



GoldHydra

Multi-Strategy Breakout Expert Advisor for Gold

USER GUIDE

How the EA works, and how to set it up correctly

Instrument	XAUUSD (Gold)
Chart timeframe	H1
Account type	Hedging (required)
Platform	MetaTrader 5
Recommended balance	5,000 USD or more

Trading gold involves substantial risk of loss. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Please read the risk note on the final page.

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Why read this first

Most problems people have with an Expert Advisor are not strategy problems. They are setup problems: the wrong account type, the wrong chart, a balance too small for the settings, or a broker whose gold symbol behaves differently from the one used in testing.

Section 6 takes two minutes and prevents almost every issue. Please read it even if you skip everything else.

1 The idea in one paragraph

Gold spends much of its time inside a range, then leaves that range quickly. GoldHydra does not try to predict which way it will leave. Instead, it finds the recent swing high and swing low on the H1 chart, places a buy stop above the high and a sell stop below the low, and lets the market decide. Whichever side the market breaks, that order becomes the trade. The other order is cancelled immediately.

That is the whole concept. Everything else in the EA exists to decide where those levels are, when it is sensible to place them, and how to manage the trade once it is filled.

2 How one trade is born

Step 1 Find the structure

At the close of each H1 bar, the EA looks back over a number of bars and finds the highest confirmed swing high and the lowest confirmed swing low. A swing only counts if it is confirmed: a high must be higher than the bars on both sides of it. This filters out noise and keeps the EA anchored to structure a human trader would also recognise.

Step 2 Check the range is worth trading

The EA measures the distance between that high and that low. If the range is too narrow, the setup is skipped. A tight range usually means the market is coiling with no meaningful structure to break.

Step 3 Place the straddle

Two stop orders go in, one above the high and one below the low, each pushed further out by a buffer. This buffer is the fakeout filter: price must commit past the level, not merely touch it.

Step 4 Protect from the first second

Both orders carry a fixed stop loss from the moment they are placed. There is never an unprotected position.

Step 5 Let unused setups expire

Each order is given a lifetime. If the market has not reached the level within that window, the order expires by itself and the setup is forgotten. Stale levels are not left sitting on the server for days.

Step 6 Cancel the loser

When one side fills, the opposite order is cancelled instantly. You are never left holding both directions of the same setup.

3 The six sub-strategies

GoldHydra is not one strategy. It runs six, side by side, each with its own view of structure. They share the same logic but look back over different amounts of history, use different breakout buffers, and give their orders different lifetimes. When one sub-strategy is standing aside, another may still find a valid setup.

	Structure read	Breakout buffer	Order life	Size
A1	Short lookback	Tight	Medium	Full
A2	Medium lookback	Wider	Medium	Full
A3	Longer lookback	Widest	Short	Reduced
B1	Long lookback	Tight	Long	Full
B2	Longer lookback	Wider	Long	Reduced
B3	Longest lookback	Widest	Longest	Smallest

Zone A and Zone B

A1, A2 and A3 run on any qualifying account. B1, B2 and B3 activate only once the balance rises above the Zone B threshold. Below that threshold they stay switched off, they are shown greyed out on the dashboard, and the reason is printed in the log at startup.

Built-in restraint

- Each sub-strategy holds **at most one position** at a time.
- After closing a trade, a sub-strategy waits several hours before arming again, so a single choppy level cannot generate repeated entries.
- Each sub-strategy uses its own magic number, derived from the base magic you set. See Common Mistakes for why this matters when running more than one copy.

4 How a position is managed

There is no take profit — and that is deliberate

A fixed target caps the trade at exactly the moment a breakout is doing what you wanted it to do. GoldHydra manages the exit dynamically instead, so a strong move is allowed to keep going.

Stage	What happens
1. Entry	The trade opens with a fixed stop loss already attached.
2. Break-even	Once the trade reaches a set profit, the stop moves to break-even plus a small lock. From this point the trade cannot become a loss under normal conditions.
3. Trailing	Once further profit is reached, the stop begins trailing behind price at a fixed distance. The trade runs until the market takes that stop.

