GPUpartner

VALIDATION REPORT · TEXT GENERATION

# Step 3.5 Flash

on M3 Ultra 96 GB · 4-bit (Q4_K_M) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

STATUS · NOV 22, 2026

**Not validated**

0 of 2 checks pass

**Step 3.5 Flash at 4-bit needs 117 GB; the M3 Ultra 96 GB can use 72.0 GB. The smallest machine we checked that runs it is the H200 NVL.**

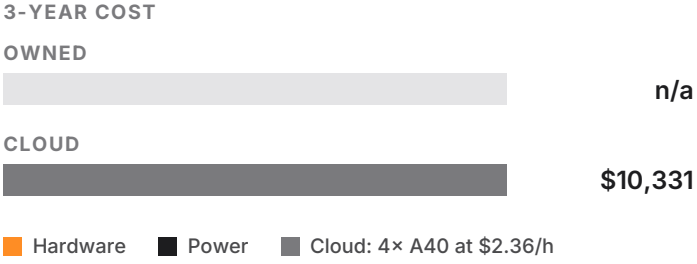
## VALIDATION

| CHECK | TARGET | RESULT | STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fits in GPU memory | 72.0 GB usable | 117 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 | $3,444 |
| 3-YEAR TOTAL, OWNED | n/a |
| 3-YEAR TOTAL, CLOUD | $10,331 |
| 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.

GPUpartner

TECHNICAL DETAIL · TEXT GENERATION

# Step 3.5 Flash

on M3 Ultra 96 GB · 4-bit (Q4_K_M) · Ollama / LM Studio · Chat

## SETUP

| | |
|---|---|
| PARAMETERS | 199B, 9.4B active |
| PRECISION | 4-bit (Q4_K_M) |
| CONTEXT | 8K, auto |
| CHATS AT ONCE | 1 |
| USE | Chat |
| RUNS IN | Ollama / LM Studio |
| HARDWARE | M3 Ultra 96 GB |
| GPU CAN USE | 72.0 GB of 96.0 GB |

## MEMORY

| | |
|---|---|
| WEIGHTS | 113 GB |
| CONTEXT | 3.6 GB |
| RUNTIME | 636 MB |
| SYSTEM | 24.0 GB |
| OVER BY | 44.8 GB |

## SUGGESTED CHANGES

| | |
|---|---|
| H200 NVL | Runs it with 52K context |
| M5 ULTRA · 256 GB | Runs it with 176K context |
| DGX STATION GB300 | Runs it with 256K context |

## SAME MODEL, OTHER MACHINES

| | |
|---|---|
| RTX 4090 | Too big |
| RTX 5090 | Too big |
| RTX PRO 6000 BLACKWELL | 2-bit · 181 tok/s |
| M5 MAX 128 GB | 2-bit · 72 tok/s |
| DGX SPARK 128 GB | 3-bit · 37 tok/s |
| RYZEN AI MAX+ 395 128 GB | 2-bit · 37 tok/s |
| DGX STATION GB300 | 8-bit · 212 tok/s |

## HOW TO RUN IT

| | |
|---|---|
| LLAMA.CPP | `llama-server -hf ggml-org/Step-3.5-Flash-GGUF` |
| VLLM | `vllm serve stepfun-ai/Step-3.5-Flash` |
| MLX (MAC) | `mlx_lm.chat --model mlx-community/Step-3.5-Flash-4bit` |
| MODEL CARD | huggingface.co/stepfun-ai/Step-3.5-Flash |

## 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-0FC6IDH, generated November 22, 2026.