

The Load Day: Buying the Watchlist When QQQ Returns to Its Anchored Line

A research report on the Nexus Trader strategy — five years and ten years of simulated history through 3 September 2026

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Study	The Load Day: Buying the Watchlist When QQQ Returns to Its Anchored Line — the two entry ideas the operator specified, every variation tried, and every test behind the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026
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Runs included	62 over five years and 5 over ten years in the appendix; 100 backtests in all counting the seeded re-runs of section 8.5 and 8.6
Status	COMPLETE — three editions; five independent audits applied (166 corrections)
Edition	Public edition, published 2026-09-09. Identical in every number, table and conclusion to the internal report of 2026-09-09 (third edition); only the framing, internal identifiers and reproduction details differ. The configuration this report recommends is the one the operator adopted on 9 September 2026 and the one the website describes.

Preface to the public edition

This document is the research study behind the performance and risk figures published on the Nexus Trader website since 9 September 2026. It was written for the operator of the strategy and is published here so that anyone reading a figure such as "worst fall –18.10%" can see where it came from, what was tried and rejected on the way to it, and what its limits are.

Everything in it is **simulated**. The results come from running the strategy's rules over recorded market prices, not from an actual account. Simulated results do not include every cost and friction of real trading, and a configuration that was chosen because it did well on a particular history has, by construction, not yet been tested on any other. Sections 8 and 9 say how much weight the numbers can bear.

The configuration this study recommends — the strategy as it was, plus a *load day* on which it buys its Nasdaq-listed watchlist names when the Nasdaq-100 index fund closes on one of its anchored price lines — is the one the operator adopted on 9 September 2026 and the one the website describes; it is called **the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026** or **the adopted configuration** below. The configuration it replaces, adopted

on 5 September 2026 after the summer-2026 loss and described in the study published on 4 September, is called **the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered)**; every figure quoted for it in this report is a comparison figure, not a current claim.

"QQQ" is the exchange-traded fund that tracks the Nasdaq-100 index. The "anchored line" is the volume-weighted average price of QQQ measured from the bottom of its last fall of 15% or more, confirmed six months after the fact; the lines one standard deviation above and below it are the "plus-one" and "minus-one" lines. A "touch" is a day on which QQQ closes within 0.15 standard deviations of one of those lines. Section 3 defines every other term.

1. What this study was for

The operator asked for a strategy that opens positions only when QQQ sits close to one of its long-term anchored-VWAP lines, and nowhere else; and a second, more aggressive one that loads the account to its limit on the day QQQ touches the line. Both keep everything else in the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered): the weekly watchlist, the sizing rule adopted on 5 September, the stop-losses, the profit-protection trailing stops and the 60-day maximum hold.

The two designs, as the operator described them and with the choices the operator settled afterwards:

- **Strategy 1 — entries only near the lines.** New positions may be opened only on days when QQQ is within 0.15 sigma of the main line, the plus-one-sigma line or the minus-one-sigma line. On every other day the strategy holds and manages what it has but buys nothing.
- **Strategy 2 — load up on a touch.** When QQQ touches the line, the strategy ignores the market regime, even risk-off, ignores whether a stock is above its support zone, and buys the Nasdaq-listed names from that week's watchlist in rank order at conviction size until 1.5 times leverage or the 14-position limit is reached. It buys nothing on any other day. Afterwards it manages the positions as usual, except that a risk-off or downtrend regime no longer forces a sale: positions leave only through their stop-loss, the trailing stop, or the maximum hold. Two sizing variants were run: the previous configuration's per-trade risk ceiling kept, and the ceiling lifted to full conviction size.

Both are measured on the full extended history, June 2021 to 3 September 2026, against the previous configuration, which is the reference point every number in this report is compared to.

2. The short version

Neither strategy as the operator specified it is worth adopting. A variation on the second one is, and it is the shape the operator asked for: all three lines, decided at the close, loading once per cluster. This is the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026. It beat the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) on both of the operator's measures in every paired test made of it but one, at every account size, under bad fills, across seeds, and over ten years.

The adopted configuration in one paragraph. Keep everything the previous configuration does. Additionally, on a day QQQ *closes* within 0.15 sigma of its anchored-VWAP line or of the lines one sigma above and below it, and only on the first such day of a cluster, buy the Nasdaq-listed names from that week's watchlist in rank order, ignoring the market regime and the support-zone test, sized by the per-trade sizing rule adopted on 5 September 2026. Exempt only those positions from the risk-off and downtrend exits. That is the whole change.

