

# Project Management Tool Scorecard

Grade your shortlist after a one-week real trial - 0 = bad, 1 = OK, 2 = great

THE GRID (score each tool 0-2, multiply by your weight)

| Criterion                                              | Weight               | Tool A:              | Tool B:              | Tool C:              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cost at YOUR real headcount<br>(seat minimums applied) | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Setup effort (day-1 usable)                            | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Team adoption (they actually<br>used it all week)      | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Views you need (list, board,<br>timeline, calendar)    | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Time tracking + billing<br>(if you invoice hours)      | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Client / guest access<br>(free external users?)        | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| Free plan / trial quality                              | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| WEIGHTED TOTAL                                         |                      |                      |                      |                      |

Suggested weights: solo founder -> cost x3. Agency -> time tracking + client access x3. Growing team -> adoption x3.

THE 5 PICKS (Aug 2026)

## ONE WINNER PER SITUATION

### Most tool per dollar

-> ClickUp Unlimited - \$7/user/mo

### Team hates software

-> Trello Standard - \$5/user/mo

### Growing, want structure

-> Asana Starter - \$10.99/user (min 2 seats)

### You bill clients

-> Teamwork Basics - \$9.99/user (min 3 seats)

### Hiring, flat bill

-> Basecamp Studio - \$59/mo flat, unlimited users

## THE ONE-WEEK TRIAL METHOD

1. Shortlist TWO tools, not three.
2. Run one REAL project in each for a week - real tasks, real deadlines, real teammates.
3. Grade both on this grid at week's end.
4. Weight what matters to YOU, total the scores.
5. Buy the winner MONTHLY first. Go annual only after a full month of real adoption.

## WATCH OUT

- Asana's free plan is 2 users max since 2025.
- Seat minimums: Asana 2, Teamwork 3, monday 3.
- Sticker price is not your price. Do the headcount math.