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Mastering Technical Analysis: Chart Patterns & Indicators For Retail

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Intro to Futures

- **What are Futures?** Standardized contracts to buy or sell a specific asset at a predetermined price on a future date.
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - Leverage: Control a large contract value with a small amount of capital.
 - Standardization: Contracts have set sizes, quality, and delivery dates.
 - Centralized Trading: Traded on exchanges (e.g., CME, ICE).
- **Why Trade Them?**
 - **Hedging:** Manage risk by locking in prices.
 - **Speculation:** Profit from anticipated price movements.



Why trade futures at CME Group?



Capital efficiencies



Around-the-clock trading



Ease of “going Short”



Tax considerations



Direct participation in “markets” and asset classes



CME Group has been in business nearly two centuries



Technical indicators used for stocks/ETFs applicable to Micros



Execution costs and liquidity

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Fundamentals - The Macroeconomic Drivers

- **Monetary Policy:** Interest rates, inflation, and quantitative easing heavily influence currency and bond futures. A hawkish Fed, for example, strengthens the dollar and can drive down Treasury futures.
- **Economic Indicators:**
 - **GDP Reports:** Signal overall economic health and potential demand.
 - **Employment Data:** Reflect consumer spending and economic strength.
 - **Inflation Reports:** Directly affect the purchasing power of money and future interest rate expectations.

Futures trading involves substantial risk of loss by trading futures on margin, you acknowledge and accept that you can lose more than your initial investment, leverage magnifies both gains and losses, margin calls require immediate additional deposits, positions may be liquidated without your consent, markets can move rapidly against your positions.

The Bridge: From Fundamentals to Technicals

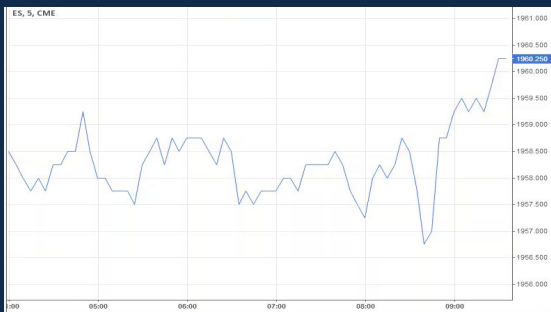
- **Fundamentals Tell You "Why":** They explain the underlying forces driving a market's long-term direction.
- **Technicals Tell You "When":** They help you time your entry and exit points by analyzing price action.
- **The Best Approach:** Combine both. Use your fundamental knowledge to identify a strong market direction, then use technical analysis to pinpoint the ideal moment to execute your trade.



Any stock, options or futures symbols displayed are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to portray recommendations, or an invitation or inducement to trade a particular financial instrument or to engage in an investment activity.

Technical Analysis - Chart Patterns

- **Reversal Patterns:** Signal a potential change in trend direction.
 - **Head and Shoulders:** Often forms at a market top.
 - **Double Tops/Bottoms:** Represents a failed attempt to push prices higher or lower.
- **Continuation Patterns:** Signal that the current trend is likely to resume.
 - **Triangles (Symmetrical, Ascending, Descending):** Indicate a period of consolidation before a breakout.
 - **Flags & Pennants:** Short-term patterns during a strong trend.



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Chart Patterns



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Technical Analysis - Key Indicators

- **Moving Averages (MA):** Smoothen price data to identify trend direction. A simple moving average (SMA) or exponential moving average (EMA) crossover can be a buy or sell signal.
- **Relative Strength Index (RSI):** A momentum oscillator that measures the speed and change of price movements. Used to identify overbought (>70) or oversold (<30) conditions.
- **Fibonacci Retracements:** technical analysis tool used by traders to identify potential support and resistance levels.
- **Trendline Analysis:** Using key chart points to help identify support and resistance

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MBTU5 · 5 · CME ● 0112,865 H112,865 L112,780 C112,850 -25 (-0.02%)

112,835 SELL 20 112,855 BUY

Volume 46

MA 50 close @ 112,789

EMA 21 close @ 112,991

EMA 8 close @ 112,975

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Putting It All Together: Identifying Opportunities

- **Step 1: Trend Identification:** Use moving averages and trend lines to determine the overall direction of the market (uptrend, downtrend, or sideways).
- **Step 2: Confirmation:** Look for a confirmation signal from an indicator, such as the RSI moving out of an overbought or oversold zone.
- **Step 3: Execution:** Identify a strong chart pattern to pinpoint your entry point.
- **Step 4: Risk Management:** Always use a stop-loss order to protect your capital.

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