

Saker

Four gold engines, one stop per trade, no grid

User guide for MetaTrader 5

Version 2.00 - October 2026

Read this first

Every Saker trade has a stop at the broker, and about half of them hit it. Expect losing streaks, and expect a losing month roughly one month in three. Size for the drawdown in chapter 3, never for the average month. Historical results do not guarantee future profit.

What does it actually do?

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Four engines, each with its own setup and its own stop.

Saker trades gold with **four independent engines**. Each engine holds at most one position, and every position has a **stop loss resting at the broker** from the moment it opens. There is no grid, no martingale, no averaging into a loser and no recovery trade. A position is sized from its stop distance, so a stop costs a known fraction of your equity.

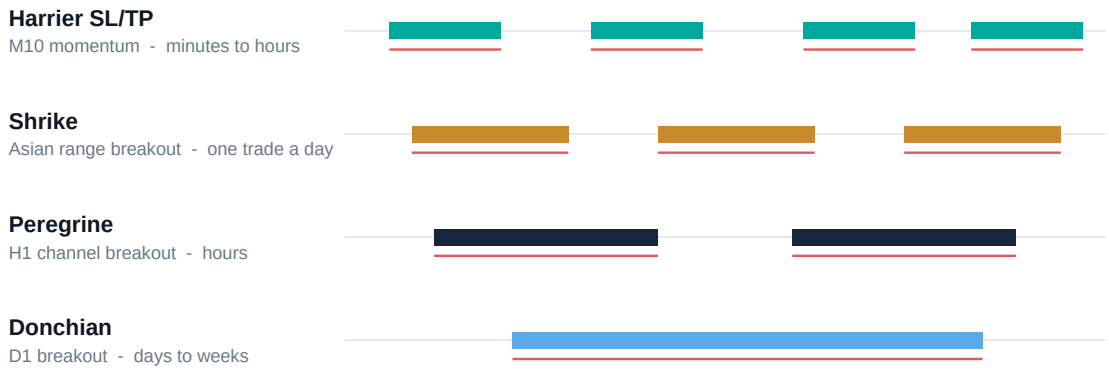


Illustration. Bars = one open position per engine; red line = its stop, resting at the broker.

Engine	What it trades	How a trade ends
Harrier SL/TP	Momentum on ten-minute bars: the trend entries of our Harrier EA (trend, continuation, session open, second New York wave, COMEX settlement), always with the higher-timeframe trend.	Stop or target, both scaled to current volatility, or a time limit. Stops trading for the day after two of its own losses.
Shrike	Breakouts of the quiet Asian session: pending orders at the high and low of the night range, only in the direction of the long-term trend. The first fill cancels the other; at most one trade a day.	Stop or target at a multiple of the stop, or closed in the evening of the same day.
Peregrine	Breakouts on hourly bars: a pending order at the edge of a multi-day channel, only in the direction of the long-term trend.	Stop scaled to hourly volatility, or a time limit of a few hours.
Donchian	Breakouts on daily bars: pending orders at the multi-week high and low - the classic trend-follower.	Stop scaled to daily volatility, or a target at a multiple of the stop.

Why four engines

The engines look at different setups and time scales and rarely lose at the same time: their daily results correlate at about 0.2 to 0.3. On its own each engine has long flat or losing stretches; together the losing stretches are shorter and shallower. Saker gives them different weights: the ten-minute engine trades at 0.6 times your risk setting, the hourly engine at 1.25 times, the daily engine at 1.5 times and the Asian-range engine at 1 times. The ten-minute engine trades most often and has the sharpest short losing streaks; the slower engines carry more weight because their losses come in other months.

How do I install it?

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Five minutes, and three conditions.

Step	
1	Install from the Market tab, or copy Saker.ex5 into MQL5/Experts and restart the terminal.
2	Open one chart of your broker's gold symbol - any suffix, any timeframe. The engines use their own timeframes.
3	Attach Saker, set the risk per trade (chapter 3), enable Algo Trading.
4	Read the first lines in the Experts journal: version, engines, risk weights, news filter and Friday cut-off.
5	Leave it alone. After a restart Saker finds its own positions by magic number and keeps managing them.

Three conditions

Condition	Why
Hedging account	The four engines can hold positions at the same time, sometimes in opposite directions. On a netting account they would merge into one position. Saker then starts with a warning and trades one engine at a time; all tests in this guide are on hedging.
Gold only	Every engine was measured on gold. On another symbol the stops and filters mean nothing.
One chart per symbol	Two copies on the same symbol would open every trade twice. Saker refuses a second copy in the same terminal; it cannot see a copy in another terminal, so never run two terminals on one account.

