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CME Group

Trade Smarter, Hedge Better: Why CME FX Options Are A Trader's Essential Tool

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Trade Smarter, Hedge Better: Why CME FX Options are a Trader's Essential Tool





Jose Blasco, MBA, CQF Quantitative Strategist, Financial Trader, Professor, Author



Linkedin

Agenda

- 1. Introductions
- 2. FX Markets: Volatility & Opportunities
- 3. Why Use Listed FX Options?
- 4. Key Features of FX Options-on-Futures
- 5. Real-Time Practical Applications: Trading / Hedging
- 6. Free Bonus Resources
- 7. Questions & Answers



Introduction



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Jose Blasco is an expert at the intersection of AI, financial trading, and risk management, renowned for pioneering the use of advanced technologies to navigate the complexities of global markets. As the founder of Traddictiv PTE. LTD., he specializes in creating cutting-edge trading technologies that leverage machine learning and AI, significantly enhancing strategic market analysis and decision-making processes.

With a solid foundation in quantitative finance, evidenced by his Certificate in Quantitative Finance (CQF), and a broad spectrum of experience spanning financial trading and quantitative research, Jose's work embodies the fusion of technical expertise with practical financial acumen. An acclaimed educator and communicator, he has been recognized with prestigious awards for his ability to demystify complex financial and technological concepts for a global audience, fostering a deeper understanding and application of AI in finance.

Jose's multifaceted career is marked by a commitment to innovation, excellence in research and teaching, and a passion for bridging theoretical knowledge with real-world application.

Traddictiv Pte. Ltd. is a trading technology company that provides intelligent tools for traders, investors and hedgers. They also offer education for everyone from the hobbyist to the professional, always along with their patented and easy-to-use trading technology.





FX Volatility (I)

- Macroeconomic Sensitivity
- Geopolitical Events
- Central Bank Policy Divergence
- Volatility as Opportunity





FX Volatility (II)

- Macroeconomic Sensitivity:
 - FX markets respond immediately to macro releases inflation reports, employment data, GDP numbers.
 - Example: In October 2024, Euro FX went down sharply after strongerthan-expected CPI and a hawkish FOMC tone pushed USD yields higher, reviving rate hike expectations.
- Geopolitical Events:
 - Conflicts, elections, and trade disputes can trigger sharp currency moves.
 - Example: In November 2024, on U.S. Election Day, the Yen experienced heightened volatility, swinging over 200 pips intraday as markets speculated on potential fiscal policy shifts tied to the election outcome.



FX Volatility (III)

- Central Bank Policy Divergence:
 - Asynchronous rate policies between countries cause significant volatility.
 - Example: Yen Futures collapsed over 30% in 2022 as the Fed hiked rates and the Bank of Japan held firm on easing.
- Volatility as Opportunity:
 - These movements create potential for tactical trades and portfolio rebalancing — if volatility is managed properly.
 - Example: In early 2025, the euro strengthened against the USD as new tariffs from the Trump administration reduced global exports intentions to the U.S., lowering demand for dollars. This shift boosted the euro amid growing concerns about the long-term impact on USD valuation.



FX Opportunities (I)

- Global Liquidity
- Diverse Strategy Potential
- Portfolio Diversification
- Profit Potential in All Conditions

Important Note: While FX markets offer significant opportunities, such benefits come with inherent risks. FX products are typically leveraged, which means both gains and losses can be magnified. Traders must carefully manage risk, understand margin requirements, and be prepared for market volatility. This consideration applies not only to the content of this slide, but also to the upcoming slides where more examples, benefits and opportunities are presented.



FX Opportunities (II)

- Global Liquidity:
 - FX markets are the most liquid in the world, with over \$7.5 trillion traded daily.
 - Near 24-hour access allows for global participation across time zones.
- Diverse Strategy Potential:
 - FX allows positioning across major pairs, emerging markets, and cross-currency relationships.
 - Traders can build strategies for trending, range-bound, or volatile markets.



