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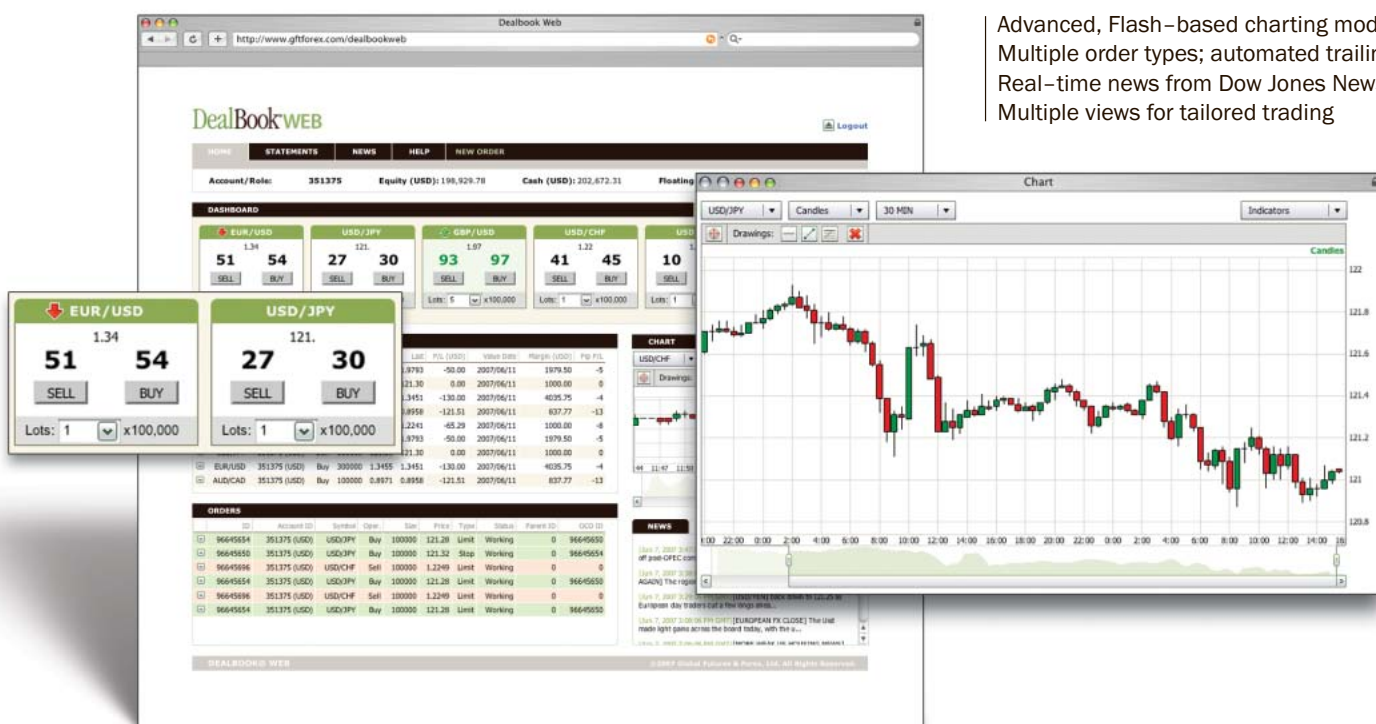
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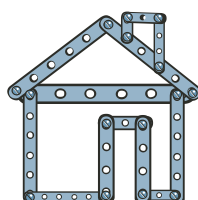
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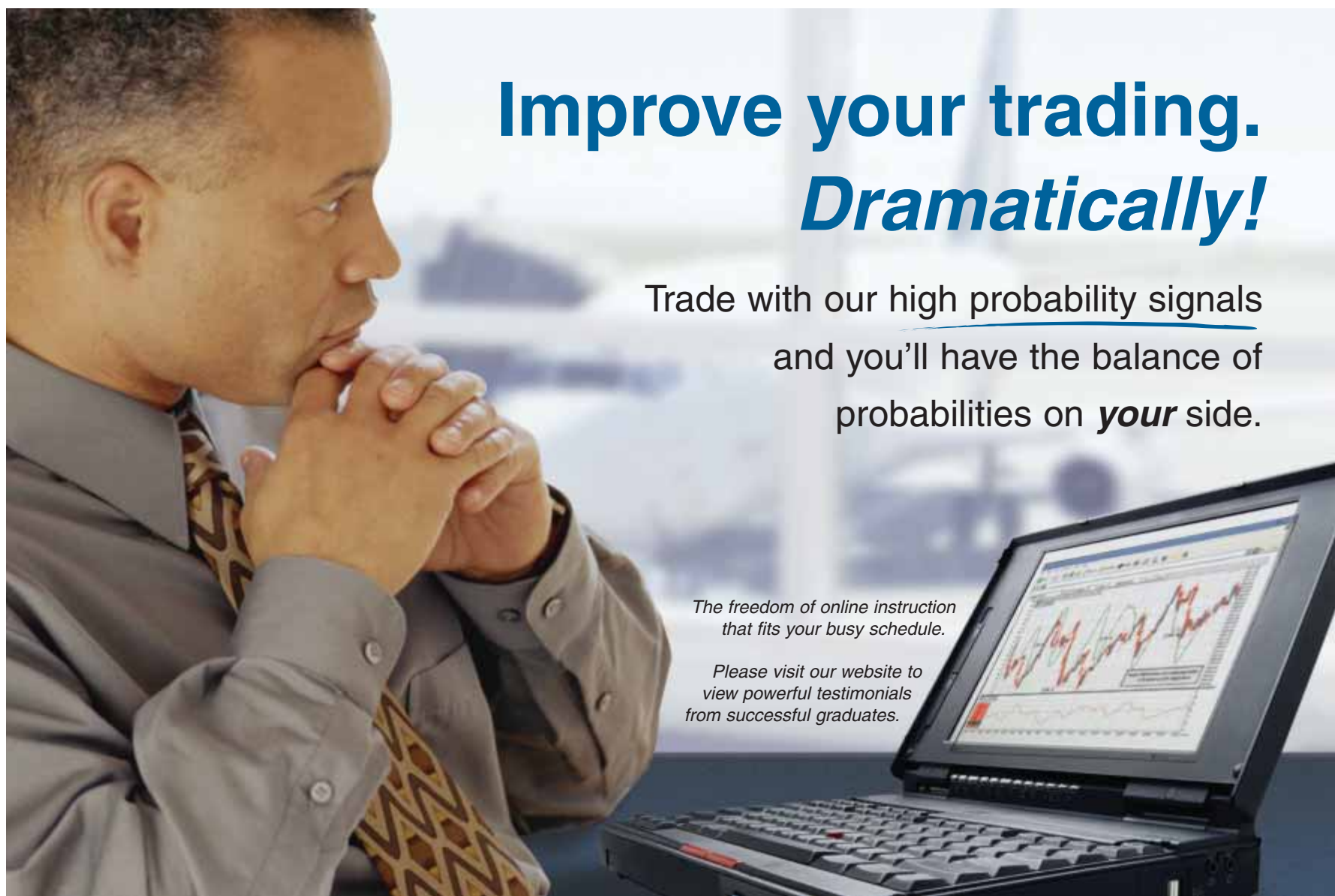
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The subprime blues in the US market have revealed that when a fiasco occurs in the financial markets, it isn't necessarily restricted to that specific market. The effects spill over to other markets and throws the supply/demand equilibrium into disorder. In this specific case, the funds that had backed the subprime mortgage lenders are trying to cut their losses and run. So you have a case where there are many who are willing to sell but few who want to buy. And when there is less money around with which to do deals, you can expect to see private equity — the fire behind this rallying market — walk away. We're already seeing that several financial deals have been pulled.



A turmoil in the financial markets is something we see time and time again. Whenever markets get overheated, it'll reach a point when a big selloff comes and gives the market the cooling it needs. In a speculative environment, you should expect this type of volatility. This is exactly what makes the financial markets what they are. They thrive on irrational behavior, and your choice to be a participant in the financial markets means you have embraced market volatility.

The articles in this issue of **Traders.com** are selected to familiarize you with the price actions that take place in the financial markets. They are not intended to be recommendations but educational tools to help you analyze the markets. These include articles such as "A Head And Shoulders Top In REITS" by Technical Writer David Penn, as well as his "Cup With Handle In Transports"; then there is Austin Passamonte's "Reversal Warnings" and "Predictable Patterns Period," and much more.

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Is there anything from the charts in this issue's articles that indicate there would be a selloff in the markets in the near future? It's hard to say. If you can identify those signs, you'll be able to know when the markets will reverse and determine with confidence when to enter the market again.

Jayanthi Gopalakrishnan

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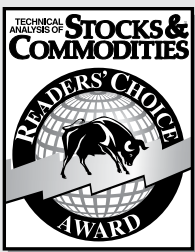
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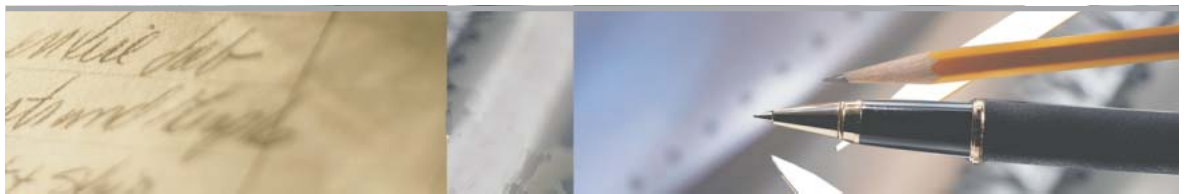
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TRADER'S NOTEBOOK

A Sign Of Spring

by James Maccaro

The sage of Omaha reports to his shareholders.

March is marked by numerous signs of the coming of spring: the days get longer, birds head north, and plants begin to show signs of new life. But for many market-watchers, the most eagerly awaited harbinger of the season is the release of Warren Buffett's annual report to shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway.

The "sage of Omaha," the most successful stock market investor in history and the world's second-richest man (second only to Bill Gates), provides in his letter to shareholders an invaluable assessment of business affairs and a discussion of his investment philosophy. Although this year's letter to shareholders, which covers fiscal year 2006, is shorter than usual, it offers many useful insights.

Corporate America is highly dynamic and competitive, which creates opportunities and dangers for investors. Buffett noted that of the 10 "non-oil companies having the largest market capitalization in 1965 — titans such as General Motors, Sears, DuPont and Eastman Kodak — only one made the 2006 list." However, he added that "in fairness, we've seen plenty of successes as well, some truly outstanding." As examples, he cited Kenneth Chenault of American Express, Jeffrey Immelt of General Electric, and Richard Kovacevich of Wells Fargo, describing them as "giant company managers whom I greatly admire."

What does it take to identify solid investments? "Independent thinking, emotional stability, and a keen understanding of both human and institutional behavior are vital to long-term investment success," Buffett wrote. "I've seen a lot of very smart people who have lacked these virtues."

Ultimate responsibility for a corporation's long-term success belongs to its board of directors, Buffett stressed. He stated that a corporation's board of directors should "be owner-oriented, business-savvy, interested and truly independent." He added that "many directors who are now deemed independent by various authorities and observers are far from that, relying heavily as they do on director's fees to maintain their standard of living."

For the last few years, a favorite subject for Buffett has been the huge pay packages bestowed on many corporate executives. He criticized the widespread practice whereby boards of directors rubber-stamp recommendations made by outside consultants who in turn are selected by management.

"Compensation reform will only occur if the largest institutional shareholders —

it would only take a few — demand a fresh look at the whole system," he asserted. "The consultants' present drill of deftly selecting %91peer' companies to compare with their clients will only perpetuate present excesses." He described this as the "all the other kids have one" rationale for approval of excessive compensation packages.

Another subject that Buffett returned to is the proliferation of hedge funds. He questioned the long-term viability of the typical hedge fund, which he described as being run by "the 2-and-20 crowd" — managers who charge a 2% annual fee plus 20% of profits. "Its effects bring to mind the old adage: When someone with experience proposes a deal to someone with money, too often the fellow with money ends up with the experience, and the fellow with the experience ends up with the money." Buffett recommended a low-fee index fund as a better alternative.

When it is revealed that Buffett has invested in a particular stock, the inevitable result is a sharp uptick in the price of that stock. This is obviously triggered by the assumption that if Buffett is buying, it must be a good bet. As a result, he does not discuss his ongoing investment plans.

Buffett admitted that he recently made purchases of stock in several companies, which purchases now have a market value of \$1.9 billion, and is adding to these positions, but he would not disclose the names of the companies "because we continue to buy them," adding that "I could, of course, tell you their names. But then I would have to kill you."

The year 2006 was a good one for Berkshire Hathaway's core insurance companies, which spectacularly bounced back from sharp losses in 2005 caused by Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. Underwriting profits in 2006 were \$3.8 billion, compared to a meager \$53 million in the prior year. Buffett attributed this turnaround in part to luck, but while Mother Nature cooperated in 2006, a lot of the credit should be given to disciplined management. Buffett stressed that he will not seek market share at the cost of profits.

The wide variation in profitability from year-to-year of Berkshire Hathaway's insurance operations demonstrates the volatility of the industry and the degree to which results are dependent on forces outside our control.

GEICO is probably the Berkshire Hathaway unit with the highest profile. It spends more on advertising than any other insurance company. The company's advertising budget was \$631 million last year, up from \$238 million in 2003, but it has gotten impressive results. Sales increased to 8.1 million policies, from 5.7 million in 2003, a jump of more than 40%. Buffett noted that during the same period, the company's



number of employees fell by 3.5%, which he concluded indicates an increase in productivity of 47%.

Although insurance operations constitute the largest part of Berkshire Hathaway, the conglomerate's holdings include dozens of companies in other fields, including MidAmerican Energy Holdings, which owns several electric utilities in the US and Great Britain, as well as natural gas pipelines in the US; NetJets, which sells fractional ownership in corporate jets; Dairy Queen; Fruit of the Loom underwear company; and many smaller enterprises, such as a candy company, regional furniture and jewelry retailers, and *The Buffalo (NY) News*. They are diverse, but all have superior management.

Buffett repeated an investment credo that he has uttered many times: Be fearful when others are greedy, and be greedy when others are fearful.

This contrarian view is applied by Buffett to the housing sector. Although the conventional wisdom is that the housing sector is in shambles, Buffett increased his exposure. Berkshire Hathaway expanded through acquisitions its MiTek subsidiary, which makes hardware for roof trusses, and also expanded HomeServices of America, a real estate brokerage owned by MidAmerican Energy Holdings. Although profits fell 50% at the brokerage unit, Buffett declared that he was seeking new acquisitions and that "a decade from now, HomeServices will almost certainly be much larger." Berkshire Hathaway also owns Shaw Industries, the nation's largest carpet manufacturer, which Buffett described as "a powerhouse and a major contributor to ... earnings"; Clayton Homes, a manufacturer of pre-fabricated houses; the Carefree awnings company; the Johns Manville insulation company; and the Acme brick company. Buffett also accumulated a significant stake in the Lowe's home improvement store chain.

In contrast to his bullish stand on US housing, Buffett is bearish on the US dollar, declaring, "as our US trade problems worsen, the probability that the dollar will weaken over time continues to be high." In anticipation of a weakening dollar, he increased his investments in foreign companies and in US firms that have significant business overseas. In part, this explains his purchase of an 80% stake in the Israeli metal-cutting equipment maker ISCAR Metalworking for \$4 billion in May 2006. He also bought equity in Posco, the dominant Korean steel manufacturer, and Tesco, the British retail chain. In addition, he purchased stakes in US firms that derive a significant portion of their revenue from overseas, such as ConocoPhillips, Johnson & Johnson, Anheuser-Busch Cos., Procter & Gamble, Wal-Mart, and USG Corp.

A major question at Berkshire Hathaway is what will happen when Warren Buffett can no longer run the corporation. He addressed this issue by declaring, "Good news: At 76, I feel terrific and, according to all measurable indicators, am in excellent health. It is amazing what Cherry Coke and hamburgers will do for a fellow." His shareholders, as well as the investing public, undoubtedly welcome this health bulletin. ■

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INDEXES

REVERSAL

Intraday 2B Tops In The June Emini S&P 500

by David Penn

"What we have here is a failure to follow through..."

