



Using VTS QuickStart

Visual Trader Studio QuickStart Components

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Using the VTS QuickStart Strategies

There are two types of QuickStart options available on the VTS Welcome page:

- The first QuickStart option, the **QuickStart Template**, is found in the *Start New* window and is called the *QuickStart EA*.
- The second QuickStart option, the **QuickStart Strategies**, are found in the *Strategy Template* window. This window lists the available QuickStart strategy-based systems.

The **QuickStart Template** is used to create the framework of a basic trading system. The **QuickStart Template** creates a skeleton that can be easily configured into a custom trading system.

The **QuickStart Strategies** are used to create the framework of a specific type of trading system.

Using the **QuickStart Strategies** to get started is *very* easy.

- Click the strategy that you'd like to start with and VTS will create a new, fully functional system based on the chosen strategy.
- The system will initially be named "StrategyName0", but you can rename the system to any name you like.
- Each time you click a QuickStart strategy it creates a new copy of the same fully functional system. This way you can make changes to this base, and if you get lost or confused, you can simply close your copy and start again!

More about **QuickStart Strategies**:

- The **QuickStart Strategies** are fully functional systems that are ready to be built and attached to a MetaTrader chart.
- They serve as great starting points for developing a trading system.
- Many of the **QuickStart Strategies** can be used as they are without any changes.
- The **QuickStart Strategies** are easy to change and therefore allow a VTS user to quickly develop a custom trading system.
- The **QuickStart Strategies** were developed using the VTS system so they serve as good examples of how VTS can be used.



The following strategies are found in the Strategy Template window:

- IndicatorSystem
- ReversalSystem
- TimeEntrySystem
- PriceEntrySystem
- BasketSystem
- GridSystem
- BreakOutSystem
- CrossOverSystem

Strategies will be added to this list based on customer (your) feedback.



QuickStart Information

The **QuickStart Strategies** are built with the help of QuickStart components.

Any element within VTS that starts with QS is a QuickStart component. The QuickStart components are not normal components that can be built using VTS. They are special components that automatically generate VTS elements.

Although the QuickStart components only offer a limited set of the full functionality of VTS, most traders will only need the QuickStart components to fully develop their trading system.

Almost all trading systems can be created using 7 basic logical sections. Each of these sections is supported by a QuickStart component. The components are:

- QsVariables
- QsOpenOrderInfo
- QsBuyLogic
- QsSellLogic
- QsCloseBuyLogic
- QsCloseSellLogic
- QsOrderEntry



Quickstart Components

QsVariables. The QsVariables component is used to define any variables used by the strategy, including the Input variables shown to the user when attaching the Expert Advisor to a chart.

QsOpenOrderInfo. The QsOpenOrderInfo component is used to collect information about any open orders the Expert Advisor is trying to manage. Most often an Expert Advisor will manage all open orders for a specific currency pair. In addition to the order's currency, an order can also be identified by its magic number. The QsOpenOrderInfo allows you to direct the Expert Advisor to manage orders for any currency or any magic number, or any combination of both currency and magic number.

QsBuyLogic. The QsBuyLogic component is used to define the criteria for opening a buy (or long) order. Most any criteria can be used to define the logic including technical indicators, account status, order profit, time of day, etc.

QsSellLogic. The QsSellLogic component is used to define the criteria for opening a sell (or short) order. Most any criteria can be used to define the logic including technical indicators, account status, order profit, time of day, etc.

QsCloseBuyLogic. The QsCloseBuyLogic component is used to define the criteria for closing a buy (or long) order. Most any criteria can be used to define the logic including technical indicators, account status, order profit, time of day, etc. In the simplest form, the close criteria can be left undefined to allow the order to be closed by its stoploss or takeprofit.

QsCloseSellLogic. The QsCloseSellLogic component is used to define the criteria for closing a sell (or short) order. Most any criteria can be used to define the logic including technical indicators, account status, order profit, time of day, etc. . In the simplest form, the close criteria can be left undefined to allow the order to be closed by its stoploss or takeprofit.

QsOrderEntry. The QsOrderEntry component is used to open or close orders based on the outcome of the Buy/Sell Open/Close logics. The QsOrderEntry component allows you to set the default order parameters of Lots, StopLoss, TakeProfit and Slippage.