You can change this with *Stop management mode*

Mode	Behaviour
Break-even then step trail	The full behaviour described above. Default.
Break-even only	Protects the trade but never trails.
Fixed stop only	No management at all. The original stop stands.

5 The protection filters

These exist to keep the EA out of conditions where a breakout system performs badly. Each can be switched off independently.

Filter	What it does
Spread	Gold spreads widen sharply at certain hours. If the spread is above your limit when a bar closes, no new orders are placed.
Sessions	Four sessions can be enabled independently, each with its own start and end hour in GMT: Asia, London, the London/New York overlap, and New York. The EA works out your broker's GMT offset automatically from the server clock, so you never need to know or configure your broker's timezone.
News	Reads the economic calendar built into MetaTrader 5 and pauses around high impact events for the currencies you choose. It can close open positions, cancel pending orders, or both. A separate Non-Farm Payrolls guard works even if the calendar is unavailable.
Daily close	Orders are given expiry times that land before your broker's daily rollover, so nothing is left hanging through the daily break.
Weekend	Open trades can be closed before the Friday close so nothing carries weekend gap risk.

Filter	What it does
Daily drawdown	Optional and off by default. Set a percentage and the EA closes everything and stops for the rest of the day if equity falls that far from where the day started. Built for prop firm accounts with daily loss limits.

6 Before you start: the checklist

Please confirm all five

Four of the five take seconds. Getting them wrong causes almost every support question this EA receives.

1 Your account must be HEDGING

GoldHydra places a buy stop and a sell stop on the same symbol at the same time. On a netting account those two orders cancel each other out and the per-strategy tracking cannot work. The EA will detect a netting account, warn you in the log, and fall back to running a single strategy — it will not behave as designed. Check in the terminal that your account says Hedging.

2 Attach to XAUUSD on the H1 chart

The EA reads H1 structure regardless of which chart you attach it to, but some internal safety checks use the chart's own timeframe. H1 is what it was built and tested for.

3 Check your symbol name

Brokers name gold differently: XAUUSD, GOLD, XAUUSD.m, XAUUSD-ECN. Any of these is fine. The EA warns you in the log if the symbol does not look like gold, so if you attach it to the wrong chart you will know immediately.

4 Two-digit and three-digit brokers are both supported

Some brokers quote gold as 1234.56, others as 1234.567. GoldHydra detects this and adjusts every point-based setting automatically, so a 3000 point stop loss means 30.00 dollars of price movement on either broker. You do not need to change anything. The startup log prints the detected digits and scale if you want to confirm.

5 Enable algo trading

Both the AutoTrading button in the terminal and the Allow Algo Trading checkbox in the EA properties. The dashboard shows ALGO OFF in red if either is missing.

7 Quick start settings

For a first run on a demo account:

Setting	Value
Symbol	XAUUSD
Timeframe	H1
Account	Hedging, 5,000 USD or more
Lot sizing mode	Risk % of balance per trade
Risk %	0.5

Setting	Value
Everything else	Leave at default

Give it time before going live

Run it on demo for at least two weeks. You want to see it handle a news event, a weekend, and a quiet range before you trust it with capital.

8 Choosing your lot mode

Mode	How it behaves	Best for
Fixed lot	Always the same size. Does not grow with your account and does not protect you if the account shrinks.	Testing
Auto (per balance step)	Adds 0.01 lot for every set amount of balance. Note it never goes below 0.01 lot, so on a small account it still trades the broker minimum.	Growing accounts
Risk % of balance	Calculates lot size from your stop distance so a losing trade costs roughly the percentage you chose. Position size shrinks automatically if the account draws down.	Live trading

Recommended: Risk % of balance. Be aware that on smaller accounts it will sit at the broker minimum lot until the balance is large enough for the maths to produce something bigger.

There is also a **minimum balance guard**. Set it and the EA refuses to open new trades below that balance, while continuing to manage anything already open. Set it to 0 to disable.

9 How much balance do you need?

Two separate limits apply. The Zone B threshold is the obvious one. The second is margin: with all six strategies armed you can have up to twelve pending orders live at once, and the EA will not commit more than a set fraction of your equity to potential margin. On low leverage accounts that ceiling is reached before the Zone B threshold matters.

