Blockstream

The Future of Finance, Built On Bitcoin.

Bitcoin 101

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Why Bitcoin Exists

- Every other kind of money is someone else's promise.
- A bank balance is an IOU Bitcoin is the first money you can hold directly, with no one in the middle.
- Fixed supply: 21 million, no one can print more
- Yours to hold: you keep the keys, no permission needed
- Open to anyone: a phone and an internet connection

How Bitcoin Works

- A shared ledger, kept by thousands of computers worldwide, all holding the same history
- New transactions are grouped into blocks roughly every 10 minutes
- No company or government runs it. The network enforces the rules
- Once confirmed, a transaction is final. No chargebacks, no middleman

What is a Bitcoin Wallet?

- A wallet holds your keys, not your bitcoin. Your bitcoin lives on the blockchain
- Your keys are what let you spend it
- Two kinds: software (an app on your phone) and hardware (an offline device like Blockstream Jade)

Software vs Hardware

- Software wallet: an app. Great for smaller, everyday amounts
- Hardware wallet: an offline device. Best for savings and larger amounts
- Best of both: pair the Blockstream app with a Jade.
- The app handles everyday use, the Jade signs offline

Keeping Your Recovery Phrase Safe

- Your wallet gives you a recovery phrase: 12 or 24 words that back up everything
- Write it on paper, in order. Never screenshot it, never store it online
- Anyone with these words can take your bitcoin. Never share them
- For durability, use a metal backup that resists fire and water

Self-custody Your keys, Your Bitcoin

- Self-custody means you hold your own keys. No bank, no exchange, no third party
- Your bitcoin cannot be frozen, seized, or lent out without you
- Not your keys, not your coins
- The trade-off: it is all yours, so keeping it safe is on you

Wallet vs. Exchange

- Your wallet (self-custody): you hold the keys. Full control, full responsibility
- An exchange (custodial): they hold the keys. Convenient to buy and sell, but not truly yours
- Exchanges can freeze accounts, get hacked, or limit withdrawals
- Fine to buy on an exchange, then move it to your own wallet

What is Blockstream?

- Founded in 2014 by Dr. Adam Back, inventor of Hashcash, cited in the Bitcoin whitepaper
- A team of Bitcoin contributors and cryptographers
- We build Bitcoin technology: the Jade hardware wallet, the Blockstream app, and layer-2 networks like Core Lightning and Liquid

Bitcoin Layers: Mainnet, Lightning, Liquid

- Bitcoin's base layer. Most secure, every transaction on-chain
- Lightning: a fast, low-fee layer for everyday payments
- Liquid: a Bitcoin sidechain for fast, Confidential Transactions and issuing assets

The Blockstream App

- One app to buy, receive, send, and manage bitcoin
- Works across Bitcoin, Lightning, and Liquid
- Fully self-custodial: only you hold the keys
- Pairs with Blockstream Jade for hardware security

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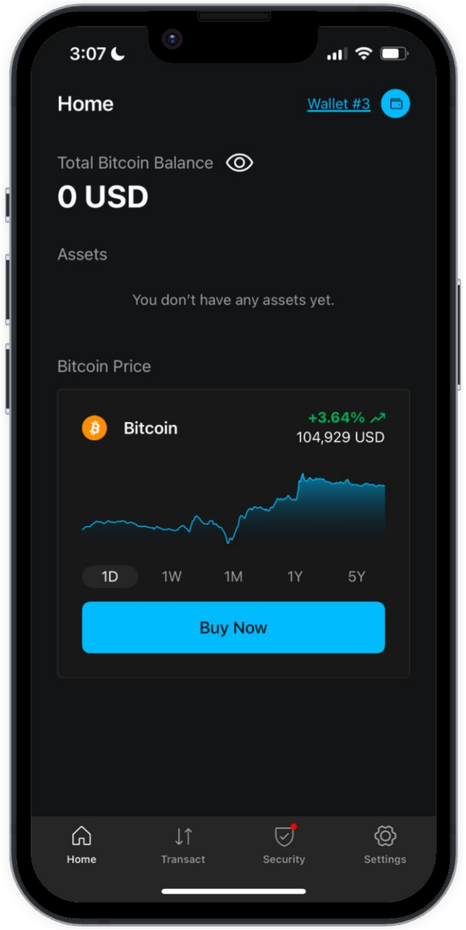
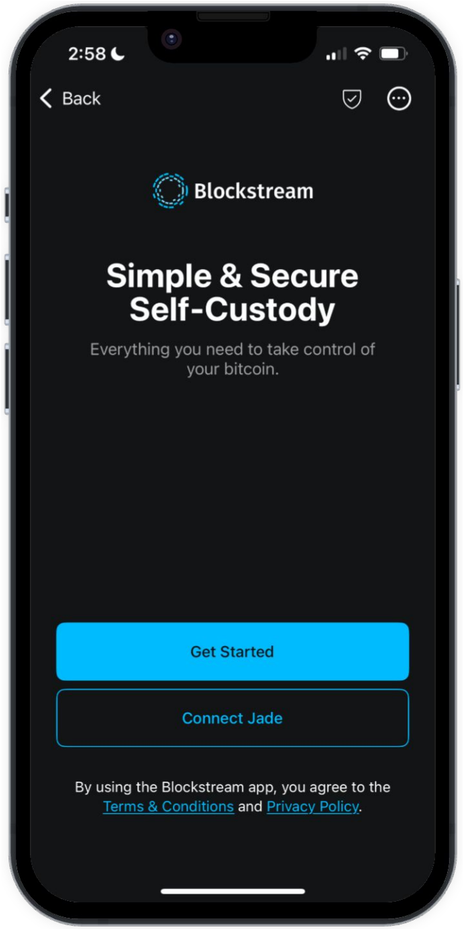
iOS