Quickstart Component Usage

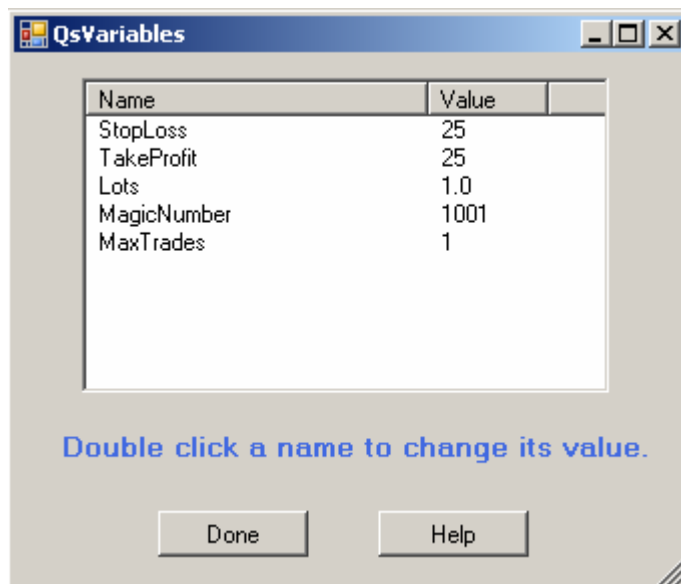
The QuickStart components are specially designed to allow a user to make fast changes to the underlying MQL code. Selecting the (+) character on the bottom of the QuickStart component will open a form that allows changes to be made to the logical section of the QuickStart component.

QsVariables



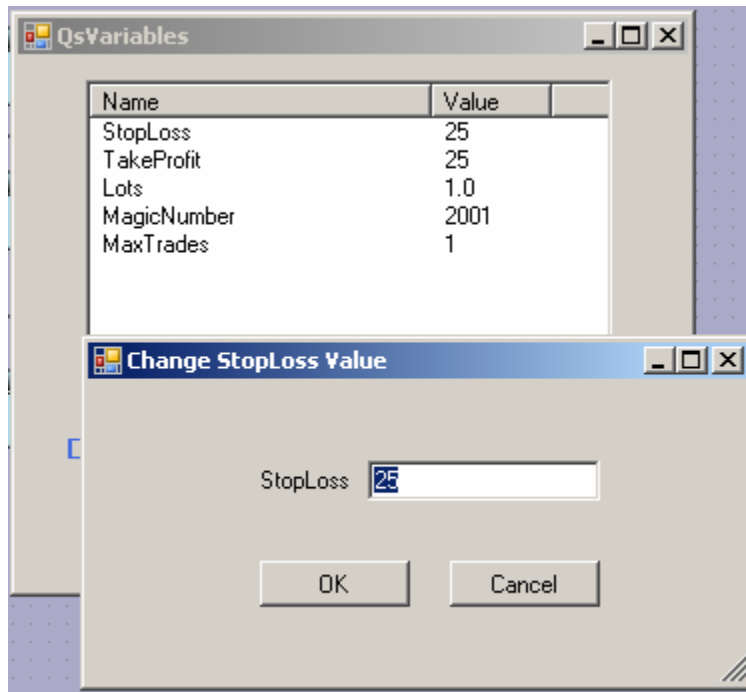
This QS Component allows changing the values of the variables used to configure the Expert Advisor.

Clicking the (+) character opens the following window:



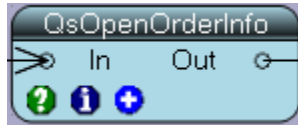
Double clicking the StopLoss variable opens the following window:

