



TradeBuilder Community Edition

Official User Manual

Revised April 24, 2019
Toronto, Canada



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1.0 Introduction

Thank you for purchasing TradeBuilder Community Edition. You have taken the first, big step towards building your unique, personalized trading strategy – one capable of identifying market opportunities that established and automated systems cannot detect.

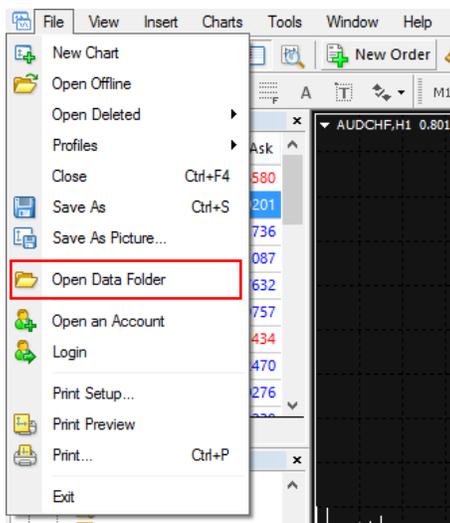
This manual will describe, in-depth, the installation and operation of the plug-in, as well as elaborate on perks and benefits that come with the license that you just purchased.

2.0 Installation

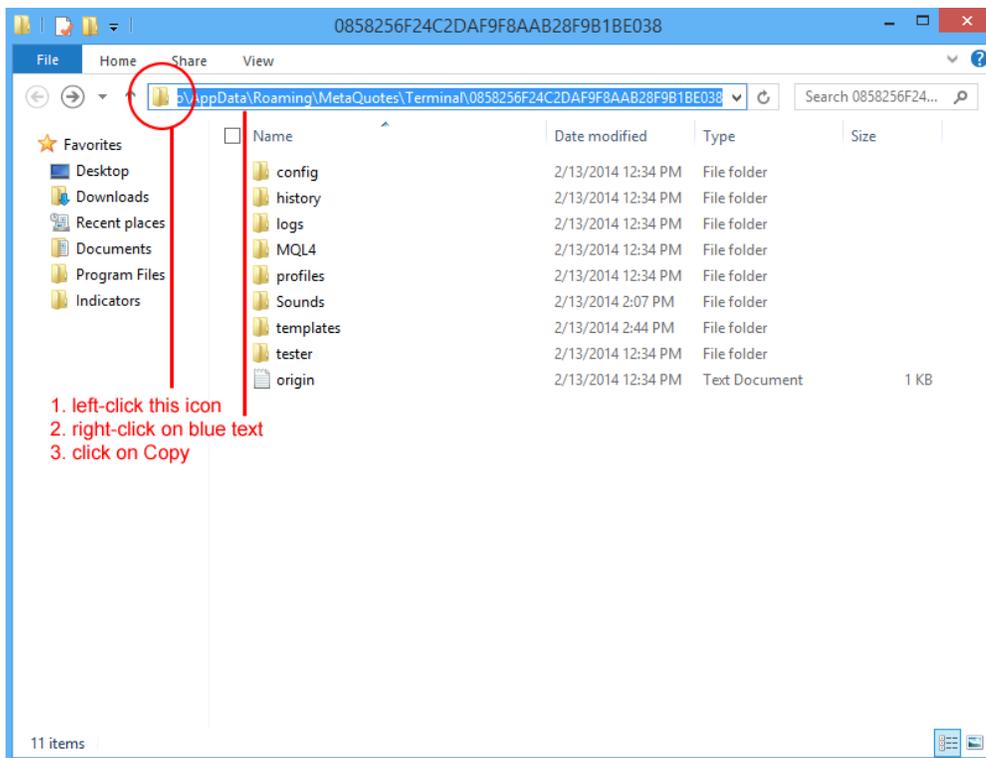
This will take under a minute, and just several clicks of your mouse. TradeBuilder Community has an installation wizard built-in, which will automatically detect your Metatrader platform and install all required components without any effort on your part. All you have to do is double click on the *Install TradeBuilder – Community Edition* package that you downloaded, and keep clicking Next until the installation is complete. All suggested, default settings will be preselected for you, but you will have a chance to customize the installation process if you so desire.

IMPORTANT: The installer will ask you for a destination folder. Metaquotes (Metatrader's publisher) has changed the way this is done with builds 600 and higher. Please follow the instructions below to select the correct folder (the installation wizard also includes a tutorial).