Android

Setup the Blockstream App

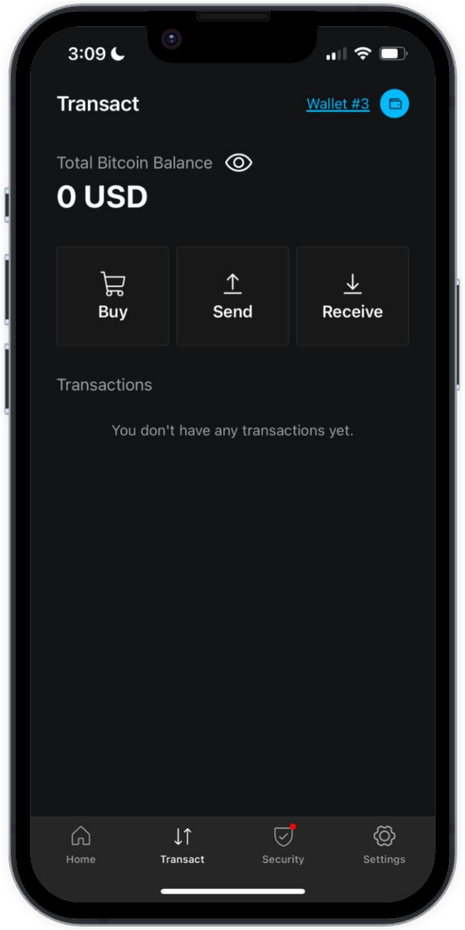
- Download the Blockstream app
- Tap Set up a new wallet
- Get Started, then Set up mobile wallet, then Mainnet





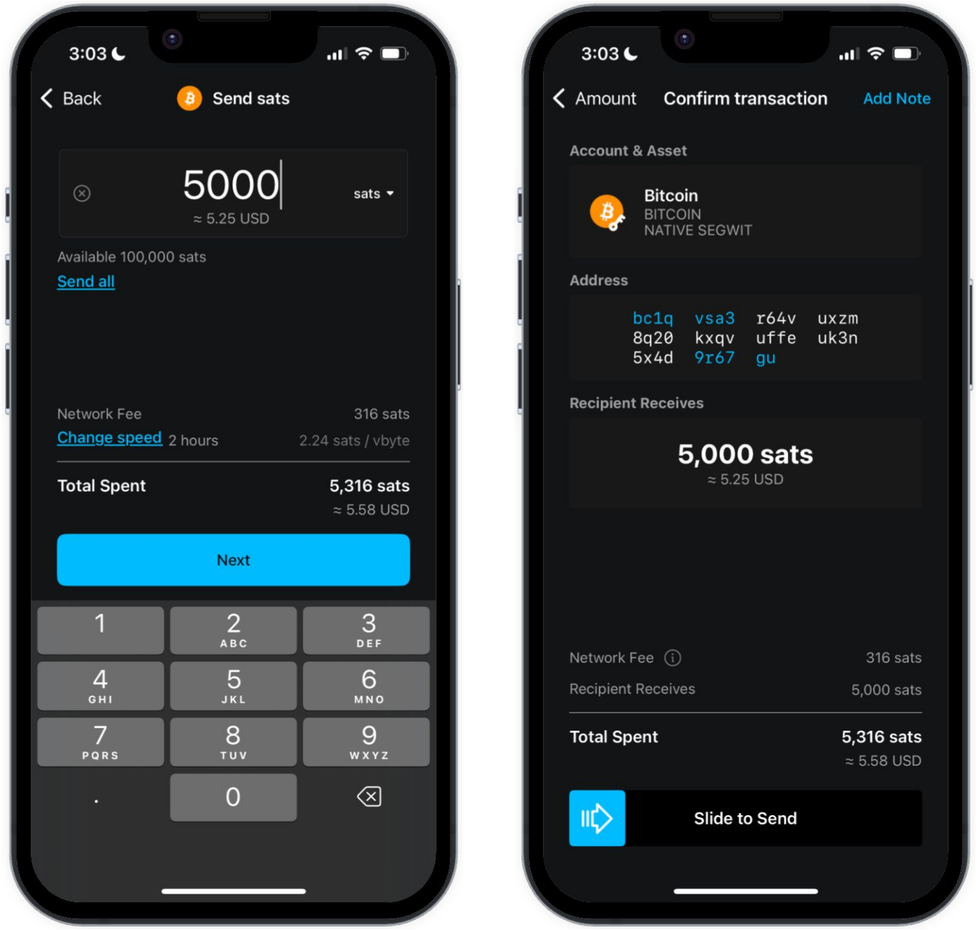
Receiving Bitcoin

- In the Transact tab, tap Receive
- Make sure Bitcoin is the selected asset
- Share your address by QR with
- Watch it go from unconfirmed to confirmed in about 10 minutes



