NumberOne

SteadyOnFx
Expert Advisor for MetaTrader 4

User Guide
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International Version
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**NumberOne**

This expert advisor uses a strategy based on what happens after a fast, *impulsive*, price movement: very likely the price will retrace for a few pips. This expert advisor is designed to get profit of these after-move retracements.

The preferred pair to run NumberOne is EURUSD, but can be used with less profitability also on other major pairs, like GBPUSD for example. The basic pair-related requirements are a low spread and high volatility.

NumberOne when detects a quick price action opens a pending order of type “stop” (buy stop, sell stop) and trail it quickly near the price.

If the price continues in the same direction of the triggering event the pending stop order will be moved (trailed) accordingly.

If the price retraces, the pending order will be triggered and the order will be transformed to a market order (buy or sell) directly by your broker’s MetaTrader server.

The default stoploss of NumberOne is only 3 pips, giving a very good risk/reward factor to all executed trades. When the order goes in gain the stoploss is moved in order to protect some of the pips of profit. That’s all, at the core it’s a very simple strategy, obviously we have added a lot of enhancements in order to trade safely. So, NumberOne, for example, will send ONLY one order for any trading opportunity.

NumberOne works on accounts and pairs with 2,3,4,5 digits automatically with its own auto-tuning feature.

**Environment requirements.**

This expert advisor need an excellent quality of order execution from the broker.

This is an absolutely mandatory point that must be seriously taken in consideration.

Very often all expert advisors trade quickly and gain lot moneys on demo accounts. This happen for two simple reasons.

The first is that in demo mode the orders are nor really executed on the market, the second reason is that all brokers are interested to show very good performances on demo (test) accounts.

Everything changes when the account is a real one with true money.

Market makers brokers add plugins to MetaTrader’s server in order to “simulate” a real trading environment, STP (Straight Through Processing) brokers don’t need to simulate because the order are routed to a liquidity provider that become the market maker, accepting or requoting or adding slippage to the executed orders from the broker.

In order to get a good profitability from this expert advisor we suggest only STP brokers (normally they add commissions to traded lot) with a very good liquidity provider connected.

The requested commissions from these broker are normally largely compensated from the reduced spreads on trading pairs and from the speed of execution. (If, for example, a broker ask us 10 US$ for a round lot traded, one pip of reduction of the spread (compared with another broker) will compensate exactly the paid commissions).

Another point to be taken in consideration is the latency time from the trading computer executing NumberOne and your broker’s MetaTrader server.

We are used to think that Internet is so fast for all purposes, but for quick trading can be not so fast.
When the price on a pair (for instance EURUSD) is moving fast, MetaTrader can receive tenths of different prices in one second. The user of NumberOne must consider that these extreme conditions are the “normal” trading conditions for this expert advisor.

If the trading computer is “far” (physically on the World) from the broker server, it will react to these changer after the Internet latency time.

For example, if the ping from your trading computer to the broker’ server require 200ms (0.2 second) it means that the if the price on the broker server has changed in these 200ms (very probable) the change of the order parameters or the sending of a new order can be wrong and the request can be refused from the broker server.

Thus, in order to get better performances from this software, the user must consider to get a VPS (virtual private server) located very near to the broker server. Ideally the ping to your broker server should be under 50 milliseconds of ping.

Another important point is the limit of MetaTrader 4 to execute different trading operations in the same time.

We have found that in high volatility moments (for example news) also other expert advisors loaded on other MetaTrader charts could need to use the “trade context”.

The “trade context” must be considered as a single channel that all the expert on the trading platform must use in order to communicate with the broker.

So only one expert can execute/modify trades at the same time. If two expert advisor want to use this “trade context” at the same moment, one of these two experts will receive the error “trade context is busy” from MetaTrader 4 platform.

For instance, consider a scalper that has a target of 10-15 pips on a pair. It opens an order, after it wait that the price goes in the right direction. The price goes in the right direction after one hour, due a news on the pair. At that time this scalper send a request to close the order due to the gain profit reached. In the same time NumberOne can need to send a pending order because has triggered a fast price swing.

