ICT METHODOLOGY · PREMIUM EDITION

THE ICT PLAYBOOK

2022 MODEL · 2023 REFINEMENTS
SILVER BULLET · UNICORN MODEL
FVG / IFVG · ORDER BLOCKS · KEY LEVELS

WHY THIS PLAYBOOK EXISTS

ICT methodology is powerful — and scattered across a decade of videos, threads, and half-remembered rules. Most traders drown in the concepts before they ever execute one cleanly. This playbook was written to fix that: one execution chain, in order, with the exact definitions, the exact times, and the discipline that makes it tradable.

It was written by **SweepLogic** — the team behind the SweepLogic indicator suite for NinjaTrader 8. We build tools that detect these exact structures live, which forced us to define every one of them mechanically. That precision is what you're holding: no vibes, no folklore — mechanisms.

— THE SWEEPLOGIC TEAM · TRADETHESWEEP.COM

READ FIRST

HOW TO USE THIS PLAYBOOK

This is not a concept dump. It is one execution chain, built in order.

Every chapter feeds the next. Liquidity defines **where** the market is going. The dealing range defines **where you are allowed to act**. PD arrays — FVGs, order blocks, breakers — define the **exact prices**. Time defines **when**. The 2022 and 2023 models lock those four layers into a sequence you can repeat every session.

NEW TO ICT? START HERE

- Read **01 → 02 → 05 → 10** first: liquidity, sweeps, fair value gaps, and the 2022 sequence. That is 80% of the system.
- Every concept chapter opens with an **IN PLAIN ENGLISH** box — read those alone for a first pass, then return for the mechanics.
- Chapters are tagged FOUNDATION CORE ADVANCED REFERENCE — don't touch ADVANCED until CORE prints feel routine in replay.
- Acronym you don't recognize? The **glossary on page 25** has all of them.

THE OPERATING RULES

- **Wicks are not breaks.** A level is broken by bodies — open and close through it. Wick-only excursions are sweeps, and sweeps are signals, not failures.
- **No displacement, no trade.** Every entry sits behind a fast, one-sided move that leaves an imbalance.
- **Time before price.** The same pattern outside a killzone is a different — and worse — trade.
- **One model, executed cleanly,** beats every model executed sometimes.

CONTENTS

THE SEQUENCE

Thirty-one chapters, five sections, one execution chain. Entries are linked — tap to jump. Tags: F foundation C core A advanced R reference.

SECTION I

FOUNDATIONS
WHERE & WHY

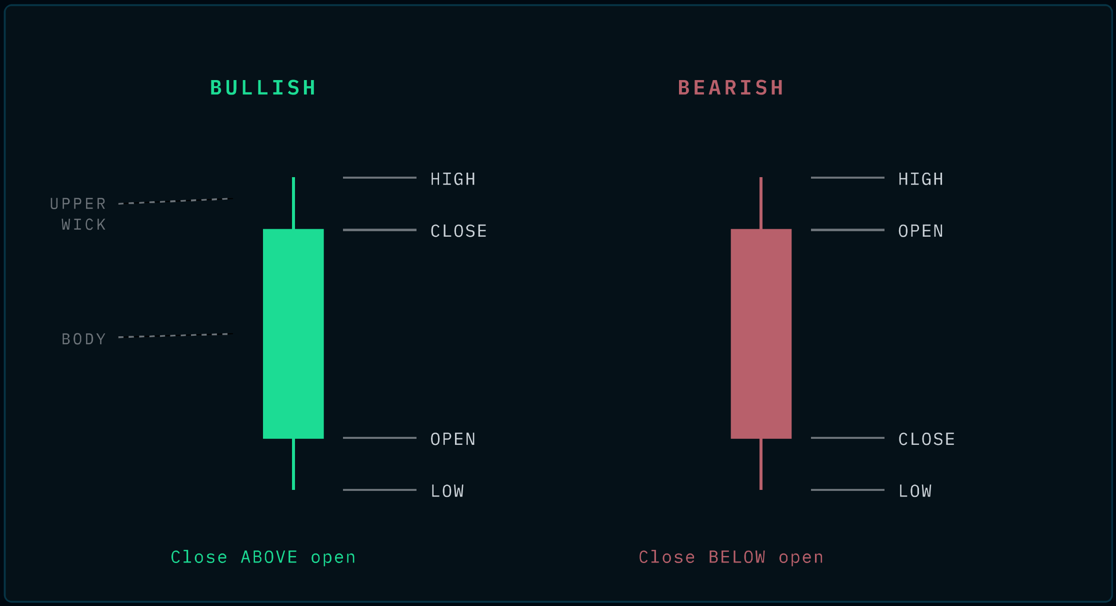
01	CHART FOUNDATIONS — candles, futures, orders	FOUNDATION
02	LIQUIDITY — the orders price hunts	FOUNDATION
03	SWEEP VS. BREAK — the hinge distinction	FOUNDATION
04	DEALING RANGE — premium & discount	FOUNDATION
05	KEY LEVELS — the reference ladder	FOUNDATION

CHAPTER 01 · FOUNDATIONS

CHART FOUNDATIONS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

A candle is four prices drawn as one shape: where the period opened, the highest and lowest it traded, and where it closed. Everything else in this playbook is built from reading those four prices in sequence.



WICKS VS. BODIES

The **body** (open→close) is accepted business — where the auction agreed. The **wick** is rejected business — prices visited and refused. This is why the whole system treats bodies as breaks and wicks as raids.

SWING POINTS

A **swing high** is a candle high with lower highs on both sides; a **swing low**, the mirror. Swings are where stops rest — they are the liquidity map of Chapter 02.

THREE MARKET CONDITIONS

- **Trending** — successive swings step in one direction. The models hunt the pullback.
- **Consolidating** — swings overlap inside a box. Liquidity builds on both edges; wait.
- **Expanding** — displacement leaves a range fast. Never chase it; wait for the retrace.

CHAPTER 01 · FOUNDATIONS

FUTURES BASICS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

You trade points and ticks, not shares. A tick is the smallest move a contract can make, and each tick has a fixed dollar value. Know the dollar value of your stop before you ever place it.

CONTRACT	INDEX	TICK SIZE	TICK VALUE	PER POINT
NQ	Nasdaq-100 E-mini	0.25	$5.00	$20
MNQ	Nasdaq-100 Micro	0.25	$0.50	$2
ES	S&P 500 E-mini	0.25	$12.50	$50
MES	S&P 500 Micro	0.25	$1.25	$5

ETH VS. RTH

ETH (Electronic Trading Hours) runs nearly 23 hours from the 18:00 ET reopen. **RTH** (Regular Trading Hours) is the 09:30–16:00 ET cash session. The overnight ETH range builds the pools the RTH session raids.

ORDER TYPES

- **Market** — fill now at best price. Pays the spread; used to exit fast.
- **Limit** — fill at your price or better. How this playbook enters arrays.
- **Stop** — market order once a price trades. Your exit; also the fuel pools are made of.

RISK CHECK

Learn on MNQ / MES first. A 40-point NQ stop is $800 per contract; the same stop on MNQ is $80. The model is identical — the tuition is not.

CHAPTER 02 · FOUNDATIONS

LIQUIDITY

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Everyone's stop-losses pile up at obvious prices — just above old highs and just below old lows. The market moves to those piles, triggers them, and uses them as fuel. Find the piles and you know where price is headed.

Every resting stop is a market order waiting to be triggered. Traders who sell leave buy stops above their entries; traders who buy leave sell stops below. Those stops pool at obvious references — prior highs and lows, equal highs and lows, session extremes — and institutional flow needs that volume, so price is engineered **from pool to pool**.

BUY-SIDE LIQUIDITY · BSL

Buy stops resting **above** old highs, equal highs, PDH, weekly highs. A run above converts stops into market buys — fuel for a reversal lower or an expansion higher.

