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# Vol. 8 No. 1 January 2013 FUTURES, FOREX, & STOCKS

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### **Squaring Time with Extreme Top or Bottom Price**

What does this squaring price with time mean? If you go to the internet and do a search on just those words you will come up with numerous authors and publications with explanations detailing their version of a mathematical theory presented by W.D. Gann in the early 1900's. Facts are he had more than one way to do this. So, there is a good possibility most of the books or compositions have some validity. The version I will explain is in my opinion, one of the most powerful and one I use in my trading.

An important point to square time with is the extreme high price. The time period must be carried across from the high of the daily, weekly or monthly charts, and the square of the top price in time must be noted and watched for a change in trend. If the top of a security is 100, then once it has moved over 100 days, 100 weeks or 100 months, it has reached its square in time and an important change is indicated. This can be determined by the position of the angles from top and bottom. I will not cover the angle analysis at this time. The chart below is of the AUD-JPY currency pair shows how the high, of exactly 100, which was made in May of 1997, squared out in time when carried out to the 100th month. A major low was made and a big move up followed.

Both major and minor tops and bottoms on all time periods must be watched as they square out as time moves right along. Most important of all is the extreme high point on the monthly chart. This may be a very high price and may take a very long time period before it squares out with the top, in which case you have to divide the price into eight equal time periods and watch the most important points like the 1/4, 1/2, 3/4. The 1/3 time frame should also be watched, but most important of all is when time equals price.

When you are watching the time of a security after it has squared out from a top, always look up the time period from the opposite direction (a low). In other words, if market price is nearing a low point and squaring out a top, see how its relationship is to previous lows as it might be in the second or third square from a bottom which would be a double indication for a change in trend. This is much more powerful.



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While Gann divided these squared numbers of time into eights, he did the same with significant price ranges. Look for support and resistance levels there. For example, dividing the low to high price range after a substantial upswing, the most important divisions would be the high, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (the midpoint) and the low. The next most important would be <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> increments which is 0.25 and 0.75. Next would be 1/3, 2/3 (.33, .66) and then 3/8 and 5/8. Expressed in decimals, 3/8 is 0.375 and 5/8 is 0.625, which are very close to the Fibonacci ratios of 0.382 and 0.618.

#### Using the Square Root of a High or Low

When price from a Top or Bottom is an extremely high number, we can use the square root of these tops and bottoms to look for trend change. This is a technique that is especially helpful when you have a very high number for a top or bottom such as the EURO-USD lowest low in the past 13 years. This number of .8225 which was made in October of 2000. When squared out in time, we would have to go out 8225 months, weeks, days to get any kind of indication on the charts. Let's do the math. 8225 months is 685 years, 8225 weeks is 158 years and 8225 days is 22.5 years. I don't know about you, but I do not have the patience to wait that long.

Now if we do the square root of 8225 it comes out to 90.69. In months that is 7.55 years. Let's look at a chart on page 5 to see what happened 7.55 years from the October 2000 low. The chart below shows this technique came within a few pips of the all time high in the EUR-USD and within a week of the high.

The evidence that this works, is in the monthly chart above. The all time high of the EURO-USD was set in between April and the beginning of July of 2008. I am using Gecko Software's Track 'n Trade 5.0 and one of my favorite features of this program is the "BAR CALCULATOR". I love this tool. You can start from any point and go forward or back in time and get a count on any time frame. You can get monthly, weekly, daily, or intraday bar counts. When doing Gann's work this tool is INVALUABLE.

Let's look at 90.69 weeks (p.6). This is 1.74 years. From the October 2000 low 90.69 weeks out comes out to July of 2002. The chart below shows that a major high was set in at that time.



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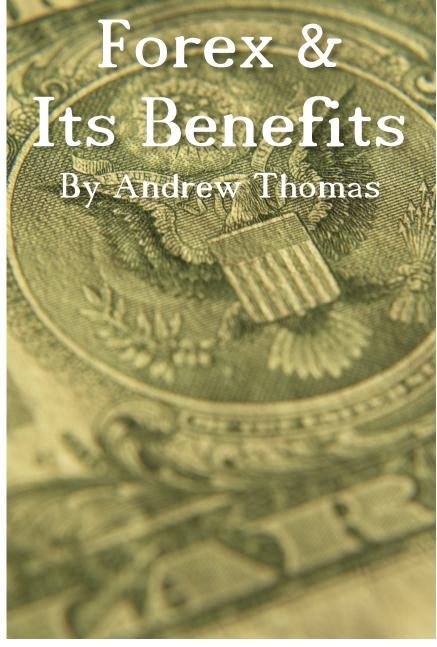
How about days? Let's look at the day count. 90 days out is January of 2001. The Daily chart below is the third strong piece of evidence which makes this type of analysis worth looking into.



