



Level Up Your Trading: Why Your Indicators Are Costing You Money

by Martha Stokes, CMT

On average, professional traders enjoy a 90% success rate. Retail day traders, by contrast, average only 10%, while swing traders fare slightly better at 50%.

So, why is there such a vast difference between professional traders who consistently earn 6–7 figures annually and retail traders who often just break even—especially after factoring in expenses like platform fees, software, and their own time?

The Critical Difference: Professional vs. Popular Retail Indicators

Professional traders rely on **Hybrid Leading Indicators** that reveal hidden institutional activity, such as accumulation or rotation by Dark Pools. They use Large Lot vs. Small Lot indicators to determine the direction of high-volume transactions—analyzing whether, for example, a 5-million-share order moved on an uptick or downtick. These “uptick/downtick” signals are invisible to most retail traders.

Pros also understand Market Conditions and Trading Conditions on a deeper level. They trade on the millisecond—while retail platforms use a so-called “real-time” feed that’s actually delayed. At 60,000 orders per second, pro traders are executing faster and with better data. That lag alone can cost a retail trader the trade.

The MACD Myth

Most retail traders start with familiar tools like MACD. While it’s easy to learn, MACD is an up-trend-following indicator—not designed for downtrends or short selling, as even its creator, Gerald Appel, has noted. In today’s digital stock market—with penny spreads and algorithmic trading—MACD often lags too far behind price to be effective.

If you’re still using MACD after your first year of trading, you’re limiting your potential. As you gain experience, it’s crucial to upgrade to more sophisticated indicators designed for today’s fast-paced and data-driven market structure.

Higher Success Rates Begin with Better Tools

Upgrading your indicators can boost your success rate to 70% or higher. That means more income with less stress, effort, and time. TechniTrader’s Hybrid Leading Indicators—developed exclusively for MetaStock—offer retail traders access to tools once available only to professionals.

These indicators are taught as part of the **Methodology Essentials Training Program**, which includes daily Market Condition Analysis and customized tools to identify ideal trade setups.

Core Indicators for Advancing to the Pro Level

1. Candlestick Patterns (The Nudge™)

Candlestick patterns are your first indicator. New Western Candlestick Patterns signal both buy and sell entries. One standout is “The Nudge™,” a subtle new entry signal that often triggers High Frequency Traders (HFTs) to gap or run a stock—usually at the open. Recognizing it early means entering the trade ahead of the crowd.



NASDAQ:TREE daily stock chart showing Nudge™ Candlestick Pattern using MetaStock

2. Volume Bars

Colored volume bars (green and red) offer five essential signals:

- Pre-velocity Nudge volume patterns
- Fading Volume (exhaustion)
- Dark Pool Buy Zones
- Retail Speculation surges
- VWAP patterns from smaller funds

Mastering these patterns gives you a major edge in anticipating next-day price movement.



NASDAQ:TREE daily stock chart showing Pre-velocity Nudge volume patterns using MetaStock

3. TT QA – Quiet Accumulation

This proprietary TechniTrader indicator for MetaStock identifies **Dark Pool activity** based on up-tick/down-tick volume. It reveals hidden accumulation or rotation by institutional investors. Unlike the retail crowd, Dark Pools use TWAP (Time Weighted Average Price) orders—buying within tight price ranges that are easy to overlook with traditional tools.

TT QA illuminates this hidden activity, helping traders spot Buy Zones before a run or Rotation zones before a top.



