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OVERVIEW

Despite very exciting backtests, several EAs are not able to deliver concrete and consistent returns.

It is not difficult to build an EA able to perform very good backtest, the problems come when the reality of price movements and broker behavior hit this kind of very fragile and not well-proved EAs.

If you wish you can read more about how easy is to build EA having good backtest at [http://articles.mql4.com/163](http://articles.mql4.com/163) on the article: My First “Grail”. What happen when we try to install these EAs on a live account? Simply they will start to lose money!

The main point here is that to having a good backtest is a must, but it is not enough at all to make money.

We need to analyze several others points for a given EA in order to realize if there are relevant probabilities to make money and, if yes, how we can use this given EA.

We need to always take into consideration that the broker market has a huge potential and several benefits compared with other possible trading arenas (e.g. Stock Market) like huge liquidity, 24/5 no stop open market. At the same time “the instant price of PAIR” doesn’t exist because there is not a central authority providing this data. Then different brokers, even if on average tend to follow the same price trend, have a lot of differences in terms of instant price, frequency of price updates, latency time, instant spread, order execution quality. Even considering a list of very well-reputed and fully regulated brokers we can see clear and evident differences in their own data feeds.

You can easily appreciate it looking at the following link: [http://www.myfxbook.com/FOREX-broker-quotes](http://www.myfxbook.com/FOREX-broker-quotes)
As a consequence, typical fragile EAs problems are

- Specific broker dependency.
- Broker execution dependency in terms of spread, slippage, latency time.
- Market conditions change.

Most of the research, study, and energy behind the ARMAGGEDON project was spent following the main goal of achieving robustness, consistency, high-risk control degree, broker independence. To get a good backtest equity curve was also a target, but the previous points were never sacrificed to achieve a “nice to see” backtest equity curve.

ARMAGGEDON’s Robustness was also achieved thanks to the following points:

- All open trades have their own Stop Loss and Take Profit. This feature provides safety on maximum risk/trade even if the MT4 should have any connection problem with the broker during the trade life.

- Both Stop Loss and Take Profit are identified according to current market conditions. E.g., we could identify similar entry logic situation in terms of trend, but the volatility of the market can be very different. For this reason, the Stop Loss and Take Profit are not evaluated on a fixed way in terms of number of pips, but in terms of proportion of the current market volatility measured with ATR indicator.

- The Stop Loss found for each trade is the main drive to set the maximum risk taken for each trade, then is the main driver to identify the most consistent lot size to be invested on each trade.
Thus, on a more volatile market, the Stop Loss and Take Profit will be longer in terms of Pips to keep a good chance to win the trade but, at the same time, the lot size invested will be smaller to keep the same overall Risk in terms of money lost if the market goes against our trade.

Anyway, ARMAGEDDON doesn’t leave the open trades alone after opened. ARMAGEDDON continues to monitor the market conditions to evaluate if the market is not going as expected and, if such is the case, ARMAGEDDON decides to close the Trade, even if Stop Loss and Take Profit haven’t been reached yet.

All ARMAGEDDON trading logic was built to evaluate the market situation and take decisions to open a trade and/or close it at bar open only. (e.g. For H1 chart.)

ARMAGEDDON looks at the market situation and eventually decides to open trade or to close an open trade at X:00 (hour X and minute 0,) but after that ARMAGEDDON doesn’t take any decision between hour X:00 and X+1:00. What can happen inside a bar time can only be triggered by Stop Loss or Take Profit.

The EA was optimized not with the target of achieving the best overall equity curve, but to achieve consistent results between different years.

The best EA configuration candidates were found with the previous optimization approach using data between 2008-2017 (In Sample Period).

