

# Master the Trade: Futures Trade Plan



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## Basic Account Information

Name:

Country:

Brokerage:

Point of Contact:

Contact Number:

Contact E-Mail:

In Case of Emergency Name:

In Case of Emergency Number:

Account #:

Total Account Balance:

**Asset Classes/Product Groups of Interest** (check all that apply):

**Financials**

**Interest Rates**

U.S. Treasuries	Short Term Interest Rates ("STIR")
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**Equity Indices**

Micro/Minis (smaller sized contracts)	US Indexes
International Indexes	Select Sectors (specific industries within a larger index)

**Foreign Exchange**

Micro/Minis (smaller sized contracts)	Majors
Emerging Markets	Crosses

**Commodities**

**Agricultural**

Minis (small sized contracts)	Grains & Oilseeds
Livestock	Dairy
Lumber	Biofuels

**Energy**

Minis (small sized contracts)	Crude Oil
Natural Gas	Refined Products
Biofuels	Coal
Electricity	Petrochemicals

**Metals**

Micro/Minis (small sized contracts)	Precious
Base	Ferrous
Uranium	

**Instrument Types** (check all that apply):

**Futures**

- Outrights
- Calendar Spreads
- Inter-commodity Spreads

## Specific products of interest:

### Financially Settled Futures Example:

PRODUCT	STRATEGY EXPIRY(S)*	UNDERLYING PHYSICAL	GLOBEX SYMBOL	BROKER SYMBOL
E-Mini S&P 500	Front Quarterly (1st of H; M; U; Z)	S&P 500 Index; Financially Settled	ES	
	CONTRACT SIZE (\$)	MINIMUM PRICE FLUCTUATION	MARGIN PER CONTRACT (AS OF DATE)	LAST TRADE DATE BEFORE PHYSICALLY DELIVERABLE
	50 x price	.25 Index Points = \$12.50	\$12000 (July 2020)	9:30 am ET on 3rd Fri. of month (then financially settled)

### Physically Deliverable Futures Example:

PRODUCT	STRATEGY EXPIRY(S)*	UNDERLYING PHYSICAL	GLOBEX SYMBOL	BROKER SYMBOL
WTI Crude Oil	Front non-deliverable Month	1,000 Barrels of Crude Oil; Physical Del.	CL	
	CONTRACT SIZE (\$)	MINIMUM PRICE FLUCTUATION	MARGIN PER CONTRACT (AS OF DATE)	LAST TRADE DATE BEFORE PHYSICALLY DELIVERABLE
	1,000 x price	\$0.01 per barrel = \$10.00	\$7800 (July 2020)	4pm CT last trading day of month

**Specific products of interest:**

PRODUCT	STRATEGY EXPIRY(S)*	UNDERLYING PHYSICAL	GLOBEX SYMBOL	BROKER SYMBOL
	CONTRACT SIZE (\$)	MINIMUM PRICE FLUCTUATION	MARGIN PER CONTRACT (AS OF DATE)	LAST TRADE DATE BEFORE PHYSICALLY DELIVERABLE

PRODUCT	STRATEGY EXPIRY(S)*	UNDERLYING PHYSICAL	GLOBEX SYMBOL	BROKER SYMBOL
	CONTRACT SIZE (\$)	MINIMUM PRICE FLUCTUATION	MARGIN PER CONTRACT (AS OF DATE)	LAST TRADE DATE BEFORE PHYSICALLY DELIVERABLE

PRODUCT	STRATEGY EXPIRY(S)*	UNDERLYING PHYSICAL	GLOBEX SYMBOL	BROKER SYMBOL
	CONTRACT SIZE (\$)	MINIMUM PRICE FLUCTUATION	MARGIN PER CONTRACT (AS OF DATE)	LAST TRADE DATE BEFORE PHYSICALLY DELIVERABLE

Does your broker allow trading of physically delivered contracts?

Yes      No

Are the products you are trading financially or physically settled?

