How to Use the Strategy Ideas Tool

What is the Strategy Ideas Tool?

The Strategy Ideas Tool is designed to help you find specific options trading ideas based on key considerations you select, including sentiment, risk/reward potential, or a specific options strategy.

All examples are for illustrative and educational purposes and are not meant to be construed as recommendations.

How do I search for strategy ideas?

To search for ideas using a risk/reward potential filter, use the buttons on the left side of the page.

You can filter by Outlook, Profit Potential, and Risk Potential. Once you apply a filter, the tool will highlight the applicable options strategies on the right side of the page.

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How do I filter for a particular strategy?

If you prefer to filter for specific types of single- or multi-leg options strategies, you can select any of the 17 strategies on the right side of the page.

Once you have selected a strategy, educational content is available to help you learn more about how that strategy works. For instance, Covered Call is selected in the screenshot on the left side of this page. There is a description of the strategy, information on why a trader might use a covered call, the option approval level required, and an example of a covered call strategy with a P/L chart.

If you are already familiar with the strategy or have finished reading about it, you can click the dropdown box in the top left corner of the section to hide this content.

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TOP 50 RESULTS

ADJUST SCAN PARAMETERS

Enter Underlying [   ]   Days to Expiration [60 Days or Less ▼]   [Apply] [Reset]
                Find a Symbol

Call spreads with favorable risk/reward characteristics.   AS OF 9:34:58AM ET 09/20/2012   ⟳ Refresh Data

Stock Symbol	Stock Price	Expiration	Long Strike	Short Strike	Net Credit/(Debit)	Payout Ratio	IV30	
⊞ GOOG	722.63	11/17/2012	785.00	800.00	-2.70	5.56 to 1	28.48	Action ▼
⊞ GLD	170.94	11/17/2012	177.00	182.00	-1.06	4.72 to 1	16.47	Action ▼
⊞ PCLN	633.69	10/20/2012	665.00	680.00	-3.40	4.41 to 1	26.87	Action ▼
⊞ AAPL	698.48	10/20/2012	730.00	740.00	-2.30	4.35 to 1	23.09	Action ▼
⊞ MA	450.50	10/20/2012	470.00	475.00	-1.21	4.13 to 1	19.41	Action ▼
⊞ CF	219.90	11/17/2012	240.00	245.00	-1.22	4.10 to 1	30.34	Action ▼
⊞ CLF	41.10	11/17/2012	45.00	50.00	-1.23	4.07 to 1	55.55	Action ▼

Once you've selected the appropriate filters, the Strategy Ideas Tool will generate real-time results that meet your criteria in a table format. Above the results set, there is a short description of the filtering criteria used to generate the results.

The results will show both the underlying stock and the specific option trades that you can use to implement your strategy. Prices, volatility, potential return information, and upcoming dividends are also displayed to aid your decision-making process. The columns displayed in the result set will vary based upon the strategy selected.

TOP 50 RESULTS

ADJUST SCAN PARAMETERS

Enter Underlying [   ]   Days to Expiration [60 Days or Less ▼]   [Apply] [Reset]
                  Find a Symbol

High implied volatility relative to recent historical volatility.   AS OF 10:03:00AM ET 09/20/2012   ↯ Refresh Data

