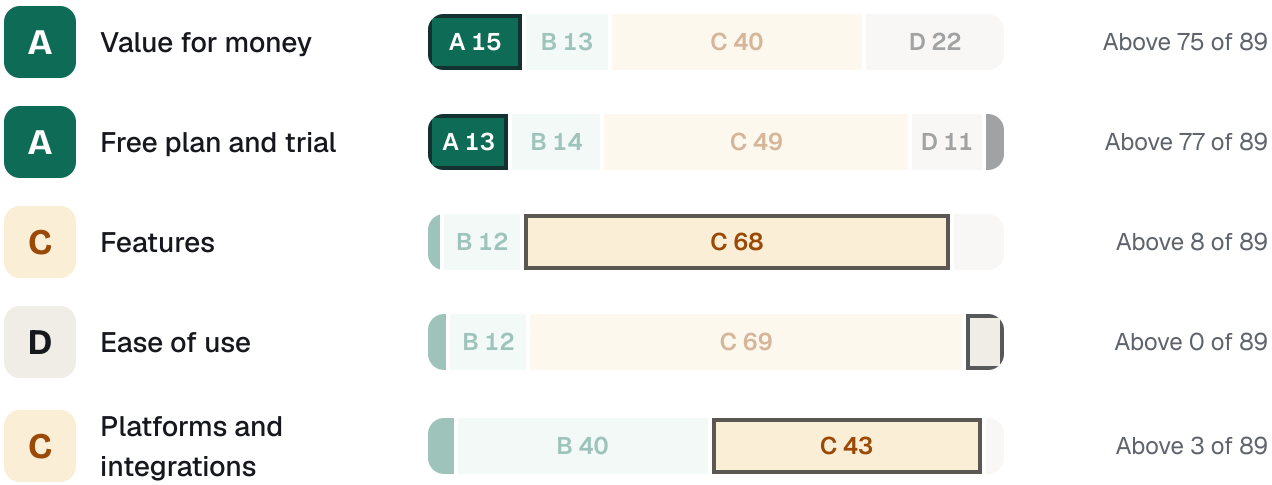
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 77 of 89) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Spectacle has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

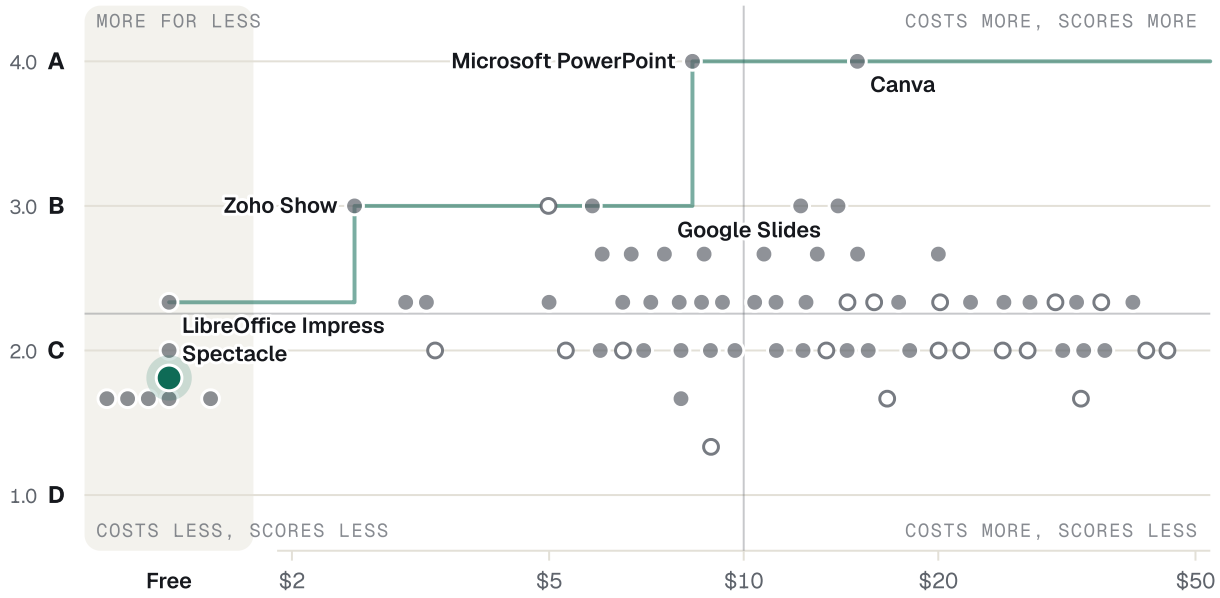
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 90 presentation tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Spectacle's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 72 presentation tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Spectacle 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

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

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.6 is higher than 65 of the 89 other presentation tools we grade.

What you could make

- Markdown: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- A slide editor.

What this rests on. Spectacle'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



Slidev, reveal.js, Marp, remark and impress.js

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

2.6 GPA

Slidev

Free

Markdown slides for developers, built on Vue and Vite.

Spectacle and Slidev compared in full

2.6 GPA

reveal.js

Free

Open source HTML framework for building slide decks.

Spectacle and reveal.js compared in full

2.6 GPA

Marp

Free

Markdown presentation ecosystem with PDF and PowerPoint export.

Spectacle and Marp compared in full

R

2.6
GPA

remark

Free

Markdown-driven slideshow tool that runs in the browser.

Spectacle and remark compared in full



2.6
GPA

impress.js

Free

Open-source presentation framework using CSS3 transforms.

- Spectacle also covers Markdown.

Spectacle and impress.js compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

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 Spectacle free?

Yes. Spectacle is free to use.

How much does Spectacle cost?

Spectacle lists one plan. Open source: $0.

What platforms does Spectacle work on?

Spectacle is available on Web.

Does Spectacle have an Android app?

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

Does Spectacle have an iPhone app?

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

Is Spectacle open source?

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

What does Spectacle integrate with?

Spectacle's listing names React, MDX and npm. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Spectacle?

Spectacle is made by Nearform.

What are the alternatives to Spectacle?

The closest alternatives to Spectacle in our directory are Slidev, reveal.js, Marp, remark and impress.js.

How does Spectacle compare with other presentation tools?

Spectacle's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 65 of the 89 other presentation tools we grade, and level with 12.

Is Spectacle good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Spectacle?

Spectacle is free, so making your own would save you nothing. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.6 is higher than 65 of the 89 other presentation tools we grade.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Spectacle'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 NearForm'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 Nearform. Prices change, so check nearform.com before you buy.

nearform.com/open-source/spectacle

github.com/FormidableLabs/spectacle

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

Spectacle, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/spectacle

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:

```
ToolGPA, "Spectacle: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/spectacle
```

Know someone choosing between presentation tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded presentation tools after Spectacle, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Presentations Insider's Guide

Every one of the 90 presentation tools we grade, compared

Microsoft PowerPoint Insider's Guide

Slide presentation app sold with Microsoft 365, free in the browser

3.4 GPA

Zoho Show Insider's Guide

Online presentation software, free for individuals

3.4 GPA

Canva Insider's Guide

Template-based design platform for slides, graphics and video

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