

THE RULEBOOK

How to build a trading strategy you'll actually follow.

A step-by-step guide, a one-page template, and 27 popular strategies written as rules you can check on a chart.

By **Wicky** · askwicky.com

PART ONE

Why most strategies fail before the first trade

Most traders don’t have a strategy. They have ideas: “wait for the sweep”, “buy the pullback”, “trade with the trend”. Ideas feel clear until price is moving and the chart in front of you is almost right.

In that moment, the trade you want to take wins the argument. Not because you lack discipline, but because an idea can always be stretched to fit.

A strategy is different: a short list of yes-or-no checks. Each one is either on the chart or it isn’t. When every check is a yes, you trade. When one is a no, you don’t. There’s nothing left to argue with.

> **THE TEST FOR EVERY RULE**
>
> Could someone else look at your chart and say yes or no, without asking you what you meant? If not, the rule is still an idea.

This guide builds a strategy in seven parts, then shows you how to make every rule checkable, how to test it before you trust it, and how to follow it. The 27 strategies in part two are examples to borrow from.

For education only, not financial advice. Nothing here says a strategy makes money. Trading futures, forex, crypto and stocks involves substantial risk of loss and isn’t suitable for everyone.

THE SEVEN PARTS

Everything a strategy needs

1 Market and timeframe

What you trade, and the charts you decide on.

VAGUE
“I trade indices.”

CHECKABLE
NQ futures. Direction from the 1-hour chart, entries on the 5-minute.

2 When you trade

The hours your setup works in, and the times you stay out.

VAGUE
“In the morning, when it’s moving.”

CHECKABLE
9:30 to 11:00 New York only. Nothing from 5 minutes before a red-folder release to 5 minutes after.

3 The setup

What has to be true before you even think about a trade.

VAGUE
“Wait for a strong move down.”

CHECKABLE
Price takes the Asia session’s low with a wick, then a 15-minute candle closes back above it.

4 The trigger

The exact moment you get in.

VAGUE
“Get in when it looks good.”

CHECKABLE
Enter on the close of the first 5-minute candle that closes back above the low.

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THE SEVEN PARTS, CONTINUED

5 The stop

Where you're wrong, decided before you're in.

VAGUE	CHECKABLE
"Below support."	One tick below the wick that took the low.

6 The target

Where you take profit, and the least the trade has to offer.

VAGUE	CHECKABLE
"Let it run."	The previous day's high, and only if it's at least 2R away (twice what you risk).

7 Risk and limits

How much one trade can cost you, and when you stop for the day.

VAGUE	CHECKABLE
"Don't risk too much."	Risk 0.5% of the account a trade. After two losses in a day, stop.

WRITE DOWN THE NO-TRADE RULES TOO

The times, news and conditions you stay out are rules like any other: "no trades in the first five minutes", "not after a gap of more than 1%", "not on a Friday afternoon". They're often the ones that save you most.

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MAKE IT CHECKABLE

Turn every idea into something you can see

Read each rule and ask: could I point at it on the chart? Some words hide a judgment call, and that’s where the trade you want slips in.

~~strong~~ ~~big~~ ~~clean~~ ~~near~~ ~~around~~ ~~looks~~ ~~good~~ ~~usually~~ ~~momentum~~ ~~should~~

Swap them for things you can see: a close, a wick, a level, a time, a number.

“Near the level”	Within 5 points of the level
“A big candle”	A body bigger than each of the five before it
“The trend is up”	Above the 20 EMA on the 1-hour, and the last swing low held
“A clean break”	A candle closes beyond the level, not just a wick
“Early in the session”	Before 10:30 New York time

WHAT A CHART CAN’T SHOW

Some good rules aren’t on the chart: today’s news (check the calendar, and write the rule as a time window), the order book, your account balance, how you feel. Keep them, and know they’re yours to check. And if a rule uses an indicator, put that indicator on your chart.

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YOUR TEMPLATE

Your strategy on one page

Print this, fill it in, and keep it next to your screen.