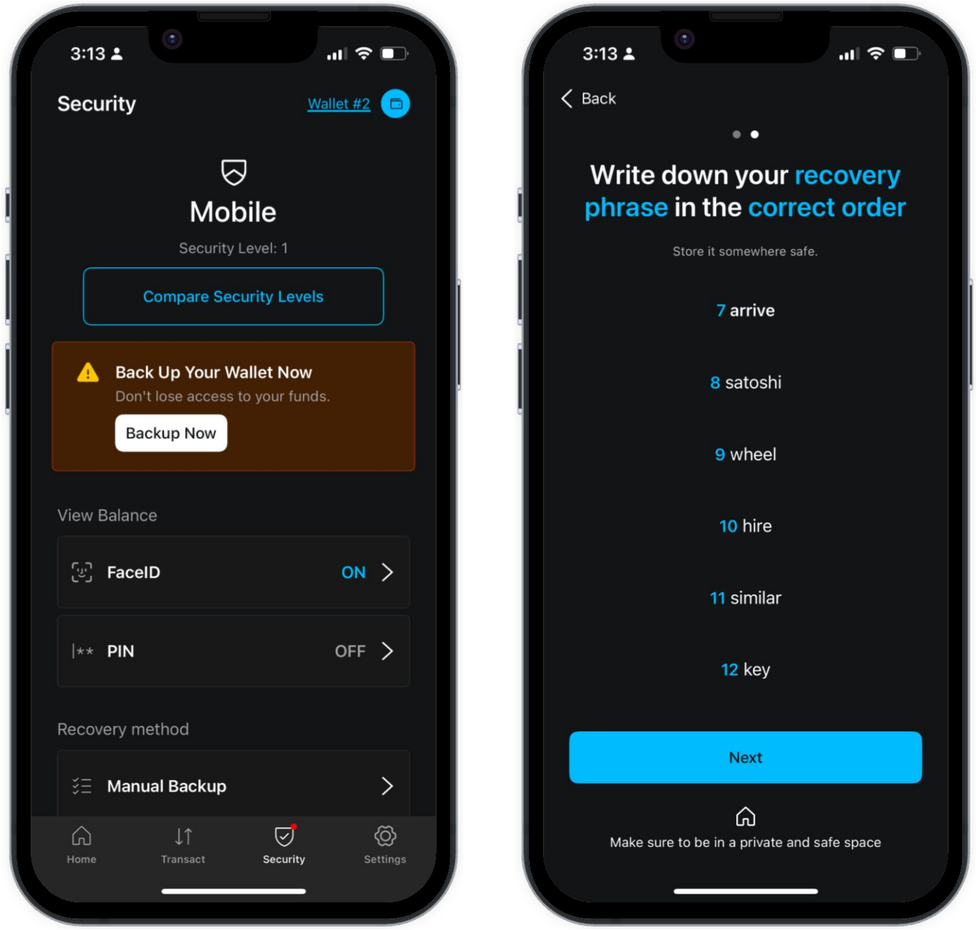
Send Bitcoin

- In the Transact tab, tap Send
- Scan a QR code or paste an address to send Bitcoin
- Choose the amount, add a note, review, then Slide to Send



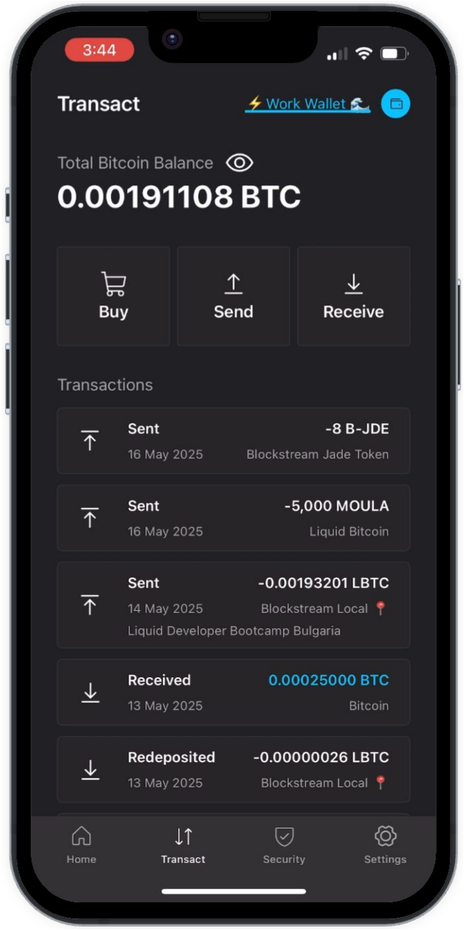
Your recovery phrase = Your Bitcoin

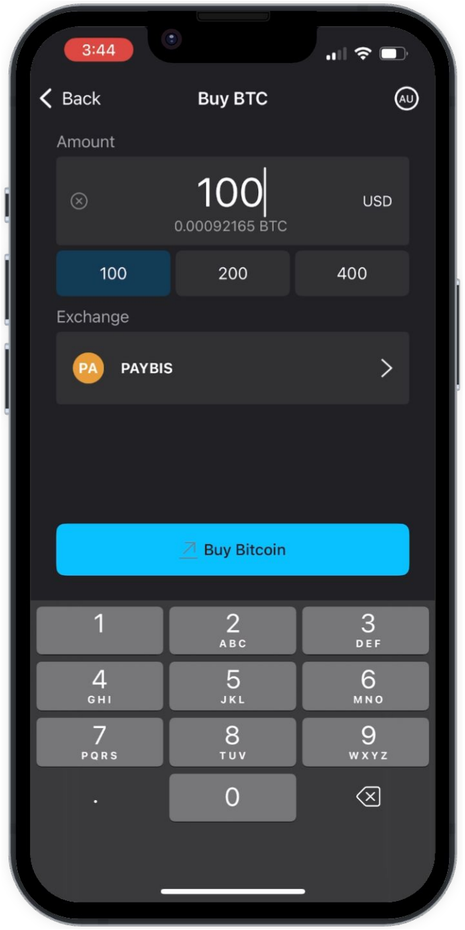
- Your wallet creates a 12-word recovery phrase. This is your backup
- Write it down somewhere private, not at the meetup, in order
- Anyone with it can access your bitcoin. Keep it secret
- Find it in the Security tab



