

# 'TRADE BRILLIANTLY



## thinkorswim® is now at Schwab.

Our award-winning thinkorswim trading platforms are loaded with powerful features that let you dive deeper into the market.

- Visualize your trades in a new light on thinkorswim desktop with robust charting and analysis tools, including 400+ technical studies.
- Uncover new opportunities with up-to-the-minute market news and insights.
- Choose a platform to fit your trading style—from streamlined to advanced.
- Available on desktop, web, and mobile to meet you where you are so you never miss a thing.

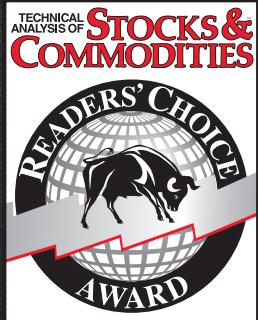
Built by the trading-obsessed, so you can trade brilliantly.



Investing involves risks, including loss of principal.  
Schwab does not recommend the use of technical analysis as a sole means of investment research.  
© 2023 Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Member SIPC. (1023-373U) ADP121824-00

[Schwab.com/Trading](https://schwab.com/trading)

Can you imagine winning the  
*Stocks & Commodities Readers' Choice*  
Award for 30 consecutive years?



*Best Standalone  
Analytical Software  
in its price category  
1993-2023*



We can.

**Get your free trial at [MetaStock.com/TASC](http://MetaStock.com/TASC)**

This is neither a solicitation to buy or sell any type of financial instruments, nor intended as investment recommendations. All investment trading involves multiple substantial risks of monetary loss. Don't trade with money you can't afford to lose. Trading is not suitable for everyone. Past performance, whether indicated by actual or hypothetical results or testimonials are no guarantee of future performance or success. NO REPRESENTATION IS BEING MADE THAT ANY ACCOUNT WILL OR IS LIKELY TO ACHIEVE PROFITS OR LOSSES SIMILAR TO THOSE SHOWN. IN FACT, THERE ARE FREQUENTLY SHARP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HYPOTHETICAL PERFORMANCE RESULTS OR TESTIMONIALS AND THE ACTUAL RESULTS SUBSEQUENTLY ACHIEVED BY ANY PARTICULAR TRADING PROGRAM. Furthermore, all internal and external computer and software systems are not fail-safe. Have contingency plans in place for such occasions. MetaStock assumes no responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, or omissions in these materials, nor shall it be liable for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation losses, lost revenue, or lost profits, that may result from reliance upon the information presented.

# TRADERS' TIPS



For this month's Traders' Tips, the focus is Ron McEwan's article in this issue, "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator." Here we present the February 2013 Traders' Tips code.

Code for Microsoft Excel is already provided in McEwan's article by the author. Subscribers will find that code at the **Subscriber Area** of our website, Traders.com. (Click on "Article Code" from our homepage.) Presented here is an overview of possible implementations for other software.

Traders' Tips are provided to help the reader implement a selected technique from an article in this issue. The entries are contributed by various software developers or programmers for software that is capable of customization.

Readers will find the February 2013 Traders' Tips code at our website, **Traders.com**, in the Traders' Tips area. Here, you can read some discussion of the technique's implementation by the Traders' Tips contributors as well as some example charts.

To locate Traders' Tips at our website, use our site's search engine, or click on the link from our home page. For past Traders' Tips, click on the "Archive" button in the S&C Magazine box in the middle of our home page, then click on a Traders' Tips topic of interest, or click on a different year to see more choices.

```
if (!bSecondInit == false) {
    if (xVMP == null) Calc_XVM(TR);
    xVMP = getSeries(xVMP, 1);
    XVM = getSeries(xVMP, 1);
    XVM.TrueRange = getSeries(XVM, 2);
    bSecondInit = true;
}
```

```
if (xVMP.getValue(LengthVertex) == null || xVM.TrueRange.getValue() == null) {
    for (i = Math.max(LengthVertices, LengthTR), i--> 0, i--) {
        if (i < LengthVertex) {
            nVMPsum += xVMP.getValue(i);
        }
    }
}
```



**FIGURE 1: TRADESTATION.** A daily bar chart of AAPL is plotted in subgraph 2. Indicators displayed include a two-bar RSI of the close plotted in subgraph 1; the built-in "Mov Avg 2 Lines" indicator (10-bar and 20-bar averages of the close) plotted with price; and the indicator referenced in McEwan's article plotted in subgraph 3. The strategy code we're providing applies and displays several entries and exits.



## ◆ TRADESTATION: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

In "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator" in this issue, author Ron McEwan describes using the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet application to calculate a switch indicator that may aid in determining whether the security being analyzed is in a trending mode or reversion-to-the-mean mode (or soon-to-be transitioning to that mode).

McEwan suggests that this indicator may help the investor/trader determine whether to use trend-trading techniques or countertrend trading techniques. We have coded in EasyLanguage the Excel specifics given in the article. We are also providing a function that calculates the volatility switch value, an indicator to plot the volatility switch (see Figure 1), and a strategy that illustrates the use of the function in a strategy. (The strategy is for illustrative purposes only.) For trend-following entries, the strategy uses a cross of a 10-bar simple moving average (SMA) with a 20-bar SMA. For countertrend entries, the strategy uses a cross of the two-bar relative strength index (RSI) with overbought and oversold levels set in the inputs. Strategy exits are simple five-bar price channel exits.