Tradable: ESM7

With apologies to the captain in *Cool Hand Luke*, the rally in the Standard & Poor's 500 that began on the first of May has finally run into its own *Cool Hand Luke* moment, as the intraday highs in the June emini S&P 500 on May 9 were bested by the highs of May 15, only to have the market reverse and begin moving sharply lower. See Figure 1.

What is especially interesting about this failure to follow through is not just that it took the form of a 2B top. If you look at the sudden collapse on May 10, then you can see that a 2B top anticipated that correction as well.

To recap, a 2B top occurs when a market makes a high, pulls back, makes

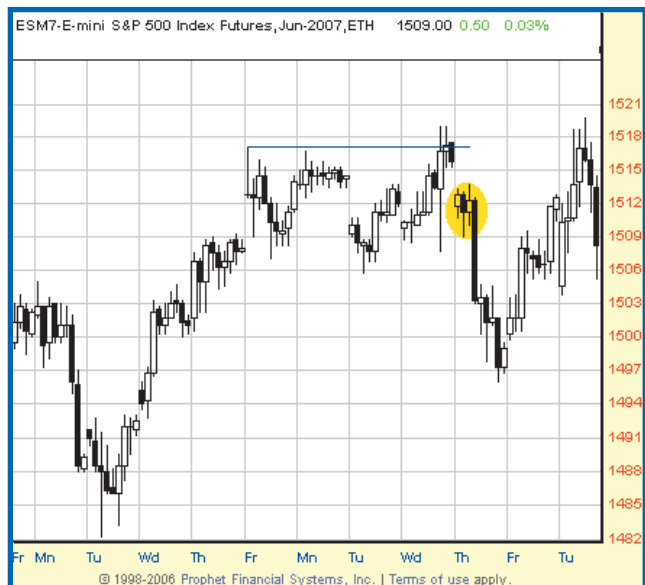


FIGURE 1: EMINI STANDARD & POOR'S 500, JUNE FUTURES, HOURLY. The highs on Friday morning were exceeded by the highs in the afternoon on the following Wednesday. But the failure of the market on Wednesday to continue moving higher signaled a short opportunity for reversal traders.



FIGURE 2: EMINI STANDARD & POOR'S 500, JUNE FUTURES, HOURLY. The reversal was swift in coming as the bulls were unable to push the June emini higher on May 15. An hour after the new "intrahour" high was made, the market was being pushed significantly lower by the bears.

a higher high, then fails to follow through to the upside in the wake of the second higher high. The 2B top becomes a confirmed reversal when the market moves back down below the low of the initial high, which is where traders and speculators are encouraged to take their positions.

In the first 2B top — from May 4 to May 9, with the breakdown on May 10 — the market was able to trade above the May 4th high and even close above it briefly. But the selling in the final

trading hour and the gap down the following day (see the highlighted oval in Figure 1) confirmed that the market was not likely to follow through to the upside but, instead, was in the process of reversing.

In the second 2B top — from May 9 to May 15 — the reversal from the second new high was even swifter (Figure 2). The candlestick that formed the second high was itself suspiciously bearish, with a long upper shadow indicating waning buying interest over

the course of the session and a close that was below the open. So perhaps it was of little surprise when the following session opened down and the market continued to move lower. The highlighted area again shows the short entry level as the low of the initial high is taken out to the downside. ■

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STOCHASTIC OSCILLATOR

Russell 2000 Gets Cold Feet

by Arthur Hill

The Russell 2000 broke consolidation resistance, but immediately pulled back, and now, waning momentum points to a bull trap.

Tradable: \$RUT

On the daily chart (Figure 1), the Russell 2000 advanced from mid-March to mid-April and then consolidated for five to six weeks. The index established resistance at 835 and support at 810 (magenta lines). While the Standard & Poor's 500 moved to new highs in May, the Russell 2000 kept turning back around 835. That seemed to change with the breakout and close above 840 (gray oval). The Russell

2000 looked poised to play catch-up but fell back over the last two days, and this is now looking like a bull trap or failed breakout.

The breakout just didn't have the juice, or momentum, to hold, and this was evident with the negative divergence in the stochastic oscillator. The indicator peaked in early April and formed lower highs over the last six to seven weeks. The index managed a higher high above 840 recently, but the stochastic oscillator did not confirm and remains well below its prior high. The divergence did not mean much until the indicator dipped below 50, its lowest level since March 22. The move below 50 is significant because 50 represents the midpoint for this oscillator. The cup is half empty when the indicator is below 50 and half full when the indicator is above 50.

Despite this failed breakout, the overall uptrend has yet to reverse. The index established support with two bounces around 810 in May, and this

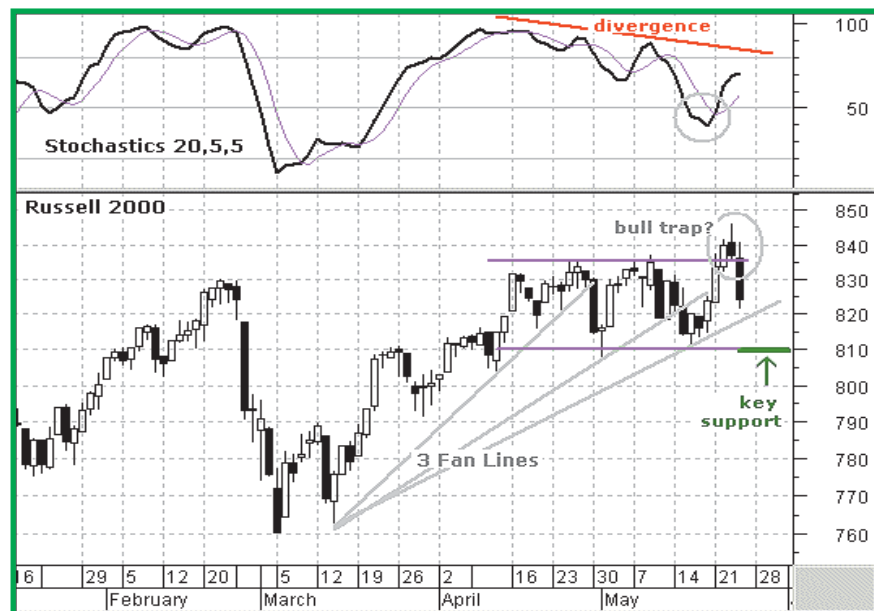


FIGURE 1: RUSSELL 2000, DAILY. \$RUT advanced from mid-March to mid-April and then consolidated for five to six weeks.

level marks key support. In addition, there are three fan lines extending up from the mid-March low. The index broke the first two and remains above the third. A move below this third fan line and the May low would reverse the

medium-term uptrend and I would then expect a corrective period or extended decline to make sure. ■

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This article was first published on 5/31/2007.
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Seek to Boost Profits With eASCTrend Intelligent Stops and Sweet Spots

Two Major Benefits of Principle-Based eASCTrend

By John Wang, Ph.D., CTA, eASCTrend Developer

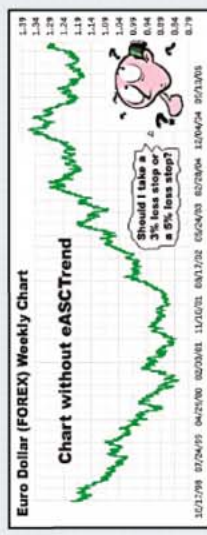
eASCTrend is the principle-based decision-making trading software that uses actual price movement to generate recommendations. Our buy and sell signals are calculated by a proprietary, back-tested algorithm that uses real-time or end-of-day price data - providing timely, specific, and objective signals for every trade. Because eASCTrend is principle-based, it offers the following unique benefits.

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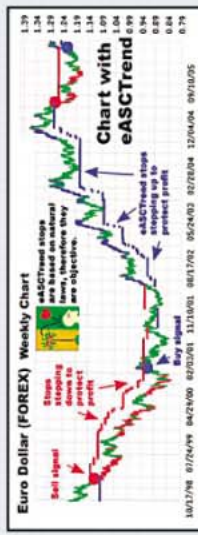
Traders use a stop loss to help protect gains and limit losses. When the market hits their stop, they liquidate their position. Any trading software can suggest stop-placement, but traders should be aware that the type of stop they use could determine if they win or lose. There are stops, there are arbitrary stops, and there are the eASCTrend principle-based stops -- the new generation of intelligent stops that are defined by the market's own support and resistance levels.

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Here's a chart without eASCTrend. It's open to lots of interpretation - and that's where distracting and misleading emotions can come in.



Now, here's the same chart with eASCTrend, showing stops with small blue dots below the bars for buy positions, and small red dots above the bars for sell positions. What a difference!



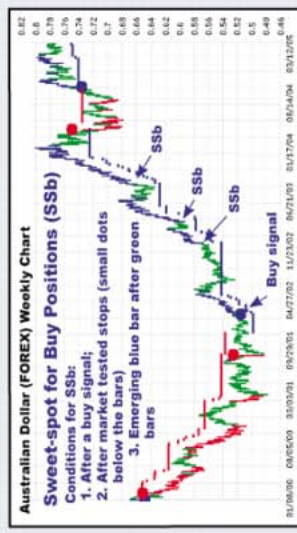
With eASCTrend you can see where the trend changes. Where it's recommended to buy or sell. Where to place stops to help you stay in a trade as long as possible without taking on too much risk. And you have the confidence of knowing that the software is based on meticulous formulas that have been back-tested for years.

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It's our principle-based formulas that give traders the eASCTrend edge. Sign up for your eASCTrend test drive today, and experience the confidence of using intelligent stops and sweet spots.

Dr. John Wang, CEO and co-founder of AbleSys, as well as the creator of eASCTrend indicators and the eASCTrend trading system, holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry and has been trading commodities since 1990. He is a registered Commodity Trading Advisor (CTA) with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) since 1995. Use this discount code for a 30-day trial with a \$20 discount: **SCT7MA**

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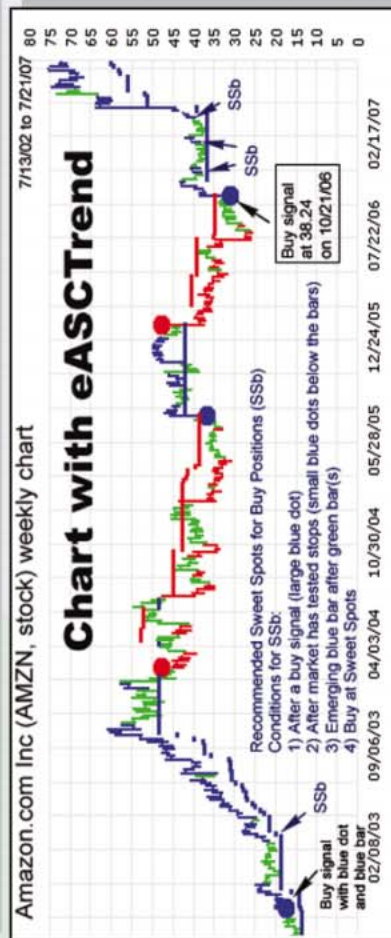
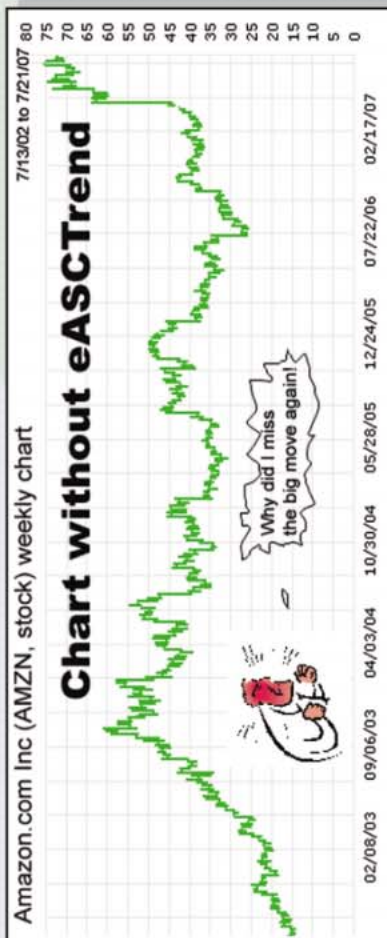
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CONSOLIDATION FORMATION

Volatile NASDAQ 100 Stays In Range

by Chaitali Mohile

\$NDX is volatile and moving in a 20-point range for the last two weeks. The lower range can dip to the previous low of the rally.

Tradable: \$NDX

On forming a double bottom at 1710 in mid-March, the NASDAQ 100 index rallied to its previous highs at about 1850. At that point, 1850 turned support for the next bullish rally, creating a new buying opportunity. The index moved vertically on expanded volume till the 1900 level, offering a 50-point profit to existing traders. The index now seems to rest with this advance rally of 50 points. The range-bound consolidation seems to have brought a temporary halt to this bullish rally.

The lower range of 1880 is the support, while the upper range of 1900 is resistance for the existing bull run (Figure 1). But the previous low of 1860 cannot be ignored. The volatile moves can whipsaw the traders, retracing toward the previous low. Meanwhile, the relative strength index (RSI) (14) turned marginally overbought. The

overbought RSI can indicate an oncoming extended bullish rally, but \$NDX lacked the force for such a rally, resulting in a consolidation after the advance rally. Traders can note that such a consolidation is healthy for future bullish moves in any stocks/index/sectors.

The moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) (12,26,9) is volatile. Traders cannot judge the exact direction of the MACD (12,26,9) at the current stage. The average directional movement index (ADX) (14) is 19, which again indicate the possibility of consolidation. The positive directional index (+DI) is tipped down and the negative directional index (-DI) is moving with equal force. This points the lower range to dip at 1860. The long side force is likely to reduce as consolidation exceeds. Though the ADX currently points toward consolidation, above 22 the uptrend will grow stronger.

\$NDX on Figure 2 has moved above its strong resistance on encouraging volume. The bulls ran from this resistance turned support to 1900. The two-doji candles formed in the last two weeks indicate indecision. In Figure 2, the ADX (14) is 29, indicating a developing uptrend. The doji formed is likely to reduce buyer interest during a consolidation phase. The MACD (12,26,9) has bullish crossover and is positive.

At present, the NASDAQ 100 is likely to consolidate and remain range-bound for some time. The breakout of the upper range will bring in more buyers, but till then, traders can avoid trades on this index. ■



FIGURE 1: \$NDX, DAILY. The NASDAQ 100 IS undergoing bullish consolidation. This figure shows the possibility of a lower range to dip toward its previous low.



FIGURE 2: \$NDX, WEEKLY. The heavy volume breakout of a previous high resistance. A fresh rally above the resistance consolidated instead of moving ahead, but it remains bullish.

At present, the NASDAQ 100 is likely to consolidate and remain range-bound for some time.

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CANDLESTICK CHARTING

Candlestick Warning For The NASDAQ Composite

by Gary Grosschadl

The high-tech index looks vulnerable here. A downturn would not be a surprise, but what are the targets?

Tradable: \$COMPQ

After rising near 300 points from a bounce of its 200-day exponential moving average (EMA), a candlestick warning hits the NASDAQ. A bearish engulfing candlestick pattern can be a strong reversal signal after a strong rise, and this is the current view on this daily chart (Figure 1). Note the last downturn was preceded by a doji candlestick from late February 2007, another top warning.

There are several indicators agreeing with this bearish candlestick outlook. I always look for multiple negative divergences when eyeing any possible swing from a high or low point on a chart. Both the moving average con-

vergence/divergence (MACD) and the relative strength index (RSI) show a move lower while the NASDAQ popped higher. When indicators fail to confirm a new high (or low), the move is often suspect. The stochastic oscillator shows a slightly overbought condition, so a downturn from here would not be a surprise. Previously, this indicator stayed overbought (stuck high) for an extended time, but this was when there was a strong and rising trend via the previously mentioned indicators.

