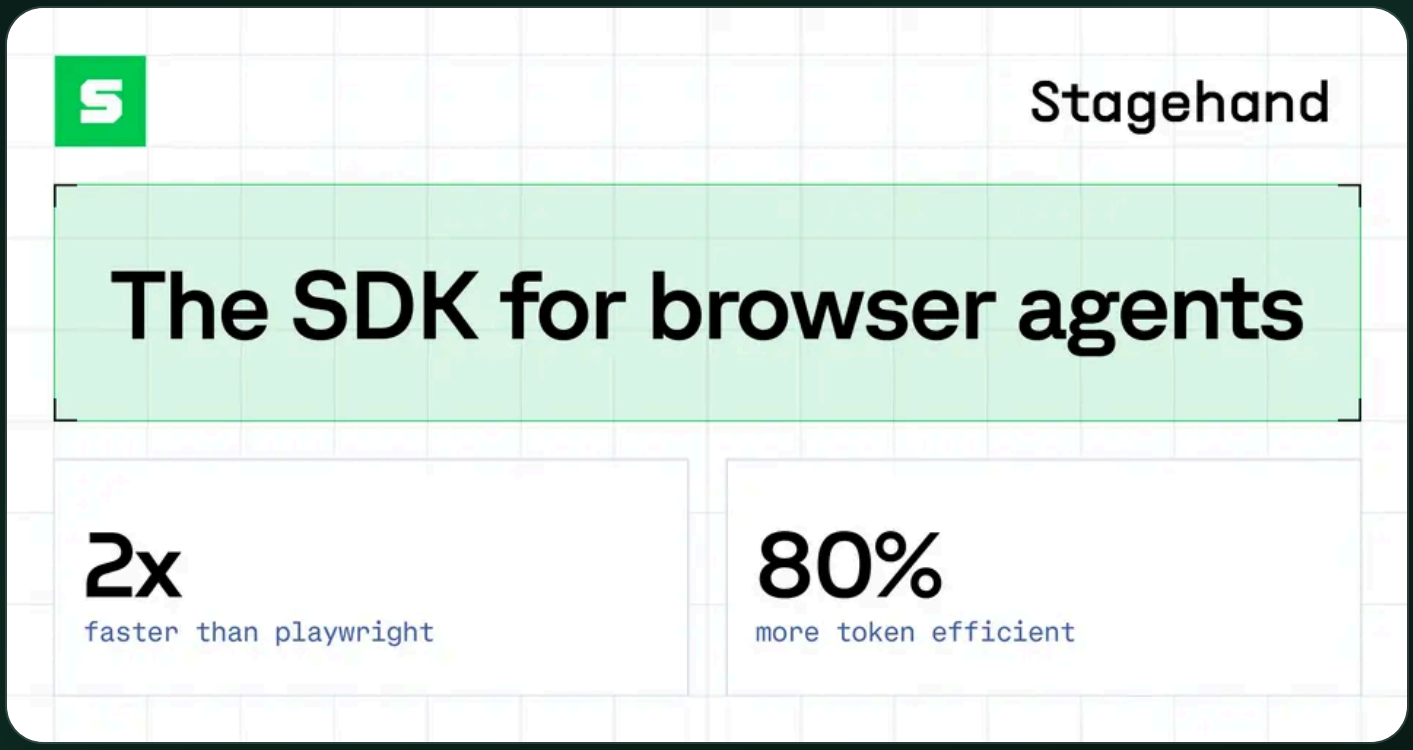
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Stagehand

The Insider's Guide

Open-source SDK for browser agents, from Browserbase



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI agents, read from Stagehand's own pages.

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

3.0
GPA

The SDK for browser agents

2x

80%

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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 Stagehand's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Stagehand'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 171 of the 178 other AI agents we grade

Stagehand is an MIT-licensed SDK for controlling a browser from agents, with Playwright-style methods plus natural-language Act, Observe and Extract primitives. It is available for TypeScript, Python and Go, and can run against a local browser or be deployed to Browserbase. The SDK is free; cloud browsers are a separate Browserbase service.

