

# Hardware Wallet Comparison 2026

Every major signing device, compared honestly. No affiliate spin: we tell you the cons too. Prices as of mid-2026, always buy direct or from an authorized reseller.

## Quick Answers

Your situation	Get this
Security maximizer, Bitcoin-only	Coldcard Mk4 (\$149)
Best UX + full air-gap	Coldcard Q (\$219)
Budget + verify-it-yourself	SeedSigner (~\$50 DIY, assembled kits available)
Simple, affordable, Bitcoin-only	Blockstream Jade (~\$79)
First device, want a touchscreen	Trezor Safe 3 / Model T
Serious holdings	Multisig with 2+ devices from different makers

## The Full Table

Device	Price	Secure element	Open source	Air-gap	Bitcoin-only
Coldcard Mk4	\$149	Yes	Yes	Yes (microSD)	Yes
Coldcard Q	\$219	Yes	Yes	Yes (QR)	Yes
SeedSigner	~\$50	No (stateless)	Yes	Yes (QR)	Yes
Blockstream Jade	~\$79	Virtual SE*	Yes	Yes (QR, camera)	Yes
Trezor Safe 3	\$79	Yes	Yes	No	No
Trezor Model T	\$179	No	Yes	No	No
Trezor Model One	\$69	No	Yes	No	No
Ledger Nano S+	\$79	Yes	No	No	No
Ledger Nano X	\$149	Yes	No	No (Bluetooth)	No

\*Jade uses a "virtual secure element": the secret is protected by a blind oracle scheme instead of a dedicated chip. Different design, comparable goal.

### Coldcard Mk4 and Q: the security maximizer's pick

**For:** Bitcoin-only firmware (smaller attack surface), full air-gap, secure element plus duress PIN, decoy wallets, fully published threat model, everything open source. The Q adds a QWERTY keyboard, larger screen, battery, and QR scanning.

**Against:** steeper learning curve, utilitarian screens, Bitcoin-only if you hold other assets (we consider that a feature).

### SeedSigner: cheapest, most verifiable

**For:** build it yourself from commodity parts, so you can verify the hardware with your own eyes. Stateless: it holds nothing when powered off. Fully open source, QR-only air-gap, ideal multisig participant.

**Against:** requires assembly (or buy a pre-assembled kit), no secure element, you re-enter or scan your seed each session.

## BITCOIN BUTLERS

### Blockstream Jade: budget Bitcoin-only

**For:** ~\$79, open source, Bitcoin-only, camera for QR air-gapped flows, works great with software wallets like Sparrow and Blockstream Green.

**Against:** no dedicated secure element chip (uses the blind-oracle "virtual SE" design), smaller ecosystem than Trezor/Ledger.

### Trezor: the open-source pioneer

**For:** longest track record in the industry, fully open-source firmware, wide compatibility, Shamir backup (SLIP-39) on Model T, Safe 3 adds a secure element at \$79.

**Against:** Model One/T have no secure element (Trezor argues a strong passphrase covers it), not Bitcoin-only, no air-gap option.

### Ledger: capable hardware, trust problem

**For:** certified secure element (CC EAL5+), polished apps, huge user base.

**Against:** closed-source firmware, and the 2023 "Ledger Recover" episode proved the firmware can export seed material. Optional or not, the capability exists. If open source and verifiability matter to you, choose Coldcard, SeedSigner, Jade, or Trezor.

### The Secure Element Debate, in 60 Seconds

A secure element is a chip designed to resist physical key extraction. **For:** defense in depth against physical attacks. **Against (Trezor's position):** the chips are proprietary, so you can't verify what runs inside; a strong PIN plus passphrase achieves similar protection. **Our take:** for most people the real risks are operational, bad backups and phishing, not chip-level extraction. Don't let this debate stall you.

### For Serious Holdings: Multisig Beats Any Single Device

- **2-of-3:** Coldcard Mk4 + SeedSigner + Jade (three makers, no shared flaw)
- **2-of-3:** two Coldcards + one Trezor, keys in separate locations
- **Key principle:** mix manufacturers. If one vendor ships a flaw, your funds don't care.

#### Three rules, whatever you buy

- Buy direct from the manufacturer or an authorized reseller. Never Amazon, never eBay, never secondhand.
- Verify tamper seals and update firmware before generating keys.
- Test recovery from your written seed before sending real funds.

Can't decide, or want someone to set it up with you live? A Butler walks you through device choice and setup in one session: [bitcoinbutlers.com/butlers](https://bitcoinbutlers.com/butlers). Devices in stock with multi-region shipping: [bitcoinbutlers.com/shop](https://bitcoinbutlers.com/shop)