SELL-SIDE LIQUIDITY · SSL

Sell stops resting **below** old lows, equal lows, PDL, session lows. A run below converts stops into market sells — fuel for the reversal higher.

Everything in this playbook starts with one question: which pool is price being drawn to next? That answer is your draw on liquidity — and your target.

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

SweepLogic Liquidity Sweep marks BSL/SSL pools and flags wick-raids live on NT8 — or mark equal highs/lows and prior-day extremes by hand each session.

CHAPTER 03 · FOUNDATIONS

SWEEP VS. BREAK

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

If price pokes through a level with a wick and snaps back, the level was raided — expect reversal. If a full candle body closes beyond it, the level genuinely broke — expect continuation. Same line on the chart, opposite meanings.

LIQUIDITY SWEEP

- Price **wicks through** the level, takes the stops, and closes back inside.
- Bodies never accept beyond the level — the excursion was a raid, not a breakout.
- Meaning: the pool was **consumed**. Expect delivery toward the opposing pool.

STRUCTURAL BREAK

- Candle **opens and closes** beyond the level — the body accepts the new territory.
- Meaning: the level is spent. It flips roles or drops out of the ladder entirely.
- SweepLogic standard across the entire suite: **wicks don't count, bodies do.**

This distinction is the hinge of the 2022 model. The model **requires** a sweep — an engineered run on stops — before it will consider a reversal. Traders who read a sweep as a breakout buy the exact highs the algorithm sold into. Traders who read it correctly wait one more step: the market structure shift.

> A sweep tells you where smart money entered. The break that follows — with displacement — tells you they're done accumulating and delivery has begun.

COMMON ERROR

Trading the sweep itself with no confirmation. The raid can extend. The sweep arms the setup; the shift fires it.

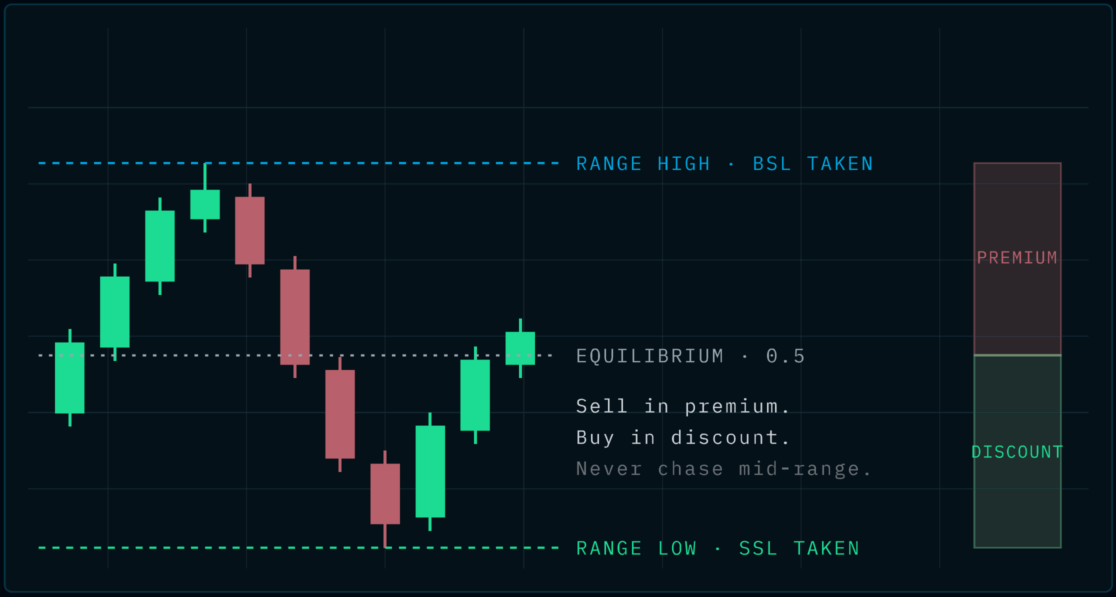
CHAPTER 04 · FOUNDATIONS

DEALING RANGE & PREMIUM / DISCOUNT

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Once the market has raided stops above AND below, that whole span is the playing field. Split it in half: only look for shorts in the upper half (expensive) and longs in the lower half (cheap).

When price takes buy-side at one extreme and sell-side at the other, the span between those two raids is the **dealing range**. Bisect it at 50% — equilibrium. Above equilibrium price is **premium**; below is **discount**. Ranges are fractal: a 5-minute dealing range lives inside an hourly one, which lives inside the daily.



HOW THE MODEL USES IT

Every entry array must sit on the correct side: longs from **discount** arrays, shorts from **premium** arrays. An FVG at equilibrium is a coin flip — skip it.

TARGETS

First draw is equilibrium; final draw is the opposing external pool. If you entered on a discount array, premium liquidity is the objective — not the midpoint plus hope.

CHAPTER 05 · FOUNDATIONS

KEY LEVELS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Before each session, mark yesterday's high and low, the midnight price, the session opens, and any unfilled opening gaps. These are the prices the market actually navigates by — your entries and targets live on this ladder.

LEVEL	DEFINITION	ROLE
PDH / PDL	Prior day's high and low	Primary external pools — default draw on liquidity
PWH / PWL	Prior week's high and low	HTF draw; frames the weekly profile
00:00 OPEN	NY midnight open	Daily manipulation reference — longs below it, shorts above it (with bias)
08:30 / 09:30	News embargo lift · NQ/ES cash open	Session opens that anchor the AM range
NDOG	New Day Opening Gap — yesterday's close to today's open	Magnet; price revisits and reacts
NWOG	New Week Opening Gap — Fri close to Sun/Mon open	HTF magnet; respected all week
SESSION H/L	Asia and London extremes	The pools the NY session raids first

The 2022 model never trades into nothing. Entry happens at one level in this ladder; the target is another. If you cannot name both, there is no trade.

DISCIPLINE

Old, unfilled gaps (naked NDOG/NWOG) keep pulling on price for days. Track them until they are traded through — with bodies.

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

ICT Key Levels auto-plots this entire ladder — PDH/PDL, weekly opens, session opens — with body-close break tracking, so the ladder maintains itself.

SECTION II

PD
ARRAYS

CHAPTER 06 · PD ARRAYS

FAIR VALUE GAPS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

When price moves so fast it skips prices, it leaves a gap between candles. The market tends to come back and 'fill in' that gap later — which makes the gap a place to enter in the direction of the original move.

A **BISI** prints when candle-3's low stays above candle-1's high on an aggressive move up — the gap sits **below** price and offers the discount re-entry. A **SIBI** mirrors it on the way down. The gap midpoint is **CE** — the preferred touch inside the array.

TRADE RULES

- **Only displacement gaps matter.** The FVG must be born from the leg that shifted structure.
- **Entry:** limit at the near edge or CE, stop beyond the far edge / the swing that created it.
- **Fill vs. invalidation:** a wick through the far edge = filled but alive. A **body close** through = invalidated — and a candidate for inversion.

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

FVG Pro+ tracks every gap, fill state, and inversion live. By hand: mark candle-1 to candle-3 extremes on displacement legs only.