These numbers can be broken down into 1/8, 1/4 or 1/2 1/3. I prefer to use the 1/2 when doing day counts and 1/4 when using weekly and monthly count. However, there are some numbers once a square root is done are very low and should only be broken down to 1/2. When this occurs, trade the 50% in time. You can also use 1/3 and 2/3 with your timing. This will be more powerful if the high or low number is divisible by 3.

When doing this type of analysis, it is good to have a spread sheet with the formulas in place so all you have to do is insert the date and price and the calculations and dates to watch will be there in an instant. Make sure the high or low being used is a significant one. It doesn't necessarily have to be the all time high or low, but a significant one on the charts. This can usually be seen on the weekly charts. Or when doing intra-day work look on the daily charts. I hope this tutorial helps you in your trading. Good luck and good trading.

Gene Nowell has been involved with commodity trading since 1980. Over the past 31 years he has traded most of the items offered on the Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago Merchantile Exchange, New York Merc, New York Comex, and a few others. During the late 1980's he worked as an associate broker for an Agricultural Firm near Chicago.



avigating your way through any of the financial markets can be overwhelming. The trepidation experienced from the extremities of high altitude dropping down to low, can cause even the most steadfast person to feel queasy.

Many investors have tried and tried, but find it difficult to trade the financial markets due to their hectic high-flying lifestyles, especially when trading is limited to specific days and timeframes within each week. In a society where we want everything NOW, we have no desire to be kept waiting - there is 'on demand' TV viewing - so why not with trading? Well, actually there is! This is exactly what the spot Forex offers 24 hour trading for 6 days each and every week. It's rarely even closed on public holidays.

This feature, plus the many other benefits like these:

- massive leverage,
- huge volatility (large price movement)
- profit from both directions
- small spreads
- no brokerage
- 24 hour trading
- high liquidity

are attracting millions of speculators to this 'jumbo jet' of the financial market place. It transacts over a staggering \$2.5 TRILLION dollars every single day. It's fast becoming the trading 'vehicle' of choice - this baby is made up of over 95% of speculators and dwarfs many of the stock exchanges combined together.

### **Central Trading Centres**

The Forex today is a modernized platform, dealing currencies through central trading centrs out of most major cities. It could be compared to a large

international airport and its flight paths.

- the pilots are the traders, all with varying degrees of knowledge and experience
- the passengers and their connecting flights are like the exchange of contracts or shares between traders
- the plane is like the Trading Plan, it provides the blueprint that facilitates the technologies, systems and faculties bringing them together to form a successful and seamless flight through the market, a flight that can be turbulent one minute then gentle next.

### **Currency Pairs**

Everyone is aware that each country has a different currency, but generally does not give the exchange rates much thought during their day to day lives unless they fly from one country to another on holidays, or are purchasing goods internationally. Currency trading is simply the simultaneous buying and selling of one currency against another. These two currencies together are known as a 'currency pair'. (This can be a little strange at first as share or derivative traders are used to buying shares within a company, or contracts over a price derived from an underlying market.)

As an example, the most popular pair is the Euro and the US Dollar, which is quoted in their codes as -EUR/USD. This means, if the Euro is rising, then the US Dollar is falling in comparison. The first quoted is the 'base' currency, and the second is the 'counter' currency. The profit/loss is quoted in the 'counter' currency - so if you were trading the EUR/USD, the profit/loss is quoted in US Dollars.

### **Majors & Crosses**

The main currencies traded with the highest volumes are known as the 'Majors', (around 85% of market participants trade these), and are certainly the best place to trade to ensure good liquidity, (the ease of entering and exiting the market at a price closest to what you want).

### The Majors are as follows:

The other, not so liquid pairs, are known as the 'crosses':

# NZD/JPY, AUD/JPY, GBP/JPY EUR/JPY, EUR/GBP, EUR/CHF.

The best trading hours are between 7:30pm EST and 9:00am EST. Not to say that there isn't opportunity available outside of these times, it is just that the market generally has less movement as the main volume of traders are asleep.

New York trades from 7.30am - 5.00pm EST; then Auckland, Sydney and Wellington trade from 3.00pm to 11.00pm EST; and finally Hong Kong & Singapore trade from 7.00pm to 3.00am.

Check out this site to see what is open according to your local time zone.

