

## Cross Asset Volatility

### Machine Learning Based Trade Recommendations

- We updated model performance in a recent [note](#). Over the past quarter, both Aggregate and CARV portfolios have delivered strong performances, with an annualized profit of 2 vega and Sharpe of 2.2, and have shown negative correlations with the broad equity market. The improvements compared to Q3 were mainly driven by: 1) the outperformance of Equity, Credit and Commodities; and 2) a portfolio rebalance from FX to Credit in November.
- Following the solid jobs data last week, event risks are now focused on tomorrow's CPI and Trump's inauguration next week; our **CARV** model has shifted to a broad short vol bias amid this noise, expecting Commodities and FX vols to roll off most post events, followed by Fixed Income, Credit and Equities (Figure 1).
- While equity options markets are [not](#) pricing in any excess risk premium for Trump's inauguration, it's notable that Asian and EM equities are at the cheaper end of the spectrum, compared to DM equities, according to both **CARV** and **VarSwap** models. Our equity strategist [maintains](#) UW on EM in a regional context due to the lack of clarity on tariffs, less confidence in meaningful China stimulus before tariffs newsflow, the need for the USD to peak and the persistent gap between manufacturing and services. Although EEM 1M implied is currently sitting at the 85<sup>th</sup>-ile over the past year, our **ETFRV** model finds it reasonably positioned compared to the forecast. Therefore, we see value in going **long 1M ATM vol on EEM** (Figure 3).
- On the other hand, our credit strategists [stay](#) MW on EM sovereign credit as tight EMBIGD ex-CCC spreads are helped by even tighter US credit, and the CCC bucket still has positive idiosyncratic stories. We recommend reopening the **short 1M ATM vol position on EMB**, which matured with +4.8 vega profits last week and the signal reemerged in the **ETFRV** model (Figure 2).
- Additionally, EEM-EMB vol spread is currently at the 55<sup>th</sup>-ile over the past year. Investors can implement above views in a RV format by selling further OTM calls on EEM to finance near the money EMB calls, given EEM's higher implied vol levels. For example, **sell a 1M 113% EEM call to buy a 1M 105% EMB call**, indicatively costless.
- Within **FX**, GBP segment led the short vol end of the gamma trading model and appears vulnerable based on the **Vol Surface** model, but that needs to be put in the context of the recent developments. GBP vols and surface repriced in multi-sigma move last week as macro backdrop deteriorated. We think that it's not yet time to fade these dislocations as history shows such moves typically extend but we are watching the positioning, gilts and the data to eventually time the fades. Additionally, as one of the widest vol spreads within the gamma trading model, **USD/NOK** likely will be the prime target for vol carry harvesting if next week turns out to be more benign than feared. Lastly, the Vol Surface model finds **MXN** vol and surface likely to reprice higher (Figure 4).