> "
>
> **You install a package and write code, and supply your own model keys.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for open-source browser agent SDK**

It is a library with no dashboard, and cloud browsers at scale mean a separate Browserbase account.

2 **It is free**

Stagehand has no paid plan at all. The SDK is free and MIT-licensed. You supply your own model API keys.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Act, Observe and Extract**

Natural-language primitives for clicking and typing, finding elements on a page, and pulling structured data that matches a schema.

5 **Self-healing actions**

The site says Stagehand detects when a page changes and refreshes how a cached action is carried out.

6 **Playwright-style API**

Familiar goto, click, locator and screenshot methods, with support for out-of-process iframes and closed Shadow DOMs.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 171 of 178**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Stagehand at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Browserbase	CATEGORY AI Agents
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for open-source browser agent SDK

Stagehand is an MIT-licensed SDK that lets you control a browser with Playwright-style code or plain-language commands, in TypeScript, Python or Go. It is a library with no dashboard, and cloud browsers at scale mean a separate Browserbase account.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Stagehand	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	The SDK is free under the MIT licence and runs against a local browser. You only pay for the model you plug in.
Free plan and trial	A	There is no paid plan for the SDK and no cap on it. Model API costs and any Browserbase account are yours to pay.
Features	B	Act, Observe and Extract commands, self-healing actions and a Playwright-style API in three languages. The listing shows no gap in the core job, though scaling needs another product.
Ease of use	D	No rating on record. You install a package and write code, and supply your own model keys.
Platforms and integrations	B	Runs wherever your code does, with Playwright, Browserbase and MCP links. No app of its own on desktop or phones.
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 Stagehand is for

- ✓ Fits if you write TypeScript, Python or Go and automate sites with no API
- ✓ Works for developers already using Playwright who want plain-language steps

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you do not code, because it is a library with no interface
- ✗ Not for you if you need hosted browsers at scale, as that is a separate Browserbase account
- ✗ Tight if model costs worry you: natural-language actions call a model you pay for
- ✗ Watch out: the speed and token figures on the site are the vendor's own benchmarks

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers adding AI-driven actions to browser automation
- ✓ Teams that want an open-source SDK rather than a hosted agent
- ✓ Projects in TypeScript, Python or Go

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a code library with no dashboard of its own; running it at scale in the cloud means a separate Browserbase account.
- ⓘ Natural-language actions call an AI model you provide, so model costs are yours.
- ⓘ Speed and token figures on the site are the vendor's own benchmarks.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Stagehand is free to use.

> **The SDK is free under the MIT licence and runs against a local browser.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPEN SOURCE SDK

$0

Install from npm (or the Python and Go packages) and run it against a local browser; no paid plan for the SDK itself.

The free plan

The SDK is free and MIT-licensed. You supply your own model API keys.

Read from stagehand.dev 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 SDK for browser agents, from Browserbase. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, public API, workflow automation, AI agents.

> **Act, Observe and Extract commands, self-healing actions and a Playwright-style API in three languages.**
>
> From our grade for features

Act, Observe and Extract

Natural-language primitives for clicking and typing, finding elements on a page, and pulling structured data that matches a schema.

Self-healing actions

The site says Stagehand detects when a page changes and refreshes how a cached action is carried out.

Playwright-style API

Familiar goto, click, locator and screenshot methods, with support for out-of-process iframes and closed Shadow DOMs.

Token-trimmed page context

A trimmed accessibility tree is passed to the model; the site shows 7.4k tokens against 35.7k for Playwright on one extract task.

Controls for production

WebMCP support, domain allowlists and blocklists, batched commands and built-in OpenTelemetry tracing.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Playwright

Browserbase

MCP

Stagehand is made by Browserbase.