Should a downturn ensue, several targets are possible. The first nearby possible support is in the vicinity of the 50-day EMA, currently 2515. This level also relates to a previous support level. A pause or temporary support here is more conceivable than a bounce, but the market will decide soon enough. Stronger support lies once again at the 200-day EMA, currently 2409. This level also relates to the previous support and the bottom of a very large black candlestick. In addition, near the 2500 level, there are two previous gaps. Gaps can also act as areas of support.

Exactly where possible support kicks in remains to be seen, but these are the areas I am eyeing. As always, the market will have the final say. ■

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This article was first published on 5/30/2007. See www.Traders.com for more.



FIGURE 1: NASDAQ. A bearish engulfing pattern warns of a possible top.

FIBONACCI

S&P Seeking Support

by Austin Passamonte

Measuring support and resistance zones via Fibonacci and retracement tools.

Tradable: S&P 500

Following a sharp selloff on February 27 this year, the Standard & Poor's 500 led all indexes upward in a seemingly straight ascent. That rise brought price action in the cash market to a handful of points from a new record high on the close. Three successive attempts this week failed to make that mark as price action narrowed and the ascent tapered off.

With one fell swoop of the seller's program buttons, 14 previous sessions' worth of rally was erased between the opening and closing bells. Count back-

ward that many daily candles/bars in Figure 1 and we see where price action on May 14 closed right near today's ending value. What goes up in fits and starts, leaving low-volume airpockets below, usually corrects itself in far more rapid fashion. We've seen it before many times, and another example can be seen here for us today.

Countless thousands of S&P traders are watching and reacting to this spot on the chart. Volume of buy-stops and sell-stops clustered nearby are already forming. A quick bounce back up above 1517 and the new-closing high watch can resume. A break below 1506 brings 1500, 1490, and 1475 zones back into play.

Summertime trading is often said

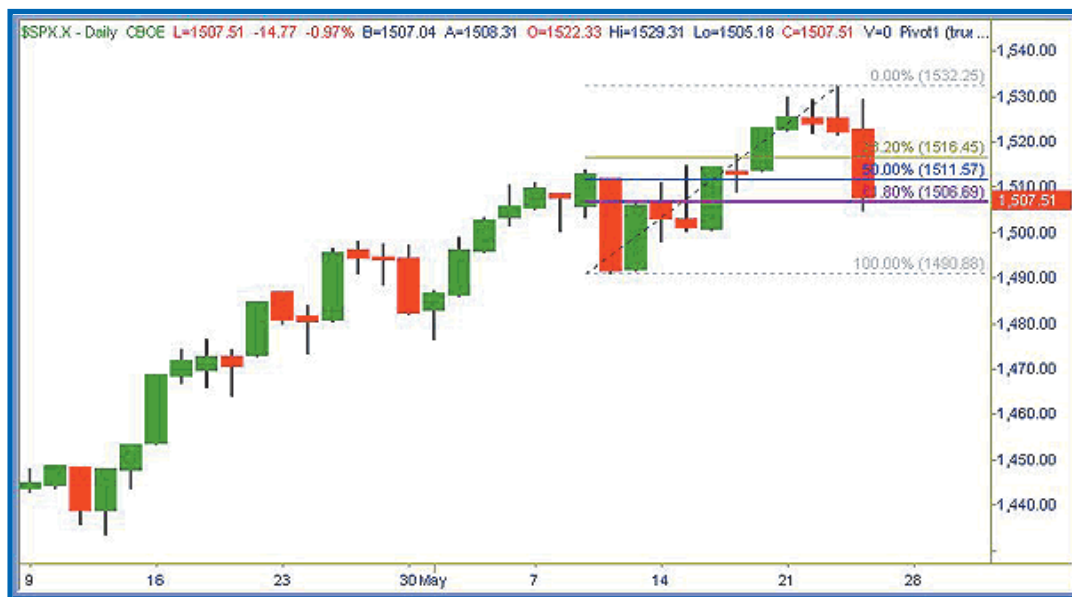


FIGURE 1: S&P 500 FUTURES (ES), DAILY

to be dull. It's quite possible we can expect anything but that to grace our charts in 2007. One brief glance at the charts of summer 2002 will show that the summer market and low volatility are not always synonymous. ■

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Summertime trading is often said to be dull. It's quite possible we can expect anything but that to grace our charts in 2007.

FIBONACCI

Correction Targets For The DJIA

by Arthur Hill

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is up substantially over the last few months, and a correction back toward its resistance breakout is a plausible scenario.

Tradable: \$INDU

Before looking at the correction targets for the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), let's look at the current trend and see what it would take to forge a reversal. The DJIA surged more than 1,500 points from its March low, and declines have been limited to just a few days since mid-March. The March trendline has been touched three times and marks support around 13400. The late May low also confirms this support level and a break here would start the correction process.

Once a correction gets under way, how far can we expect it to extend? Looking at Figure 1, I see two methods to identify a correction target. The first is by looking for support levels. There are no real reaction lows or consolidations from mid-March to late May, so I am relying on broken resistance. Broken resistance levels turn into sup-

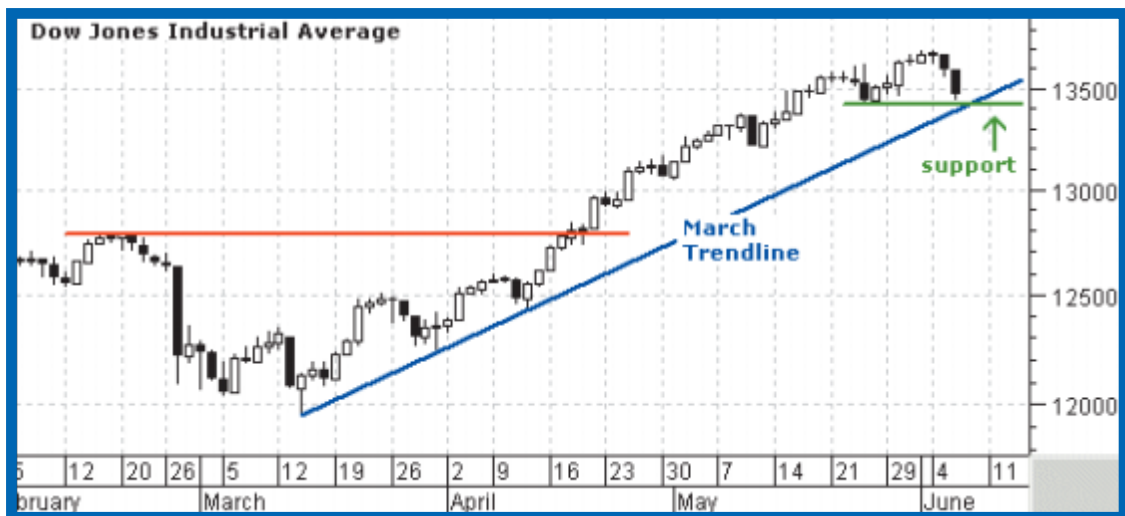


FIGURE 1: DJIA. Once a correction is under way, how far can we expect it to extend?

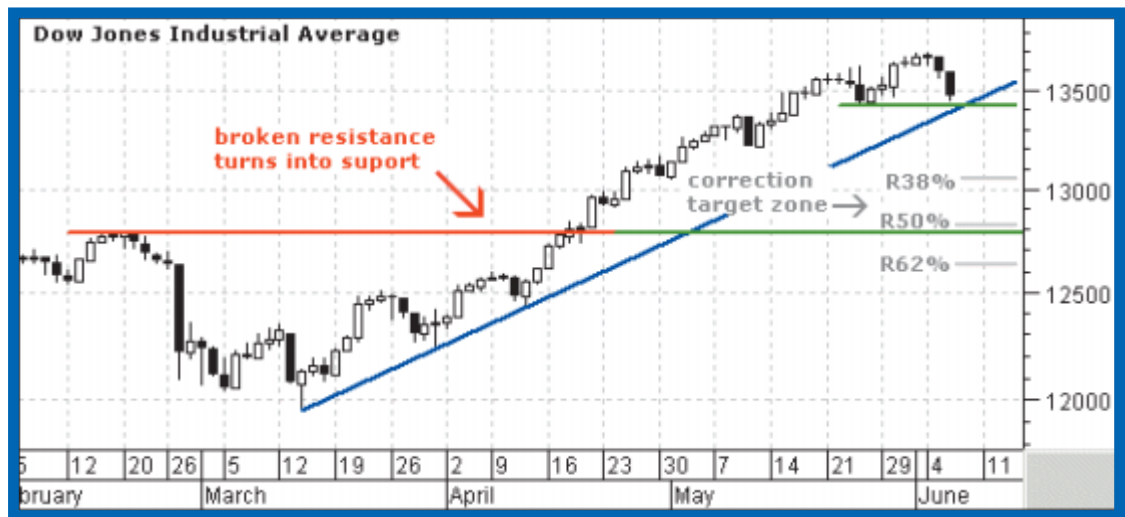
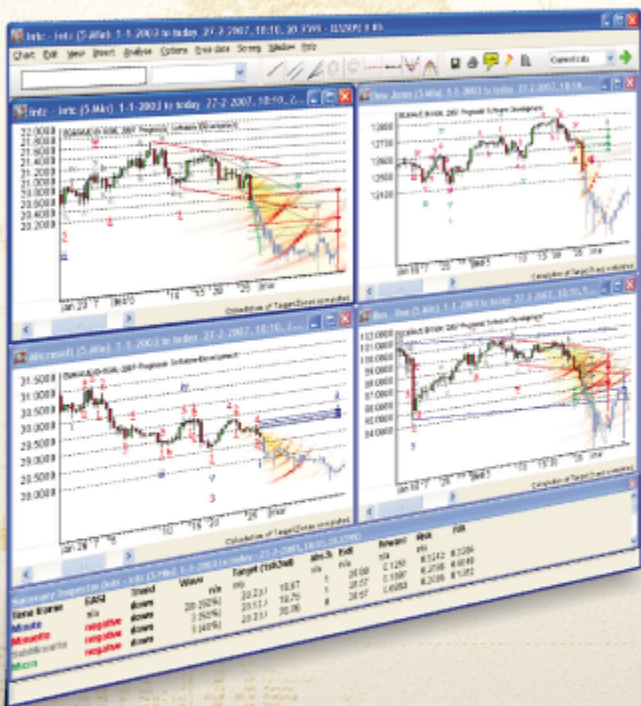


FIGURE 2: DJIA. The Fibonacci retracement levels to watch for are 38% (0.382) and 62% (0.618).

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Once a correction gets under way, how far can we expect it to extend? Looking at Figure 1, I see two methods to identify a correction target.

port, and it is not uncommon to see a pullback to these levels. The DJIA broke resistance at 12800, and this is one target for a correction.

The second correction target involves Fibonacci and Dow theory retracement levels. The Fibonacci retracement levels to watch are 38% (0.382) and 62% (0.618) (Figure 2). Dow theory asserts that a 50% retracement was often normal and the gray lines mark these levels. The 50% retracement jibes with broken resistance around 12800; the 62% retracement is just below and the 38% retracement is just above. There was a lot of strength in this advance, and I would opt for the higher targets by choosing a correction target zone around 12800–13000. ■

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CANDLESTICK CHARTING

\$NYA Returns On Bullish Track?

by Chaitali Mohile

The NYSE Composite Index completed its black crow formation. What's next?

Tradable: \$NYA

The enormous three-day correction on US stock exchanges formed a rare formation on many of its stronger stocks and indexes. The black crow candlestick formation is bearish. Three consecutive falls with each day closes below the previous day, and each of three highs below the following day's high forms a black crow pattern on technical charts. The NYSE Composite Index has formed a similar candlestick pattern on its daily charts (Figure 1). The black crow formation is a reversal pattern toward its prior advance rally. It's a complete bearish formation by itself.

The fourth day is equally important in this formation. If in Figure 1, the doji or any other bearish candles were formed on the fourth day, then traders need to stay alert as a further bearish

rally is signaled.

Instead, \$NYA formed a full bullish white candle after a black crow. What does that indicate? Regaining a bullish trend or forming a bullish counterpart of a black crow, known as three white soldiers? This white candle formed on Friday, indicating an end to the declining rally. So traders must be watchful for the next two candles too.

Before the autumn, the price climbed new highs but the stochastic (14, 3, 3) slipped with a retest of its prior high, creating a negative divergence on the rally. The heavy fall in the price chart made stochastics closer to its oversold territory after a long period of three months. Meanwhile, the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) (12, 26, 9) was reluctant to stay positive. The market gives signals, but we traders sometimes ignore such signals as they appear frequently on indicators. Yes, interest rate change news proved to be a "hurricane" on the US markets.

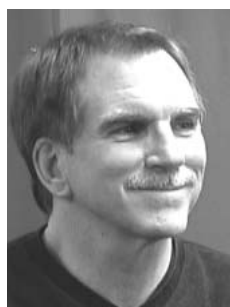
The NYSE Composite Index cannot be traded with the anticipation of three white soldiers. Traders need to watch the day's open and world market for clues about the low-risk and high-opportunity trades on the index. Stochastic (14, 3, 3) and the MACD (12, 26, 9) are still in the negative area, so be alert and watchful. ■



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FIGURE 1: \$NYA, DAILY. After the three black crow formation, the full white candlestick generated the possibility of the three white soldier pattern if the next candle opens within the following day's range and closes near the previous day's high.



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HEAD & SHOULDERS

Another Breakout For The Hang Seng

by Arthur Hill

The Hang Seng Index has been moving higher for five years, and this trend looks set to continue after another resistance breakout.

Tradable: \$HSI

On the daily chart (Figure 1), the Hang Seng Index (\$HSI) formed an inverse head & shoulders and broke neckline resistance with a gap. The left shoulder formed in January–February, the head in March, and the right shoulder in April–May. Neckline resistance was around 21000 and the breakout signals a continuation of the uptrend. Head & shoulders patterns can be reversal or continuation patterns. This inverse head & shoulders pattern formed in an uptrend and was there-

fore a continuation pattern.

Based on traditional technical analysis, the upside target is around 23400. The distance from the head to the neckline is added to the breakout for a target. In this case, I added 2400 to the neckline breakout at 21000. Broken resistance turns into support and 21000 is the first level to watch for signs of weakness. The right shoulder is essentially one consolidation with support just above 20000. A move below the low of the right shoulder would totally negate the pattern.

Figure 2 is a weekly chart that offers some perspective on this bull market. The index bottomed in May 2003 and embarked on a five-year advance. This move is entering its sixth year and a rising price channel is taking shape. The index is trading near the lower channel line and a move toward the upper channel line would carry the index well above the head & shoulders target. ■

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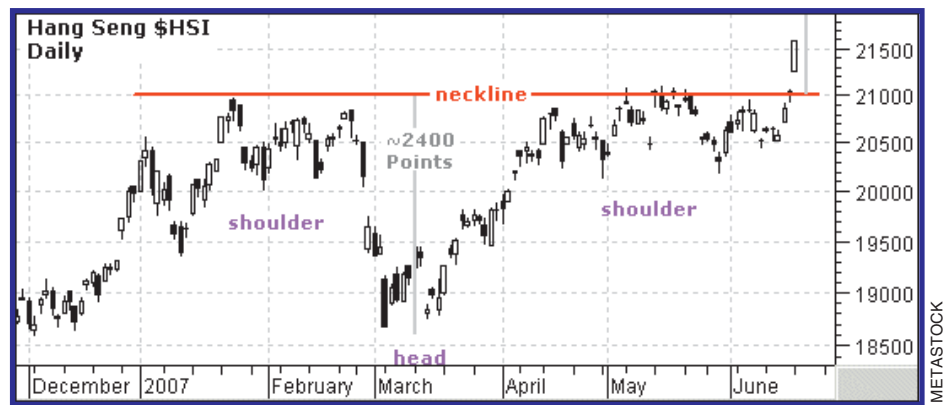


FIGURE 1: HANG SENG, DAILY. This index formed an inverse head & shoulders and broke neckline resistance with a gap.