#### Global Quantitative and Derivatives Strategy

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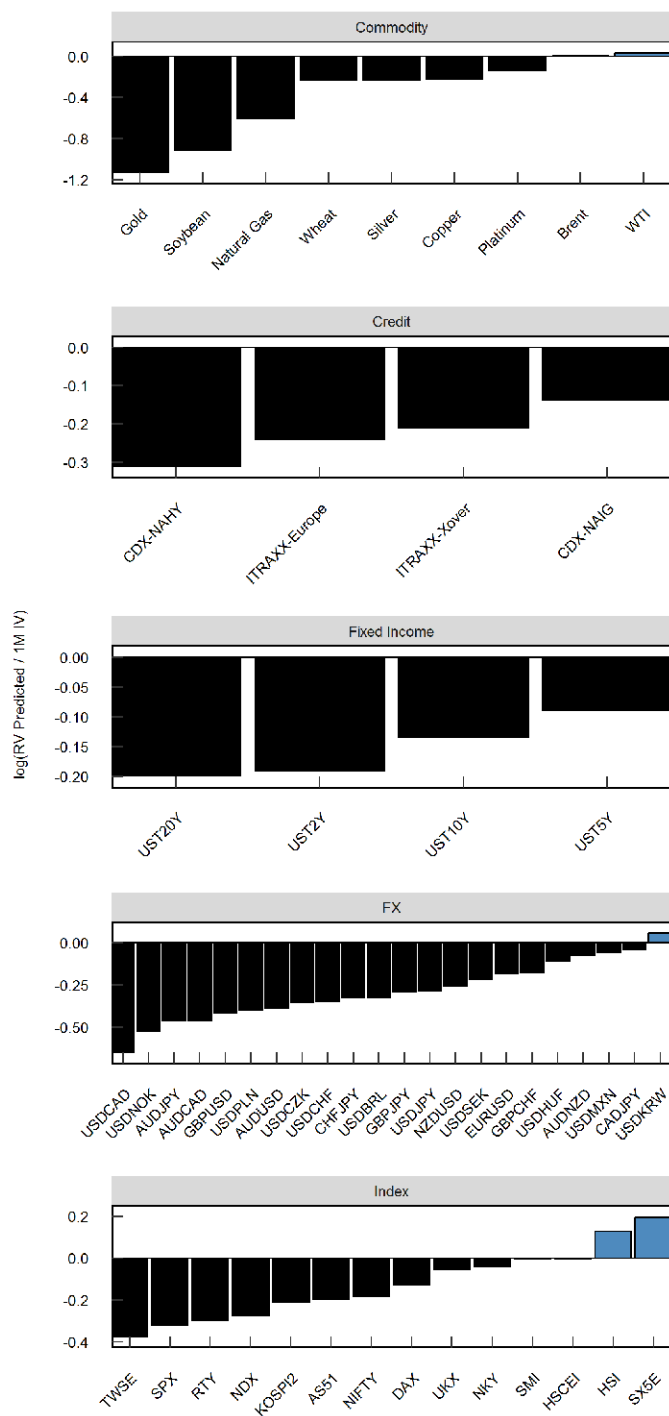
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## Cross Asset Relative Value (CARV) Volatility Ranking

Figure 1: Cross Asset Relative Value



Source: J.P. Morgan

Top 15 Richness vol

|    | Asset     | Name        | RV Predicted | 1M Implied | RV Rank |
|----|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------|
| 1  | Commodity | Gold        | 4.5          | 14.0       | 1       |
| 2  | Commodity | Soybean     | 7.3          | 18.2       | 2       |
| 3  | FX        | USDCAD      | 3.6          | 6.9        | 3       |
| 4  | Commodity | Natural Gas | 49.0         | 90.2       | 4       |
| 5  | FX        | USDNOK      | 7.0          | 11.9       | 5       |
| 6  | FX        | AUDJPY      | 7.8          | 12.3       | 6       |
| 7  | FX        | AUDCAD      | 5.0          | 7.9        | 7       |
| 8  | FX        | GBPUSD      | 7.3          | 11.1       | 8       |
| 9  | FX        | USDPLN      | 7.4          | 11.1       | 9       |
| 10 | FX        | AUDUSD      | 7.4          | 10.9       | 10      |
| 11 | Index     | TWSE        | 16.1         | 23.5       | 11      |
| 12 | FX        | USDCZK      | 6.9          | 9.7        | 12      |
| 13 | FX        | USDCHF      | 5.8          | 8.2        | 13      |
| 14 | FX        | CHFJPY      | 7.1          | 9.8        | 14      |
| 15 | FX        | USDBRL      | 10.0         | 13.8       | 15      |