### http://forex.timezoneconverter.com/

### PIPs

The Forex jargon is slightly different to trading other markets. Price movement is quoted in PIPs, which is short for 'Price in Points' and are only a fraction of a cent, so are quite tiny, and the very reason for such large leverage in Forex trading to make the profits on these small price movements worthy. Prices are displayed like this: 1.2020

The PIP is read as the last digit on the right, so if the market increased by 4 pips the price would now be quoted as: 1.2024

If the market increased by 1,000 pips the markets new price would be displayed instead as: 1.3020

The only differently quoted currency is the Japanese Yen which looks like this: 108.53

### Leverage & Limited Risk

A great feature of the foreign exchange is the

| EUR/USD | Euro / US Dollar                       |
|---------|--|
| AUD/USD | Australian Dollar (Aussie) / US Dollar |
| GBP/USD | UK Sterling (Cable) / US Dollar        |
| USD/JPY | US Dollar / Japanese Yen               |
| NZD/USD | New Zealand Dollar (Kiwi) / US Dollar  |
| USD/CAD | US Dollar / Canada (Loonie)            |
| USD/CHF | US Dollar / Swiss Franc (Swizzy)       |

phenomenal leverage. And what I like is that every Forex flight passenger is given a parachute so worst case scenario they fall safely to the ground, (not 6 feet below).

What I am referring to is, the risk is 'limited' - as a maximum you can only lose the balance of your trading account.

I know of many 'horror' stories of traders within other markets (like Futures and

### **Time Zones**

Although this powerful beast is a 24 hour market, a trader still needs to be mindful that the time frames when the major countries time zones overlap bring higher activity and more chance for profit. The major centers are New York, Tokyo and London. Derivatives) who were stupidly trading without a Stop Loss, (a predetermined level where their position is automatically closed out should the market go against their favor), who logged into their account to find that the market had plummeted and they were in the red far below the amount they initially had within their account. One guy had to sell his home to fund the loss. Now that is absolutely crazy! When I trade, I want to sleep well at night.

If you have ever been up and down all night peaking at your trades because you are worried that the market might go against you, you will understand the anxiety that can go with this. This is absolutely absurd behavior, and really something that isn't required. It is simply causing you unnecessary worry.

Leverage means you put down a 'margin' also known as a 'deposit' and then borrow the rest. The leverage can be as small as 50:1 (even less), right up to as much as 400:1 - putting this into figures would mean if you had \$10,000 you could have a total exposure of \$500,000 (50:1) up to \$4,000,000 (400:1) to trade with.

And remember, be smart about your leveraging, both knowledge and ignorance can be leveraged...and you don't want it to be the latter!

Before you go jumping out of the plane without a parachute, it's best to start small before moving into larger leverage, so request lower leverage in your account. Prove to yourself that you can make consistent profits on a lower leverage before you bump things up a little.

Finding a negative balance suddenly within your account cannot happen within the Forex market, as the Brokers have margin policies that need to be upheld to keep positions open, otherwise they automatically close out your positions.

### **Margin Policies**

As a trader, it is your responsibility to ensure that your positions are monitored. Should they get close to your Brokers margin policy minimum then you need to either put more capital into your account, or increase your leverage (which decreases your margin).

Some brokers will close out all your positions regardless if they are a losing trade or in profit - so be mindful of this and check out your brokers margin policy carefully, otherwise you would be very disappointed to be closed out of a good trade, one that could have made up for the losses of the bad ones that brought you into the losing situation in the first place. Your trading platform may have an alert system that makes you aware your account is getting low, however when the markets are moving fast there may not be enough time for you to make any adjustments.

### Lots

Currencies are traded by 'Lot' sizes. There are two

types of accounts; a Standard account and a Mini account. The difference between the two is the minimum lot sizes available to trade.

- Standard Account minimum is 100,000 currency units (1 lot).
- Mini Account minimum is 10,000 currency units (1 lot).

If a trader was to have a Standard Account and open 5 lots they would effectively have a position of 500,000 currency units; whereas, a Mini account would have 50,000 currency units.

### **Spreads**

No Commissions or Brokerage charges! No, brokers aren't charities, they are there to make money just like everyone else - so before you think that you aren't paying anything out, you certainly are.

The spread is how the brokers make their money. Most brokers advertise that they do not charge commissions or brokerage, which is correct, but it sounds like they aren't taking a cut for themselves. As a trader we need to learn to read between the lines.

