

QORA

Optimization Guide

Complete Guide to Optimizing Your QORA Expert Advisor

Smart Money Concepts Trading System

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1. Introduction to QORA Optimization

QORA is a sophisticated Expert Advisor based on Smart Money Concepts. While it comes with pre-optimized SET-files for popular markets (BTCUSD, XAUUSD, US500, GER40, US30), you may want to optimize it for other instruments or fine-tune it for your specific broker conditions.

This guide will walk you through the complete optimization process using the included 'Optimization' SET-file, which has all parameters pre-configured with optimal ranges for the Strategy Tester.

Important: Optimization is a powerful tool, but over-optimization (curve-fitting) can lead to poor live performance. Always validate your results on out-of-sample data.

2. Using the Optimization SET-File

QORA includes a special SET-file named '**QORA_Optimization.set**' that contains pre-configured parameter ranges optimized for the MetaTrader 5 Strategy Tester. This file saves you significant time by providing sensible optimization boundaries.

What's Pre-Configured:

- All parameter ranges with realistic min/max values
- Appropriate step sizes for each parameter
- Start values based on extensive testing
- Non-essential parameters disabled to speed up optimization

How to Load the Optimization SET-File:

1. Open MetaTrader 5 Strategy Tester (Ctrl+R or View → Strategy Tester)
2. Select 'QORA' as the Expert Advisor
3. Click the 'Settings' tab in the Strategy Tester
4. Click 'Load' button at the bottom
5. Navigate to the MQL5/Presets folder and select 'QORA_Optimization.set'
6. All parameters and ranges will be loaded automatically

Note: You don't need to manually configure any optimization ranges – everything is ready to use. Simply load and start optimizing.

3. Recommended Timeframes

The timeframe you choose significantly impacts QORA's performance. Smart Money Concepts work best on higher timeframes where institutional activity is more visible and noise is reduced.

Timeframe Recommendations:

Timeframe	Rating	Notes
M1	■■ Not Recommended	Too much noise, high spread impact, difficult to optimize
M5	■■ Caution	Possible but challenging, requires very tight spreads
M15	■ Recommended	Optimal balance of signals and quality. Best for most traders
H1	■ Highly Recommended	Excellent signal quality, clear SMC patterns
H4	■ Highly Recommended	Best for swing trading, very clean institutional footprints
D1	■ Good	Long-term trading, fewer signals but high quality

Why Higher Timeframes are Better:

- **Clearer SMC Patterns:** Fair Value Gaps and Order Blocks are more defined on H1/H4
- **Less Noise:** Reduced false signals from market microstructure
- **Lower Spread Impact:** Spread becomes negligible relative to TP targets
- **Institutional Activity:** Smart Money operates on higher timeframes
- **Better Risk/Reward:** Larger moves allow for better R:R ratios

Recommendation: Start with M15 or H1 for optimization. These timeframes provide enough signals for statistical significance while maintaining signal quality.

4. Step-by-Step Optimization Process

Step 1: Prepare the Strategy Tester

1. Open Strategy Tester: Press Ctrl+R or go to View → Strategy Tester
2. Select Expert Advisor: Choose 'QORA' from the dropdown
3. Select Symbol: Choose the instrument you want to optimize
4. Select Timeframe: M15, H1, or H4 recommended
5. Select Date Range: Minimum 6 months, ideally 1-2 years of data

Step 2: Configure Modeling

- **Modeling:** Select 'Every tick based on real ticks' for accuracy
- **Deposit:** Set a realistic starting balance (e.g., \$10,000)
- **Leverage:** Match your broker's leverage
- **Optimization:** Select 'Slow complete algorithm' for thorough results

Step 3: Load Optimization Parameters

1. Go to the 'Settings' tab (input parameters)
2. Click 'Load' at the bottom of the panel
3. Select 'QORA_Optimization.set' from the Presets folder
4. All ranges are now configured – ready to optimize!

Step 4: Select Optimization Criterion

Choose one of the following optimization goals:

- **Custom Max:** QORA's built-in fitness function (recommended)
- **Complex Criterion Max:** MT5's balanced metric
- **Profit Factor:** Focus on profit/loss ratio
- **Expected Payoff:** Average profit per trade
- **Max Recovery Factor:** Focus on drawdown recovery

Step 5: Run Optimization

1. Click 'Start' to begin optimization
2. Monitor progress in the Journal and Optimization tabs
3. Optimization may take several hours depending on data and CPU
4. Review results in the 'Optimization Results' tab when complete

Step 6: Validate Results

1. Select the best result and double-click to run a backtest
2. Analyze the equity curve – avoid results with erratic curves
3. Check the number of trades – minimum 100+ for statistical validity
4. Verify maximum drawdown is acceptable (ideally <30%)
5. Run a forward test on data NOT used in optimization

5. Understanding Adaptive Mode

QORA features an intelligent Adaptive System that automatically adjusts trading parameters based on current market conditions. This allows the EA to respond dynamically to changes in volatility and trend strength without manual intervention.