The best candidates were selected by testing the results over periods of time not used for the optimization (Out of Sample Period). These periods were 2012-2015 and 2001-2017.
The final configuration candidates were tested on different historical data sources, validating the ones with most consistent results. The data source list used includes:

- FXCM (2002-2013)
- Alpari UK (2000-2013)
- Dukascopy (2003-2013)

All the previous points give us a high level of broker data feed independence and a high level of backtest model independence. Backtest with open bar model is not so much different than 99% precision tick model backtest. All this provides high robustness that keeps the same statistical behavior on different brokers and during different market conditions.
GETTING STARTED

Armageddon (AMG) is a software program that operates on the FOREX market taking automated buying and selling decisions; it operates automatically without the need of any human intervention.

The Armageddon robot requires a “MetaTrader4” trading platform which is freely available from a wide selection of FOREX brokers. Before installing Armageddon on your computer and commencing trading on a real account, please read this carefully—your future profits could depend on it.

Trading FOREX entails risk and any instance of negligence or inattention can easily result in significant losses!

1. We strongly recommend that you operate a demo account before trading with real money. This will help you become familiar with the way Armageddon operates before you commit genuine funds to a real money account.

2. Please be extremely careful when determining trading volumes and setting automatic risk management parameters!

3. If you suspect that Armageddon is operating incorrectly, please stop trading and contact us immediately at support@amgrobot.com!
NEW USERS

If you do not have MetaTrader4 installed on your computer then you can download a copy by going to the following link and request a demo or live account: www.acmgold.com. We used ACM Gold as an example because it is our preferred broker. You are free to use any MetaTrader 4 broker you wish, but keep in mind to find a broker that offers minimum spreads to ensure Armageddon’s best performance. Also, make sure the broker has a good reputation worldwide among its customers.

We personally recommend only ECN brokers, because they have tight spreads and that is what we need to make true profits. They also operate directly on the FOREX market for their clients and not against them as most of dealing desk brokers do.

BROKER REQUIREMENTS

Armageddon works basically with any broker that can offer a MetaTrader4 platform, regardless of account type, if it uses micro or mini lots, 4 or 5 decimal quotations.

Choosing a good broker is as important as the robot used for automatic trading.

Only a few pips’ difference for all currencies used combined (10 in our case) can make a big difference over a few thousand trades (and a lot of extra money.)

Choosing a better broker is easier than trying to win that difference in pips between brokers. Our goal is to win money on FOREX, and although opening a new account on a good broker takes minutes, it can have a positive impact for many years to come.
If you are interested in using our preferred broker, just use this link: www.acmgold.com

It is very important that you know the different types of brokers because not every broker is in it for you to win, some are in it for themselves. Be very aware, learn the following:

**BROKER TYPES**

**Characteristics of ECN brokers:** A type of FOREX brokerage firm that provides its clients direct access to other FOREX market participants. ECN brokers don’t discourage scalping, don’t trade against the client, don’t charge spread (low spread is defined by current market prices) but charge commissions for every order.

**Characteristics of retail or commercial brokers:** Retail FOREX Companies act as market makers for all your trades. They shade prices, widen spreads arbitrarily, and trade against you. The advantages retail brokers provide are that you can open an account with very little money, they give you crazy leverage, and usually you can demo trade on their platforms until you learn what you’re doing. Most of them also have micro and mini lots so you can trade very small sizes.
INSTALLING THE ARMAGEDDON ROBOT

Visit [http://www.amgrobot.com](http://www.amgrobot.com), purchase the software, download it, and then install the FOREX EA in your platform as follows:

**Note:** Some antivirus software might give you some false virus alarms because the FOREX EA includes a protection code that prevents hackers to reverse-engineer the software. This protection code looks like a virus and any warning about this issue should be ignored.

Click “Next” to continue.

A window like the one below should appear. Click “Next” to continue.
Click next to continue:

Read the License Agreement and select “Next” to agree:
Choose the folder where you want to install Armageddon. We recommend installing it in the broker that you use the most, as you are already used to it.