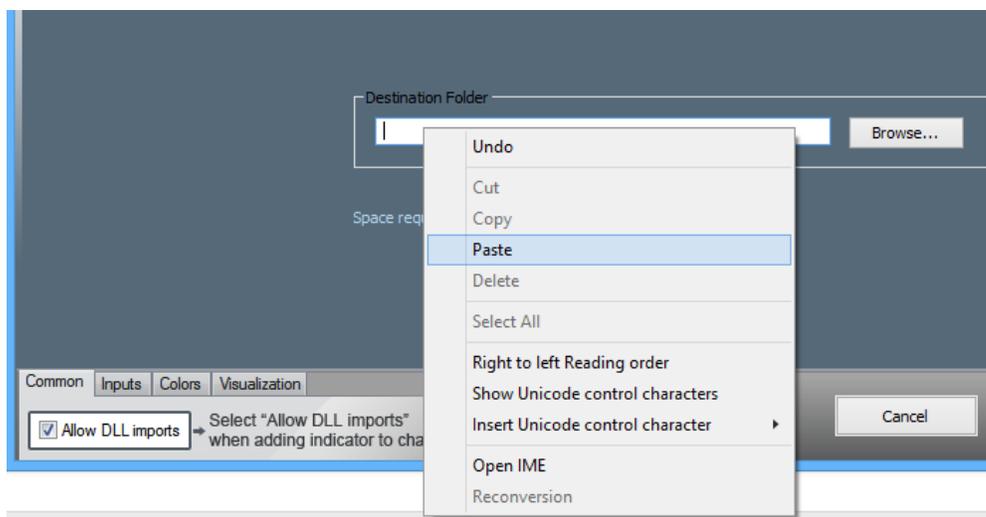
1. Launch Metatrader 4, click "File" then "Open Data Folder" .



2. A folder window will open up. This is the folder directory we need to enter into TradeBuilder Community's installation wizard. Within the folder window: left-click on the left-most icon (little yellow folder), then right-click on blue/selected text and click "Copy".



- Close the platform and start the TradeBuilder Community installer. Click "Next" until you get to "Choose Install Location" screen. Right-click on the field and select "Paste" to insert the destination folder copied above.



Finish the installer and launch Metatrader.

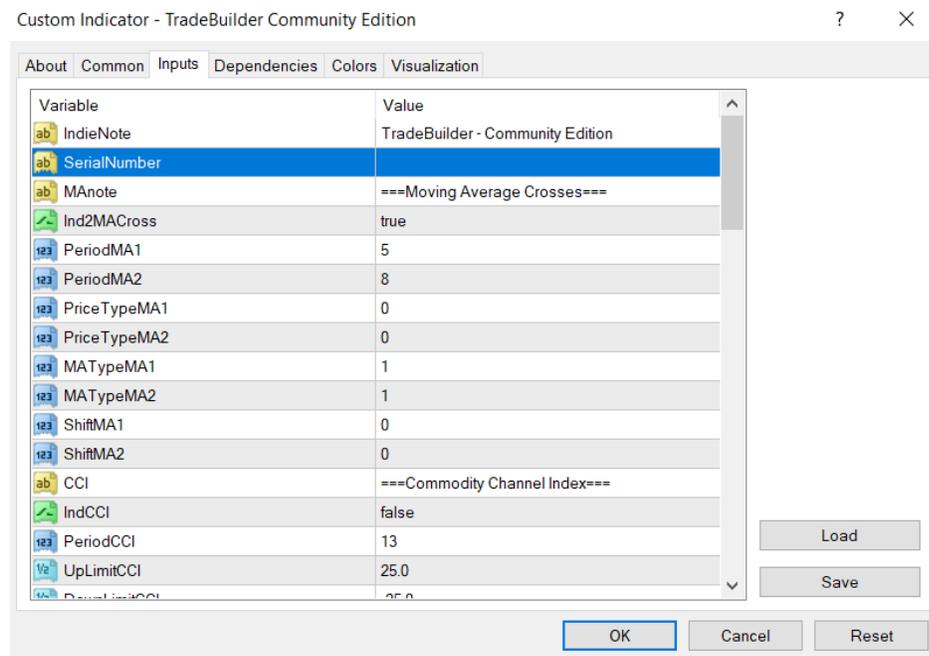
3.0 Running

Launch Metatrader 4, open Navigator window (Ctrl-N), expand Custom Indicators tab, and simply click and drag TradeBuilder – Community Edition indicator onto the main price chart.

Once it is attached, you'll be prompted with a dialog box, from within which you'll be able to start building your strategy. The blue *Trade Builder Community* label will automatically attach itself to the chart, letting you know that the plug-in is functioning properly.