To download the EasyLanguage code for this strategy, first navigate to the EasyLanguage FAQs and Reference Posts Topic in the EasyLanguage support forum ([https://www.tradestation.com/Discussions/Topic.aspx?Topic\\_ID=47452](https://www.tradestation.com/Discussions/Topic.aspx?Topic_ID=47452)), scroll down, and click on the link labeled "Traders' Tips, TASC." Then select the appropriate link for the month and year. The ELD filename is "\_TASC\_VolatilitySwitch.ELD."

*This article is for informational purposes. No type of trading or in-*

*vestment recommendation, advice, or strategy is being made, given, or in any manner provided by TradeStation Securities or its affiliates.*

—Chris Imhof  
TradeStation Securities, Inc.  
[www.TradeStation.com](http://www.TradeStation.com)



## ◆ METASTOCK: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

Ron McEwan's article in this issue, "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator," explains how to calculate the volatility switch indicator. This indicator can be added to MetaStock using the following formula:

```
dr:= ROC(C,1,$)/Mov(C,2,S); vola:= Stdev( dr, 21);
vola:= Stdev( dr, 21);
( (Ref( vola, -1) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -2) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -3) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -4) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -5) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -6) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -7) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -8) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -9) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -10) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -11) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -12) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -13) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -14) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -15) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -16) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -17) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -18) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -19) <= vola ) +
(Ref( vola, -20) <= vola ) + 1 ) / 21
```

—William Golson  
MetaStock Technical Support  
Thomson Reuters  
[www.metastock.com](http://www.metastock.com)



## ◆ eSIGNAL: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

For this month's Traders' Tip, we've provided the formula



# TRADERS' TIPS



**FIGURE 2: eSIGNAL.** The chart shows implementation of the VolatilitySwitch.efs formula.

“VolatilitySwitch.efs” based on Ron McEwan’s article in this issue, “The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator.”

The study contains a formula parameter to set the period for “volatility days,” which may be configured through the Edit Chart window.

To discuss this study or download a complete copy of the formula code, please visit the EFS library discussion board forum under the forums link from the support menu at [www.esignal.com](http://www.esignal.com) or visit our EFS KnowledgeBase at <http://www.esignal.com/support/kb/efs/>. This eSignal formula script (EFS) is also available for copying and pasting from the STOCKS & COMMODITIES website at Traders.com in the Traders’ Tips area.

A sample chart is shown in Figure 2.

—Jason Keck  
eSignal, an Interactive Data company  
800 779-6555, [www.esignal.com](http://www.esignal.com)

## Bloomberg

### ◆ BLOOMBERG: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

In his article in this issue, “The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator,” author Ron McEwan provides a new tool to help ascertain the stage of the market, from consolidation to trend, using a volatility “switch” based on a simple formula that can be set up in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (as was done in the article) or used on a price chart to output PaintBars for simple evaluation (see Figure 3). Depending on the final value of this oscillator, McEwan creates red painted bars for current or upcoming consolidation or “mean reversion,” and green bars when a market is in a trend or when one is imminent.

While no indicator is always accurate, and McEwan does suggest using complementary indicators for further confirmation, the volatility switch indicator can give a quick and easily recognizable indication of what approach will likely be most successful as a first step in the analysis process. We have recreated this indicator with the ability to also output



**FIGURE 3: BLOOMBERG.** This five-year weekly chart of Apple shows the exponential move in this security from 2008 through 2012. While no indicator will prove to be 100% accurate, the circled and boxed areas around portions of the chart show that the volatility switch indicator was able to determine a number of “switches” between trend and mean reversion. Virtually this entire five-year period can easily be broken up into these different market modes simply by looking at the colors painted by the volatility (regime) switch indicator.

the actual value of the volatility switch in a subpanel below the price chart for easy verification of its behavior, as well as noting any progression that might also point to an imminent “switch” in the dynamic of the market.

Using the CS.NET framework within the STDY<GO> function on the Bloomberg Terminal, C# or Visual Basic code can be written to display the volatility (regime) switch indicator described here. The C# code for this indicator is also provided here. All Bloomberg code contributions to Traders’ Tips can also be found in the sample files provided with regular SDK updates, and the studies will be included in the Bloomberg global study list.

—Bill Sindel  
Bloomberg, LP  
[wsindel@bloomberg.net](mailto:wsindel@bloomberg.net)

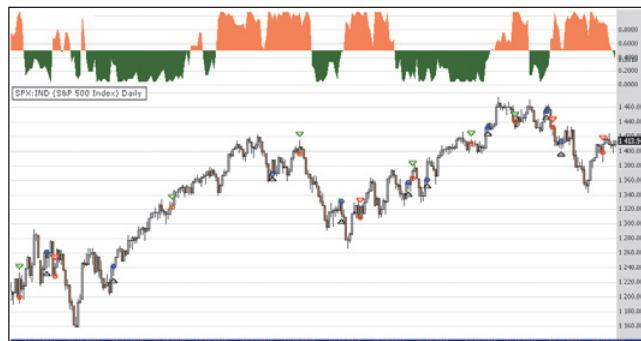
## WealthLab.com

### ◆ WEALTH-LAB: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

In “The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator” in this issue, author Ron McEwan presents a simple, intuitive yet seemingly effective new indicator of which the purpose is to act as a filter in a trading strategy, facilitating it to adapt to changing market conditions. A change from a trending mode to a mean-reverting one is measured through a ratio dividing the number of bars when the historical volatility (HV) of the daily close price change in a given lookback period was lower or equal to today’s daily ROC’s HV.

