Practical Problems of Finding a Profitable Robot Trading Program
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Robotic or algorithmic trading refers to the computerized, automated trading of financial instruments based on multiple, specific and detailed algorithms or rules with little or no human intervention. In certain market segments, algorithms are responsible for the lion’s share of the trading volume.

Robot programs are highly desirable by futures traders and offer many advantages: they can trade without emotion or hesitation; with precision for any time frame you wish; they can trade any index; they are ever-vigilant in their execution, etc. While the advantages robotic programs are manifold, finding a suitable robot day trading program is prohibitively difficult for several reasons:

1. Robot data sites can be pure garbage.
2. Most robots execute very few trades per year.
3. Most robots make very little profit.

This article will examine these issues and provide comparative performance data for Targets Trading Pro robotic trading system.

1. **Robot data sites can be pure garbage:** consider Striker Industries.

Striker lists over 3000 robotic programs in ascending alphabetical order, but in fact virtually all listings are losing programs, dead programs (i.e. performance reports that stop trading years ago) or programs that do not post any data at all. For example: for all programs starting with “A”, there were 182 listings, of which 5 posted losses – look at Abraxas Trading – a blistering -$64,840 lost since 08.2017. What a galactic joke that is!

Then there were 51 programs that had no data but instead “please inquire”. Why list them without data? When I inquired about several programs with no data, they sent data that was 12 years old – what I call a program corpse. And finally 126 programs that did post data but were in fact all corpses (cadavers), meaning their data also was many years old. In my opinion 100% worthless and the headstone tells it all.
Then I looked under programs that begin with “M” and there were 189 listings. I removed 7 weird ones leaving 182 of which 4 posted losses; 71 had no data and 107 were cadavers. I gave them a headstone as well.

All listings under “Z” all 13 were dead or useless. So strike Sticker off your list – I give them an F grade. Why list programs that have no data or data that is years old? And the site is saturated with such worthless information.

2. Most robot programs execute very few trades per year

In Futures Truth Magazine, each quarter there is Excel spreadsheet (I used mid-2018 but each quarter is similar) where 701 programs were offered by 242 individually branded systems. These 701 programs are tabulated and sortable under many different categories; I sorted for number of trades in past 12 months and found:

- 467 programs took 12 trades or less in the past year (i.e. less than 1 per month). Want to trade 1 time a month?

- 697 programs (99.4%) took less than 200 trades in the past year (i.e. 2 trades per week). Want to trade only 2 times per week?

- Just one program took 875 trades in the past year (i.e. ~3.3 trades/day)

That one system – Trend Model System - is made in China, the site is in Chinese and I could not find price or availability. So poof – from 709 to zero. So dump Futures Truth. And not to beat a dead horse but what the programs that Striker lists as “Best” performance listed for an account size under $10,000 account showed dismal trade frequency (far right). Such programs would never serve as a “day trading” program as they trade only 1-2 per week and hold trades for many days at a time.
I moved on to Cannon Isystems, where they track 1641 programs and provide data for them all – a big BRAVO for them. Sorting by best ROI (they do not provide sorting by trades per year). So 1618 (98.6%) programs earn an ROI of 3.00 or less – just worthless really when you figure in round trip costs and program fees. I found the best - DAX Futures with a handsome 207.98 ROI on only 13 trades over just 1 year of data. This is too few trades over too short a time to acquire any level of comfort around consistency or sustained profitability. The next is Forest Trading: in 26 months took 24 trades or about 1 per month. The next, SKN DXA copper, 7.49 ROI, for the last 5.7 years (68 months) took 29 trades or about 0.4 per month. You get the picture: these robotic trading programs trade ever so very, very infrequently and often are presented with shallow historical data. IronBeam lists 124 programs in alphabetic order with no way of sorting for performance, so pretty much worthless unless you want to hunt through each one individually. Their first listed is Aberration Trading, 532 trades since 2010 (~9 years) or 4.9 trades per month generating $364 gross profit per month (no thanks).

3. **Most robots make very little profit.**

I looked at Collective2 and considered only programs that were 5 star rated and traded futures (many are forex or stocks). What I found was virtually all programs had weak trade density (300-500 trades/year; 6-10 trades/week) and exhibiting mostly stagnant or lackluster profitability. Any profitability under $200/day using a 3 contract per trade basis is lackluster IMO. Consider Mini Dow – no profit since May 20, 2019.
Same for Futrs Only (mostly ES) – flat line since Jan 19, 2019. Yugas Futures, again a 5 star rated program, lost 7.7% over 2019 not counting round trip costs (-$2770 @ $5 per round trip cost) on 554 trades! I would give that performance an F.
In conclusion, I found nothing in any of the above sites to warrant encouragement or to substantiate performance. Maybe Collective2 should add a 6 star rating if 5 stars are so mediocre.

**Target Trading Pro System.** This is a fully automated trading robot program that will assess trend based entry prices and execute based on established trade configurations. It will determine optimal stops and targets and place those values in the trade structure. As developed by Bob Amico, TTP accounts for a sophisticated array of trade parameters:

- *When to execute the correct entry and timing in concordance with trend;*
- *Calculates and establishes target 1, target 2 and a trailing stop for each trade*
- *Will turn on and off according with your time frame and daily goals*
- *Can be used on any futures index or instrument and any number of contracts*

Daily videos that summarize final programs P/L are posted and it becomes obvious that Target Trading Pro is profitable across multiple indices (including CL, ES, FDAX, GC, NQ, RYT, ZS, ZN, ZW) on a daily basis involving a reasonable number of daily trades ranging from 1-5 trades per index. Consider this:

- Nov 5, 2019: $3657 on 19 trades
- Nov 8, 2019: $1897 on 17 trades
- Nov 12, 2019: $2078 on 15 trades
- Nov 18, 2019: $2304 on 14 trades
- Nov 21, 2019: $2483 on 17 trades
- Nov 25, 2019: $1820 on 13 trades

There are many hundreds of robotic trading systems available and even many more that are only trading indicators (these have the most outrageous claims of achievement; see [World’s Best Indicators](#)). As the choices are nearly endless, your selection might these criteria:

1. Are the robots trading daily with a decent trade density (2-7 trades/day)
2. Are the robots trading across different indices (goes to universal applicability)
3. Are the optimized settings for these robot systems known and visible?
4. Are the robots trading daily with transparency? Can you observe them? In a live account? Real $$$?
5. Are the robotic systems profitable, meaning can they average $200/day at 3 contracts/trade?

Targets Trading Pro and details, performance and real $$$ trades are at [Targets Trading Pro](#).

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