The result is a conflict of the two expert advisor in order to take the control of the “trade context”.

If the user has doubt that another expert advisor can execute/modify trades in the same time of NumberOne, he must take in consideration to install another copy of MetaTrader with the same login data (account number) to give NumberOne an ever free “trade context”.

Last but not least, the trader must check well what is the “quality” of the trading computer.

If it’s a “true” dedicated computer the execution speed will be good (if the only programs running are some MetaTrader). But often we encounter trader that in order to save some bucks any month, rent incredibly slow VPS, where the time of the main real processor is shared in many-many virtual computers. It’s obvious that in these conditions the “real time” execution of the trading system lacks totally and the trading result will be poor as the VPS monthly price.

We suggest to rent a VPS at Commercial Networks Services, this suggestion comes from our direct experience, they offers very high quality about these servers, also the post-sale service is very good and is trading-oriented.
Trades logging and reports

The expert generate in the “...experts\files\” folder a private folder tree, with a little log file for any trade executed, writing execution time of any operation and all slippages found. This feature is very useful in order to check the quality of execution of your broker.

Please check daily the quality of execution of your trades because is a fundamental parameter for this expert advisor.

Some useful information

In order to select a broker, a customer must consider these points (values are for EURUSD pair).

- Maximum spread (in news or other critical moments) to be considered "safe" is 3.0 pips.
- Average working spread (typical) less than 1 pip
- Maximum stop level to be considered "safe" is 2.0 pips.
- Acceptable times for an order send must be less than 2 seconds, and successive time to modify pending/market order must happen in less than one second (typical 500-700ms)
- Acceptable slippage must be less than 1-2 pips and happens not very often
- DO NOT TRUST a broker using a demo account only: it is better to lose a fistful of euros or dollars doing tests with a real account (and microlots as order size) than lose much more money with a real blind test and an high order size.

Other points:

- There's a capped max size for a single order, this max size is fixed to 10 lots, so you will not be able to send orders greater than 10 lots. This is in order to avoid flooding of the broker environment and leave liquidity also to other traders.
- NumberOne defaults settings suits better the EURUSD pair, on different pairs like GBPUSD, USDJPY and crosses the user should tune the EA for a better trading. Note that EURUSD is the pair with the highest volatility and impulsive movements, so usually, you have to increase the experts sensitivity to little price movements when you’re trying to tune it on different pairs.
NumberOne - Psychological Aspects and Money Management

Tests apart, before using NumberOne on a real account you should estimate how much money you can afford to lose with your trades and this expert advisor.

A reasonable percentage is around 20% of the account. With a 1000$ account a 20% is 200$. Now you should allow NumberOne to lose 200$ with at least 10 consecutive "bad" trades. Commissions apart, if you set a fixed lot size of 0.66 lot with a stop loss of 3.0 pips an average loss will be around 20$, so 10 consecutive bad trades will hits your 200$.

So with NumberOne and a 1000$ account, if we accepts a 20% max loss, it is reasonable to use 0.66 lot scalping size on a trusted broker with adequate leverage.

This kind of reasoning, the pragmatic approach, is essential not only for NumberOne but for every EA you are using.

This due that any equity curve (in real trading) don’t increase in a linear way, there are mountains but also depressions, if you start trading before a future “mountain” of the equity curve, you will be happy from begin. But not every day will be “the day”, the “perfect” moment to begin to trade with a given strategy.

Do not run like a headless chicken trying to increase order’ size when you think the EA is gaining money and reduce when it loses, you can’t predict the future.

Start to use NumberOne with a reasonable order size, stick with it for a reasonable time and build a little sum you can use to increase the order size without losing your initial balance, when ready increase the order size repeating the initial approach. If you are unsure, just use a microlot (0.01) and you will never lose (or gain) any important sum.
Setting External Variables

When you attach the expert to the chart, it is possible to modify the EA’s operating parameters by changing the external variables specified in the expert advisor. You should change these values only after careful consideration, and a clearly understanding of the meaning of the parameters and how they interact one with each other.

