

# THE CRAIG HARRIS METHOD

## BASIC RULES

*If you haven't already, you will want to watch these videos to get acquainted with the basics of this method:*

<http://www.the-natural-flow.com/back/backfut.html>

- This method is suited for the M15 Timeframe.
- (The heart of this method is to **trade with the flow of the market** and to trade from swing to swing when we have all criteria giving confirmation.)
- Before entering any trades; check the news. Do not trade if within 30 minutes of the **first news announcement of the day**. If in a trade already; either exit or tighten stop Loss.
- Check the trend to know which direction the big swings will be in.
- Optional: Use Fractals & S/R indicator to visually see and measure swings.
- Place the Tokyo Channel on chart (using either a sessions indicator or by manually drawing a channel from 22:00 GMT to 05:00 GMT).
- Do not trade until a minimum of at least 40 pips of movement with a retrace to a fib level has been established (from the beginning of the Tokyo Channel). Once a minimum of 40 pips has been met, we look for a break of consolidation to enter a trade. (The Tokyo Channel will act as S/R for the rest of the day as price moves to and from these levels. ***If the Tokyo Channel is less than 40 pips don't trade the pair until it is.***)
- Swings should average 20 to 40 pips or more on the 15 minute TF. (Ideally swings can average 30-60 pips).
- **Trade out of consolidation.** Consolidation is 2 or more candles in a given area with generally the same price point hi/low. Always trade out of consolidation and away from the most recent swing. When there is going to be a reversal, there will (usually) be a new color candle. Enter on the break of the second candle if Stoch are in agreement.
- **Enter or Exit** on big numbers (shoot to set TP at 2 or 3 levels of BN's beyond where you entered).  
Big Numbers are: 00 20 50 80  
Mid Range Numbers (50% fib between the Big Numbers) are: 10 35 65 90  
**All 8 Numbers: 00 10 20 35 50 65 80 90**  
These numbers are (or can be) both your target levels and entry levels. When you use BNs or Mid Range numbers as an entry, you should always have the Stoch in agreement with your trade direction. Because the market has 2 basic forms of movement; Trending, or Channeling, you must know how to trade in each type of market. You can use BN entries in either.
- **When you have a losing trade:** Re-enter on the next swing doubling your lot size. If you lose the second trade; go back to normal lot size.

## FURTHER NOTES

- The best odds to make profit are to trade the Euro Open, London Open and N.Y. Trading the opens on the GBP/USD 15 minute chart. Generally it may vary 15 minutes either side of those times. This happens about 3-4 days a week. You will get longer swings at these times.
- When Craig trades his swings he waits for the first reversal candle to close and then enters on the opening of the second candle. His goal is 20+ pips per Trade. (See the Numbers and Entry video which shows you what he aims for.) He always trades with a stop loss. His stop loss is at the (top or bottom) of the 1st reversal candle. As he states on one of the videos... if it doesn't go a minimum of 20 pips and reverses on him... he will let the stop loss take him out. At that point if stochastic lines up with the next swing... he doubles his lot size and enters on that next swing. He normally makes his loss back plus extra pips. If the second trade is a loser (which isn't often the case), he goes back to normal lot size on the next trade. *99.9% of the time he has winning days with very few losing days using this method.* **So his rule: If you lose a swing; double the lot size for the next swing trade. Very Important!**
- Here are some highlights & adjustments (from Craig Harris' recent webinars):
  1. Using S/L of normally 35 pips on his trades.
  2. He always targets his Big Numbers for exit targets (00,20,50,80,00)... shooting for 20+ pips per swing.
  3. When there is a long run (60-100 pips) the next swing is often small.
  4. Once any pair runs its normal daily range the swings usually become smaller.
  5. After the London close the G/U tends to range.
  6. Craig trades the 1st three hours of the London session and the first 3 hours of the NY session.
  7. Most pairs have two long runs per day.
  8. Really stressed how important it is to wait for the Tokyo Channel to be 40+ pips before trading any pairs.
  9. Retracements start at the London close on G/U.
  10. At the London close if Price Action is in the upper or lower quarter of the Tokyo Channel; look for retracements.

## TIMES TO TRADE

- Craig normally starts trading at the London Open. He normally trades 2 1/2 to 3 hours, then again at the NY open.