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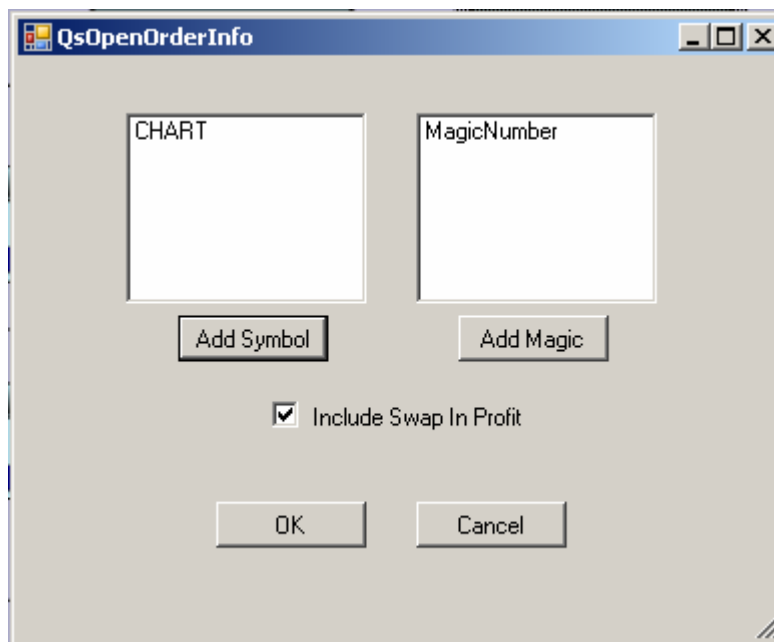
- QsVariables is built with a VTS component.
- The QsVariables window will display any variables found on the component drawing.
- Double-clicking the QsVariables element will prompt to open the component .
- New variables can be added to the component by dragging and dropping from the VTS toolbox onto the QsVariables drawing.

QsOpenOrderInfo



This QS Component directs the Expert Advisor to manage open orders of specific currency symbols and/or magic numbers.

Clicking the (+) character opens the following window:



- To add a symbol, click the “Add Symbol” button.
- To add a magic number , click the “Add Magic” button.
- Entries can be removed by highlighting and pressing the delete button.
- To direct the Expert Advisor to manage all orders for the account, delete all entries.
- The “Include Swap In Profit” checkbox directs the Expert Advisor to add (or subtract) a trade’s interest charges to the trade’s total profit.
- Note, the QsOpenOrderInfo component is **not** a VTS component. Double clicking it will not open a VTS drawing. The QsOpenOrderInfo component is an MQL function generated by the VTS platform using the input from the above window.

QsBuyLogic



This QS Component is used to define the criteria for opening a buy (or long) order.

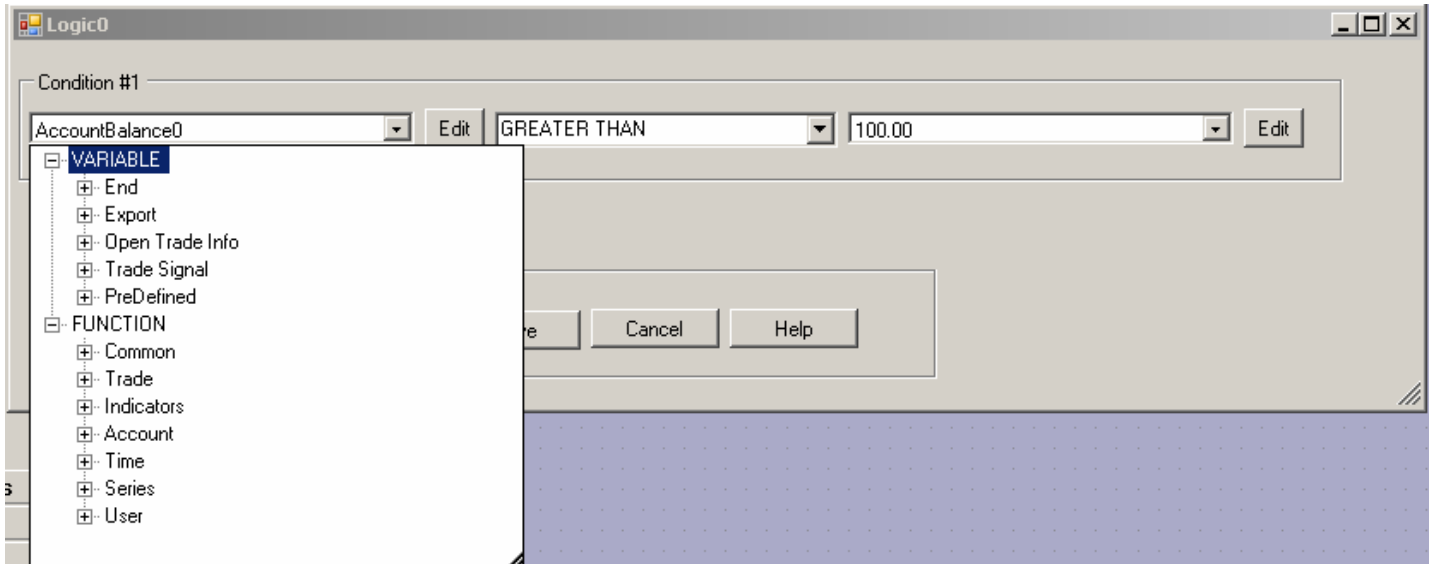
- This QsBuyLogic component allows up to 4 conditions to be evaluated.
- This component simply exposes a VTS Logic element.
- Double-clicking the QsBuyLogic element will prompt to open the component .