Click “Next” to complete the MT4 installation.
CONFIGURING ARMAGEDDON

The configuration of Armageddon robot is a very important step. Having installed the robot, restart MetaTrader4 and go to the Navigator pane on the left side. Clicking the small [+](1) will expand the Expert Advisors section and will reveal all your installed robots, including Armageddon.

**Note:** Please note that the Armageddon icon is grey, while other icons in the list are colored. This is a perfectly normal thing. Open source Expert Advisors, like Moving Average for example, have colored icons. Armageddon has a grey icon because its source code is not open (the robot is protected.)

To begin trading, you will require any open M15 chart. You can either use an existing chart or open a new one, but do not forget to set it to M15 timeframe by clicking “M15” button in MetaTrader4. Left click the Armageddon v2 icon and drag it to the chart. Changing the timeframe while the robot is already attached is not a problem.

Armageddon V2 works perfectly with the following pairs: EUR/AUD, EUR/CAD, EUR/CHF, EUR/GBP, EUR/USD, GBP/JPY, GBP/USD, USD/CAD, AUD/USD and USD/JPY.

When you drop the Armageddon on the chart, a “Properties” dialogue will open and one of the two windows below (inputs or common) will pop up (depending on which one was used last).

This “Properties” dialogue can be accessed later by pressing the F7 key on your keyboard or right clicking on the chart and choosing “Expert Advisors” and “Properties” from the menu that appears.
If you followed the instructions given earlier in this manual in the chapter “Installing Armageddon,” the common tab should have the same settings like the one in the following image.
The inputs tab is the one where you set the Armageddon’s parameters and the Serial Key for the live accounts (provided to you when you purchased Armageddon). To change the values of any setting, double click in the “Value” column.

After you drag the robot on the first chart and finish entering all the settings and Activation Key, you can use the “Save” button, like in the image below, to save all the settings for future use. This will make the installation of Armageddon on other charts a lot easier.
Use the “Load” button when need to retrieve the previously saved settings.

Next, we will give you detailed explanations of each variable you can set.

**Note:** It is best to run the MT4 platform using administrative rights (right click on “terminal.exe” and click “Run as Administrator”).

Once MetaTrader4 is installed, the next thing to do is go to the Tools – Options Menu:
Select the “Expert Advisors” tab and make sure to set the checks exactly like in the picture below.
## Parameters

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</table>
Serial Key
To get an Activation Key, you need to send the following details to support:

(Broker) Live or Demo Account Number: xxxxxxxxxx

As soon as the above details are received, an Activation Key will be generated and sent to you.

Please type in (copy/paste) the activation key that was generated and sent to you for your live or demo account. Activation Keys for live accounts are restricted to a single account, can be changed for free and remain valid if the membership is active.

Use Manual Lots
This is when you want to set your own lot size.

Lots
Lot Size for all orders

Booster
To multiply the previous order lot’s size every new order is opened in our grid. e.g. if Booster=2.0 and the first order was 0.01, the second order will be 0.02, then 0.04, 0.08, etc...

TakeProfit
Determines your target amount of points(PIPS) that you want your trade to take profit at

PipStarter
This option determines the distance between each order of our grid (for each of our 3 strategies). In other words, if ST1-PipStarter:50 pips issues the first order 0.01 at 1.50500, the second order will be issued at the TP of the SELL Side order (at 1.50300.) Then, from this point, the third order will be at 1.4970
(−50 pips), the fourth order will be at 1.4930 (−50 pips) and so on...

**TurboMode**

If this is set to TRUE, AMG will not use a “fixed” PipStarter value as mentioned above. Instead, it will determine the new “PipStarter” according to the following logic:

- if “Number of all open orders of Strategy X” = 1 then New_PipStarter = PipStarter / TurboDivider;
- if “Number of all open orders of Strategy X” = 2 then New_PipStarter = 2.0 * (PipStarter / TurboDivider);
- if “Number of all open orders of Strategy X” > 2 then New_PipStarter = PipStarter

**Money Management**

Money management is a system that automatically calculates the size of the open positions per the account’s balance.