NASDAQ:TREE daily stock chart showing the TT QA indicator using MetaStock

4. TT VA – Volume Accumulation Oscillator

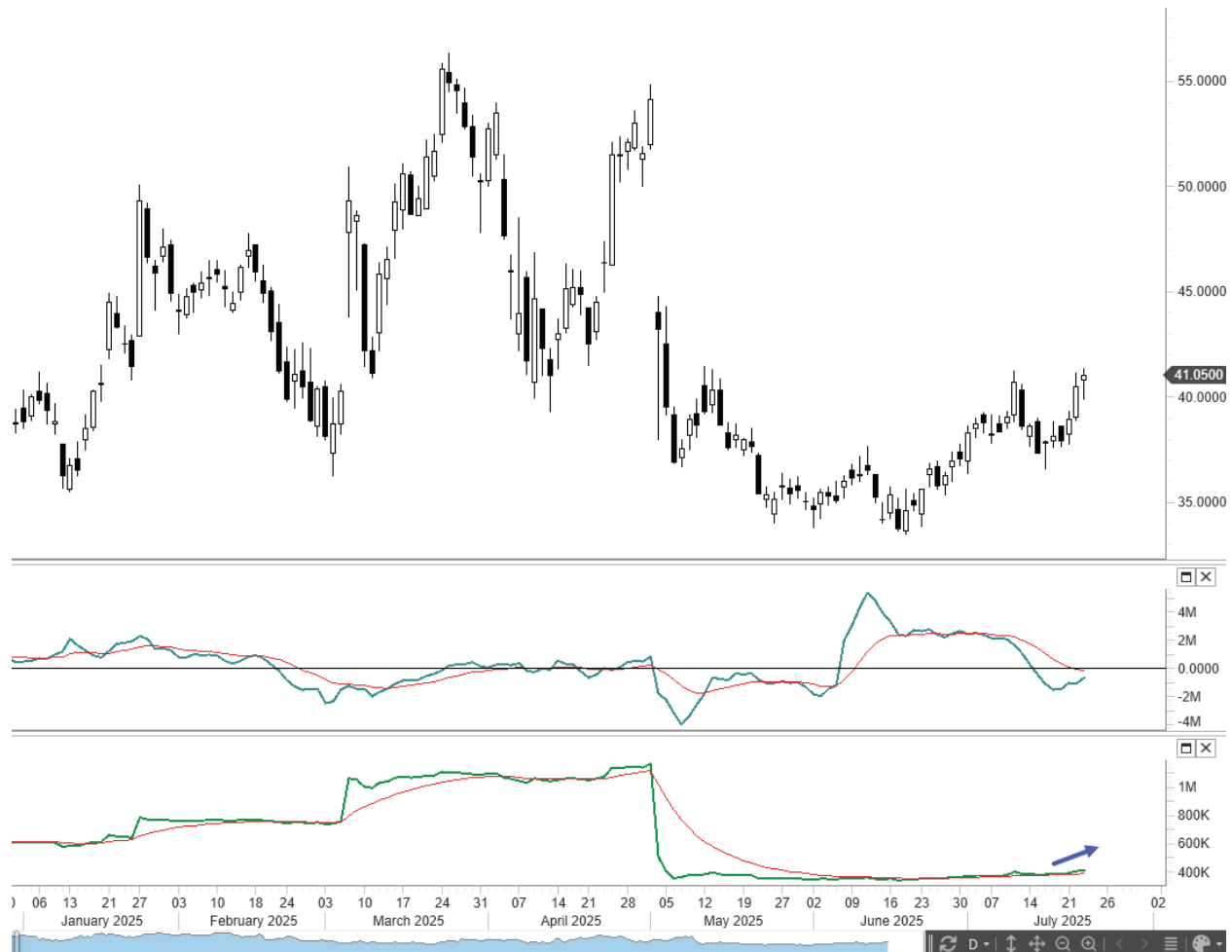
Designed to outperform outdated price oscillators, TT VA functions as a Volume Oscillator. It warns of potential reversals one or two days in advance—before price or traditional indicators show signs of change. Its early signals are unmatched in modern market conditions.



NASDAQ:TREE daily stock chart showing essential TT VA indicator patterns using MetaStock

5. TT FF – Flow of Funds

TT FF is a customized Money Flow indicator used for Platform Position Trading, Swing Trading, and Intermediate-Term trading. It confirms capital inflows and outflows, making it a powerful confirmation tool.



NASDAQ:TREE daily stock chart showing TT FF indicator using MetaStock

6. TT RSI/RSI – Relative Strength Index Reimagined

This dual-layer RSI compares short-term price acceleration against longer trends. It helps identify when momentum is building—often days before velocity moves begin. The result? You get in early and avoid chasing speculative runs.



NASDAQ:TREE daily stock chart showing TechniTrader's RSI/RSI indicator using MetaStock

The TechniTrader Edge

Entering a trade *before* the speculation begins is the hallmark of professional trading. TechniTrader's custom Hybrid Indicators were built for that exact purpose—giving traders early signals in a market dominated by algorithms and institutions.

These tools don't rely on simple crossover signals. They're part of a comprehensive system called **Relational Technical Analysis**, which takes into account how each type of market participant affects price.

Once trained, TechniTrader students can analyze and confirm trades quickly and confidently—leading to consistent profits, less stress, and fewer false starts.

A Professional Education for Retail Traders

TechniTrader's proprietary indicators are integrated into the **Methodology Essentials** program—an immersive training unlike anything offered by day trading gurus or self-proclaimed experts. This is real professional-style education.

Combined with TechniTrader's Market Condition Scans, [these tools](#) give traders a clear view of what the broader market is doing—and why.

Trade Wisely,

Martha Stokes, CMT

Co-founder, CEO & Instructor at TechniTrader®

<https://www.technitrader.courses>

TechniTrader® is a leading provider of professional stock market trading education. Whether you're a beginner learning the basics or an experienced trader ready to refine your edge, our training programs are built to help you succeed. With structured courses, proprietary tools, and direct support, we empower traders to trade with skill and confidence.

At TechniTrader, our mission is to help you become a consistently profitable trader. We don't rely on hype or analyst upgrades—instead, we teach a comprehensive methodology rooted in market structure, price behavior, and technical analysis. Our goal is to help you navigate today's digital stock market with clarity and purpose.

Take [a free mini course](#) for a peek into our comprehensive training programs.

If you're ready to get started on your path to consistent profits, email info@technitrader.com and mention this article to receive a free trial of the [Methodology Essentials Elite Training Program](#).

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This demonstration is designed to instruct you on using MetaStock and accompanying software plug-ins and is not a recommendation to buy or sell, but rather guidelines to interpreting and using the specific indicators and features within the software. The information, software, and techniques presented today should only be used by investors who are aware of the risk inherent in trading.

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Characteristics & Risks of Standardized Options

Prior to buying or selling an option, investors must read a copy of the Characteristics & Risks of Standardized Options, also known as the options disclosure document (ODD). It explains the characteristics and risks of exchange traded options. Copies of this document may be obtained from your broker or from any exchange on which options are traded.