Buying Bitcoin In the Blockstream App

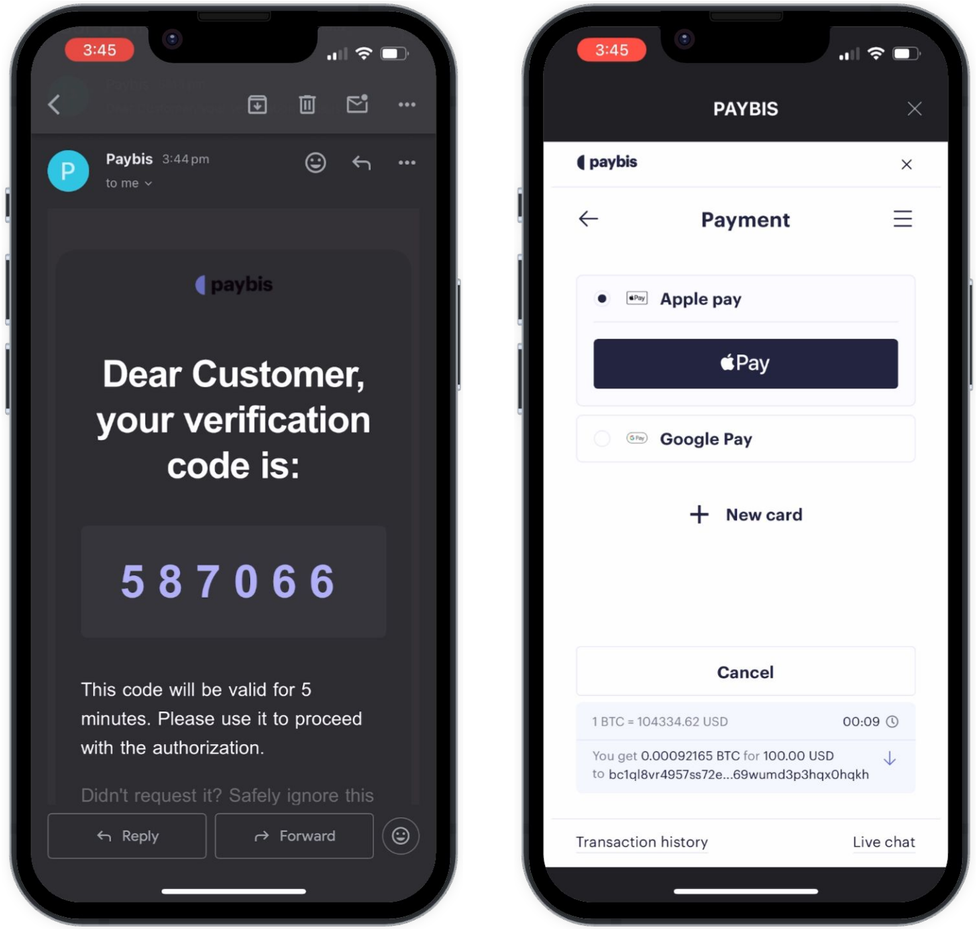
- Tap Buy from the home or Transact tab
- Choose your amount in local currency
- Pick an exchange then tap Buy Bitcoin