Our recommendation is to set MoneyManagement on “true” because it produces more consistent profits on the long term.

**MM_Option**

This option calculates the risk according to Account Balance, Account Equity or Account Free Margin. Its settings are as follows:

1. Account Balance
2. Account Equity
3. Account Free Margin

Default MM_Option is false

This option is very useful in choosing between a conservative and aggressive risk strategy, or when using multiple expert advisors on the same account.
**Note:** You must check if the lot size you intend to use is allowed by the broker. If the lot size you intend to use is not permitted by the broker (that is, if it is lower than the minimum permitted lot size or it exceeds the maximum permitted lot size), the lot size will be adjusted automatically to the assessed limits. For example, if you want to set the lot size to 1 micro lot (0.01 lots), check if your account allows micro lot trading.

Recommended lots is 0.01 (1 microlot) for each $500 of your account balance.

**Chart Display**

To display the dashboard on the chart.

**Stop loss PCT(Percentage)**

If set to true, it calculates the size of the next open position according to the highest stop loss value. This value defines the maximum amount of money (in percentage) of your current Account Balance, Account Equity or Account Free Margin (depending on Stoploss PCT option) that you can lose on a single trade for a certain pair when the stop loss is hit.

**TakeProfitPct**

If set to true, it calculates the size of the next open position according to the highest take profit value. This value defines the maximum amount of money (in percentage) of your current Account Balance, Account Equity or Account Free Margin (depending on UseTakeProfit PCT option) that you can exit profitably on a single trade for a certain pair when the TP is hit.

**Slippage**

To avoid orders being opened during high broker’s slippage

**Use Strategy**

To Activate this Strategy in the system
Magic Number
Each Strategy must have a different [MagicNumber] to make handles its own orders when we attach the EA onto a chart (or many charts - also different Magic Numbers)

AMG robot will always recognize its own trades; there is no need to manually intervene if you restart AMG while trades remained open. Just make sure you keep the Magic Numbers unchanged. However, Trades can be manually closed without interfering with the logic of the robot; after closing the trades manually, the robot will work as usual.

Max Trades
Max Trades allowed to be issued by this Strategy

UseDollarTakeProfit_s1
If TRUE, we will close all open orders of this strategy as soon as it reaches “ $x” [DollarTakeProfit_s1] entered.
WHAT YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE USING ARMAGEDDON

To reduce the risk of losing money and increase our chances to really make money with an automatic trading system, we must have all the following elements. Even having only one less will ensure that we lose:

- Good trading system.
- Good awareness of its statistical behavior.
- Good awareness of our personal capability to tolerate drawdown in terms of depth and duration.
- Money management configuration consistent with BOTH the previous 2 points.
- Follow the system and give it room and time to work at least until it is inside his statistical behavior parameters.

An example of a typical situation where people even when they have good trading systems still will lose money is:

- People see a trading system able to generate an average yearly profit 4 times the maximum drawdown.
- They want to make 200% profit every year, so they set the parameters according to this target. This means that the trading system, even when it works well, can generate a drawdown of 1/4 of the profits = 50% of the capital. But these people’s emotions and actions are driven by profits and they don’t consider drawdown and the psychological effect of the drawdown on themselves.
- The trading system starts working on a 2000 USD account but, after one month the account loses 800 USD and is at
1200 USD. They get very upset, and believing the system is not working they remove it.

- In the following month, the system could have recovered all the losses and started to make money, but as they removed the system they are left with 1200 USD in the account.

Where is the bug in this example? Not in the system, it was working exactly good both in the first and in the second month because it was still inside his own statistical parameters. The problem here is that these people want to see only the profit potential of a trading system, they don’t want to see the drawdown (which is normal for all good trading systems.) They also don’t want to see in advance the psychological effects of drawdown on themselves.