	Previous configuration	Adopted configuration
Five years, \$18,484	26.2% a year, -20.01%	35.9% a year, -18.10%
At the live account's size, \$7,000	22.9%, -20.02%	36.2%, -17.82%
Under bad fills	19.4%, -21.65%	30.8%, -20.00%
Ten years	22.6% a year, -23.31%	32.1% a year, -19.48%
Six seeds, five years: median growth	24.1%	35.1%
Six seeds: deepest fall of any	-24.14%	-18.72%
Three seeds, ten years: median growth	21.4%	33.1%
Three seeds, ten years: deepest fall	-25.12%, outside the operator's limit	-20.51%

- **Both of the operator's original ideas are rejected.** Restricting entries to days near a line cuts growth from 26.2% a year to between 2.1% and 11.5% and makes the worst fall deeper. Loading on a touch and buying nothing on other days gives 5.0% on the main line and 20.2% on all three, with falls of -24.9% and -27.1%.
- **The operator's question about 1.5 times leverage:** under the sizing rule adopted on 5 September 2026 the account almost never fills. The leverage rail stopped a load on none of 63 main-line loading days and 2 of 181 on three lines. Only lifting the ceiling to full conviction fills the book, and that gives falls of -41.9% and -54.0%.
- **The band the operator asked about barely matters.** Between 0.05 and 0.25 sigma no setting beats 0.15 by more than the study's own noise, and the narrowest and widest bands under the close test are 7.0 and 4.1 points behind it. Requiring the day's range to contain the actual line is the *worst* of those settings, 29.9% a year at -20.71%: precision costs more in loads never made than it gains.
- **Close beats intraday on trust, not on performance.** The two are a tie on the numbers. The close test uses what the strategy already computes at 15:55, needs no minute data, and leaves the trading day free.
- **Loading only on the first day of a cluster is the discovery of the second round.** A single backtest said it was worth 1.3 points, inside the noise. Across six seeds it won every one on growth, and over ten years with seeds it earns the same as loading every day while falling two points less at its deepest, on half as many days.
- **The main line's return is the discovery of the third round, and it corrects this report's second edition.** Read intraday, the main line was a drag. Read at the close and loaded once per cluster, the three-line form is no longer worse than the two-line form: its headline worst fall is shallower everywhere, but only because the two-line form's worst fall is the unfinished summer-2026 decline; inside the completed 2021-22 bear market the three-line form falls 1.5 to 3 points deeper in 14 of 15 pairs. Over ten years it grows faster, over five years slower, and every difference sits inside the study's noise. Three lines was chosen because the operator asked for it and the evidence does not refute it, not because the evidence prefers it; if the operator weights completed bear markets, the two-line form is the safer setting of the same method.
- **What it costs.** In 2026 the adopted configuration earned +16.8% on the ten-year path where the previous configuration earned +45.6%. In the two fast crashes of the decade it fell two to three points further than the previous configuration; in every slow decline it fell far less. Over eleven calendar years it is ahead in eight; 2025 alone was +95.6% against +45.1%.
- **The honest caveat on drawdown.** In most of its runs its worst fall is the completed fall that began in November 2021; only its \$7,000 run and one \$7,000 seed have it in the summer-2026 decline, which had not finished when the data ended and sits within a point of the measured worst. Treat the 4.5 to 7 points of margin to the operator's 25% limit as a floor, not a measured worst case.

3. The words used in this report

Anchored VWAP. A volume-weighted average price that starts counting from one chosen day, the anchor, and never resets. Every day after the anchor, each day's typical price, the average of its high, low and close, is weighed by that day's volume and folded into the running average. The line therefore drifts slowly and represents the average price paid by everyone who traded since the anchor.

The anchor. The lowest close of any fall of 15% or more from a running high. It only becomes the anchor 126 trading days later, once no lower close has appeared. That waiting period means the line is known with about half a year of hindsight, and it jumps to the new anchor on the day the anchor is confirmed. Only one anchor is active at a time, the most recently confirmed. Six anchors covered the last ten years: August 2011, February 2016, December 2018, March 2020, December 2022, and April 2025, which is the one in force today.

Sigma. The volume-weighted spread of typical prices around the line since the anchor, in dollars. Today it is about \$69 for QQQ, so 0.15 sigma is roughly \$10.

The lines. The main line is the anchored VWAP itself. The plus-one and minus-one lines sit one sigma above and below it; plus-two and minus-two sit two sigma away. QQQ spends most of its time between plus one and plus two.

