

BERKELEY IQ-TRADER

BROKERS CONTINUE TO OFFER EVER GREATER CHARTING POWER TO THEIR CLIENTS.

It's common practice for brokers and spread-betting companies to offer non-execution related services in an effort to pull in new customers. One of the ways they do this is by offering charting analytics and trading software as a part of their online offering.

Berkeley Futures, one of the UK leading independent brokerages, has now upped the ante with its new Berkeley IQ-Trader, a front-end system designed for institutional and private traders alike.

Berkeley IQ-Trader gives Berkeley Futures' clients the ability to develop, backtest, optimise and automatically implement technical trading strategies of great complexity, on the world's futures and options markets without any need for programming knowledge.

As such, Berkeley IQ-Trader can be used to support a wide range of trading styles, including algorithmic trading, system trading, automated trading and scalping.

To explain the advantages of using IQ-Trader, three key aspects of the system stand out: automation; charting analytics; backtesting & optimisation.

Simplicity of automation

IQ-Trader is designed to perform complex operations that would normally require a high level of programming knowledge. This is all thanks to an easy-to-use programming language called Express. Whatever your trading strategy, everything can be done with a click of the mouse. There is a choice of manual or automatic entry and you can place orders directly from charts, create exit strategies with stops and bracket



Figure 1.

orders, and use fully automated entries and exits. Profit targets and stops can be set up simultaneously with the order, or they can be automated for a set number of points, percentage gain, or even ATR multiples. Another valued feature is 'TradeGuard', where you can set up multiple types of stops so, slip-page aside, you should never exceed your predetermined loss levels. There is even an 'emergency exit all positions and cancel open orders' function.

Powerful charting analytics

A wide variety of charts and studies can be used to build your trades. Powerful charting tools such as Bollinger Bands, candlesticks, and Fibonacci retracements are all included. The functionality is intuitive, allowing you to create individual studies and layouts with filters, drawing tools and trading aids called sentimentors. Information can be dragged and dropped into charts, building up a trading profile and then used to place orders directly from the charts. Colour-coded indicators assist by identifying breakout, support and resistance levels (see Figure 1).

Sentimentors are an interesting and

very useful feature of the front-end. They can be described as a key indicator or a trading insight, and they provide a 'sentiment' value in a numerical range. The value is linked to a point in time for a particular underlying feature; these features could be interest rates, a specific market, or perhaps business news. You can program the sentiment-

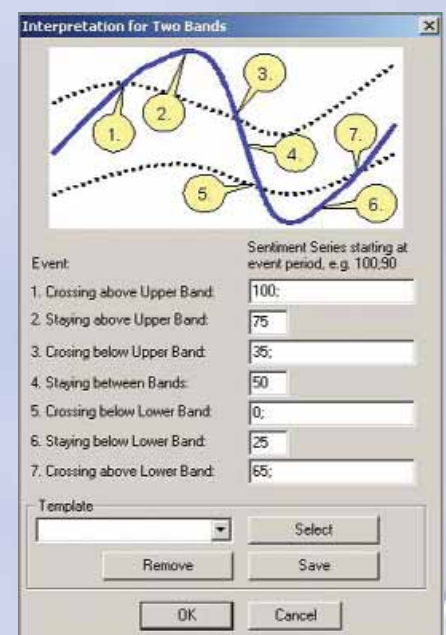


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

“I recommend this system to those who require a platform that can accurately trade moves in multiple markets with speed and efficiency in both small and large volumes.”

- Lisa Jarvis is an investment adviser at ABN Amro Morgans Ltd, and provides advice on equities and options.

tors or create them manually (Figure 2), and you can combine a range of different sentimentors to form a so-called meta-sentimentor (Figure 3). The meta sentimentor shapes the overall strategy or study, based on an analysis of all the elements, and stop techniques and filters can be used to enhance it.

Backtesting and optimisation

Backtesting enables the user to examine potential trades using historical data, based on a given strategy, to see how the trades might have performed in the past. Once you have backtested a strategy and are satisfied it has performed well, you can begin optimising it so that you have the most effective setting for a particular strategy. Another useful feature is walk-forward testing, which allows you to continually re-optimize as new data is collected.

Summary

Technology that automates trades and minimises manual intervention is much in demand today, particularly with the tide of new regulations promised by MiFid (the EC's markets in financial instruments directive). These regulations will change the way derivatives (as well as equities and bonds) are traded in

Europe and place a premium on solutions that reduce operational risk and eliminate the errors that creep in with manual processing. Berkeley IQ-Trader is therefore not just a sophisticated front-end system, it's also an application that is very much in tune with the times.

Berkeley Futures Ltd is based in the West End of London and has been offering dealing services in derivatives since 1986.

Berkeley IQ-trader is part of a suite of products provided by Berkeley On-line which is a trading name of Berkeley Futures Ltd. Berkeley Futures Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. For more information on Berkeley IQ trader or to register for a free demo please contact Marc Quinn on + 44 (0) 207 7758 4777 or by email at mquinn@bfl.co.uk or please see their website www.bfl.co.uk.

Berkeley Futures will be exhibiting Berkeley IQ-Trader in conjunction with the CBOT® at the Technical Analyst European Conference 2006, London 8th/ 9th February 2006.

Key Facts

IQ-Trader was originally released in June 2005 by Patsystems, the independent software vendor. Berkeley IQ Trader is the same front-end system, but connected to Berkeley Futures online brokerage services. Three versions of Berkeley IQ-Trader are available to Berkeley Futures clients: Standard, Advanced and Premier:

Standard

- Advanced charting
- Chart trade indicators
- Chart order entry
- Fills and orders visualised in charts
- Bracket orders
- Trendline stops
- Ladder order entry
- Order management
- Paper trading
- Latest market news
- 24 hour online help facility & support

Advanced

- As standard, plus
- Automated trading
- Trading signals from indicators
- Strategy backtesting
- Strategy optimisation
- Position management on signals

Premium

- As Advanced, plus
- Inter-product spreading
- Strategy scripting tool (Express)
- Strategy simulation tool

Data requirements

Berkeley Futures provides the real-time data and brokerage service, which includes access to UK, European, US and most worldwide Futures and Options exchanges. Users however will need to subscribe to either eSignal or Fides for the historical data. Out of the two data providers, Berkeley Futures encourages connectivity to FIDES.