

Practical Problems of Finding a Profitable Robot Trading Program

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Robotic or algorithmic trading refers to the computerized, automated trading of financial instruments based on multiple, specific and detailed algorithms or rules with little or no human intervention. In certain market segments, algorithms are responsible for the lion's share of the trading volume.

Robot programs are highly desirable by futures traders and offer many advantages: they can trade without emotion or hesitation; with precision for any time frame you wish; they can trade any index; they are ever-vigilant in their execution, etc. While the advantages robotic programs are manifold, finding a suitable robot day trading program is prohibitively difficult for several reasons:

1. Robot data sites can be pure garbage.
2. Most robots execute very few trades per year.
3. Most robots make very little profit.

This article will examine these issues and provide comparative performance data for [Targets Trading Pro](#) robotic trading system.

1. **Robot data sites can be pure garbage:** consider [Striker Industries](#).

Trading Systems Actual Trade Summary

Abraxas Trading System ***Past performance may not be necessarily indicative of future results.

To learn more about this system, Call 800.669.8838/312.587.0043 or Email [usa](#). Developer: Prof. Garry L. Kirk

Profit and Loss as shown below is not necessarily representative of a single account, but is a compilation of several accounts over time, and is based on the physical trade ticket. These results are based on 1 contract, with a starting balance of \$50,000. Monthly subscription \$95 and commission \$20/RT along with all fees are included in the profit/loss calculation. The risk of loss in trading commodity futures and options can be substantial and may not be suitable for all investors.

2017 Trades | 2018 Trades | 2019 Trades | Summary | Back to List | System Performance Ranking

System Description	Statistical Summary
Market Sector: Diversified / Multiple Markets Traded: US, TY, NQ, RTY, ES, YM System Type: Swing Trading Risk per Trade: Trading Rules: Partially Disclosed Suggested Capital: \$50,000 Developer Fee: \$95.00 per Month System Description: This is a tactical trading system that employs a cross hedging strategy using E-Mini equity index and treasury index futures contracts. The statistically-driven trading algorithm takes advantage of short-term aberrations in value relationships between similar indices. Occasionally, pure long or short positions are taken. Positions are opened/closed/modified at the close of trading each day.	Abraxas Tracked Since: November 08, 2017 Profit/Loss Total: (\$64,830.64) Avg Annual Profit/Loss: (\$33,824.66) Total # of Trades: 821 Winning # of Trades: 403 Average Winning: \$708.48 Average Losing: (\$815.09) Max Month-to-Month DrawDown*: (\$66,337.89) Risk 10/10 out 10 *** See Definitions ***

Striker lists over 3000 robotic programs in ascending alphabetical order, but in fact virtually all listings are losing programs, dead programs (i.e. performance reports that stop trading years ago) or programs that do not post any data at all. For example: for all programs starting with "A", there were 182 listings, of which 5 posted losses – look at Abraxas Trading – a blistering **-\$64,840** lost since 08.2017. What a galactic joke that is!

STRIKER SECURITIES

Home About Striker Trading Systems Managed Futures

Trading Systems

Market	System Type	Sug. Capital Cost	Developer
# AI Daily Crude #	Energy		Rantala / PVoodoo
### Grenada Fund - Diversified	Diversified / Multiple		Pareschi
#1DR-CL-Crude	Energy		Trading System
#1DR-ES-S&P 500	Stock Indexes		Trading System
#1DR-GC-GOLD	Metals		Trading System
#1DR-NQ-Nasdaq	Stock Indexes		Trading System
#1DR-RTY-Russell	Stock Indexes		Trading System
#1DR-YM-Dow	Stock Indexes		Trading System
#1ZetaTN	Financials		
#AZeta 10yrTNotes	Financials	\$10,000 \$190.00/mo	Zetalec
#AZeta Palladium	Metals	\$10,000 \$190.00/mo	Zeta Technologies

STRIKER "A" LIST (182)
5 FAILURES; 51 NO DATA
126 CADAVERS
100% WORTHLESS

www.tombstonebuilder.com

Then there were 51 programs that had no data but instead "please inquire". Why list them without data? When I inquired about several programs with no data, they sent data that was 12 years old – what I call a program corpse. And finally 126 programs that did post data but were in fact all corpses (cadavers), meaning their data also was many years old. In my opinion 100% worthless and the headstone tells it all.

The screenshot shows the Striker Securities website. At the top, there's a navigation menu with 'Home', 'About Striker', 'Trading Systems', and 'Managed Futures'. Below that, a 'Trading Systems' table lists various systems like M-Core ES1, M-Core ES2, MA - Double, MAD futures, Magnex YM, Magnitude 1, Magnitude 2, Magnitude ES, and Magnitude TF. A graphic titled 'STRICKER 'M' LIST (182)' is overlaid on the table, stating: '4 FAILURES, 71 NO DATA, 107 CADAVERS, 100% WORTHLESS'.