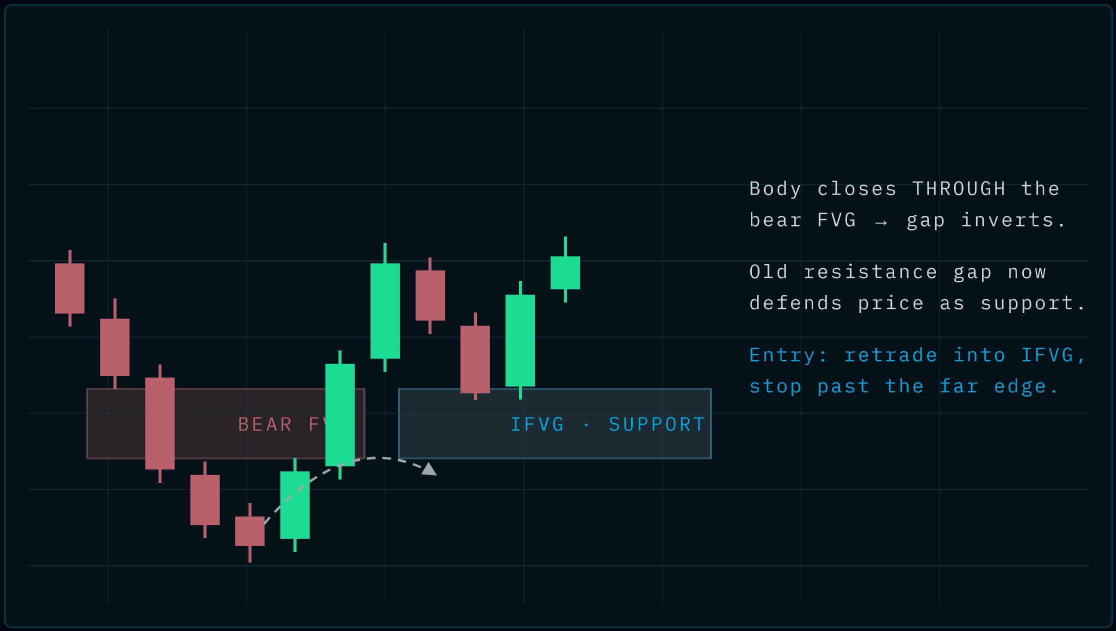
DEFINITION	TRIGGER	ENTRY	INVALIDATION	TARGET
3-candle imbalance left by one-sided delivery	Displacement leg that breaks structure	Near edge or CE, limit order	Body close through the far edge	Opposing liquidity pool

CHAPTER 07 · PD ARRAYS

INVERSE FVG

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

A gap that gets steamrolled doesn't vanish — it switches sides. A gap that used to push price down starts holding price up. Trading the first retest of a flipped gap is one of the cleanest entries in the system.



When price closes a body **through** a fair value gap, the gap inverts. A bear FVG that could not hold price down becomes support; a bull FVG that could not hold price up becomes resistance. The violation is the message: whoever was defending that imbalance was run over, and the new side now defends the same prices.

WHY THE 2023 MODEL LEANS ON IT

- The inversion **is** a change in the state of delivery — confirmation and entry array in one structure.
- Entry on the first retrade into the inverted gap; stop past its far edge. Tighter than most OB entries.
- Highest quality when the inversion happens **during a killzone**, immediately after a sweep.

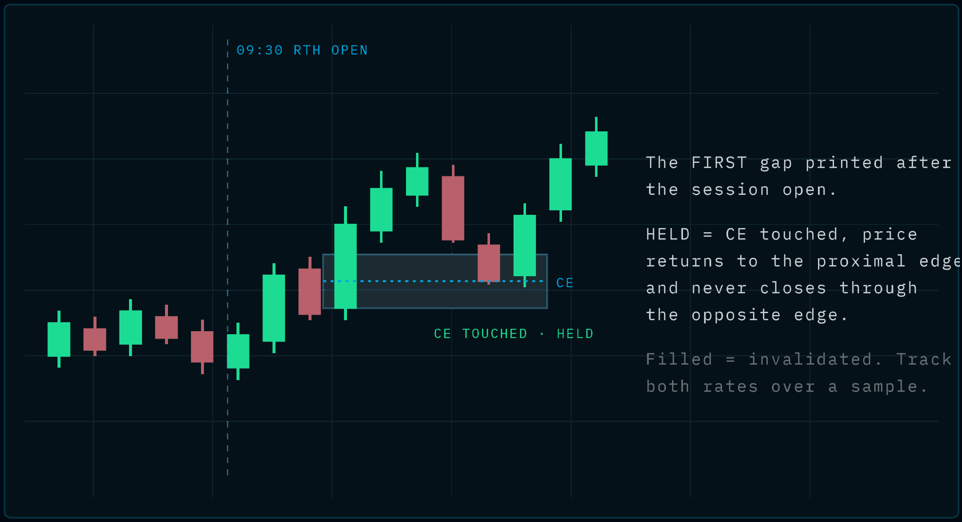
DEFINITION	TRIGGER	ENTRY	INVALIDATION	TARGET
An FVG closed through by bodies — role flipped	Body close through the gap after a sweep	First retrade into the inverted gap	Body close back through the IFVG	Opposing pool of the new direction

CHAPTER 08 · PD ARRAYS

FIRST PRESENTED FVG

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Out of all the gaps a session prints, the FIRST one after the open carries special weight — it is the opening footprint of the day's delivery. Track how it behaves and you learn the day's intent early.



The **FPFVG** is the first fair value gap formed after the 09:30 RTH open. The textbook play: price retraces in, touches **CE**, returns to the proximal edge, and never closes a body through the opposite edge — a **Held** FPFVG, delivery confirmed. A body close through the far edge is a **Fill**: invalidated, read flips.

WHY IT MATTERS

- It is objective — one gap per session, no cherry-picking. Perfect for building a real sample.
- Held rate vs. Fill rate over 30+ sessions tells you exactly how much weight the open's footprint deserves on your instrument.

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

SweepLogic FPFVG isolates the session's first gap automatically and logs Filled% vs. Held% over time — so the statistics are yours, measured, not folklore.

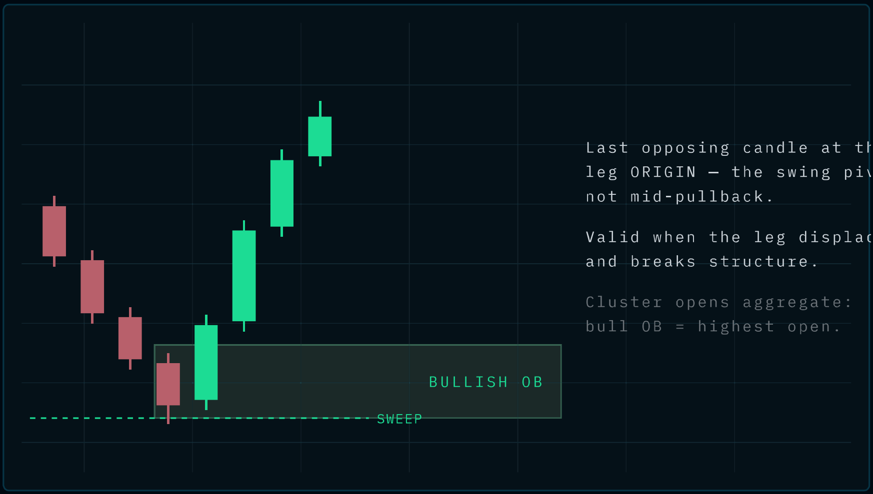
DEFINITION	TRIGGER	ENTRY	INVALIDATION	TARGET
First FVG printed after the session open	09:30 displacement leaves the day's first gap	CE touch → return to proximal edge	Body close through the opposite edge	Continuation of the opening delivery

CHAPTER 09 · PD ARRAYS

ORDER BLOCKS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Before a big move up, the last red candle at the bottom marks where institutions loaded their buys. When price returns to that candle's range, those same players tend to defend it. That candle — at the true turn, not mid-move — is the order block.



A bullish order block is the final down-close candle (or cluster) **at the swing low** from which displacement launched — not the nearest red candle to the breakout, which lands mid-pullback. Clusters aggregate — bull zone to the **highest open**, bear to the lowest.

