

# US Option Overwriting Screen

## February premium hawks

### At least 4% premium and 5% potential upside

Of all listed call overwriting options in Russell 1000 stocks, the following candidates offer at least 4% premium by 16-Feb-2024 expiry while allowing for a minimum potential upside of 5% (Call-Away Return) and having a notional option volume of at least \$5mn.

#### Exhibit 2: Overwriting Candidates

10 overwriting candidates

Description		Screened Variables						
Symbol	Name	Price	Option		Premium		Call & Dividend	
			Expiration	Strike	Call Bid	Div	Premium	Call-Away Return
EL	Estee Lauder	138.49	Feb 16	140.0	7.70		5.6%	6.7%
TSLA	Tesla	227.22	Feb 16	230.0	12.30		5.4%	6.6%
WAL	Western Alliance	63.89	Feb 16	65.0	3.00	0.37	5.3%	7.0%
AMD	Advanced Micro Devices	148.02	Feb 16	150.0	7.65		5.2%	6.5%
NFLX	Netflix	492.23	Feb 16	495.0	25.00		5.1%	5.7%
DXCM	Dexcom	128.93	Feb 16	130.0	6.50		5.0%	5.8%
INTC	Intel	47.64	Feb 16	48.0	2.17	0.13	4.9%	5.7%
UAL	United Airlines Holdings	44.51	Feb 16	45.0	2.15		4.8%	5.9%
RCL	Royal Caribbean Cruises	123.42	Feb 16	125.0	5.85		4.7%	6.0%
NCLH	Norwegian Cruise Line	17.51	Feb 16	18.0	0.81		4.6%	7.4%

**Source:** BofA Equity Derivatives Research. Based on stocks in the Russell 1000 and data as of the 11-Jan-24 close. This screen is not a recommended list either individually or as a group of stocks or option contracts. Investors should consider the fundamentals of the companies and their own individual circumstances/objectives before making any investment decision.

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Covered call writing can be used to generate premium on a long position. The strategy is best suited for names the call seller has a neutral short-term view on, as a call sells the right to upside participation beyond the call strike for a fee. Covered call writing is not a hedge and maintains full downside risk. High volatility names generally have higher call option prices to compensate for increased risk. Institutional and corporate clients can find the latest monitor, based on the previous business day's close, by searching for "USOPTION" on the BofA Mercury Portal [www.bofa.com/mercury](http://www.bofa.com/mercury). Merrill Lynch Wealth Management financial advisors can find the latest monitor by searching for "USOPTION" on the Research Library. Merrill Lynch Wealth Management clients should contact their financial advisor for information on the latest monitor.

12 January 2024

Equity Derivatives  
United States

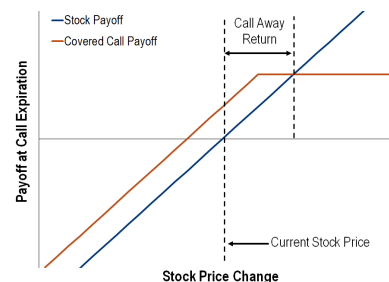
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**Exhibit 1: Covered calls enhance returns if the stock does not appreciate beyond the call-away return but maintain full downside exposure**  
Payoff diagram



**Source:** BofA Equity Derivatives Research  
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Timestamp: 12 January 2024 08:12AM EST

# Options Risk Statement

## Potential Risk at Expiry & Options Limited Duration Risk

Unlike owning or shorting a stock, employing any listed options strategy is by definition governed by a finite duration. The most severe risks associated with general options trading are total loss of capital invested and delivery/assignment risk... all of which can occur in a short period.

### Investor suitability

The use of standardized options and other related derivatives instruments are considered unsuitable for many investors. Investors wishing to partake in these strategies are encouraged to become familiar with the "Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options" (an OCC authored white paper on options risks). U.S. investors should consult with a FINRA Registered Options Principal.

For detailed information regarding the risks involved with investing in listed options: <http://www.theocc.com/about/publications/character-risks.jsp>

**Specific risks to covered call strategies:** *If the stock finishes below the noted "breakeven point" at expiry, the investor's position will be valued lower; however, any discount in value will be partially offset by option premium received. If the stock finishes above the noted strike on expiry, the investor may have their underlying shares called-away (sold); however, realizing a profitable capped return equaling the noted call-away return.*

- When the underlying stock price meaningfully lies above the short call strike price, the investor is at risk of having their underlying shares called-away (sold). Holders can employ the following tactics to avoid call-away:

**Roll-out (Roll Forward):** Buy back the calls that were originally sold and sell same strike calls at a later expiry. Because of the time value, this transaction usually results in an initial net credit.

**Roll-up:** Buy back the calls that were originally sold and sell higher strike calls at the same expiry. Because of intrinsic value, this transaction usually results in a net debit.

**Roll-up & out:** Buy back the calls that were originally sold and sell higher strike calls at a later expiry. The transaction can result in either a net debit or credit.

- When the underlying stock price meaningfully underperforms, the investor will have an opportunity to shift strikes and/or expiries to generate further income.

**Roll-out (Roll Forward):** Buy back the calls that were originally sold and sell same strike calls at a later expiry. Because of the time value, this transaction usually results in an initial net credit.

**Roll-down:** Buy back the calls that were originally sold and sell lower strike calls at the same expiry. Because of intrinsic value, this transaction usually results in an initial net credit.

**Roll-down & out:** Buy back the calls that were originally sold and sell lower strike calls at a later expiry. Because of time value and intrinsic value, this transaction will result in an initial net credit.

## General return risks associated with covered call strategies

While covered call strategies will underperform stocks in fast bull markets, they will still realize significant profits. Covered call strategies tend to outperform outright stock ownership in flat, down and slightly up markets.

Covered call strategies allow clients to increase their yield on equity positions in exchange for giving up some of the potential upside in the underlying securities. While covered call strategies will underperform stocks in fast bull markets, they will still realize significant profits. Covered call strategies tend to outperform outright stock ownership in flat, down and slightly up markets. Covered call strategies tend to dampen the effects of general market volatility by offsetting outlier returns. The payoff properties of the covered call, capped upside returns and reduced downside returns (offset by option premiums received), work to truncate holding period returns towards the mean and reduce the overall standard deviation of a sample portfolio. These properties are reflected by a portfolio net delta that is less than 100% (typically between 65-90%). By definition, a long stock-only position exhibits a constant 100% delta.

### Option Liquidity Risk

While we believe the overwriting candidates in Exhibit 2 are liquid and appropriate for covered call writing, the premiums noted can change rapidly and adversely. Investors should consider these factors before executing a transaction.



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