



Forex AI for MetaTrader 4 User Manual

Version 2.1

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Forex AI

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Revision History

Version	Date Release	Change Notice	Remarks
1.0	September 2006	N/A	1 st Internal Version
1.1	January 2007	Add Alternative Symbol	2 nd Internal Version
1.3	July 2007	Change Parameter names	3 rd Internal Version
1.4	January 2008	Add Automatic Lot Sizing	4 th Internal Version
2.0	October 2008	Add Installation Notes	1 st Publication
2.1	December 2008	Add FAQ Section	2 nd Publication

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1 Introduction

Congratulation on your purchase of one of the worlds most advanced automated trading system utilizing Artificial Intelligence.



Do not install the Expert and definitely do not use it for live trading before you have read this user manual in full. Incorrectly configured Forex-AI expert will not produce profitable trading on the long run, so it is essential to that you have followed the instructions in this manual to install, configure and train the expert correctly.

Forex AI Automatic Trading system for MetaTrader 4 is an advanced piece of application which uses Neural network to make decisions as to when to buy or sell a specific currency pair using your Forex broker.

It works with most Forex brokers using MetaTrader 4 as a trading platform.

The Forex AI Autotrader you received initially will work using any Forex account, but it will have to be registered within 4 to 8 weeks of purchase. Once it is registered, it will be locked to your actual trading account. For more information, please see the Licensing section.



Do not use the Forex Ai Automatic trading system on your live account until you have completely familiarized yourself with how to train, configure and use the system. We recommend running this system using demo accounts for at least 4 weeks.

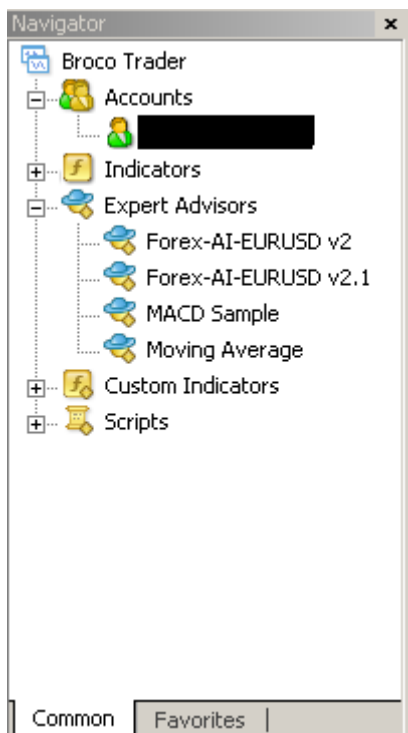


2 Installation

Copy the expert **Forex-Ai-EURUSD-v2.1.ex4** into:

D:\Program Files*Broker Name*\experts directory

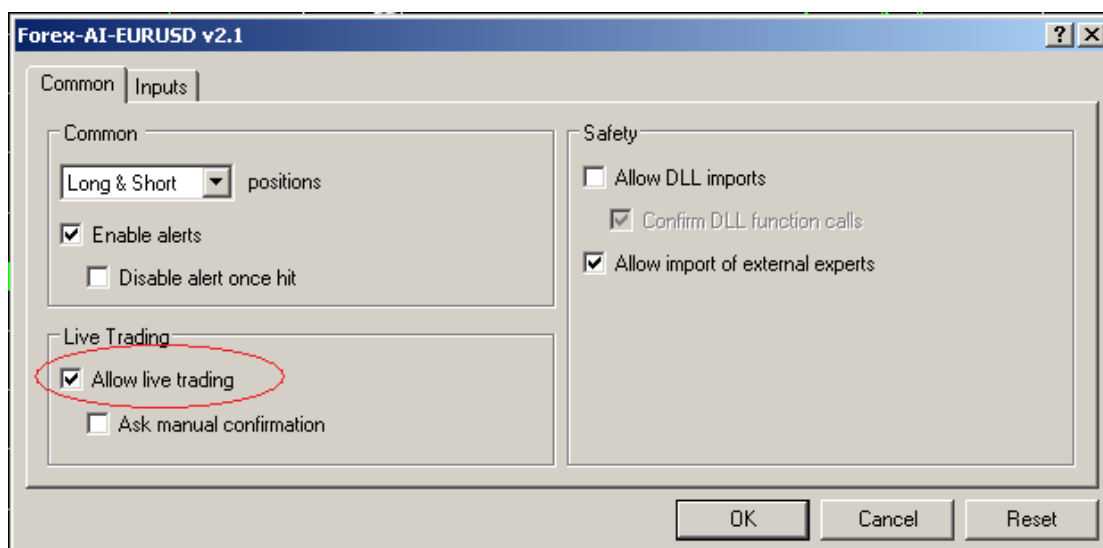
If you have already started MetaTrader 4, close it and start it again for it to appear on the Navigator window.