NAME

MARKET AND TIMEFRAME

WHEN I TRADE, AND WHEN I DON'T

THE SETUP: WHAT HAS TO BE TRUE

THE TRIGGER

STOP

TARGET, AND THE LEAST R I'LL TAKE

RISK A TRADE, AND MY DAILY LIMIT

I DON'T TRADE WHEN

TEST IT

Test it before you trust it

1. **Find 30 setups in replay.** Use your platform's bar replay and go back a few months. Take every one the rules allow, including the ugly ones.
2. **Write each one down:** the date, whether every rule was met, where the stop and target were, and the result in R (1R is what you risked).
3. **Look at the 30 together.** Which rule failed most often? Which trades did you want to take that the rules said no to, and how did they go?
4. **Change one rule at a time,** then test again. Change three at once and you won't know which one made the difference.
5. **Then trade it small,** and keep writing every trade down.

WHAT TESTING TELLS YOU

Whether you can follow the rules, and how the setup behaved on the days you tested. Not what it will do next: past results, in replay or live, don't promise future ones.

THEN FOLLOW IT

Before every trade, go down your checklist. If any line is a no, it isn't your trade, however good it looks. Wicky does this with you on a Mac: hold Control and Option and ask "is my setup here?", and it checks your chart against your rules, out loud, and says "not yet" until every rule is met.

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PART TWO

27 popular strategies, written as rules

Most strategies are taught as ideas: “wait for the sweep”, “enter on the retest”. On a live chart that leaves too much room for the trade you want to take. **Here each one is written as rules: what has to happen first, what triggers the trade, where you get in, where the stop and target go, and when to trade it.**

Print a page and tick each rule before you trade. Or let Wicky do it: on a Mac, hold Control and Option and ask “is my setup here?”. It checks your chart against the rules, out loud, and draws your entry, stop and target.

Change any rule to fit how you trade, then fill in your own version on the template. They’re starting points, not recommendations.

LEVELS, VWAP AND VOLUME PROFILE

VWAP reclaim

Value area 80% rule (volume profile)

Volume profile rejection (POC, VAH, VAL)

Support/resistance flip

Supply and demand zones

SESSIONS AND OPENS

Opening range breakout

Gap and go (stocks)

Opening gap fill

London breakout

Asia sweep + reclaim

TREND AND MOMENTUM

Trend pullback to the 20 EMA

9/21 EMA crossover

Golden pocket pullback (Fibonacci)

Bollinger Band squeeze breakout

RSI divergence

PRICE ACTION AND PATTERNS

Bull flag or bear flag breakout

Double top or bottom

Pin bar at a key level

Turtle Soup (false breakout)

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Sweep + CHoCH (Smart Money Concepts)

Sweep, shift, FVG (ICT 2022 model)

Silver Bullet (ICT concepts)

Unicorn (breaker + FVG)

Optimal trade entry (OTE)

iFVG model

Power of Three (AMD)

Candle Range Theory (CRT)

Popular setups, not recommendations, and not financial advice. Nothing here says a strategy makes money. Trading futures, forex, crypto and stocks involves substantial risk of loss and isn’t suitable for everyone. Test any rule on your own markets before you trade it. ICT and Smart Money Concepts are the work of their educators; Wicky isn’t affiliated with them.

LEVELS, VWAP AND VOLUME PROFILE

VWAP reclaim

Timeframe **5m, intraday**

- [ ] **First:** price spends time below the session VWAP.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a 5m candle closes back above VWAP.
- [ ] **Confirmation:** the next pullback holds above VWAP and makes a higher low.
- [ ] **Entry:** when price breaks the high of the candle that made that higher low.
- [ ] **Stop:** under the higher low.
- [ ] **Target:** the high of the day, or 2R if that's closer.
- [ ] **Shorts are the mirror image:** lose VWAP, fail the retest from below.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the VWAP indicator must be visible.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

LEVELS, VWAP AND VOLUME PROFILE

Value area 80% rule (volume profile)

Timeframe **30m periods, 5m entries**

- [ ] **Setup:** the session opens outside the previous session's value area, above its value area high (VAH) or below its value area low (VAL).
- [ ] **Trigger:** price gets back inside the value area and two 30-minute periods in a row close inside it.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the second period, toward the far side of value.
- [ ] **Stop:** back outside the value area, beyond the high or low made before price came back in.
- [ ] **Target:** the point of control (POC) first, then the other side of the value area. At least 2R to the far side.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** price closes back outside value before the second period.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the previous session's volume profile, or its VAH, VAL and POC marked.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