Then I looked under programs that begin with “M” and there were 189 listings, I removed 7 weird ones leaving 182 of which 4 posted losses; 71 had no data and 107 were cadavers. I gave them a headstone as well.

All listings under “Z” all 13 were dead or useless. So strike Sticker off your list – I give them an F grade. Why list programs that have no data or data that is years old? And the site is saturated with such worthless information.

2. Most robot programs execute very few trades per year

The screenshot shows the Futures Truth website. It features a table titled '#2-2018 ISSUE' with columns for 'Rank', 'Chng', 'Col.17', and 'System Name'. The table lists various trading systems, with the last entry (rank 701) being 'MAR-Copper Sync'.

In [Futures Truth Magazine](#), each quarter there is Excel spread sheet (I used mid-2018 but each quarter is similar) where 701 programs were offered by 242 individually branded systems. These 701 programs are tabulated and sortable under many different many different categories; I sorted for number of trades in past 12 months and found:

- 467 programs took **12 trades or less** in the past year (i.e. less than 1 per month). Want to trade 1 time a month?
- 697 programs (99.4%) took **less than 200 trades in the past** year (i.e. 2 trades per week). Want to trade only 2 times per week?
- Just one program took 875 trades in the past year (i.e. ~3.3 trades/day)

That one system – Trend Model System - is made in China, the site is in Chinese and I could not find price or availability. So poof – from 709 to

zero. So dump Futures Truth. And not to beat a dead horse but what the programs that Striker lists as “Best” performance listed for an account size under \$10,000 account showed dismal trade frequency (far

Account Size: Under \$10,000		
Past Three Month Since Aug 13, 2019	Past Six Month Since May 15, 2019	Past Year Since Nov 11, 2018
1. MJ 75 ES \$5,551.72	1. ZN Long \$8,467.16	1. ZN Long \$11,871.81 5 trades/year
2. ZN Long \$5,538.27	2. DRIVER CL \$6,767.36	2. VEGA YM \$7,081.20 60 trades/year
3. VEGA YM \$5,081.24	3. VEGA YM \$6,543.68	3. VEGA NQ \$6,895.76 55 trades/year
4. VEGA ES \$4,491.84	4. RTS YM1 trend momentum \$6,254.88	4. DRIVER CL \$6,608.64 18 trades/year
5. RTS YM1 trend momentum \$3,994.56	5. VEGA ES \$5,750.54	5. VEGA ES \$6,510.86 60 trades/year
6. VEGA NQ \$3,857.72	6. VEGA NQ \$5,379.80	6. Sentinel ES WFO \$5,476.84 39 trades/year
7. mSignal ES \$3,703.14	7. mSignal TY4 \$3,962.49	7. MJ 75 ES \$4,953.16 50 trades/year
8. Sentinel ES WFO \$3,675.06	8. Edvardus - Euro 1 \$3,502.16	8. YMan YM \$4,053.56 21 trades/year
9. KEL Daytrend ES \$1,773.62	9. mSignal ES \$2,843.78	9. mSignal TY4 \$3,730.93 88 trades/year
10. Falcon RTY \$1,492.28	10. MJ 75 ES \$2,761.32	10. Sentinel NQ WFO \$3,553.72 55 trades/year

right). Such programs would never serve as a “day trading” program as they trade only 1-2 per week and hold trades for many days at a time.

I moved on to [Cannon Isystems](#), where they track 1641 programs and provide data for them all – a big BRAVO for them. Sorting by best ROI (they do not provide sorting by trades per year). So 1618 (98.6%) programs earn an ROI of 3.00 or less – just worthless really when you figure in round trip costs and program fees. I found the best - DAX Futures with a handsome 207.98 ROI on only 13 trades over just 1 year of data. This is too few trades over too short