If the navigator window is not visible, select View->Navigator to make it visible.

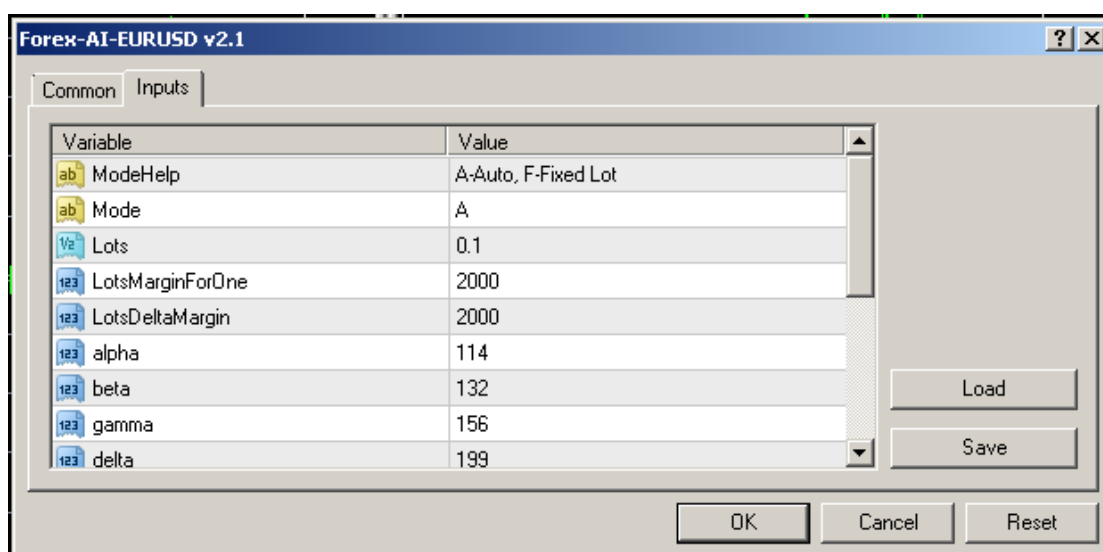
Open a new EURUSD chart and select H4 to show the 4 hours chart.

Drag the Forex-AI-EURUSD v2 expert onto the EURUSD H4 chart. When you release the mouse button, it will display the following window.



Click on “Allow live trading” on the Common tab.

Then select the Inputs tab



Set the input parameters as per “Input Parameters” section



It is important to set the Input Parameters correctly, otherwise the Forex Ai expert will not work profitably.

Click ok.

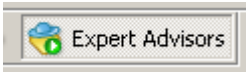


Check the smiley face on the upper right hand corner of the chart.



If it is a sad face, you forgot to click on “Allow live trading” as per previous instructions.

If it is an “x” you have the Expert Advisor disabled.

Make sure to click on  to enable the expert and check for the smiley face.

Now you are ready to go. All you have to do is leave it alone and let the Forex AI Autotrader do the rest.



If you want to see the EURUSD pair in other timeframe than 4 hours, open another EURUSD chart. DO NOT change the timeframe on the chart while the Auto trading is on. It will not enter new positions nor will it close any open positions if you do that.



It is quite important that the Forex AI is running on a computer that has a good Internet connection, ideally one dedicated to the task at hand.



For our own trading, we are using a Virtual Private Server (VPS), dedicated to do nothing else, but to run the Autotrader. Some VPS providers unfortunately log you out if you disconnect and therefore your MetaTrader will be closed down as well. After lengthy research, we found one which appears to be reliable for our purposes and costs about \$30/month. If you would like to know which provider we're using here, at the Forex AI Club, please email support@forex-ai.com.

The expert will only make changes to the StopLoss order or will enter new positions at the beginning of each 4-hour block. So if your Internet link went down or your computer got rebooted within the 4 hour period when the trader was not trading, that's no problem, just restart MetaTrader and make sure the Forex-AI expert is running again as soon as possible.



3 Input Parameters



These input parameters need to be set each time you attach the Forex AI Autotrader expert to the chart. It DOES NOT remember the previous settings. The good news however is that you do this only once a week.

3.1 ModeHelp

It is a short help info telling you what options are available as a Mode parameter.

Currently it has two options: A – Auto and F- Fixed lot size, described below.

3.2 Mode

A Automatic lot size mode

Use Automatic lot size mode only if you let the Forex AI to trade on the account on its own. If you are also trading manually or perhaps use another expert to trade on the same account simultaneously (not recommended) DO NOT use Automatic mode.

In AutoMode, the Account Balance, LotsMarginForOne and LotsDeltaMargin is used to determine the Lot size to trade.