Source: J.P. Morgan

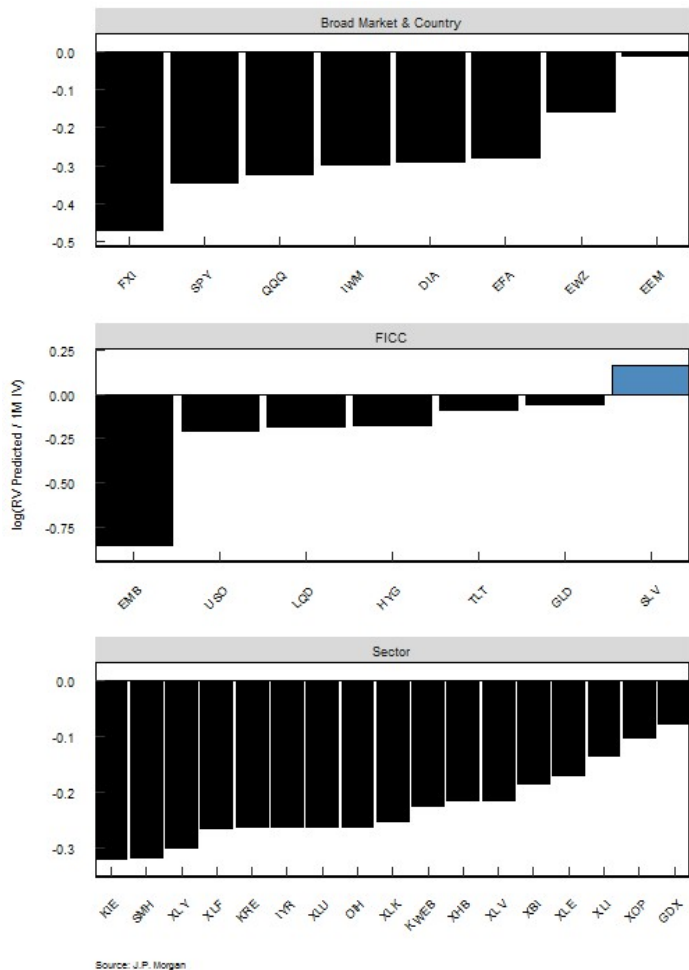
Top 15 Cheapness vol

|    | Asset     | Name   | RV Predicted | 1M Implied | RV Rank |
|----|-----------|--------|--------------|------------|---------|
| 1  | Index     | SX5E   | 18.1         | 14.9       | 1       |
| 2  | Index     | HSI    | 24.2         | 21.3       | 2       |
| 3  | FX        | USDKRW | 10.2         | 9.6        | 3       |
| 4  | Commodity | WTI    | 41.0         | 39.7       | 4       |
| 5  | Commodity | Brent  | 28.9         | 28.6       | 5       |
| 6  | Index     | HSCEI  | 23.5         | 23.6       | 6       |
| 7  | Index     | SMI    | 11.8         | 11.8       | 7       |
| 8  | FX        | CADJPY | 11.1         | 11.5       | 8       |
| 9  | Index     | NKY    | 18.3         | 19.0       | 9       |
| 10 | Index     | UKX    | 10.0         | 10.6       | 10      |
| 11 | FX        | USDMXN | 13.0         | 13.8       | 11      |
| 12 | FX        | AUDNZD | 4.0          | 4.3        | 12      |
| 13 | FI        | UST5Y  | 4.0          | 4.3        | 13      |
| 14 | FX        | USDHUF | 11.1         | 12.4       | 14      |
| 15 | Index     | DAX    | 11.9         | 13.5       | 15      |

Source: J.P. Morgan

## ETF Relative Value Volatility Rankings

Figure 2: ETFs Relative Value



Source: J.P. Morgan<sup>1</sup>

| Top 10 Richness vol |      |              |            |         |
|---------------------|------|--------------|------------|---------|
|                     | Name | RV Predicted | 1M Implied | RV Rank |
| 1                   | EMB  | 6.4          | 15.0       | 1       |
| 2                   | FXI  | 19.4         | 31.1       | 2       |
| 3                   | SPY  | 11.1         | 15.7       | 3       |
| 4                   | QQQ  | 15.2         | 21.1       | 4       |
| 5                   | KIE  | 14.8         | 20.4       | 5       |
| 6                   | SMH  | 25.1         | 34.5       | 6       |
| 7                   | XLY  | 16.7         | 22.5       | 7       |
| 8                   | IWM  | 17.6         | 23.7       | 8       |
| 9                   | DIA  | 10.8         | 14.5       | 9       |
| 10                  | EFA  | 14.2         | 18.8       | 10      |