Balance	What runs
Under 1,000	Zone A only (A1, A2, A3). Workable, but the account is small relative to the stop size.
1,000 to 5,000	Zone B activates. On low leverage accounts some orders may still be skipped for margin.
5,000 and above	Recommended. All six strategies run without margin ever becoming the constraint.

Testing Zone B

If your test balance never rises above the Zone B threshold, B1, B2 and B3 never place a single order. To evaluate the full EA, backtest with 5,000 or more — otherwise you are only testing half of it.

10 Reading the dashboard

The on-chart panel shows what the EA is thinking at any moment.

Row	Meaning
Status	ACTIVE, or the reason the EA is standing aside
Spread	Current spread, green when inside your limit
Open trades	Positions the EA currently holds
Active strat.	How many sub-strategies are armed or in a trade
Today's figures	Trade count, profit, loss and net for the current day
Strategy row	A1 to B3, colour coded (see below)

Strategy colours

Colour	Meaning
Green	In a trade
Amber	Armed — a pending order is live
Grey	Idle and waiting for a setup
Dark	Switched off, or gated by balance (Zone B)

If a strategy shows dark and you expected it to trade, check the startup log in the Experts tab. It will tell you why.

11 Common mistakes

Running two copies with similar magic numbers

Each sub-strategy uses your base magic plus one through six. If you set 1337 on one chart and 1340 on another, they overlap and fight over each other's trades. Leave a gap of at least ten between instances.

Using a netting account

The single most common cause of unexpected behaviour. Check before anything else.

Expecting trades every day

This is a breakout system with structure, session, spread and news filters stacked on top. Quiet periods with no qualifying setups are normal and intended. An EA that trades constantly is usually one without filters.

Testing on a small deposit and concluding Zone B does not work

If your test balance never rose above the Zone B threshold, B1, B2 and B3 never placed a single order.

Backtesting without downloading the economic calendar

The news filter reads MetaTrader's calendar. If your terminal has never downloaded it, the filter silently has nothing to work with. Open Tools → Options → Community and let it sync before backtesting.

Changing the stop loss without re-checking risk

The stop distance drives the risk % calculation. Halve the stop and your lot size doubles.

12 Frequently asked questions

Can I use it on other symbols?

It was designed and tuned for gold. It will run elsewhere and warn you in the log, but the default settings assume gold's volatility and spread behaviour.

Why does it place two orders and then delete one?

That is the straddle. It is how the EA avoids predicting direction. The deletion is instant once one side fills.

Why is there no take profit?

Because a breakout's value is in the ones that keep going. The trailing stop lets those run instead of capping them.

Does it use martingale or grid?

No. Each sub-strategy holds one position with a fixed stop loss. Lot size does not increase after a loss.

Can I run it on a prop firm account?

Yes, and the daily drawdown stop was built for that. Set it slightly below your firm's daily loss limit. Confirm the firm allows hedging.

Why did a pending order expire instead of being cancelled?

That is intentional. Letting orders expire on the server is more reliable than sending cancellations a broker may refuse when price is near the level.

Which timeframe should the chart be on?

H1.

Nothing has traded for days. Is it broken?

Check the dashboard Status row and the Experts log. The EA prints the reason it is standing aside. Quiet ranges, wide spreads and news windows all legitimately suppress trading.

13 An honest note on risk

GoldHydra places real orders with real stop losses on one of the most volatile instruments available to retail traders. No configuration removes the possibility of losing money, and no past result guarantees a future one.

Please do three things before going live

1. Run it on a demo account long enough to see it handle a news event and a weekend.
2. Backtest it yourself on your own broker's data rather than relying on anyone else's results. Spreads, symbol specifications and rollover times differ between brokers and they change outcomes.
3. Start with a position size small enough that a bad week is uncomfortable rather than damaging.

If something behaves in a way this guide does not explain

Check the Experts tab in your terminal first. The EA logs its configuration at startup — detected digits, point scale, expiry mode, account mode and GMT offset — and explains whenever it declines to trade. That log answers most questions faster than any other step.