

Investment Cost Comparator

A consultation view of the companion Excel workbook. Edit the XLSX to calculate with your own numbers; this PDF does not recalculate.

Two fictional fee schedules, one shared exposure and contribution calendar. Option B includes ongoing advice; its added service needs its own value judgment.

Reference balance	Initial invested balance
\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Contribution per event	Contribution frequency
\$200.00	Monthly
First event month	Duration in months
1	120
Annual assumed return	Return basis
5%	Gross
Start date	Comparison basis
2026-10-01	Equivalent exposure/calendar

Measure	Option A	Option B
Annual cost at the reference balance	\$5.00	\$89.50
Balance after the modeled period	\$39,170.44	\$37,638.35
Modeled charges during that period	\$207.56	\$1,424.39
Initial balance + contributions	\$29,000.00	\$29,000.00

Equivalent exposure/calendar; same gross assumption isolates modeled costs. This confirms the comparison assumption, not identical services or suitability.

A ends \$1,532.09 higher in this scenario. That balance difference includes the path of growth after costs; it is not another fee to add to modeled charges.

Option A · Complete fee schedule

Name

Option A

Evidence type

Scenario

Service / account

Self-directed cash; same assumed exposure

Effective / as-of date

2026-10-03

Cost or activity	Value	State / included parent
Fixed platform USD/year	\$0.00	Scenario
Fixed custody USD/year	\$0.00	Scenario
Advice annual rate	0%	Scenario
Other annual rate	0%	Scenario
Fund expense annual rate	0.1%	Scenario
Trade USD/order	\$0.00	Scenario
Trades per event	1	Scenario
Initial trade count	0	Scenario
Implicit USD/event	\$0.00	Scenario
Upfront USD once	\$0.00	Scenario
Exit USD once	\$0.00	Scenario

Source: Fictional schedule from Chapter 5; no provider offer

Explicit / year	Embedded / year	Total / year
\$0.00	\$5.00	\$5.00

Implicit estimate / year: \$0.00. Upfront / exit: \$0.00 / \$0.00. The annual snapshot holds the reference balance constant; the projection uses the changing balance.

Option B · Complete fee schedule

Name

Option B

Evidence type

Scenario

Service / account

Cash account with ongoing advice; same exposure/calendar

Effective / as-of date

2026-10-03

Cost or activity	Value	State / included parent
Fixed platform USD/year	\$60.00	Scenario
Fixed custody USD/year	\$0.00	Scenario
Advice annual rate	0.25%	Scenario
Other annual rate	0%	Scenario
Fund expense annual rate	0.1%	Scenario
Trade USD/order	\$1.00	Scenario
Trades per event	1	Scenario
Initial trade count	0	Scenario
Implicit USD/event	\$0.00	Scenario
Upfront USD once	\$0.00	Scenario
Exit USD once	\$0.00	Scenario

Source: Fictional schedule from Chapter 5; no provider offer

Explicit / year	Embedded / year	Total / year
\$84.50	\$5.00	\$89.50

Implicit estimate / year: \$0.00. Upfront / exit: \$0.00 / \$0.00. The annual snapshot holds the reference balance constant; the projection uses the changing balance.

Read the result in context

Each row removes one cost group from the same scenario. These are separate alternatives; their differences cannot be added together.

Measure	Option A	Option B
With all modeled charges	\$39,170.44	\$37,638.35
Without fixed fees	\$39,170.44	\$38,400.40
Without advice	\$39,170.44	\$38,243.72
Without transaction / implicit costs	\$39,170.44	\$37,790.76
Without fund expense	\$39,420.91	\$37,879.07
Without all charges	\$39,420.91	\$39,420.91

When a term is unknown

If B's advice rate is Unknown, the known annual amount is \$72 explicit + \$5 embedded = \$77. The complete total and B's all-cost growth remain pending. A can still calculate.

Return basis changes what is deducted

Gross: the model subtracts the fund expense and other modeled costs once. **Net of fund expense:** it leaves the embedded expense visible in the annual inventory but does not deduct it from growth again. Removing fund expense or all charges requires Gross.

Confirm comparability deliberately

Only **Equivalent exposure/calendar** confirms that assumption. Blank, Unconfirmed or another value leaves the interpretation pending. **Different services** keeps the individual results available and asks you to assess the service separately. The same net return does not isolate fund-fee differences.

How the calendar works

Contributions arrive at the start of scheduled months; fixed annual fees are spread across 12 months. The annual assumed return is divided by 12. Initial trades/upfront fees occur once at the start, and exit fees once at the end. The Excel Schedule tabs retain the monthly detail and separate counterfactuals.

No taxes, withdrawals, inflation, variable fee tiers or market-risk simulation. Negative modeled balances stop at INSUFFICIENT FUNDS. A PDF is a reading aid; it cannot verify quotes, place orders or update a scenario.