QUALIFIERS

- Pivot **swept liquidity**, then the leg **displaced** and broke structure
- Block sits in the correct P/D half

ENTRY & INVALIDATION

- Entry at the block's open, or its 50% mean threshold for refinement
- Invalid on a **body close** through the far side

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

SweepLogic Order Blocks scores every block on sweep, displacement, and structure — this chapter, automated.

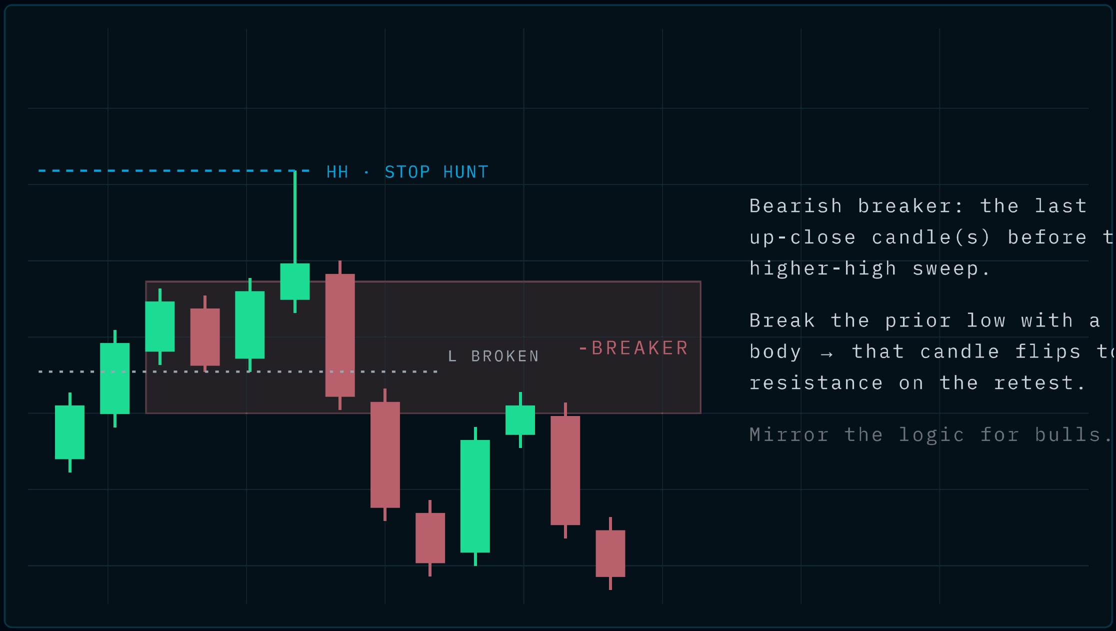
DEFINITION	TRIGGER	ENTRY	INVALIDATION	TARGET
Last opposing candle at the origin of a displacement leg	Structure break by the leg it launched	Open of the block or mean threshold	Body close through the far side	Opposing liquidity pool

CHAPTER 10 · PD ARRAYS

BREAKER BLOCKS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Price fakes a breakout to trap traders, then reverses hard. The candles that fueled the fake-out become a wall on the retest — trapped traders bailing out and smart money adding both defend it. That wall is the breaker.



Bearish breaker sequence: price sets a high, pulls back, then runs to a **higher high that sweeps** resting buy-side. The rally into that sweep leaves up-close candles. When price reverses and breaks the prior low with bodies, those up-close candles become the breaker — trapped buyers' entries become the ceiling on the retest. Mirror everything for the bullish breaker beneath a sell-side sweep.

WHAT MAKES IT DIFFERENT FROM AN OB

- An order block marks where the move **started**. A breaker marks where the trap was **sprung** — it requires the sweep and the structural failure.
- Because the sweep is built in, a breaker retest is the natural home of reversal entries — and one half of the Unicorn model.

DEFINITION	TRIGGER	ENTRY	INVALIDATION	TARGET
Opposing candles from a failed stop-hunt leg	Sweep, then body break of the prior swing	Retest of the breaker range	Body close back through the breaker	Opposing pool / origin of the trap

SECTION III

THE MODELS

CHAPTER 11 · CONFIRMATION

MSS + DISPLACEMENT

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Confirmation means: stops got raided, then price snapped back the other way so hard it broke the recent swing AND left a gap. All three, in that order. Anything less is a guess.

Sweep first — THEN shift.

The break must come on DISPLACEMENT: fast, one-sided delivery that leaves an FVG behind.

A grind through the swing is not an MSS. No energy, no trade.

A **Market Structure Shift** is only valid when three things stack in order: liquidity is **swept**, then price breaks the opposing swing point with **bodies**, and the break travels on **displacement** — a fast, one-sided leg that leaves a fair value gap behind. The FVG is the receipt. No gap, no displacement; no displacement, no shift; no shift, no entry.

CISD · CHANGE IN STATE OF DELIVERY

The 2023 model's faster read of the same event: after the sweep, mark the **opening price of the run** that took the liquidity (the last series of same-direction closes). A body close through that opening flips delivery — often a candle or two before the classic swing break confirms.

- Use CISD to arm the entry early; use the swing-break MSS as the hard filter when in doubt.

CHAPTER 12 · CONTEXT

DAILY BIAS & DRAW ON LIQUIDITY

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Bias is not a prediction — it is a working hypothesis about which pool of stops the market is most likely heading for today, and what would prove that idea wrong. You are allowed to be neutral.

THE INPUTS · IN ORDER OF WEIGHT

- **Daily & 4H structure** — which way is displacement pointing on the higher timeframes? Trade with it, not against it.
- **Untouched external pools** — is PDH or PDL still intact? Naked NDOG/NWOG above or below? The cleanest untouched pool is the default draw.
- **Premium / discount location** — where is price inside the current dealing range? A bullish draw from deep premium is a weak long thesis.
- **Opening location** — price opening below the midnight open with a bullish draw is the classic manipulation-then-expansion map.
- **News calendar** — 08:30 and 10:00 releases inject the volatility that runs the pools. Know what's scheduled before you form a view.

SMT DIVERGENCE · SUPPORTING EVIDENCE ONLY

NQ and ES normally move together. When one takes out a swing and the other **fails to**, the correlation cracked — a hint that the raid is a trap. SMT never creates a bias on its own; it **confirms** one formed from structure and liquidity.

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

HTFProfile projects daily and weekly profiles, POCs, and naked levels straight onto your execution chart — the higher-timeframe context layer of this workflow, without switching timeframes.

CHAPTER 12 · CONTEXT

THE MORNING WORKFLOW

Seven steps, before 09:30, every session. Ten minutes once it becomes routine.

1. **MARK THE LADDER**
   PDH/PDL, midnight open, overnight high/low, naked NDOG/NWOG, Asia and London extremes.
2. **READ HTF STRUCTURE**
   Daily and 4H: last displacement direction, last swing taken. That is the grain of the market.
3. **LOCATE PRICE**
   Premium or discount of the current dealing range, and position relative to the midnight open.
4. **PICK THE DRAW**
   Write it: "price is drawn to ____ because ____." One pool. One reason.
5. **DEFINE THE KILL SWITCH**
   What price action deletes the thesis? Usually a body close through the opposing reference.
6. **CHECK THE CALENDAR**
   Red-folder news at 08:30 or 10:00 changes when — not whether — the pools get run.
7. **WAIT FOR THE WINDOW**
   No execution until the killzone. Bias without time is only an opinion.

BULLISH DAY MAP

Draw above (PDH untouched) · price opens in discount below midnight open · expect an SSL raid at the open, then displacement up.

BEARISH DAY MAP

Draw below (PDL untouched) · price opens in premium above midnight open · expect a BSL raid at the open, then displacement down.

NEUTRAL DAY

Both external pools taken, or structure and location disagree. Flat is the position. Neutral days fund disciplined traders via patience.