With ARMAGEDDON we give you a unique good trading system portfolio with a very strong, flexible and safe portfolio money management system but if you want to make money you MUST:

- Look carefully at the following statistical analysis and understand the statistical behavior of the system in terms of possible profitability variations between months and between years, drawdown depth, drawdown duration.

- Try to imagine how will you feel seeing your account losing money for 5%, 10% ... 40% for the double time of the maximum showed in the statistical analysis. Select the Capital protection money management mode of the portfolio and select the level of maximum drawdown you are confident you can tolerate keeping sleep well in the night.
Use it and don’t remove the system until:

- You earned enough money and you don’t want to keep earning more or
- The system is still behaving inside his statistical parameters
- Never interact with the system e.g.: never close trades manually. Let it run his own statistical flow.

PLEASE REMEMBER VERY WELL THE FOLLOWING SIMPLE EXPLANATION ABOUT THE FOREX BUSINESS:

FOREX trading is a legal serious business not very different than any other legal serious business. In any legal serious business, it is normal to have costs. What counts at the end is that your income will be higher than your costs, even if the income typically comes after you take the costs. It is very important to know that the business reality is not so much different than the business plan.

With the same approach, you need to consider FOREX trading losses as a business cost and winnings as business income. The business plan here is the trading system statistical behavior, your analysis on your risk tolerance, your decision to select the risk level and your ability to seriously follow all the aspects of this plan.
Armageddon supports GBP/USD, EUR/USD, USD/JPY and AUD/USD currency pairs. All four currency pairs show very good back test performance.

Armageddon is compatible with all MetaTrader 4 brokers, as well as with brokers that use ECN-type order fulfilment. You do not need to change any settings.

Armageddon automatically recognizes whether your broker offers four- or five-digit quotes. You don’t need to change any settings. If your broker offers five-digit quotes, you don’t have to multiply Take Profit and Stop Loss values by 10.

Avoid launching and closing your trading terminal too often. Ideally, it should work without interruption from market opening on Monday to closure on Friday.

For problem-free operation, use a computer with a minimum configuration of: 1.5 GHz processor, 1 GB RAM, and Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7 or Windows 8 operating system.

A stable internet connection is essential to ensure that Armageddon operates reliably.

Please Never Forget

Legal serious business without costs do not exist. In the same way, legal serious trading systems with no loss and no drawdown do not exist!
RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is of fundamental importance in attaining optimum trading results. It pays to think carefully before deciding what percentage of your account to expose to risk in each transaction.

Armageddon opens a maximum of 9 trades at a time (up to 3 trades for each strategy). Having nine open trades at the same time is quite a rare occurrence, and some of the trades will be hedged, but 3-6 trades at a time is normal, so in this context, the risk values below are lower.

To have good Trading Systems is not enough to make money if we are not able to manage the related risk and to protect our money in the periods where the market goes against our trades.

TWO IMPORTANT ELEMENTS

Risk (*): The lot size invested in a trade is calculated in a way where, if the market goes against the trade, the money lost will be very close to the specified percentage of the account. On top of this, there is also a Maximal Drawdown protection feature where Lot Size is decreased even more if the already achieved Drawdown of the specific Trading System profit is closer to the worst case found in the Trading System backtest. THIS CAN PREVENT US FROM SEEING A WORST SPECIFIC TRADING SYSTEM DRAWDOWN THAT THE ONE MEASURED IN THE BACKTEST FOR EACH TRADING SYSTEM.

Capital Protection (*): The principle is similar to the previous point but in this scenario there is a stronger “cooperation” between the different Trading Systems in order to secure not
only a precise Maximum Drawdown of each Trading System but also a maximum Drawdown in the account Capital. THIS CAN PREVENT US FROM SEEING A WORST OVERALL CAPITAL DRAWDOWN THAT THE ONE MEASURED IN THE BACKTEST FOR EACH TRADING SYSTEM. The main differences with point 3 are:

- The Risk for each trading system is selected automatically according with the configured maximum allowed Capital Drawdown.