Before you go live

Check	What to look for
Server clock	GMT+2 in winter and GMT+3 in summer (New York close). The timed entries, the Friday cut-off and the daily candle count in server hours. On another clock Saker warns in the journal and on the panel.
Spread and commission	A raw or ECN gold account. All tests include spread from the tick data; a spread several times wider is a cost on every trade, and the ten-minute engine trades most.
Running time	A VPS or a computer that stays on from Monday to Friday. The stops rest at the broker, but entries, time exits, the daily stop and the emergency stop need the terminal connected.
Demo first	Two to four weeks on a demo account at the same broker. Compare the trades with this guide.

No DLL, no web requests, no external files. In the Strategy Tester, where the terminal calendar is unavailable, Saker uses a built-in list of the news dates it filters on.

How much can it lose?

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The answer comes before the profit.

You set one number: the **risk per trade**, in percent of equity. A Harrier SL/TP trade then risks 0.6 times that, a Peregrine trade 1.25 times, a Donchian trade 1.5 times and a Shrike trade 1 times. When all four engines hold a position, up to 4.35 times your setting is at risk at once. A stop can fill worse than its price in a fast market or after a gap.

Risk per trade	All four open at once	Typical use
0.25%	about 1.1%	Prop firm challenge, very calm
0.5%	about 2.2%	Prop firm, cautious live account
1.0% (default)	about 4.4%	The setting we test with
1.5%	about 6.5%	Aggressive
2.0%	about 8.7%	Only money you can lose

Drawdown grows roughly in step with the risk per trade. At the default 1% our tests saw equity drawdowns in the region of 10-15%; at 0.5% about half of that. A drawdown is the deepest fall from the highest equity so far, open trades included, so it can come right after a strong year.

What a losing stretch looks like

About half of all trades end at their stop, and the winners pay for that. Losses therefore come in streaks: in our tests roughly one month in three closed with a loss. If a month like that would make you switch the EA off, choose a lower risk per trade now - not after the drawdown.

Brakes you can switch on

Brake	What it does	Default
Daily stop %	Closes all Saker positions and stops for the rest of the server day once equity falls a set percentage below the day's opening balance. Deposits and withdrawals do not count. It survives a restart.	Off. For prop firms: set it below the firm's daily limit, e.g. 3% against a 4% or 5% limit.
Emergency stop %	Closes everything at a set drawdown from the equity peak and blocks trading for 72 hours.	Off
Max lot	Caps the lot of any single trade.	Off
Fixed lot	Trades a fixed lot instead of a risk percentage. The risk per trade then varies with the stop.	Off
Trade direction	Both, buy only or sell only. Applies to new trades of all four engines.	Both

Small accounts. Saker rounds every lot down to the broker's lot step. When even the minimum lot would risk more than 1.5 times the intended amount, the trade is skipped and the journal says how much equity that trade would have needed. Stops scale with volatility, so that amount moves with the market; in a busy gold market at 1% risk, plan on about 5,000 USD to trade all four engines. A cent account removes the limit.

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Next to other EAs. Each engine has its own magic number (base, +1, +2, +3). The daily stop and the emergency stop measure the equity of the whole account but close only Saker's own positions.

Can I test it myself?

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Yes - and we recommend it before you go live.

Saker runs in the MetaTrader 5 Strategy Tester with all its logic, panel and news filter. The settings below are the ones we use ourselves.

Setting	Use
Symbol	Your broker's gold symbol (XAUUSD with any suffix), on a hedging account
Model	Every tick based on real ticks
Period	At least two years, so that both quiet and busy gold markets are in it
Deposit	10,000 USD or more at 1% risk (smaller deposits skip trades, chapter 3)
Inputs	Defaults first; change one thing at a time afterwards

Check the tick quality line of the report: below 99% real ticks the tester invents prices from minute bars, and a breakout system then looks better than it is. Start a test on a day with real ticks.

Live signal. Saker runs live with default settings on a cent account, tracked on Myfxbook since 31 October 2026: myfxbook.com/portfolio/saker/12286982. Read-only investor access: server VTMarkets-Live 3, login 36456103, investor password Saker2026

How we tested it

A single backtest can be lucky with the exact second it entered. The three original engines were therefore also run with each signal executed one, two and three minutes later, and on 2018-2020, before the years they were built on - smaller in the calm years, but the same shape. The Asian-range engine was tested on its own over 2020-2026 and together with the others on real ticks from 2021 on.