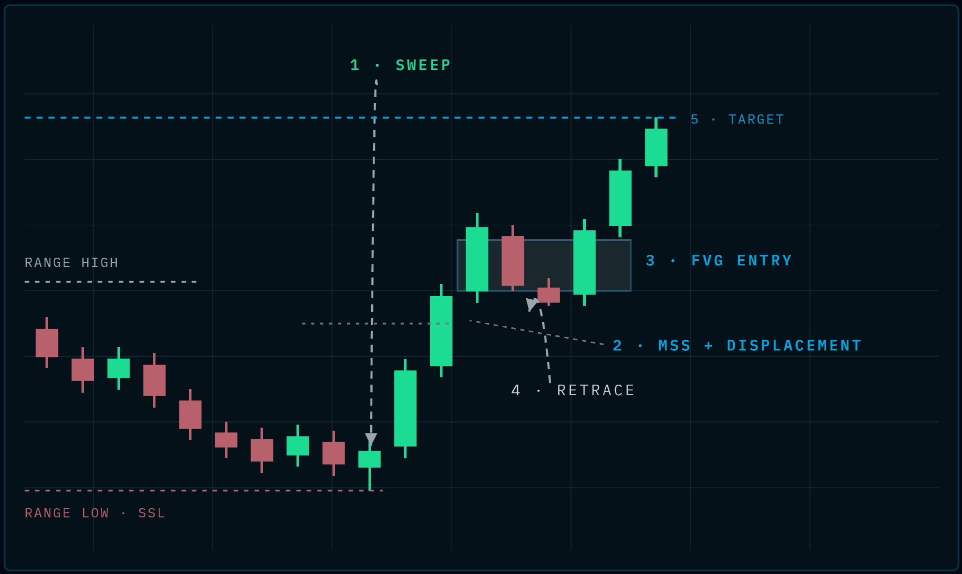
MODEL CHECK

Can you state today's draw, the reason, and the exact price that kills the idea — in one sentence each? If not, there is no bias yet, only noise.

CHAPTER 13 · THE CORE MODEL

THE 2022 MODEL

IN PLAIN ENGLISH
Pick a direction from the daily chart. Let the session open fake out the crowd by raiding stops the other way. When price snaps back with force, enter on the gap it leaves, and ride to the stops on the opposite side.



1 ESTABLISH BIAS
Daily chart: which external pool is the draw — buy-side above or sell-side below? Trade only that direction today.

2 MARK THE RANGE
From the 00:00 midnight open, mark the high and low of the overnight range running into the session open.

3 WAIT FOR THE SWEEP
At the session open, let price raid the side of the range against your bias — the manipulation leg.

4 DEMAND THE SHIFT
On 1–5 minute charts: MSS with displacement back in the bias direction, leaving an FVG.

5 ENTER ON THE ARRAY
Limit at the FVG (or OB / breaker) in the correct premium-discount half. Stop beyond the sweep extreme.

6 TARGET THE OPPOSING POOL
Other side of the range, then the external draw. Minimum 1:2; the sequence routinely delivers 1:3+.

CHAPTER 14 · THE CORE MODEL

2022 MODEL · SESSION EXECUTION

Same sequence, two windows. Times in New York (ET).

LONDON EXECUTION · 02:00–05:00

- Range = 00:00 midnight open → London open. Mark high and low.
- London raids one side (per bias) → MSS + displacement on 3–5m → enter the FVG.
- Stop beyond the London extreme. Target: opposite side of the range, then the daily draw.

NY EXECUTION · 08:30–11:00

- **Scenario A — London already delivered:** NY retraces into the London leg. Frame the London low→high (or high→low), wait for the pullback into the 62–79% OTE / FVG zone, confirm with a 1m MSS, and join the continuation.
- **Scenario B — London ranged:** treat midnight→09:30 as the range. NY sweeps a side per bias → shift → array entry → opposing pool. The pure 2022 sequence, one session later.

LUNCH RULE · 12:00–13:30

Delivery degrades into rebalancing. No fresh entries through lunch; manage or flatten, and re-arm for the PM run.

On NQ/ES the highest-frequency print of this model is the 09:30 open sweep of the overnight or Asia extreme, shifting inside the 10:00–11:00 window — where the Silver Bullet chapter picks up.

CHAPTER 15 · APPLIED

FAILED & SKIPPED SETUPS

The winning example teaches the sequence. These three teach the business.

CASE 1 · A VALID LOSS

PDL swept at 10:08 → MSS up on displacement → limit filled at the FVG in discount → price returns, closes a body through the gap, stop hit at −1R. **Every box was ticked.**

Verdict: a good trade with a bad outcome. The model pays over a sample, not per attempt. Log it, tag it, take the next one. Changing the rules after a valid loss is how edges die.

CASE 2 · SHOULD HAVE SKIPPED

A clean-looking FVG at 11:40 — but no sweep preceded it, the gap sits at equilibrium, and lunch is ten minutes away. Entry filled, price chops sideways, stopped at −1R.

Verdict: not a model loss — a discipline loss. Three of five boxes were empty before the order existed. The scorecard exists precisely to catch this before the click.

CASE 3 · THE FALSE-POSITIVE SWEEP

Price wicks through the overnight low — looks like the raid — then keeps delivering lower for forty minutes. No MSS ever printed. A trader who bought the sweep alone ate the full expansion.

Verdict: this is why the sweep only **arms** the setup. The shift fires it. Waiting for displacement costs a few points of entry and saves the account.

COMMON TRAP

Grading trades by outcome. Grade them by process: a rule-following loss is tuition; a rule-breaking win is a loan the market collects later — with interest.

CHAPTER 16 · THE REFINED MODEL

THE 2023 REFINEMENTS

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Same trade as 2022 — but stricter about which versions of it deserve money: earlier confirmation, entries only at real levels, only inside fixed one-hour windows, and only one attempt per window.

WHAT CHANGED

- **CISD replaces the slow swing break.** The body close through the manipulation leg's opening price confirms the turn earlier and anchors a tighter stop.
- **Internal → external mapping.** Every trade moves between internal liquidity (FVGs, OBs inside the range) and external liquidity (the range extremes). Entry at one, target at the other — never external to nowhere.
- **IFVG promoted to primary entry.** The inversion doubles as confirmation, so entries sit closer to the invalidation point.
- **Time discipline hardened.** Setups only inside defined one-hour windows (Silver Bullet) and macro rotations — the pattern outside the window is a pass.
- **One shot, one kill.** One qualified setup per window. No re-entries chasing a missed leg.

The 2022 model teaches the sequence. The 2023 refinements teach selection — which prints of the sequence deserve risk. Trade 2022 mechanics with 2023 standards.

WHAT DID NOT CHANGE

Sweep before shift. Bodies over wicks. Displacement or nothing. Premium/discount alignment. The refinements narrow the funnel; they never bypass it.

CHAPTER 17 · THE REFINED MODEL

OPENING GAPS & THE ORG

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Every day and week opens somewhere different from where the last one closed. Those gaps between close and open are reference maps the market keeps returning to — and 2023 execution leans on them heavily.

TERM	DEFINITION	NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH
ORG	Opening Range GAP — prior 16:00 RTH close → today's 09:30 open. Quartiles + CE = reprice targets.	The opening range itself
OPENING RANGE	The first minutes of RTH trading after 09:30 (e.g., first 30 min)	ORG · Initial Balance
INITIAL BALANCE	The 09:30–10:30 RTH high/low — the first hour's auction range	Opening range · ORG
NDOG	New Day Opening Gap — 17:00 ETH close → 18:00 ETH reopen	ORG (RTH-based)
NWOG	New Week Opening Gap — Friday close → Sunday 18:00 reopen	NDOG (daily, not weekly)

One Trading Setup for Life. The 2023 teaching in one line: pick one reference family, one window, one entry array — and study that single print until your journal, not your feelings, says you own it. These gaps narrow the map; they never widen it.