- The weight of different Risk for each Trading Systems is based on the statistical results of the backtest on how they can cooperate better to minimize the impact on the overall Capital and, at sometimes, burst the profit.

- Anyway, an active mechanism reduces the Lot Size even more if the already achieved Drawdown of the overall Capital is closer to the worst case found in the portfolio backtest.

- As result of this mechanism, each Trading System invests more if it is in the right market situation and is winning. On the other side, the trading system decreases the risk taken per trade if it is in the wrong market situation and it is achieving losses (even if there are is a lot of money in the account and the other Trading Systems are winning).

- The risk taken on the “gained profit” is typically higher that the risk taken on the “Capital”. This allows us to keep excellent profitability even if we use very strong and very safe capital protection mechanism.

- At the beginning of the Account life, the “Capital” is obviously the amount of money founded on the
Account. Considering that ARMAGEDDON takes more risk on the achieved profit than on the Capital, once the account starts to make money, we can define different criteria how to move achieved profit to the Capital asked:

- We can decide and see capitalization rules in a way that once any profit is achieved, if it remain for nn days it becomes Capital. From that moment, it is also protected by the Maximum Capital Drawdown mechanism.

- We can decide to use a capitalization rule in a way that once a profit of X% is achieved, and Y% of this become Capital, from that moment it is also protected with the Maximum Capital Drawdown mechanism.

- The previous rules can also be used together.

- Using capitalization, the overall achieved profits will be less than if we don’t use capitalization. We can see this situation like an “insurance cost”, meaning that when we achieve a profit we reinvest part of it on an “insurance mechanism” that prevents us from seeing huge drops in the future of our already achieved profits.

In the following figures, you can see an example of capitalization impact. The blue line is the equity curve, and red line is the current capital. Both figures are related to the same trading system with a starting capital of 100.000 USD with a capital max drawdown protection of 5% max loss on the current capital. In the figures, N.1 no capitalization mechanism is present, in the figures N.2, 50% of the achieved profit become capital every time the achieved profit reach 10% of the previous capital.
(*) These mechanisms work better when the account size is enough compared to the broker allowed Minimum Lot Size.

We strongly recommend that you operate a demo account before trading with real money! This will help you become familiar with the way Armageddon operates before you commit genuine funds to a real money account.

**HOW TO BACK-TEST ARMAGEDDON**

*Please do not forget to enter your serial key for your demo or real account, even if you only wish to back-test Armageddon!*

It is important to note that high quality is essential for the back-test results. Most MT4 brokers do not have records of their historic data, and the quality of the metaquotes data they provide in the MT4 history center is very low. Since 2000, the highest quality history data has been available at the Alpari RU MT4 history center. I base all my developments on this data.

If you wish to back-test Armageddon, you should first download history from the MetaTrader history center: click Tools -> History Center, or press the “F2” key on the keyboard. In the list, find the currency pair that you wish to back-test and double click to expand it. Click “1 Minute (M1)” and then click “Download”. When the download process is finished, double click on “5 Minutes
(M5)” and all periods to “Daily (D1)” to convert the M1 data. Close the “History Center” window.

To open the “Strategy Tester” window, click the “Strategy Tester” button on the MetaTrader menu, or press “Ctrl+R” on the keyboard. In the “Strategy Tester” window, choose “Armageddon”, then choose the GBP/USD, EUR/USD, USD/JPY or USD/CHF pair on the M15 timeframe. Choose the “Every tick ...” method as shown below. Click “Start” to start the back-test.
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The past performance of any trading system or methodology is not necessarily indicative of future results.

Trading foreign exchange on margin carries a high level of risk and is not suitable for all investors. The high degree of leverage can work against you. As with all investments, you should not invest money that you cannot afford to lose. Before deciding to invest in foreign exchange, you must carefully consider your investment objectives, level of experience, and risk appetite. Additionally, you must be aware of all the risks associated with foreign exchange trading and seek advice from an independent financial advisor.

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