

PIVOT KILLER

Version 1.61

Professional Breakout Trading System for MetaTrader 5

USER MANUAL

Complete Guide to Installation, Configuration & Best Practices

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1. INTRODUCTION

Pivot Killer is a professional-grade Expert Advisor designed for serious traders who understand that sustainable profitability comes from robust, well-tested strategies rather than curve-fitted systems or dangerous money management schemes.

This EA implements a portfolio of three complementary breakout strategies that work together to identify high-probability trading opportunities across different market conditions. Each strategy operates independently with its own Magic Number, allowing for precise tracking and management.

Key Features

- Three independent breakout strategies working in synergy
- Dynamic Stop Loss and Take Profit based on ATR (volatility-adjusted)
- Professional risk management with percentage-based position sizing
- Intelligent trailing stop system to lock in profits
- Flexible trading schedule with session filters
- Friday exit option to avoid weekend gaps
- Modern visual dashboard for real-time status monitoring
- Built-in indicators (no external dependencies required)

2. TRADING PHILOSOPHY: WHY ROBUST STRATEGIES WIN

"The goal of a trading system is not to maximize backtested profits, but to maximize the probability of future profitability."

The Problem with Over-Optimized Systems

Many Expert Advisors on the market show impressive backtesting results with astronomical returns. However, these results often come from over-optimization (curve-fitting) – a process where the system is adjusted to perfectly match historical data, but fails miserably in live trading.

Signs of an over-fitted system include: unrealistic win rates (above 80%), perfect equity curves with no drawdowns, excessive number of parameters, and strategies that only work on certain brokers with certain conditions.

The Martingale Trap

Martingale and grid systems without proper risk controls are perhaps the most dangerous strategies in retail trading. They show beautiful equity curves until the inevitable happens – a series of losses that exponentially increases position size until the account is wiped out.

These systems provide an illusion of profitability by converting small wins into delayed catastrophic losses. The question is not IF they will blow up, but WHEN.

The Pivot Killer Approach

Pivot Killer takes a fundamentally different approach based on sound trading principles:

- **Fixed Risk Per Trade:** Every trade risks only a predetermined percentage of your account, ensuring that no single trade can significantly damage your capital.
- **Volatility Adaptation:** Stop losses and profit targets are calculated using ATR, automatically adjusting to current market conditions.
- **Portfolio Diversification:** Three strategies with different entry logic provide natural diversification and smoother equity curves.
- **Realistic Expectations:** The system is designed for consistent, sustainable returns rather than spectacular short-term gains.

What This Means for You

By choosing Pivot Killer, you're investing in a system built for longevity. The strategies inside have been developed to capture real market inefficiencies – breakout momentum following key pivot levels – rather than noise patterns that disappear in live trading.

This approach means you can expect consistent behavior between backtests and live results, proper risk management that protects your capital, and the ability to trade with confidence knowing your system is built on solid foundations.

3. STRATEGY OVERVIEW

Pivot Killer implements three distinct breakout strategies that work together as a portfolio. Each strategy monitors price action relative to key technical levels and enters positions when specific breakout conditions are met.

Strategy 1: Pivot Killer 1

This strategy focuses on identifying breakouts from established price ranges. It uses a combination of highest/lowest price channels and volatility filters to determine entry points. Entries are placed as pending orders (Buy/Sell Stop) at key levels.

Strategy 2: Pivot Killer 2

The second strategy incorporates momentum analysis through rate of change indicators and cycle detection. It seeks to capture moves when momentum aligns with price structure, filtering entries through Bollinger Band positioning.

Strategy 3: Pivot Killer 3

Strategy 3 utilizes Keltner Channel analysis combined with Kaufman's Efficiency Ratio to identify high-probability breakout scenarios during trending market conditions. It activates when market efficiency indicates a clear directional bias.

Common Elements

All three strategies share the following characteristics:

- Entry via pending orders (Buy Stop / Sell Stop)
- ATR-based Stop Loss and Take Profit levels
- Dynamic trailing stop to protect profits
- Order expiration to cancel unfilled orders
- Percentage-based risk management

4. INSTALLATION GUIDE

Requirements

- MetaTrader 5 (Build 2450 or higher recommended)
- Minimum account balance: \$250 (recommended: \$500+)
- Broker with low spreads and fast execution
- VPS recommended for 24/5 operation

Installation Steps

1. Purchase and download Pivot Killer from the MQL5 Market. The EA will be automatically installed in your Metatrader 5 terminal.
2. Restart MetaTrader 5 or right-click on the Navigator panel and select 'Refresh'.
3. Open XAUUSD H1 chart.
4. Drag Pivot Killer from Navigator → Expert Advisors onto the chart.
5. Configure parameters and click OK.
6. Enable AutoTrading by clicking the button in the toolbar.