Financial

Physical

Both

### Expiration Month Quick Guide

MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LETTER	F	G	H	J	K	M	N	Q	U	V	X	Z

## Self-Evaluation

Evaluate your general trading strategies and risk tolerances, and fill in the blanks.

The total amount of margin I am willing to risk

The maximum amount of risk I'm comfortable risking in a trade is                      % or \$

My loss limit in total dollar loss per day

My loss limit in ticks per trade

I will close out open positions before the next trading session.      Yes              No

**If No,**

I am comfortable holding a position overnight and posting the required margin.      Yes              No

I am comfortable posting \$                      in margin overnight.

The maximum amount of time I'm comfortable holding a position is

The day(s) I plan to trade

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

The hours I plan to trade:

In order to ensure I am trading systemically and not emotionally, I will consistently trade during the following time periods every ( Day / Week / Month / Year ), but not outside of these time periods:


When making trading decisions, I prefer:      Technical Analysis      Fundamental analysis.  
I am comfortable with using both methods of analysis in making trades.      Yes      No

Some tools, sources, reports, etc. I like to use are:  
(ie. CME Group Economic Events calendar, Pace of the Roll)


Some setups, indicators, etc. I like to use are:  
(ie. I'm a technical trader using chart patterns)


I will take a break if I lose \$                      or                      % during  
(   Minutes /   Hours /   Days /   Weeks )

My strategy for increasing or decreasing my trading size is:

How will I use stop orders to manage my profits and losses?

I look for a risk ratio of at least                      to be comfortable entering a trade.

## Trade Risk Plan

	DATE	PRODUCT	LENGTH	L/S	ENTRY	STOP	TARGET	RISK RATIO	TOT. ACCT. VALUE	# CON.	\$ RISK	% RISK
i.e.:	9/16/20	ESZ0 Fut	Day	Long	2480	2360	2700	1.83	\$100,000	1	\$6,000	6%
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												

For greater flexibility, use your own spreadsheet software.

### Trade Results Tracking

	TIME OPEN	TIME CLOSE	PRODUCT	L/S	# CON.	ENTRY	EXIT	PROFIT	NOTES
i.e.:	9/16/20 10:05	9/16/20 13:36	ESZ0 Fut	Long	1	2480	2550	\$3,500	Exited below target to avoid overnight position
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

For greater flexibility, use your own spreadsheet software.

## Important Economic Events

The CME Group Economic Releases provide a list of current U.S. and global events for the upcoming year. Based on the asset classes I'm interested in, I need to be aware of the following economic events:

	ASSET CLASS/SUB-GROUP/PRODUCT	IMPORTANT ECONOMIC EVENT	FREQUENCY	WHERE DATA CAN BE FOUND
i.e.:	E-Mini S&P 500	U.S. Employment Report	8:30 am ET, first Friday of every month	Bureau of Labor Statistics: <a href="https://www.bls.gov/bls/newsrels.htm#OEUS">https://www.bls.gov/bls/newsrels.htm#OEUS</a>

Will I trade through these events?      Yes      No

Will I adjust my risk parameters?      Yes      No

If yes, how will I adjust?

**Trading Glossary** (refer to the [Glossary](#) found on CME Institute)

TERM	DEFINITION
Future	
Short	
Long	
Physically Delivered	
Financially Settled / Cash Settled	
Underlying physical	
Outright	
Spread	
Contract Size	
Minimum Price Fluctuation	
Margin	
Support Level	
Resistance Level	
Large-Cap	
Mid-Cap	
Small-Cap	

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Neither futures trading nor swaps trading are suitable for all investors, and each involves the risk of loss. Swaps trading should only be undertaken by investors who are Eligible Contract Participants (ECPs) within the meaning of Section 1a(18) of the Commodity Exchange Act. Futures and swaps each are leveraged investments and, because only a percentage of a contract's value is required to trade, it is possible to lose more than the amount of money deposited for either a futures or swaps position. Therefore, traders should only use funds that they can afford to lose without affecting their lifestyles and only a portion of those funds should be devoted to any one trade because traders cannot expect to profit on every trade.

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