Source: J.P. Morgan

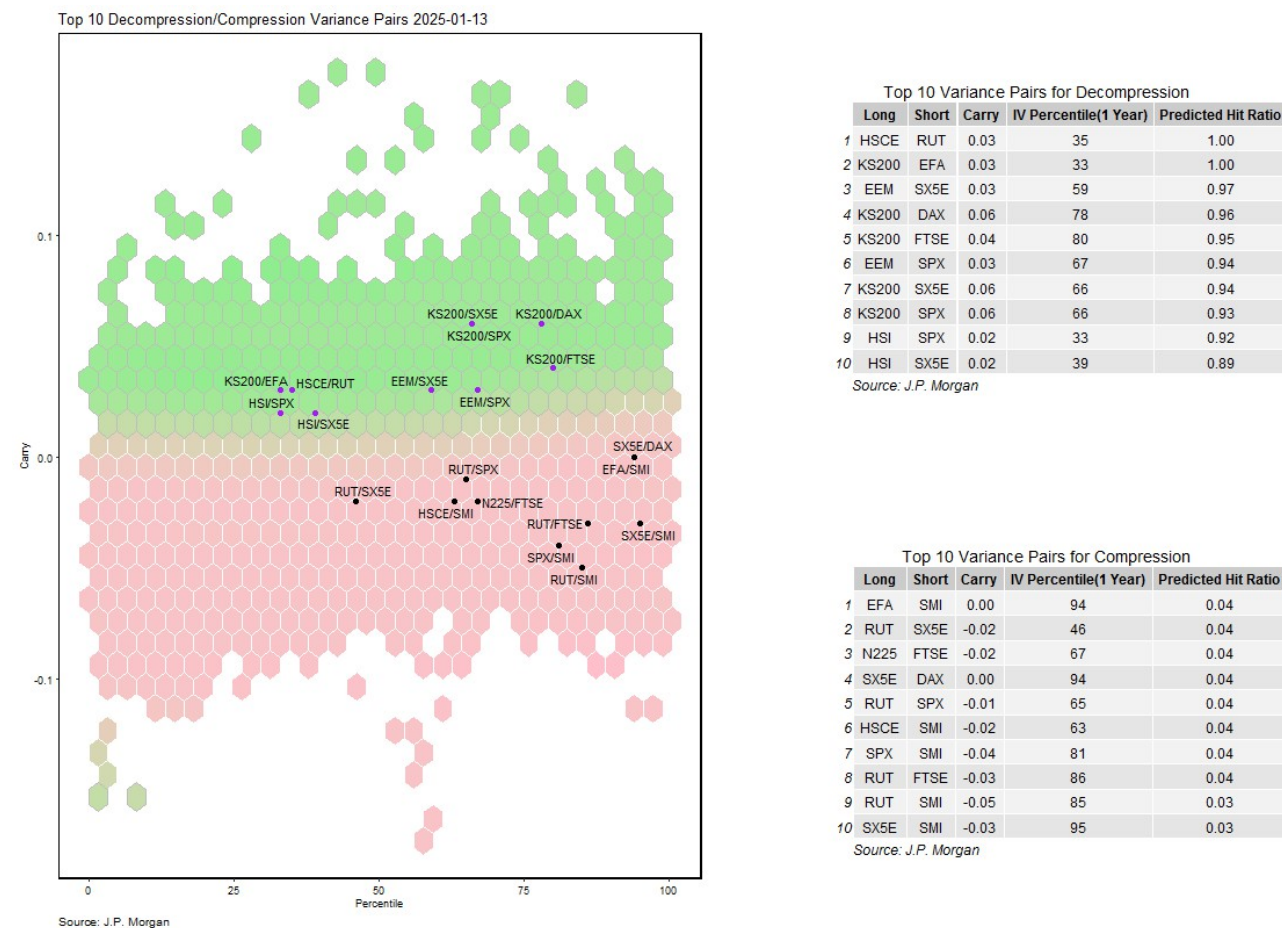
| Top 10 Cheapness vol |      |              |            |         |
|----------------------|------|--------------|------------|---------|
|                      | Name | RV Predicted | 1M Implied | RV Rank |
| 1                    | SLV  | 29.0         | 24.7       | 1       |
| 2                    | EEM  | 16.4         | 16.7       | 2       |
| 3                    | GLD  | 13.5         | 14.3       | 3       |
| 4                    | GDX  | 31.1         | 33.7       | 4       |
| 5                    | TLT  | 14.1         | 15.4       | 5       |
| 6                    | XOP  | 24.1         | 26.7       | 6       |
| 7                    | XLI  | 14.8         | 16.9       | 7       |
| 8                    | EWZ  | 25.4         | 29.8       | 8       |
| 9                    | XLE  | 17.8         | 21.1       | 9       |
| 10                   | HYG  | 4.9          | 5.9        | 10      |