F Fixed size lot for each trade.

Use Fixed Lot size if you want to be in control of the Lot size the Expert will trade with. The parameter called Lots will determine the size of each trade. Default is 0.1 Lot.



3.3 Lots

This parameter is only used when the trader is set to Mode F, Fixed size lot. In case you choose Fixed lot size, (not recommended) use the following lot sizes based on the amount of money you have available in your account:

Account Size	Lot Size
\$3,000	0.1
\$10,000	0.4
\$25,000	1

3.4 LotsMarginForOne

The default 2,000 means that you need a \$2,000 deposit to manage 1 Lot (100,000).

Most broker agencies need much less than that.

On a 1:100 account you only need \$1,000 or on a 1:500 account you only need \$200 to control a full Lot.

We do not recommend that you reduce this amount to 1,000 or even lower to 200 on the 1:500 accounts, but you can do that if you want to use your account balance to its full potential and are willing to take high risks. If the system experiences a losing streak of 5 or 6 (it can happen), gearing the account to its maximum can seriously damage your account balance and it will be difficult to recover from it.

So even if you choose “A” for Auto Lot size in the Mode parameter, you can still control how much risk to take by reducing the LotsMarginForOne and LotsDeltaMargin parameters.



3.5 LotsDeltaMargin

Some brokers have one set of margin requirements for the first Lot and another for the rest of the Lots, although this is not common. If that is the case, you can enter the margin requirements for any additional Lots. If you don't know or you're unsure, just use the same amount as the LotsMarginForOne.

3.6 Primary Network Parameters

alpha, beta, gamma, delta

These parameters need to be set using the values we get as result of the training of the neural net. They control the behavior of the primary network. To see how to get these parameters, please look up the "Training the Forex-AI AutoTrader" section in this manual.

3.7 Alt_Symbol

This is the symbol name of the alternative data series to improve the probability of the prediction.

We found that the best alternative data series when predicting the EURUSD currency pair, are Crude Oil or Gold. Unfortunately not every Forex broker gives you continuous Crude Oil or Gold prices, so you need to make sure the broker you have selected, includes at least one of them.

We have used both "CL_CONT" (Crude Oil Continuous) and "GOLD" Spot Gold prices and achieved similarly good results.



Alternative Forex symbols may also work, such as GBPUSD or EURGBP, but we haven't tested them enough to say that they work as well as Crude Oil or Gold.



3.8 Alternative Network Parameters

alt_alpha, alt_beta, alt_gamma, alt_delta

These parameters need to be set using the values we get as result of the training of the neural net. They control the behaviour of the secondary or alternative net. To see how to get these parameters, please see the “Training the Forex-Ai AutoTrader” section in this manual.

3.9 StopLoss

By default we have set the StopLoss value to 90 pips, which we believe is the appropriate value for our strategy. Using a smaller value would result in a lot of premature exits of profitable positions.

A larger value would probably improve our profitable trades, but would also include a few large losses, which could result in large draw downs in our portfolio.

You could experiment with larger StopLoss values with an aim to generate larger profits as long as you understand that you may experience larger portfolio draw downs if you experience a large losing streaks.

3.10 ClosePositionsOnly

This parameter is false and should be left false most of the time.

If you are planning to go away for a week or two and do not want to leave your Autotrader on, you have two choices:

- You can either remove the expert from your chart and manually close the position you are in; or
- You can turn “ClosePositionsOnly” to true and the AutoTrader will find the best possible exit for you. It will close the position when the Forex AI system is about to reverse or may get stopped out.



You may want to close positions for the weekends. In this case, it is best to change the “ClosePositionsOnly” to true on Thursday to let the expert focus on closing the existing position only. You may miss a Friday trade, but Fridays are typically weak in terms of trading opportunities anyway.



4 Training the Forex AI Autotrader

Training the AI network in this expert is the most important part of the Forex AI AutoTrader and your success using this application depends on whether you follow the instructions here properly or not.

Many trading applications that use Artificial Intelligence, Neural networks give you too many options, are confusing and in the end you give up simply because you do not know which one of the several thousands of parameters to tweak. With Forex AI, we have done the hard work for you and this section describes clearly how to optimize the network for maximum gain.

4.1 Selecting the Time Period to train the network on

Before explaining the steps you need to take in order to train the network, let's start with some real life examples first.

Select the H4 chart of the EURUSD currency pair and zoom out, so you can see 6 month on your chart.



In the example above, I've charted EURUSD between March and August. As you can see, we have a relatively range-bound market move. If we train our network and the market behavior does not change significantly, the Forex-AI expert will produce good profit.



Now have a look at the June-November 2008 time frame.



As you can see, this period contained a trending stage between mid July and end of October. November was range-bound again.