To take advantage of the volatility switch technique in Wealth-Lab’s charts, code, and interactive rule-based strategies, simply install (or update if you haven’t done so already) the TASCIndicators library from the [www.wealth-lab.com](http://www.wealth-lab.com)

# TRADERS' TIPS



**FIGURE 4: WEALTH-LAB, TREND/MEAN REVERSION SYSTEM.** Here's a daily chart of SPY illustrating application of a trend/mean reversion trading system powered by Ron McEwan's volatility switch filter.



**FIGURE 5: WEALTH-LAB, EQUITY CURVE FOR SYSTEM.** Here's a sample chart of the strategy's equity curve versus that of a buy & hold strategy.

site to its latest version.

To illustrate the application of the new regime filter (Figure 4), we created a demo system that takes entries and exits depending on the market's volatility switch state: above 0.5 is considered choppy with a potential for mean reversion; at or below 0.5 is more likely to trend.

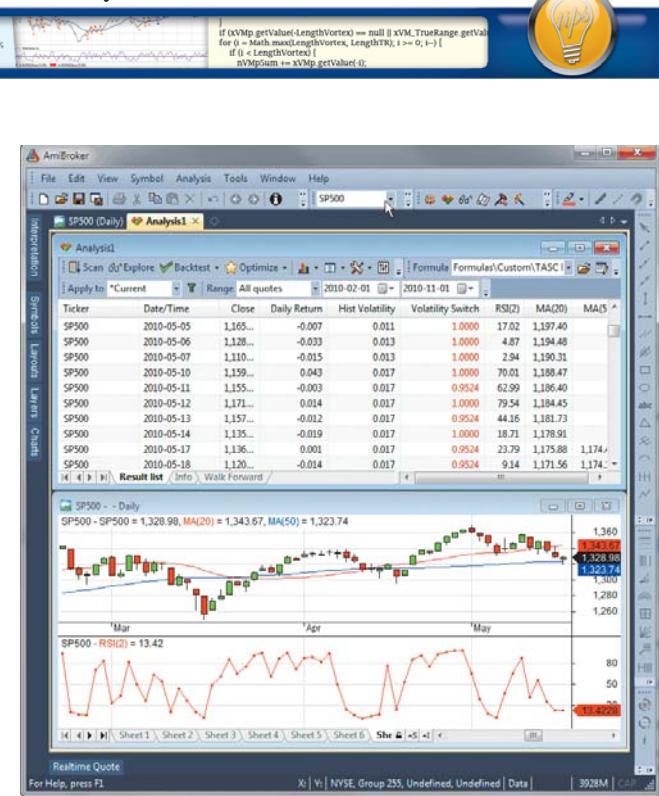
## Entry rules

- If the volatility switch is in trend mode, buy at the market on the next bar when today's close crosses above the 10-day simple moving average of the close price
- If the volatility switch is in mean-reversion mode, buy at the market on the next bar when the seven-day RSI crosses above 30

## Exit rules

- If the volatility switch is in trend mode, sell at the market on the next bar when today's close crosses below the 10-day simple moving average of the close price
- If the volatility switch is in mean-reversion mode, buy at the market on the next bar when the seven-day RSI crosses below 60.

We ran a backtest with \$10,000 per trade on five years of SPY daily data. With real-world position sizing and trading cost rules applied, the simplistic system was able to beat buy



**FIGURE 6: AMIBROKER.** Here is an exploration (upper window) and a chart (lower window) created using the volatility switch formula.

& hold, returning a 26% net profit figure (versus -6% for buy & hold), proving that the regime switch filter can become a valuable addition to a trader's arsenal. (See Figure 5.)

The C# code for Wealth-Lab for this system is shown here and is also shown at Traders.com in the Traders' Tips area.

—Wealth-Lab team  
www.wealth-lab.com

## AmiBroker

for Windows 95/98/Me/NT/2k/XP

### ◆ AMIBROKER: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

In "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator" in this issue, author Ron McEwan presents a simple volatility switch indicator. A ready-to-use formula for exploration and for the indicator is presented here. To display the indicator, simply input the formulas into the formula editor and press "Apply Indicator" to display the exploration (which is an Excel-like table). Then choose the Tools → Exploration menu item in the formula editor.

A sample chart is shown in Figure 6.

