

METATRADER 5 EXPERT ADVISOR



SMC STRUCTURE SENTINEL

USER GUIDE

Version 1.0

SYMBOL

XAUUSD

CHART

M15

ANALYSIS

H4 into M15

MIN. BALANCE

\$2,000

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Read section 9 before trading live money.



WHAT IT DOES

Four stages. Nothing is entered until all four agree.

In one sentence

The EA maps where institutional orders were likely left behind on the higher timeframe, waits for price to return to one of those places, and then waits again for the lower timeframe to prove the reaction before any order is sent. If the proof never arrives, the setup expires and nothing happens.

1

HIGHER TIMEFRAME MAP (H4)

Directional bias from confirmed breaks of structure. Order Blocks and Fair Value Gaps located and tracked until price respects or invalidates them. Resting liquidity mapped from equal highs and lows, previous day high and low, previous week high and low. A zone that has been used is not used again.

2

LOWER TIMEFRAME PROOF (M15)

Nothing trades on a zone alone. Price must leave the zone with real displacement – an impulsive leg, not a drift – and then break the last opposing swing. That Market Structure Shift is detected intrabar rather than waiting for a candle to close. If price reaches the zone and slices through it, there is no trade. That non-event is the EA working.

3

ENTRY, STOP AND TARGET

Entry on the retest of the newly created zone. The stop goes beyond the structure that produced the shift – the market decides where the trade is wrong, and the position is sized afterwards to fit. The target is the next unswept higher-timeframe liquidity level, inside a minimum and maximum reward-to-risk.

4

RATCHETING PROFIT LOCK

Once far enough in front, the stop trails a fraction of the initial risk below the trade's own high-water mark, and only ever moves forward. A position that has run well into profit cannot hand all of it back. An optional scale-out can bank part of the position at a profit level you choose, after the lock is already protecting the trade.



INSTALLATION AND FIRST RUN

Six steps. Do not skip step two.

1. Install the EA

Open MetaTrader 5, then File > Open Data Folder > MQL5 > Experts.
Copy the product there. Restart the terminal or refresh the Navigator.

2. Attach to XAUUSD M15

Open an XAUUSD chart and set it to M15. Drag the EA onto it.
Enable Algo Trading in the toolbar.

3. Run signal-only first

Set signal-only mode to TRUE. The EA draws its full analysis and reports every decision to the journal WITHOUT placing an order.
Watch it for a few days. Check its setups against your own reading.

4. Read the sizing lines

On attach the EA prints what a typical stop costs at your chosen size, what percentage of your balance that is, and the balance this symbol wants at your chosen risk. Read all three.

5. Demo before live

Turn signal-only off on a DEMO account first. Leave it for at least a week before considering real money.

6. Use a VPS

Gold moves overnight. A VPS keeps the EA connected while your computer is off. MQL5 offers one from the terminal.

REQUIREMENTS

- XAUUSD (gold) on an M15 chart. Hedging or netting account, any broker.
- Recommended minimum balance \$2,000. See section 5 for why.
- Leverage 1:100 or better. Algo Trading enabled.



THE DASHBOARD

Everything the EA is thinking, on the chart, in real time



HTF bias / Last HTF BOS

Current higher-timeframe direction and the last confirmed break of structure.

HTF POI bull/bear, liquidity

How many Order Block and Fair Value Gap zones are live, and how many liquidity levels are mapped.

BUY / SELL condition rows

For each direction: sweep, displacement, FVG, Order Block, Market Structure Shift. Each shows yes or no, so you can see exactly what is still missing.

Position size row

The sizing mode in force and the lot it produces.

Risk/trade

The average realised risk per trade and its full range. Turns amber if any single stop has cost more than 3% of the balance.

Day P/L, Equity DD

The day's result and the drawdown against its limit.

Skipped

Entries not taken, and why: size, stop range, reward-to-risk, daily filter, news, confirmation.

Status

Plain language: what the EA is waiting for right now.



POSITION SIZING

Four ways to size a trade. One hard ceiling over all of them.

1. Fixed lot	Your lot size, with optional growth as the balance grows.
2. Risk percent	Sized so entry-to-stop costs exactly X% of balance.
3. Balance per lot	One minimum lot for every X of account balance.
4. Manual	Traded exactly as entered, for your own arithmetic.

THE RISK CEILING - THE MOST IMPORTANT SETTING

If the calculated size would risk more than your limit on a single stop, the SIZE is reduced - never the stop. Only when even the broker's minimum lot would breach the limit is the trade skipped, and the journal says so in plain language. Set it to 0 to remove it entirely; that removes the only protection against one stop taking a large share of the balance.

WHY YOUR LOT SIZE MAY CHANGE BETWEEN TRADES

The stop on this EA is structural - it sits beyond the swing that caused the Market Structure Shift - so its width is set by the setup, not by you. A wide stop with the same lot size risks more money. If the risk ceiling is binding, the lot is reduced to keep the money risked constant, and the lot you see will differ trade to trade. That is the ceiling working. The dashboard shows how often it has intervened, and the journal explains each reduction with the arithmetic.

MINIMUM BALANCE - AND WHY IT IS NOT \$1,000

Every strategy has losing runs. The published backtest contains a run of eight consecutive losses. In that test it arrived once the account had already grown, which is why maximum drawdown stayed at 16.46%. If the same run arrives in your first month on a small account, the percentage is much larger. Start at \$2,000 or more, or lower the lot. On gold, below roughly \$2,000 the structural stop and the broker's minimum lot leave too little room between the EA skipping trades and one losing run hurting.