Where it stands

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

171/178

Other AI agents it is graded above

Stagehand's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 171 of the 178 other AI agents we grade, and level with 4.

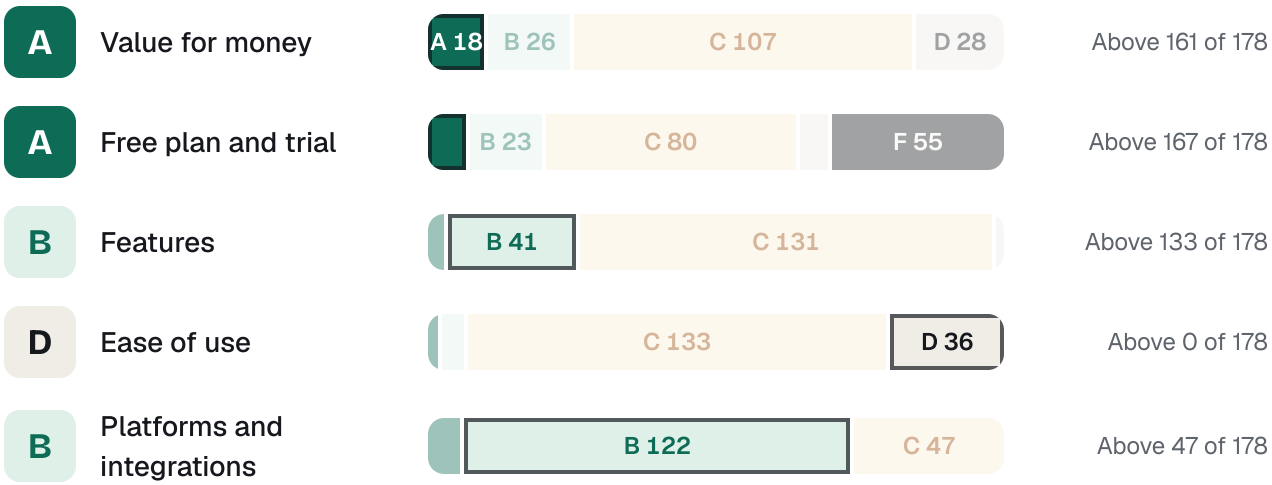
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 167 of 178) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Stagehand 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.

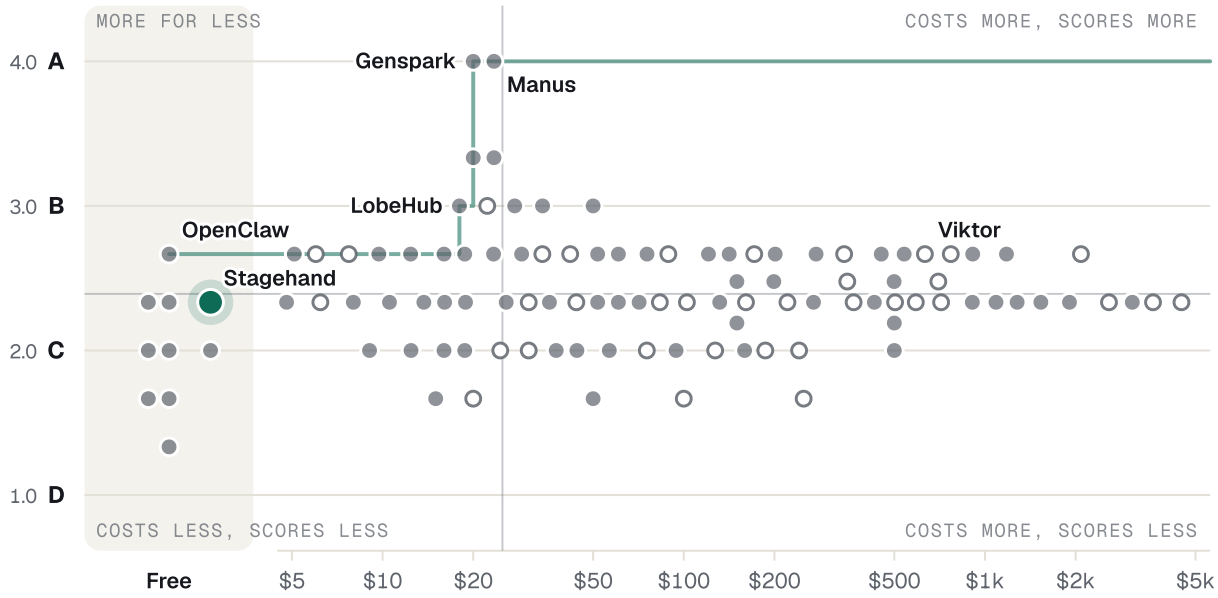
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 179 AI agents we grade, cut by the letter each got. Stagehand's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 109 AI agents. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Stagehand 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