#### AmiBroker code:

```

function CountLE( array, periods )
{
    Count = 0;
    for ( i = 0; i < periods; i++ )
        Count += Ref( array, -i ) <= array;
    return Count;
}

function ExStDev( array, periods )
{
    // AB's StDev is Excel's StdDevP so we need to convert
    return StDev( array, periods ) * sqrt( periods / (periods-1) );
}

```

# TRADERS' TIPS



```

}

C1 = Ref( C, -1 );
DR = (C - C1) / ((C + C1)/2);
HistVol = ExStDev( DR, 21 );
VolSwitch = CountLE( HistVol, 21 )/21;

r = RSI(2);
ms = MA( C, 20 );
ml = MA( C, 50 );

AddColumn( Close, "Close" );
AddColumn( DR, "Daily Return", 1.3 );
AddColumn( HistVol, "Hist Volatility", 1.3 );
AddColumn( VolSwitch, "Volatility Switch", 1.4,
    If( VolSwitch < 0.5, colorGreen, colorRed ) );
AddColumn( r, "RSI(2)" );
AddColumn( ms, "MA(20)" );
AddColumn( ml, "MA(50)" );
Filter = 1;

Plot( C, Name(), colorDefault, styleCandle);
Plot( ms, "MA(20)", colorRed );
Plot( ml, "MA(50)", colorBlue );

```

—Tomasz Janeckzo, AmiBroker.com  
www.amibroker.com



## ◆ AIQ: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

The AIQ code based on Ron McEwan's article in this issue, "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator," is provided at the website [www.TradersEdgeSystems.com/traderstips.htm](http://www.TradersEdgeSystems.com/traderstips.htm).

To test the author's volatility switch indicator, I used the NASDAQ 100 list of stocks and AIQ's Portfolio Manager. A long-only trading simulation was run with the following capitalization, cost, and exit settings:

- Maximum of 10 open positions
- Size each position at 10% of mark-to-market total capital
- Take no more than three new positions per day
- Compute the mark-to-market capital each day
- Three cents per share was deducted for each round-turn trade
- Select trades based on the lowest three-bar RSI reading
- Exit trades only with a system exit; no stop-loss or profit target stop used.

I coded four similar test systems. All systems enter & exit on the next bar at open after the respective entry or exit rule becomes true at the close of the bar:

**System 1:** A basic trend-following system that buys when the close of a stock is above its moving average and the moving average is higher than it was 10 bars ago. Exit when the close is below the moving average.

**System 2:** The same as System 1 with the volatility switch filter added to the entry and exit rules for the stock.

**System 3:** The same as System 2 with System 2 rules also added to the market using the NASDAQ 100 index (NDX) to represent the market conditions.

```

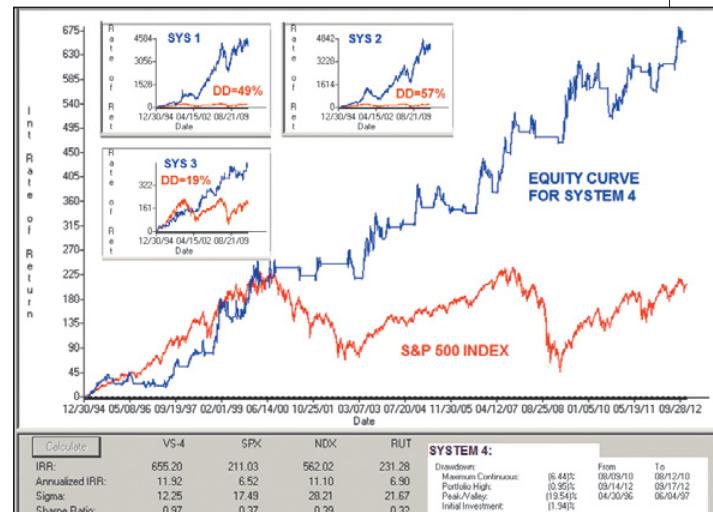
if (!secondInit == false) {
    xVMp = effCalc.Calc_VM(TR);
    xVM = getSeries(xVMp, 1);
    xVM.TrueRange = getSeries(xVMp, 2);
    xVM.LengthVortex = true;
}

if (xVM.getValuesLengthVortex == null || xVM.TrueRange.getValuesLengthTR == null) {
    for (i = Math.max(xVM.LengthVortex, LengthTR); i >= 0, i--) {
        if (0 < LengthVortex) {
            nVMpSum += xVMp.getValues(i);
        }
    }
}

```

Statistics	System 1	System 2	System 3	System 4
Annualized return	23.7%	23.8%	10.0%	11.9%
Peak/valley drawdown (DD)	-49.3%	-57.4%	-18.9%	-19.5%
Sharpe ratio	0.84	0.92	0.80	0.97

**FIGURE 7: AIQ, SYSTEM BACKTEST RESULTS.** For the period 12/30/1994 to 12/12/2012, the four system variations returned these results.



**FIGURE 8: AIQ.** Long-only equity curves (blue) compared to the S&P 500 (red) for the test period 12/30/1994 to 12/12/2012 trading the NASDAQ 100 list of stocks.

**System 4:** The same as System 1 but with the volatility switch filter and the trend-following rules added to the market index (NDX).

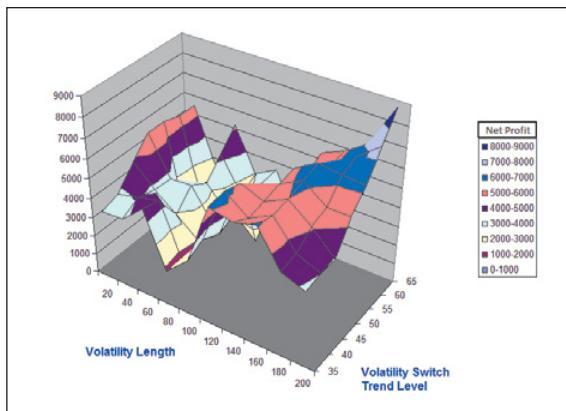
I used the author's parameters of 21 days for the volatility length and 50 for the volatility switch level. Note that my coding of the indicator is multiplied by 100. To determine the trend, I used a 50-bar moving average. For the period 12/30/1994 to 12/12/2012, the systems returned the results shown in the table in Figure 7.

