

TREND TRADING SET-UPS

Entering and Exiting Trends

for Maximum Profit

L. A. LITTLE

Foreword by Alan Farley

ley Global Finance Wiley Global Global Finance Global Finance

Wiley Global Finance is a market-leading provider of over 400 annual books, mobile applications, elearning products, workflow training tools, newsletters and websites for both professionals and consumers in institutional finance, trading, corporate accounting, exam preparation, investing, and performance management.

Wiley Global Final Miley Global Final Wiley Global Final Final Final Wiley Global Final Final Wiley Global Final F



Trend Trading Set-Ups

Founded in 1807, John Wiley & Sons is the oldest independent publishing company in the United States. With offices in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia, Wiley is globally committed to developing and marketing print and electronic products and services for our customers' professional and personal knowledge and understanding.

The Wiley Trading series features books by traders who have survived the market's ever changing temperament and have prospered—some by reinventing systems, others by getting back to basics. Whether a novice trader, professional or somewhere in-between, these books will provide the advice and strategies needed to prosper today and well into the future.

For a list of available titles, visit our Web site at www.WileyFinance.com.

Trend Trading Set-Ups

Entering and Exiting Trends for Maximum Profit

L.A. LITTLE



John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Copyright © 2012 by L.A. Little. All rights reserved.

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey. Published simultaneously in Canada.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc., 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8600, or on the Web at www.copyright.com. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: While the publisher and author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information on our other products and services or for technical support, please contact our Customer Care Department within the United States at (800) 762-2974, outside the United States at (317) 572-3993 or fax (317) 572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books. For more information about Wiley products, visit our web site at www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:

Little, L. A. author.

Trend trading set-ups: entering and exiting trends for maximum profit / L.A. Little. pages cm. (Wiley trading series)

Includes index.

ISBN 978-1-118-07269-1 (cloth); ISBN 978-1-118-22247-8 (ebk);

ISBN 978-1-118-23640-6 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-118-26108-8 (ebk)

1. Portfolio management. 2. Investment analysis. 3. Stock price forecasting. I. Title. HG4637.L582 2013

332.6-dc23

2012020177

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Foreword		ix
Acknowledgments		xi
Introductio	n	1
PART I		7
CHAPTER 1	Identifying and Qualifying	
	Trend Probabilities	9
Trend Determ	ination	10
Qualified Tren	nd Failure Probabilities	13
Qualified Trac	le Failure Probabilities	31
Summary		37
CHAPTER 2	Anchor Zones: The Key to	
	Timing Trades	41
Anchor Bars a	nd Zones	42
Reconsidering	g Trade Failures	46
Summary		54
CHAPTER 3	Broader Influences Affecting Stocks	55
Sector Congru	ience	59
Virtual Indust	ry Groups—Future Direction	72
General Mark	et Congruence	74
Summary		81

Vİ CONTENTS

PART II		85
	rmulating a Workable Iding Plan	89
Trend Direction an	nd Strength	90
Time Frames		94
Entry and Exit Tim	ing	95
Trading Size, Scale	Trading, Trade Success Probabiliti	es,
and Reward-to-Ri	isk Ratio	100
Evaluating and Act	ting Upon the Plan	104
Summary		105
CHAPTER 5 The	e Data behind Trend	
Tra	nde Set-Ups	107
The Only Two Types of Trade Set-Ups		
Trading Breakouts	and Retraces	111
Breakouts versus	Retrace Trade Probabilities	113
Probabilities for T	rade Set-Up Scenarios	122
Summary		133
CHAPTER 6 Sid	leways Range Trades	135
Trade Set-Up Cond	itions and Categorizations	136
Trading Sideways	Trends	137
Summary		155
CHAPTER 7 Bro	eakout and Retrace	
Tra	nde Set-Ups	157
Retrace Trade Set-	Ups	158
Breakout Trade Se	t-Ups	186
Considering Other	Trade Set-Ups	199
Trade Set-Up Ratio	nale and Thoughts	201
Summary		205

Contents	vii
Conclusion: Unleashing Trade Potential	207
Appendix: Data Tables	209
About the Author	241
Index	243

Foreword

op traders rarely call attention to their many accomplishments, content to execute and perfect their market views, free from self-promotion and outside noise. L.A. Little is that type of rare individual, an experienced trader and educator, with unique insights that are simple, profound and highly actionable. For this reason, I'm pleased to introduce readers to his third book *Trend Trading Set-ups*.

In the real world, most traders enter and exit positions without fully understanding the nature of trend. This omission invariably leads to failure, with participants left scratching their heads and wondering why Mr. Market failed to pay off, as expected. It's a real shame because trends in all time frames can be fully deconstructed through the application of logical observational tools.

Enter top trader and respected market educator, L.A. Little. His first two books, *Trade Like the Little Guy* and *Trend Qualification and Trading*, set into place an original framework for reliable trend analysis and trade management. Little now adds and expands to this impressive curriculum with *Trend Trading Set-ups*, a natural progression to the first two volumes.

His latest book brings his outstanding knowledge base down to earth, with concrete examples and step by step instructions for trade excellence, from position choice to profittaking. This is an important contribution in our 24-hour market environment, allowing at-home gamers and professional money managers to compete on a level playing field with omnipresent computer programs.

I've known L.A. Little for many years as a co-contributor at TheStreet.com. We've also spent quality time discussing the complex issues faced by traders in our fractured market system. Above all else, I view him as a kindred spirit that's as obsessed by the ticker tape as I am. That's no mean feat, given the challenges introduced into the market organism in the last twenty years.

L.A.'s long-time focus on trend qualification has honed a set of symbiotic strategies perfectly in tune with today's fast paced derivative-driven

X FOREWORD

electronic environment. For that reason alone, I expect that readers of *Trend Trading Set-ups* will gain valuable insights that are unavailable through any other market source, online or in print.

Don't be fooled by the apparent simplicity of his systematic approach. Under the hood, he presents a powerful trading system based on classic market principles that work in euphoric bull markets as well as gutwrenching bear markets. More importantly, these reliable methods are unaffected by the program algorithms we've come to know as high frequency trading (HFT).

This is an amazing accomplishment in a challenging environment that's forced all types of market players to reassess the positive expectancy of their trading systems. Indeed, this resilience offers another advantage in reading this excellent book. Simply stated, it will help your own strategies to overcome the dominance of lighting fast computer trading in the day to day price action.

So, whether you're a new trader just starting out on your journey, or a seasoned veteran looking for fresh insights and a stimulating read to get your performance back on the fast track, I'm proud to recommend *Trend Trading Set-ups*.

Alan Farley

Acknowledgments

s with any endeavor, the twists and turns are what make the journey and for that reason I would like to offer my special thanks to Phillip Campbell and Seth Williams, two avid and knowledgeable traders who took the long and winding road with me serving as sounding boards while spending countless hours proofing and improving the content you hold in your hands.

I would be amiss to overlook the many authors and traders who have offered their contributions over the years, many of which have left indelible footprints in my trading psyche. Names that instantly come to mind are luminaries like Edwards and Magee, Steve Nison, Tom O'Brian, Welles Wilder, Robert Prechter and Alan Farley to name a few. To these and others that have offered their unique insights I offer my sincere gratitude and utmost respect.

Finally to my wife, Nadereh, whose patience over the years has been tested more times than an anchor zone my sincere appreciation for your continued love and thoughtfulness. To my children, Anaheed and Arman, who have had to endure my almost fanatical devotion to research and writing I can only say thank you as well for the love you express each and every day. Without all of you this book, and those that precede it, would never have been realized.

L.A.L.