Why am I showing you this? If the network has only seen range-bound markets and suddenly we have a large drop in price and the market starts trending downwards, the system may not be able to produce a profit because the market conditions have significantly changed in a way that the network hasn't learned how to deal with yet. If, however, we train the network on both range-bound and trending markets, it has a better chance of producing profitable result.

On the other hand, throwing too much data at the network, will cause it to learn too much about the past and not be representative of the future price movements. In the neural network world this phenomenon is often called Curve Fitting. We don't want that.



More than 6 months' data on a 4 hours chart can often result in curve fitting using the Forex AI network.



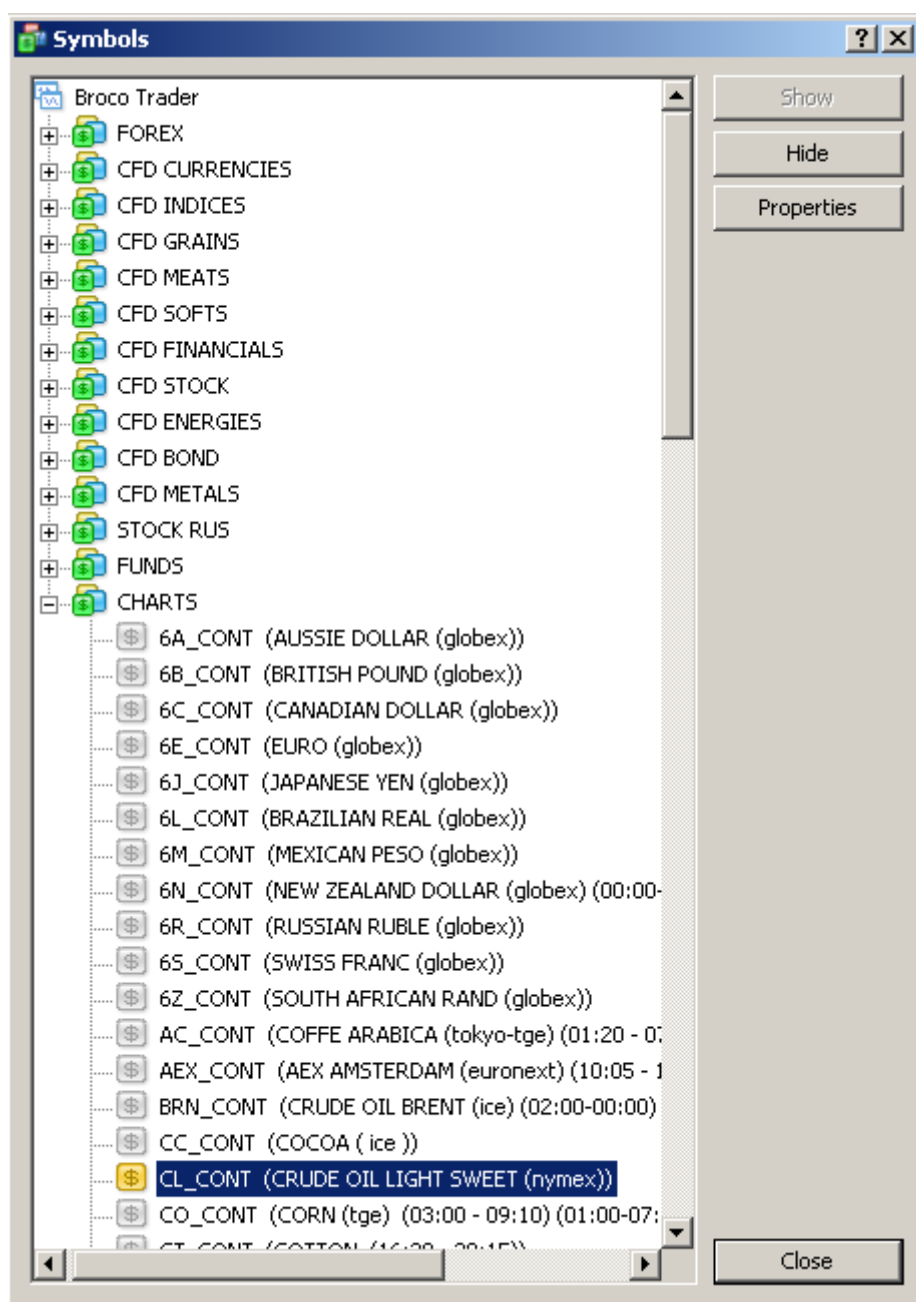
Less than three months' data may not be enough to learn about the rules, so use between 3 to 6 months' data to teach the AI network about the past behavior.



4.2 Selecting Alternative Time Series Data

Go through the available Market Symbols of your broker and see if you have Crude oil or Gold continuous price available.