In Figure 8, I show the equity curves for all four systems, with the largest graph showing the equity curve for System 4, which is the one I prefer due to the relatively low drawdown and the highest Sharpe ratio. Adding the volatility switch filter only to the stocks (System 2) did not reduce the drawdown but the return increased very slightly and the Sharpe ratio was one of the highest. Adding the filter to both the stock and the market (System 3) dramatically reduced the drawdown, but the return and Sharpe ratio also were significantly reduced. Adding the filter only to the market index thus seems the best compromise. The tests tend to show that the filter can be used to reduce drawdown and increase reward-to-risk ratios.

The code and EDS file can be downloaded from [www.TradersEdgeSystems.com/traderstips.htm](http://www.TradersEdgeSystems.com/traderstips.htm). The code is also shown at Traders.com in the Traders' Tips area.

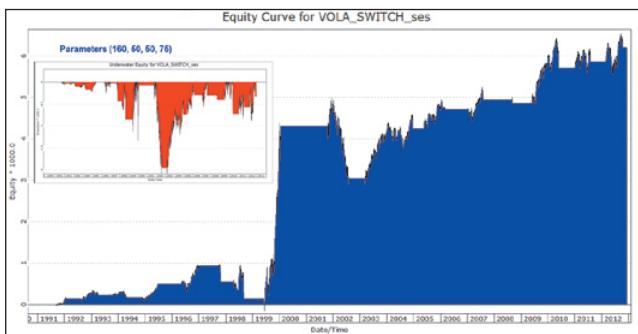
—Richard Denning  
[info@TradersEdgeSystems.com](mailto:info@TradersEdgeSystems.com)  
for AIQ Systems

# TRADERS' TIPS



**FIGURE 9: TRADERSSTUDIO, PARAMETER OPTIMIZATION GRAPH.**

Here is a three-dimensional parameter optimization graph for the system trading the QQQ ETF for the period 1990 through 2012.



**FIGURE 10: TRADERSSTUDIO, EQUITY CURVE.** Here are equity and underwater equity curves for the system using one of the better parameter sets from the optimization tests (volatility length = 160, moving average length = 50, volatility trend level = 50, exit buy level = 75).



## ◆ TRADERSSTUDIO: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

The TradersStudio code based on Ron McEwan's article in this issue, "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator," is provided at the following sites:

- [www.TradersEdgeSystems.com/traderstips.htm](http://www.TradersEdgeSystems.com/traderstips.htm)
- [www.TradersStudio.com](http://www.TradersStudio.com) → Traders Resources → Traders Tips

The following code files are provided in the download:

- Function: "VOLA\_SWITCH" is a function that returns the volatility switch of the price inputs
- Indicator plot: "DMI\_OSC\_IND" is indicator code that plots the volatility switch oscillator with a line at the 50 level
- System: "VOLA\_SWITCH\_SYS" is a system of my design to test the author's indicator.

### Parameters:

volaLen = The length used for the volatility calculation  
 maLen = Length of the moving average used to determine trend direction  
 vsLvl = The maximum level for a trending market  
 exitBuyLvl = Level on the RSI when in nontrending mode for an exit.

```

if (!bSecondInit == TRUE) {
  xVMP = external("Calc_VM(TR");
  xVMS = getSeries(xMP, 1);
  xVMT = getSeries(xMP, 2);
  xVMT = getSeries(xVMS, 1);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 2);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 3);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 4);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 5);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 6);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 7);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 8);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 9);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 10);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 11);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 12);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 13);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 14);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 15);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 16);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 17);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 18);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 19);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 20);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 21);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 22);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 23);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 24);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 25);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 26);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 27);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 28);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 29);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 30);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 31);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 32);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 33);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 34);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 35);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 36);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 37);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 38);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 39);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 40);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 41);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 42);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 43);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 44);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 45);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 46);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 47);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 48);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 49);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 50);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 51);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 52);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 53);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 54);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 55);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 56);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 57);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 58);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 59);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 60);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 61);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 62);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 63);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 64);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 65);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 66);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 67);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 68);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 69);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 70);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 71);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 72);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 73);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 74);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 75);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 76);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 77);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 78);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 79);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 80);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 81);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 82);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 83);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 84);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 85);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 86);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 87);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 88);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 89);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 90);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 91);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 92);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 93);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 94);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 95);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 96);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 97);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 98);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 99);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 100);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 101);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 102);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 103);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 104);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 105);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 106);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 107);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 108);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 109);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 110);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 111);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 112);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 113);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 114);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 115);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 116);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 117);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 118);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 119);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 120);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 121);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 122);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 123);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 124);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 125);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 126);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 127);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 128);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 129);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 130);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 131);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 132);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 133);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 134);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 135);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 136);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 137);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 138);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 139);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 140);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 141);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 142);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 143);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 144);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 145);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 146);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 147);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 148);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 149);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 150);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 151);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 152);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 153);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 154);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 155);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 156);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 157);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 158);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 159);
  xVMS = getSeries(xVMS, 160);
}
if (xVMP.getValuesLength() == null || xVMS.getValuesLength() == null) {
  for (i = Math.max(xVMS.getValuesLength(), xVMP.getValuesLength()); i > 0, i--) {
    if (i < xVMS.getValuesLength()) {
      nVMS[i] = xVMS.getValues(i);
    }
  }
}

```

The rules of the test system are as follows (long-only):

*Go long when:*

1. The close is greater than the moving average, and
2. The moving average is higher than it was 10 bars ago, and
3. The volatility switch indicator is below the critical level ("vsLvl").

