Jan 22, 2026

Meeting Jan 22, 2026 at 16:11 EST

Meeting records 🎬 Recording

Summary

Alex Tilinca presented a top-down analysis and trading strategy, combining price volume and ICT trading styles, focusing on the volume profile to identify the value area and point of control for trade bias determination. Alex Tilinca established a strong bearish bias based on a significant gap and price exceeding yesterday's high upon market open, which led to two successful short trades utilizing "fade" and "unicorn" pattern setups, with trade management involving moving the stop loss to a risk-free position. Alex Tilinca utilized the cumulative volume delta (CVD) to confirm the selling pressure, exiting the second short trade near the value area low when the CVD stalled.

Details

- **Top-Down Analysis and Trading Strategy** Alex Tilinca presented an explanation of their short trade bias and analysis using a combination of price volume and ICT trading styles. They initiated their analysis with the volume profile, which displays where price was traded in a singular day. Alex Tilinca noted that the area between the orange lines is the value area, where 70% of trading volume occurs, and the pink line is the point of control, where the highest volume is found and which acts as a price magnet.
- **Identifying a Short Bias** Alex Tilinca established a bearish bias based on several factors, including a huge selling pressure due to a significant gap that price typically revisits before moving down. On the hourly chart, Alex Tilinca observed that upon market open, price had already surpassed yesterday’s high of day, which typically signals a reversal or retracement because the day's objective was already achieved. This observation, combined with opening at the extreme of the

daily volume profile and general bearish sentiment from hedge funds, solidified their decision to look for shorts.

- **Trade Execution and Order Block** Alex Tilinca noted that the price filled the observed gap and reached the perceived maximum upward movement, entering an order block—an area of consolidation that created a massive movement down. The overnight high was right at the extreme of this order block. The first trade entry was initiated when price closed underneath the value area high, which Alex Tilinca described as a "fade" setup, with the target being the point of control. The initial stop loss was placed above the overnight high, as a breach there would invalidate the short thesis.
- **Trade Management and Subsequent Trades** Following the initial entry, Alex Tilinca observed buy orders being completely rejected, allowing them to move their stop loss to a risk-free position. Price started consolidating around the point of control, which Alex Tilinca personally dislikes trading. Alex Tilinca then discussed a potential long trade opportunity that was missed when price hit their demand zone, which was derived from previous massive rejection wicks on the hourly chart. They noted that this missed opportunity would have been a "good trade" upon retest of the value area low, confirming an upward movement. However, Alex Tilinca preferred to stick to their bearish bias, as the long would have been counter-trend.
- **Unicorn Pattern and Second Short Trade** Alex Tilinca looked for another short opportunity as buyers were completely absorbed at the value area high. The second short signal was a "unicorn" pattern identified on both the range and hourly charts, which is a candle formation backed by price volume and price movement. The unicorn pattern includes a high-volume rejection at the extreme that is unable to form a higher high. Alex Tilinca entered the second short when massive sell orders came in, placing their stop loss aggressively above the overnight high. They exited this trade at the value area low, adhering to the expectation that price often stays within the range.
- **Cumulative Volume Delta Analysis** Alex Tilinca used the cumulative volume delta (CVD) to confirm selling pressure, noting that a negative delta indicates more sellers than buyers. They observed the delta going down consistently, providing confidence in their short trades. Alex Tilinca exited the second trade as the CVD stalled near the value area low.

Suggested next steps

- [ ] Alex Tilinca will cover fundamentals in a different video.

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