FIGURE 2: HANG SENG, WEEKLY. This chart offers some perspective on the bull market.

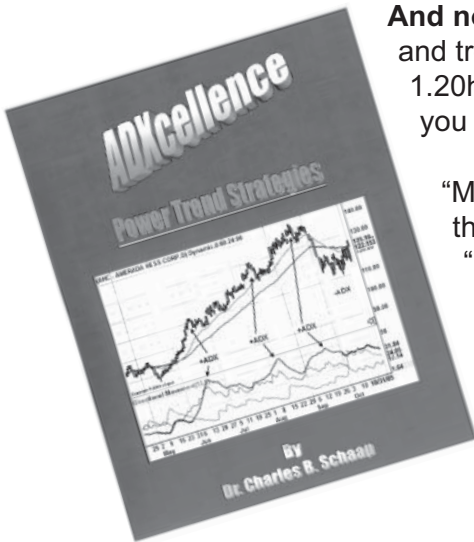
Head & shoulders patterns can be reversal or continuation patterns.

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CHART PATTERNS

TRIANGLES

The S&P 500's Intraday Ascending Triangle

by David Penn

A pair of 2B tops helps mark the upper boundary of an ascending triangle.

Tradable: \$SPX

Just yesterday I described a pair of 2B tops in the hourly chart of the June emini Standard & Poor's 500 futures contract ("Intraday 2B Tops In The June Emini S&P 500," Traders.com Advantage, May 16, 2007). Breakdowns from the 2B tops in both instances provided traders with quality opportunities for a short-term bet against a market that had been rallying since the beginning of the month.

Increasingly it appears, however, as if those two tops, rather than anticipating major reversals, were instead delineating the upper resistance level of an ascending triangle pattern. While this pattern is less vivid in the chart of the emini futures, the triangle — and its bullish implications — is clear in the hourly chart of the S&P 500 (Figure 1). With an upper resistance level



FIGURE 1: STANDARD & POOR'S 500, HOURLY. An ascending triangle develops in the middle of May. A successful breakout should bring higher prices toward the end of the month and into June, setting up the possibility of a test of the all-time closing high at approximately 1527.

at approximately 1514 and a pattern low of about 1492, a successful breakout from this triangle should take the S&P 500 to as high as 1536 in a minimum upside move.

Triangles need to be touched. Thomas Bulkowski notes in his *Encyclopedia Of Chart Patterns* that there should be a "crossing pattern," by which he means "Price should cross the chart pattern several times; they should not leave a vast amount of white space in the center of the triangle." Elsewhere, others have suggested three to five touches (or including near misses) between the horizontal resistance line and the

upwardly sloping support line.

In either event, it looks as if the S&P 500 is well on its way to filling out the ascending triangle pattern insofar as it has already completed five distinct touches of those resistance and support lines. That said, it looks as if the S&P 500 might retreat to test the support line one more time before moving up and out of the pattern. If it is true that the ideal breakout from an ascending triangle comes somewhere between $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the pattern, then just such a retest may be all the market needs in order to finish the triangle and move toward breakout.



FIGURE 2: STANDARD & POOR'S 500, MONTHLY. More than four years after its closing monthly low in late 2002, the S&P 500 has almost completely retraced the 2000–02 bear market.

It probably should be noted that the S&P 500 is tantalizingly close to its all-time high closing price of 1527 from the spring of 2000 (Figure 2). And a successful breakout from this ascending triangle — "successful" meaning a breakout that reaches its minimum price objective — would take the S&P 500 straight through that level with room to spare. ■

SUGGESTED READING
Penn, David [2007]. "Intraday 2B Tops In The June Emini S&P 500," Traders.com Advantage, May 16.

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This article was first published on 5/17/2007. See www.Traders.com for more.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Predictable Patterns Period

by Austin Passamonte

Since mid-March 2007, big-cap stock index markets seem to have a constant bid beneath them. Any intraday selloff that lasts into the closing bell is immediately reversed the next session. Most other days begin with early weakness before price action begins the inevitable grind upward into the afternoon.



FIGURE 1: EMINI S&P 500: 4/24 10-MINUTE



FIGURE 2: EMINI S&P 500: 4/26 10-MINUTE

Tradable: S&P 500 (ES)

This session from late April shows a double-bottom pattern following a gap down open. Like clockwork, price action soon persisted in grinding higher from there. See Figure 1.

Even the sideways sessions hold double-bottom patterns to work their way upward after tests of support hold. See Figure 2.

There was another weak open, another double-bottom bounce from early lows followed by the stair-step grinding action higher. See Figure 3.

On May 17, there was the same story: a daily pivot point holds multiple tests of support as price action bounces through tradable swings following each test. See Figure 4.

“Buy dips” will not work forever, of



FIGURE 3: EMINI S&P 500: 4/29 10-MINUTE



FIGURE 4: EMINI S&P 500: 5/17 10-MINUTE

course. But it is working now and has been for quite some time already. Until the uptrend pattern abates, each buy signal at or after any test of support has

the high-odds nod for success. ■

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“Buy dips” will not work forever, of course. But it is working now.

HEAD & SHOULDERS

A Head & Shoulders Top In REITs

by David Penn

Has the great REIT rally finally run out of upside?

Tradable: VNQ

For weeks in 2005 I would get email announcements from NAREIT, the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts. Like most email announcements from such entities, these messages were ec-

static about the prospects for their industry. I had written a little about real estate investment trusts way back in 2001 and thought they were an underrated sector that deserved more attention from retail investors.

Email after email would arrive, making me think, “You know, I really ought to follow up with those NAREIT guys ...” But one thing or another would always come up to redirect my attention.

So now it figures that just when the incredible REIT rally appears to be running out of steam that I would miraculously “find time” to talk about the group. Shame on me.

But what can you do when you are doing recon through the sectors and stumble upon a topping pattern like the one in Figure 1?

The consolidation in Figure 1 is a head & shoulders top, one of the most common reversal chart patterns. The head & shoulders top consists of three distinct peaks: two outer peaks (shoulders) and a center peak (the head) that is larger than the other two. The neckline, a relatively horizontal line that connects the trough lows between the two outer peaks, is the source of critical support for the head & shoulders top. When the neckline is



FIGURE 2: VANGUARD REIT EXCHANGE TRADED FUND (VNQ), DAILY. The same REIT ETF through the lens of the moving average trio, MACD histogram, and BOSO stochastic is bearish on all counts. The short-term (five day) positive divergence in late May helped bounce the ETF higher, but resistance looms at the 78 level.

broken to the downside, prices in a head & shoulders top tend to move as far downward from the neckline as the formation was tall. A head & shoulders top that measures 10 points will likely see the market fall 10 points down from the neckline in an initial downside break.

As with many patterns, speculators need to be wary of pullbacks to the break level. While these pullbacks are most often resolved by the market re-

versing again to complete the break and reach the minimum projected target, they can serve as shocks to the system if the trader is not prepared for them. This means traders who are not careful can panic themselves out of a winning position by buying a pullback in a head & shoulders top breakdown, only to see prices meet resistance at the neckline (a typical and quite common case of support becoming resistance once broken), re-



FIGURE 1: VANGUARD REIT EXCHANGE TRADED FUND (VNQ), DAILY. REITs peaked in February 2007, but the head & shoulders top currently hinting at a significant reversal has its origins in the autumn of 2006. The formation projects a target low near 66.

verse, and move downward again.

Figure 2 shows the Vanguard REIT exchange traded fund (ETF) against my current favorite set of technical indicators: the moving average trio (see my Working-Money.com article, "Moving Average Trios," May 25, 2007), the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) histogram (see my two-part, Working-Money.com article, "Trading The MACD Histogram," December 6 and 9, 2006), and the BOSO stochastic (see my article "BOSO" from the October 5, 2005, issue of Working-

Money.com). And per these indicators, the REITs are still under significant pressure.

There was a bearish realignment in the VNQ on May 1 that was confirmed as of the close on May 15 at 77.60. The most recent confirmed MACD histogram signal was a bearish p-P-p pattern that ended on May 15 and was confirmed as of the close on May 16 at 76.64. This time around, the late signal came from the BOSO. VNQ went oversold on May 16 and was confirmed on a follow-through lower close on May 17 at 75.31.

VNQ fell to a closing low of 74.12 on May 24 and has since bounced sharply. If you look carefully, you can even see a short-term (for example, five-day) positive divergence in both the MACD histogram and the stochastic that telegraphed the bounce. The question now is whether or not this bounce — which finds the VNQ hurtling toward potential resistance in the form of the 50-day exponential moving average and the neckline of the head & shoulders top — will scare enough traders who are reasonably short to become unreasonably long. ■

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- Penn, David [2005]. "BOSO," Working-Money.com, October 5.
- _____ [2006]. "Trading The MACD Histogram," parts 1 and 2, Working-Money.com, December 6 and 9.
- _____ [2007]. "Moving Average Trios," Working-Money.com, May 25.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Reversal Warnings

by Austin Passamonte

Pure price action can tell us a great deal about pending market direction. Intraday emini traders can see clear reversal signal patterns almost every session — fair warning to exit existing trades and/or get ready for pending signals going the other way!

Tradable: S&P 500 (ES)

Tuesday, May 17, saw the emini S&P 500 struggling to break a multiple-top formation after several attempts. The final tap of that price zone was sold into what most likely was a deliberate stop-run staged to clear weak shorts out and suck overzealous longs in while the big-money players sold into the stopped-out liquidity. Down it went from there, in a profitable fashion for those who heeded the reversal pattern warning. See Figure 1.

Two days later — May 17 in the late afternoon — price action popped

Be it candle or bar charts, spotting these reversal patterns at high/low extremes give savvy traders a clear heads-up.

from the daily pivot point near 1514.25 and nearly reached 1522. Buy programs lifting to those levels got sold hard, forming another reversal candle pattern. Shorting below the lows near 1520 offered several points' potential profit downside, in telegraphed fashion.

In addition, we can see a triple-bottom formation near 1514 where three different candle/bar series popped to close with long tails, right before buy programs swung price action higher. Each of these patterns offered several points' profit potential per subsequent swing. See Figure 2.

Be it candle or bar charts, spotting these reversal patterns at high/low extremes or multiple tops/bottoms give savvy traders a clear heads-up that the next directional move is likely to turn, and soon. ■

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FIGURE 1: 05/15 ES 10-MINUTE



FIGURE 2: 5/17 ES 10-MINUTE

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FIGURE 1: \$DJUSCH, DAILY. Here's the ascending triangle in \$DJUSCH. The breakout above 258 will bring a boom in individual stocks in the US Chemical Index, too.

FIGURE 2: \$DJUSCH, WEEKLY. The ascending triangle on the weekly chart reinforces the breakout. The strong pattern will lead a fresh level of 278.

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ASCENDING TRIANGLES

\$DJUSCH Readies To Break Out From Ascending Triangle

by Chaitali Mohile

The US Chemical Index has formed an ascending triangle on daily and weekly time frames and is now ready to break out.

Tradable: \$DJUSCH

\$DJUSCH is in a strong uptrend but in late February, the index lost its bullish strength. Within a week it lost almost all its 20-point gains, but the 50-day moving average (MA) support held. In fact, every dip since that one established support at the 50-day MA, creating an ascending triangle. As a triangle matures, the volume reduces and expands on the breakout. In Figure 1, I identified two lines of resistance. I prefer using the line that is the higher of the two.

The price target on an ascending triangle is measured using the length of the triangle. In this case, the length of the triangle is $257.5 - 237.5 = 20$. So by adding 20 to the breakout level at 258, you can get a target level of 278. The breakout of this index will bring a great

boom in individual chemical stocks, so keep an eye on it.

The relative strength index (RSI)(14) in Figure 1 shows ranging but bullish strength in an ongoing rally. The loss of 20 points in the price reflected no adverse effect on the RSI. The indicator marginally moved below 40, recovering faster. This shows positive strength in the rally. The moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) (12,26,9) moves close to its trigger line but directionless. The snake move can break out in any direction. Combining the MACD (12,26,9) volatility with other conditions on the chart's upside breakout of the triangle looks possible.

In Figure 2, the ascending triangle is formed. The same pattern on different time frames reinforces the breakout. The MACD (12,26,9) is neutral to its trigger line. The breakout of the triangle in the upward direction can give bullish crossover in the MACD (12,26,9). The RSI (14) is at 68 but still strong and has more room for an advanced rally. The RSI thus indicates that the breakout of the price will have a strong bullish force to reach the price target mentioned previously.

A breakout on \$DJUSCH will bring attractive buying opportunities in individual equities of the same index. ■

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SECTOR INVESTING

A Cup With Handle In Transports

by David Penn

As crude oil breaks down, the consolidation in the Dow Jones transports hints at a move higher.

Tradable: \$TRAN, IYT, AMR

With all the commotion about gas prices, there has been less attention paid to the behavior of both crude oil and transportation stocks. Given the backdrop of panic as the summer driving season begins in earnest, a speculator might assume that crude oil was in an advancing mode and transportation stocks were in the retreat.

A check of the two charts reveals, however, that crude oil is actually in a corrective rather than advancing mode. As for transportation stocks, the cup with handle-shaped consolidation they have been meandering through since late February looks ready to resolve itself with a breakout to the upside.

It could be argued that there are two



cup with handle patterns in the daily chart of the transportation average (Figure 1). The larger pattern begins in late February, completing the cup in late April, and adding a handle over the course of May. The smaller pattern sees an up formation from late April to early May, with a smaller handle from mid-May to the end of the month.

In any event, the chart suggests that transportation stocks are about to move significantly higher over the next several weeks. I've seen business cycle maps that posit transportation stocks at the beginning of an economic expansion and other maps that show transportation stocks as getting bids late in the early expansion phase — so much so as almost be a part of the middle expansion during which inflationary pressures begin to mount. Regardless of which location in the business cycle is the most accurate for transportation stocks, the fact remains that if those stocks are set to move higher, then the economy is likely still on solid ground.

Based on the behavior of commodities like gold and crude oil, I'm inclined to put transportation in the early expansion group and, for the sake of compromise, I'll say "middle of the early" expansion.

The basic business cycle game plan suggests that advancing transportation stocks are a sign of a market that is moving through the "early expansion" part of the cycle. This part of the cycle also tends to augur well for industrial and basic materials stocks as the business cycle moves



FIGURE 2: AMR CORP., DAILY. A positive divergence over the course of the spring and a newly overbought market on the bounce suggest the possibility of higher prices for AMR this summer.

deeper into expansion.

For those who want to trade the transports directly, the exchange traded fund, IYT, features virtually the same cup with handle pattern that we see in Figure 1 of the transportation average. As for individual components of the transports that might disproportionately benefit from a breakout in the average, one stock that seems worth watching is AMR, also known as American Airlines (Figure 2). As I will detail in a separate article, the airline stocks,

as measured by the index \$XAL, have been in a bear market for virtually all of 2007 and may be ripe for reversal. However, AMR has begun to rally in the wake of positive divergences in the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) histogram. There was even a short-term 2B bottom between the lows on May 1 and May 15 that suggested higher prices in the near term. ■

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The cup with handle-shaped consolidation that transportation stocks have been meandering through since late February looks ready to resolve itself with a breakout to the upside.



FIGURE 1: DOW JONES TRANSPORTATION INDEX, DAILY. The highlighted section in late April and throughout May points out the handle to a relatively tall cup in this cup with handle consolidation pattern. Follow-through to the upside could take the DJTA to as high as 5700 in an initial move.



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TRIANGLES

Silver Signals Higher ... And Lower

by David Penn

Will the third triangle be the charm?

Tradable: SI, SIN7

Triangle patterns have been good to silver since the metal made a secular low in 2001.

It was a symmetrical triangle in the monthly chart of silver futures that anticipated a breakout in mid-2003, a breakout that led to silver's first major advance in years. Basis continuous futures, silver broke out at about \$4.80 and rallied to nearly \$8.00 in the first quarter of 2004. (See Figure 1.)