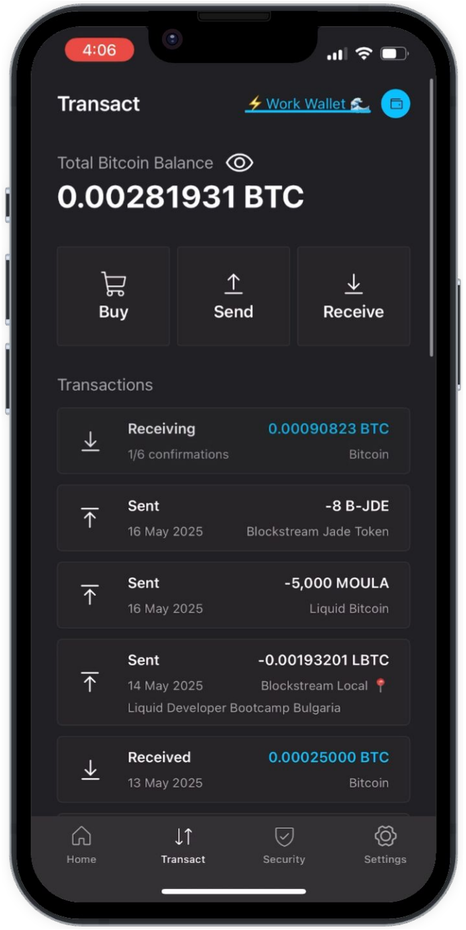
Buying Bitcoin

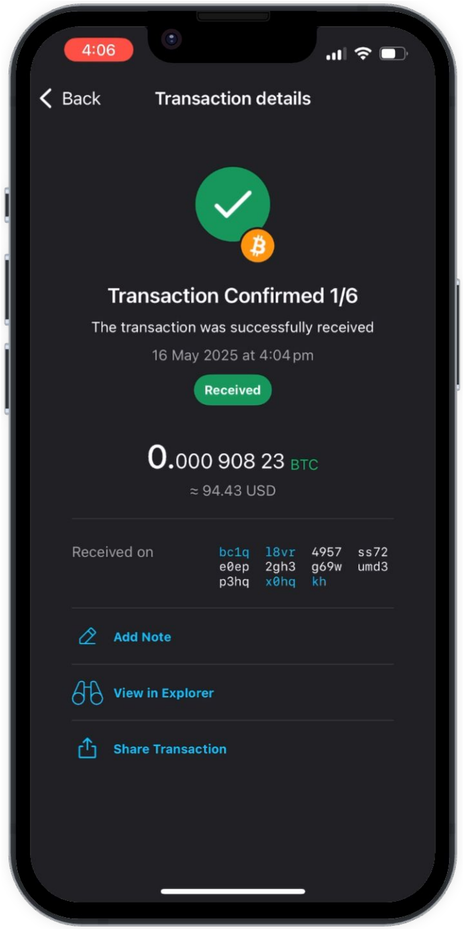
- Enter your email and verify with the code
- Pay with Apple Pay, Google Pay, or card
- Confirm in the app. The exchange sends bitcoin straight to your wallet



Buying Bitcoin

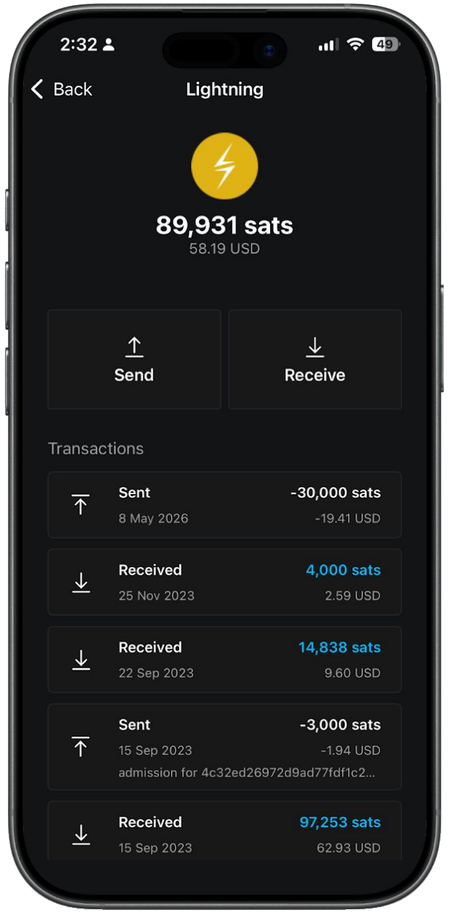
- Back in the app, you will see the incoming transaction
- It shows as unconfirmed at first. That is normal
- Once confirmed on the network, it is fully yours





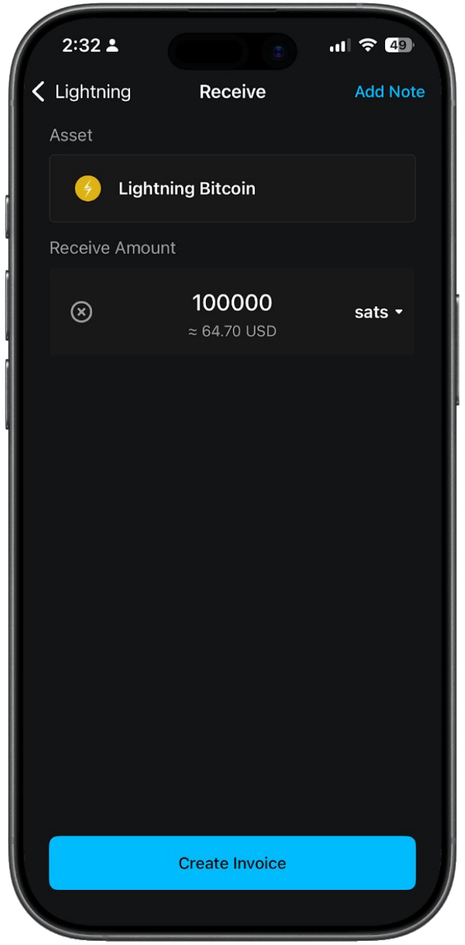
Lightning: Fast Everyday Payments

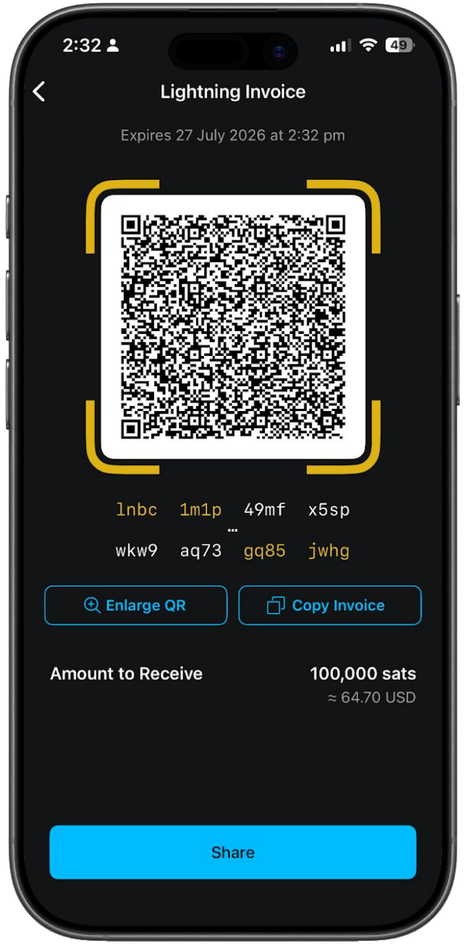
- Lightning is a fast, low-fee layer built on top of Bitcoin
- Made for everyday spending: payments settle in seconds
- Fees are tiny, even for small amounts
- It is the same bitcoin you hold, just a quicker way to send and receive



