

# From Beginner to Funded Algorithmic Trader

## A 15-Month Roadmap to £1,000,000 by January 2026

**Goal:** Build and automate profitable trading systems for Forex and Gold, achieve funding from top prop firms, and scale performance to reach £1,000,000 in managed capital by January 2026.

**Commitment:** 1 hour/day of focused study, coding, and review.

**Starting Capital:** £500 (for software, backtesting, and challenge fees).

### Phase 1 — Foundations (October–December 2025)

- Learn the basics of trading, Forex structure, and algorithmic concepts.
- Study position sizing, leverage, and risk management.
- Learn Python or Pine Script for backtesting.
- Build your first simple strategy and test on demo accounts.
- Begin a trader's journal and emotional awareness log.

### Phase 2 — Strategy Development (January–March 2026)

- Collect and clean historical data for Forex and Gold.
- Backtest multiple strategies; optimize for profitability and stability.
- Validate robustness using walk-forward and Monte Carlo testing.
- Document rules, risk, and performance metrics.

### Phase 3 — Funded Account Preparation (April–June 2026)

- Paper trade your best algorithm for at least 8 weeks.
- Attempt prop firm challenges: FTMO, MyForexFunds 2.0, The Funded Trader.
- Focus on 1–2% daily targets and <10% drawdown.
- Use journal metrics to evaluate emotional and performance consistency.

### Phase 4 — Scaling & Consistency (July–December 2026)

- Manage multiple funded accounts as a portfolio.
- Diversify between mean reversion and trend-following algos.
- Monitor equity curves and risk metrics weekly.
- Begin compounding profits and reinvesting payouts.
- Aim for £1,000,000 in total managed capital exposure.

### Trader Psychology & Performance

- Recognize cognitive biases: overconfidence, loss aversion, revenge trading.
- Use data to override emotion — follow system signals only.
- Daily checklist: 1) system run; 2) journal update; 3) performance review.
- Develop a 'mechanical mindset' — trade the plan, not emotion.

### Accountability Timeline

Month	Goal
Oct 2025	Learn market basics, build first strategy
Nov 2025	Backtest, document results, start demo trading
Dec 2025	Refine algo, evaluate risk metrics
Jan 2026	Start backtesting portfolio-level systems
Feb 2026	Optimize strategies & verify robustness
Mar 2026	Prepare for funded account challenge

Apr–Jun 2026	Take challenges, maintain journal
Jul–Dec 2026	Scale, diversify, and target £1M equity exposure

### Tried-and-Tested Algorithmic Strategies

- **Mean Reversion (Gold, M15):** Buy oversold dips below Bollinger Band with RSI <30; exit on mid-band.
- **Breakout (EURUSD, H1):** Trade volatility expansions after London open using ATR-based stops.
- **Trend-Following (Multi-Pair, D1):** EMA crossover system with trailing stops; 2% risk per trade.
- **Portfolio Approach:** Combine uncorrelated algos for smoother equity growth.

### Funding Pathways

- Top Prop Firms:
- **FTMO:** Up to \$400K funding; max 10% drawdown.
  - **MyForexFunds 2.0:** Rapid scaling and low fees.
  - **The Funded Trader:** Scalable accounts; relaxed daily drawdown.
- Tip:** Use smaller risk during challenges (0.5–1%) and focus on consistency over speed.

### Conclusion: The Professional Algorithmic Trader Mindset

Success in algorithmic trading is not about prediction, but disciplined execution. Stay data-driven, refine continually, and let consistency and automation compound results toward your £1,000,000 goal.