

BONUS RESOURCE 3

The Bitcoin Self-Custody Resource List

18 Tools, Books, Apps, and Sites Every Serious Holder Should Know

Every resource below has been selected because it is genuinely useful to a non-technical Bitcoin holder who takes self-custody seriously. No sponsored placements. No noise. Annotations explain exactly why each one matters.

Hardware Wallets

1. Ledger (ledger.com)

The world's best-selling hardware wallet family. The Nano X (Bluetooth) and Nano S Plus (USB) cover most use cases. Buy only from ledger.com or an authorized retailer. Why it matters: the most widely tested, most broadly supported signing device on the market, with regular firmware security updates.

2. Trezor (trezor.io)

Open-source firmware hardware wallet by SatoshiLabs, the company that invented the category. The Model T and Safe 3 are the current recommended models. Why it matters: full open-source auditability means the security community can — and does — inspect every line of code.

3. Coldcard (coldcard.com)

Air-gapped signing device purpose-built for Bitcoin-only, maximum-security users. Supports PSBT signing via microSD with no USB or Bluetooth. Why it matters: the industry's most paranoid-in-a-good-way device. Recommended for Fort Knox tier holders and anyone building a multisig setup.

4. Foundation Passport (foundationdevices.com)

Open-source, air-gapped Bitcoin-only hardware wallet with a transparent design philosophy. Uses standard AA batteries — no proprietary charging cables. Why it matters: one of the few devices with both open-source hardware and firmware, built by a team focused exclusively on Bitcoin security.

Physical Backup Products

5. Cryptosteel Capsule (cryptosteel.com)

The original stainless steel seed phrase backup system. Characters are stamped onto individual tiles that slide into a compact capsule, fireproof to 1,400°C and waterproof. Why it matters: the benchmark product in the category, built to survive disasters that would destroy paper and cheap steel alternatives.

6. Bilodeau Seed Plate (bilodeau.ca)

A stamped titanium backup plate designed specifically for Bitcoin seed phrases. Lighter than steel, corrosion-resistant, and simpler to use than tile-based systems. Why it matters: titanium offers a better strength-to-weight ratio than stainless steel, and the format is clean and legible.

7. SeedPlate by Hodlr (hodlr.swiss)

Swiss-made stainless steel backup plate system with a punching tool included. Compatible with 12- and 24-word phrases. Why it matters: a complete kit that removes the question of which stamping tool to buy and how to use it — lower barrier to actually doing the backup correctly.

Software Tools

8. Sparrow Wallet (sparrowwallet.com)

The most capable open-source desktop Bitcoin wallet for self-custody users. Supports single-sig, multisig, PSBT, hardware wallet integration, and your own node. Why it matters: if you're doing multisig, inheritance planning, or advanced coin control, Sparrow is the standard reference tool.

9. Electrum (electrum.org)

Lightweight, battle-tested desktop Bitcoin wallet with hardware wallet support and multisig capability. One of the oldest and most audited codebases in Bitcoin. Why it matters: a reliable backup recovery and verification environment, especially useful for dry-run recovery tests.

10. Ian Coleman's BIP-39 Tool (iancoleman.io/bip39)

An open-source, offline-compatible tool that lets you verify BIP-39 seed phrases and derived addresses. Run it on an air-gapped machine. Why it matters: the most widely used tool for manually confirming that a seed phrase generates the addresses you expect — invaluable for backup verification and recovery testing. Use only offline.

Information and Education

11. Bitcoin Optech Newsletter (bitcoinops.org)

A technical newsletter covering Bitcoin protocol development, security research, and best practices. Free weekly email. Why it matters: the most reliable signal on what's changing in Bitcoin's security landscape — firmware vulnerabilities, protocol upgrades, and wallet developments are covered here before they reach mainstream media.

13. Lopp.net by Jameson Lopp (lopp.net)

A curated library of Bitcoin resources maintained by one of the space's most respected security researchers. Includes a regularly updated list of physical Bitcoin attacks. Why it matters: the most comprehensive single resource for understanding the real-world threat landscape for Bitcoin holders.

14. The Bitcoin Standard by Saifedean Ammous

The most widely read book on Bitcoin's monetary properties and its role as a long-term store of value. Not a security book, but the foundational text for understanding why securing your Bitcoin

matters. Why it matters: you can't make good self-custody decisions without understanding what you're protecting and why.

15. Mastering Bitcoin by Andreas Antonopoulos (O'Reilly)

The technical reference text for Bitcoin development and protocol understanding. Available in full for free on GitHub. Why it matters: the definitive source for readers who want to understand BIP-39, HD wallets, multisig, and the cryptographic foundations of everything covered in this book.

Community & Support

16. Bitcoin Stack Exchange (bitcoin.stackexchange.com)

The highest-quality Q&A resource for Bitcoin technical questions. Answers are voted on by the community and often provided by core contributors. Why it matters: if you have a specific technical question about your setup — seed phrase derivation, address formats, recovery edge cases — this is where the correct answer lives.

17. r/Bitcoin (reddit.com/r/bitcoin)

The largest Bitcoin community forum. Quality varies, but the wiki and top-pinned posts contain reliable self-custody guidance. Why it matters: useful for finding community experience with specific hardware or software products, and for staying current with news that affects holders.

18. Unchained Capital Learning Centre (unchained.com/blog)

High-quality educational content on Bitcoin custody, multisig, and inheritance from a company that specializes in institutional-grade self-custody solutions. Why it matters: one of the few sources that covers inheritance and estate planning for Bitcoin in detail, with practical rather than theoretical guidance.