*Exit longs when:*

1. The volatility switch is greater than the critical level and the close is below the moving average, or
2. The volatility switch is greater than the critical level and the three-bar RSI is above the critical level ("exitBuyLvl").

I set up a test session using the PowerShares QQQ exchange traded fund (using data from Pinnacle Data). I then optimized the parameters and found the RSI exit level of 75 to be in a good zone. Note that I did not optimize the length of the moving average. In Figure 9, I show the parameter optimization map for trading only the long side with the system on the QQQ from 1/2/1990 through 12/10/2012. The buy level parameters between 55 and 65, together with the volatility length between 120 and 180, look good without any spikes in the map. There is a spike at the 200 length but that was my maximum value tested, so more optimization with longer values is recommended. I then ran a backtest trading 100 shares for the same period with the parameter set (160, 50, 50, 75) trading long only.

The resulting equity curve and underwater equity curve are shown in Figure 10. Trading just 100 shares of the QQQ, the system returned a profit of \$6,221 with a maximum drawdown of \$2,094 on 7/18/2002 with a profit factor of 3.55.

—Richard Denning  
info@TradersEdgeSystems.com  
for TradersStudio



## ◆ NEUROSHELL TRADER: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

The volatility switch indicator, described by Ron McEwan in his article in this issue ("The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator"), can be implemented in NeuroShell Trader using NeuroShell Trader's ability to call external programs. The programs may be written in C, C++, Power Basic, or Delphi.

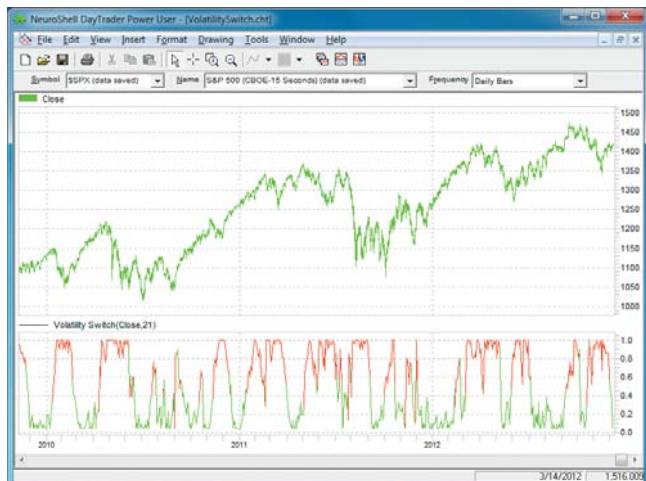
After coding the indicator in your preferred compiler and creating a DLL, you can insert the resulting volatility indicator as follows:

1. Select "New Indicator" from the Insert menu.
2. Choose the "External Program & Library Calls" category.
3. Select the appropriate "External DLL Call" indicator.
4. Set up the parameters to match your DLL.
5. Select the Finished button.

Users of NeuroShell Trader can go to the STOCKS & COM-



# TRADERS' TIPS



**FIGURE 11: NEUROSHELL TRADER.** This NeuroShell Trader chart displays the volatility switch indicator.

MODITIES section of the NeuroShell Trader free technical support website to download a copy of this or any previous Traders' Tips.

A sample chart is shown in Figure 11.

—Marge Sherald, Ward Systems Group, Inc.  
301 662-7950, [sales@wardsystems.com](mailto:sales@wardsystems.com)  
[www.neuroshell.com](http://www.neuroshell.com)



## ◆ NINJATRADER: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

We have implemented in NinjaTrader the volatility switch indicator as discussed by author Ron McEwan in his article in this issue, "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator."

Users can download the indicator from [www.ninjatrader.com/SC/February2013SC.zip](http://www.ninjatrader.com/SC/February2013SC.zip).

Once it has been downloaded, from within the NinjaTrader Control Center window, select the menu File → Utilities → Import NinjaScript and select the downloaded file. This file is for NinjaTrader version 7 or greater.

You can review the indicator source code by selecting the menu Tools → Edit NinjaScript → Indicator from within the NinjaTrader Control Center window and selecting



**FIGURE 12: NINJATRADER.** The screenshot shows VolatilitySwitch applied to a daily chart of S&P 500 (^SP500).

```

if (!secondUnit == TickUnit)
    if (!xVMP == null || !xVMP.Calc("VOL,TR"))
        xVMP = new NinjaSeries(xVMPD, 1);
    xVMP.getSeries(xVMPD, 1);
    xVMP.LengthVortex = getSeries(xVMPD, 2);
    xVMP.LengthTR = true;
}

if (xVMP.getValuel(LengthVortex) == null || xVMP.LengthRange.getValuel()
for (i = Math.max(LengthVortex, LengthTR), i >= 0, i -> {
    if (0 < LengthVortex) {
        nVMpSum += xVMP.getValuel(i);
    }
}
nVMpSum += xVMP.getValuel(i);
}

```

"VolatilitySwitch."