Personal Note: I (Big E) start looking for set ups 2 hours before the London Open when the Tokyo Channel has already moved at least 40 pips by that time.
- Normally I don't trade during the day. I'll trade the N.Y. open for an hour or two and then I stay out until the EURO opens.

## BIG E's NOTES

- I noted when I went back on a chart and looked at the last swing... That if I waited to enter on the second candle after the reversal swing... that I was giving up about 20-30% of the pips from that swing. I can feel the greed building now - help, help!

\*\*\* I Put my stop about 6-7 pips under/over the reversal candle and I enter on the initial reversal candle whether it's on my 5 min, 15 min or 60 min chart and it's successful most of the time. Why? Thank You Tokyo Channel. Because we wait to trade a pair until the Tokyo Channel spread is over 40 pips... we get great Pip swings! Tokyo Channel is so important. **I always have an open Order on my desk top ready to enter.**

### Exits:

Craig will let price come back and take him out at his S/L if he doesn't get a 20 pip or greater profit. That's his trading style. He then doubles his lot size on the next swing and normally wins more pips than he lost. **However I do it a little differently:** Let's say I'm up 17 pips and at that point it starts to reverse on me. **I NEVER LET ANY TRADE REVERSE ON ME MORE THAN 5 PIP'S BEFORE EXITING. NEVER! Why? I avoid losing trades even if I make only a couple of pips.** How do I gauge that? On my 15 minute chart that this thread is teaching... your crosshair is about 5 pips. Use it to estimate quickly. I don't want to give back any more pips to the market than it steals from me already.

When I enter the trade it's usually a market order. I set the S/L and enter. Immediately I right click my active trade and select "Close" bringing up a Close Entry window box and I put it on the left side of my monitor window... resting my arrow on the Close button. If it suddenly reverses 5 pips I'm out.

A 15 minute chart trade will normally go 3-6 candles or more when you have a 40 pip spread on the Tokyo Channel.

If I have a candle that is longer than 3/4 to 1 inch on my 24" Monitor... I will usually close the trade if it drops 5 pips and enter another trade in the opposite direction. Look back on your chart at tall candles with long wicks after the trade has been going for a while (Ex. 5-8 candles) ... almost always a reversal area. Not recommending this for you but it works for me.

I don't trade the 1st candle when its news time and neither does Craig (though Craig enters on the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle).

- While studying the way the charts breathe... mostly E/U and G/U, I discovered that on the 1 hour chart it "almost" always moved 2-3 candles or more before reversing. What did that mean to me?—Swings are larger on the 1 Hour charts obviously... well just knowing that information gave me an edge. We are always looking for an edge as traders. I still trade them with a 6-7 pip S/L when they reverse. Maybe I get taken out a couple times because my timing was off a little bit... So what. I expect small losses and you should too. The edge tells me it's gonna run normally 30-60 pips per candle and usually 2-3 candles minimum before it turns on me. Ex. 40 pip's average... times only two candles is 80 pip's partner... it's an edge.

And I can use Craig's system with it too... just check the ole chart once an hour about 10 minutes before the hour is up... until it's shouting at you; "I'm gonna turn, I'm gonna turn... get ready... here it comes!"

Learn to study new and old charts. They mostly move the same way when they're getting ready to turn... get the edge... earn the pips because you took the time to observe and learn.

- Personal Note: When the Tokyo Channel hits 40+ pip's I personally feel safer expecting 20-40 Pip Swings.
- (TDI) Note how the Stoch crashes flat on top but the TDI takes you smoothly up until you reach the top. I often follow the red and green lines to find my exit area. Generally when it crosses I am in the next swing trade. On the stoch indicator you're blind when it hits top or bottom but TDI continues to feed you information. I always use it.
- The trade might start 30-45 minutes before or after the open but so what. Look back every day for 30 days. You could make a living only trading opens.
- At the London close if Price Action is in the upper or lower quarter of the Tokyo Channel... look for retracements.
- I find that at most Market Opens (or close to it) a reversal takes place. As you know, nothing is 100% in the Forex. The E/U is my most favorite pair to trade... always.