FX Opportunities (III)

- Portfolio Diversification:
 - Currencies often behave differently from stocks or bonds they can hedge macro exposure or enhance returns.
- Profit Potential in All Conditions:
 - Long USD in a risk-off environment?
 - Long AUD in a commodity boom?
 - FX gives the flexibility to act.



Listed FX Options (I)

Listed FX Options combine institutional-grade functionality with exchange-traded transparency and risk management.

- FX Options (Listed):
 - Transparent pricing, real-time market data
 - Standardized contracts and centralized clearing
 - No bilateral credit exposure or ISDA required
- OTC FX Options:
 - Customizable terms, but opaque pricing
 - Requires bilateral credit relationships
 - Counterparty risk and limited margin efficiency



Listed FX Options (II)

Why Traders Choose Listed FX Options?

- Counterparty Risk Reduction:
 Cleared trades eliminate bilateral default risk
- Margin Efficiency: Cross-margining with other Exchange (CME) products, freeing up bilateral credit lines, etc.
- Liquidity & Transparency: Central Limit Order Book (CLOB) access with firm quotes, especially active during APAC hours



FX Options-on-Futures

- European-Style Options:
 Exercise only at expiration consistent with institutional norms
- Delivery Into Quarterly Futures:
 Exercise results in a position in the underlying FX futures
- Granular Strike Selection:
 Wide range of strike prices to tailor strategies precisely
- Multiple Maturities:
 Trade daily (M, T, X, Th, F), weekly, monthly, and quarterly expirations

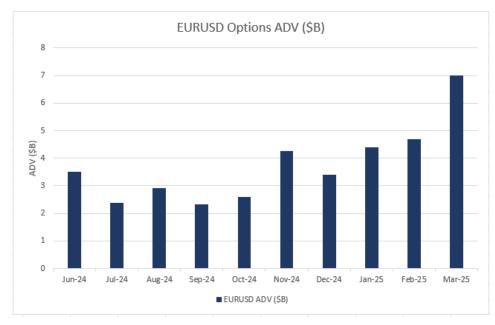


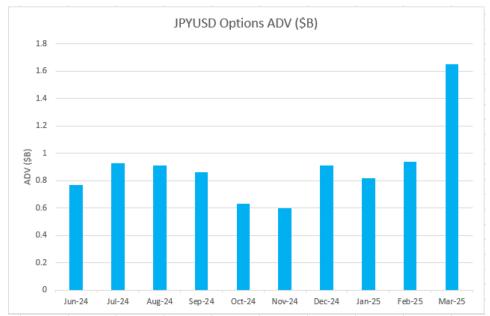
Transparent & Liquid (I)

- Central Limit Order Book (CLOB): All-to-all trading model with anonymous access and firm pricing
- No "Last Look": Orders are firm no requotes or delays common in OTC
- Consistent On-Screen Liquidity: Reliable pricing and executable quotes throughout the trading day
- Block and EOO Access: For customized OTC-like execution with central clearing benefits



Transparent & Liquid (II)





Source:

- https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/fx/g10/euro-fx.html
- https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/fx/g10/japanese-yen.html



Trading Applications

- Directional Strategies:
 Bullish/bearish market views (e.g., long call, vertical spreads)
- Non-Directional Strategies:
 Iron Condors, Credit Spreads, Butterflies, and more
- Volatility-Based Trading:
 Use options to express views on implied vs realized volatility
- Event-Driven Plays:
 Position around central bank decisions, NFP, inflation prints



Hedging Applications (I)

- Why Hedge?
 - Reduce uncertainty for future currency conversions
 - Lock in favorable exchange rates or define worst-case outcomes
- Common Hedging Use Cases:
 - Corporates with future cash flows (receivables/payables)
 - Portfolio managers with FX exposure in assets
 - Traders holding spot FX positions overnight



Hedging Applications (II)

- Protective Puts: Buying a put option to protect against downside risk while holding a long FX spot or futures position.
- Covered Calls: Selling a call option against a long FX position to generate premium income with limited upside.
- Risk Reversals: Combining a long call and short put (or vice versa) to create a cost-effective hedge with directional bias.
- Collars: Using a protective put and a covered call together to cap both upside and downside, often at little to no net cost.
- Partial/Dynamic Hedging: Hedging only a portion of exposure or adjusting hedge size dynamically based on market movements or sensitivity.