LEVELS, VWAP AND VOLUME PROFILE

Volume profile rejection (POC, VAH, VAL)

Timeframe **5m–15m**

- [ ] **Levels:** the point of control (POC), the value area high and low (VAH, VAL) and low-volume nodes, the thin spots in the profile.
- [ ] **Setup:** price comes into one of those levels from outside: down to VAL, up to VAH, or into a low-volume node.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a rejection there: a wick through the level and a close back on the near side, or two closes that hold it.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the rejection candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the rejection wick.
- [ ] **Target:** the POC first, then the opposite edge of value. At least 1.5R.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** a high-volume node sits right in front of the trade; price tends to stall there.
- [ ] **On the chart:** a volume profile (session, fixed or visible range) with its POC and value area.

YOUR TWEAKS

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LEVELS, VWAP AND VOLUME PROFILE

Support/resistance flip

Timeframe **15m (any works)**

- [ ] **Level:** a clear horizontal level price has reacted to at least twice.
- [ ] **First:** a candle closes through the level with a strong body.
- [ ] **Then:** price comes back to retest the level from the other side.
- [ ] **Trigger:** the retest holds, shown by a rejection wick or engulfing candle off the level.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the trigger candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the retest wick.
- [ ] **Target:** the next level in the trade direction. At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** enough history to see the level's earlier touches. Drawing the level helps.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

LEVELS, VWAP AND VOLUME PROFILE

Supply and demand zones

Timeframe **1H zones, 5m entries**

- [ ] **Zone:** a small base of candles followed by a strong impulse away from it, on the 1H. Demand if the impulse went up, supply if it went down.
- [ ] **Fresh only:** price hasn't returned to the zone since the impulse.
- [ ] **Trigger:** on the first return into the zone, a 5m rejection (long wick or engulfing candle) in the zone's direction.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the rejection candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the far edge of the zone.
- [ ] **Target:** the nearest opposing zone. At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the zone drawn as a box, or enough history to see the base and the impulse.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

SESSIONS AND OPENS

Opening range breakout

Timeframe **5m** When **At the New York open, 9:30–11:00 New York time**

- [ ] **Opening range:** the high and low of the first 15 minutes after the open (9:30–9:45 New York for US futures and stocks).
- [ ] **Long trigger:** a 5m candle closes above the opening range high with a strong body (not just a wick).
- [ ] **Short trigger:** a 5m candle closes below the opening range low.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the breakout candle, or the first retest of the range edge if it holds.
- [ ] **Stop:** the middle of the opening range.
- [ ] **Target:** the opening range height projected from the breakout (or the previous day high or low if closer).
- [ ] **Skip it after 11:**00, or if the opening range is unusually wide compared with recent days.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the opening range high and low marked.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

SESSIONS AND OPENS

Gap and go (stocks)

Timeframe **1m–5m, first hour** When **US stocks, the first hour after the 9:30 New York open**

- [ ] **Stock:** gapping up at least 4% before the open, on news or heavy pre-market volume.
- [ ] **Level:** the pre-market high.
- [ ] **Trigger:** after the open, a candle closes above the pre-market high (or the first 5-minute high) on strong volume.
- [ ] **Entry:** that close, or the first pullback that holds above VWAP.
- [ ] **Stop:** under the breakout candle's low, or under VWAP.
- [ ] **Target:** 2R, or the next round number or resistance.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** price loses VWAP or the first candles are all red.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the pre-market high, VWAP and volume.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

SESSIONS AND OPENS

Opening gap fill

Timeframe **5m** When **At the New York open, the first hour after 9:30 New York time**

- [ ] **Gap:** the regular session opens away from yesterday's close (9:30 New York for US index futures and stocks).
- [ ] **Setup:** in the first hour, price stalls and turns back toward yesterday's close, shown by a candle closing back through the first 15 minutes' range in that direction.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of that candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the day's high or low so far.
- [ ] **Target:** yesterday's close, where the gap fills.
- [ ] Skip it on big news days or when the gap is bigger than a normal day's range.
- [ ] **On the chart:** yesterday's close marked as a line.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