WHICH MODE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

- You want one decision and no arithmetic: RISK PERCENT at 1.5-2%. It adapts to the stop width on its own and keeps the money risked constant. This is the recommended choice.
- You think in lots and want the size to grow with the account: FIXED LOT with growth enabled.
- You want the size tied to balance in round steps: BALANCE PER LOT.
- You are doing your own position-size arithmetic: MANUAL. Note that this mode bypasses the per-trade risk ceiling by design.



PROTECTION SETTINGS

What each one actually does

Hard stop loss	On every position, set before the order is sent. Never removed.
Per-trade risk ceiling	Reduces the size, never the stop. See section 5.
Daily loss stop	Stops trading for the rest of the day at your chosen percentage.
Daily profit target	Optional. Stops trading once the day is far enough ahead.
Equity drawdown breaker	Halts trading past a chosen drawdown, with a timed resume.
Max positions	One at a time by default. Raise only if you understand the exposure.
Max trades per day	Caps how many entries a single day can produce.
Session window	Only trades inside the hours you set, in SERVER time.
Weekday filter	Switch any weekday off. Friday cut-off hour included.
Spread guard	Skips entries when the spread is above your limit.
Slippage cap	Maximum deviation accepted on a fill.
News filter	Pauses around high-impact releases using the terminal's own feed.
Portfolio limits	Several charts share one position cap, one trades/day cap and one daily loss budget. Without it, five charts at 2% each is a 10% day.

SET THE SESSION HOURS TO YOUR BROKER'S SERVER TIME

Server time and your local time can differ by several hours, and that changes which trading sessions the EA is active in. Check the clock in the Market Watch window, not the clock on your computer.

WHAT IT WILL NEVER DO

- No martingale – the size never increases after a loss.
- No grid – no stacking of orders into a losing move.
- No averaging down – a losing position is never enlarged.
- No stop removal – the stop is never deleted or widened, only moved forward.



RECOMMENDED SETTINGS

Start here, then adjust to your own risk tolerance

THE TESTED CONFIGURATION

These are the exact settings behind the published backtest.

Symbol / chart	XAUUSD, M15
Position sizing	Fixed lot, 0.05, no compounding
Max trades per day	2
Max open positions	1

Scaling it to your account

The table below scales the tested size to other balances so the money risked per trade stays in a similar range. These variants are starting points, not tested results – test any change yourself before trusting it.

BALANCE	SUGGESTED STARTING POINT
\$2,000	Fixed lot 0.05, or risk percent at 1.5–2%
\$5,000	Fixed lot 0.10–0.12, or risk percent at 1.5–2%
\$10,000	Fixed lot 0.20–0.25, or risk percent at 1.5–2%
Any balance	Risk percent mode adapts on its own – the simplest choice

IF YOU WANT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE

Use RISK PERCENT mode at 1.5–2%. It is the only mode that adapts to how wide the stop actually is, which on gold changes trade to trade. A fixed lot risks a different amount of money on every trade whether you intend it or not; risk percent keeps it constant, and a constant risk is what makes an equity curve grind upward rather than lurch.



TROUBLESHOOTING

The five questions people ask, and the answers

Q The EA is not taking any trades.

Check the Status line on the dashboard – it names the reason. The usual causes are: outside the session window (check SERVER time, not local), Algo Trading not enabled, the spread above your guard, the daily trade cap already reached, or a balance too small for the minimum lot at your risk ceiling. The journal states which one on attach.

Q My lot size is different on every trade.

The risk ceiling is reducing it, because the structural stop is wider on some setups than others. This is correct behaviour – see section 5. The journal explains each reduction with the arithmetic, and the dashboard counts how many times it has happened.

Q It has been waiting for hours without entering.

That is the design. The EA needs a zone, a displacement leg out of it, a Market Structure Shift, and then a retest. The BUY and SELL rows on the dashboard show which of those are satisfied and which are missing. Roughly thirteen trades a month is normal.

Q The win rate in my report differs from the dashboard.

MetaTrader counts DEALS. A scale-out closes part of a position and is counted as its own winning trade, so the report's win rate is higher than the position-level figure. The EA prints the true position-level result to the journal when it stops – use that number.

Q My chart colours changed when I attached the EA.

The EA applies a clean dark theme so its own zones are the only thing on screen. It saves your chart's appearance first and restores it when the EA is removed. Set the chart theme option to false if you prefer your own template.



RISK AND SUPPORT

Read this page before you trade real money

RISK DISCLOSURE

Trading leveraged instruments such as gold carries a risk of loss that can exceed your deposit. You should not trade with money you cannot afford to lose.

The performance figures published with this product come from a backtest over one historical period on one broker's data. They are a record of what happened, not a forecast. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

No automated strategy wins every month. This one waits for confirmation, which means it can spend weeks without trading and can still be wrong when it does trade. Nothing in this guide is financial advice.

BEFORE LIVE MONEY - A CHECKLIST

- Run signal-only mode for at least a few days and read the journal.
- Backtest it yourself on your own broker's data, over periods you choose.
- Run it on demo for at least a week with the settings you intend to use.
- Decide your risk per trade before you start, and write it down.
- Know what an eight-trade losing run would cost your account.

SUPPORT

Questions, broker-specific setup, or help choosing a sizing mode for your account size - message me through my MQL5 profile.

If the EA behaves in a way the journal does not explain, send me the journal text and I will tell you exactly what happened. Turn on detailed journal logging first so there is something to read.



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