



Automate your trading and still  
make the decisions yourself

## (Pre)programmed success



» As a trading beginner, when you first come into contact with the stock exchange, you are usually besieged with all manner of platform offers and software tools. But which tool is the right one? In the following article, Gilbert Kreuzthaler explains which components you should look for in software and how you can successfully manage your trades with these.«



**Gilbert Kreuzthaler**

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✉ [www.AgenaTrader.com](http://www.AgenaTrader.com)

Roughly 90 percent of retail traders are unable to increase their money, or even lose it. Especially as a part-time trader, one does not have the time to be constantly glancing at the chart, entering trades at short notice and managing one's risk in a timely manner. What is needed, therefore, is a solution for automating the procedure. There are many (trading) plat-

platforms on the market that are conflicting – they want to satisfy the needs of the trader but also get the best results for the platform provider. Moreover, we read time and again about so-called fully automatic (inexpensive) trading systems (algo/robo-systems) that – when switched on in the morning – promise a huge windfall in the evening. So how can this problem be solved?

### The Carpenter and the trader

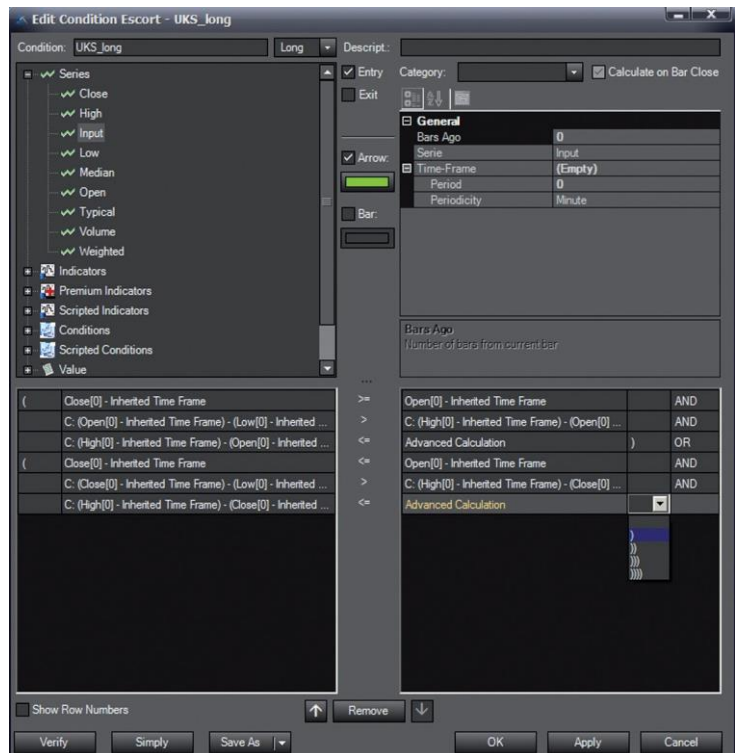
Let us take a look at a comparable example: would a carpenter be able to build furniture with only a handsaw and a hammer? Certainly, but nothing close to a stable piece of furniture that can be sold for good money. When we apply this to trading, the question arises: is the trader able to trade successfully with only free basic software? Or is there actually a cheap machine for just a few hundred euros that the carpenter switches on early in the morning, and turns off again in the evening to find a finished Kitchen. Think robo/algo-systems or Expert Advisors

And this is precisely where semi-automatism comes into play. The carpenter makes his decisions himself, but usually uses cost-intensive technology to support him in his routine work. Semi-automatism in trading is the same thing:

1. The system suggests trades based on technical conditions.
2. The trader decides on a trade based on additional visual criteria.
3. The system manages the routine work of the trades with regard to risk calculation, stop/target management and so on.

But trading is not just about placing orders in the market. Duplicable setups are intended to train the trader for the long run, just as an apprentice carpenter is trained by his master craftsman.

### B1) Signal programming via Condition Escort



With AgenaTrader, no extensive programming knowledge is required. With the help of the Condition Escort, traders can put together their ideas from individual program elements with a few clicks of the mouse..

Source: <https://bit.ly/conditionescort>

Duplicable means that one places a trade routinely. The carpenter also has fixed steps for a certain piece of furniture that he has to stick to. He does not try a new experiment with each new piece. And this is exactly how it works with trading:

1. Why do I want to enter into the market?
2. What price is the entry located at?
3. Do I want to go long or short?
4. Which order type do I want to use for the trade (stop, limit, stop limit)?
5. Where should my initial stop be placed?
6. How big is my account?
7. In which currency is my account and the symbol to be traded recorded?
8. What amount of my account do I want to risk for this individual trade?
9. How large is the amount of the account that I would like to use for trading – that is, how high is the cash reserve of the account

10. What is the current exchange rate like?
11. How high is the resulting order size?
12. Do I want to scale-in to the market via several entry orders?
13. Can I still open trades or will the cash reserve already be eaten into?
14. Are there desired targets?
15. Do I want to scale-out of the trade via one or more targets?
16. How high is the profit at the targets?
17. By how much percent do I want to reduce my position at the respective targets?
18. Do I want to reduce only a part of the position via the targets and manage the rest using the stop?
19. Do I end the trade via the stop, or manually and without targets?
20. Do I end the trade via the stop, or manually and without targets?
21. Does it make sense to manage this trade using a combination of hard and soft stops?
22. Do I now enter the market – yes or no?