The external variables list is formatted in different colors based on the variable’s importance and impact to the operation of the trading strategy. The following colors are used:

- In red are indicated the parameters that, if modified, can significantly change the operations of the program and/or the risk management of trading and the overall profitability.
- Orange parameters do not alter the basic operation of the strategy, yet will affect the profitability.
- In green are shown the parameters that do not affect the operation of the expert but do affect ancillary functions such as viewing and reporting.

Variable Details

**RISK [ 0 to 5 % ]**

It’s the risk percentage associated to every trade.

If RISK is set to a value greater than 0% NumberOne will ignore the parameter FIXED_SIZE_WITH_0_RISK and it will start to dynamically evaluate the size of new orders. This percentage will never open orders with a size greater than the maximum capped order size of 10 lots.

*Example:*

*With RISK = 1.5% every losing trade will lose the 1.5% of the balance. If the 1.5% of the balance implies an order greater than the capped order size, this last value will be used. Consider that setting the parameter SPREAD_COMPENSATION=TRUE this loss percent could be increased accordingly to the requested compensation.***

**FIXED_SIZE_WITH_0_RISK [ min lot to 10 lots ]**

It is the fixed size that will be used to open every order if the previous RISK parameter is set to 0. The fixed size ranges from the broker minimum lot size to the maximum capped value. The size is also normalized to follow brokers restrictions like the lot step.

**OPEN_MODE [ 1 or 2 ]**

The open mode 1 is defined as "Aggressive", the open mode 2 is defined as "Standard". The first one opens more frequently (with all the associated advantages & risks).

**TRIGGER_LENGTH [ greater or equal to 17 ]**

This is the minimum length of the impulsive movement that will trigger a trade. The suggested “standard” value for EURUSD is 20 pips, can be reduced, for example on USDJPY where there are less fast price swings.

**MAX_STOP_LEVEL [ greater or equal to 0 ]**

It is the maximum operative stop level for the EA. If the current stop level exceed this parameter the EA will remove itself from the chart with an error. A suggested value is of 2 pips.
MAX_SPREAD [ greater than 0 ]

It’s the maximum operative spread for the EA. If the spread exceed this parameter the EA will go in "sleep mode" for a few seconds. The default value is 3 pips. A spread burst over the MAX_SPREAD will cause the deletion of the current pending order (if present).

SENSITIVITY [ 1 or 2 ]

Sensitivity 1 and 2 are defined as "High" and "Low". The sensitivity increases the chance to open a trade in the case of continuous movement of the price in a specific direction. It’s the time factor.

SPREAD_COMPENSATION [ true or false ]

If set to TRUE the instant spread is included in the evaluation of the trade’ stop loss. Take care about money management and this parameter. If the MAX_SPREAD is set (for example) to 3 pips and the normal stoploss of NumberOne is 3 pips, it means that a maximum stoploss of 6 pips could be set. If this stoploss will be triggered the loss percentage of the account could be the double of the RISK value.

Example: With a current spread of 1.5 pips and a stop loss of 3.0 pips, with SPREAD_COMPENSATION = TRUE the real stop loss will be set to 1.5 + 3 = 4.5 pips. With SPREAD_COMPENSATION = false the stop loss will be set to 3 pips.

FULL_TRAILING [ true or false ]

If set to true NumberOne will start to move the trailing stop as quick as possible. If this parameter is set to false the EA will start to move the trailing stop only when the pip-breakeven point is reached.

Example: A buy opened at 1.3300 is gaining 0 pips, let suppose also that the initial stop loss was set to 1.3297 (3 pips below the open price).

Because the current price (bid) is 1.3300 if FULL_TRAILING = TRUE the stop loss will be moved also 1 pip forward ( from 1.3297 to 1.3298 ). If FULL_TRAILING = FALSE the first trailing stop movement will be done when it will be possible to grant a breakeven status to the order, in this situation in will happens when the order will gain 3 pips or more.

TRAILING_DISTANCE [ greater of broker Stop Level ]

The trailing distance is the distance (in pips) of the actual trailing stop loss from the current order’s close price.