A sample chart implementing the strategy is shown in Figure 12.

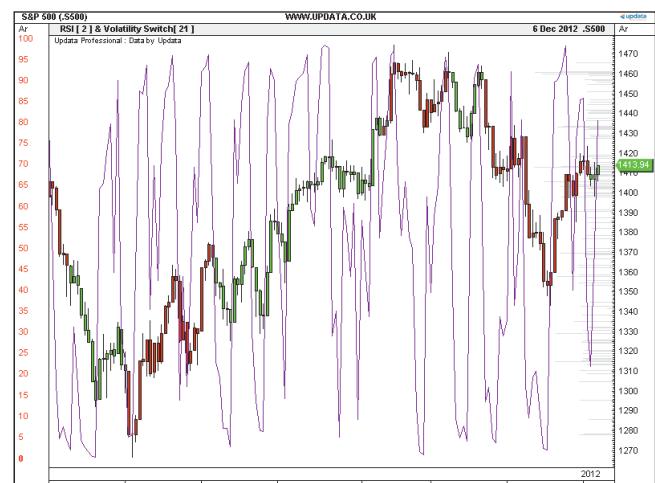
—Raymond Deux & Ryan Millard  
NinjaTrader, LLC  
[www.ninjatrader.com](http://www.ninjatrader.com)



## ◆ UPDATA: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

This is based on "The Volatility (Regime) Switch Indicator" in this issue by Ron McEwan.

In his article, McEwan delivers a volatility regime switching model based on the normalization of the standard deviation of returns. Price candles are colored according to the indicator's reading above or below 0.5: the greater the indicator value, the greater the volatility, and thus a mean-



**FIGURE 13: UPDATA.** Here is the daily S&P 500 with candles colored according to the volatility regime: green (<0.5) indicates trending, red (>0.5) indicates mean-reverting, with a two-period RSI overlaid.



**FIGURE 14: UPDATA, INDICATOR WITH TWO MOVING AVERAGES.** Here is the daily S&P 500 with candles colored according to the volatility regime: green (<0.5) indicates trending, red (>0.5) indicates mean-reverting, with 20- and 50-period moving averages overlaid.

# TRADERS' TIPS



reverting phase is indicated. The converse is true for trending phases. Consistent with the recommendations from the author, all parameters of these indicators are optimizable within Updata.

The Updata code for both versions of this indicator (either combined with RSI, as displayed in Figure 13, or with two moving averages, as shown in Figure 14) is in the Updata Library and may be downloaded by clicking the Custom menu and then "Indicator Library." Those who cannot access the library due to a firewall may paste the code shown at Traders.com into the Updata Custom editor and save it.

—Updata support team  
support@updata.co.uk  
www.updata.co.uk

## ◆ TRADING BLOX: FEBRUARY 2013 TRADERS' TIPS CODE

Coding the volatility switch indicator in Trading Blox can be achieved in a few easy steps:

Open the Blox editor, create a new auxiliary type block, and name it "volatility switch indicator." This block only requires one script, which is the "update indicators" script. Make sure that script is already in the block, or add it using the "script/add" menu item in the Blox editor. The logic to calculate the volatility switch indicator will reside in this script.

We also need to create two block permanent variables (BPVs), three instrument permanent variables (IPVs), and one parameter for this block. Create them by double-clicking the item or right-clicking and choosing "New" on the appropriate item.

Create the first BPV and name it "index." Check the box next to "integer," since this variable will be used as a simple counter by the logic on the "update indicators" script. Create a second integer-type BPV named "volCount" in the same way as the first BPV. This variable will also be used by the "update indicators" script to track an intermediate value in our indicator calculation.

In a similar manner, we need to create three new IPVs: dailyChange, historicalVolatility, and volatilitySwitchIndicator. They are all auto-indexed series types, but only volatilitySwitchIndicator is plotted on the trade chart by checking the "plots" box in the plotting controls section of the IPV editor window. It is also the only variable where we need to populate the "name for humans" field, which will show on the trade chart.

Once we have the two BPVs and three IPVs defined, we need to create an integer-type parameter called "volatilitySwitchLookback." This will determine the number of bars over which the volatility switch indicator is calculated. The default period is 21 bars.

Finally, we can fill in the scripting logic needed to calculate the volatility switch indicator and plot it on the trade chart in the appropriate format. Place the code shown here in the scripting section of the Blox editor for the "update indicators" script. An apostrophe indicates a comment line in the code, and that line is colored green in the script and is descriptive of the code following the comment. It is ignored

```

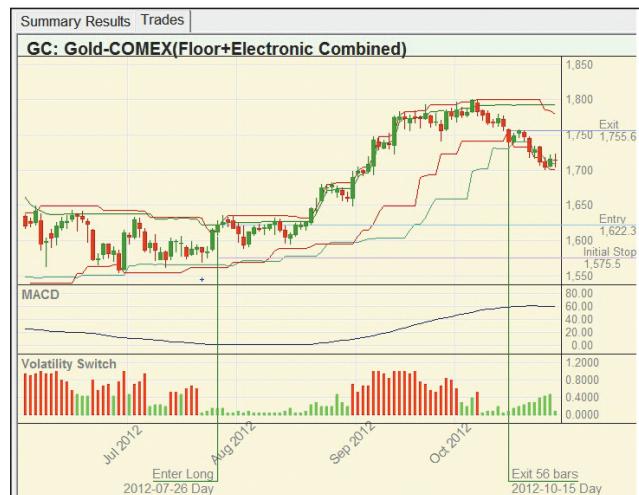
if (!secondUnit == TRUE)
    xVMp = effector("Calc_VM_TIR");
    xVM = GetSeries(xMP, 1);
    xVM.TrueRange = getSeries(xVMp, 2);
    xVM.Correcting = true;
}