Clicking the (+) character opens the following window:

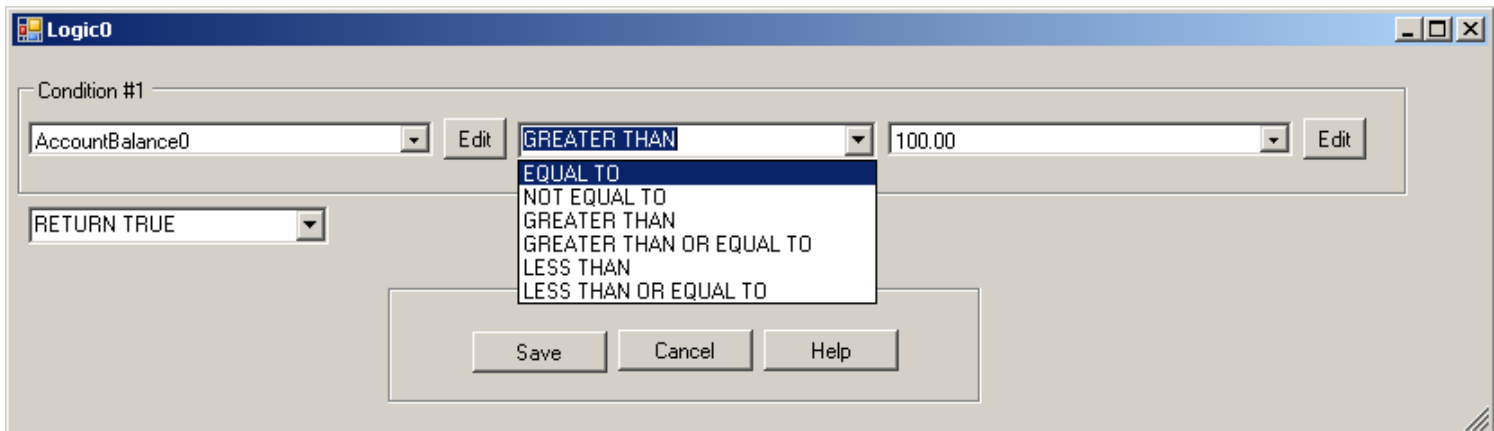
A screenshot of the QsBuyLogic configuration window. The window has a title bar with the text 'QsBuyLogic'. It contains two condition sections. The first section, 'Condition #1', has a dropdown menu with 'iMA0', an 'Edit' button, a dropdown menu with 'GREATER THAN', another dropdown menu with 'iMA1', and another 'Edit' button. Below this is a dropdown menu with 'AND'. The second section, 'Condition #2', has a dropdown menu with 'iRSIO', an 'Edit' button, a dropdown menu with 'LESS THAN', a text input field with '50', and another 'Edit' button. Below this is a dropdown menu with 'RETURN TRUE'. At the bottom of the window are three buttons: 'Save', 'Cancel', and 'Help'.

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Each of the left and right values of each condition offers a pull down menu for locating variables and functions:



The center value values of the condition offers a pull down menu to select the chosen "conditional test":



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The value entry found in the bottom left corner of values of Window allows the addition of further conditional logic using AND or logic:

The screenshot shows a window titled "Logic0" with the following configuration:

- Condition #1:** AccountBalance0 > GREATER THAN 100.00
- Logic Operator:** AND
- Condition #2:** TotalTrades < LESS THAN MaxTrades
- Return Logic:** A dropdown menu is open, showing options: RETURN TRUE, RETURN FALSE, AND, OR, INSERT, and REMOVE.
- Buttons:** Save, Cancel, and Help.