Source: J.P. Morgan

1. Investable AI for Volatility Trading: Introducing the New ETF RV Volatility Model, 22 Mar 2023  
Investable AI for Volatility Trading: Deep Learning Model for Cross Asset Volatility Strategies, 11 Jan 2024

## Equity Index 1Y Variance Swap Relative Value

Figure 3: Top 10 Decompression and Compression Variance Pairs

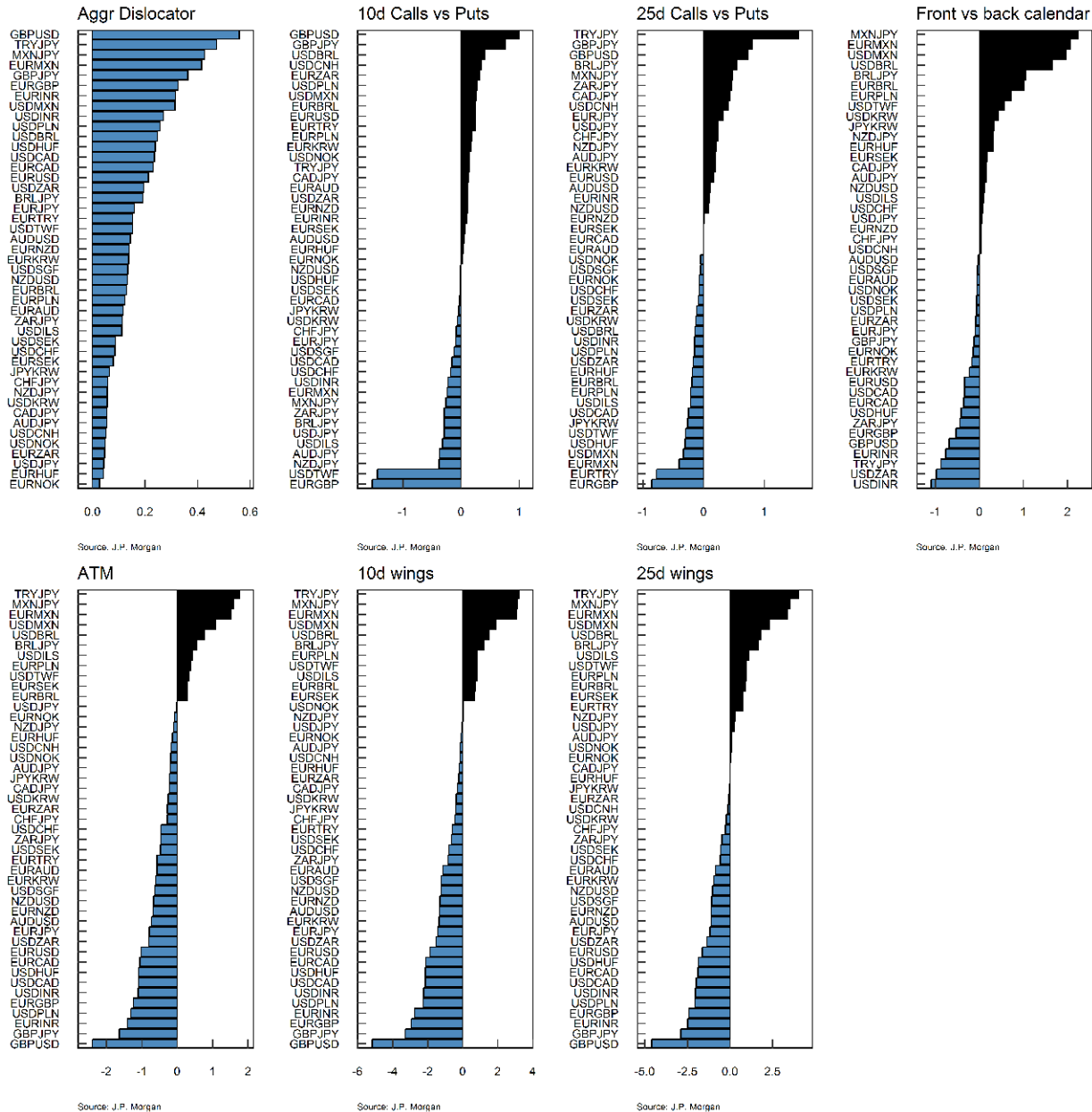


2. Global Equity Derivatives: A simple machine learning approach to variance pairs trading, 24 July 2018; Big Data and AI Strategies: Attractive long/short variance pairs in a machine learning framework, 15 Aug 2018; Big Data and AI Strategies: Application of support vector machine to cross-asset volatility pair trading, 2 Oct 2018

## FX Volatility Surface Relative Value

Figure 4: Vol Surface dislocations across various of tradable axes

Vol Points



Source: J.P. Morgan



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**Put Sale:** Investors who sell put options will own the underlying asset if the asset’s price falls below the strike price of the put option. Investors, therefore, will be exposed to any decline in the underlying asset’s price below the strike potentially to zero, and they will not participate in any price appreciation in the underlying asset if the option expires unexercised.

**Call Sale:** Investors who sell uncovered call options have exposure on the upside that is theoretically unlimited.

**Call Overwrite or Buywrite:** Investors who sell call options against a long position in the underlying asset give up any appreciation in the underlying asset’s price above the strike price of the call option, and they remain exposed to the downside of the underlying asset in the return for the receipt of the option premium.

**Booster :** In a sell-off, the maximum realized downside potential of a double-up booster is the net premium paid. In a rally, option losses are potentially unlimited as the investor is net short a call. When overlaid onto a long position in the underlying asset, upside losses are capped (as for a covered call), but downside losses are not.

**Collar:** Locks in the amount that can be realized at maturity to a range defined by the put and call strike. If the collar is not costless, investors risk losing 100% of the premium paid. Since investors are selling a call option, they give up any price appreciation in the underlying asset above the strike price of the call option.

**Call Purchase:** Options are a decaying asset, and investors risk losing 100% of the premium paid if the underlying asset’s price is below the strike price of the call option.