Example: With TRAILING_DISTANCE = 2.0 pips NumberOne will try to keep the trailing stop loss 2.0 pips away from the current close price.

ROLLOVER_UTC_HOUR [ from 0 to 23 ]

It is the rollover hour of your broker. Typically it is the close hour of the NY Forex session (17:00 EST = 22:00 GMT0 = UTC). Around this hour it is safest to avoid impulsive scalping.
NO_TRADE_MINUTES [ from 0 to 59 ]
This parameter defines the window with of the no-trading interval around the rollover hour.

Example: ROLLER UTC HOUR = 21, NO_TRADE_MINUTES = 15
It means that NumberOne will not trade from 20:45 UTC (15 min before the 21 UTC) to 21:15 UTC (15 after the 21 UTC).

ENABLE_SLEEP_INTERVAL [ true or false ]
If set to true NumberOne will not operate from the hour set in the SLEEP_FROM_UTC parameters to the hour set in the SLEEP_TO_UTC parameter.

SLEEP_FROM_UTC [ 0 to 23 ]
Sleep starting hour (UTC).

SLEEP_TO_UTC [ 0 to 23]
Sleep stop hour (UTC).

Example: ENABLE_SLEEP_INTERVAL = true, SLEEP_FROM_UTC = 22, SLEEP_TO_UTC = 05
NumberOne will not trade from the 22 UTC to the 05 UT (of the day after).

BACKTEST_UTC_OFFSET [ from -12 to 12 ]
It is the UTC offset of your broker, this value is used only in backtesting.

SERVER_AUTO_RESCAN [ true or false ]
There is a very useful function that periodically, rescan the MetaTrader list of server, connecting your MT4 client to the nearest server. This feature is useful because NumberOne need a quick connection with server, and sometimes a user find MT4 connected to a far server of the broker. With this function set to “true” MetaTrader will be ever connected to the nearest broker server. If set to “false” it will be disabled.

MAGIC_NUMBER [ number > 0]
It is the magic number associated to every trade opened by NumberOne.

EA_COMMENT [ free text ]
It is the comment associated to every trade opened by NumberOne.

DUPLICATE_CUSTOM_LOGS [ true or false ]
If set to true NumberOne will write on the MetaTrader Expert Advisor’s log the whole custom report written separately in the ..\expert\files\ folder. The custom log feature do not works during backtests.
**LAUNCH_ACTIVATION_TOOL** [true or false]

If set to true (or if the license of the expert advisor has not still activated) the ea will launch the program “EaActivationTool.exe” that will execute the task to activate your license on the trading account and on the computer. (Please refer to the “GenericInstallationExpertAdvisorMetatrader4_SteadyOnFx” manual for detailed information about this process).

**On chart information.**

NumberOne will not write on your chart a lot of messages. The usage is so simple that is not needed to show many information.

This is a normal condition screen.

![Figure 1- Normal screen](image)

**Very important notice**

If the message “Next order size = x.xx” shows a tilde character (~) instead of the equal (=) sign, means that the order size has been “capped” from NumberOne and the shown size is smaller than what has been set from the variable FIXED_SIZE_WITH_0_RISK or what result from the automated money management calculation requested from the parameter RISK.

For example, if you set a RISK to 5 and the leverage on your account is low (for example 50:1) could be impossible to calculate a correct size of an order that give a loss of 5% of the balance with only 3-4 pips of stoploss with that leverage.

The reason is that you should open an order too big for the free margin value in your account.

In order to avoid that the pending order could be deleted from server at the pending-to-market transition, NumberOne reduces the order size to the maximum size possible for your account.

(The MetaTrader server accept any size of a pending order, when the order is triggerd, the server evaluates the size of the order. If the size is too big for your current margin, it simply delete the order).

With this “capping” the pending order will be accepted from server, because the size will be inside the requested margin.

