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THE MARKET OPEN

STRATEGY

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What is the Market Open Strategy

The Market Open Strategy is a straightforward, three-step method for capturing high-probability opportunities the moment the market opens.

The market open has one major advantage: massive liquidity floods into the market as the big players – hedge funds, banks, and institutional traders – start their trading day in the US.

And when the big players show up, big moves follow. Often obvious ones.

That's exactly the window we want to be trading in – when the market is actually moving, not drifting sideways.

With the Market Open Strategy, we're targeting one very specific move that plays out across multiple markets.

We trade this strategy from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM EST.

Markets to trade (futures): NQ, CL, ES, GC

Currency pairs to trade (forex): USD/JPY

The idea behind this strategy

From 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM EST, the market usually goes sideways and builds a range. Most players are hesitant to make aggressive moves before the open, so price just chops around within tight boundaries.

That sideways action creates pools of liquidity above the high and below the low of that range. Every trader who placed a stop-loss or a breakout order during that hour is basically leaving fuel for the next move.

Once aggressive players step in at the US open, we expect those highs or lows to get swept.

Price pushes through the range, triggers all that liquidity, and then shows its real intention.

Here's the important part: the sweep is usually not the real move.

In many cases, the big players are sweeping that liquidity on purpose – to fill a larger position at a better price.

Once they've taken out the stops, they push the market in the direction they actually wanted to go.

So our job is simple: wait for the sweep, then go with the real move that follows.

Directional bias

None - this strategy does not use a directional bias

Point of interest

We start with 2 points of interest:

1. The high of the 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM EST time window
2. The low of the 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM EST time window

From now on, we'll call these our pre-market high and pre-market low for this strategy.

As soon as one of these levels gets taken out, our point of interest switches to the new high and/or low of the 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM session.

Example:

We're trading the NQ futures contract.

- Pre-market high: 26,575.25
- Pre-market low: 26,540.00

These are our two initial points of interest.

Now imagine price pushes through the 26,575.25 high and makes a new high at 26,593.75.

We might get an entry signal at this point, we might not (more on that inside the "entry signal" section).

But either way, this new high becomes our updated point of interest for the rest of the session.

If price takes out that high again and makes another new high, we update the point of interest again – always to the most recent high of the 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM window.

Same logic applies to the lows, just flipped.

Entry signal

We have a two-sided entry signal for this strategy. Both entry signals refer to the 1-minute timeframe chart.

1) A clear push above the pre-market (or most recent) high. Same logic applies for the low, just flipped.

This first signal is essential for the strategy to work. We need a clear and obvious push above or below the highs / lows – one with bad auction quality and extreme speed (building blocks).

That combination is usually a strong indication of a reversal. Sometimes it's stops getting fished. Sometimes it's just a final push to the upside before the market turns around. Either way, the setup is the same.

Important: If we get an entry candle (our second signal) in a choppy market, we do not enter the trade.

2) A reversal candle

This one is actually one of the easier entry signals to spot.

Example:

We have a 1-minute candle with a high at 24,581.00 and a low at 24,577.00. This is obviously a bullish candle.

If the next candle takes out the high (meaning its high is above 24,581.00) but closes back within the price range of the previous candle (anywhere between 24,581.00 and 24,577.00), we have a bearish reversal candle.

We enter at the close of that candle for a short trade. Same logic applies for long trades, just flipped.

Trade management

We place our stop above the high of our entry candle (for short trades) or below the low of our entry candle (for long trades).

Fixed 1:3 risk/reward.

Important: In rare cases, we get a very large reversal candle – meaning the candle itself already made most of the move we'd normally profit from.

When that happens, we either skip the trade or place a limit entry in the middle of the entry candle, waiting for a better fill.

Session rules:

- As soon as we win a long trade, we don't take any more long trades for the rest of the session.
- As soon as we win a short trade, we don't take any more short trades for the rest of the session.
- If you lose your first trade (or more) in either direction, you can keep looking for new entries.

Trade examples

You'll find countless trade examples and me walking you through the strategy in detail inside the course platform – module "The Market Open Strategy."



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