MODEL CHECK

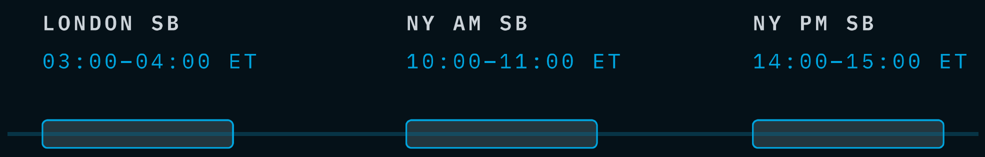
This guide measures ORG from the 16:00 ET RTH close (some material uses the 16:15 final print). Pick one definition and stay consistent.

CHAPTER 18 · TIME MODELS

SILVER BULLET

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Three specific hours of the day reliably produce the same setup. Trade only inside them: wait for a stop raid, a sharp reversal that leaves a gap, enter the gap, target the opposite pool. Outside the hour — hands off.



Inside the window, the checklist is fixed:

- ▸ Draw on liquidity identified before the window opens
- ▸ Sweep or run into a level → MSS with displacement
- ▸ Entry on the FVG left by the shift — nothing else
- ▸ Target the opposing pool · minimum 1:2, model 1:3

No window, no trade. Time filters the noise for you.

WINDOW PROFILES

- **London 03:00–04:00** — raids the midnight range; sets the day's first true leg.
- **NY AM 10:00–11:00** — the NQ/ES flagship; runs the 09:30 open's engineered extreme.
- **NY PM 14:00–15:00** — continuation or reversal of AM delivery into the close.

HARD RULES

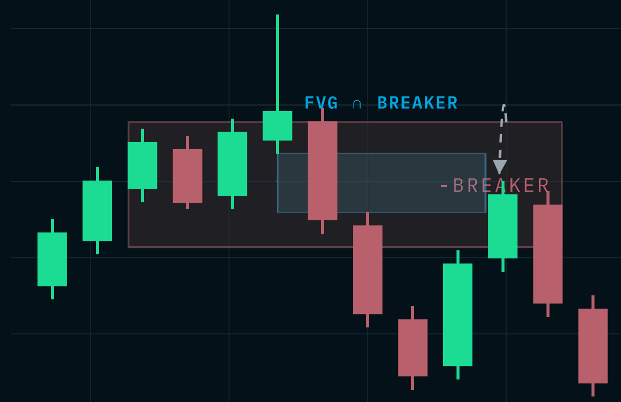
- Setup must **form and trigger inside** the window.
- Entry array: the displacement FVG. Not a level touch, not a feeling.
- Target must be a **named pool** at 1:2 or better, or pass.

CHAPTER 19 · A+ SETUPS

UNICORN MODEL

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Sometimes a breaker and a fresh gap land on the exact same prices. Two independent reasons for the market to defend one zone — the highest-conviction entry in this playbook.



UNICORN = the overlap.

A breaker block and an FVG printed by the SAME displacement leg, stacked on the same prices.

Two independent reasons for defense = tightest stop cleanest rejection.

1. **SWEEP**
   Price runs a swing high/low — the stop hunt that will build the breaker.
2. **SHIFT WITH DISPLACEMENT**
   Reversal breaks structure with bodies and leaves an FVG inside the breaker candles' range.
3. **MARK THE OVERLAP**
   The intersection of breaker and FVG is the Unicorn zone — two defenses, one price band.
4. **EXECUTE THE RETEST**
   Limit in the overlap, stop just beyond the sweep extreme, target the opposing pool. Best prints occur inside a Silver Bullet window, aligned with daily bias.

DEFINITION	TRIGGER	ENTRY	INVALIDATION	TARGET
Breaker + FVG from the same leg, overlapping	Sweep → MSS whose FVG lands inside the breaker	Limit in the overlap band	Body close through the overlap	Opposing pool · 1:2 minimum

CHAPTER 20 · THE MODELS

2022 VS. 2023

Not competing systems — the same funnel, with a tighter filter bolted on.

	2022 MODEL	2023 FRAMEWORK
OBJECTIVE	Learn the full sweep → shift → array sequence	Master ONE repeatable print of that sequence
LIQUIDITY	Overnight / session range extremes	Time-ranked references: session pools, ORG, NDOG/NWOG
TIME	Killzones frame the trade	Fixed one-hour windows ARE the trade filter
CONFIRMATION	MSS — body break of the swing	CISD — close through the manipulation leg's open
ENTRY ARRAY	Displacement FVG (OB / breaker as alternates)	One mastered array — often the FVG, IFVG, or FPFVG
GAPS	Context only	ORG / NDOG / NWOG as active reprice targets
DIFFICULTY	Beginner-friendly sequence	Requires patience + a journal habit
COMMON MISTAKE	Trading the sweep without the shift	Collecting concepts instead of one sample
PRACTICE	30 replayed sequences, any killzone	30 live-or-replay prints of ONE window

Beginner path: learn the 2022 sequence first, then adopt 2023 selection — one window, one array, thirty trades — before adding anything else. Never run both learning projects at once.

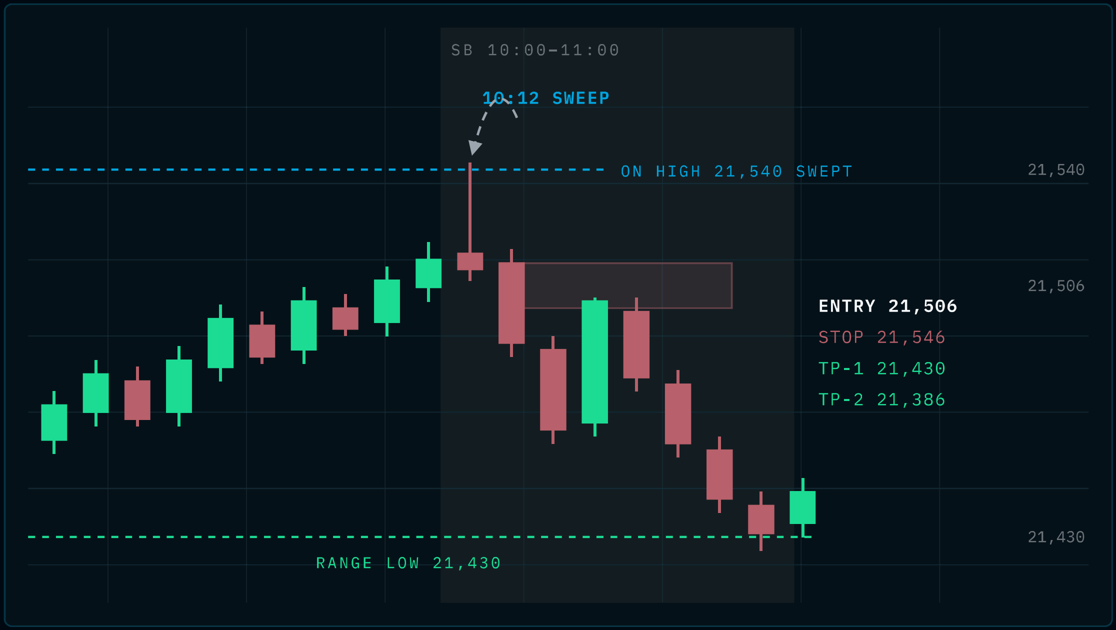
SECTION IV

EXECUTION
& REFERENCE

CHAPTER 21 · APPLIED

WORKED EXAMPLE · NQ AM SILVER BULLET

Illustrative print of the full chain — bias → sweep → shift → array → pools. Prices are examples, not signals.



