GPUpartner

VALIDATION REPORT · TEXT GENERATION

# Moonlight 16B A3B Instruct

on M5 Max 128 GB · 8-bit (Q8_0) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

STATUS · NOV 22, 2026

**Validated**

5 of 5 checks pass

**Moonlight 16B A3B Instruct at 8-bit runs on the M5 Max 128 GB with 8K of context at about 93 tokens a second.**

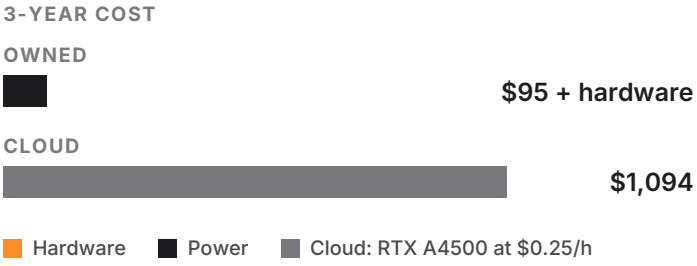
## VALIDATION

| CHECK | TARGET | RESULT | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fits in GPU memory | 96.0 GB usable | 16.7 GB needed | PASS |
| Headroom | 5% free | 79.3 GB free (83%) | PASS |
| Context for chat | 8K or more | 8K | PASS |
| Writing speed | 15 tok/s or more | 93 tok/s | PASS |
| First reply | under 3 s, 2K prompt | 0.8 s | PASS |

Targets: a reply you can read along with, a first reply the use case tolerates, and 5% of memory left free. Calculated from published specs, not benchmarked.

## BUDGET

| | |
|---|---|
| HARDWARE, ONE-TIME | MSRP not entered |
| POWER, PER YEAR | $32 · 120 W at the wall |
| CLOUD INSTEAD, PER YEAR | $365 |
| 3-YEAR TOTAL, OWNED | Hardware + $95 power |
| 3-YEAR TOTAL, CLOUD | $1,094 |
| BREAK-EVEN | Needs the hardware MSRP |




Budget basis: 4 h a day, power at $0.18 per kWh, cloud at RunPod on-demand prices as of Nov 22, 2026. Hardware at the MSRP entered in the calculator, not a GPU Partner quote. A 3-year view; resale value, staff time and taxes aren't counted.

GPUpartner

TECHNICAL DETAIL · TEXT GENERATION

# Moonlight 16B A3B Instruct

on M5 Max 128 GB · 8-bit (Q8_0) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

## SETUP

| | |
|---|---|
| PARAMETERS | 16B, 3B active |
| PRECISION | 8-bit (Q8_0) |
| CONTEXT | 8K, auto |
| CHATS AT ONCE | 1 |
| USE | Chat |
| RUNS IN | Ollama / LM Studio |
| HARDWARE | M5 Max 128 GB |
| GPU CAN USE | 96.0 GB of 128 GB |

## SAME MODEL, OTHER MACHINES

| | |
|---|---|
| RTX 4090 | 8-bit · 163 tok/s |
| RTX 5090 | 8-bit · 240 tok/s |
| RTX PRO 6000 BLACKWELL | 8-bit · 240 tok/s |
| M3 ULTRA 256 GB | 8-bit · 102 tok/s |
| DGX SPARK 128 GB | 8-bit · 55 tok/s |
| RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 128 GB | 8-bit · 43 tok/s |
| DGX STATION GB300 | 8-bit · 442 tok/s |

## MEMORY

| | |
|---|---|
| WEIGHTS | 15.8 GB |
| CONTEXT | 243 MB |
| RUNTIME | 640 MB |
| SYSTEM | 32.0 GB |
| FREE | 79.3 GB |

## HOW TO RUN IT

| | |
|---|---|
| LLAMA.CPP | `llama-server -hf mmnga/Moonlight-16B-A3B-Instruct-gguf` |
| VLLM | `vllm serve moonshotai/Moonlight-16B-A3B-Instruct` |
| MLX (MAC) | `mlx_lm.chat --model mlx-community/Moonlight-16B-A3B-Instruct-4-bit` |
| MODEL CARD | huggingface.co/moonshotai/Moonlight-16B-A3B-Instruct |

## METHOD AND ASSUMPTIONS

Memory is the weights (parameters times bits per weight, read from each model's config.json), the context cache for every chat, and the runtime, against the memory this GPU can use after the OS and display take theirs. Writing speed is memory bandwidth over the bytes read per token, plus a per-layer latency, calibrated against llama.cpp benchmarks. First reply is the prompt's FLOPs over the chip's dense 16-bit TFLOPS at the runtime's measured efficiency. Running cost is power at the wall at your rate and hours; the cloud figure is the cheapest RunPod on-demand GPU that runs the same job. Accuracy: memory lands within about a gigabyte; speeds and times are rough, about ±25%. Model data and hardware specs checked Nov 2026; cloud prices are RunPod's on-demand list as of Nov 22, 2026. Report VR-1O8MY4O, generated November 22, 2026.