Verification

Once properly installed, you should see the Pivot Killer panel in the upper-left corner of your chart displaying "EA READY TO TRADE" with a green status indicator. If you see red or orange status, check that AutoTrading is enabled and your account has sufficient balance.

5. PARAMETER REFERENCE

Strategy Control

Parameter	Values	Description
Strategy1_Enabled	true/false	Enable/disable Strategy 1 (Pivot Killer 1). Set to false to deactivate this strategy while keeping others running.
Strategy2_Enabled	true/false	Enable/disable Strategy 2 (Pivot Killer 2). Useful for testing individual strategy performance.
Strategy3_Enabled	true/false	Enable/disable Strategy 3 (Pivot Killer 3). All three can run simultaneously.

Risk Management

Parameter	Values	Description
UseMoneyManagement	true/false	When TRUE, position size is calculated based on risk percentage. When FALSE, uses fixed lot size.
mmRiskPercent	0.1 - 5.0	Percentage of balance to risk per trade. Recommended: 1-2%. This is applied PER STRATEGY.
mmLotsIfNoMM	0.01+	Fixed lot size used when UseMoneyManagement is FALSE. Ensure this matches your account size.
mmMaxLots	0.01+	Maximum allowed lot size regardless of risk calculation. Safety limit to prevent oversized positions.
InitialCapital	0+	Starting capital for calculations. Set to 0 to use actual account balance.

Trailing Stop

Parameter	Values	Description
TrailingOnEveryTick	true/false	When TRUE, trailing stop updates on every tick. When FALSE, only updates on new bar open. FALSE is recommended for most cases.
MinTrailingStepPips	0+	Minimum distance (in pips) the trailing stop must move. Prevents excessive order modifications. Recommended: 0.5-2.0

Trading Schedule

Parameter	Values	Description
LimitTimeRange	true/false	Enable trading time restrictions. When TRUE, EA only trades during specified hours.
SignalTimeRangeFrom	HH:MM	Start time for trading window (server time). Example: "08:00"
SignalTimeRangeTo	HH:MM	End time for trading window (server time). Example: "16:00"

Parameter	Values	Description
ExitOnFriday	true/false	When TRUE, closes all positions on Friday to avoid weekend gaps. Highly recommended.
FridayExitTime	HH:MM	Time to close positions on Friday. Example: "20:40"
ExitAtEndOfDay	true/false	When TRUE, closes all positions at end of each trading day.
EODExitTime	HH:MM	Time for daily position closure if enabled.

Trade Filters

Parameter	Values	Description
LimitMaxDistanceFromMarketPrice	true/false	When TRUE, filters out pending orders too far from current price.
MaxDistanceFromMarketPct	0-100	Maximum distance as percentage. Orders further than this will not be placed.
MaxTradesPerDay	0+	Maximum trades allowed per day. Set to 0 for unlimited.
sqMaxEntrySlippage	0+	Maximum allowed slippage in pips for entry orders. Recommended: 3-5

Strategy Identification

Parameter	Values	Description
MagicNumber	Integer	Unique identifier for Strategy 1 orders. Default: 1111100. Change if running multiple instances.
CustomComment	Text	Comment attached to Strategy 1 orders. Useful for identification in trade history.
MagicNumber2	Integer	Unique identifier for Strategy 2 orders. Default: 1111200.
CustomComment2	Text	Comment attached to Strategy 2 orders.
MagicNumber3	Integer	Unique identifier for Strategy 3 orders. Default: 1111300.
CustomComment3	Text	Comment attached to Strategy 3 orders.

IMPORTANT: If running multiple instances of Pivot Killer, ensure each instance has UNIQUE Magic Numbers to prevent conflicts.

6. UNDERSTANDING STAGNATION PERIODS

"All trading systems, no matter how well designed, will experience periods of stagnation or drawdown. Understanding and accepting this is crucial for long-term success."

What is Stagnation?

Stagnation refers to periods when a trading system neither makes significant profits nor significant losses – the equity curve moves sideways. This is a completely normal and expected behavior for any legitimate trading system.