Worked example. Suppose the line is at \$700 and sigma is \$69. The band around the main line runs from \$689.65 to \$710.35. If QQQ closes at \$705 it is inside the band and strategy 1 allows entries that day. If it closes at \$760 it is about 0.87 sigma above the line, so not near the main line, and 0.13 sigma below the plus-one line at \$769, so it is within the plus-one band and entries are also allowed. At \$790 it is 0.3 sigma above plus-one and no line is near: no entries.

Touch. For strategy 2 the operator asked for an intraday touch, the moment QQQ reaches the line, rather than a decision at 15:55. See section 4 for how that is modelled and its limits.

Nasdaq-listed. A stock whose primary listing is on the Nasdaq exchange, whatever index it belongs to. This is what the operator asked for; it is not the same as Nasdaq-100 membership.

Market regime. The strategy's daily read of the broad market: a trend (uptrend, range or downtrend), how wide the daily swings are (compressed, normal or expanded) and a risk state (risk-on, mixed or risk-off). Two of those states matter here: on a *risk-off* day the strategy stops opening positions and sells the ones it has, and in a *downtrend* it opens fewer and smaller. So *downtrend, expanded, risk off* in the worked examples of section 6 means a falling market with unusually wide daily swings, in sell mode.

Conviction size, and the risk ceiling adopted on 5 September 2026. Conviction size is the share of the account the strategy gives a position when it buys with conviction: between 5% and 30%, with 30% the hard ceiling for a single position. The rule adopted on 5 September 2026 overrides it with a risk ceiling — no more than 0.4% of the account may be lost if the stop is hit, once the stop sits more than 3% away — which on this study's loading days takes the median position from about 22% of the account to about 5%. *Full conviction* in the tables below means that risk ceiling is lifted and only the conviction cap remains.

Total open risk. What every open position together would lose if every stop were hit. The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) caps it at 4% of the account; on a loading day the strategies studied here lift that cap, which is why section 4 and section 6 report figures above it.

Entries and trades. An *entry* is a position opened; a *trade* is one that was also closed by 3 September 2026, so it has a profit or loss attached. The previous configuration opened 1,025 positions and closed 1,017 of them; the eight still open at the end count in the account value but not in the profit tables.

Worst fall, growth per year, worst two months, bad fills. As in the earlier drawdown study: the largest drop from a high to a later low; the steady annual rate that reproduces the end result; the largest loss over 44 trading days; and the pessimistic assumption that every gapped stop fills at the next open.

4. What the data allows, and what is modelled

The line is known only in hindsight, and the study respects that. Each day's line and sigma come from the anchor that was already confirmed on that day, so a run never uses a line that the strategy could not have known. When a new anchor is confirmed, 126 trading days after its low, the line jumps; that jump is in the data as it would have been in live trading.

There are no minute bars for QQQ. The one-minute price data available to the study covers about 500 individual stocks in one-year and five-year sets, ending 28 May 2026, but the index itself was never collected. So the moment of an intraday touch cannot be observed anywhere in the five-year window, and the study models it from the daily bar:

- **A touch day** is a day on which QQQ's low-to-high range crosses the band from 0.15 sigma below a line to 0.15 sigma above it, with the line and sigma taken from the previous day's close so nothing from the touch day itself leaks in. This is called the *range* test. It counts more days than the close test, because QQQ can reach a line during the day and close away from it. Over the five-year window the range test finds 90 touch days of the main line in 22 clusters, and 296 days of any of the three lines in 59 clusters; the close test finds 58 and 193 — the counts the close-test runs themselves recorded. (A separate offline reconstruction, which takes each line from the previous day's close and stops on 31 August 2026, gives 59 and 192.)
- **One session in the five years has no watchlist and is skipped: Tuesday 31 May 2022.** That week's scanner report is dated 31 May because Memorial Day pushed the build to the Tuesday, and the strategy never trades on a watchlist built the same day, so the run has no 31 May. The price data for the day exists and is not missing; the session simply has no watchlist in force. It was a main-line touch day, so the counts above are 90 and 296 as the runs saw them and 91 and 297 as the market traded them. Four sessions are skipped this way in the ten-year runs, and every configuration skips exactly the same ones, so no comparison in this report is affected.
- **The fill** on a touch day is the strategy's standard one: the 15:55 closing price plus a quarter of a percent of slippage. The alternative, filling at the next morning's open, was rejected because it is a session later than the operator asked for, crosses the overnight gap, and would need a new fill path in the strategy's backtesting engine.
- **Strategy 1** was run under both tests, close and range, so the choice of test can be seen in the results.

What is not modelled. The minute at which QQQ touched the line; the price each stock was trading at in that minute; a stop-loss being hit later the same day after an intraday load; and QQQ passing through the band and leaving it again before the close. On a day when QQQ touches the line from above and keeps falling, the close fill is better than the touch-minute fill would have been; on a day it touches from below and keeps rising, worse. The direction of that bias is known for each day; its size is not.