The 2003 breakout led, interestingly enough, to another triangle. This triangle was of the ascending variety, meaning it featured a flat, horizontal resistance level and an upwardly sloping support trendline. Such ascending triangles produce breakouts with a very strong bias to the upside, and in that, the ascending triangle in silver that began in 2003 and ended with a

breakout near the end of 2005 did not disappoint. Breaking out near the \$8.00 level (basis continuous futures), silver rallied to more than \$14 in 2006 and — after a pullback to the \$9.60 level — bested \$14 again in early 2007.

Has silver formed still yet another triangle? While the price pattern in 2006 is not ideal, it does have the requisite horizontal resistance and upwardly sloping support trendline of a triangle — and an ascending triangle at that. The size of the triangle is also attention-getting insofar as the pattern's width projects a minimum run to \$20, should there be a successful breakout to the upside. Such prices for silver would not represent a new all-time high (the all-time high for silver remains north of \$49) but would certainly represent an awesome achievement for a commodity that was trading for less than \$5 only 10 years ago.

For now, silver remains in an uptrend in the weekly charts (Figure 2). Since a correction low in the first half of 2006, silver — basis July futures — has created a triangular pattern consisting of higher highs and higher lows. That higher highs and higher lows pattern is the signature of an advancing market and there is no technical "indicator" that should be allowed to override that reality.

That said, the daily chart of silver

suggests some breaking down below key moving averages and moreover, the bearish realignment of key moving averages has turned into an outright sell signal — see my Working Money article "Moving Average Trios" for more on bearish "realignment" patterns. As Figure 3 shows, the three moving averages (10-day, 20-day, and 50-day exponential) crossed in early May so that the shortest, fastest moving average was below the intermediate term (the 20-day EMA), and the intermediate term was below the longer term (the 50-day EMA). This marked the bearish realignment of the three moving averages as they switched from a largely bullish alignment with the shorter moving averages above the longer ones to a bearish one. This bearish realignment was confirmed the following day when July silver closed below the



FIGURE 1: SILVER, CONTINUOUS FUTURES, MONTHLY. Will the third triangle in silver's bull market be a charm and propel prices even higher? Previous triangle setups in silver in 2003 and 2004–05 led to major moves, post-breakout.

low of the session that marked the realignment. Since then, July silver has lost 36 cents or approximately \$1,800/per contract. ■

FURTHER READING

Penn, David [2007]. "Moving Average Trios," Working-Money.com, May 25.

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FIGURE 2: SILVER, JULY FUTURES, WEEKLY. A pattern of higher highs and higher lows has developed in this pattern, one that otherwise resembles an ascending triangle. Failure to set a new high in the second quarter of 2007, however, is tentatively a bearish sign. This will be even more so if the lows from the first quarter of 2007 are taken out to the downside.



FIGURE 3: SILVER, JULY FUTURES, DAILY. With all three moving averages moving into bearish alignment (the 10-day EMA below the 20-day EMA and the 20-day EMA below the 50-day EMA), the sell signal was confirmed as soon as the market closed below the low of the session when the alignment occurred.

CONSOLIDATION FORMATION

XAU Lags And Drags

by Arthur Hill

The Philadelphia Gold & Silver Index (\$XAU) has been stuck in a rut the last 15 months, and relative weakness remains a serious drag. Here are the levels to watch.

Tradable: \$XAU

On the weekly chart (Figure 1), the index surged above 150 in February 2006 and then embarked on a long trading range. There was another surge above 170, but the index then met resistance at 150 no fewer than six times in the last 12 months. This is the level to beat, and a breakout triggering a major bullish signal.

Two patterns are evolving, a triangle that extends back to September 2006 (blue lines) and a trading range that extends back to June 2006. The triangle shows that the trading range

has actually narrowed over the last few months. As such, I would set key support at 125 and key resistance at 150. The direction of the next break will have long-term implications for this index and precious metals.

Figure 2 shows the performance of XAU relative to the GS Precious Metals Index (\$GPX). The index outperformed from March 2005 to June 2006 and underperformed from July 2006 to May 2007. The price relative remains below the red trendline and XAU continues to underperform. In fact, the price relative broke to new lows in January and relative weakness in XAU remains a real drag on precious metals.

In addition to an upside breakout at 150 in the index, I would also look for the price relative to break above 155. This would forge a trendline break and signal the start of an outperformance period. XAU does best when it leads gold and precious metals. ■

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FIGURE 1: XAU, WEEKLY. The index surged above 150 in February 2006 and then embarked on a long trading range.



FIGURE 2: XAU, RELATIVE TO GOLDMAN SACHS PRECIOUS METALS INDEX. The index outperformed from March 2005 to June 2006 and underperformed from July 2006 to May 2007.

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REVERSAL

The Golden Bounce

by David Penn

Hourly charts of gold and gold stocks underscore the turnaround in late May.

Tradable: GCQ7, \$HUI

My last look at gold in Traders.com Advantage (“Gold Meets Resistance,” April 25, 2007) underscored the possibility that gold was not yet ready to break free from the consolidation range that ensnared it back in the summer of 2006. See Figures 1 and 2.

At the time, the unhedged gold stocks represented by the \$HUI were trading at about 348 (Figure 2). Over the past few months, the \$HUI has fallen to as low as 318. Yet this drop only lowered the index to the middle area of its range. And there are signs in the gold market itself that this decline may already be complete.

In April I looked at the gold stocks to get clues about gold. This time, I will do the opposite and focus on the bounce in gold futures, which seems to augur bullish for the stocks.

Note how the troughs in the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) histogram become more and more shallow as the decline in gold futures continued (Figure 1). This suggested waning mo-

mentum to the downside the lower the price of gold fell. The histogram was the primary technical indicator to follow in terms of looking for a potential low and a potential bounce.

As gold futures did indeed bounce, two other technical indicators became increasingly helpful. The first was the stochastic. By breaking out into overbought territory, the stochastic signaled that the market was in a massively bullish mode, with buyers able to close the market near its highs repeatedly in recent sessions. I like to think of a market that becomes overbought like a baseball team that just began a winning streak: Sure, that streak might end tomorrow, but betting against it is a loser’s proposition over time.

Another bullish indication comes from the realignment of the three exponential moving aver-



FIGURE 1: GOLD, AUGUST FUTURES, HOURLY. Negative divergences in the MACD histogram had been building since mid-May, as this hourly chart of August gold reveals. The breakout in the stochastic (that is, the stochastic becoming overbought) followed by a bullish realignment of the 10-, 20-, and 50-period exponential moving average provide further bullish signals.

ages. As I wrote in an article for Working-Money.com (“Moving Average Trios,” May 25, 2007), momentum traders can use crossovers of multiple moving averages to catch the sweet spot when a market is truly ready to run. The fact that moving averages are used to generate the momentum signal also makes it less likely that the surge in momentum will be a fakeout. ■



FIGURE 2: GOLD BUGS INDEX (\$HUI), HOURLY. The bounce in the precious metals sector has the gold BUGS index retracing fully 50% of its decline from the mid-April top. Note that the next resistance level — the 350–352 area from the countertrend bounce in late April — also matches up as a key Fibonacci retracement level.

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 This article was first published on 6/4/2007.
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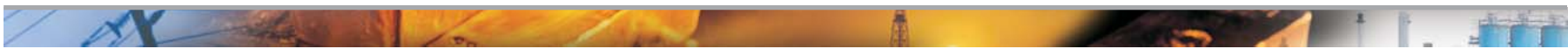


FIGURE 1: GDX, DAILY. This exchange traded fund has been locked in a trading range for a while.

RSI GDX Approaches Support

by Arthur Hill

The Gold Miners ETF has been range-bound since November, and traders should prepare for a bounce as the exchange traded fund nears range support.

Tradable: GDX



The Gold Miners ETF (GDX) has been locked in a trading range bound by 43 and 36. The exchange traded fund established resistance with three reaction highs and support with three reaction lows. The swings within the trading range have been greater than 10%, but it would have required some nifty trading to catch the reversals and turn a profit. With the ETF once again approaching support, it is time to start looking for reversal indications. See Figure 1.

Figure 2 focuses on the current downswing. The ETF peaked in April and has been channeling lower the last two months. There were two promising surges, but both failed and lower lows soon followed (red arrows). The last

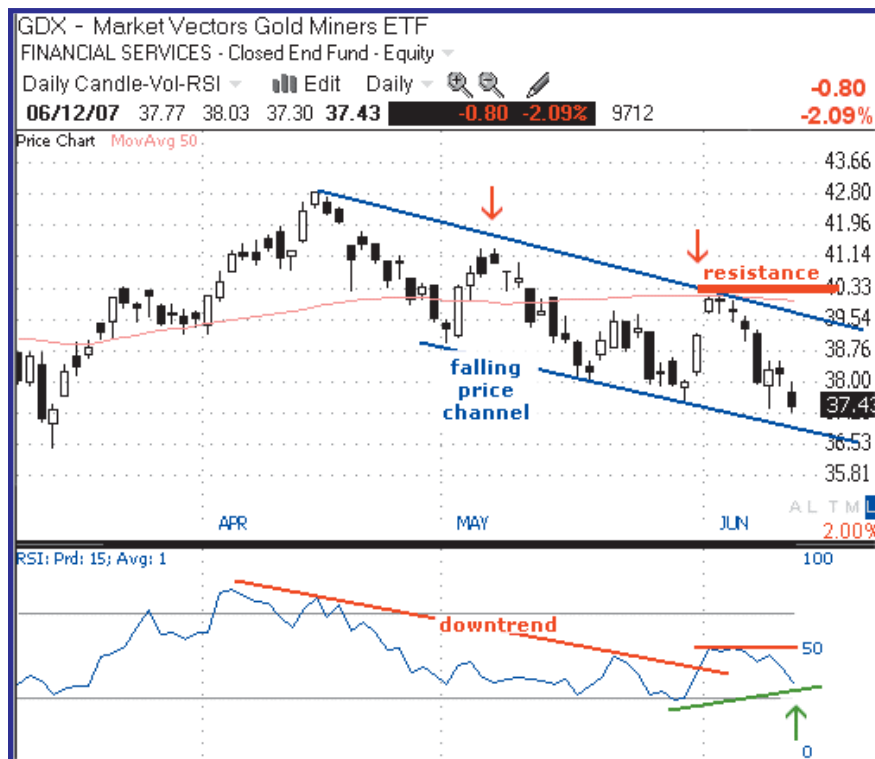


FIGURE 2: GDX, DAILY. A move above 40.50 could start a new upswing.

surge failed after two gaps and the ETF met resistance at the 50-day moving average. It would take a move above range resistance at 40.50 to break the upper channel trendline, exceed the 50-day, and forge a higher high. This would fully reverse the downtrend and call for another assault on range resistance.

While a move above 40.50 would start a new upswing, I am tuning into the relative strength index (RSI) for a breakout that could provide an earlier signal. This momentum indicator peaked two weeks before GDX and has been trending lower since early April.

The indicator became oversold in late May and broke the red trendline when GDX surged above 40 in early June. This surge did not hold, but the RSI is still above its late May low and a positive divergence is working (green arrow). I am looking for a break above 50 to fully reverse the downtrend in momentum and turn bullish on the RSI. This would likely happen before a breakout in GDX and could be used for an earlier signal. ■

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SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

July Copper: Support To Resistance

by David Penn

The support that kept copper high in the spring threatens to become resistance in summer.

Tradable: HGN7

Of the many basic tenets of technical analysis, the concept of support & resistance is near the top of the list. The idea of support & resistance goes right to the heart of the battle between those betting on higher prices and those betting on lower ones. It also speaks to the idea that the

market, far from being random, has a memory, and that memory will allow a market to revisit old challenges.

One example of this is the way that support, once broken, can become resistance. I like to think of support as the region where bearish momentum is weak and resistance as the region where bullish momentum is weak. This weakness is also often revealed in candlestick charts by the number of shadows that touch the support or resistance area; the failure to close at or beyond those areas is further evidence of weakness.

July copper has begun a series of higher highs and higher lows (Figure 1). As of this moment, the June low is higher than the May low, and with the mid-June high exceeding the early June high (albeit only on an intrasession basis), the case for a breakout above the new resistance level and higher prices for copper has

some legs. However, any failure to close above the \$3.50, as well as the lack of follow-through to the upside, would likely convince copper traders that the path to least resistance is the road chosen by copper futures in May — not the one they will have abandoned in June. ■



FIGURE 1: COPPER, JULY FUTURES, DAILY. July copper futures tested support near the \$3.50 level repeatedly in April and again in mid-May. A break below that level shortly thereafter and a subsequent bounce finds those futures struggling to rally above the same \$3.50 level.

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RETRACEMENT

A Crude Pause

by David Penn

A pause in the crude oil bounce as oil stocks test historic highs.

Tradable: CLM7, OIH

It's too bad that the cost of fuel isn't tax-deductible in the same way that economists deduct "volatile food and energy prices" from the Consumer Price Index.

While "soaring gas prices" (now one word) have gotten everyone's attention (and just as the term "summer driving season begins!" must somehow be included in every statement with "soaring gas prices"), there are some interesting developments in the charts of crude oil and crude oil stocks that could present a surprise in the form of milder prices going forward.

Crude oil, for example, topped in the summer of 2006 and spent the next half-year falling in a bear market that saw the commodity lose some 30% of its value (basis continuous futures). By January, crude was showing signs of putting in a bottom, and the commodity began to move higher. Looking at near-term contracts, we can see that this advance ran into resistance near the area of the consolidation highs from the autumn of 2006. (I wrote about this resistance for Traders.com Advantage earlier this spring; see my "June Crude Rally Retreats At Resis-

tance," March 16, 2007.)

Crude oil failed at resistance. But while crude set a new low in May vis-à-vis April (Figure 1), the fact that the March lows held open the possibility that the commodity would find support near 61 (basis June) and resume the rally that began in January.

That possibility remains open. But over the past few days, crude oil has shown the sort of weariness that begets further correction. This weakness comes not only as crude tries to rally above the April highs, but also as oil stocks — as measured by the oil service stock HOLDERS or OIH — make a major test of their all-time highs. See Figure 2.

Let's take a closer look at the move in crude. Crude bottomed in January and topped in late March (basis June). Since the March top, crude broke down below its January-March trendline in mid-April, rallied back above that trendline in the second half of the month, and broke down again in early May. In doing so, crude oil has begun to set up a 1-2-3 trendline reversal pattern. So far, step 1, the breaking of the trendline, has been completed. Step 2 appears to be under way right now as crude oil attempts to resume the January-March uptrend. Step 3, if it occurs, would have crude oil failing to set a new high and, instead, reversing and taking out the low established at the end of step 1.

The "end of step 1" — the low point of the correction that began in April — represents an almost 50%



FIGURE 1: CRUDE OIL, JUNE FUTURES, DAILY. A breakdown beneath a two-month trendline finds support near the 50% retracement level. The new low set during the correction, however, suggests trouble for the bounce higher in the immediate term.

retracement of the January-March advance. This means that one argument occasionally made about corrections — that they have not "corrected enough" — does not apply here. However, any failure to set a new high vis-à-vis April will likely confirm the bearishness of lower month-to-month lows in crude.

I mentioned oil service stocks. The OIH is moving above 170, a level at which the HOLDERS last tested back in May 2006. This top in oil stocks served as an excellent warning for the underlying commodity, which topped out weeks late. As such, it will be worth watching to see if OIH shows follow-through to the upside after breaking

out to new all-time highs in late May. Failure in this would open the door for a double top in the oil stocks (and levels in the OIH not seen since the first half of 2005). It would also open up the 50% retracement trap door in crude oil, likely setting up a move below the March, if not the February, lows. ■

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Penn, David [2007]. "June Crude Rally Retreats At Resistance," Traders.com Advantage, March 16.

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FIGURE 2: OIL SERVICE HOLDERS (OIH), WEEKLY. Oil service stocks have been in rally mode since the beginning of 2007. A test of the 2006 highs — all-time highs — could lead to an overdue correction to this group.

