A true test is a downbar, an upbar test is called a hidden test. Regardless of name or down vs. upbar was does the make up of a test represent? In the world of VSA a test bar usually will open on it's high, head down and the close in the upper 50% of the range. To be a true basic test we treat it by the same rules as a NS in that we prefer to see volume lower than the previous 2 bars. So this shows that the market headed down to test for selling interest and when we see the close well up in the range it is said to mean that no sellers were found. The lack of volume = lack of activity so while there we no sellers there was also no buying. Your comments that;

"If the volume is low, then the test is supposed to have been successful and we should expect higher prices. If volume was high, then not"

Is not true. In order for a test to be considered successful we need to see buyers and price moving upward above the high of the test and most definately closing above the high of the test bar. The low volume on the test bar has nothing to do with it being successful this simply makes it a basic test where a high volume test would be just that. Either a high volume test or a SO. Scans some charts and see how many times in a weak market we see a tempoary SOS followed by a low volume test just to end up with a market that continues downward as the test fails.

The other kicker for me and something I have said many times in this and other VSA forums is that I want to see the test bar testing something. A test floating in the air is of no use to me. I need to see them testing a broken supply zone or even into a demand zone or into a UHV trigger level.

Some say that the market is always testing and to a point I agree. The market is a balance between buyers and sellers and it is those moments of inbalance when the SM decide to move the market by filling orders and taking out week holders that we can make our money. It happens over and over again where we will see the inital signs of strength and the market goes up only to come back to the source of the strength to fill more of their buy orders by sucking in unsuspecting weak shorts whom are going to be lead to the slaughter.

This is where tests come in handy... we see the UHV=activity and rather than jumping in blindly we wait for the test bar in the right place to show the tides have turned.

Thinking about tests really shows the herd side of the market. The SM are testing lower prices for sellers... who wants to sell at lower prices? Not me. I sell at prices higher that they are now and buy at prices lower than the are now. This is what SM does so why should we do any different.

For what it's worth the post was based on the test at SOS but I do the same things for SOW. I do trade upside down tests (some call it low volume UT). For every buyer there is a seller. SM needs opposing orders to fill theirs and as such whether they are sellers or buyers they need to lure the other side in. They fill some orders and the market moves. We retrace back and they fill some more orders and the market moves even stronger in the direct the SM wants. As the herd SL's get hit and the opposing orders are closed the SM orders gain strength, we get imbalance and boom! Money is made.

Never take a trade you don't understand!