It maybe disabled by default, so to explore all symbols available, right click on the “Market Watch” window and select “Symbols”.





As you can see, a lot of symbols are grayed out, meaning they are not visible when you select new chart.

Highlight the CL_CONT symbol and click on the “Show” button.

Create a new chart based on this symbol and test it to make sure it is available for trading 24x5.



If you are thinking of using one of the futures symbols, please be aware that they may only trade 12 hours a day and thus not suitable for our purpose.

If you do not have CL_CONT, you may have GOLD spot price available, which is just as good when predicting the EURUSD pair.



Gold sometimes has a symbol GOLD, but more often Forex brokers are using XAU for Gold.



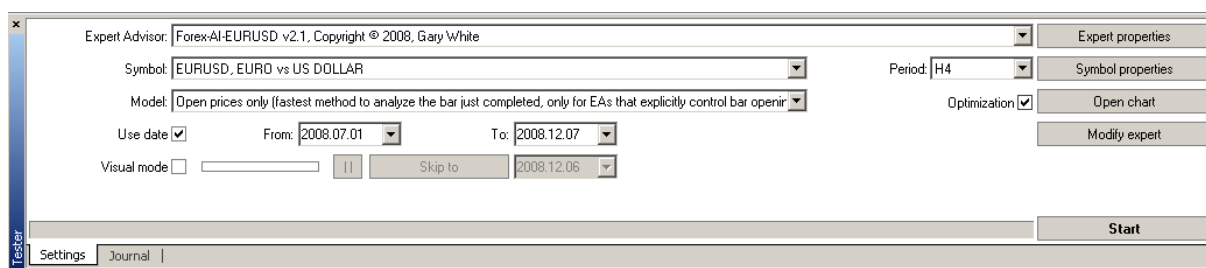
As mentioned earlier, other currency pairs may be suitable as an alternative symbol (e.g. GBPUSD or EURGBP), but we haven't tested them.



4.3 The Training Step-by-Step

- Select View -> Strategy Tester
- Select Forex-Ai-EURUSD v2.1 as your Expert Advisor
- Select EURUSD as a symbol
- Select H4 as a period
- Model – Open prices only
- Click on Optimization
- Select the date range. From: 3-6 month past, To: current date

As you can see picture below.





Click on Expert Properties button.

On the Testing tab select as below:

Select Drawdown percent from the dropdown box.

Make sure Genetic algorithm is ticked.

The image shows the 'Forex-AI-EURUSD v2.1' Expert Properties dialog box with the 'Testing' tab selected. The 'Inputs' tab is also visible. The 'Optimization' section is expanded, showing the 'Optimized parameter' set to 'Drawdown Percent' and the 'Genetic algorithm' checkbox checked. The 'Initial deposit' is set to 10000 USD and 'Positions' is set to 'Long & Short'. The 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Reset' buttons are at the bottom.

Variable	Value	Start	Step	Stop
ModeHelp	A-Auto, F-Fixed Lot			
Mode	A			
Lots	0.1	0.1	0	0
LotsMarginForOne	2000	2000	0	0
LotsDeltaMargin	2000	2000	0	0
alpha	139	0	1	200
beta	168	0	1	200

On the Inputs tab:

The image shows the 'Forex-AI-EURUSD v2.1' Expert Properties dialog box with the 'Inputs' tab selected. The 'Testing' and 'Optimization' tabs are also visible. The 'Inputs' section contains a table of variables and their values. The 'Load' and 'Save' buttons are at the bottom of the table area. The 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Reset' buttons are at the bottom of the dialog box.

Variable	Value	Start	Step	Stop
ModeHelp	A-Auto, F-Fixed Lot			
Mode	A			
Lots	0.1	0.1	0	0
LotsMarginForOne	2000	2000	0	0
LotsDeltaMargin	2000	2000	0	0
alpha	139	0	1	200
beta	168	0	1	200



Check the checkbox on the following Input parameters:

alpha, beta, gamma, delta

alt_alpha, alt_beta, alt_gamma, alt_delta

Set the start value for all 6 selected symbol to 0

Set the Step value to all 6 symbols to 1

Set the Stop value for all 6 symbols to 200



Due to some bug in MetaTrader 4 the Start value has to be set twice to stick. Double check it twice to make sure the values you have entered are the correct ones.

Make sure to set the alt_symbol to the symbol you have selected in the previous point to continuous Crude Oil or Gold (XAU).



On the Optimization tab:

Limitation	Value
<input type="checkbox"/> Balance minimum	200
<input type="checkbox"/> Profit maximum	10000
<input type="checkbox"/> Minimal margin level %	30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maximal drawdown	20
<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive loss	5000
<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive loss trades	10
<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive win	10000
<input type="checkbox"/> Consecutive win trades	30

Click the checkbox on “Maximal drawdown” and set its value to 20.