Stagehand 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 171 of the 178 other AI agents we grade.

What you could not

- ✕ An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.
- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Stagehand'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



Browser Use, Browserbase, Hyperbrowser, Kernel and Steel

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

2.6 GPA

Browser Use

Free plan · from $5

Browser agents and cloud browsers for AI apps.

- Stagehand also covers workflow automation.

Stagehand and Browser Use compared in full

2.2 GPA

Browserbase

Free plan · from $20/mo

Cloud browsers and APIs for agents that use the web.

- Stagehand is open source, according to its own site.

Stagehand and Browserbase compared in full

2.2
GPA

Hyperbrowser

Free trial · from $30/mo

Cloud browsers, sandboxes and web APIs for AI agents.

- Stagehand has a free plan. Hyperbrowser does not, though it has a free trial.
- Stagehand is open source, according to its own site.
- Hyperbrowser also covers screenshots.

Stagehand and Hyperbrowser compared in full

2.0
GPA

Kernel

Free plan · from $30/mo

Cloud browser infrastructure for web agents and automations.

- Kernel also covers screen recording.

Stagehand and Kernel compared in full

1.6
GPA

Steel

Free trial · from $250/mo

Open-source browser infrastructure for AI agents.

- Stagehand has a free plan. Steel does not, though it has a free trial.
- Steel is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Stagehand also covers workflow automation.

Stagehand and Steel compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

13

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 Stagehand free?

Yes. Stagehand is free to use.

How much does Stagehand cost?

Stagehand lists one plan. Open source SDK: $0.

What platforms does Stagehand work on?

Stagehand is available on Web.

Does Stagehand have an Android app?

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

Does Stagehand have an iPhone app?

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

Is Stagehand open source?

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

Does Stagehand have an API?

Yes. Stagehand offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does Stagehand integrate with?

Stagehand's listing names Playwright, Browserbase and MCP. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Stagehand?

Stagehand is made by Browserbase.

What are the alternatives to Stagehand?

The closest alternatives to Stagehand in our directory are Browser Use, Browserbase, Hyperbrowser, Kernel and Steel.

How does Stagehand compare with other AI agents?

Stagehand's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 171 of the 178 other AI agents we grade, and level with 4.

Is Stagehand good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Stagehand?

Stagehand 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 Stagehand'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 Browserbase'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 Browserbase. Prices change, so check stagehand.dev before you buy.

stagehand.dev

github.com/browserbase/stagehand

docs.stagehand.dev/

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

Stagehand, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/stagehand

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

Know someone choosing between AI agents?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI agents after Stagehand, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

AI Agents Insider's Guide

Every one of the 179 AI agents we grade, compared

Genspark Insider's Guide

AI workspace with an agent for research, slides, sheets and docs

3.2 GPA

Manus Insider's Guide

General AI agent for research, slides, websites and browser tasks

3.2 GPA

OpenClaw Insider's Guide

Open-source personal AI agent you run yourself and message in chat

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 Stagehand'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. Stagehand is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Browserbase. Prices and plans change: check stagehand.dev before you buy.