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BREAKOUTS

Oil On The Verge Of A Breakout

by Arthur Hill

The US Oil Fund ETF (USO) surged off support over the last few days, and the exchange traded fund is on the verge of a breakout that would signal a continuation of the prior advance.

Tradable: USO

Before moving to the potentially bullish setup, let's get some perspective with the weekly chart (Figure 1) and the current bearish pattern. The US Oil Fund ETF (USO) broke support at 60 with a sharp decline in 2006 and then rallied back above 50 in 2007. The rally formed a rising wedge and the exchange traded fund (ETF) broke a rising wedge support with a decline in early May. This break is bearish and it has yet to be proven otherwise. As long as this break remains, a test of the January lows is in order.

Despite that bearish prognosis, a bullish pattern is emerging on the daily charts, and this could negate the weekly chart pattern (Figure 2). For reference, the gray trendlines show the rising wedge on the weekly chart. The ETF found support around 47.50 in May and surged to resistance at 51 over the last few days. This surge reinforces support and we must now pay heed to the falling price channel. The decline also retraced 62% of the prior advance. Both the pattern and the retracement are typical for corrections, and we should be on guard for a breakout.

USO broke the upper channel trendline and is on the verge of a resistance break at 51. A close above this level would be bullish and target a move to the upper 50s. This target stems from a measured move technique. The first advance was 11 points (43 to 54) and a similar advance from the May lows would extend to around 59 (48 + 11 = 59). Should the ETF fail at resistance, look for a move below key support to trigger a bearish signal and target a move toward support around 43. ■

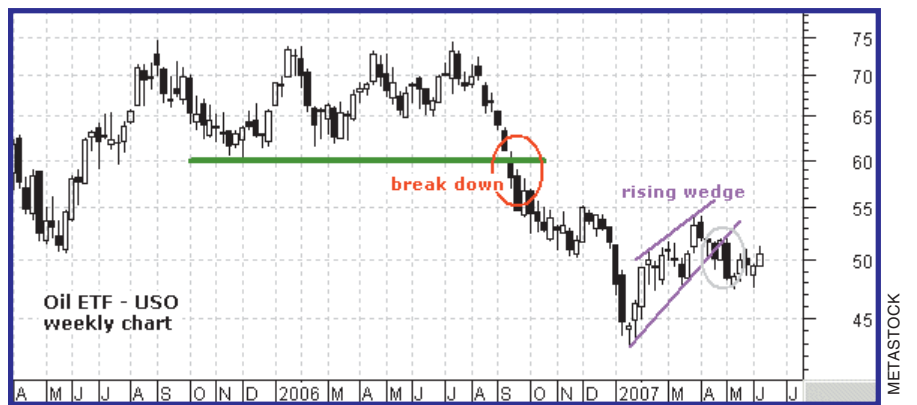


FIGURE 1: USO, WEEKLY. The USO broke support at 60 with a sharp decline in 2006 and then rallied back above 50 in 2007.



FIGURE 2: USO, DAILY. A bullish pattern is emerging on the daily chart and this could negate the weekly chart pattern.

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RETRACEMENT

Measured Moves In Housing

by David Penn

How far will the bounce in housing stocks go?

Tradable: \$HGX

I've written lately about measured move patterns for both Traders.com Advantage ("Measured Moves In The Swiss Franc," March 7, 2007) and Working-Money.com ("Measures And Half Measures," May 4, 2007). With markets across the board moving toward new highs, I went searching for markets that were taking advantage of market strength to rally from significant lows. Unsurprisingly, the housing market was one of the first places I looked.

What I saw in the index of housing stocks (the Philadelphia Housing Sector Index, or \$HGX) was a market that had topped in earliest February 2007, and corrected more than 15% before making a low in mid-April (Figure 1). This mid-April low was accompanied by a positive divergence in the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) histogram, which helped iden-

tify the low as a significant bottom. The \$HGX rallied over the balance of April, breaking back above the 20-day exponential moving average (EMA) and moving almost vertically by the end of the month.

Since that bounce, \$HGX has retraced mildly to successfully test the 20-day EMA for support and is currently en route to taking out the April high just north of 235. (See Figure 2.)

Treating the bounce and successful test of the 20-day exponential moving average (EMA) as a potential ABCD pattern allows us to use the same sort of rules that can effectively project the upside (or downside, in the case of a breakdown) of a measured move. Here we have a point A (the April low) at 214, point B (the April high) at 237, and point C (the low of the 20-day EMA test) at 225. If the advance in \$HGX is a successful ABCD/measured move pattern, then the market should rally to $AB + C$, the distance between points A and B added to the value at point C. This suggests an upside target near 248.

As I note in "Measures And Half Measures," one strategy for determining whether the odds are good that a market will reach point D is whether or not the market can first reach a point halfway between C and D. This halfway point is the same as $1/2 D AB + C$, and here is approximately 235. This



FIGURE 1: PHILADELPHIA HOUSING SECTOR INDEX, DAILY. A month-on-month positive divergence in the MACD histogram signaled an end to the correction in housing stocks that began in February.

level also represents the April high, so there is likely to be some measure of resistance as the market makes its test. But a strong move through the 235 level in the \$HGX is likely to translate into higher highs for housing stocks in the near term. ■

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Penn, David [2007]. "Measured Moves In The Swiss Franc," Traders.com Advantage, March 7.
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FIGURE 2: PHILADELPHIA HOUSING SECTOR INDEX, DAILY. As a measured move pattern, the rally from the April lows projects an upside to 248 if the \$HGX can first clear the $1/2 AB + C$ point near the April highs.

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ASCENDING TRIANGLES

US Paper Index Beats Rock And Scissors

by Gary Grosschadl

This Dow Jones index is in a breakout pattern. So what is the upside target?

Tradable: \$DJUSPP

Figure 1, this weekly chart, shows the Dow Jones US Paper Index in a breakout formation via an ascending triangle breakout. The ascending triangle is a bullish formation that usually forms during an uptrend and suggests accumulation.

Several technical indicators are worthy of comment. At the top of the chart, the three components of the directional movement indicator show a bullish setup. A rising average directional movement index (ADX) line above 20, in between bullishly poised DI lines

(positive and negative directional indexes), shows a strong and rising trend.

Below the chart, the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) and the relative strength index (RSI) show bullish rising trends. Meanwhile, the stochastic oscillator is in overbought territory, which is a cautionary note. However, when a strong trend is in place, this indicator can "stick high" for a period of time.

The upside target for this triangle break is 202, which is the measurement of the widest part of the triangle, applied to the move above the upper trendline (breakout point). This is a guideline only as the move can fall short or be exceeded, depending on emotional drivers behind market perceptions.

With this index showing a bullish development, traders may want to target bullish-looking stock plays in this sector.

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This article was first published on 5/31/2007. See www.Traders.com for more.



FIGURE 1: DOW JONES US PAPER INDEX, WEEKLY. A breakout is showing in this index.

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WEDGE FORMATIONS

Biotechnology Index Completes Reaction Move

by Chaitali Mohile

By forming a bullish wedge, the biotechnology index gets ready to continue the bull run.

Tradable: \$BTK

The 200-day moving average of the biotechnology index has provided support to a 120-point rally from 720 to 840. \$BTK at 840 retested its all-time high but then lost around 40 points. The reaction began with range-bound consolidation initially, thereafter losing previous support. A bullish falling wedge is a bullish formation in an uptrend. The

breakout from this formation restarts the bullish rally. In Figure 1, the biotechnology index has formed a bullish wedge during its reaction move. This shows that the reaction is complete and bulls may regain the rally. The index has broken out of a bullish wedge, moving 20 points from the breakout level.

The method to calculate the breakout level is by measuring the length of the wedge. The length of the wedge in \$BTK is (830 - 800). By adding 30 to the breakout level of 800, we get the target of 830; 840 as the lifetime high of the index can also be considered to be the next target. As the index gets closer to its target and all-time high, the individual stock may also offer good buying. I would recommend strict profit booking around 830 and 840, considering the importance of those levels.

Let's examine what the relative strength index (RSI) and the moving average convergence/divergence



FIGURE 1: BTK, DAILY. The bullish wedge and the reaction move and breakout gives birth to a new upside rally; 840 remains the final target for this rally, with strict profit possible.

(MACD) indicates. At the 840 level on the index, the RSI was highly overbought. The RSI can remain overbought for a longer period, but in Figure 1, the trader can note that the indicator made a lower low and established support at the 50 level. So the RSI still has the bullish strength to carry the price toward its previous high. The MACD (12, 26, 9) gave a bearish crossover during the reaction move but has remained above its zero line, which is the positive outlook for this indicator.

2, the similar falling wedge is formed in the daily time frame. Though the price has yet to break out, the target will remain the same. The RSI (14) is overbought at 62 and indicates more space for the bullish rally. The MACD (12, 26, 9) is positive throughout the rally of 120 points.

With this breakout of a bullish wedge, traders should look for the individual equities for more buying opportunities and be watchful for the 840 level on the biotechnology index. Strict profit booking is advised and also individual biotechnology stocks around this same level. ■

On Figure 2, 750 proved to be the strong support level during the consolidation at the 775 level. The bullish rally with the support of 50-period moving average also moved strongly above the 750 support level. In Figure

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FIGURE 2: BTK, WEEKLY. The bullish wedge on this chart has yet to break out.

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CHART ANALYSIS

Health Care Select Sector Awaits The Breakout

by Chaitali Mohile

Examining different charts of the same sector suggests various technical resistances.

Tradable: XLV

Figure 1, an intraday chart (60-minute) of XLV, shows the double-top effect formed on May 23 and 24. The sector corrected sharply all throughout the session throughout the week, giving up all its gain on prior advance rallies.

An immediate pullback on June 30 occurred on discouraging volume. The two consecutive sessions on May 31 and June 1 established support on 50% retracement level, creating an intraday high at 36.80 that is above the 61% retracement level.

The stock is on edge to recover fully above 36.93, another retracement level, but as resistance this time.

The relative strength index (RSI) (14) and the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) (12, 26, 9) both indicate positive strength in a pullback rally. This creates the possibility of an upside breakout through the two major intraday resistances:

- a) Double top
- b) Retracement level.

In Figure 2, which shows the daily time frame, we see that a symmetrical triangle has been formed. Various small candles show an exhausted rally. In the form of a symmetrical triangle, the direction of the breakout is difficult to judge. Whether the upper trendline resistance is crossed or the lower support trendline is violated is difficult to determine ahead of time.

Again in Figure 2, the two indicator positions are quite different from that in Figure 1. The daily chart shows the RSI at 64, indicating a bullish rally ahead. But the MACD (12, 26, 0) is still in the negative zone, even if the MACD histogram continued below its zero line. Such conditions create trading confusion, and traders can only wait for actual breakout.

With a symmetrical triangle I would avoid giving any targets for trading. The usual way to measure a minimum level is by calculating the length of the triangle. So on a directional breakout, the triangle length can be considered.

The advance rally that geared up with the support of 20-period moving average consolidated ahead, forming a flag & pennant. This formation is a continuation pattern of a previous rally — precisely, a bullish rally in Figure 3, which gives more of a positive outlook than Figures 1 and 2. The RSI (14) is marginally overbought, and the MACD (12, 26, 9) with bullish crossover in April remained positive thereafter.



FIGURE 1: XLV, 60-MINUTE. The double top and highest retracement level is the next resistance for intraday rally.

This encourages me to calculate the new level on the breakout of the flag & pennant formation. The length of the advance rally (34–36) is two points. The consolidation range is 36–37, so when you add 2 to the possible breakout level at 37, the new level is 39. This target should be considered only with a confirmed breakout.

Thus, three different charts show different formations but leave us undecided about a breakout. Only Figure 3,

the weekly chart, indicates some positive view for the breakout, which is the most awaited. If the retracement resistance in Figure 1, the symmetrical triangle in Figure 2, and the bullish flag & pennant in Figure 3, gives an upside breakout, a fresh bull run is expected, but until then, traders are left in a no-trading zone. ■

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FIGURE 2: XLV, DAILY. The upper trendline of a triangle is the resistance for a bullish move. A small doji within the triangle suggests indecision about the breakout direction.



FIGURE 3: XLV, WEEKLY. The flag & pennant breakout direction is up. An actual low-risk trade is possible only with a confirmed breakout.

REVERSAL

A Reversal In Housing Stocks

by David Penn

The measured move in the housing index takes a hit as interest rates spike higher.

Tradable: \$HGX

Interest rates and inventories ... that is the fundamental story of the housing market in the United States.

Housing stocks, as measured by the Philadelphia Housing Sector Index (\$HGX), bottomed in April just as long-term interest rates, as measured by the 10-year Treasury note yield index, made a short-term peak. But the resumption of the bull market in long-term rates in mid-May led to weakness in the housing stocks just as the group was moving above its April high.

A month ago, I wrote that a measured move pattern in the \$HGX was likely to take housing stocks higher in the near term. I projected a target of about 248 and noted that “a strong move through the 235 level” would be necessary in order to power the index past those April highs. The actual April highs were at 237.

There was a close above 237 on May 22. However, follow-through to the upside was hard to come by. That May 22nd close was followed by two shooting star sessions — shooting stars being a candlestick pattern that warns of waning momentum. The market continued to move sideways into June. But while the market was above the April highs, both the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) histogram and the stochastic remained below their respective April highs (Figure 1). This divergence between the higher highs in \$HGX and the lower highs in both the MACD histogram and the stochastic only added to the warning that the current uptrend in \$HGX was under pressure.

That pressure became overwhelming on June 6, as \$HGX broke down not only below its uptrend line, but also below the 50-day exponential moving average. So far, this has led only to more selling, as the \$HGX is now testing the May lows for support. If support is not found here and the \$HGX continues to move lower, the next source of support will be the year-to-date lows made in April at the 213 level. ■

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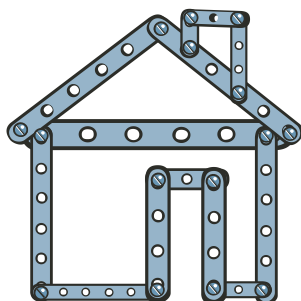


FIGURE 1: PHILADELPHIA HOUSING SECTOR INDEX, DAILY. A breakdown below the 10-, 20-, and 50-day exponential moving averages follows a negative divergence in both the MACD histogram and the stochastic.

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Airline Index Underperforming

by Chaitali Mohile

\$XAL has formed multiple bearish flag & pennant formations.

Tradable: \$XAL

Bearish flag & pennants are bearish indicators in a downtrend. Certainly, the airline index has formed more than one flag & pennant on its weekly chart (Figure 1). This formation indicates more downside in the index. The continuation pattern suggests the previous decline rally will continue with every breakout of the flag & pennant formation.

The airline index has formed more than one flag & pennant on its weekly chart. This formation indicates more downside in the index.



Figure 1 shows the genuine declining rally with a high at 64. The first downward rally consolidated at 60 and its breakout gave birth to another bearish flag formation and then another, so almost three bearish flags have been formed since early January 2007. The current consolidation range is 50-52, and the flag is most likely heading for a breakout but in a bearish direction only. The range is under the resistance level of a 200-day moving average and a 50-day moving average too, even if the index tries to break out on the upside as a moving average resistance.

Stochastic (14, 3, 3) is at 20, which could be a buying position for new traders. But the bearish flag & pennant formation do not suggest any reliable buying opportunities. The moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) (12, 26, 9) is negative so no fresh



FIGURE 1: \$XAL, WEEKLY. The multiple flag & pennant formation indicates more downside.

buying is possible.

The daily chart also gives a bearish signal (Figure 2). The two doji candles formed on May 31 and June 1 clearly indicate indecision, and the 50-day moving average resistance confirms more downside. Stochastic (14, 3, 3) has already reached the overbought area so hardly any upside in downtrend can be expected. The MACD (12, 26, 9) is moving higher but below its zero line.