When trading stocks both a spread and brokerage are charged to the trader, but for currency traders, most of the time just a spread is charged. Spreads are generally not fixed so can widen during times when news is released, so it is not a definite amount. Some Forex brokers are charging a flat brokerage rate so the charge is a little more transparent.

The dealing spread is the price difference between the Bid and the Ask. You will see these two prices quoted on your dealing screen which are moving all the time.

So if the quote is 1.5755 and 1.5758 then that means the difference is a 3 pip spread.

Which ultimately means if you were to enter this market 'long', (the intention to profit from a rising market), and you sold immediately before the prices could change - then effectively the transaction has cost you 3 pips.

### **Calculating Pips**

The best way to calculate the pips is to simply remove 4 zeros from the end of the currency lots that you have open for your positions that have four decimal places and if it is a trade in the Yen with only two decimal places then only remove two zeros.

For example if you had a 500,000 currency units (5 LOTS) and were trading the EUR/USD, you would

need to remove 4 of the zeros starting from the right, then you would end up with 50.

- This figure 50 would translate into \$50 (per pip).
- •Therefore if your position were to increase by 15 pips, your profit would calculate as follows;  $$50 \times 15 = $750$ .

## Long & Short

When the markets have climbed up to the highest altitude of prices that anyone is prepared to pay, all participants then start to become fearful and buyers stop buying, and eventually there are more sellers than buyers so prices start to lose velocity and plummet back downward. The sellers have to lower their prices until they can attract a buyer.



This is what I love about the financial markets - profits are NOT ONLY made when prices rise.

Impossible you say? Well I can understand if you think this concept sounds completely off into the clouds, but this sort of strategy allows savvy traders to pilot their planes into more profits regardless of market direction.

The first thing you need to ensure you have your head around, if you don't already understand this concept, is how profits are made regardless of direction. Obviously it is the difference between your opening price and your closing price.

Going Long: This is what most people are familiar with, the price moves upwards and the trader profits. To open their position they clicked on the BUY button on their trading platform.

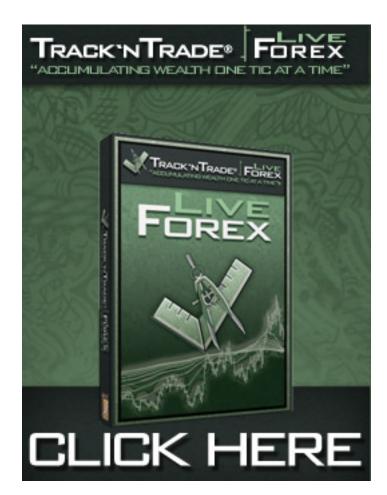
If a trader goes 'long' and opens a position at 1.0100 and then closes their position at 1.0200, then the 'difference' between their opening and closing prices is 100 pips profit.

Going Short or Short Trading: This means the trader intends to profit from falling prices. So to open their position they need to first click the SELL button. Then to close out this position to bring it once again to a neutral state they need to click on the 'buy' button indicating the exact same amount of lots as originally opened.

So if this trader goes 'short' and opens a position by selling into the market at 1.0100 and the price falls down to 1.0000 where they close out their position, the difference between their opening and closing prices is 100 pips profit.

This is just one of the beautiful benefits where the trader doesn't need to search for another investment vehicle when prices decline; they just need to reverse their position to take advantage of the new trend.

I hope you enjoyed this introduction to the Forex market, happy trading!





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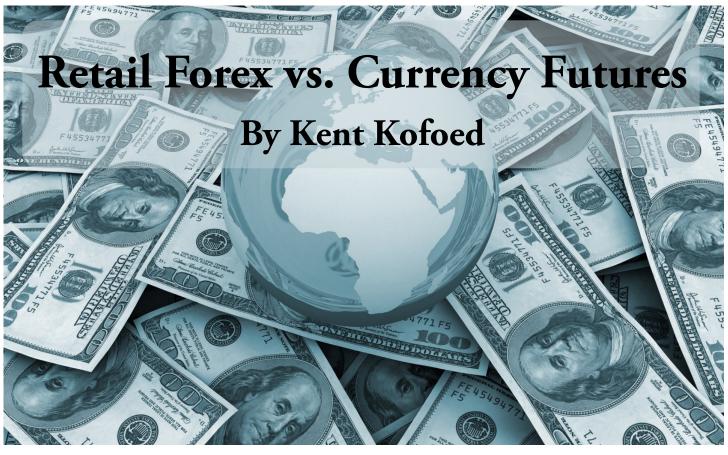
This Month's Off the Wall Chart comes from Country Boy Ron



Flirting with the 50EMA, the brown line. The SSTO turning up along with %R. MACD says down but the price has gone up 3weeks and working on the 4th week, so Div.??? We will see, up, up and away-maybe just waiting for the report out this week. We will see, but maybe not- you must decide.