**Put Purchase:** Options are a decaying asset, and investors risk losing 100% of the premium paid if the underlying asset’s price is above the strike price of the put option.

**Straddle or Strangle:** The seller of a straddle or strangle is exposed to increases in the underlying asset’s price above the call strike and declines in the underlying asset’s price below the put strike. Since exposure on the upside is theoretically unlimited, investors who also own the underlying asset would have limited losses should the underlying asset rally. Covered writers are exposed to declines in the underlying asset position as well as any additional exposure should the underlying asset decline below the strike price of the put option. Having sold a covered call option, the investor gives up all appreciation in the underlying asset above the strike price of the call option.

**Put Spread:** The buyer of a put spread risks losing 100% of the premium paid. The buyer of higher-ratio put spread has unlimited downside below the lower strike (down to zero), dependent on the number of lower-struck puts sold. The maximum gain is limited to the spread between the two put strikes, when the underlying is at the lower strike. Investors who own the underlying asset will have downside protection between the higher-strike put and the lower-strike put. However, should the underlying asset’s price fall below the strike price of the lower-strike put, investors regain exposure to the underlying asset, and this exposure is multiplied by the number of puts sold.

**Call Spread:** The buyer risks losing 100% of the premium paid. The gain is limited to the spread between the two strike prices. The seller of a call spread risks losing an amount equal to the spread between the two call strikes less the net premium received. By selling a covered call spread, the investor remains exposed to the downside of the underlying asset and gives up the spread between the two call strikes should the underlying asset rally.

**Butterfly Spread:** A butterfly spread consists of two spreads established simultaneously – one a bull spread and the other a bear spread. The resulting position is neutral, that is, the investor will profit if the underlying is stable. Butterfly spreads are established at a net debit. The maximum profit will occur at the middle strike price; the maximum loss is the net debit.

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