GPUpartner

VALIDATION REPORT · TEXT GENERATION

Nemotron 3.5 Lightning 30B A3B

on M4 16 GB · 4-bit (Q4_K_M) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

STATUS · NOV 22, 2026

Not validated

0 of 2 checks pass

Nemotron 3.5 Lightning 30B A3B at 4-bit needs 18.5 GB; the M4 16 GB can use 10.7 GB. The smallest machine we checked that runs it is the RTX 4000 SFF Ada.

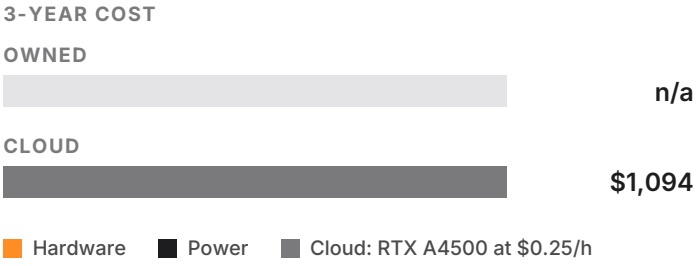
VALIDATION

CHECK	TARGET	RESULT	STATUS
Fits in GPU memory	10.7 GB usable	18.5 GB needed	FAIL
Headroom	5% free	none	FAIL
Context for chat	16K or more	–	NOT TESTED
Writing speed	15 tok/s or more	–	NOT TESTED
First reply	under 3 s, 2K prompt	–	NOT TESTED

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	Doesn't run on this machine
CLOUD INSTEAD, PER YEAR	$365
3-YEAR TOTAL, OWNED	n/a
3-YEAR TOTAL, CLOUD	$1,094
BREAK-EVEN	n/a



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

Nemotron 3.5 Lightning 30B A3B

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SETUP

PARAMETERS	31.6B, 3B active
PRECISION	4-bit (Q4_K_M)
CONTEXT	8K, auto
CHATS AT ONCE	1
USE	Chat
RUNS IN	Ollama / LM Studio
HARDWARE	M4 16 GB
GPU CAN USE	10.7 GB of 16.0 GB

MEMORY

WEIGHTS	17.8 GB
CONTEXT	95 MB
RUNTIME	596 MB
SYSTEM	5.3 GB
OVER BY	7.8 GB

SUGGESTED CHANGES

RTX 4000 SFF ADA	Runs it with 56K context
M5 MAX · 36 GB	Runs it with 256K context
RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 · 32 GB	Runs it with 256K context

SAME MODEL, OTHER MACHINES

RTX 4090	5-bit · 161 tok/s
RTX 5090	6-bit · 195 tok/s
RTX PRO 6000 BLACKWELL	8-bit · 175 tok/s
M5 MAX 128 GB	8-bit · 70 tok/s
M3 ULTRA 256 GB	8-bit · 75 tok/s
DGX SPARK 128 GB	8-bit · 50 tok/s
RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 128 GB	8-bit · 39 tok/s

HOW TO RUN IT

OLLAMA	`ollama run nemotron-3.5-lightning:30b-a3b`
LLAMA.CPP	`llama-server -hf unsloth/NVIDIA-Nemotron-3.5-Lightning-30B-A3B-GGUF`
VLLM	`vllm serve nvidia/NVIDIA-Nemotron-3.5-Lightning-30B-A3B-BF16`
MLX (MAC)	`mlx_lm.chat --model mlx-community/NVIDIA-Nemotron-3.5-Lightning-30B-A3B-4bit`
MODEL CARD	huggingface.co/nvidia/NVIDIA-Nemotron-3.5-Lightning-30B-A3B-BF16

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-0731FIK, generated November 22, 2026.