SESSIONS AND OPENS

London breakout

Timeframe **15m** When **The London open, 07:00–10:00 London time**

- [ ] **Range:** the high and low before London opens (midnight to 07:00 London time).
- [ ] **Window:** London's first three hours, 07:00–10:00 London time.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a candle closes outside the range with a strong body.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the breakout candle, or the first retest of the range edge if it holds.
- [ ] **Stop:** back inside the range, at its middle (or the far side if the range is narrow).
- [ ] **Target:** the range's height again from the breakout, or the previous day high or low. At least 2R.
- [ ] Skip it if both sides of the range have already been broken.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the pre-London range.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

SESSIONS AND OPENS

Asia sweep + reclaim

Timeframe **15m (5m works too)** When **New York AM, 9:30–11:00 New York time**

- [ ] **Session:** New York AM only, 9:30–11:00 New York time.
- [ ] **First:** price trades below the Asia session low (20:00–00:00 New York) with a wick.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a candle closes back above the Asia low.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of that trigger candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** just under the sweep wick.
- [ ] **Target:** the previous day high. Skip it if that's less than 2R away.
- [ ] **Shorts are the mirror image:** sweep of the Asia high, close back below.
- [ ] **On the chart:** session boxes or the Asia high and low marked, plus the previous day high and low.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

TREND AND MOMENTUM

Trend pullback to the 20 EMA

Timeframe **15m**

- [ ] **Trend:** price above a rising 50 EMA for longs (below a falling one for shorts).
- [ ] **Pullback:** price comes back to touch or slightly pierce the 20 EMA.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a bullish rejection candle at the 20 EMA (hammer or engulfing).
- [ ] **Entry:** above the high of the trigger candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** below the pullback's swing low.
- [ ] **Target:** the recent swing high, or 2R.
- [ ] Skip it if price has chopped back and forth through the 50 EMA recently.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the 20 and 50 EMAs visible.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

TREND AND MOMENTUM

9/21 EMA crossover

Timeframe **5m–15m**

- [ ] **Cross:** the 9 EMA crosses above the 21 EMA for longs (below it for shorts).
- [ ] **Filter:** price on the same side of the 200 EMA as the trade.
- [ ] **Trigger:** the first pullback to the 9 or 21 EMA after the cross, with a candle closing back in the trade's direction.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of that candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the pullback's swing.
- [ ] **Target:** the next swing high or low, or 2R.
- [ ] Skip it if the EMAs are flat and tangled: no trend.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the 9, 21 and 200 EMAs.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

TREND AND MOMENTUM

Golden pocket pullback (Fibonacci)

Timeframe **15m–4H**

- [ ] **Trend:** a clear impulse leg that made a new high (a new low for shorts).
- [ ] **Zone:** the 0.618–0.65 retracement of that leg, the golden pocket, from its swing low to its swing high.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a rejection in the zone: a wick into it and a close back above 0.618, or an engulfing candle.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the rejection candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** below the 0.786 level.
- [ ] **Target:** the swing high first, then the 1.272 extension. At least 2R.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** a candle closes below 0.786.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the impulse leg's swing low and high. A Fibonacci drawn on it helps.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

TREND AND MOMENTUM

Bollinger Band squeeze breakout

Timeframe **5m–1H**

- [ ] **Setup:** the Bollinger Bands (20, 2) pinch to their narrowest in a while: a quiet, tight range.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a strong candle closes outside a band and the bands start to widen.
- [ ] **Entry:** that close, in the breakout's direction.
- [ ] **Stop:** the middle band (20 SMA), or the other side of the squeeze range.
- [ ] **Target:** 2R, or hold while price walks along the outer band.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** the breakout candle closes back inside the bands.
- [ ] **On the chart:** Bollinger Bands (20, 2).