THE FOLLOWING IS HYPOTHETICAL MODEL ACCOUNT PERFORMANCE

Customize Table Filter Systems 1-1,641 of 1,641

★	System	Market traded	Int.	Type	Developer	Start date	Total P/L	Winning Sessions	Profit Factor	Annual ROI	Worst Drawdown	Required capital	
★	Dax Fut. Mario stop-t profit Intraday	FDAX	■■■	I	Forest Trading	12/2018	\$14,123	91.7%	207.98	+229%	(\$161)	\$6,400	🔒
★	Forest Trading Elisa Mini Nasdaq %stop-%t profit	NQ	■■■	S	Forest Trading	09/2017	\$8,183	92.9%	70.28	+37.8%	(\$180)	\$9,900	🔒
★	SKN DXA copper 60 min ULTRA	HG	■■■	I	skynettradingsystems	03/2014	\$4,306	67.9%	7.49	+37.7%	(\$463)	\$700	🔒
★	Loki Gold	GC	■■■	S	OMG SYST3MS	01/2019	\$6,383	80.8%	7.35	+63.6%	(\$748)	\$12,300	🔒
★	SKN DXA bund 30 minutes ultra	FGBL	■■■	I	skynettradingsystems	03/2018	\$1,735	75.6%	7.22	+16.9%	(\$1,702)	\$600	🔒
★	SKN dxa RAPID mini NASDAQ 15 min ultra	NQ	■■■	I	skynettradingsystems	06/2018	\$7,146	77.4%	7.19	+33.8%	(\$1,050)	\$1,900	🔒
★	Mini S&P 500 Mario stop and t profit Continuous	ES	■■■	S	Forest Trading	01/2017	\$14,073	78.7%	6.16	+57.3%	(\$963)	\$8,600	🔒
★	MANDALA_NIKKEI	NKD	■■■	I	A.I. Trading	01/2017	\$12,372	74.5%	5.55	+43.3%	(\$1,072)	\$1,300	🔒
★	Forest Trading Mini Nasdaq stop -take profit Conti	NQ	■■■	S	Forest Trading	10/2018	\$10,703	91.5%	4.20	+48.0%	(\$1,642)	\$9,900	🔒

a time to acquire any level of comfort around consistency or sustained profitability. The next is Forest Trading: in 26 months took 24 trades or about 1 per month. The next, SKN DXA copper, 7.49 ROI, for the last 5.7 years (68 months) took 29 trades or about 0.4 per month. You get the picture: these robotic trading programs trade ever so very, very infrequently and often are presented with shallow historical data. [IronBeam](#) lists 124 programs in alphabetic order with no way of sorting for performance, so pretty much worthless unless you want to hunt through each one individually. Their first listed is Aberration Trading, 532 trades since 2010 (~9 years) or 4.9 trades per month generating \$364 gross profit per month (no thanks).

3. Most robots make very little profit.

I looked at [Collective2](#) and considered only programs that were 5 star rated and traded futures (many are forex or stocks). What I found was virtually all programs had weak trade density (300-500 trades/year; 6-10 trades/week) and exhibiting mostly stagnant or lackluster profitability. Any profitability under \$200/day using a 3 contract per trade basis is lackluster IMO. Consider Mini Dow – no profit since May 20, 2019.



Same for Futrs Only (mostly ES) – flat line since Jan 19, 2019. Yugas Futures, again a 5 star rated program, lost **7.7%** over 2019 not counting round trip costs (**-\$2770 @ \$5 per round trip cost**) on 554 trades! I would give that performance an F.



In conclusion, I found nothing in any of the above sites to warrant encouragement or to substantiate performance. Maybe Collective2 should add a 6 star rating if 5 stars are so mediocre.



Target Trading Pro System. This is a fully automated trading robot program that will assess trend based entry prices and execute based on established trade configurations. It will determine optimal stops and targets and place those values in the trade structure. As developed by Bob Amico, TTP accounts for a sophisticated array of trade parameters:

- *When to execute the correct entry and timing in concordance with trend;*
- *Calculates and establishes target 1, target 2 and a trailing stop for each trade*
- *Will turn on and off according with your time frame and daily goals*
- *Can be used on any futures index or instrument and any number of contracts*

Daily videos that summarize final programs P/L are [posted](#) and it becomes obvious that **Target Trading Pro** is profitable across multiple indices (including CL, ES, FDAX, GC, NQ, RYT, ZS, ZN, ZW) on a daily basis involving a reasonable number of daily trades ranging from 1-5 trades per index. Consider this:

- Nov 5, 2019: \$3657 on 19 trades
- Nov 8, 2019: \$1897 on 17 trades
- Nov 12, 2019: \$2078 on 15 trades
- Nov 18, 2019: \$2304 on 14 trades
- Nov 21, 2019: \$2483 on 17 trades
- Nov 25, 2019: \$1820 on 13 trades

There are many hundreds of robotic trading systems available and even many more that are only trading indicators (these have the most outrageous claims of achievement; see [World's Best Indicators](#)). As the choices are nearly endless, your selection might these criteria:

1. Are the robots trading daily with a decent trade density (2-7 trades/day)
2. Are the robots trading across different indices (goes to universal applicability)
3. Are the optimized settings for these robot systems known and visible?
4. Are the robots trading daily with transparency? Can you observe them? In a live account? Real \$\$\$?
5. Are the robotic systems profitable, meaning can they average \$200/day at 3 contracts/trade?

Targets Trading Pro and details, performance and real \$\$\$ trades are at [Targets Trading Pro](#).

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