It means, it only allows a maximum portfolio value drop by 20%.

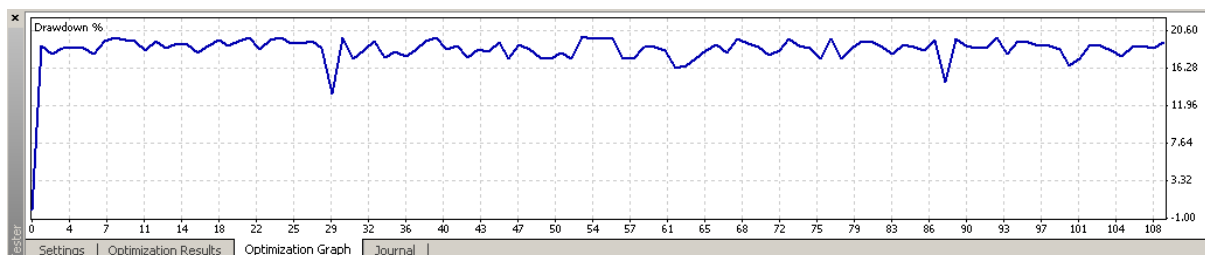
Then hit OK and click the Start button to start the optimization.

Optimization may take 10-15 minutes, depending on how fast computer you have, but you only have to do this once a week or maybe once a month.

During optimization, the Genetic Algorithm will go through 10,000 times on the entire data set and will optimize its parameter out of billions combinations. If you couldn't find an acceptable result, you can re-run the optimization and will get a different result. In fact every user of this Forex AI is likely to get a different optimization result, therefore if I use this system to trade, my trading will probably be differently to yours, but both systems can be profitable.



During the optimization you can click on the ‘Optimization Graph’ to see if the system had found any suitable combination which resulted in less than 20% portfolio drawdown.



As you can see, we have plenty of results around the 17% drawdown range and one around 13%, plus another one around a 14% mark.



If you don't see the chart like the one above, right click on the chart area and de-select 2D surface.

Click on the ‘Optimization Results’ tab to analyze the results further.

If you sort the results by ‘Drawdown %’ you can see that the 13.33% drawdown resulted a \$9,963 profit on an initial 10,000 investment or about 100% profit in 5 months. Not bad!

The next line down resulted 168% profit in 5 months, but the drawdown was 14.66%, a slightly higher risk, but not much.

Pass	Profit	Total trades	Profit factor	Expected Payoff	Drawdown \$	Drawdown %	Inputs
29	9663.09	94	1.65	102.80	2383.66	13.44	alpha=66; beta=101; gamma=117; delta=28; alt_alpha=194; alt...
88	16811.22	105	1.90	160.11	3194.00	14.66	alpha=66; beta=101; gamma=149; delta=27; alt_alpha=194; alt...
62	12636.55	90	1.87	140.41	3889.27	16.32	alpha=41; beta=166; gamma=191; delta=28; alt_alpha=128; alt...
63	6653.35	95	1.46	70.04	2659.94	16.59	alpha=174; beta=54; gamma=171; delta=51; alt_alpha=10; alt...
100	6653.35	95	1.46	70.04	2659.94	16.59	alpha=174; beta=54; gamma=171; delta=51; alt_alpha=8; alt_b...
31	9268.71	94	1.66	98.60	2947.75	17.48	alpha=174; beta=54; gamma=171; delta=67; alt_alpha=14; alt...
46	9268.71	94	1.66	98.60	2947.75	17.48	alpha=174; beta=54; gamma=171; delta=67; alt_alpha=13; alt...
50	9268.71	94	1.66	98.60	2947.75	17.48	alpha=174; beta=57; gamma=171; delta=67; alt_alpha=13; alt...
52	9268.71	94	1.66	98.60	2947.75	17.48	alpha=174; beta=54; gamma=171; delta=67; alt_alpha=15; alt...

Both of them are pretty good.

Now sort the results by profit, showing the largest profit on the top of the list.