```

```

if (xCMp.getValuesLengthVertex == null || xVM.TrueRange.getValuesLengthVertex == null)
    for (i = Math.max(xVM.getValuesLengthVertex, xCMp.getValuesLengthVertex); i >= 0, i--) {
        if (0 < LengthVertex[i])
            nVMp[i] = xVMp.getValues[i];
    }
}

```



**FIGURE 15: TRADING BLOX.** Here is a plot of the indicator.

for the purposes of calculating the indicator.

This new block may be dropped into the auxiliary section of any Trading Blox system to calculate and plot the volatility switch indicator for each market in the system's portfolio.

### Trading Blox script

```

' If the denominator is not zero, calculate the "daily change".
' It is defined as the difference between the current and previous close
' divided by the average of the current and previous close.
IF (instrument.close + instrument.close[1])/2 != 0 THEN
    dailyChange = (instrument.close - instrument.close[1]) / ((instrument.close + instrument.close[1])/2)
ENDIF

' "Historical volatility" is the standard deviation of the daily change
over the lookback period
historicalVolatility = standardDeviation( dailyChange, volatilitySwitchLookback)

' Count the number of historical volatility readings within the
lookback period
' that are greater than or equal to the current value of historical
volatility.
volCount = 0
FOR index = 0 TO (volatilitySwitchLookback-1) STEP 1
    if historicalVolatility >= historicalVolatility[index] then volCount =
    volCount + 1
NEXT

' Divide the number of higher volatility bars by the total number of
lookback bars.
' This is the volatility switch indicator.
volatilitySwitchIndicator = volCount / volatilitySwitchLookback

'Plot volatility switch values above .5 in red and the rest in green
on the trade chart.
if volatilitySwitchIndicator > .5 then
    ' Set the indicator to plot a red (RGB color 255) histogram
    (chart type 8).
    SetSeriesColorStyle( volatilitySwitchIndicator, 255, 8 )
else
    ' Set the indicator to plot a green (RGB color 65280) histogram
    (chart type 8).
    SetSeriesColorStyle( volatilitySwitchIndicator, 65280, 8 )
endif

```

—Jake Carriker  
for Trading Blox  
www.TradingBlox.com



Traders take many paths to reach their destination.  
**Can your platform get you there?**

# NINJATRADER ECOSYSTEM

Search apps and services to personalize the  
NinjaTrader platform to meet your requirements.  
Indicators, automated strategies, free tools & more.

Explore now at [nintraderescosystem.com](http://nintraderescosystem.com)

Futures, foreign currency and options trading contains substantial risk and is not for every investor. Only risk capital should be used for trading and only those with sufficient risk capital should consider trading.



# Find the Best Bonds<sup>1</sup>

Search our vast universe of bonds with the free Bond Search Tool to find the best bond prices with no mark-ups

Rated Best  
Online Broker 2023  
for Bonds  
by Benzinga<sup>1</sup>



Interactive Brokers  
Rated #1 ... Again  
Best Online Broker  
2023 by Barron's<sup>2</sup>

The best-informed  
investors choose Interactive Brokers

 **Interactive  
Brokers**

[ibkr.com/find-bonds](http://ibkr.com/find-bonds)



Member - NYSE, FINRA, SIPC – Supporting documentation for any claims and statistical information will be provided upon request. [1] Rated best online broker for bond brokers according to Benzinga - Best Online Brokers for Bonds, February 22, 2023. [2] Interactive Brokers rated #1, Best Online Broker according to Barron's Best Online Brokers Survey of 2023: June 9, 2023. For more information see, [ibkr.com/info](http://ibkr.com/info) - Barron's is a registered trademark of Dow Jones & Co. Inc.

07-IB23-1621CH1599

# SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW TODAY!

Every Stocks & Commodities subscription  
(regular and digital) includes:

- Full access to our Digital Edition  
The complete magazine as a PDF you can download.
- Full access to our Digital Archives  
That's 35 years' worth of content!
- Complete access to WorkingMoney.com  
The information you need to invest smartly and successfully.
- Access to Traders.com Advantage  
Insights, tips and techniques that can help you trade smarter.

1 year .....	\$89 <sup>99</sup>
2 years.....	\$149 <sup>99</sup>
3 years.....	\$199 <sup>99</sup>



## PROFESSIONAL TRADERS' STARTER KIT

A 5-year subscription to S&C magazine that includes everything above PLUS a free\* book, Charting The Stock Market: The Wyckoff Method, all for a price that saves you \$150 off the year-by-year price! \*Shipping & handling charges apply for foreign orders.

5 years.....	\$299 <sup>99</sup>
--------------	---------------------

*That's around \$5 a month!*



Visit [www.Traders.com](http://www.Traders.com) to find out more!