Read a backtest with care

The engines were developed on recent years, so part of any result on those years is in-sample, and a live result below the backtest is the normal outcome rather than a disappointment. Gold's trend years weigh heavily in the total; calm years earn far less. With compounding the later years count for more in money than in percent.

When does it lose?

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In markets that move a lot but go nowhere.

Saker makes money when gold moves and keeps moving: after a fast ten-minute move, after a break of the night range or an hourly channel, after a new multi-week high or low. It loses when moves reverse before they continue - weeks with large daily ranges and a new direction almost every day. Breakouts then fail, the stops are hit, and the account slides a few percent until a move finally keeps going.

Such stretches come once or twice a year to every trend system. We tried to detect them in advance - with volatility, autocorrelation, stop widths, trailing stops, other markets and dozens of filters - and found nothing that worked in advance without costing more in the other years. What Saker does do: the ten-minute engine trades smaller than the others and stops for the day after two losses, and the four engines rarely lose on the same day.

If losing months matter most to you

A system that adds to losing positions - a basket - earns in exactly the weeks Saker cannot, because it is paid when a move turns back. Our Harrier EA is such a basket with a measured worst case. Run next to Saker on the same account, the combination had clearly fewer losing months in our tests. That is a portfolio choice, not part of Saker.

What am I looking at?

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The panel, block by block.

Block	What it tells you
Balance / Equity / Floating	Realised money, current value, and the open result of all Saker positions.
Risk per trade	Your setting and the four engine weights, or the fixed lot.
Realised	Closed result today, this month and in total - Saker only.
Engines	Per engine: off, waiting, a pending order (orange, with its price), an open position (green buy, red sell, lot and open result), or paused (orange: day brake, news, Friday). Below each engine its closed result and its won/lost count.
Trades	Closed trades, win rate, drawdown now and the deepest drawdown since you started.
Status	ACTIVE, STANDBY or CHECK, with the reason.

On the chart Saker draws the pending orders of the three breakout engines (dashed and dotted) and the stop of every open position. Those stops are real orders at your broker; the pending orders too.

Settings

Setting	Meaning
Magic number	Identifies Saker's positions: base for engine 1, +1, +2 and +3 for engines 2, 3 and 4. Keep it when you update.
Trade direction	Both, buy only or sell only.
Risk per trade	Percent of equity risked on the stop of one trade, before the engine weight.
Fixed lot / Max lot	A fixed lot instead of risk sizing, and a cap on any lot.
Daily stop / Emergency stop	See chapter 3. Both off by default.
Risk weight per engine	0.6 / 1.25 / 1.5 / 1.0 by default: the risk of a trade of that engine as a multiple of the risk per trade.
Engine 1 / 2 / 3 / 4	Switch an engine on or off. With engine 4 off, Saker trades exactly as version 1.03.
News	FOMC filter, a window around FOMC, CPI and NFP releases, and which release days get no new Harrier SL/TP trade: FOMC only, FOMC + NFP (default), + Core CPI/CPI, + PPI. The breakout engines rest orders at the broker and are not paused.
Friday cut-off	No new Harrier SL/TP trade from this server time on Friday (default 17:00).

Slippage, panel, notifications	Maximum slippage in points, show the panel, push messages on a daily stop or an emergency stop.

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What if something looks wrong?

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Where to look before you change anything.

Symptom	Look here first
No trades for days	Normal in quiet weeks: each engine waits for its own setup. Check the status line, Algo Trading, and the journal at startup.
Refuses to start	The journal names the reason: already running on this symbol, or an invalid setting.
A trade was skipped	The journal says when the minimum lot would risk too much and how much equity is needed.
Everything closed at once	Daily stop or emergency stop. Each writes its own line in the journal and on the panel.
Different results at another broker	Symbol specification, spread and commission, server clock, available history.
CHECK - server time	Your broker uses another clock; timed entries and the Friday cut-off shift by that many hours.

Updating, or moving to another computer

	Step
1	Pick a quiet moment, ideally a weekend.
2	Press F7 on the chart, Inputs, Save: keep the .set file.
3	Replace the EA (Market: Update) and restart the terminal, or attach it again.
4	Load your .set file. New settings appear with their default.
5	Check the panel: version, status line, open positions.

Keep the magic number the same: that is how Saker finds its open positions again. When you move to another VPS, close the terminal on the old machine **before** you attach Saker on the new one.

Support runs through the MQL5 product page. Include the journal output with any question.

Risk warning. Trading gold with leverage can cost more than you intend. This guide describes measured behaviour on historical data under stated conditions. It is not investment advice and not a promise of future results. Use only money you can afford to lose.