Receiving Lightning

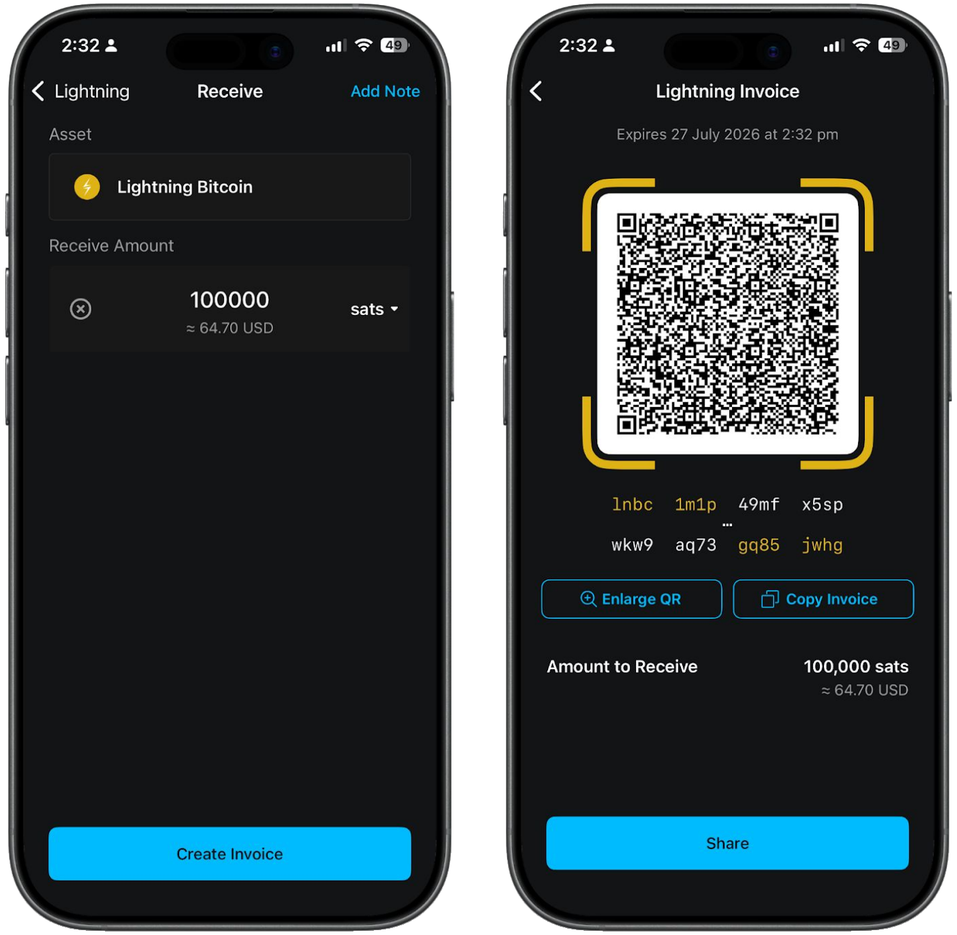
- In the Lightning account, tap Receive
- Enter the amount you want to receive
- Tap Create Invoice, then share the QR or copy the invoice
- The payment lands in your Lightning balance in seconds





