

# How to Select, Compare, and Source Miners

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Your hardware selection has cascading effects on every other decision — electricity costs, hosting requirements, profitability timeline, and tax deduction value. This chapter gives you a rigorous framework for evaluating and comparing mining hardware.

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From the **Bitcoin Mining Playbook for LLC Owners** — 56 pages — 14 chapters — \$149  
MinerOps.io

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# How to Select, Compare, and Source Miners

Your hardware selection has cascading effects on every other decision — electricity costs, hosting requirements, profitability timeline, and tax deduction value. We give you a rigorous framework for evaluating and comparing mining hardware.

## Key Specifications

Specification	What It Means	What to Look For
Hashrate (TH/s)	Computational power output	Higher is better, but must evaluate relative to power consumption
Power Consumption (W)	Electricity draw at the wall	Lower relative to hashrate = more efficient
Efficiency (J/TH)	Joules per terahash	THE most important metric. Lower = better. Target <25 J/TH for new gen.
Operating Temperature	Ambient temp range	Affects hosting site selection and longevity
Form Factor	Physical dimensions and weight	Impacts rack density and hosting costs
Manufacturer Warranty	Coverage period and terms	12 months minimum. Understand what's covered.

## Hardware Evaluation Scorecard

Use this weighted scoring model when comparing hardware options. Score each criterion 1–5 and multiply by the weight. The highest total score indicates your best option.

Criterion	Weight	Scoring Guide
Efficiency (J/TH)	30%	1 = >35 J/TH, 3 = 25–30, 5 = <20
Price per TH/s	20%	Compare \$/TH across models at current pricing
Hashrate	15%	Higher absolute hashrate improves per-unit hosting economics
Manufacturer Reputation	15%	Track record for reliability, firmware support, warranty honor
Availability & Lead Time	10%	In-stock units score higher; 60+ day lead times score lower
Power Supply Included	5%	Integrated PSU saves cost and simplifies deployment
Noise Level	5%	Only relevant for specific hosting environments

# New vs. Used Hardware

Both new and used miners have a place in a well-structured deployment. Here is how to think about each:

## New Hardware

- Full manufacturer warranty (typically 12 months)
- Latest generation efficiency. Lowest J/TH available
- Eligible for 100% bonus depreciation at full purchase price
- Higher upfront cost, but longest productive lifespan
- Best for LLC owners prioritizing maximum tax deduction value

## Used Hardware

- Lower upfront cost per unit. Can deploy more hashrate per dollar
- Still depreciable (based on fair market value at purchase)
- Higher risk of failure; limited or no warranty
- Older generation = higher J/TH = higher electricity cost per hash
- Best for operators who can manage repairs or have host support

**Rule of thumb:** if the used hardware's total cost of ownership (purchase + electricity over 18 months) exceeds 85% of a new unit's TCO for the same period, buy new. The warranty and efficiency gains are worth the premium.

## Sourcing Best Practices

- Buy from authorized distributors or directly from the manufacturer when possible
- Verify serial numbers before purchase, especially for used hardware
- Request test hash results for any used equipment. Verify it performs to spec

- Understand import duties if sourcing internationally (most hardware ships from Asia)
- Negotiate volume pricing. Even 10+ units should get you a bulk discount
- Escrow for large orders. Never wire payment directly without protections
- Inspect physically if possible, or require detailed photos of actual units (not stock photos)

***MinerOps clients get access to our vetted hardware supplier network. We've negotiated volume pricing, verified warranty fulfillment track records, and maintain relationships with both Bitmain and MicroBT authorized channels. This is one of the highest-value parts of our managed service.***

# This Is 1 of 14 Chapters.

The full Bitcoin Mining Playbook covers everything you need to evaluate, launch, and manage a tax-advantaged Bitcoin mining operation.

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## THE FULL PLAYBOOK ALSO INCLUDES

- ✓ **The Acquisition Advantage** — Why mining beats buying on an exchange for LLC owners
- ✓ **Hosting Facility Vetting** — 30+ criteria checklist — the same one we use for client deployments
- ✓ **Financial Modeling** — Break-even analysis, scenario planning, and the key metrics to track
- ✓ **Tax Strategy Overview** — Bonus depreciation, S-Corp election, QBI deduction, and structuring
- ✓ **Risk Management** — Difficulty adjustments, regulatory risk, counterparty risk, and mitigation
- ✓ **Vendor Evaluation Templates** — Ready-to-use scorecards for hardware and hosting vendors
- ✓ **90-Day Deployment Roadmap** — Step-by-step plan from decision to operational mining

[Get the Full Playbook — \\$149](#)

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**Ready to talk through your specific situation?**

Book a free 30-minute Discovery Call to see if managed Bitcoin mining is the right fit for your LLC. No commitment. No pressure.

**[minerops.io/contact](https://minerops.io/contact)**

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