

Creating and Using a Trading Plan

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Many Ways to Learn



ONSITE SEMINARS

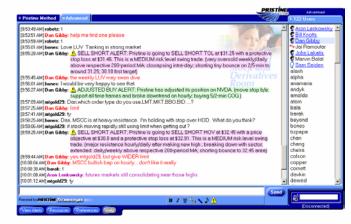


ONLINE SEMINARS

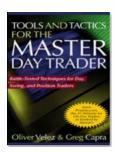
PERSONAL COACHING







REAL TIME TRADING ROOMS



ELIMINATING THE
BARRIERS TO ENTRY



CD-ROM's/DVD's



VIDEOS



NEWSLETTERS

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Contents...

- 1. The Need for a Trading Plan
- 2. The Average Trader
- 3. Psychology and Trading
- 4. Benefits of a Trading Plan
- 5. Components of a Trading Plan
- 6. Follow Up
- 7. Summary





You are running a business



- "If you fail to plan, you will plan to fail"

 No truer place than in trading
 - -No truer place than in trading...

- Trading can be the dream business
 - -No permits, no employees
 - -Small overhead expenses



Psychology in trading can not be underestimated



- Most will develop the technical skill
- Trader becomes own worst enemy
- 85% of trading is psychological



Psychology in trading can not be underestimated





- -Taking stops, hitting targets
- -When to quit, when to push
- -All that is not technical
- -Discipline



The value of writing



- "There are a thousand thoughts lying within a man that he does not know till he takes up a pen to write" —William Makepeace
- Just writing the plan will help
- You are setting a standard which will be evaluated in the future



The value of objectivity



- A clear plan is needed
 - -Standard of comparison
 - -Measure of real performance
 - -Measure of growth
- For beginners especially, making money is not a good guide to performance



The 'idiot' inside us all



- That 'second' person that haunts us all
 - -Your 'other self'
 - -The 'idiot' at the controls
- Often hard to believe
 - -You are likely 'laughing along' now
- Many examples



The 'idiot' inside us all

- Can not eliminate this person, you must learn to DEAL with him/her
- Boss-employee relationship
- Planner-executioner relationship





The 'Just Do It' attitude



- Nike got it right, but most need help
- Most will never take this important step
- To be effective, the Trading Plan must be:
 - -Clear
 - -Adaptable
 - -Method of evaluating





The Average Trader...

- Thinks trading is 'easy'
- Has many prior successes
- Drifts through the day



The Average Trader...

- No plan or view
- No money management rules
- Emotional swings
- Nervous most of the time





The Average Trader...

- Quickly returns to the market recent gains
- Desperately tries to recoup losses
- Glued to the screen all day
- Very little follow up on trade results
- Loses







85% is not just a saying

- Beginners doubt this, veterans believe
- You have likely experienced
- Those who fail -almost always say they "could not get themselves to..."



Why such a big topic?

- Trading plays on peoples emotions
- FEAR and GREED

What is the antidote?

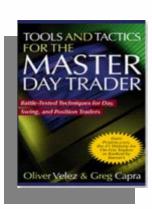
- DISCIPLINE: but easier said than done
- Turning off you emotions: but no one is capable of doing that



The Trading Plan is the answer

It is the first and last step to conquering all of the trading DEMONS

- Fail To Cut Losses Short
 - Dollar Counting
 - Switching Timeframes
 - Needing To Know More
 - Becoming Too Complacent
 - Winning The Wrong Way
 - Rationalizing





The bottom line:

- Psychological aspects account for 85%
- The key to controlling these issues is Discipline
- For trading purposes, discipline can be defined as "the ability to follow one's trading plan".
- The key to gaining Discipline can be found In creating and using a Trading Plan





Reduce stress

- Most decisions are made <u>ahead</u> of time
- Money management is pre defined so there are no surprises

Maintains objectivity

- Guidelines are established in the calm of non-market hours
- Intra-day "judgment" calls are reduced



Sets up goal oriented behavior

- Most successes in life come from the setting and achieving of detailed goals
- Most traders have NO detailed goal, if you really push the question





The only way to measure progress

- Counting the dollars is not a good way to -judge progress, especially when beginning:
 - -Winning the wrong way
 - -Some good trades lose money
 - -Small shares while training may
 - -cause losses due to commissions



The only method of follow up



- How do you rate performance the the end of the day?
 - -Most who make money give it back in the next couple of days
 - -Almost everyone's biggest winning day if followed by their biggest losing day within 2 weeks
 - -Most do nothing to evaluate and follow up, likely because they just use their 'profit' or 'loss' – a mistake





<u>Overview</u>

- Initial money questions...
 - -How much money will be used
 - -How many accounts
 - -What styles of trading with how much moneyCore/Swing/Guerilla/Micro
 - -Rules for money losses, gains, and transfers
 - -Is anyone else responsible for these "account" type of decisions?