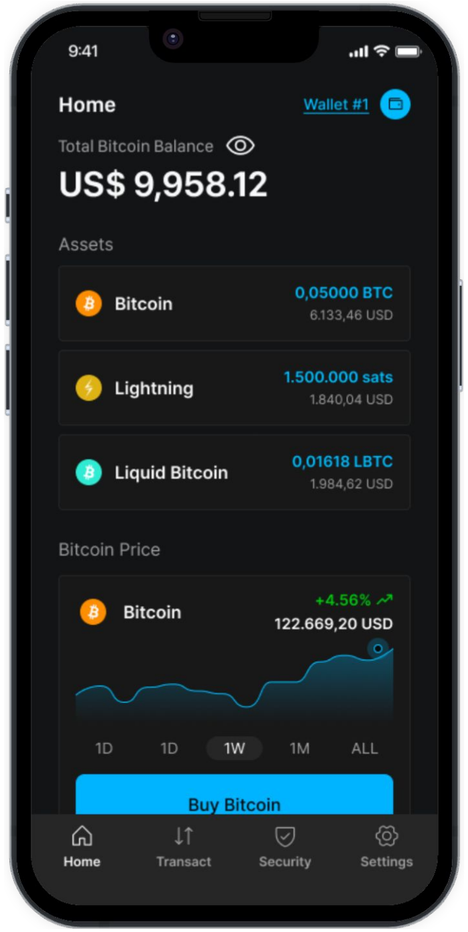
Sending Lightning

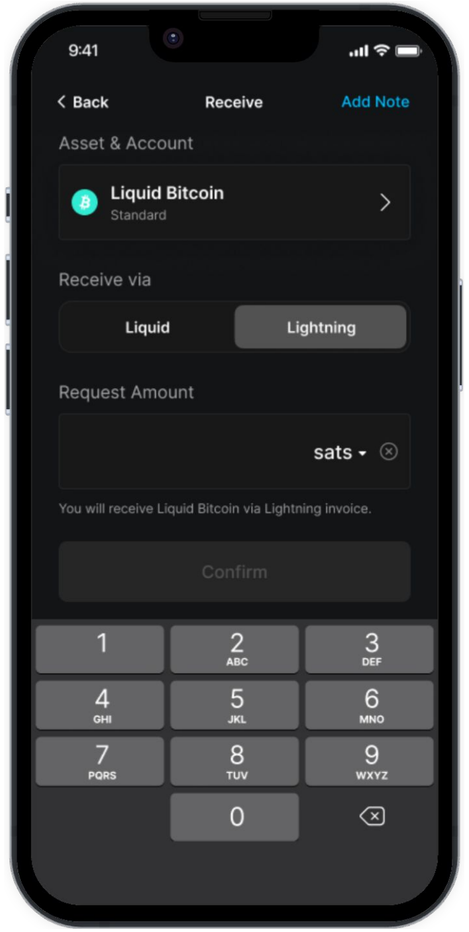
- In the Lightning account, tap Send
- Paste a Lightning invoice or scan the QR code
- Check the amount, then Slide to Send
- It arrives almost instantly, with tiny fees



Why Swaps Exist

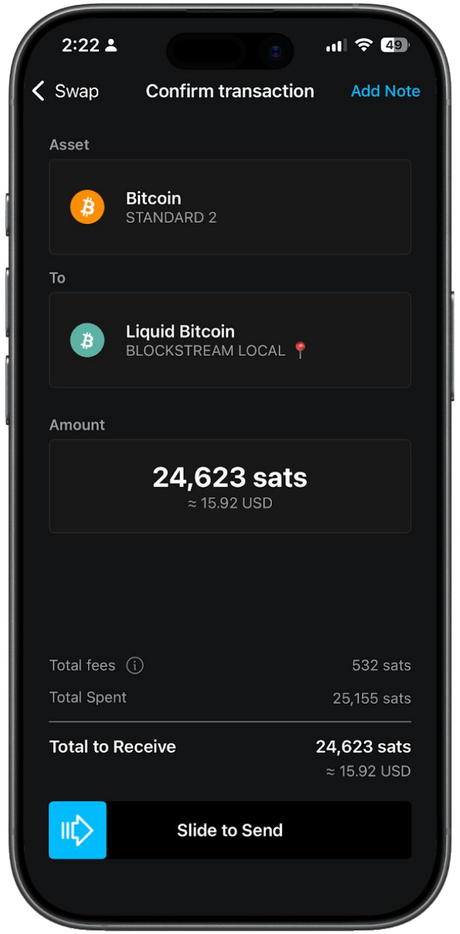
- Bitcoin has layers: the base chain, Liquid, and Lightning
- Swaps let you move value across those layers inside one wallet
- Every swap is trustless and self-custodial, no exchange in the middle