Stock Symbol	Stock Price	Expiration	Strike Price	Call Bid	Ex-Date	Dividend	Stand Still Return	Call Delta	If-Called Return	Call Bid IV	HV Index	IV Index	Average Stock Volume	
⊞ MAKO	19.04	11/17/2012	22.50	1.25		0.00	6.57%	0.37	24.77%	79.88	53.76	84.17	1,877,096	Action ▼
⊞ FXEN	7.67	10/20/2012	10.00	0.50		0.00	6.52%	0.34	36.90%	136.02	55.98	120.56	343,328	Action ▼
⊞ JCP	26.80	11/17/2012	29.00	1.42	10/05/2012	0.20	6.05%	0.39	14.27%	53.02	32.14	55.49	9,188,288	Action ▼
⊞ NPSP	8.63	10/20/2012	11.00	0.50		0.00	5.79%	0.32	33.26%	124.58	38.67	118.21	888,548	Action ▼
⊞ BSFT	39.66	11/17/2012	45.00	2.00		0.00	5.04%	0.36	18.51%	61.87	45.76	69.21	774,098	Action ▼
⊞ MWW	8.06	10/20/2012	10.00	0.40		0.00	4.97%	0.31	29.11%	108.00	57.04	99.83	3,456,948	Action ▼
⊞ ISIS	14.92	10/20/2012	16.00	0.70		0.00	4.69%	0.39	11.89%	67.70	37.03	66.13	1,136,249	Action ▼
⊞ CLSN	5.57	10/20/2012	6.00	0.25		0.00	4.49%	0.35	12.21%	79.83	59.34	99.74	906,013	Action ▼
⊞ RVBD	21.88	10/20/2012	24.00	0.92		0.00	4.20%	0.36	13.89%	68.50	31.26	64.63	3,779,457	Action ▼
⊞ CRUS	43.04	10/20/2012	46.00	1.75		0.00	4.07%	0.38	10.94%	59.38	36.05	59.85	2,783,026	Action ▼
⊞ LF	8.79	10/20/2012	10.00	0.35		0.00	3.98%	0.33	17.75%	76.63	55.64	83.81	1,217,692	Action ▼
⊞ EGHT	6.46	11/17/2012	7.50	0.25		0.00	3.87%	0.31	20.06%	56.10	25.20	58.65	836,063	Action ▼
⊞ USG	22.73	10/20/2012	24.00	0.85		0.00	3.74%	0.39	9.33%	53.69	36.65	54.24	3,089,868	Action ▼
⊞ BKS	12.04	10/20/2012	13.00	0.45		0.00	3.74%	0.38	11.76%	58.59	40.49	66.68	884,996	Action ▼
⊞ DDD	34.92	11/17/2012	40.00	1.30		0.00	3.72%	0.30	18.27%	57.27	38.14	61.59	1,136,492	Action ▼
⊞ NKTR	9.68	11/17/2012	11.00	0.35		0.00	3.62%	0.34	17.31%	52.42	31.74	65.22	939,772	Action ▼

You are able to further filter the results by entering an underlying symbol or choosing the Days to Expiration. Refresh the results by clicking Refresh Data in the top right corner of the results section.

If you already know that you want to trade using a specific strategy for a specific underlying security, you can select a strategy, then enter the underlying symbol in the Enter Underlying box.

There are dropdown menus to the left of each result, allowing you to view additional information on the underlying security, including a quote, volatility figures, and the industry and sector. Clicking on the Action menu to the right for a specific strategy result gives you the ability to conduct additional research or place a trade. Many investors use the Strategy Ideas Tool as a preliminary way to generate a trading idea. Once you've honed in on potential trades, you can evaluate their likelihood of success using the Probability Calculator or the P/L Calculator. You might also view the Key Statistics page to gain more context on market sentiment for the options series before submitting the trade.

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Strategy Table

	MARKET OUTLOOK			RISK			PROFIT		
	Bullish	Neutral	Bearish	Unlimited	Limited	Substantial	Unlimited	Limited	Substantial
Covered Calls	x	x				x		x	
Iron Condor		x			x			x	
Long Vertical Calls	x				x			x	
Short Vertical Calls		x	x		x			x	
Long Vertical Puts			x		x			x	
Short Vertical Puts	x	x			x			x	
Long Straddles	x		x		x		x		
Short Straddles		x		x				x	
Cash Covered Puts	x	x				x		x	
Time Spread Calls		x			x			x	
Time Spread Puts		x			x			x	
Time Spread Earnings									
Collars		x	x		x			x	
Butterfly	x	x			x			x	
Double Diagonal		x			x			x	

Criteria and inputs are at the sole discretion of the user and are provided solely for the user's convenience. Fidelity does not endorse or adopt any particular investment strategy and does not provide any warranties regarding results obtained from its use.

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Options trading entails significant risk and is not appropriate for all investors. Prior to trading options, you must receive a copy of Characteristics and Risks of Standardized Options, which is available from Fidelity Investments, and be approved for options trading. Supporting documentation for any claims, if applicable, will be furnished upon request.