3.1 Entering Your Serial Number

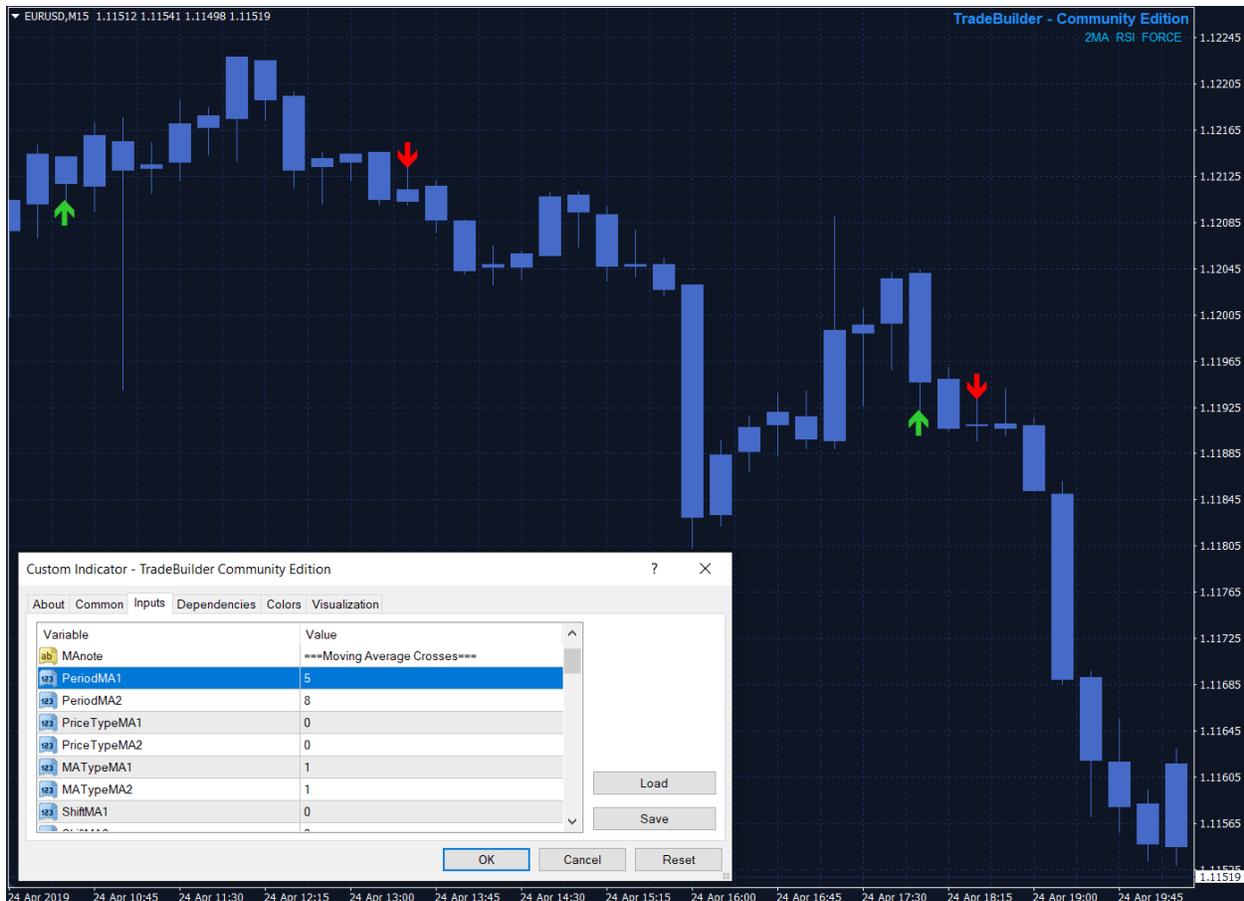
You need to activate your copy of TradeBuilder – Community Edition before it can be used. This requires insertion of a Serial number, which is typically sent to your email address within 24 hours following your purchase of the indicator.



To avoid entering the Serial number every time you add TradeBuilder Community to your charts, enter it once, and save that chart as a template (right-click on chart>>Template>>Save Template). Then, next time you want to use Community, all you do is load the template you just saved, and the Serial number will be loaded along with it.

3.2 Getting Started

You are now ready to start building your strategy. Click on the *Inputs* tab and configure desired integrated indicators. The blue *Trade Builder - Community Edition* label will automatically attach itself to the chart, letting you know that the plug-in is functioning properly.