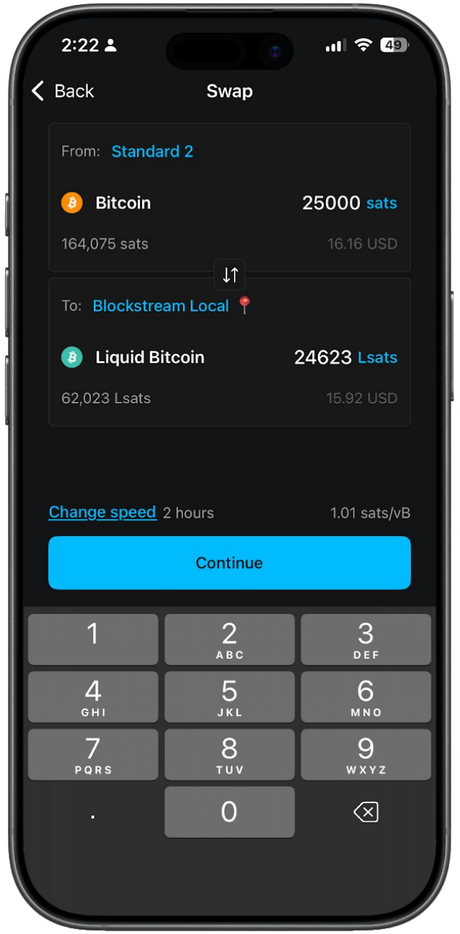




Swap Between Bitcoin and Liquid

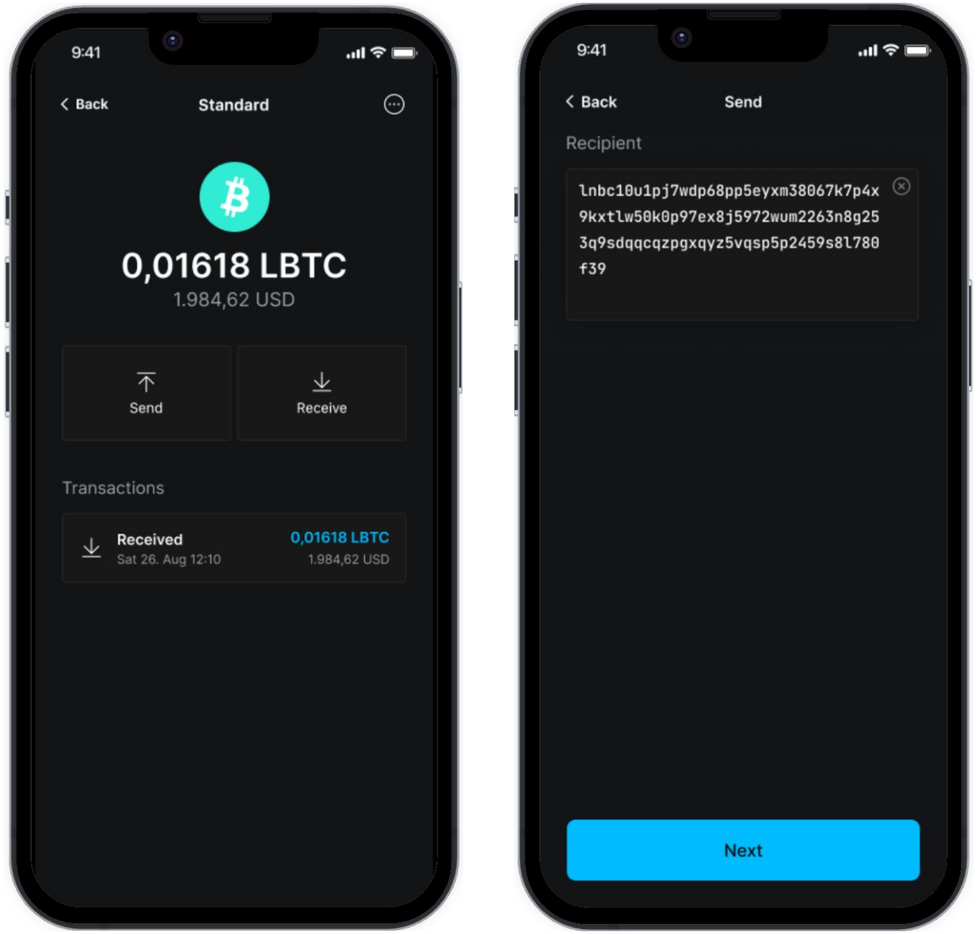
- Tap Swap, then choose from and to, for example Bitcoin to Liquid Bitcoin
- Enter the amount, check the rate, and tap Continue
- Review the details, then Slide to Send
- A trustless atomic swap: it completes in full, or your funds come back





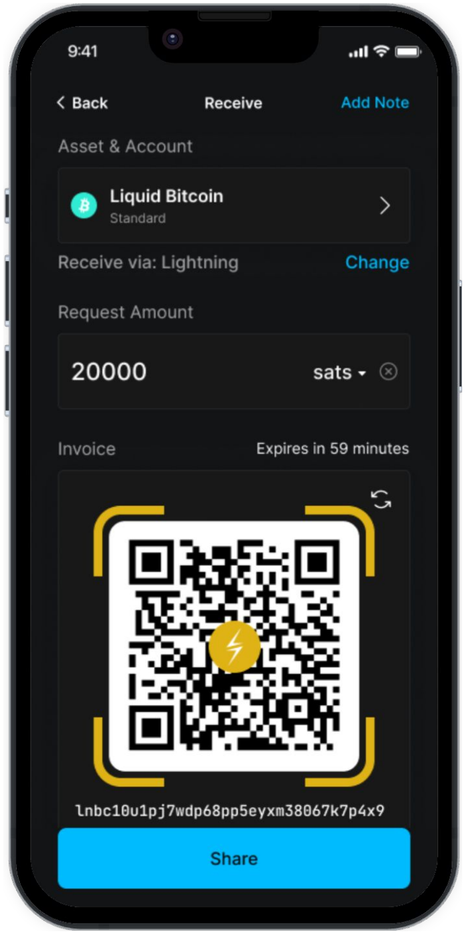
Liquid/Lightning Sending

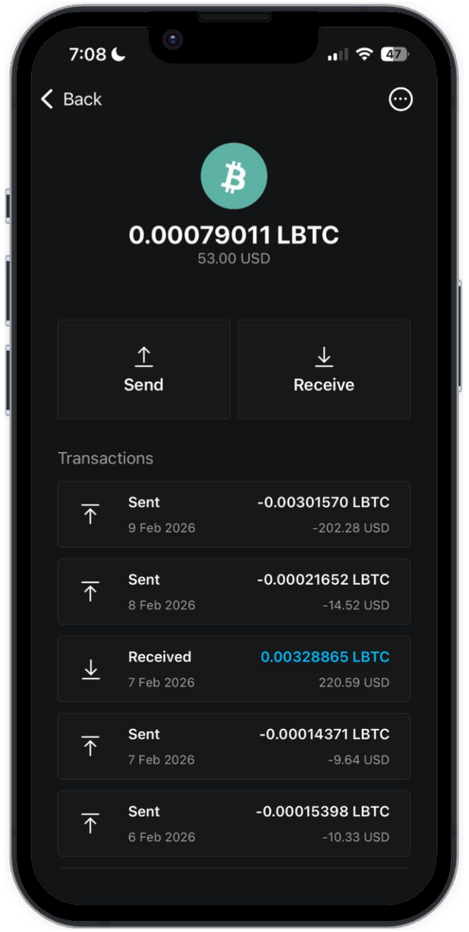
- Use L-BTC to pay Lightning invoices instantly
- Scan Lightning QR codes directly from your Liquid balance
- It runs as a single trustless atomic swap, no custodial handoff
- No exchange, no custodian
- Full self-custody maintained throughout



Lightning /Liquid Receiving

- Share a Lightning invoice
- Payment routes over Lightning
- Settlement completes on Liquid
- Transaction visible immediately in your wallet
- Seamless cross-layer flow, no custodial handoff





Level up with a Hardware Wallet

- For larger amounts or long-term savings, add a Blockstream Jade
- Jade keeps your keys offline and signs transactions securely
- Protects against phone hacks and malware

Go even further with a Blockstream Metal

- Paper degrades. Metal lasts generations
- Store your recovery phrase on Blockstream Metal: fire, water, and tamper resistant
- Pair it with Jade for robust, long-term self-custody

The Future of Finance Runs on Bitcoin

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