Get into the action! Start posting on The Wall, and maybe you'll see your article or chart highlighted here in our next issue of PitNews.com Magazine!

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hen a retail investor wants to trade currencies, there are a few different choices that an investor has in order to achieve exposure to various currencies. The typical markets include the retail Forex market (which is the market that most investors are probably familiar with), the currency futures market (which most investors are less likely to be familiar with) and currency ETFs. In this article I am going to focus on the difference between the retail Forex and currency futures (currency ETFs are not being covered in this article because they typically consist of currency futures and/or cash deposits in the currency that the ETF tracks).

The main difference between the retail Forex and currency futures is that retail Forex tracks the current "spot" price of a given currency pair, at a given moment in time, and that currency futures are contracts where each party agrees to exchange one currency for another currency, on a specific future date. Essentially, retail Forex trades at the current "market" price of the currency in question, whereas currency futures trade at a specified "contract" price (which is dependent on other variables such as exercise price, time until expiration, interest rates, etc.) and the actual "spot" transaction takes place when the contract expires. In addition to these two main differences, there are also other reasons to trade one over the other and each of these reasons will be discussed below.

### Leverage:

Retail Forex definitely beats currency futures when it comes to the total amount of allowable leverage. Retail Forex, in the United States, will typically be around 50:1 (in other countries, leverage can sometimes be as high as 400:1 for international brokers). Currency futures, on the other hand, will typically have less leverage (which is dependent on the amount of margin required by the futures exchange).

Although more leverage can mean more risk, the additional leverage that is allowable in Retail Forex can definitely help boost returns (assuming that the trade went as planned).

### **Trading-related Costs:**

When trading retail Forex, the actual costs of trading are "indirect" costs and will usually come in the form of a bid/ask spread. The bid/ask spread is stated in a number of pips (a "pip" is the smallest increment in which a currency pair can move) and will typically be dependent on the liquidity in the currency that is being traded. Currency futures, on the other hand, have "direct" costs that will usually be in the form of commissions/fees (commissions for currency futures are similar to the commissions that are charged on other futures contracts).

Since both the bid/ask spread and the commissions charged vary, no direct comparison can be made so it is important to pay attention to all of the costs that are involved (i.e., both "direct" and "indirect" costs).

## Liquidity:

The total amount of daily trading volume that occurs in the retail Forex market definitely dwarfs the daily trading volume of the currency futures markets, and this gives the retail Forex market a liquidity advantage over currency futures. Additionally, currency futures liquidity tends to dry up when the contract is getting close to expiration and this means that investors will need to roll over their position if they want to maintain their current level of exposure. When trading retail Forex there is no contract expiration and the position can be maintained indefinitely, which also provides additional benefits in favor of retail Forex, over currency futures, to investors who are longer-term traders.

When it comes to liquidity retail Forex definitely has the most benefits out of the two, and, in addition to the greater liquidity that is inherent in the retail Forex market, the ability to maintain a position, without needing to roll over your position near the expiration of the contract, also helps reduce costs. **Summary:** 

In summary, retail Forex typically has smaller capital requirements (i.e., more leverage), greater flexibility in regards to lot sizes (i.e., the total capital required, in order to enter into a position, is smaller), no "direct" costs, and greater liquidity. Currency futures, on the other hand, are starting to gain some traction and liquidity has been increasing. Many investors are starting to value having the security of their contracts being traded through a clearinghouse (which is not the case with retail Forex), especially with the many failures that occurred during the recent financial crisis. Additionally, most currency futures contracts have standardized options that give traders the ability to easily manage their risk (retail Forex options are typically non-standardized OTC contracts), which can definitely be very beneficial.

Kent Kofoed is a technical analysis specialist, as well as an individual trader, who has a Bachelor's in Business Administration, from Utah State University, and a Master's in Security Analysis and Portfolio Management, from Creighton University. Additionally, Kent is a level II candidate in the CFA program, a graduate student in the Master of Science in Predictive Analytics program at Northwestern University, and a contributing author for PitNews Magazine.

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Learn how, and what to count, and how and what to measure, and how to read each new setup, and how to set up a trigger, then how to follow through with the final exit strategy. Stop watching your portfolio shrink, and start doing something about it? Learn what you can do, in the next 10 days, to protect your wealth!

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