Thus, looking at multiple bearish flags formed on Figure 1 and doji candles under the 50-day moving average resistance level, traders may see more downside and the airlines index will continue to underperform. A short position is possible with a breakout at 50 with prior low pivot of 48 as the first target. ■



FIGURE 2: \$XAL, DAILY. The price is under moving average resistance.

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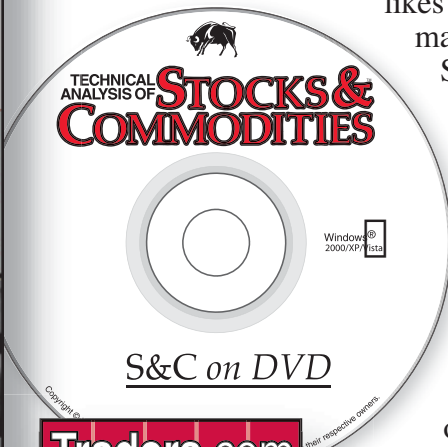
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SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

Semiconductor Index May Get Churned

by Chaitali Mohile

The Philadelphia Semiconductor Index is in a strong support/resistance zone.

Tradable: \$SOX

The Philadelphia Semiconductor Index (\$SOX) witnessed a huge correction from early May 2006 to mid-July 2006. On its reverse journey on the bulls side, the index had various support/resistance zones of moving averages. In this article, the support/resistance is in the context of moving averages and not trendlines. The pullback rally gained bullish strength with a 200-day moving average support but faced the resistance of a 50-day moving average. This restricted its upward journey.

The consolidation near the 50-day moving average sustained for about four to five months, losing upside momentum before finally forming a triangle formation. Meanwhile, the 20-day moving average also traveled to support the price breakout for the triangle. The price followed the 20-day moving average support and seems to have achieved its breakout

target. Figure 1 shows that the index recently dipped to its low pivot but stood on support of the 20-day moving average. But the previous high pivot may lead to a narrow range-bound move.

In Figure 1, the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) (12, 26, 9) gave a bullish crossover back in April 2006 along with a pullback rally. Since then, it has remained positive. But as the price consolidated, forming a triangle, the MACD was volatile but still positive. The relative strength index (RSI) (14) moved with its 50 level support, indicating more upside rally. Both indicators are moving close to its support line, which most likely will leave its impact on price movement as well.

In Figure 2, \$SOX is on the 50-day moving average support level and facing the resistance of the 20-day moving average at 495. The narrow range is likely to churn the further bullish path for some time. But traders need to stay alert, as the index holds stronger support than the resistance. As a result, any breakout above 500 will lead a new rally upward. Resistances are meant to be violated. In Figure 2, however, the MACD (12, 26, 9) has positioned for a bullish crossover. The RSI (14) is at 50 and ready to bounce, so buying can be expected. The buyer can look for 510 at its first target and carry on with the stop-loss of 495.

As the move begins with support (purple arrow), the price was unable to cross the moving average resistance, leading to consolidation till the final breakout on April 18. ■

The RSI (14) is at 50 and ready to bounce, so buying can be expected.

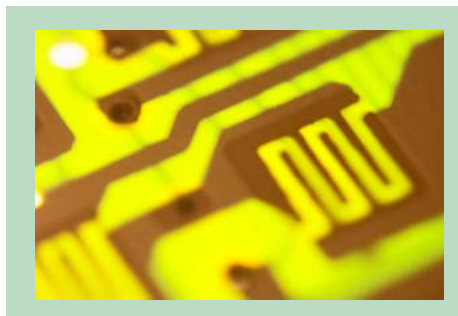
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FIGURE 1: \$SOX, WEEKLY. Two previous weekly candles stand on support of the 20-day moving average. The prior high pivot may act as resistance to the bullish breakout.



FIGURE 2: \$SOX, DAILY. The 20-day moving average is resistance and the 50-day moving average is support. The prices is thus likely to be in a much narrower range till it moves above the resistance line.



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CURRENCIES

OVERBOUGHT OVERSOLD

US Dollar Index Firms At Support

by Arthur Hill

The US Dollar Index remains in a clear downtrend, but the index is firming near oversold territory and looks ripe for at least a bounce.

Tradable: \$USD

On the weekly chart (Figure 1), the US dollar traced out a massive head & shoulders pattern from 1990 to 2007. The left shoulder peaked in 1993–94, the head peaked in 2001, and the right shoulder peaked in 2005. The index declined to neckline support over the last 18 months, and now, a big test awaits. A break below neckline support would seal the dollar's fate for a long time to come.

Support is holding for now, and the head & shoulders remains a potentially bearish pattern. These patterns require confirmation, and the index

needs to close below 80 to start the confirmation process. As long as support holds, there is a chance for a bounce off this level and traders should also prepare for some upside.

On the daily chart (Figure 2), the US dollar remains in a clear downtrend, but became oversold at the end of April. Two items point to oversold conditions. The relative strength index (RSI) moved below 70 for the fifth time since 2004 and the index moved outside the falling price channel (gray oval). Both show that the decline has reached an extreme and we should prepare for an oversold bounce.

In addition to oversold conditions, the index managed to firm over the last nine days. There were a couple of rally attempts but each fell short, and the 82 level marks the first line of resistance. A break above this level would be positive and start the oversold bounce. A correction rally could retrace 50–62% of the prior decline, and this would target a move to around 83.4–84. There is also resistance in this area from broken support. ■

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FIGURE 1: US DOLLAR INDEX, WEEKLY. Here, the dollar traced out a massive head & shoulders pattern from 1990 to 2007.



FIGURE 2: US DOLLAR INDEX, DAILY. The dollar remains in a clear downtrend, but it became oversold at the end of April.

TECHNICAL INDICATORS

Go With The Flow

by Koos van der Merwe

The maxim "Trade what you see, not what you think you see" applies to all charts, but sometimes pure common sense carries greater weight.

Tradable: \$UDX

The Economist (April 28, 2007) has an article titled "Buttonwood: Sale of the Century." In the article the writer suggests that the reason for the Dow Jones Industrial Average's recent strength is that companies are buying back their own shares at a record rate, and investors are then lured into buying shares of those companies regardless.

If this is true — and there is no reason to doubt it — we must question why. Why are companies buying their own shares rather than using their surplus

cash — profits — to expand and grow their companies, or for that matter, increase the dividends distributed to their shareholders? We can also ask where is the money coming from, increased sales or reduced expenditure?

If companies are buying their own shares, why then are pundits seeing a recession in the US on the horizon?

And therein lays the answer: The fear of a recession in the United States. Personally, I believe that Ben Bernanke,

the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, is a great deal smarter than most people believe him to be. I believe he is allowing the US dollar to weaken dramatically, and will continue to do so for a few years to come, or until such



FIGURE 1: US DOLLAR, MONTHLY. Here's a drop in the US dollar, and the further slide expected.

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time as the US deficit (money that was borrowed with a strong dollar) is repaid with a far weaker dollar. This makes common sense, and brings me to my first chart, the US Dollar Index (\$UDX).

Figure 1 is a monthly chart of the US Dollar Index, which shows how the index collapsed from a high of 121.25 on July 31, 2001, to its present level of 81.67, a fall of 32.64% ((121.25 - 81.67)/121.25).

Wait... lights are flashing; 32.6% is not close to a Fibonacci number, a number not to be ignored. Does this not suggest that the dollar could have bottomed and is now going to strengthen?

This scenario does look probable. A look at the chart does show what could be a double bottom, but this will only be confirmed should the index start moving up and break the 92.83 level. The moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) indicator is still weak, and the wave analysis suggested by the program, Advanced GET, is suggesting the possibility of a fifth wave down move as a 73% (73 PTI) probability to a target of 67.94.

This leads me to Figure 2.

Figure 2 is a consolidated chart of the euro, British pound, Australian

dollar, and New Zealand dollar. I have not included the yen or yuan. You can see that all the currencies chosen are floating and have strengthened against the dollar. This means that merchandise manufactured in these countries have become more expensive to the consumer in the United States and vice versa. However, my next chart of the yen against the euro, Figure 3, tells a different story.

And then, of course, there is the yuan (renmimbi), not shown on the chart. We all know that the yuan is fixed to the US dollar, adjusted as and when? This is a bone of contention for the United States, which complains that Chinese merchandise is far too cheap. The yen, on the other hand, when compared to the euro, started off tracking the US dollar, but appears to have started leaning more toward the yuan/US dollar from about October 2006.

So if the US dollar is "Dead... dead... dead," to quote Peter Grandich from his May 7th *Grandich* newsletter, where do you as an investor place your money? You may say GOLD, or any other metal out there, for that matter. Molybdenum is becoming the current flavor, and uranium, well, need I say more? Then, of course, you could look



FIGURE 2: EURO, POUND, AUSSIE DOLLAR, KIWI DOLLAR. This chart shows how certain currencies have moved in sync.

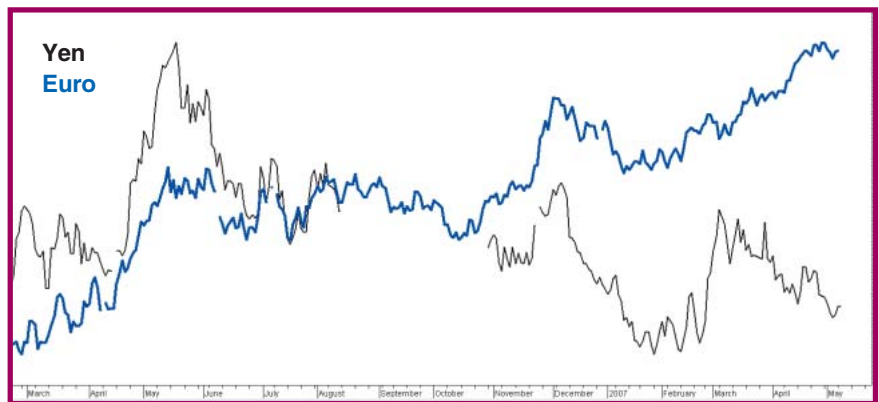


FIGURE 3: YEN VS. EURO. Here's how the yen has moved against the US dollar as compared to the movement of the euro.

for those US companies buying back their own shares, and you could go with the flow. ■

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REVERSAL

Should You Buy The Dollar?

by David Penn

Positive divergences, bullish moving average alignments, and overbought conditions combine to make the greenback attractive.

Tradable: DX, DXM7

Full disclosure: You'll find no one who has been more intermittently bullish on the dollar than I have been. While I've spent time chronicling and anticipating dollar moves in both directions for years, I've always maintained an underlying suspicion that the dollar would sooner or later catch those who were betting heavily against it by surprise.

After all, most of the biggest financial calamities have come as a result of traders and speculators becoming complacent with "can't-lose" bets such as the relationship between short- and long-term oil prices in the early 1990s or Russian debt spreads in the late 1990s. As such, the collapse in the US dollar, widely taken for granted, has been on my contrarian radar for a long time. See Figure 1.

We are again seeing signs of a move higher in the dollar. First, the evidence of a significant low comes from



FIGURE 1: US DOLLAR INDEX, CONTINUOUS FUTURES, MONTHLY. The most recent decline in the dollar, which began in late 2005, finds the market testing multiyear lows in the summer of 2007.



FIGURE 2: US DOLLAR INDEX, JUNE FUTURES, DAILY. All that remains from a complete, "all clear" to the upside in the June dollar is a bullish realignment of the moving averages that puts the shortest moving average on top of both the intermediate- and longer-term moving averages.





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the positive divergence in the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) histogram (Figure 2). This divergence is between the lows of mid-February and the lows of mid-April. In addition, the size of the MACD histogram as the dollar (basis June) bounce in May was the largest it had been since the greenback topped out in early January — another bullish sign.

The June dollar has also become overbought. Contrary to conventional wisdom, overbought markets can often be successfully and profitably traded to the long side (see my Working Money.com article “BOSO” from October 5, 2005). After all, an overbought stochastic simply means the buyers are on a win streak, forcing the market to close at the upper end of its

range session after session after session. While this will not last forever, fading a streak (as any gambler will tell you) can be an expensive proposition.

Since first becoming overbought on May 14, the June dollar reentered overbought territory on the 18th. It is important to note there have been follow-through closes above the high of the overbought sessions on the 14th and 18th. This provides confirmation for the overbought trade (a BOSO long), a position that generally can be held until the reverse happens — the market slips from being overbought and shows follow-through with lower closes.

The last factor has yet to fully develop — and may not. However, given the positive divergences, the new MACD histogram peak, and the over-

bought reading in the stochastic, it is likely that this last factor — a bullish realignment of the short-, intermediate-, and longer-term moving averages — will also manifest itself. Right now, the shortest exponential moving average, the 10-day, has crossed above the 20-day. But both of those moving averages remain below the 50-day EMA. A bullish realignment will occur as soon as both the 10-day and 20-day are above the 50-day, with the 10-day remaining above the 20-day.

The June greenback is advancing toward a source of potential resistance near 82.5. This resistance lingers from the lows of the second half of March. Given that the June greenback has moved almost without correction from its low near 81.25 to almost 82.5, a

Contrary to conventional wisdom, overbought markets can often be successfully and profitably traded to the long side.

pullback as resistance is enjoined would not be surprising in the least. If that pullback occurs, however, keep an eye on the stochastic. As long as the stochastic does not lose its overbought status and confirm that with lower closing lows, the advance in the June greenback will remain intact. ■

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CANDLESTICK CHARTING

The USD/JPY Breakout Stalls At Target

by David Penn

Bulls exit as a swing rule projection from a recent breakout in the greenback/yen is reached.

Tradable: USDJPY

The US dollar–Japanese yen pair has been in an uptrend since March 2007. That month, the USD/JPY finished a sharp correction brought on by a panic over the health of the carry trade.

If the concerns over the carry trade caused the selloff, then the resulting rally, which has more than retraced the entire correction, suggests that the carry trade is alive and well. The carry trade refers to the purchase of higher-interest rate currencies (in this case, the US dollar) and the sale (or borrowing) of lower-interest rate currencies (in this case, the yen). Speculators take advantage of the disparity in interest rates to secure low-cost financing from one source and higher rates of return from another.

When a market is in an uptrend, the goal of short-term traders is to trade the swings. This means buying the dips or the breakouts to new highs. This can be one and the same, as will be the case in the example provided in Figure 1. One of my favorite sayings about swing trading comes from Oliver Velez Jr. of

Pristine.com, who told an audience of traders: “Your mission as a trader is not to buy some of the dips, not to buy most of the dips, but to buy all of the dips. The only question is when.”

Japanese candlesticks provide one way for traders to “know when.” By spotting basic candlestick reversal patterns at potential support levels during corrections in a trend, traders can find excellent low-cost entries while taking advantage of the power of the underlying trend to move prices in the anticipated direction.

Consider the pullback in the USD/JPY in early June. The market rallied into the month but stalled soon afterward and began a four-day correction lower. On the fifth day, a sizable bullish engulfing pattern appeared suggesting that the correction might be over.

The bullish engulfing pattern is one in which a single bullish candlestick line appears at the end of a downtrend with a high and a low that both exceed that of the previous bearish line (or lines). In order for the pattern to provide a reliable signal, the pattern should be confirmed by some additional technical factor, such as support.

Defined as the place where bearish momentum grew weak, support for this bullish engulfing pattern comes from the long lower candlestick shadow from late May. This, along with the lows of the bullish engulfing candlestick itself, provides a clear “Get Out!” level for traders looking to buy the dip in the USD/JPY uptrend by buying the opening session following the close of the engulfing session.

Another option would be to buy any

breakout to a new high. Two dojis follow the bullish engulfing day, and after that USD/JPY surges higher, taking out the highs set on June 1. A trader could buy the close of that breakout and use the level of the breakout as a support point.

What sort of profit target might a trader buying this breakout look for? Since there are no previous peaks to use as price targets, another option is the swing rule. The swing rule calls for traders to measure the distance from a trough low to the top, and to add that amount to the value at the top. In the case of the early June correction in the USD/JPY, we get a swing that projects to 123.51. A trader buying the breakout session’s close would be long at 122.59, setting the stage for a 90-odd pip trade. With a stop at the level of the breakout, the trade has roughly 45 pips of risk. A 2-to-1 reward/risk ratio makes this breakout worth buying.