How Adaptive Mode Works:

The Adaptive System continuously monitors three key market metrics:

- 1. **ATR (Average True Range):** Measures current volatility
- 2. **ADX (Average Directional Index):** Measures trend strength
- 3. **Recent Performance:** Analyzes recent trade outcomes

Based on these metrics, QORA adjusts various parameters to match market conditions:

Market Condition	What Happens	Why
High Volatility (ATR > Average)	Wider SL/TP Stricter score threshold Longer lookbacks	Larger moves need more room Avoid false signals in noise
Low Volatility (ATR < Average)	Tighter SL/TP Relaxed threshold Shorter lookbacks	Smaller targets for smaller moves Capture available setups
Strong Trend (ADX > 25)	More aggressive parameters Faster signal detection	Capture trending moves Follow institutional flow
Ranging Market (ADX < 20)	Conservative parameters Higher confluence required	Avoid choppy conditions Wait for clear setups

Parameters That Adapt:

Parameter Category	Adjustment Range
Lookback Periods	± 60%
Score Threshold	± 60%
Detection Sensitivity	± 40%
Stop Loss / Take Profit	± 20%
Trailing Stop	± 10%

6. Adaptive Mode Settings Explained

QORA offers four Adaptive Mode settings, each suited for different trading styles and risk preferences:

MODE OFF

Adaptive system is completely disabled. All parameters remain exactly as configured in the settings. The EA uses fixed values without any automatic adjustment.

Best For: Backtesting, optimization, and traders who want full manual control

Adjustment Range: None (0%)

MODE CONSERVATIVE

Minimal parameter adjustments with the smallest deviation from base settings. The system makes subtle changes to adapt to market conditions while keeping parameters close to optimized values.

Best For: Risk-averse traders, stable markets, when optimization was very precise

Adjustment Range: $\pm 25\%$ of base parameter deviation

MODE BALANCED ★ (Recommended)

The default and recommended setting. Provides a balanced approach with medium adjustments that respond well to changing market conditions without over-reacting.

Best For: Most live trading scenarios, general use, new users

Adjustment Range: $\pm 50\%$ of base parameter deviation

MODE AGGRESSIVE

Maximum responsiveness to market conditions. Parameters can change significantly based on current volatility and trend strength. Only use if you understand the implications.

Best For: Experienced traders, highly volatile markets, active management

Adjustment Range: $\pm 100\%$ of base parameter deviation

Mode	Adjustment	Risk Level	Recommended For
OFF	0%	Fixed	Optimization & Backtesting

CONSERVATIVE	± 25%	Low	Risk-averse traders
BALANCED ★	± 50%	Medium	Most live trading
AGGRESSIVE	± 100%	High	Volatile markets

Optimization Tip: Always optimize with Adaptive Mode set to OFF. This ensures you find the true optimal parameters. Then enable BALANCED mode for live trading to allow the EA to adapt.

7. Post-Optimization Best Practices

Avoid Over-Optimization (Curve Fitting)

Over-optimization occurs when parameters are too perfectly fitted to historical data. Signs include:

- Perfect or near-perfect equity curves
- Dramatic performance drop on out-of-sample data
- Very few trades in the optimization period
- Parameters at extreme min/max boundary values

Forward Testing

Always validate your optimization results with forward testing:

1. Split your data: Use 70% for optimization, 30% for validation
2. Run the optimized settings on the validation period
3. Performance should be similar (not necessarily identical)
4. Consider demo testing for 2-4 weeks before going live

Saving Your Results

1. After optimization, double-click the best result
2. Go to Settings tab and click 'Save'
3. Name your SET-file descriptively (e.g., 'QORA_EURUSD_H1_v1.set')
4. Keep notes on the optimization period and settings used

Going Live

1. Load your saved SET-file on a live chart
2. Enable Adaptive Mode (BALANCED recommended)
3. Start with conservative position sizing (0.5-1% risk)
4. Monitor the first 20-50 trades closely
5. Use a VPS for uninterrupted 24/5 operation

8. Troubleshooting & Tips

Common Issues:

Optimization takes too long:

- Reduce the date range to 6-12 months initially
- Use 'Fast genetic based algorithm' for initial exploration
- Disable parameters you don't need to optimize

No profitable results:

- Check spread settings match your broker
- Try a different timeframe (H1 or H4 recommended)
- Ensure sufficient historical data is available

Great backtest, poor live results:

- Likely over-optimization – use broader parameter ranges
- Check for slippage and spread differences
- Enable Adaptive Mode for live trading

Pro Tips:

- ✓ Focus on key parameters: Signal Score, Confluence, SL/TP ratios
- ✓ Avoid optimizing too many parameters at once
- ✓ Use Adaptive Mode OFF for optimization, BALANCED for live
- ✓ Re-optimize every 3-6 months as market conditions change
- ✓ Keep records of all optimization runs and results

For additional support, contact via [MQL5 Messages](#).