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

TREND AND MOMENTUM

RSI divergence

Timeframe **15m–1H**

- [ ] **Divergence:** price makes a lower low while RSI (14) makes a higher low (bullish), or a higher high with a lower RSI high (bearish), within about 30 candles.
- [ ] **Location:** at a support or resistance level, or a session high or low.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a candle closes back above the last small high (bullish) or below the last small low (bearish).
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of the trigger candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the divergence's extreme.
- [ ] **Target:** the next level on the other side. At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** RSI (14) in a pane under the price.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

PRICE ACTION AND PATTERNS

Bull flag or bear flag breakout

Timeframe **1m–15m**

- [ ] **First:** a strong impulse, the flagpole: several big candles one way, ideally on rising volume.
- [ ] **Then:** a tight pullback against it, the flag, that gives back less than half the pole, on lighter volume.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a candle closes out of the flag in the pole's direction.
- [ ] **Entry:** that close.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the flag's far side (under its low for a bull flag).
- [ ] **Target:** the pole's length projected from the breakout, or the prior high. At least 2R.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** the pullback gives back more than half the pole.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the pole and the flag, with volume if possible.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

PRICE ACTION AND PATTERNS

Double top or bottom

Timeframe **15m–1H**

- [ ] **Pattern:** two highs (top) or two lows (bottom) at about the same price, with a clear pullback between them. The pullback's end is the neckline.
- [ ] **Better:** the second top or bottom takes the first one's stops with a wick and closes back.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a candle closes through the neckline.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of that candle, or a retest of the neckline that holds.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the second top or bottom.
- [ ] **Target:** the pattern's height measured from the neckline. At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** both tops or bottoms and the pullback between them.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

PRICE ACTION AND PATTERNS

Pin bar at a key level

Timeframe **1H–daily (15m works)**

- [ ] **Level:** a clear support or resistance, a round number, or a moving average the market respects.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a pin bar at that level: a wick at least twice the body that pokes through the level, and a close back on the near side, ideally with the trend.
- [ ] **Entry:** the pin bar's close, or a break of its high (its low for shorts).
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the pin bar's wick.
- [ ] **Target:** the next level. At least 2R.
- [ ] **Skip it if:** the pin bar is in the middle of a range, away from any level.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the level and the pin bar.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Sweep + CHoCH (Smart Money Concepts)

Timeframe **5m entries, 1H bias**

- [ ] **Bias:** 1H structure. Higher highs and higher lows means longs only; lower highs and lower lows means shorts only.
- [ ] **First:** price sweeps liquidity against the bias, such as equal lows or a session low for longs.
- [ ] **Then:** a change of character (CHoCH). For longs, a strong candle closes above the most recent lower high on the 5m.
- [ ] **Entry:** a retrace into the order block (the last down candle before the move up) or the FVG left by the break.
- [ ] **Stop:** below the sweep low.
- [ ] **Target:** the next obvious high (liquidity resting above it). At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** swing highs and lows visible. Labelled BOS/CHoCH helps if your platform draws them.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Sweep, shift, FVG (ICT 2022 model)

Timeframe **1m–5m entries, 15m–1H bias**

When **The killzones: London 2:00–5:00 or New York 7:00–10:00, New York time**

- [ ] **Window:** a killzone. London 2:00–5:00 or New York 7:00–10:00, New York time.
- [ ] **First:** price takes a marked level: the previous day high or low, the Asia or London high or low, or equal highs or lows.
- [ ] **Then:** a strong move the other way that closes past the last opposite swing (a market structure shift) and leaves a fair value gap.
- [ ] **Entry:** when price pulls back into that FVG, ideally at its 50% (the consequent encroachment).
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the sweep's high or low.
- [ ] **Target:** the liquidity on the other side (the next swing high or low, or the opposite session level). At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the levels that got swept, recent swings and the FVG.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Silver Bullet (ICT concepts)

Timeframe **1m–5m entries, 15m bias** When **10:00–11:00 or 14:00–15:00 New York time**

- [ ] **Window:** 10:00–11:00 New York time (AM) or 14:00–15:00 (PM). Nothing outside it.
- [ ] **Bias:** which side liquidity is likely to be taken next, from the 15m chart (an obvious old high or low).
- [ ] **First:** price sweeps a nearby high or low (takes the stops above or below it).
- [ ] **Then:** a strong displacement move the other way that leaves a fair value gap (FVG), a three-candle gap where the first and third candles' wicks don't overlap.
- [ ] **Entry:** when price retraces into the FVG.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the swing high or low that created the FVG.
- [ ] **Target:** the next opposing liquidity (prior high or low). At least 2R or skip it.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the session window, recent highs and lows. Marked FVGs help.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Unicorn (breaker + FVG)