For each trade or setup, these 22 questions come up anew. This means a lot of stress and – particularly in lower timeframes (e.g. in the 1- to 5-minute charts) – errors too. How can this be avoided?

### Semi-automate your trading

For the solution, once again, we come back to the keyword semi-automation. With the help of the semi-automation by AgenaTrader, the first 21 points can be automated. Only point 22 needs to be decided by you.

Semi-automated trading helps you to completely concentrate on the development of the market and to let the software take care of time-consuming things, such as the risk calculation.

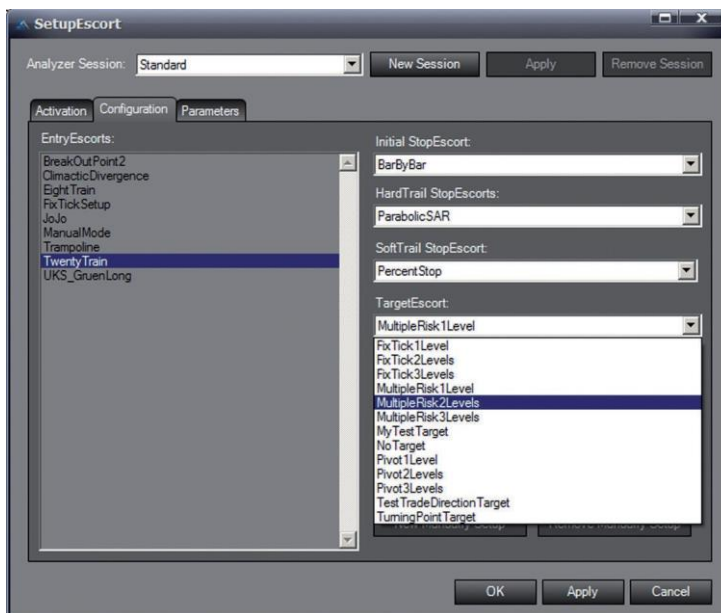
Due to financial reasons, most trading beginners settle for free or cheap platforms. But once the account is flat, then comes the insight.

The first step in the direction of success is investing in good, comprehensively developed software as well as in the time to get to know it. When doing so, you should focus on the following components:

1. **Signal programming:** Traders often have concrete ideas and want to have signals displayed for these. With other tools, these ideas can be captured with the help of programming languages – however, in most cases, the trader is not a programmer and professional help is expensive. A tool with which one can put together one's ideas and control them directly in the charts with just a few clicks of the mouse offers an advantage (image 1).

2. **Strategy programming:** Once a signal has been found, one could also automate the trade management using a tool.

## B2) Strategy Programming via SetupEscort



With the Setup Escort, the AgenaTrader platform provides a tool with which one can construct a trading strategy around an entry signal. This includes the initial stop, a trailing stop (or a fixed stop) as well as the price, which can be entered via the target. This means the trade management can be easily automated

Source: <https://bit.ly/setupescort>

With just a few clicks of the mouse, a trading strategy with a signal, initial and trailing stop or a target method can be programmed (image 2).

3. **Risk management:** Anyone who does not manage their risk should not even start trading in the first place. A tool with which one can define one's risk settings (in percent or a concrete amount per trade) and automatically carry out the calculation for each change to the strategy is therefore indispensable for stable trading.
4. **Backtest:** It is also important to know how on-target the strategy is and what it can produce in the way of profit. Does it run stably in the various markets, are the drawdowns moderate and is the equity curve rising? With the help of a backtesting function, with just a few clicks, one receives a statement as to whether the strategy has a chance of performing positively in future trading (image 3).....
5. **Signal search/scanning:** Of course you also want to have the programmed signals displayed in real-time. With the help of a high-performance scanner, the signals can be filtered in hundreds of markets and in varying timeframes. After this, you "only" have to concentrate on selecting and trading the best signals at the right moment.
6. **One Click Trading:** It is even easier when these signals/strategies can be performed with the risk already managed, with just a click of the mouse. You receive the signals that the system suggests to you and make the final decision according to visual criteria. Complete setups including the right order sizes are served to you on a silver platter. All you have to do is reach out and take them.

These six must-haves – all of them only to be found to this extent in AgenaTrader – are what you should consider in order to get started in the market with optimum conditions. This type of trading gives you the assurance of not being able to get anything wrong, since the system always abides by your previously defined trading plan. You inevitably trade systematically, since the system requires you to trade according to your rules. The emotions are left at the door, you become disciplined and you improve your trading style sustainably.

**Fact**

To get back to the comparison with the carpenter: once he has automated his hand movements in such a way that he no longer make any miscuts or can no longer miscalculate the measurement of the raw materials, and once his machines take over so many movements that he can produce more quickly and efficiently, then his profits will also start to increase. And you can achieve this in trading too, by means of successful semi-automated trading with the help of quality software – and not by losing money like the majority of retail traders.

**B3) Backtest via AgenaTrader**



As a trader, of course one wants to know if one's strategy actually works. This can be tested with the help of the AgenaTrader backtest tools. With a few clicks, the test period and the markets to be tested can be entered here. As a result, you receive an equity curve and an overview of when the trades have worked according to the strategy in the past.

Source: <https://bit.ly/at-andromeda>