Overview

- List your strengths and weaknesses as a trader
 - -This can be very helpful when writing the rest of your plan
 - -You can trade what you want, so you can avoid your weaknesses, you can focus on your strengths





Using a market bias

- In this section of your plan, define your long term view (bias) of the market
 - -Write down you current view, whether it is justified or not
 - -This can expose many problems



Using a market bias



- Define to what extent you will use a bias
 - -65% of all losing trades come from being on the wrong side of the market
 - -On the other hand, some strategies and some stock "ignore" the market and opportunities can be lost



Using a market bias

Use will vary, decide what you are trading:

Market Bias Important

Market Bias Less Important Futures contracts, e-minis, or holders (QQQ)
Key stocks that represent key sectors
Most stocks in sectors that track
Stocks in sectors that don't track
Stocks that have had a 'shock' gap
Stocks showing great relative strength (weak)
Stocks that typically ignore or counter market



Money Management

- How much money will you risk per trade?
 - -Will this vary for different time frames?
 - -Will this vary for different strategies?
 - -Does this amount = a proper % of total capital?
 - -Various plans range, from .5% 2.0% typical BUT as with all money management, only YOU can decide.



Money Management

- How much money will you lose in a day before you 'pull the plug"?
- How many open positions that are not "safe"?





Money Management

How do you handle stop management for each strategy you play?



- -Do you know the proper trail stops?
- -Do you adjust this procedure when you get close to a target an start backing away?
- -How close? How quickly?
- Do you take any actions to protect profits in your account on any given day?
 - -Trail stop for the account when xxx\$ reached?



- The decision to enter a position is already made, share sizing is the last step before entering
- A critically important step that few consider properly
- A winning trader can fail if this step is not done-The "can't lose" experiment
- The goal is to equalize the risk on all similar types of trades, to remove the emotion and intra-day decision



- The Two-Prong test:
 - 1. Set up a table of 'Maximums'- the most shares you would ever play at any given stock price -This will come from your account size and your comfort level

Share Price	Full Lot Size	<u>Half Lot Size</u>
\$100-130	500	300
\$70.99	700	400
\$50-69	1000	500
\$35.49	1400	700
\$29,34	200c	/ባቦ1



- The Two-Prong test (cont'd):
 - Calculate the share size that allows for the "maximum dollar loss per play", based on your money management section and based on the stop loss for the current play
 - Example:
 - -Max loss per trade is \$200.00
 - -Entry to the current play is \$15.19
 - -Stop on current play is \$14.99
 - $-$200.00 / ($15.19 $14.99) = 1000 shares^{39}$



- The Two-Prong test (cont'd):
 - 1. Use the LESSER of this calculation or the amount set out in your 'maximum' table
 - 2. Always round off to an even '100' shares (lot)
 - 3. Either use a maximum loss per trade that is slightly smaller than acceptable to allow for slippage and commissions, OR Add a % to the stop loss to allow for slippage and commissions



When starting out



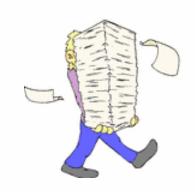




-Likely lose in beginning

-Learn the strategies

-Become successful on paper







When starting out



Then, move up to a very small max loss per trade -Increase size ONLY upon "success" at each level Define "success" and stick with it

Ideas - Four successful trades in a row

- A solid week of "paper" gains

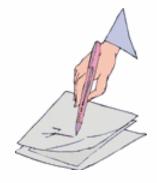
Do this until you reach your trading plan share size Go "back" if "unsuccessful"





- The heart of your plan
 - -Some traders try to master many strategies and play them all, during all parts of the trading day
 - -You should focus on just a couple of strategies especially in the beginning
 - -Add more after paper trading them and you prove them to be successful





- Be SPECIFIC on what the strategy is for you -Go beyond what the "book" says and find your comfort level
- Come up with every reason to keep you OUT of the trade



- Identify all that you can about how you want to play
 - -Time of day?
 - -Market conditions / internals
 - -Any gap in the stock or market?
 - -Risk reward acceptable?
 - -Relative strength?
 - -Prior trend needed?
 - -Support resistance needed?