QsSellLogic



This QS Component is used to define the criteria for opening a sell (or short) order. This QS Component behaves similar to the QsBuyLogic component.

QsCloseBuyLogic



This QS Component is used to define the criteria for closing a buy (or long) order. This QS Component behaves similar to the QsBuyLogic component.

Note: the close criteria can be left undefined to allow the order to be closed by its stoploss or takeprofit.

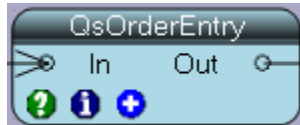
QsCloseSellLogic



This QS Component is used to define the criteria for closing a sell (or short) order. This QS Component behaves similar to the QsBuyLogic component.

the close criteria can be left undefined to allow the order to be closed by its stoploss or takeprofit.

QsOrderEntry



This QS Component defines the order parameters for opening Buy and Sell orders. Changing these values will change the default settings used for the Expert Advisor Input variables.

Clicking the + character opens the following window:

A screenshot of the QsOrderEntry configuration window. The window has a title bar with the text 'QsOrderEntry' and standard window controls. Below the title bar, there are two tabs: 'Buy' and 'Sell'. The 'Buy' tab is currently selected. The main area of the window contains four rows of settings, each with a label and a text input field:

- Lots**: The input field contains the text 'Lots'.
- Slippage**: The input field contains the text 'Slippage'.
- StopLoss**: The input field contains the text 'StopLoss*Point'.
- TakeProfit**: The input field contains the text 'TakeProfit*Point'.

At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: 'Save', 'Done', and 'Cancel'.

Note: There is a “Buy” tab and a “Sell” tab. You must press save to store the values on each tab after making changes.



Using the QuickStart EA

The QuickStart EA is a template used to create a simple, yet fully functional Expert Advisor. The template creates all of the major components of the trading system. All that is required is to define the entry and exit rules and the order parameters.

Click on the name “QuickStart EA” from within the Starting New window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “QuickStart EA1”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the IndicatorSystem QuickStart Strategy

The IndicatorSystem strategy uses the Exponential Moving Average, ADX and RSI indicators to determine market entry and exits. It is a useful example of how to implement an Expert Advisor that uses indicators to determine trading decisions.

Click on the strategy name “IndicatorSystem” from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “IndicatorSystem01”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the TimeEntrySystem QuickStart Strategy

The TimeEntrySystem strategy uses the **Hour** and **Minute** Time functions to determine market entry and exits. It is a useful example of how to implement an Expert Advisor that uses time functions to determine trading decisions.

Click on the strategy name “TimeEntrySystem” from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “TimeEntrySystem01”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the PriceEntrySystem QuickStart Strategy

The PriceEntrySystem strategy uses the price variables Close, Bid and Ask to determine market entry and exits. It is a useful example of how to implement an Expert Advisor that uses price variables to determine trading decisions.

Click on the strategy name “PriceEntrySystem” from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “PriceEntrySystem01”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the BreakOutSystem QuickStart Strategy

The BreakOutSystem strategy uses price variables and a break out window to determine market entry. It is a useful example of how to implement an Expert Advisor that uses price variables and user input variables to determine trading decisions.

Click on the strategy name “BreakOutSystem” from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “BreakOutSystem”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the CrossOverSystem QuickStart Strategy

The CrossOverSystem strategy uses series' of indicator values to identify crossovers and to determine market entry and exit. It is a useful example of how to implement an Expert Advisor that uses crossover strategies.

Note: The CrossOverSystem does not use the Qs Components **QsOpenLogic** and **QsCloseLogic**. Instead it uses regular VTS components named **CrossUpLogic** and **CrossDownLogic**. VTS components are not fully configurable via the (+) button. These components are modified by double-clicking the drawing element and opening the component. This example serves as a good introduction to VTS components.

Click on the strategy name "CrossOverSystem" from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named "CrossOverSystem01".
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the "Compile" button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs "host" windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the GridSystem QuickStart Strategy

The GridSystem strategy uses current price values to open multiple trades at predefined intervals. It is a useful example of how to implement an Expert Advisor that manages multiple positions via user input variables..

Note: The variables used to define the grid are found in the Qs Component **QsVariables**.

