ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

TeXworks

The Insider's Guide

Simple cross-platform front end for writing TeX and LaTeX

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

Made by TeXworks project (TeX Users Group) · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
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 TeXworks's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on TeXworks'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

2.8

GPA, above 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade

TeXworks is a TeX front end for Windows, macOS and Linux, modeled on TeXShop. It has an integrated PDF viewer with source and preview synchronization through SyncTeX, and a PDF-focused workflow using pdfTeX and XeTeX.

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

> **It needs a TeX distribution, though TeX Live and MiKTeX for Windows already include it, and it is local only, with no cloud collaboration.**
>
> From our report card of TeXworks

1 **Best for a free LaTeX editor on any desktop**

TeXworks is a free LaTeX editor with a built-in PDF viewer that runs on Windows, Mac and Linux.

2 **It is free**

TeXworks has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Integrated PDF viewer**

A Poppler-based viewer shows the typeset result without an external program.

5 **Source and preview sync**

Control-click in the text to find the matching place in the PDF, and the reverse, using SyncTeX.

6 **Cross-platform Qt app**

Built on the Qt toolkit for Windows, GNU/Linux and macOS with a native look on each.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 95 of 136**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

TeXworks at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY TeXworks project (TeX Users Group)	CATEGORY Writing Tools
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for a free LaTeX editor on any desktop

TeXworks is a free LaTeX editor with a built-in PDF viewer that runs on Windows, Mac and Linux. It needs a TeX distribution, though TeX Live and MiKTeX for Windows already include it, and it is local only, with no cloud collaboration.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	TeXworks	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free to download and run, against a category median of $9.75 a month.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright: no paid tier, limit or trial.
Features	C	Integrated PDF viewer, source and preview sync and scripting. It does the one job of editing and previewing LaTeX, and that is a smaller job than a full writing tool.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You need a TeX distribution and some LaTeX knowledge.
Platforms and integrations	C	A computer program only, on Windows, Mac and Linux. No web or phone version, and no integrations listed.

Grade point average Good, out of 4.0 **2.8**

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 TeXworks is for

- ✓ Fits if you write LaTeX on a laptop and want the preview beside the source
- ✓ Works for people with TeX Live or MiKTeX already installed

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want a web or phone app
- ✗ Too light for co-authors: no cloud collaboration
- ✗ Watch out: it needs a TeX distribution, which is already included only with TeX Live and MiKTeX for Windows
- ✗ Skip it if you want frequent updates: the news lists one release a year, the latest in February 2026

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Beginners who want a small LaTeX editor with no setup beyond TeX
- ✓ Users who move between Windows, Mac and Linux

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It needs a TeX distribution; TeX Live and MiKTeX for Windows already include it.
- ⓘ It is a local app with no cloud collaboration.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

TeXworks is free to use.

> **Free outright: no paid tier, limit or trial.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

TEXWORKS

$0

Free; release 0.6.11 came out in February 2026.

Read from tug.org 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

Simple cross-platform front end for writing TeX and LaTeX. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, works offline, documents.

> **Integrated PDF viewer, source and preview sync and scripting.**
>
> From our grade for features

Integrated PDF viewer

A Poppler-based viewer shows the typeset result without an external program.

Source and preview sync

Control-click in the text to find the matching place in the PDF, and the reverse, using SyncTeX.

Cross-platform Qt app

Built on the Qt toolkit for Windows, GNU/Linux and macOS with a native look on each.

Scripting

Scripts can extend the editor; a scripting information page is linked for authors.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

TeXworks is made by TeXworks project (TeX Users Group).

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

95/136

Other writing tools it is graded above

TeXworks's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade, and level with 23.

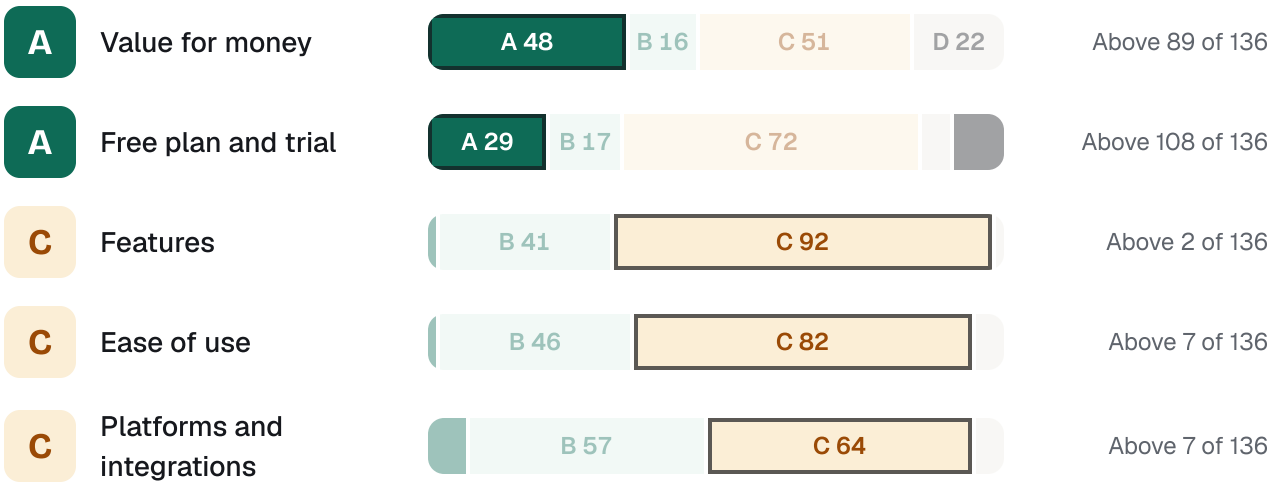
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 108 of 136) and worst on features (C, above 2).