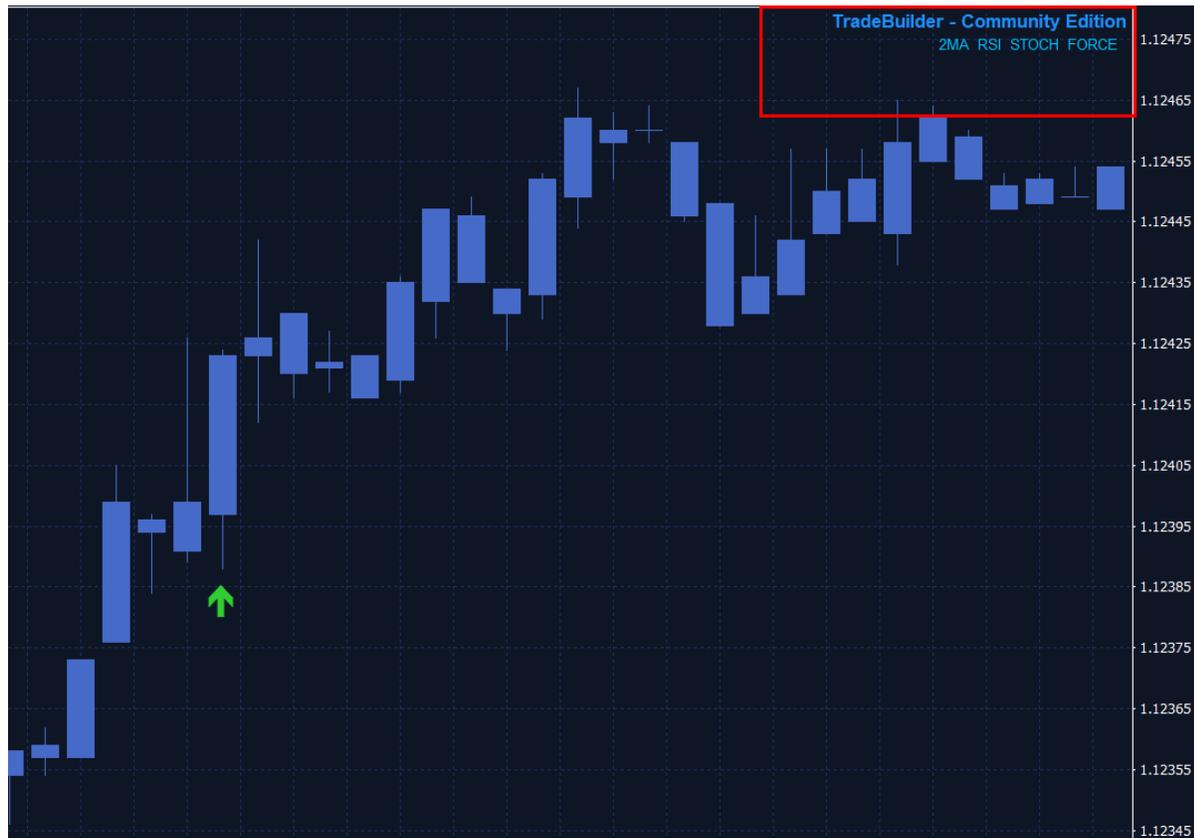
4.0 Strategy Building

Strategies are built from building blocks known as integrated indicators. You can combine any number of them, and effectively compound their functions. Each integrated indicator also has a number of options, giving you the ability to further customize each block. As of this writing there are 5 integrated indicators and 45 options altogether, which translates to thousands of possible combinations.

4.1 Activating Integrated Indicators

By default, when you first load TradeBuilder, all of the integrated indicators will be deselected, and hence you will have no signals/arrows on the chart. As a reminder, the indicator will display *No Indicators Selected* message. To activate an indicator, simply change its setting from **false** to **true**.

4.2 Visual Dashboard and Indicator Management

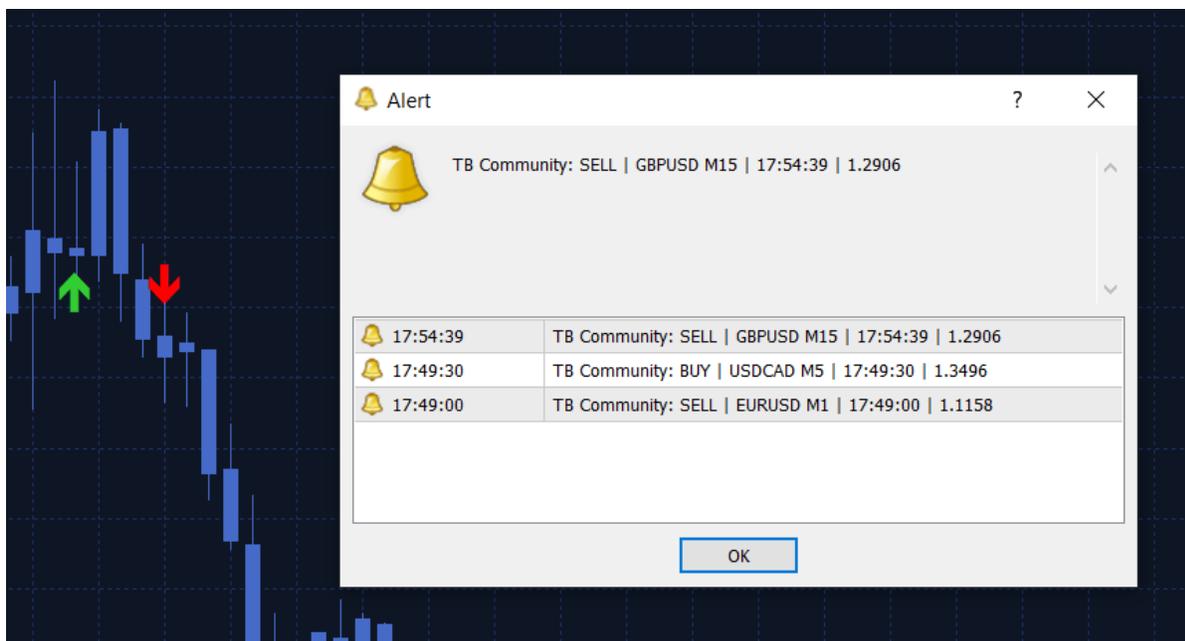


Dashboard displays all active TradeBuilder Community settings in one place. As you activate indicators, their names will appear on the main chart to help you keep track of your strategy input. Labels in **blue** (second line from top) are indicators which have a direct impact on buy/sell rules, while **pink** (third line from top) are filter indicators, explained throughout section 4.4.

4.3 Signals, Alerts, Push + Email Notifications

When your strategy conditions (indicators, options) are met, TradeBuilder will issue a signal. At bare minimum that signal will come in form of an arrow (up for Buy, down for Sell). You may also activate alerts. There are four other types: pop-up message, sound, push to phone and email.