Pivot Killer, like any breakout system, performs best during trending market conditions. During ranging or choppy markets, the system may experience extended periods of stagnation lasting weeks or even months.

Why Stagnation is Actually Good

- **Capital Preservation:** A system that goes sideways during unfavorable conditions is protecting your capital rather than forcing trades.
- **System Integrity:** Stagnation shows the system isn't curve-fitted – it reacts to real market conditions, not historical patterns.
- **Opportunity to Add:** Stagnation periods are often good times to add capital before the next profitable cycle.
- **Proof of Robustness:** Systems that show ONLY profits in backtests are hiding something. Real systems have flat periods.

What to Expect

Based on historical analysis, Pivot Killer may experience stagnation periods of 3-6 months. During these times, the equity curve will be relatively flat with small wins and losses approximately balancing out.

The key is to maintain consistent position sizing and not abandon the system during these periods. Historically, stagnation has been followed by significant profitable runs when market conditions become favorable again.

Red Flags vs. Normal Behavior

Normal behavior (don't panic):

- Flat equity curve for several weeks
- Small oscillating profits and losses
- Drawdown within expected range (see backtests)

Potential issues (investigate):

- Drawdown significantly exceeding historical maximum
- No trades being placed for extended periods
- Consistent deviation from backtest behavior

7. BEST PRACTICES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Starting Out

1. **Start with demo:** Run the EA on a demo account for at least 2-4 weeks to understand its behavior.
2. **Use conservative risk:** Begin with 0.5-1% risk per trade. You can always increase later.
3. **Choose quality broker:** Select a broker with tight spreads and reliable execution. ECN/STP brokers are recommended.
4. **Use VPS:** For optimal results, run on a Virtual Private Server close to your broker's servers.

Recommended Settings

- **Timeframe:** H1 (default). The strategies are optimized for this timeframe.
- **Risk per trade:** 1-2% for balanced growth. Never exceed 3%.
- **All strategies enabled:** Run all three for optimal diversification.
- **Friday Exit:** Keep enabled to avoid weekend gap risk.
- **Trailing on tick:** FALSE for most brokers. TRUE only if you have very low latency execution.

What NOT to Do

- Do NOT increase risk after losses to "recover" – this is a sure path to account destruction.
- Do NOT disable the EA during stagnation periods – you may miss the recovery.
- Do NOT manually close trades unless there's a technical emergency.
- Do NOT run multiple instances with the same Magic Numbers.
- Do NOT expect instant profits – give the system time to work.

8. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What symbols can I use Pivot Killer on?

A: The EA is designed to work on major forex pairs and CFDs. Best results are typically seen on liquid instruments with tight spreads. Always backtest on your specific symbol before live trading.

Q: Can I run this on multiple charts?

A: Yes, you can run Pivot Killer on multiple charts simultaneously. Ensure each instance has unique Magic Numbers to prevent conflicts.

Q: Why aren't any trades being opened?

A: Check the following: (1) AutoTrading is enabled, (2) Trading hours are within your configured schedule, (3) Market conditions meet entry criteria, (4) Account has sufficient margin. The EA may wait for optimal conditions before trading.

Q: What is the expected monthly return?

A: We do not promise specific returns as they depend on market conditions, risk settings, and broker quality. The EA is designed for sustainable long-term growth rather than aggressive short-term gains. Expect varied monthly results with long-term positive expectancy.

Q: How do I contact support?

A: For support inquiries, please use the MQL5 Market messaging system or leave a comment on the product page. We respond to all inquiries within 24-48 hours.

Q: Will there be updates?

A: Yes, we continually monitor and improve the EA. Updates are provided free of charge through the MQL5 Market. Always use the latest version for optimal performance.

9. RISK DISCLAIMER

IMPORTANT: Please read this section carefully before using Pivot Killer.

Trading foreign exchange (Forex), Contracts for Difference (CFDs), and other financial instruments involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for all investors. The high degree of leverage can work against you as well as for you.

Before deciding to trade, you should carefully consider your investment objectives, level of experience, and risk appetite. The possibility exists that you could sustain a loss of some or all of your initial investment and therefore you should not invest money that you cannot afford to lose.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Backtesting results do not guarantee future profitability. Market conditions change, and what worked in the past may not work in the future.

The developers of Pivot Killer make no guarantees regarding the performance or profitability of this Expert Advisor. By using this software, you acknowledge that you understand and accept these risks.

Thank you for choosing Pivot Killer.

Trade responsibly and may your equity curve climb steadily.

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