Timeframe **1m–5m**

- [ ] **First:** price sweeps a high or low, then moves hard the other way and breaks structure.
- [ ] That leaves a breaker block (the order block that failed) and a fair value gap on the same side, overlapping.
- [ ] **Entry:** in the overlap of the breaker and the FVG.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the breaker.
- [ ] **Target:** the next opposing liquidity. At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the sweep, the breaker candle and the gap.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Optimal trade entry (OTE)

Timeframe **5m–15m**

- [ ] **First:** a strong move (displacement) that breaks structure.
- [ ] Draw a Fibonacci retracement on that move.
- [ ] **Entry:** in the 62%–79% retracement zone, ideally near 70.5%, in discount for longs and premium for shorts.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the 100% level (the start of the move).
- [ ] **Targets:** the move's high or low first, then the –0.27 and –0.62 extensions.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the whole move from its start to its end.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

iFVG model

Timeframe **1m–5m**

- [ ] **First:** price sweeps a session high or low, or equal highs or lows.
- [ ] **Then:** a candle body closes through an opposing fair value gap. That gap is now an inverse FVG (iFVG) and should act the other way.
- [ ] **Entry:** when price comes back to the iFVG.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the iFVG, or beyond the sweep if that's tighter and still makes sense.
- [ ] **Target:** the opposite session high or low, or equal highs or lows. At least 2R.
- [ ] Extra confirmation, if both charts are on screen: NQ and ES disagree at the sweep (SMT divergence).
- [ ] **On the chart:** the sweep, the gap that got closed through, and the next liquidity.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

PRICE ACTION AND PATTERNS

Turtle Soup (false breakout)

Timeframe **5m–15m**

- [ ] **Level:** an obvious old high or low: the previous day high or low, or a swing that has held for 20+ candles.
- [ ] **First:** price trades a little beyond the level, taking the stops there.
- [ ] **Trigger:** a candle closes back inside, below the old high for shorts or above the old low for longs.
- [ ] **Entry:** the close of that trigger candle.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the extreme of the false break.
- [ ] **Target:** the other side of the range or the next swing. At least 2R.
- [ ] Skip it if price breaks out with a strong body and keeps going: that's a breakout, not a trap.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the old high or low, and the candles that broke it.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Power of Three (AMD)

Timeframe **5m–15m entries, daily bias**

- [ ] **Daily open:** the day's opening price (midnight New York time) marked as a line.
- [ ] **Bias:** bullish or bearish for the day, from the higher timeframe (where the next obvious liquidity sits).
- [ ] **Accumulation:** a tight, sideways Asia session.
- [ ] **Manipulation:** a move against the bias that runs the Asia range, below the open on a bullish day, above it on a bearish day.
- [ ] **Distribution trigger:** a shift in structure back through the daily open, in the bias direction.
- [ ] **Entry:** the pullback after that shift, while price is still on the cheap side of the open (below it for longs, above it for shorts).
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the manipulation's extreme.
- [ ] **Target:** the previous day high (bullish) or low (bearish). At least 2R.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the daily open line and the Asia range.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

ICT AND SMART MONEY

Candle Range Theory (CRT)

Timeframe **1H or 4H range, 5m–15m entries**

- [ ] **Range:** the high and low of one higher-timeframe candle (1H, 4H or daily).
- [ ] **First:** the next candle trades past one end of that range and closes back inside it.
- [ ] **Trigger:** on the lower timeframe, a market structure shift or fair value gap back into the range.
- [ ] **Entry:** on that trigger.
- [ ] **Stop:** beyond the wick that went outside the range.
- [ ] **Target:** the range's 50% first, then the opposite end.
- [ ] **On the chart:** the range candle's high and low marked (or the higher-timeframe candles visible), and the lower-timeframe entry.

YOUR TWEAKS

Your market, your session, your minimum R, anything you add or skip.

Let Wicky check them for you.

- Hold Control and Option and ask, “is my setup here?”
- It reads your chart on any platform and checks your own rules, out loud.
- “Not yet” when it isn’t. Your entry, stop and target, drawn, when it is.
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