Pop-ups are optional and separate from audio alerts. To activate/deactivate, simply set *Alert_PopUp_On* to True/False.



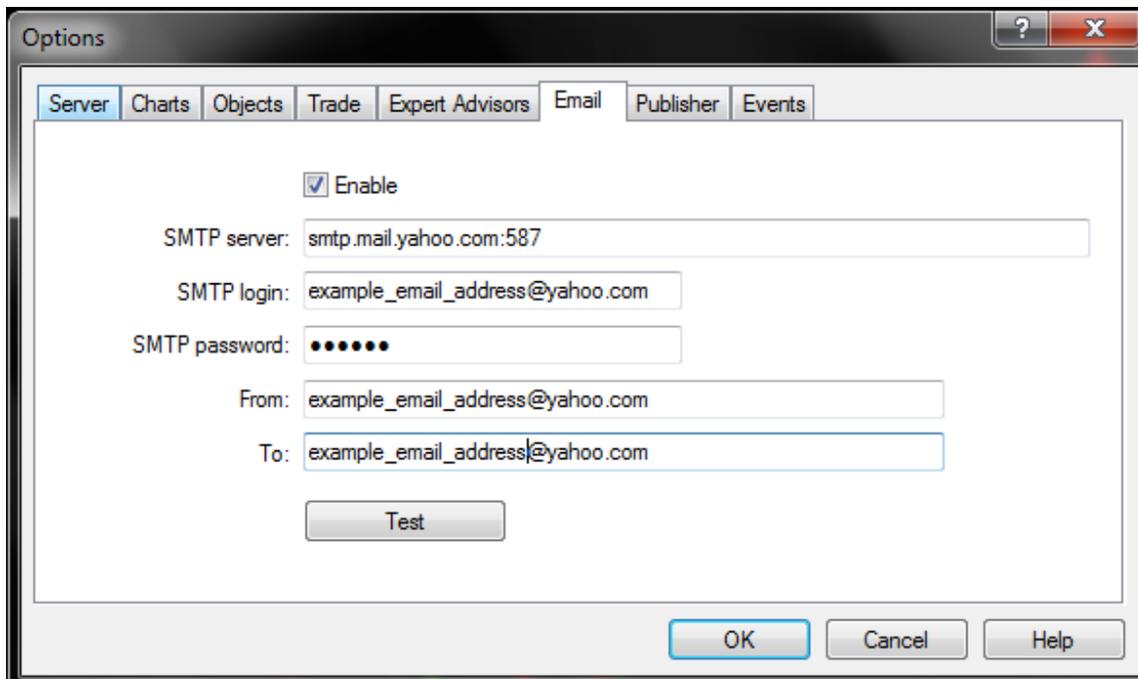
Audio alerts, activated via *Alert_On* can be assigned a specific sound to each, Long (Buy) and Short(Sell) signal. Locate **Buy_Sound** and **Sell_Sound** Parameters and change their values to 0-13, with 0 being default. The installer also adds 2 additional sound samples to your Metatrader platform - voice-overs announcing "Buy" and "Sell" conditions (both of which are defaults for their respective signals).

Your VPS or dedicated server with ChartVPS can be set-up to run one or more instances of Metatrader 4, with *TradeBuilder* and notifications turned on. Unlike a home computer that is prone to internet connection issues, ChartVPS has 99.99% or higher real uptime, ensuring you receive signals in a reliable and timely fashion.

Email Notifications

Email notification is activated by setting *Send_Email* option to **true**. However, you also have to configure your email address and settings in Metatrader 4 options. To do that, go to **Tools>>Options>>Email**, and enter all the required fields. If you're unsure of settings contact your email provider. The trickiest of all is SMTP (outgoing mail server), as some providers don't allow external access to it.

Note: all alerts are issued at the bar where a condition occurred – they do not repaint or get re-issued for the same condition.



4.4 Integrated Indicators & Options

The following is the list and description of each Integrated Indicator (and related options) bundled with TradeBuilder – Community Edition.

4.4.1 Common Parameters

Some indicators share common Parameters in their calculations. These and their options are listed below.

PERIOD: Also known as time interval, it is a number of historical bars considered for indicator calculation. The higher the value, the smoother/cleaner the result, but also the slower the signal. All integrated indicators come set with default values. You are encouraged to experiment with them, however, try to maintain a balance between smoothness and speed.

PRICE TYPE: Determines which type of price is applied toward calculation of an indicator. Options are 0 - Close, 1 - Open, 2 - High, 3 - Low, 4 - Median $((High + Low)/2)$, 5 - Typical $((High + Low + Close)/3)$, 6 - Weighted $((High + Low + Close + Close)/4)$.

MA TYPE: Moving average method applied toward calculation of an indicator. Options: 0 - Simple, 1 - Exponential, 2 - Smoothed, 3 - Linear Weighted. 3 is the fastest moving average, while 2 the slowest.

4.4.2 Double Moving Average Cross (2MA)

Moving average crossovers are a staple in most traders' toolsets, and I highly recommend you use it. In combination with RSI and Stochastics, it is capable of providing reliable and well-filtered signals. Buy signal issued when the faster moving average (MA1) crosses the slower moving average (MA2) from below. Sell signal issued when the faster moving average (MA1) crosses the slower moving average (MA2) from above.