Obviously it’s a clear message that your Money Management is in over-trading zone, and you should reduce the RISK value or the FIXED_SIZE_WITH_0_RISK to a more reasonable value.
Error Messages

The following list includes the most important error messages shown by the EA. NumberOne, at starting time, executes many checks about the correctness of the installation, it will stop running if it find weird things like some "manipulated" expert's files, so please, do not play with mql (decompiled) files of SteadyOnFx, you will lose time, and you will need to contact support for non-existent issues.

These are fatal errors: the expert will stop running on your account:

- [PAIR NAME] unsupported number of digits! ([digit number])
  - NumberOne works only with crosses and pairs with 2-3-4-5 digits of price
- NumberOne works only on Forex instruments
  - Please put on EURUSD or similar major pairs
- NumberOne works only on a M1 timeframe
- You must set "Allow external experts imports" ON in menu tools → Options → Expert Advisors
- You must set "Allow DLL Imports" ON in menu Tools → Options → ExpertAdvisors
- Dll meta2net.dll version error: requested at least v[version number]. found v[version number]
- NumberOne cannot work with a FREEZE LEVEL greater than 1.0 pip
- NumberOne requires a Terminal.exe version 4 build [a build number] or greater
- NumberOne is bound on a different account number

Errors while launching NumberOne.exe, possible corrupt NumberOne installation. Repeat the installation setup and if the error persists contact support@steadyonfx.com:

- Out of memory
- Terminal.exe bad archive error
- Error: NumberOne.exe not found
- Error: NumberOne.exe corrupted
- NumberOne bad Terminal.exe id error
- Client version and server version do not matching: possible corrupt installation!
- Generic error while launching NumberOne.exe, error code=[error number]
- Terminal.exe not found
- Terminal.exe synch parity failure, octal code = [a number]
- NumberOne H octal error = [a number]
- Unknown H error = [a number]
- NumberOne initialization abort
  - Installation corrupted OR too slow VPS/PC
- NumberOne account switch error
  - To avoid errors and dangerous losses the EA do not allow account switch while running

Internal errors, try to run again a proper setup. Please contact support@steadyonfx.com:

- SendToServer error: empty message
- SendToServer critical error: string limit of 255 char reached
- Critical transmission error
- Unknown comment / Unknown status
- Unknown server tag while sending [comment]
- Spread too high (max = [a pip value] current = [a pip value]) backtest stopped.
- Limit order found: ticket=[a ticket number]
  - NumberOne opens only STOP orders and manage only BUY/SELL. Somebody/something opened a LIMIT pending order on NumberOne working pair WITH NumberOne magic number.)
Non-fatal errors

These are only generic warnings, they shouldn’t normally happens:

- Unrecognized external parameters list: be careful to use previous versions settings!
  - You're using an old NumberOne parameter list, check carefully if every parameter is ok
- [PAIR NAME] MinLot - MaxLot - LotStep retrieval error... retry
- ScanOrder OrderSelect error: retry...
- ModifyOrder: the ticket # [a ticket number] is closed
- ModifyOrder: OrderSelect error
- TerminateOrder: ticket #[a ticket number] is already closed
- TerminateOrder: OrderSelect error
- Error creating file: [a file path]
- Error opening file: [a file path]
- Error writing file: [a file path]
- Error closing file: [a file path]
- EvalCloseSlippage OrderSelect error: close slippage evaluation skipped for ticket #[a ticket number]
- Stop level changed from [a pip value] pips to [a pip value] pips.
  - The broker changed "on the fly" the stop level working parameter of your account. This is very dangerous for your trades and NumberOne stopped working.

Generic information messages

- Spread too high (max = [a pip value] current = [a pip value]) sleeping for a bit.
- Spread sleep time period ended
  - NumberOne goes in a sleep mode when the spread exceed the MAX_SPREAD parameter.

When you purchased the license of this expert advisor you paid with real money, it’s our will and our real interest that you could also gain real money with a wise use of it, every advice wrote in this manual has only this simple purpose.

Note: the information contained herein is provided with the best knowledge of our Company and our trading experience with Experts Advisors. SteadyOnFx s.r.l. assumes no liability for inaccuracies or omissions of any kind.