

The Smartest Play for Investors Right Now

Retrieved Monday 12th of June 2017 09:02:52 PM
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Sometimes, the smartest thing traders can do is just grab a seat on the sidelines.

Of course, our nature is to want to be involved in every move. We want to be aggressively long stocks when the market is rocketing skyward. And we want to be prescient enough to spot the short-selling setups well ahead of a strong market decline.

Despite our desires, though, we often get stuck in stock markets that don't really do much of anything. Stocks chop back and forth in increasingly tight trading ranges. Stock buyers get frustrated when the market doesn't push immediately higher. And they stop out of their long trades at a small loss.

Short sellers get frustrated that they never really gain any momentum. Stock prices hold up, and short sellers stop out of their trades at a small loss as well.

The market does what it's supposed to do – meaning it causes harm to the largest number of participants.

So... like I said... during this sort of time, it's often best to just grab a seat on the sidelines. Don't try to do too much. Trade the best low-risk/high-reward setups. And be willing to hold a higher percentage of your trading account in cash.

You don't have to make money on every move in the market in order to be successful as a trader. But you do have to avoid the temptation of trading poor setups.

I'll give you my own best example...

For most of 2017, I've been bearish. I don't believe the Trump rally is for real. Stock valuations are far too high. Investor sentiment is too bullish. Volatility is priced too low. And interest rates are set to increase.

But the price action of the market has been bullish. So despite my personal bearish leaning, most of my own trades this year have been from the long side. Most of the trades I've recommended to subscribers have had bullish leanings as well. And we've done quite well, with an 80% win rate and 17.6% average returns in our *Delta Report* portfolio.

Recently, though, the market has been showing us some caution signs. Yes, the price action remains bullish with the S&P 500 trading above its nine-day exponential moving average (EMA) line. So we can't get too bearish just yet.

But the warning signs I've described lately – like [Volatility Index \(VIX\) option prices](#), the long-term rising wedge formation in the high-yield bond fund (HYG), and the negative divergence on the longer-term charts of the S&P 500 – make it tough to trade aggressively bullish here as well.

This is a good time to remember that "cash" is a position. You don't have to have 100% of your money at risk all of the time. There's nothing wrong with taking a seat on the sidelines and letting the parade go by without you – especially if there's a good chance you can join the party later at a better price.

That's the situation I think we're facing right now.

Stocks are expensive, and there are plenty of signs warning of an impending correction. But price action has been resilient. It remains bullish. I suspect that any further gains in the short term will be given back in the next few weeks.

And I can't yet tell you I think it's time to bet aggressively on the short side – the high-yield bond and semiconductor sectors.

need to break down first.

So I've been telling my *Delta Report* subscribers to sit tight. We have the fewest positions in our portfolio we've had since we started the service. We've taken profits off the table. And the only quick trades I've recommended over the past few weeks have been the overnight trades triggered by [my new earnings algorithm system](#) – which has been profitable now 4 out of 4 times.

There are times when the stock market sets up aggressively oversold or overbought conditions and presents low-risk/high-reward trades to those who are paying attention.

This is not one of those times.

The stock market is giving mixed signals right now. Traders should be neutral and willing to hold a large cash position.

You'll get a better chance to put that money to work in the weeks ahead.

Best regards and good trading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" and last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

Jeff Clark
Editor, *Delta Report*