THE READ

- **Bias:** daily drawn to sell-side; PDL 21,386 untouched below.
- **10:12** — overnight high 21,540 swept by wick; bodies close back inside.
- **10:15** — displacement down breaks the 10:00 swing; SIBI left at 21,498–21,506.
- **10:22** — retrace fills the gap; short filled at the near edge.

THE MATH

- **Entry** 21,506 · **Stop** 21,546 (above sweep) = **40 pts risk**
- **TP-1** 21,430 range low = 76 pts ≈ **1.9R** — partial + stop to entry
- **TP-2** 21,386 PDL = 120 pts = **3.0R** — runner target
- Risk 1% of account ÷ (40 pts × $20/pt MNQ×10 or NQ sizing) → position size. **Size from the stop, never from conviction.**

> Every box from the protocol ticked: named pool swept, MSS on displacement, array in premium, inside the 10:00–11:00 window, named targets ≥ 1:2. That is the entire job.

CHAPTER 22 · EXECUTION

RISK & POSITION SIZING

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Position size is an output, never an input. You decide the dollars you are willing to lose, the chart decides the stop distance, and division decides the contracts. Conviction is not a variable in the formula.

THE FORMULA

Contracts = **Account Risk ($)** ÷ (**Stop Distance (pts)** × **$ per point**) — always round **down**.

MNQ EXAMPLE

- $25,000 account · 0.5% risk = **$125**
- Stop 40 pts × $2/pt = **$80 per contract**
- $125 ÷ $80 = 1.56 → **1 contract**, $80 at risk

MES EXAMPLE

- $10,000 account · 0.5% risk = **$50**
- Stop 8 pts × $5/pt = **$40 per contract**
- $50 ÷ $40 = 1.25 → **1 contract**, $40 at risk

THE GUARDRAILS

- **Daily loss limit:** two full-risk losses = flat until tomorrow. No exceptions, no "one more."
- **Stops are structural,** beyond the sweep extreme — never sized backward from the contracts you wish you could trade. A tight stop inside the noise is not a good stop; it is a donation.
- **Cost drag is real:** commissions and a tick of slippage per side turn a 2R plan into ~1.8R. Budget it.
- **Prop rules override everything:** trailing drawdowns and daily caps are hard walls — size so a normal losing streak cannot touch them.

RISK CHECK

High reward-to-risk does not guarantee positive expectancy, and a losing streak of 5–7 is normal for any real edge. Size every trade so that streak is boring, not fatal. Simulate before funding.

CHAPTER 23 · REFERENCE

TIME TABLE

All times New York (ET). DST handled — anchor to ET, not GMT.

WINDOW	ET	USE
MIDNIGHT OPEN	00:00	Daily reference open; range anchor
ASIA KILLZONE	20:00–00:00	Builds the overnight pools
LONDON KILLZONE	02:00–05:00	First manipulation + expansion
LONDON SILVER BULLET	03:00–04:00	Window model, London print
NEWS EMBARGO	08:30	Data releases; volatility injection
NY CASH OPEN	09:30	NQ/ES RTH open; AM range anchor
NY AM KILLZONE	08:30–11:00	Primary NQ/ES execution block
AM SILVER BULLET	10:00–11:00	Flagship window on indices
LUNCH	12:00–13:30	No new risk — rebalancing hours
PM SILVER BULLET	14:00–15:00	Afternoon delivery window
MOC / LAST HOUR	15:00–16:00	Position squaring; manage only

Macro rotations cluster around the :50 → :10 minutes of key hours inside the killzones — expect the sweep-and-shift sequence to compress into those pockets.

SWEEPLOGIC APPLICATION

ICT Macros shades every killzone and macro window on-chart, DST-aware — the time filter runs itself while you watch price.

CHAPTER 24 · PROTOCOL

EXECUTION PROTOCOL

The model selects the trade. The protocol keeps you solvent enough to take the next one.

PRE-SESSION · 5 MINUTES

- Mark: PDH/PDL · midnight open · overnight range · naked NDOG/NWOG · Asia + London extremes.
- Write the bias and the draw: **"price is drawn to ____ because ____."** No sentence, no session.

SETUP GRADE · TAKE A+ ONLY

- Sweep of a named pool + MSS/CISD on displacement + array in the correct P/D half + inside a window + named target ≥ 1:2. **Five boxes or no order.**

RISK

- Fixed fractional risk per trade, defined before entry. Stop beyond the sweep extreme — never "mental."
- One setup per window. Two losses = done for the day. Tightening limits intraday is allowed; loosening is not.
- Journal every print of the model — taken or passed. The edge is in the sample, not the trade.

> You do not need more setups. You need this sequence, at these times, with this discipline — repeated until the sample speaks.

CHAPTER 25 · EXECUTION

COMMON MISTAKES

Nine ways beginners lose money with correct concepts — and the process fix for each.

COMMON MISTAKE	BETTER PROCESS
Entering the moment a level is swept	Sweep arms it. Wait for displacement + the shift — then the array.
Marking every red/green candle as an OB	Only the opposing candle at a displaced, structure-breaking leg's origin qualifies.
Calling every 3-candle gap an FVG entry	Only displacement gaps in the correct P/D half, inside a window, are arrays.
Treating every swing break as an MSS	BOS with trend = continuation. MSS = against prior delivery, AFTER a sweep, on displacement.
Entering mid-range 'because the setup looks clean'	Equilibrium is a coin flip. Longs from discount, shorts from premium — or pass.
Chasing the displacement candle	The leg is the confirmation, not the entry. Limit at the array it left behind.
Moving the stop 'to give it room'	The stop is structural. If structure changed, the trade is wrong — exit, don't negotiate.
Flipping bias after every candle	Bias changes when the kill-switch price prints bodies — not when a wick scares you.
Switching models after 3 losses	Edges resolve over 30-trade samples. Grade the process, then judge the model.

SECTION V

THE WORKBOOK

CHAPTER 26 · WORKBOOK

30-TRADE BACKTEST

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Thirty prints of ONE model, logged the same way, is the minimum sample that means anything. Print this page twice, fill it in replay or sim, and let the columns — not your memory — tell you if the edge is real.

#	DATE	SESS	DOL	SWEEP	MSS/CISD	ARRAY	R PLAN	R ACT	MFE/MAE	RULES Y/N
01										
02										
03										
04										
05										
06										
07										
08										
09										
10										
11										
12										
13										
14										
15										

RULE-COMPLIANCE SCORE

Rules-Y trades ÷ total trades × 100. **Below 80%** = the sample measures your discipline, not the model. Fix compliance before judging the edge.

READ THE SAMPLE

Sum **R ACT** for rules-Y trades only. Positive over 30 = keep going to 60. Negative with high compliance = the model, window, or instrument needs review — in that order.

CHAPTER 27 · WORKBOOK

TRADING JOURNAL

One entry per trade — taken or passed. The template, then a completed sample.

THE TEMPLATE

- **Context:** date · session · news · HTF read · bias + DOL
- **Sequence:** liquidity event · displacement Y/N · MSS/CISD · array used
- **Numbers:** entry · stop · target · $ risk · planned R · actual R · MFE / MAE
- **Evidence:** pre-entry screenshot · post-exit screenshot
- **Review:** rules followed Y/N · one lesson, one sentence

SAMPLE ENTRY · COMPLETED

- **Tue · NY AM · CPI 08:30** · Daily bearish, PDL 21,386 naked · bias short, DOL = PDL
- 10:12 ON-high sweep · displacement down · CISD 10:15 · SIBI 21,498–21,506
- Short 21,506 · stop 21,546 · TP 21,430 / 21,386 · $80 (1 MNQ) · plan 3.0R · act 1.9R (TP-1, trail out)
- MFE 2.6R · MAE 0.4R · rules **Y**
- **Lesson:** trail was too tight after TP-1 — define the runner rule before entry, not during.

CHART PRACTICE

End of each day: re-mark the session cold on a clean chart, then compare to your live markings. The gap between the two IS your curriculum for tomorrow.