- Management
 - -Every strategy should have a method to trial, and a way to manage the target or targets
- Keep a 'master list' of strategies
 - -These may be added to or removed from you plan as mandated by the market
- Keep a plan to continue the technical learning -Books, seminars, lectures, trading rooms...



Strategies

Missed Money is Better Than Lost Money



Follow-Up



The Most Important Part



- Most traders spend close to "zero" time in follow up
- There are many "gems" at the end of the trading day
 - -Good traders use these to improve
 - -Look at it this way: If you have losses, they can be losses and nothing more; or you can consider that money spent on an important lesson; but only if you "find" what that lesson was

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The Most Important Part (cont'd)

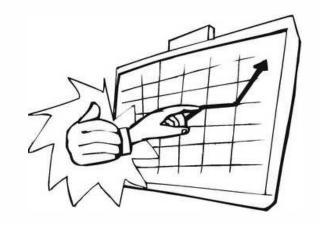
This is your "score card" -Time to "evaluate your employee"



- The best written plan, no matter how long or how well written become worthless at this point if it was not evaluated...
- A one page plan, on the back of a cocktail napkin, will Be much more effective if used and followed up



Two Key Areas



- Printing charts to identify and eliminate mistakes
- Keeping statistics and notes on your trades to see what is working and what is changing



- Printing charts to identify and eliminate mistakes
 - 1. Print out the appropriate chart for every trade taken
 - 2. Mark up the charts using the following procedure
 - 3. Your goal is to systematically uncover mistakes that you don't notice while trading
 - 4. Should be done by hand with a pen after chart is printed, but can be done on the computer with a drawing program



Printing Charts

Step 1 – Identify the strategy (done in BLUE, below)





Printing Charts

Step 2 – Identify proper entry and exit for the play





Printing Charts

Step 3 – Identify actual entry and exit for the play





Printing Charts

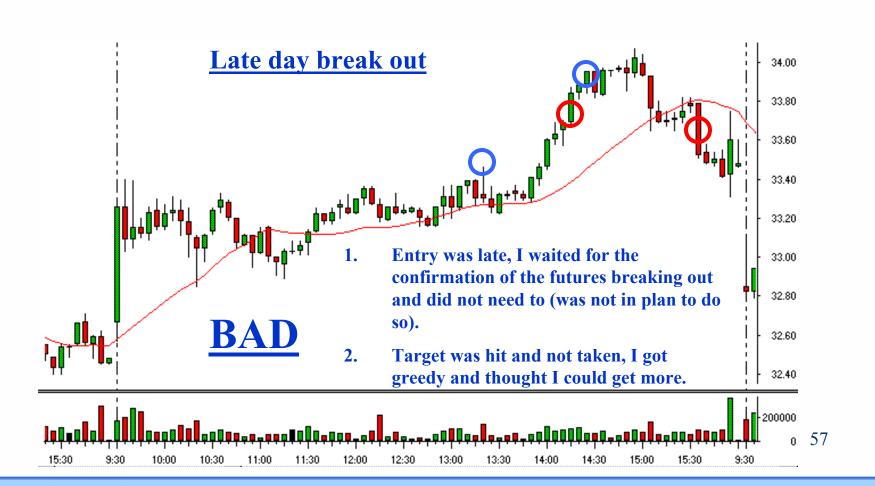
Step 4 – Identify if the trade was "good" or "bad"





Printing Charts

Step 5 – If trade was "bad", note the reason(s) why





- Step 6 If trade was "good", SAVE it in a folder
 - 1. Start a collection of excellent charts for reference
 - 2. The more you study good examples of good strategies, the more likely they will become recognized by your brain



- 3. You can print and save nice examples of plays even if you did not play them
- 4. Get a collection of examples of each strategy you play







- Step 7 If trade was "bad", SAVE it in a folder
 - 1. Make sure the reasons used to identify bad trades are consistent
 - 2. Over the weekend, review all the "bad" trades
 - 3. Sort them by "reason" they were bad





- 8. Find the single biggest problem from the last week (most common reason) and resolve to fix that one problem in the upcoming week
- 9. Read, study, get help, amend your plan. Do all that is needed to remove that one and only one problem from your trading
- 10. Do this every week



Printing Charts – If in doubt.....

"Was this trade entered when, where, and how my Trading Plan allows, and was it managed according to my Trading Plan?"