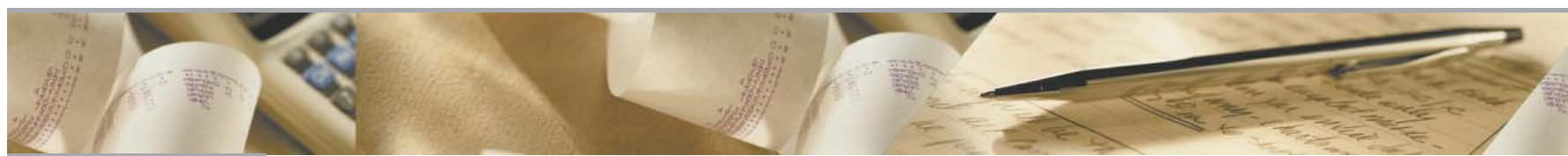
Three days after the breakout, the



FIGURE 1: US DOLLAR/JAPANESE YEN (USD/JPY), DAILY. The end of this pullback in the uptrend of the USD/JPY was signaled by a bullish engulfing pattern. The lowermost horizontal blue line represents the breakout resistance level and the vertical blue line represents the price target based on a swing rule projection from the four-day correction. The higher horizontal blue line represents the current support level for traders who did not exit when the target was reached three days after the breakout.

USD/JPY closes at 123.61, a few pips beyond the target. And as the spinning tops that have developed since attest, the stalled rally appears to provide an excellent opportunity for traders to take profits. ■

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MARKET UPDATE

MACD Divergences And Market Direction

by Jack Steiman

Learn what divergences in the moving average convergence/divergence (MACD) can tell you about which way the market is going.

Technicians use an array of technical tools to help them make decisions about why the market is doing what it is doing and what they think the market will do next. They will run down a list of methods and indicators all the way from Elliott wave to stochastics and be able to make a case for each and every one of those methods and indicators.

APPLYING INDICATORS

There is no question that everything has its place. All of these approaches are usable and quite valuable. However, when talking to folks who take my seminar, they tell me how they'd love to apply what they hear from other traders, but they just can't seem to understand what it is they're looking for when dealing with a particular technical indicator or method. When they hear about stochastics or relative strength index (RSI), it all sounds great. But what they want to know is: How do I apply it? An indicator or trading method may sound great, but if traders have trouble applying it, then what's the use? Aspiring traders know there is value in those technical tools, but they cannot quite figure them out — and that is what frustrates them.

Having been in the business of both trading and educating traders and investors, I must admit I use many technical tools to determine my short-term and long-term approach to playing this game. I definitely use triangle setups as they are quite powerful. With ascending, symmetrical and descending triangles, each paints its own picture of possibilities, and all should be analyzed by every trader. There are methods and setups such as the 50-day test, doji candlestick patterns, and "inside days." Finally, stochastics and the RSI are invaluable in understanding when to buy, sell, or stay pat. Again, all of these tools are worthwhile for traders.

THE MACD

However, as far as I am concerned, there are only two true indicators in this game: (1) the combina-

tion of price/volume trends and (2) my favorite, MACD divergences. These are the true rulers of the market and I have used them and taught others to

use them successfully for many years. (The key to using these approaches is in keeping it simple so as to actually be able to use this tool, and so this will be my mission for all of you today.)

Before focusing on MACD divergences, I should say there are many different time frames I have found to be useful. The best are the 60-minute or hourly, the daily and the weekly charts, all of which can reveal important divergences between the action of the indicator and the action of the

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As far as I am concerned, there are only two true indicators in this game: (1) the combination of price/volume trends and (2) my favorite, MACD divergences.

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I can say without exaggeration that MACD divergences work, if read properly, more than 75% of the time. But again, you need to read — and trade — them appropriately.

market. Divergences in the 60-minute chart can alert you to changes in market direction that are about to occur within one to two days in most cases. Divergences in the daily chart tend to tell their tale within one to as many as five days, and divergences in the weekly chart can take from as little as three days to as long as two weeks when anticipating changes in market direction.

Nothing is exact, but these are general guidelines. The key is learning to trust these divergences when they occur and not lose patience when they do not work instantaneously. Unfortunately, many traders make just this mistake. Trading is an emotional game, and you need to trust that these divergences will work given a little leeway and time. I can say without exaggeration that MACD divergences work, if read properly, more than 75% of the time. But again, you need to read — and trade — them appropriately. I will teach you how to do just that, and I will give you some charts to look at as well.

Now that we understand the time frames that are best to refer to, let's talk about the parameters you should use when setting up your MACD. You should use the standard or default settings of 12, 26, 9. These numbers stand for the lengths of various moving averages: a 12-period moving average, a 26-period moving average, and a nine-period moving average. Understanding the relationship between these moving averages is key. Remember that a healthy, uptrending market is one in which the shortest-duration moving average is the highest. Markets are bullish when the 20-period moving average is higher than the 50-period moving average, and when the 50-period moving average is higher than the 200-period moving average. The same is true to the downside. A healthy, downtrending market will feature the shortest moving average as the lowest, followed by longer-term moving averages (that is, intermediate-term below longer-term).

There are two ways to read the MACD. The first method is called the MACD crossover. If you are



FIGURE 1: MACD DIVERGENCE AT WORK, HOURLY. On this chart of Apple, you can see that AAPL made a low on April 13 and a lower low on April 18. The MACD was forming higher highs, which indicates a positive divergence.

trading the MACD crossover, then you are focused on which moving average line is the highest (using the bullish example) and when that “crossover” occurred. You know you have a bullish market if the 12-period moving average is over or crossing over the 26-period moving average. Conversely, you have a bearish market if the 12-period moving average is below or crossing below the 26-period moving average. This is the first step in learning how to recognize a market when it is about to switch direction from bullish to bearish or vice versa. Believe it or not, this is how you can outperform a market. By following the MACD, you are catching the turn in the market before it takes place. You are positioning yourself ahead of the masses.

DIVERGENCES

But what about “divergences”? The first step is simply watching price. What you want to do is compare the most recent highs or lows in terms of price. For example, let's say a stock in a downtrend makes a low at \$50. The stock rises some (“bounces”) and then comes back down and makes an equal or, better yet, a lower low. Let's say two weeks after hitting the low of \$50 and bouncing, the stock came down and put in a low at \$49.25. This would mean two lows in price, the second low lower than the first — divergences to work with equal lows (that is, if the stock had bounced

and come back to make a second low at \$50), but lower lows are best.

The next step is to examine the MACD. First, look at the position of the MACD when the stock made the first low at \$50, and then look at the position of the MACD when the stock made its second, lower low at \$49.25. You have prices making lower lows, but — and here's the key — if the MACD is higher at \$49.25 than it was at \$50, then the MACD is creating a positive divergence.

The simple way to think about it is this: there wasn't as much selling pressure on the lower low. The MACD is diverging at the lower low in price by being higher versus itself at \$50. The MACD is higher, even though the price of the stock is lower. This is the place to be buying.

From a negative or bearish perspective, let's say a stock is in an uptrend and makes a high of \$70. The stock comes down and then three weeks later rises back up, this time to \$72. If the MACD on the second high of \$72 is lower than it was when the stock was at \$70, you have a negative divergence. A negative divergence tells traders to think about selling long positions and possibly even going short.

Remember, you're comparing the most recent lows or highs to themselves. Again, the most recent! You are not comparing highs or lows from three or four highs or lows ago. The time frame on the daily or weekly charts should never be more than six

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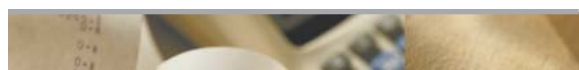
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weeks apart when comparing the most recent highs or lows to themselves. On the 60-minute charts, the space between the highs or lows should never be more than three weeks.

Let's look at an example of a MACD divergence. This example will feature a 60-minute chart as opposed to a daily chart and will include a well-known and well-loved stock, Apple, Inc. (Figure 1).

Shares of Apple (AAPL) fell into a falling wedge pattern late in March 2007. The stock had been moving higher over much of the month, but late in March reached a peak just shy of 97 and began a pattern of lower highs and lower lows throughout the balance of the month and the first half of April. For most of this decline, the MACD moved in tandem, rising when the price of AAPL rose and falling when the price of AAPL fell.

However, near the middle of April this relationship between AAPL and MACD changed. While the price continued to decline, the MACD began moving higher. AAPL made a low in the afternoon of April 13 and a lower low in the morning of April 18. At the same time that AAPL was forming lower lows, the MACD was forming higher highs — specifically, the MACD was higher on April 18 than it was on April 13. This meant that there was a positive divergence in the hourly chart of AAPL and a strong possibility of higher prices in the very near future.

A week after that lower low in AAPL at about 89, the stock was closing above 95.

DIVERGENCES FOR ALL

MACD divergences work in all markets — stocks, forex, futures. Not only is it a powerful, primary tool for trading, it is also what I use most in deciding which side of the market to be on and what stocks to buy or short for my investment/trading newsletter service. MACD divergences have been successful throughout the years, and I would encourage traders to take the time to learn as much as possible about how they work. Paper-trade them first to get yourself comfortable with them, and don't get too complicated. Compare the most recent higher highs or lower lows to themselves and look at the position of the MACD when those higher highs and lower lows are made, and you'll be on your way. ■

This article was originally published on 6/21/2007.

 This article — and articles like it — can be found online at www.working-money.com.

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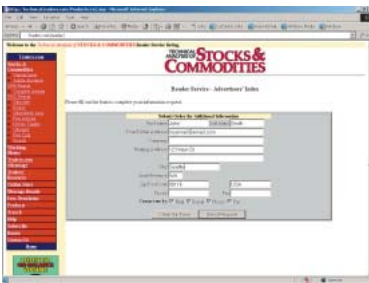
TWO WAYS TO CONNECT! CHOOSE THE WAY THAT'S EASIEST FOR YOU

WEB

To help our readers connect better with our advertisers, we have updated our reader service process. Go to traders.com/reader and look for the alphabetized list of our current monthly advertisers. Just follow the simple directions below and the advertisers will get your requests the same day!

STEP 1: Point your browser to Traders.com/reader and scroll through our alphabetized listing of our current month's advertisers.

Click the box for each advertiser you'd like to hear from. At the bottom of the list, click "continue" when finished.



STEP 2: Simply fill out your name and address and click "Send Request." Your request will then be sent to the advertisers you selected. And that's it!

OR

MAIL OR FAX

OR fill out your information in the box below and check the advertisers you'd like to hear from. Then fax or mail it back to us!

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| <input type="checkbox"/> E*Trade Financial | <input type="checkbox"/> Profitunity Trading Group |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> OEX Options, Inc. | <input type="checkbox"/> WallStreetWindow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> optionsXpress | <input type="checkbox"/> Xpresstrade |

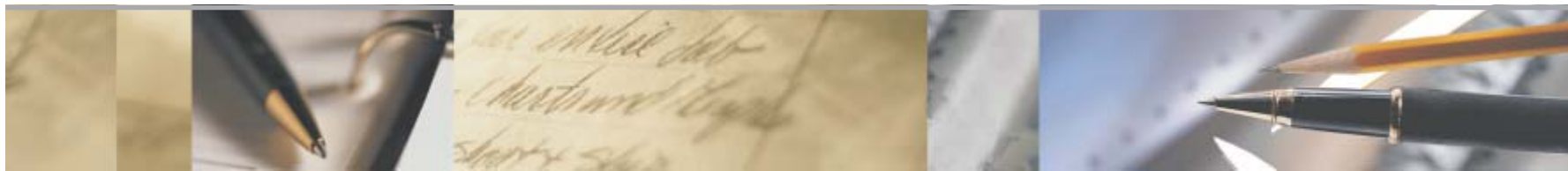
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TRADERS' GLOSSARY



Average Directional Movement Index (ADX) — Indicator developed by J. Welles Wilder to measure market trend intensity.

Bollinger Bands — Developed by John Bollinger. Bollinger Bands widen during increased volatility and contract in decreased volatility, and when broken, are an indication that the trend is powerful and may continue in that direction.

Breakout — The point when the market price moves out of the trend channel.

Buy and Hold — The acquisition of a tradable for the long term rather than quick turnover.

Convergence — When futures prices and spot prices come together at the futures expiration.

Divergence — When two or more averages or indices fail to show confirming trends.

Directional Movement Index (DMI) — Developed by J. Welles Wilder, DMI measures market trend.

Elliott Wave Theory — A pattern-recognition technique published by Ralph Nelson Elliott in 1939, which holds that the stock market follows a rhythm or pattern of five waves up and three waves down to form a complete cycle of eight waves. The three waves down are referred to as a "correction" of the preceding five waves up. Fibonacci ratios are applied to the price spans and price targets may be projected.

Exponential Moving Average — A variation of the moving average, the EMA places more weight on the most recent closing price. The formula for calculating EMA is: $EMA = (\text{Today's closing price} * k) + (\text{Yesterday's moving average} * (1 - k))$, where $k = 2/(n+1)$; $n = \text{no. of periods}$.

Fade — Selling a rising price or buying a falling price. Foreexample, a trader who faded an up opening would be short.

Flag — Sideways market price action that has a slight drift in price counter to the direction of the main trend; a consolidation phase.

Head and Shoulders — When the middle price peak of a given tradable is higher than those around it.

Lag — The number of datapoints that a filter, such

as a moving average, follows or trails the input price data. Also, in trading and time series analysis, lag refers to the time difference between one value and another. Though lag specifically refers to one value being behind or later than another, generic use of the term includes values that may be before or after the reference value.

Moving Average Convergence/Divergence (MACD) — The crossing of two exponentially smoothed moving averages that are plotted above and below a zero line. The crossover, movement through the zero line, and divergences generate buy and sell signals.

Overbought — Market prices that have risen too steeply and too fast.

Overbought/Oversold Indicator — An indicator that attempts to define when prices have moved too far and too fast in either direction and thus are vulnerable to a reaction.

Oversold — Market prices that have declined too steeply and too fast.

Pairs Trading — Taking a long position and a short position on two stocks in the same sector, creating a hedge.

Relative Strength — A comparison of the price performance of a stock to a market index such as the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index.

Resistance — A price level at which rising prices have stopped rising and either moved sideways or reversed direction; usually seen as a price chart pattern.

Retracement — A price movement in the opposite direction of the previous trend

Simple Moving Average — The arithmetic mean or average of a series of prices over a period of time. The longer the period of time studied (that is, the larger the denominator of the average), the less effect an individual data point has on the average.

Smoothing — Simply, a mathematical technique that removes excess data variability while maintaining a correct appraisal of the underlying trend.

Stochastics Oscillator — An overbought/oversold

indicator that compares today's price to a preset window of high and low prices. These data are then transformed into a range between zero and 100 and then smoothed.

Support — A historical price level at which falling prices have stopped falling and either moved sideways or reversed direction; usually seen as a price chart pattern.

Swing Chart — A chart that has a straight line drawn from each price extreme to the next price extreme based on a set criteria such as percentages or number of days. For example, percentage price changes of less than 5% will not be measured in the swing chart.

Trading Range — The difference between the high and low prices traded during a period of time; in commodities, the high/low price limit established by the exchange for a specific commodity for any one day's trading.

Trend Channel — A parallel probable price range centered about the most likely price line. Historically, this term has been used to denote the area between the base trendline and the reaction trendline defined by price moves against the prevailing trend.

Trendline — A line drawn that connects either a series of highs or lows in a trend. The trendline can represent either support as in an uptrend line or resistance as in a downtrend line. Consolidations are marked by horizontal trendlines.

Triangle — A pattern that exhibits a series of narrower price fluctuations over time; top and bottom boundaries need not be of equal length.

Volatility — A measure of a stock's tendency to move up and down in price, based on its daily price history over the last 12 months.

Underlying Security — In options, a stock subject to purchase upon exercise of the option.

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