- By the way... I was doing some research this morning on the A/J and it looks pretty promising on the 1 hour chart where you get longer swings to offset the 5 pip spread I have.
- Please don't forget that the 1 hour chart is my own personal preference to trade on. The Heiken Ashi candles also run smoother on that higher timeframe than on the 15 minute. You can always get into a trade later at night in your part of the world. Always use a SL. You can add a trailing stop and go to bed... and trade the market as you sleep. Often I let the trade gain 12-15 pips, move my S/L up to break even or BE + the spread and let the trailing stop & S/L watch my trade and go to bed... Knowing the N.Y. open is only 5 hours away and I want to trade it too.
- (Regarding the TDI) I remove all the lines except for the green and red. I enter a trade when green crosses red and exit when green starts to curve over. On Craig's system I always make sure that PA lines up with the stochastic before taking a trade.

### OTHERS' NOTES

- (PipTalk) Ok..For this week... First of all keep it simple!!!! Dont worry about all the indicators!! Its what I like about the CH method,,,,This is how I trade his system. Good ,Bad or Ugly!! Time frame 15 min,,Stay out 15 min before and 15 min after a news release,,Look for swings in the 50 - 60 pip range or more,, Stoch os/ob ,,Wait for candle color change,,,Enter break over or below round #s ie. 20, 50, 80, 00, Money Management rules are as follows, Risk 2-3%,,,Or whatever your risk tolerance is,, Initial stop should be placed above or below the previous swing candle,,,15-20ips in profit? Then sell half your position and either let balance run or take your profit at the second tier round #s,,If you get stopped out on your first trade then double up your lots for the next swing, ,,If you get stopped out again then wait until the next session and start over,,,Depending on your time zone,,,Trade,,1st 3 hours London session or 1st 3 or 4 hours of the NY session,,,Or the 1st 1 or 2 hours of the Asian session,,,Thats it!,,,Post your profits at the close Friday..... BTW,,,I go the breakeven on the stop after the taking profit on the first position,,,
- (PipTalk) I know stoch can either mean ranging or trending,,,,But the way I approach is wait for os/ob preferably above or below 80/20 lines,,,,But not an exact science,,,,Also a swing of 50 pips or more is a red flag for retracement,,,Like CH said is to take advantage of the natural flow of the market,,,If you follow the flow you should get a 65-75% accuracy. And maybe even higher as we fine tune our skills. .and THATS A VERY PROFITABLE TRADING SYSTEM!!,,,As our confidence grows so will our wallets!!!,,,Continue to take partial profit that your comfortable with and then go to breakeven for capital preservation,,,,Let the balance run or take profit by the second big# tier,,,
- (NeoRio) One way you can enter your trade is right at the moment the reversal candle is completed AND the Stochastic are in agreement AND all other criteria is met; you can set a pending order (Buy Stop or Sell Stop) and wait for price to move your direction...regardless of what the Stochastic does after that.
- (NeoRio) You always want to be trading away from the MAs. CH uses custom MAs that change settings when you change TFs; one faster MA and one slower. In general, you always want to trade away from the MAs, ideally when they first cross or first start their move in a direction. If you are looking to trade towards the MAs (countertrend), then you want to be sure to have at least 35 pips of distance from where you want to enter and the fast MA.
- (BullsAndBear) Something I've noticed is; The swings we look for are very much time based as well as s/r based. I almost got shaken out of a trade last night on g/u but since I was out in the middle of nowhere in the session time wise and had not made a full 30 pip swing so I anticipated that it was a fake out by the brokers. A false move up. Well the indicators did show that too and sure enuff it turned back to finish its path to s/r and then a reversal at the appropriate time. I'll try to post live charts on this, but it pays to really pay attention to the time, if the current swing move finished its course (30-60 pips), and if u are at s/r level or just in between.

- (Moxy UK) I watched a few of the webinars (again) the other day and picked up on this topic (counter trend trading). Trading with the trend wasn't specifically mentioned but Craig did make a point of saying he would take counter trend trades when a pair has reached its average daily range. I didn't pick up on this the first time of watching, but did this time round. It makes perfect sense too...for me the trade psychology of this is; the pros see a pair has moved hard into its ADR near the close of a session and would prefer to bank their profits rather than let ride.

## SYNERGY

- Well, the other day I added the Synergy channel on my 15 minute charts (5 SMA/Hi & 5 SMA/Lo) doing some more testing. What I discovered was by blending the two methods together one is always confirmation for the other. Sometimes the Synergy makes the entry call first and sometime Craig's makes the entry call first. But I ALWAYS stick to the Tokyo Channel 40+ pip range if I'm using Craig's method. For day trading you might want to lean heavier on Synergy. You decide by studying charts back 1-3 months. As stated above... it's a blending to give you the best chance for success.