 Ind2MACross	true
 PeriodMA1	5
 PeriodMA2	8
 PriceTypeMA1	0
 PriceTypeMA2	0
 MATypeMA1	1
 MATypeMA2	1
 ShiftMA1	0
 ShiftMA2	0

Parameters:

Parameters ending in MA1 and MA2 refer to moving averages 1, 2 (faster, slower).

Ind2MACross: Activates double MA cross. True = on, False = off

Period1, 2: Period of fastest MA, period of slower MA

Price TypeMA1, MA2: Price types for MA1 and MA2.

MATypeMA1, MA2: Moving average types for MA1 and MA2.

ShiftMA1, MA2: Number of bars that you would like each moving average to shift.

4.4.3 Relative Strength Index (RSI)

RSI is a momentum oscillator that measures speed, and change of price movements. Buy signal issued when RSI line moves above *UpLimit* value, Sell signal issued when RSI line moves below *DownLimit* value. The higher the spread between *UpLimit* and *DownLimit*, the more filtered the market is. To see what these limits represent, add an RSI indicator to your chart and look at the vertical number scale on the right.

 RSI	===Relative Strength Index===
 IndRSI	true
 PeriodRSI	10
 UpLimitRSI	65.0
 DownLimitRSI	35.0
 PriceTypeRSI	0

Parameters:

Period: RSI Period

UpLimit: Level that RSI line needs to cross in order to qualify for a Buy signal. Range 0-100.

DownLimit: Level that RSI line needs to cross in order to qualify for a Sell signal. Range 0-100.

Price Type: Price type used in oscillator calculation.

NOTE: You may also use *UpLimit* and *DownLimit* values to set overbought and oversold levels. For example, typical overbought/sold levels for RSI are 70/30. To configure TradeBuilder to Buy on oversold and Sell on overbought just set *UpLimit* (Buy trigger) to 30, and *DownLimit* (Sell trigger) to 70.

4.4.4 Stochastic Oscillator (STOCH)

A momentum oscillator that shows the location of the close (price) relative to the high-low range over a set number of periods. Buy signal issued when: faster (%K) line crosses the slower (%D) line from below AND when the oscillator is above *UpLimit* level. Sell signal issued when: faster (%K) line crosses the slower (%D) line from above AND when the oscillator is below *DownLimit* level. The higher the spread between *UpLimit* and *DownLimit*, the more filtered the market is.

ab	Stoch	===Stochastic Oscillator===
	IndStoch	true
123	PeriodStochK	8
123	PeriodStochD	5
123	PeriodStochS	5
	Overbought_Sold_On	true
1/2	UpLimitStoch	20.0
1/2	DownLimitStoch	80.0
123	PriceFieldStoch	0
123	MATypeStoch	0
123	ModeStoch	0

Parameters:

Period K, D, S: %K fast line, %D slow line, S slowing value

UpLimit: Level that oscillator needs to cross in order to qualify for a Buy signal.

DownLimit: Level that oscillator line needs to cross in order to qualify for a Sell signal.