Pass	Profit	Total trades	Profit factor	Expected Payoff	Drawdown \$	Drawdown %	Inputs
88	16811.22	105	1.90	160.11	3194.00	14.66	alpha=66; beta=101; gamma=149; delta=27; alt_alpha=194; alt...
45	15395.22	128	1.55	120.28	4812.22	19.28	alpha=70; beta=60; gamma=185; delta=181; alt_alpha=52; alt...
109	15312.55	118	1.59	129.77	5276.24	19.37	alpha=143; beta=13; gamma=196; delta=50; alt_alpha=31; alt...
49	15019.17	116	1.70	129.48	3821.00	17.55	alpha=61; beta=121; gamma=52; delta=164; alt_alpha=197; alt...
74	13923.08	117	1.60	119.00	3675.62	18.94	alpha=143; beta=13; gamma=196; delta=44; alt_alpha=31; alt...
94	13731.81	104	1.70	132.04	3919.12	17.92	alpha=41; beta=166; gamma=191; delta=28; alt_alpha=121; alt...
51	13292.65	123	1.59	108.07	4597.03	18.10	alpha=61; beta=121; gamma=52; delta=164; alt_alpha=177; alt...
97	12687.65	120	1.55	105.73	3642.75	18.94	alpha=143; beta=13; gamma=180; delta=51; alt_alpha=31; alt...
62	12636.55	90	1.87	140.41	3889.27	16.32	alpha=41; beta=166; gamma=191; delta=28; alt_alpha=128; alt...

It appears that the highest profit in this case was one of the safest with a drawdown % of 14.66%.

You will most probably agree that 168% profit with the 14.66% Drawdown is our best choice.

Now take note of the 8 parameters:

alpha = 66, beta = 101, gamma = 149, delta = 27

alt_alpha = 194, alt_beta = 8, alt_gamma = 67, alt_delta = 191

Go back to the “Settings” tab and click on “Expert Properties” again.

This time select the Inputs tab and enter in the Value for each of the 8 Variables.

Variable	Value	Start	Step	Stop
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alpha	66	0	1	200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> beta	101	0	1	200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> gamma	149	0	1	200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> delta	27	0	1	200
<input type="checkbox"/> alt_symbol	CL_CONT			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alt_alpha	194	0	1	200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> alt_beta	8	0	1	200

Click OK and then on the Setting tab click on the Start button.

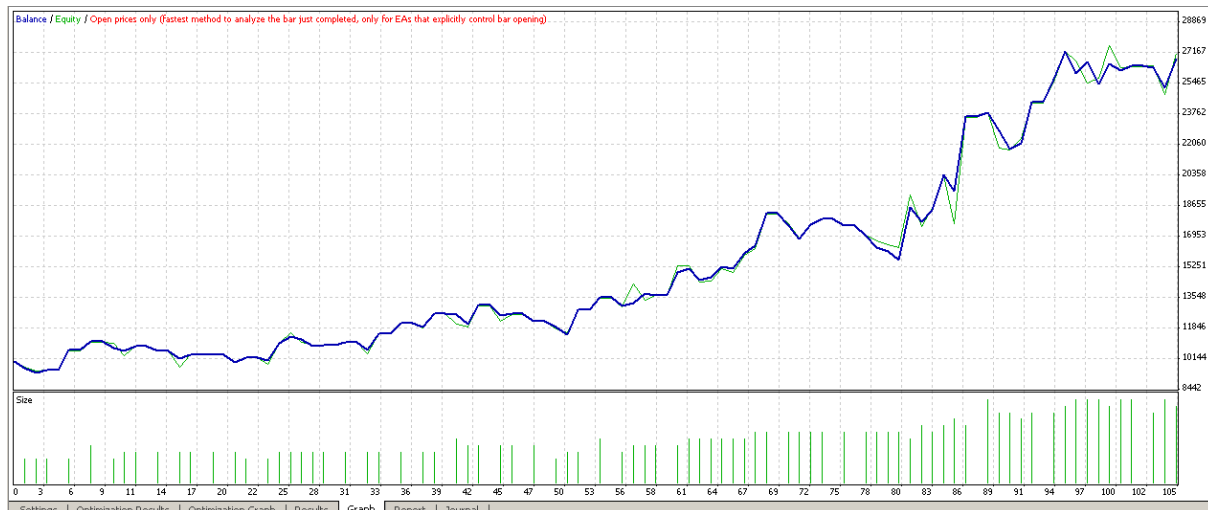
This time it went through the last 5 months and places trades based on the optimization parameters we have set.



This time we didn't have the Optimization checkbox clicked.



Note that the 10,000 balance has grown to almost \$27,000.



Selecting the Report tab you can see that:

63% of the trades were profitable, but when we made profit it was almost twice as big as the losses (Profit Factor 1.9).

Bars in test	1684	Ticks modelled	2368	Modelling quality	n/a
Mismatched charts errors	0				
Initial deposit	10000.00				
Total net profit	16811.22	Gross profit	35503.91	Gross loss	-18692.70
Profit factor	1.90	Expected payoff	160.11		
Absolute drawdown	647.14	Maximal drawdown	3194.00 (12.77%)	Relative drawdown	14.66% (2692.90)
Total trades	105	Short positions (won %)	42 (80.95%)	Long positions (won %)	63 (50.79%)
		Profit trades (% of total)	66 (62.86%)	Loss trades (% of total)	39 (37.14%)
		Largest profit trade	4149.38	loss trade	-1196.00
		Average profit trade	537.94	loss trade	-479.30
		Maximum consecutive wins (profit in money)	6 (1752.58)	consecutive losses (loss in money)	4 (-1902.62)
		Maximal consecutive profit (count of wins)	5421.53 (5)	consecutive loss (count of losses)	-2024.00 (2)
		Average consecutive wins	2	consecutive losses	1

Now you have the 8 numbers optimized to the current market conditions.



