

prBar

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I work across a lot of different GitHub repos, and agents have made it a lot easier to produce code than to verify and merge it. I've found one of the best ways to keep things moving is to avoid building up too much of a backlog of PRs. I built **prBar**^[a] to show the open PR counts in my Mac's menu bar, so I can see how much crud is accumulating and when to focus on clearing it.

This is a tiny project I built in ~20 minutes while I was testing Grok 4.5.

I use Peter Steinberger's **CodexBar**^[b] to keep track of my AI subscription usage and wanted something similar to track my PRs.

prBar shows the open PR count for each public or private repo you track, in the order you select. It uses the GitHub CLI (`gh`) for authentication. Repos with no counted PRs stay out of the menu bar. Open the menu to see branch counts from GitHub and worktree counts from local clones. Open a repo's submenu to see individual PRs, newest first, and jump to them on github.com. Dependabot PRs are listed separately and excluded from the menu-bar count by default.

Install

Requires macOS 14+, Swift 6.0 or later (via Xcode or the Command Line Tools), and the GitHub CLI. Install and authenticate `gh` with `brew install gh && gh auth login`, then run:

```
curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/sburl/prBar/main/install.sh | bash
```

This clones the repo, builds the app, and installs it at `~/Applications/prBar.app`. First launch opens **Repos...** so you can add `owner/name` or a `github.com` URL, set a two-letter abbreviation, and drag to reorder. **Open at Login** is in the menu.

The app bundle also includes `prbar-cli` if you want to use the counts in a script. Run it with `~/Applications/prBar.app/Contents/MacOS/prbar-cli`.

Links

a. github.com/sburl/prBar

b. github.com/steipete/codexbar