PriceField: Price field parameter. 0 - Low/High or 1 - Close/Close

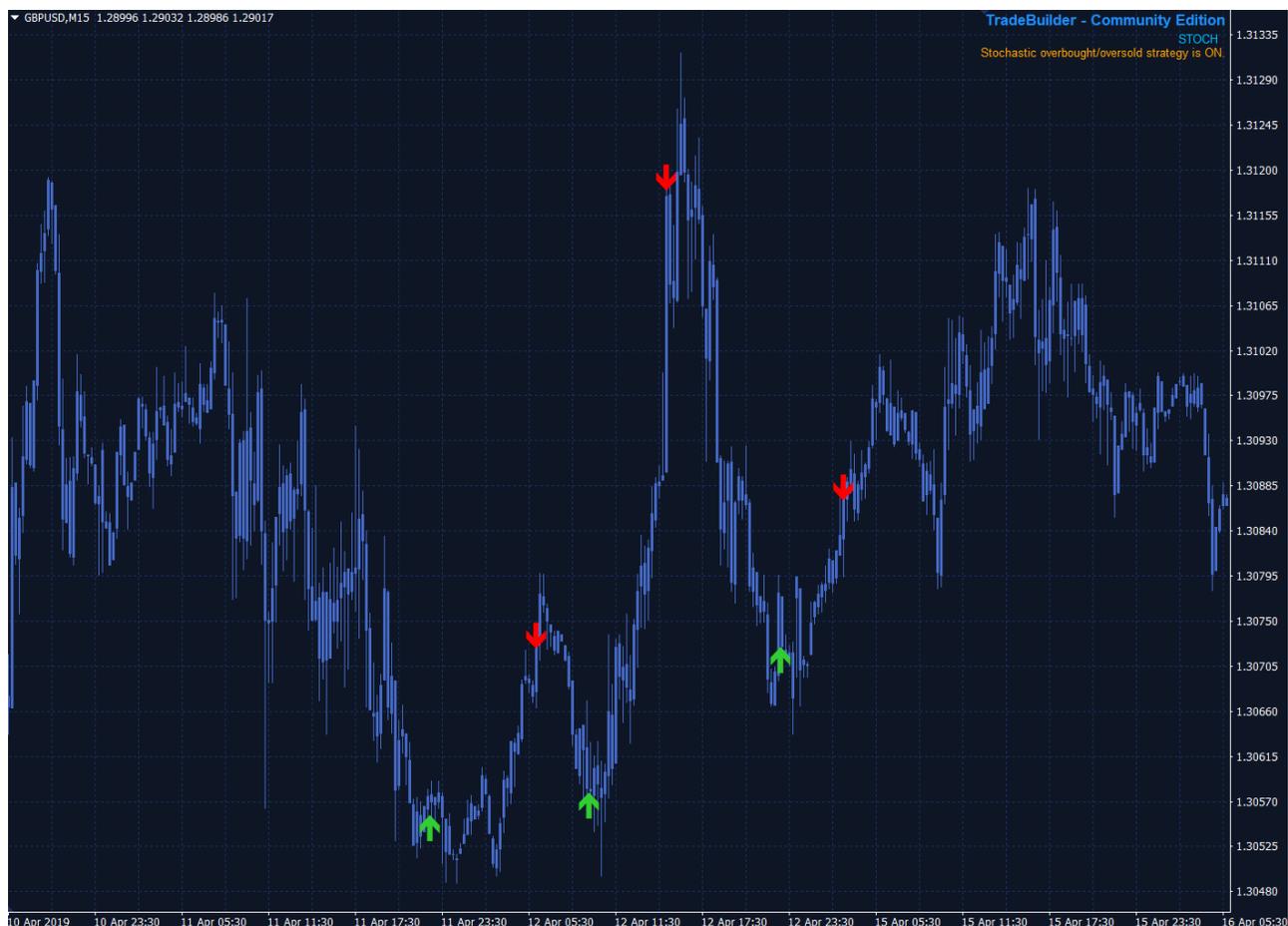
MAType: Moving average type used in calculation.

ModeStoch: Indicator line index. 0 - Main, 1 - Signal. Default: 0.

Overbought/Oversold Stochastics Strategy (OB/OS)

Activated when **Overbought_Sold_On** is set to **True**. While in OB/OS mode, Community issues a Buy signal when %K crosses %D from below while under the specified UpLimit (oversold) limit. Conversely, a Sell signal will be issued when %K crosses %D from above while over the specified DownLimit limit.

When you activate *Overbought_Sold_On*, Community will display a status icon, *STOCH-OBOS*, indicating the strategy is active.



A popular Stochastics overbought/oversold strategy is to sell when K/D lines cross above 80 level, and buy when they cross under 20. To accomplish this, just set *Overbought_Sold_On* to *true*, *UpLimit* to 20 and *DownLimit* to 80. That's it.

It is recommended to use Stochastics alone, without RSI or MA, when setting *Overbought_Sold_On* to *true*. Combining all 3 may prevent any arrows from being issued since Overbought/sold strategies are in contradiction with long term trend strategies like MA or RSI.

4.4.5 Commodity Channel Index (CCI)

CCI was designed to identify cyclical trends in a market. Similar to RSI, Buy signal is issued when CCI line moves above *UpLimit* value, while Sell signal is issued when CCI line moves below *DownLimit* value. The higher the spread between *UpLimit* and *DownLimit*, the more filtered the market is.

CCI	===Commodity Channel Index===
IndCCI	true
PeriodCCI	13
UpLimitCCI	25.0
DownLimitCCI	-25.0
PriceTypeCCI	0

Parameters:

Period: CCI Period

UpLimit: Level that CCI line needs to cross in order to qualify for a Buy signal.

DownLimit: Level that CCI line needs to cross in order to qualify for a Sell signal.

Price Type: Price type used in oscillator calculation.

NOTE: You may also use *UpLimit* and *DownLimit* values to set overbought and oversold levels. For example, typical overbought/sold levels for CCI are -100/100. To configure TradeBuilder to Buy on oversold and Sell on overbought just set *UpLimit* (Buy trigger) to -100, and *DownLimit* (Sell trigger) to 100.

4.4.6 Force Index (FORCE)

Force Index takes both price and volume into evaluation of market's trend strength. It is another filter, but one that also takes direction into account, and is hence capable of producing signals on its own. Buy signal issued when oscillator moves above *UpLimit*. Sell signal issued when oscillator moves below *DownLimit*. A lot of traders just use 0 cross as a signal, but you can avoid a lot of false signals if you create some distance between Buy and Sell levels.

Force	===Force Index===
IndForce	true
PeriodForce	55
UpLimitForce	0.01
DownLimitForce	-0.01
PriceTypeForce	0
MATypeForce	1

Period: Period of oscillator.

UpLimit: Level that oscillator needs to cross in order to qualify for a Buy signal.

DownLimit: Level that oscillator line needs to cross in order to qualify for a Sell signal.

Price Type: Price type used in oscillator calculation.

MAType: Moving average method type.