Don't be concerned about the Modelling quality N/A. The Forex AI system is only making transactions at the beginning of each 4-hour block, except for the StopLoss order, which can be filled at any time. We have run the optimization using "Every Tick" and produced the same result, but the optimization took significantly longer (Hours instead of minutes)



You will often see a 4-500% profit in 4-6 month training period. The example above is a very conservative.



4.4 How often to train the network?

We retrain the network every week. Our tests show that one monthly training is probably enough, but given the current market turmoil of the past few months we felt training it more frequently gives the network a chance to learn the market behavior quicker.

So best practice would be to train your network every week if the market shows significant changes, otherwise once a month is sufficient.



5 Licensing

The pricing of the Forex-AI system is worked out on the basis that you can only use it on one Forex broker account.

The Forex AI version that you have downloaded initially from the website will work between 4 to 8 weeks. This 4-8 week period gives you a chance to experiment with any broker without any limitation.

Once the 4-8 week period expires, the Forex-AI expert will notify you by displaying the message:

"This trial version has expired! If you have purchased the licensed copy, please email: support@forex-ai.com"

You can then apply for a permanent version of the Forex-AI, but only once the money back guarantee of 4 weeks had expired.

When you are ready to activate your version of Forex AI Automatic Trading system send an email to support and request your permanently activated version.

In order for us to be able to process your request we need:

Your Payment ID

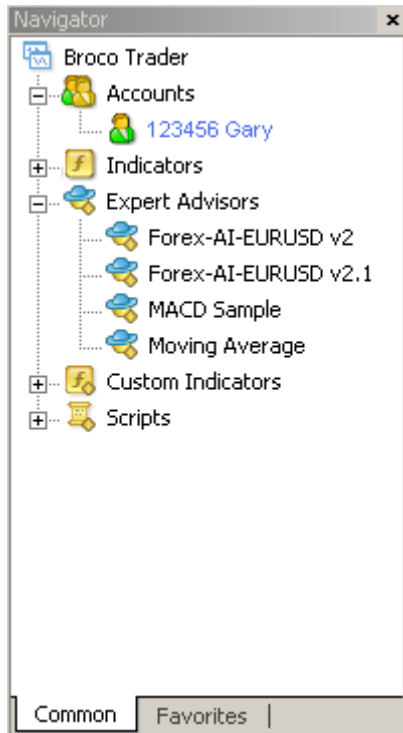
Your Name

Account Number for your live trading account

Account Number for your paper trading account



Your account number is displayed in the Navigation window under Accounts showed in blue (only in our screenshot is blue).



You can activate up to two Forex trading accounts with each Forex-AI purchase: one for Paper Trading account and one for Live trading. All you need to do is emailing support@forex-ai.com with your account numbers and proof of purchase.



6 Frequently Asked Questions

6.1 Q. I run the optimization, but it didn't list any result. Why?

A. The optimization has a strict criteria that only lists results as valid if the Portfolio Drawdown % is less than 20. There could be several reasons why nothing is reported:

- You have selected a longer than 6 month time frame
- The alternative Symbol is not set correctly
- The market conditions changed so much that you need to select smaller than 6 month time frame for optimization.

You can just try to re-run the optimizer again.

6.2 Q. Do I select the lowest Drawdown % or the highest Profit?

A. It depends on your risk tolerance. We prefer to select one of the lowest Drawdown %, but if only 1 or 2 extra percentage draw down produces twice as much profit, we sacrifice the extra safety for a potentially much larger return. The example above was quite typical. An extra 0.8% drawdown resulted almost twice as much profit, so we have selected that one.

6.3 Q. What if none of the results look OK?

A. It sometime happens that the lowest Drawdown % resulting a minor profit only. You do one of the followings:

- Run the optimizer again up to 5 times and if you still find no good results, then reduce the period by one month.
- Review the time frame selection. Maybe you have to lower the training time frame to as low as 3 month if the seriously trending market has just moving sideways in the last 3-4 month.



6.4 Q. My broker uses 5 digits on the EURUSD pair. Do I need to use 900 as a StopLoss?

A. No. We have included a routine in the Forex-Ai system to check how many digits are used for the EURUSD currency pair and making all adjustments internally, so you still need to use 90 for the StopLoss and not 900.