- Using some form of tracking sheet can identify many areas of opportunity.
- There are always two issues
 - 1. Is the Trading Plan being followed?
 - 2. Is the Trading Plan a good one, or have things changed in my trading or in the market environment?



- The concept of Printing Charts helps to identify if you are following your plan
- Now we must check to see if the plan is producing results



- Results can be tracked in a variety of ways
- Profit or loss alone is not enough
 - -Knowing you are losing money does not help identify ways to change
 - -Knowing you are making money may give a false sense of security, when you may have been 'winning the wrong way' or being carried by a market moving in your direction



Tracking Results

A simple written journal can be very effective for some people

An elaborate Excel spreadsheet can reveal much information and once set up, needs little input



- Fill out during breaks in the trading day
- Balance with your broker nightly
- Start looking at the results summaries after 50 or more trades



Tracking Results Ideas

- Sharpe Ratio and Success Ratio
- Source and time of day
- Strategy tracking
- Long versus short



Tracking Results Ideas

- Comments
- Market rating
- Number of plays done
- Building a weekly and cumulative book



DAILY TRADING LOG

DATE	TOTAL PROFIT/LOSS	BATTING AVE.	WIN/LOSS SIZE RATIO	% RETURN
08/13/04	\$1,778	бб.б7%	1.83	1.78%

ACCOUNT SIZE (CASH) = \$100,000

ES 0.00 NQ 0.00

			WINS			LOSSES			TOTAL	
CODE	DESCRIPTION	#	P/L	AVE	#	P/L	AVE	P/L	BAT	RATIO
M	My own plays	6	\$2,162	\$360	2	(\$673)	(\$336)	\$1,489	75.00%	1.07
N	Newsletter	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
C	Chat Room	1	\$0	\$0	0	\$0		\$0		
S	Scanning Program	1	\$298	\$298	0	\$0		\$298		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
W	Winning Trade	4	\$2,460	\$615						
L	Losing Trade	2	(\$673)	(\$336)						
X	< \$100	2	(\$9)	(\$4)						
L	Long Trade	3	\$2,162	\$721	2	(\$673)	(\$336)	\$1,489	60.00%	2.14
S	Short Trade	1	\$298	\$298	0	\$0		\$298		
1	9:30-9:50	2	\$1,560	\$780	0	\$0		\$1,560		
2	9:50-10:10	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
3	10:10-11:30	1	\$602	\$602	0	\$0		\$602		
4	11:301:30	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
5	1:30-3:00	0	\$0		1	(\$373)	(\$373)	(\$373)	0.00%	
6	3:00-4:00	1	\$298	\$298	1	(\$300)	(\$300)	(\$3)	50.00%	0.99
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		

			WINS			LOSSES			TOTAL	
CODE	DESCRIPTION	#	P/L	AVE	#	P/L	AVE	P/L	BAT	RATIO
1	Buy/Sell Setup	2	\$1,560	\$780	0	\$0		\$1,560		
2	Climactic Buy/Sell	1	\$602	\$602	1	(\$373)	(\$373)	\$229	50.00%	1.62
3	Breakout/down	1	\$298	\$298	1	(\$300)	(\$300)	(\$3)	50.00%	0.99
4	20/20 Guerrilla	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
5	123	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
6	15 Min Buy/Sell	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
7	5 Min Buy/Sell	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
8	LD Breakout/Down	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
9	Scalp	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
BKX	Banking	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
BTK	Biotech	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
GIP	Networking	2	\$1,358	\$679	0	\$0		\$1,358		
GOX	Gold	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
GSO	Software	2	\$1,102	\$551	2	(\$673)	(\$336)	\$429	50.00%	1.64
IIX	Internet	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
RLX	Retail	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
SOX	Semiconductor	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
XTC	Telecomm	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		n	\$0		n	\$∩		\$0		