TeXworks has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

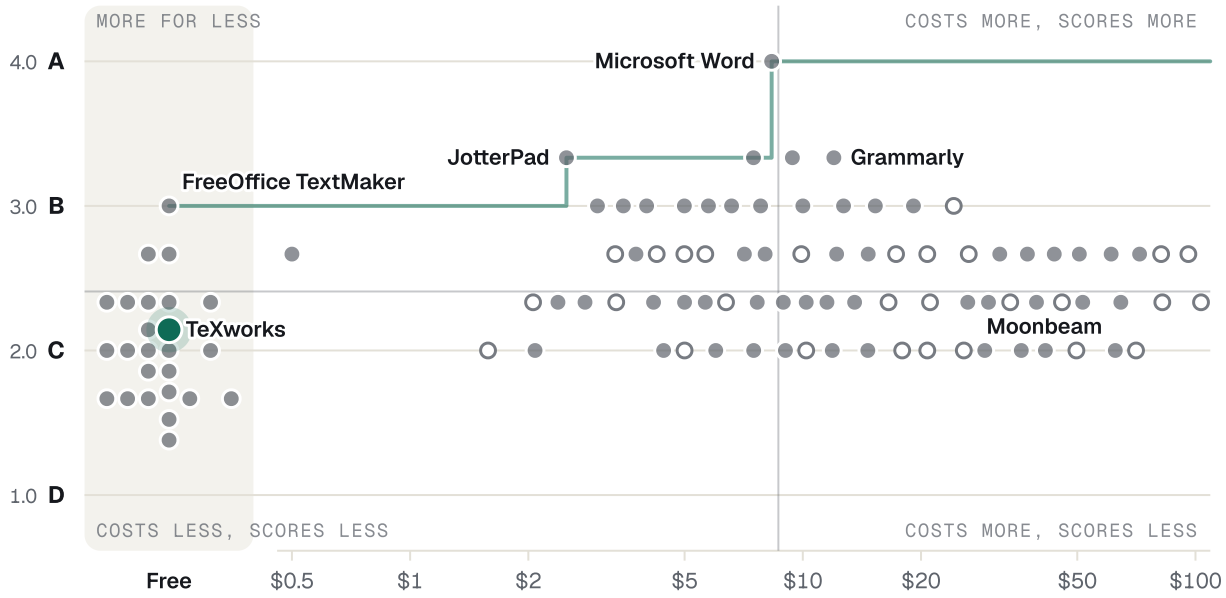
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 137 writing tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. TeXworks's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 107 writing tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. TeXworks 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

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

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade.

What you could make

- Documents: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

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

What this rests on. TeXworks'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



TeXShop, Kile, Overleaf and Typst

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

TeXShop

2.6 GPA

Free

Free Mac editor and previewer for TeX and LaTeX documents.

- Only TeXworks lists Windows and Linux apps.

TeXworks and TeXShop compared in full

Kile

2.6 GPA

Free

KDE's LaTeX editor with one-click compile and preview.

- Only TeXworks lists a macOS app.
- Kile also covers templates.

TeXworks and Kile compared in full



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Overleaf

Free plan · from $16.75/mo

Collaborative online LaTeX editor for papers and theses.

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

TeXworks and Overleaf compared in full



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Typst

Free plan · from $7.99/mo

Markup-based typesetting system with a collaborative web app.

- Only Typst lists a web app.
- Typst is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- TeXworks also covers documents.

TeXworks and Typst compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

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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 TeXworks free?

Yes. TeXworks is free to use.

How much does TeXworks cost?

TeXworks lists one plan. TeXworks: $0.

What platforms does TeXworks work on?

TeXworks is available on Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does TeXworks have an Android app?

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

Does TeXworks have an iPhone app?

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

Is TeXworks open source?

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

Does TeXworks work offline?

Yes, according to its own site. What works without a connection differs by plan and platform, so check the vendor's page for the detail.

Who makes TeXworks?

TeXworks is made by TeXworks project (TeX Users Group).

What are the alternatives to TeXworks?

The closest alternatives to TeXworks in our directory are TeXShop, Kile, Overleaf and Typst.

How does TeXworks compare with other writing tools?

TeXworks's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade, and level with 23.

Is TeXworks good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of TeXworks?

TeXworks is free, so making your own would save you nothing. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from TeXworks'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 TeXworks'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 TeXworks project (TeX Users Group). Prices change, so check tug.org before you buy.

tug.org/texworks/

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

TeXworks, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/texworks

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, "TeXworks: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/texworks
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Know someone choosing between writing tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

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

Writing Tools Insider's Guide

Every one of the 137 writing tools we grade, compared

FreeOffice TextMaker Insider's Guide

Free word processor that opens and saves Microsoft Word files

3.4 GPA

Microsoft Word Insider's Guide

Word processor sold with Microsoft 365, free in the browser

3.4 GPA

Apache OpenOffice Insider's Guide

Free open-source office suite with the Writer word processor

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 TeXworks'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. TeXworks is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by TeXworks project (TeX Users Group). Prices and plans change: check tug.org before you buy.