4.4.7 Other Settings

 Display_Build_Info	true
 Alert_On	true
 Alert_PopUp_On	true
 Send_Email	false
 SetEmail	Set email in Tools>Opt.>Email
 Arrow_Distance	5
 ArrowType	0
 ArrowSize	4
 BuyArrowColor	 LimeGreen
 SellArrowColor	 Red
 Buy_Sound	0
 Sell_Sound	0
 Dashboard_Corner	1
 CountBars	3000

Arrow_Distance: The distance between arrows and price action.

Arrow_Type: Customizes the appearance of your arrows: 0 - Thick, 1 - Thin, 2 - Hollow, 3 - Round, 4 - Fractal, 5 - Diagonal Thin, 6 - Diagonal Thick, 7 - Diagonal Hollow, 8 - Thumb, 9 - Finger.

Arrow_Size: Controls the size of your chosen arrow type. Default is 2.

BuyArrowColor: Color selection for a *Buy* arrow. Default is *DeepBlueSky*.

SellArrowColor: Color selection for a *Sell* arrow. Default is *Yellow*.

Dashboard_Corner: Places Visual Dashboard in one of four corners. Default is 1.

Display_Build_Info: Turns build information (bottom-left corner) on/off.

Alert_On: Activates audio and visual (arrow) alerts. The following two Parameters become active with *Alert_On* set to True (default).

Buy_Sound: Available options 0-13, with 0 being the default. These are 14 available sound samples that you can use for audio alerts. The default sound is a voiceover announcing “Buy”.

Sell_Sound: Available options 0-13, with 0 being the default. These are 14 available sound samples that you can use for audio alerts. The default sound is a voiceover announcing “Sell”.

Alert_PopUp_On: Issues pop-up alerts when set to True.

CountBars: How far back, in terms of historic bars, TradeBuilder issues arrow signals. I recommend a value over 3000 for decent strategy back-testing. Setting this value to less than 5000 could improve performance on old computers. Whichever value you choose, Community will draw a vertical line over that bar, indicating it is only taking data from that point onward into its calculations. You will not see any signals (such as arrows) behind the line.

Manually changing Arrow Size & Color: If you don't want to use the *Arrow_Size*, *BuyArrowColor*, and *SellArrowColor* options, you can also change the size and color of your arrow via *Colors* tab within the Indicator dialogue window. Double-click on color or width to change it. Option 0 affects the Buy arrow, while 1 affects Sell.

5.0 TradeBuilder Core/Classic/Ultimate

If you're looking for additional strategy building options, see mnikolic.com for TradeBuilder Community's bigger companion editions: Core, Classic, and Ultimate. The first 2 are designed for Metatrader, whereas Ultimate was developed for TradeStation and MultiCharts.

6.0 Future Upgrades

Your ChartVPS subscription includes access to *TradeBuilder – Community Edition*. For as long as you remain an active subscriber, all future upgrades will be yours to download, free of charge. You will be notified of all updates via email. Latest versions of all purchased software can be downloaded via Trader's Toolbox: <https://chartvps.com/tools>

7.0 TradeBuilder Community Premium Content

Included with TradeBuilder - Community Edition are workspaces/tools with preconfigured strategy settings, which you can use to get a quick start on specific markets and time frames. More will be available for download via chartvps.com

8.0 Technical Support

[Contact us](#) if you experience technical difficulties using TradeBuilder.

9.0 Discounts On Future Purchases

Your *TradeBuilder - Community Edition* license entitles you to a discount of 15% on all other MNikolic Investment Technologies software. You may peruse the product catalog via <http://mnikolic.com/store>

10.0 License Information

Disclaimer

TradeBuilder - Community Edition is a trading platform plug-in/indicator intended for analysis of markets. Its effectiveness is based on your input and experience, and as such, MNikolic Investment Technologies, mnikolic.com, and Nitrode, and ChartVPS are not responsible for any losses you may incur as result of using *TradeBuilder - Community Edition* in your trading endeavors.

Stocks, Forex, Futures, Options:

Trading stocks involves the risk of loss. Please consider carefully whether stocks are appropriate to your financial situation. Only risk capital should be used when trading stocks.

The highly leveraged nature of forex, futures, and options offers especially large potential rewards, but also equally large potential risk. Again, do not trade with capital you cannot afford to lose. Do not over-leverage your accounts, and try to keep them under 50:1.

No representation is being made that any account will or is likely to achieve profits or losses similar to those discussed on mnikolic.com and any of the product's promotional pages. The past performance of any trading system or methodology is not necessarily indicative of future results.

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This manual and its content could contain inaccuracies and typographical errors. MNikolic Investment Technologies and ChartVPS make no representation or warranty for the accuracy of manual's content. If you see something that doesn't look right, please do let us know.

One final note. You can have some of the best strategies in the world and still lose a trade. There is no such thing as an omnipotent strategy that is profitable 100% of the time - as far as we are aware of. Financial markets are far too multi-faceted, and participant interests too diverse, for such a strategy to exist. The same is true of *TradeBuilder - Community Edition*. Whatever your style or strategy is, practice prudent order management and discipline - and always use stop losses.

11.0 Copyright Information

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