

RESOURCE 3: CURATED RESOURCE LIST

The Self-Custody Starter Kit — 18 Tools, Apps, Books & Sites

Curated for the non-technical Bitcoin holder who has completed (or is completing) their first self-custody setup. Everything on this list is free unless noted. Nothing here pays for inclusion.

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HARDWARE & DEVICES

1. Ledger Nano X — *ledger.com* The primary device used throughout this book. Bluetooth-enabled, supports over 5,500 assets, companion app is Ledger Live. Buy directly from ledger.com only — never from Amazon or secondary marketplaces. Approximately \$149.

2. Trezor Safe 3 — *trezor.io* The recommended second device for redundancy (covered in Chapter 11). Different architecture and codebase from Ledger, which is exactly why you want both. Open-source firmware. Buy directly from trezor.io only. Approximately \$79.

COMPANION SOFTWARE

3. Ledger Live — *ledger.com/ledger-live* The official companion app for Ledger devices. Used to install firmware, manage accounts, and initiate transactions. Download from the official site only. Available for desktop (Mac/Windows/Linux) and mobile.

4. Trezor Suite — *trezor.io/trezor-suite* Trezor's equivalent companion software. Clean interface, strong privacy defaults. Desktop application. Do not use browser-based alternatives when the desktop app is available.

WATCH-ONLY WALLETS

Monitor your balance without connecting your hardware wallet

5. Sparrow Wallet — *sparrowwallet.com* The recommended desktop watch-only wallet for intermediate users. Excellent coin control features, privacy-focused, connects to your own node if desired. Steep-ish learning curve but worth it. Free. Mac/Windows/Linux.

6. BlueWallet — *bluewallet.io* Mobile watch-only wallet for iOS and Android. Import your extended public key from Ledger Live and check your balance from your phone without ever touching your hardware wallet. Free.

SEED PHRASE BACKUP & STORAGE

7. Cryptosteel Capsule — *cryptosteel.com* Stainless steel capsule for storing your seed phrase. Fireproof to 1,400°C, waterproof, corrosion-resistant. Letter tiles slot into the core. No stamping required. Approximately \$90–\$120. Covered in Chapter 8.

8. CRYPTOTAG Zeus — *cryptotag.io* Titanium plates with number-punch system. Converts your 24-word seed to BIP39 numbers stamped into 6mm titanium. Highest fire resistance of any consumer product tested by independent researchers. Approximately \$129. Covered in Chapter 8.

NETWORK & FEE MONITORING

9. Mempool.space — *mempool.space* The clearest real-time view of the Bitcoin mempool (the waiting room for unconfirmed transactions). Before sending any transaction — especially during migration — check this to find the right fee and avoid overpaying or getting stuck. Free.

10. Clark Moody Bitcoin Dashboard — *bitcoin.clarkmoody.com* Clean, comprehensive dashboard of Bitcoin network statistics. Good for understanding network health at a glance without needing to interpret raw blockchain data. Free.

SECURITY & SCAM AWARENESS

11. Jameson Lopp's Bitcoin Resources — *lopp.net* Jameson Lopp is one of the most respected security researchers in the Bitcoin space. His resource page is the most comprehensive free collection of vetted Bitcoin security information available. If a question isn't answered in this book, start here. Free.

12. Jameson Lopp's Physical Bitcoin Attack Database — *github.com/jlopp/physical-bitcoin-attacks* A continuously updated public database of documented physical attacks on Bitcoin

holders. Not comfortable reading — but essential context for why privacy about your holdings matters. Covered in Chapter 13. Free.

13. Have I Been Pwned — *haveibeenpwned.com* Enter any email address to see if it appeared in known data breaches. If your primary Bitcoin-related email appears here, change it immediately and enable 2FA on everything connected to it. Free.

BOOKS

14. *The Bitcoin Standard* — **Saifedean Ammous** The foundational text for understanding why Bitcoin has the monetary properties it does. Not a how-to book — it is the *why* book. Read after you've completed your setup, when you want to understand what you're actually holding and why it's different from everything that came before it.

15. *Mastering Bitcoin* — **Andreas Antonopoulos** The technical deep-dive for readers who want to understand the cryptography and architecture behind Bitcoin. Not required for self-custody, but excellent if you find yourself wanting to know why the seed phrase works the way it does. Available free online at github.com/bitcoinbook. Also available in print.

16. *The Little Bitcoin Book* — **Bitcoin Policy Institute (multiple authors)** The shortest and most accessible introduction to Bitcoin's purpose and design. If you have a family member or friend who is skeptical of Bitcoin and you want to give them something that isn't overwhelming, this is it. 100 pages. A fast afternoon.

ONGOING EDUCATION

17. Unchained Capital Blog — *unchained.com/blog* Consistently high-quality long-form writing on Bitcoin security, custody, and inheritance planning. The team includes serious practitioners. Their guides on multisig and estate planning are some of the best free resources available on those topics.

18. Bitcoin Optech Newsletter — *bitcoinops.org/en/newsletters* A weekly technical newsletter covering Bitcoin protocol development and wallet improvements. More advanced than most readers will need immediately — but a useful subscription for anyone who wants to stay informed about changes that could affect hardware wallet compatibility and security over time. Free.