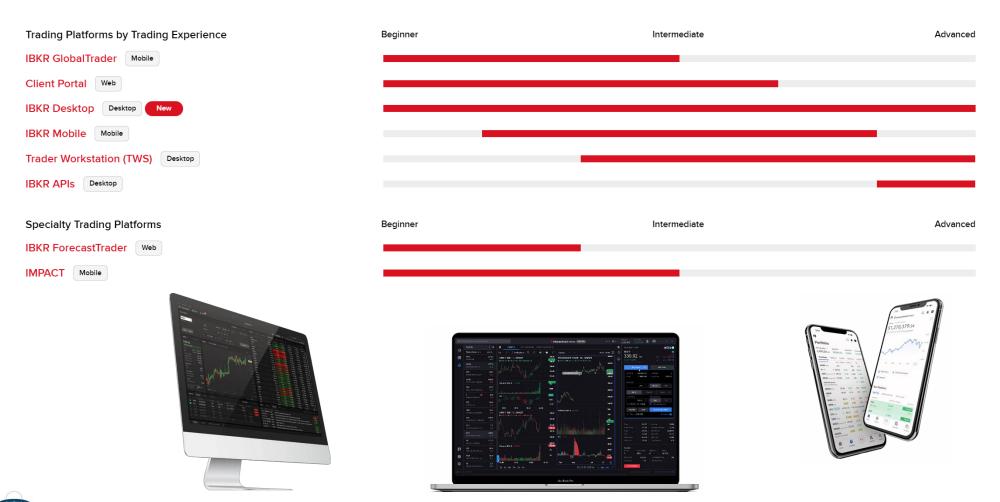
Live Demonstration

- Using TradingView to plan trades, assess risk and execute
- Executing orders with Interactive Brokers (TWS/IBKR Desktop)
- Showcasing trades with risk management in action





IBKR Platforms



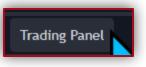




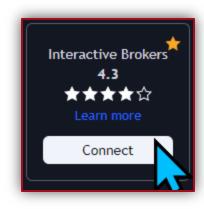
IBKR + TradingView



Click on the TradingView Trading Panel



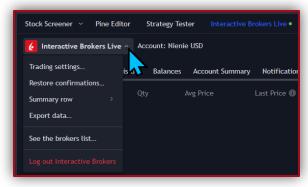
2. Select Interactive Brokers



3. Enter your Credentials and Verify your Identity



4.
The Trading Panel has now changed to IBKR Live





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Vertical Debit Spread

- Use Case:
 - Directional Trading
 - Expect upside or downside in Euro FX or Japanese Yen
- Key Benefits:
 - Defined risk and reward
 - Lower premium than long call/put alone
 - Capital-efficient and margin-friendly
- Strategy Setup (Bullish/Bearish Bias):
 - Buy Call/Put @ Strike X
 - Sell Call/Put @ Strike Y
 - Max. Risk is the Net debit paid for the spread



Hedging with a Protective Put

- Scenario:
 - Holding a long Euro FX spot or futures position
 - Concerned about downside
- Strategy:
 - Buy a put option on Euro FX futures
 - Choose a strike near current market or slightly below
 - Set expiration based on the hedging horizon
- Benefits:
 - Defined downside protection
 - Unlimited upside preserved
 - No need to manage ISDA or OTC credit exposure



Additional Resources

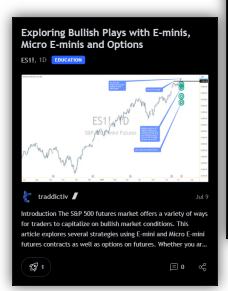
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- Watch CME Futures and Options video-lessons









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Interactive Q&A



- Clarify concepts discussed in the webinar
- Address platform-related queries (TradingView or IBKR)

Watching this recorded and have questions?

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