BUY SELL

											~~.															
Date	Tm	Srce	Stk	L/S	Play Type	Sector	P/L	W/L	Quan 1	Cost 1	Quan 2	Cost 2	Quan 3	Cost 3	Quan 4	Cost 4	Quan l	Cost 1	Quan 2	Cost 2	Quan 3	Cost 3	Quan 4	Cost 4	Error	Types
08/08/04	1	М	BRCM	L	1	GIP	756.00	٧	1000	17.6	400	17.1					400	17.815	400	18.25	600	17.95			1	
08/09/04	3	М	CSCO	L	2	GIP	602.00	V	1000	13.22	600	13.34					1000	13.81	600	13.36					2	4
08/09/04	- 6	S	ADBE	S	3	GSO	297.50	V	1500	17.973							700	18.11	400	18.49	400	17.96				
08/12/04	1	М	MSFT	L	1	GSO	804.00	V	600	48.1	200	49.2					200	49.18	200	49.34	400	49.5			3	
08/12/04	2	М	YHOO	S	3	IIX	55.97	X	1000	11.896	1000	11.924					1000	11.841	300	12.17	700	11.9771				
08/13/04	5	С	ADPT	L	1	SOX	-64.70	X	1000	6.2							1000	6.1353								
08/13/04	5	М	MSFT	L	2	GSO	-372.51	L	600	48.7898	300	48.65	600	48.626			900	48.4733	600	48.41					4	
08/13/04	6	М	MSFT	L	3	GSO	-300.00	L	500	48.6							500	48								



Date	Tm	Srce	Stk	L/S	Play Type	Sector	P/L	W/L
	I _							
08/08/04	1	M	BRCM	L	1	GIP	756.00	W
08/09/04	3	Μ	CSCO	L	2	GIP	602.00	W
08/09/04	6	ω	ADBE	s	3	GSO	297.50	W
08/12/04	1	М	MSFT	L	1	GSO	804.00	W
08/12/04	2	М	YHOO	S	3	IIX	55.97	Х
08/13/04	5	С	ADPT	L	1	SOX	-64.70	X
08/13/04	5	М	MSFT	L	2	GSO	-372.51	L
08/13/04	6	М	MSFT	L	3	GSO	-300.00	L
							0.00	
							0.00	
							0.00	
							0.00	



		BUY								SELL					
Quan 1	Cost 1	Quan 2	Cost 2	Quan 3	Cost 3	Quan 4	Cost 4	Quan l	Cost 1	Quan 2	Cost 2	Quan 3	Cost 3	Quan 4	Cost 4
1000	17.6	400	17.1					400	17.815	400	18.25	600	17.95		
1000	13.22	600	13.34					1000	13.81	600	13.36				
1500	17.973							700	18.11	400	18.49	400	17.96		
600	48.1	200	49.2					200	49.18	200	49.34	400	49.5		
1000	11.896	1000	11.924					1000	11.841	300	12.17	700	11.9771		
1000	6.2							1000	6.1353						
600	48.7898	300	48.65	600	48.626			900	48.4733	600	48.41				
500	48.6							500	48						



Error	Types	Comments
1		
2	4	
3		
4		



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7	5 Min Buy/Sell	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
8	LD Breakout/Down	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
9	Scalp	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
1		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
BKX	Banking	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
BTK	Biotech	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
GIP	Networking	2	\$1,358	\$679	0	\$0		\$1,358		
GOX	Gold	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
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RLX	Retail	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
SOX	Semiconductor	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
XTC	Telecomm	0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		
		0	\$0		0	\$0		\$0		



DAILY TRADING LOG

DATE	TOTAL PROFIT/LOSS	BATTING AVE.	WIN/LOSS SIZE RATIO	% RETURN
08/13/04	\$1,778	бб.67%	1.83	1.78%

CODE	ERROR TYPES	#	P/L
1	Anticipated entry	1	\$756
2	Early stop	1	\$602
3	Early profit	1	\$804
4	Late stop	2	\$229
5	No volume	0	\$0
6		0	\$0
7		0	\$0
8		0	\$0
9		0	\$0





The Bottom Line

- There is no single thing that can guarantee you success as a trader. Not even a Trading Plan
- However, if you do NOT use a Trading Plan, it will almost certainly guarantee failure
 - 90% of the market participants give their money to 10% of the people. You must be different.
 - You must be disciplined.
- Your Trading Plan is you KEY to success.



"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'press on' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race." -Calvin Coolidge



For a more in depth look at structuring your business, using tracking sheets to improve you performance, and organizing your trading day, consider Pristine's two-day seminar,

"Managing Your Trading Business"
Planning, Budgeting, Tracking and
Analysis



Thank You For Joining Us



Creating and Using a Trading Plan

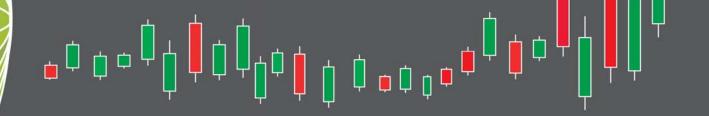


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