Click on the strategy name “GridSystem” from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “GridSystem01”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.



Using the BasketSystem QuickStart Strategy

The BasketSystem strategy opens and manages trade positions for multiple currencies.

Click on the strategy name “BasketSystem” from within the Strategy Template window on the VTS Welcome page.

- This will create a new system named “BasketSystem01”.
- Two new drawing tabs will be opened. The VTS drawing and a README file.
- The VTS drawing is the VTS QuickStart system. The QuickStart components can be configured by clicking the (+) button.
- The README file contains information about the system. This file can be written to and save: it can be used as a convenient place to store notes as you develop and test your system.
- After making changes to the VTS drawing, press the Build button to build the MQL code.
- After building the MQL code, press the Editor button to open the MetaEditor.
- After opening the MetaEditor, press the “Compile” button of the MetaEditor. This will build the Expert Advisor.

Note: The VTS tabs “host” windows applications. Be sure to use the save function of the hosted application and not the VTS save button when saving changes to the README file.

Note: The **SymbolProfitGoal** is applied to the profit of a single symbol. The **BasketProfit** goal is applied to the sum of all open positions.



How to Add a Currency to the BasketSystem

- Create the Export Variables need for the new Currency.
 - Click the **(+)** button on the **QsBasket** QS Component.
 - Click the “Add Currency” button.
 - Define the currency symbol, the lots, the direction (Buy or Sell) and the profit goal default values.
 - Click OK.

- Add another **WatchCurrency** VTS Component to the drawing.
 - From the ToolBox, select Components Tab, select the User menu, and drag the **WatchCurrency** VTS Component on to the drawing.
 - Connect the component between the existing **WatchCurrency** VTS Components.

- Define the **WatchCurrency** VTS Component parameters.
 - Click the **(+)** button on the **WatchCurrency** VTS Component.
 - Define the Symbol, Lots, Type (or direction) and ProfitGoal as the variables created using the **QsBasket** QS Component. These will be Symbol3, Lots3, Type3 and SymbolProfitGoal3 for the 3rd currency added to the system

To Delete a Currency:

- Highlight the currency in the **QsBasket** QS Component window and press the delete button.
- Select the **WatchCurrency** VTS Component drawing element and press the delete button.



Expert Advisor General Information

- An Expert Advisor is built by creating an MQL file, with an extension of mq4, and then compiling the MQL file into Expert Advisor code.
- The extension of the Expert Advisor file is ex4.
- If the Alpari version of MetaTrader was installed on your PC, the folder “C:\Program Files\ MetaTrader - Alpari UK\experts” will contain both mq4 and ex4 files.
- The mq4 file is a human readable file.
- If you double click an mq4 file, the “MetaEditor” application will start and load the mq4 file.
- The MetaEditor application is part of the MetaTrader platform. It is automatically installed when the MetaTrader platform is installed.
- The “MetaEditor” application is used to edit MQL code. It has many useful features found in most code editors, including intellisense, context help and an online library.
- While editing an mq4 from within the MetaEditor, an Expert Advisor is built by clicking the “Compile” button. If there are no syntax errors, the MetaEditor application will build the ex4 file.
- The ex4 file is not a human readable file. It is binary code interpreted by the MetaTrader platform.
- So by compiling the mq4 file, you are converting the MQL language, which is human readable text, into a binary file that can be read by a machine.
- When the MetaTrader platform is started, any ex4 files in the “experts” folders are shown to be available under the “Expert Advisors” folder from the Navigator window.
- The VTS application converts its drawings into MQL code and then invokes the MetaEditor to create the ex4 file.
- When the Build button is pushed, VTS automatically creates an mq4 and ex4 file and places them in the MetaTrader platform’s “experts” directory.

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- If needed, the mq4 file can be edited using the MetaEditor application. Warning: Changes made by hand to an mq4 file from within the MetaEditor will be lost if the Build button is clicked from the VTS application.
- Both the MetaEditor and Terminal applications can be run from within VTS when VTS is configured correctly.
- If either the Terminal or MetaEditor buttons are clicked when they are selected and running, VTS will prompt to “push” the window out of the VTS application.
- The Terminal application will be “pushed” out of the VTS application if it is running when VTS is closed. This is done to prevent Traders from inadvertently losing their MetaTrader connection.