GPUpartner

VALIDATION REPORT · TEXT GENERATION

Starcoder2 3B

on M4 Max 128 GB · 8-bit (Q8_0) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

STATUS · NOV 22, 2026

Validated

5 of 5 checks pass

Starcoder2 3B at 8-bit runs on the M4 Max 128 GB with 16K of context at about 101 tokens a second.

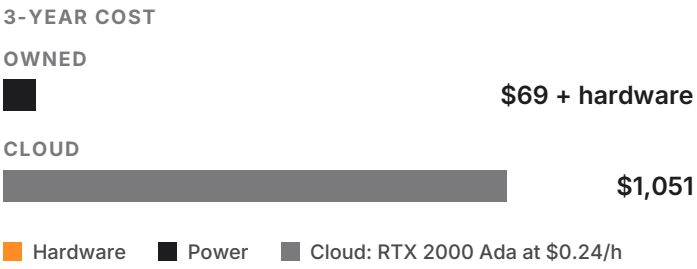
VALIDATION

CHECK	TARGET	RESULT	STATUS
Fits in GPU memory	96.0 GB usable	3.9 GB needed	PASS
Headroom	5% free	92.1 GB free (96%)	PASS
Context for chat	16K or more	16K	PASS
Writing speed	15 tok/s or more	101 tok/s	PASS
First reply	under 3 s, 2K prompt	1.0 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	$23 · 87 W at the wall
CLOUD INSTEAD, PER YEAR	$350
3-YEAR TOTAL, OWNED	Hardware + $69 power
3-YEAR TOTAL, CLOUD	$1,051
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.

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TECHNICAL DETAIL · TEXT GENERATION

Starcoder2 3B

on M4 Max 128 GB · 8-bit (Q8_0) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

SETUP

PARAMETERS	3B
PRECISION	8-bit (Q8_0)
CONTEXT	16K, auto
CHATS AT ONCE	1
USE	Chat
RUNS IN	Ollama / LM Studio
HARDWARE	M4 Max 128 GB
GPU CAN USE	96.0 GB of 128 GB

SAME MODEL, OTHER MACHINES

RTX 4090	8-bit · 191 tok/s
RTX 5090	8-bit · 300 tok/s
RTX PRO 6000 BLACKWELL	8-bit · 300 tok/s
M5 MAX 128 GB	8-bit · 111 tok/s
M3 ULTRA 256 GB	8-bit · 123 tok/s
DGX SPARK 128 GB	8-bit · 59 tok/s
RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 128 GB	8-bit · 47 tok/s

MEMORY

WEIGHTS	3.0 GB
CONTEXT	480 MB
RUNTIME	448 MB
SYSTEM	32.0 GB
FREE	92.1 GB

HOW TO RUN IT

LLAMA.CPP	`llama-server -hf mradermacher/starcoder2-3b-i1-GGUF`
VLLM	`vllm serve bigcode/starcoder2-3b`
MODEL CARD	huggingface.co/bigcode/starcoder2-3b

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-1TUNIHR, generated November 22, 2026.