CHAPTER 28 · WORKBOOK

KNOWLEDGE CHECKS

Answer in writing before checking. If any answer takes more than two sentences, reread that chapter.

01 A wick trades 3 ticks past PDH and price closes back inside. Sweep or break — and what do you expect next?

02 Name the three components, in order, of a valid MSS.

03 Why is an FVG at equilibrium a pass even when everything else lines up?

04 What flips an FVG into an IFVG — a wick fill or a body close?

05 Where exactly does a bullish order block live, and what disqualifies the nearest red candle?

06 What must happen BEFORE the candles of a breaker block become a breaker?

07 Define the FPFVG 'Held' sequence in one sentence.

08 BOS vs. MSS — which one requires a preceding sweep, and why?

09 ORG vs. NDOG: which close and which open define each?

10 Your bias is bullish but price opens deep in premium above the midnight open. What does the model expect first?

11 40-pt stop on MNQ, $150 risk budget — how many contracts, and why round down?

12 Two valid losses before 11:00. What does the protocol say — and what does your ego say?

ANSWER KEY (abridged) · 01 sweep — delivery toward the opposing pool · 02 sweep → body break of the swing → displacement leaving an FVG · 03 no premium/discount edge — coin flip · 04 body close · 05 last opposing candle at the displaced leg's origin pivot; nearest-to-break lands mid-pullback · 06 a liquidity sweep, then a body break of the prior swing · 07 CE touched, return to proximal edge, no body close through the far edge · 08 MSS — it reverses delivery, so the trap must be sprung first · 09 ORG: 16:00 RTH close → 09:30 open; NDOG: 17:00 ETH close → 18:00 reopen · 10 a buy-side raid (manipulation) before expansion toward the draw · 11 $150 ÷ $80 = 1 contract; rounding up risks more than the budget · 12 flat until tomorrow; ego says "one more" — the protocol wins.

CHAPTER 29 · WORKBOOK

30-DAY STUDY PLAN · WEEKS 1–2

IN PLAIN ENGLISH

One month, no live money, sim and replay only. Each week has one job. Do not skip ahead — the later weeks assume the earlier reps were actually done.

WEEK 1 · SEE THE MAP · CH 01–05

- **Mon–Tue:** candle anatomy + futures math. Drill: quote the $ value of a 20-pt MNQ stop from memory.
- **Wed–Thu:** mark 10 sessions of swings, equal highs/lows, PDH/PDL, session extremes — by hand.
- **Fri:** for 5 marked sessions, label every level touch as SWEEP or BREAK using bodies-only rules.
- **Weekend:** knowledge checks 01–03. Rewrite any answer that needed the book.

WEEK 2 · SEE THE SEQUENCE · CH 06–12

- **Mon–Tue:** mark every displacement FVG in 10 replayed NY AM sessions; tag fill vs. body-close invalidation.
- **Wed:** order blocks + breakers — find 5 of each at true leg origins; disqualify 5 lookalikes and write why.
- **Thu:** MSS drills — in replay, call "armed" at the sweep and "fired" only on the displaced body break.
- **Fri:** run the full morning workflow (Ch 12) on 5 historical days; write the bias sentence for each.
- **Weekend:** knowledge checks 04–08.

RISK CHECK

Zero live orders in weeks 1–2. If the platform is open, it is in replay or sim mode. The market will still be there in week 5.

CHAPTER 29 · WORKBOOK

30-DAY STUDY PLAN · WEEKS 3–4

WEEK 3 · TRADE THE 2022 SEQUENCE · CH 13–15

- **Mon–Thu:** replay one NY AM session per day, executing the full 2022 sequence in sim. Journal every print — taken or passed — with the Ch 27 template.
- **Fri:** review the week's entries against the failed-setup cases (Ch 15). Tag each: valid win / valid loss / discipline error.
- **Weekend:** compute rule-compliance %. Below 80 → repeat week 3 before advancing.

WEEK 4 · ADD 2023 SELECTION · CH 16–20

- **Mon:** mark ORG, NDOG, NWOG on 10 days; log how often price repriced to CE / quartiles.
- **Tue:** FPFVG study — tag Held vs. Filled for 10 sessions. Your first real statistic.
- **Wed–Thu:** trade ONLY the 10:00–11:00 window in replay. One setup per session maximum. One shot, one kill.
- **Fri:** fill the 2022-vs-2023 comparison from your own notes — then check it against Ch 20.
- **Weekend:** knowledge checks 09–12, then start the 30-trade backtest worksheet as month two's assignment.

> Graduation rule: 30 sim trades, ≥80% rule compliance, journal complete — before the first live micro contract. The plan builds the trader; the market only grades the build.

CHAPTER 30 · REFERENCE

GLOSSARY A–L

Every term in this playbook, defined in plain terms. Continued on the next page.

BISI	Buy-Side Imbalance, Sell-Side Inefficiency — a bullish FVG; the gap sits below price
BOS	Break of Structure — a with-trend swing break; continuation, not reversal
BPR	Balanced Price Range — overlapping opposing FVGs; strong two-sided reference
BSL	Buy-Side Liquidity — buy stops resting above highs
CE	Consequent Encroachment — the 50% midpoint of a gap
CISD	Change In State of Delivery — body close through the manipulation leg's opening price
DISCOUNT	Lower half of the dealing range — where longs live
DISPLACEMENT	A fast, one-sided leg that leaves an FVG behind
DOL	Draw On Liquidity — the pool price is currently delivered toward
DRAWDOWN	Peak-to-trough decline in account equity
ERL	External Range Liquidity — the pools at the dealing-range extremes
ETH	Electronic Trading Hours — the near-23-hour session from the 18:00 ET reopen
FPFVG	First Presented FVG — the first gap after the session open
FVG	Fair Value Gap — a 3-candle imbalance
IB	Initial Balance — the 09:30–10:30 RTH high/low
IFVG	Inverse FVG — a violated gap that flipped roles
INVALIDATION	The exact price/condition that proves a setup or bias wrong
IRL	Internal Range Liquidity — arrays (FVGs, OBs) inside the dealing range
KILLZONE	A session window where the model is allowed to trade

CHAPTER 31 · REFERENCE

GLOSSARY M–Z

Continued from the previous page.

LIQUIDITY VOID	A one-sided run of candles with little overlap — often refilled entirely
MACRO	A scheduled intraday rotation window (:50 → :10 of key hours)
MITIGATION BLOCK	An OB variant formed without a sweep — the failed swing's origin candle
MSS	Market Structure Shift — body break of the opposing swing AFTER a sweep, on displacement
NDOG	New Day Opening Gap — 17:00 ETH close → 18:00 reopen
NWOG	New Week Opening Gap — Friday close → Sunday 18:00 reopen
OB	Order Block — last opposing candle at the origin of a displacement leg
OPENING RANGE	The first minutes of RTH trade after 09:30
ORG	Opening Range Gap — prior 16:00 RTH close → today's 09:30 open
OTE	Optimal Trade Entry — the 62–79% retracement pocket
PD ARRAY	Premium/Discount Array — any institutional reference (FVG, OB, breaker…)
PDH / PDL	Prior Day High / Low — default external pools
PREMIUM	Upper half of the dealing range — where shorts live
R-MULTIPLE	Result measured in units of initial risk (+2R = twice the risk, won)
REJECTION BLOCK	Wick-based array — the long wicks at a swept extreme
RTH	Regular Trading Hours — the 09:30–16:00 ET cash session
SIBI	Sell-Side Imbalance, Buy-Side Inefficiency — a bearish FVG
SMT	Smart Money Technique divergence — a correlation crack between NQ and ES at a swing
SSL	Sell-Side Liquidity — sell stops resting below lows
SWEEP	A wick-only raid through a level that closes back inside

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