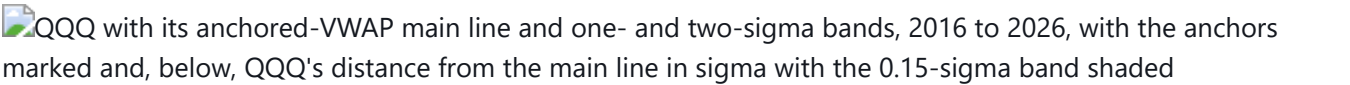
Nasdaq-listed. The scanner data carries one listing exchange per stock, as of 2026, for the whole history. Two stocks in the watchlist changed listing during the window and are corrected by an override table. Linde (LIN), labelled Nasdaq today, was on the NYSE until 6 November 2023, so it is not counted as a Nasdaq name before that; Garmin (GRMN), labelled NYSE today, was on Nasdaq until 6 December 2021, so it is counted as a Nasdaq name until then — although GRMN only reaches the watchlist in March 2026, so that override never binds. Seven more members were individually verified as having made no transfer inside the window. That screen was run on the 241-name watchlist from the earlier copy of the data; the watchlist these runs actually used holds 246 names, so 237 rest on the exchange label alone, and seven of those (AJG, DG, GIS, MRK, PSX, TGT and TMO, all labelled NYSE) were never screened at all. No loaded position in any run came from an overridden stock.

Sizing on a load day. Under the strategy's per-trade risk ceiling the median loaded position is about 5% of the account, but the ceiling only binds when the stop is wide: about three loaded positions in ten are 20% to 30% of the account, and more than half of all loading days contain at least one of them. With usually only one to four Nasdaq names eligible on a touch day the book still rarely gets near 1.5 times leverage: it did so on none of 63 load days on the main line and on two of 181 on the three lines. Only the full-conviction variant, with the ceiling lifted, fills the account, and it does so with 7.5% of the account at risk to the stops at the median and 11.4% at worst on the main line, and 7.0% and 12.9% on the three lines. The strategy's live limit on the total risk of all its open positions is 4% of the account, so the median full-conviction load is nearly twice that limit and the worst is about three times it.

One note on the data copy used. The study's runs read the frozen 5 September 2026 copy of the company-filings data; the original run of the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered), made on 4 September, read the earlier copy. The previous-configuration figures used in every table therefore come from a re-run of that configuration on the same frozen copy, so the comparison is like for like.

5. What the lines looked like, and how often they were touched

The lines below were rebuilt with the strategy's backtesting engine's own calculations from the daily price bars the backtests use, so they are exactly what the software would have seen on each day, including the half-year wait before a new anchor takes over. The reconstruction matches the engine's value on every one of the 2,581 days.

QQQ with its anchored-VWAP main line and one- and two-sigma bands, 2016 to 2026, with the anchors marked and, below, QQQ's distance from the main line in sigma with the 0.15-sigma band shaded

The anchors in force over the ten years. Each row is a 15%-or-deeper fall whose low became the anchor once 126 trading days had passed without a lower close.

Anchor (the low)	In force from	Until
19 August 2011	start of the window	9 August 2016
9 February 2016	9 August 2016 (126 trading days after the low)	26 June 2019
24 December 2018	26 June 2019	14 September 2020
16 March 2020	14 September 2020	30 June 2023
28 December 2022	30 June 2023	8 October 2025
8 April 2025	8 October 2025	today

How often QQQ was within 0.15 sigma of a line, by closing price. These counts and the close-test backtests both take each day's own line; the runs simply lack one session — 31 May 2022, which has no watchlist (section 4) and was a main-line touch — so the close-test run records 58 main-line days and 193 in all where this table shows 59 and 194.

Line	Ten years (2,581 days)	Five-year window (1,322 days)
Main line	63 days (2.4%)	59 days (4.5%)
Plus one sigma	265 days (10.3%)	122 days (9.2%)
Minus one sigma	16 days (0.6%)	13 days (1.0%)
Minus two sigma	never	never

Touches come in short clusters, mostly one or two consecutive days; the longest stretch near the plus-one line lasted 20 days. QQQ closed between one and two sigma above the line on 62% of all days over ten years and 55% over the five-year window — a band that overlaps the plus-one-sigma touches counted above (162 of those days over ten years, 72 over the five). Leaving out every touch day, it is 64% and 58% of the days that remain. Intraday touches, where the day's range reaches a line the close does not, are more frequent; the study's touch counts under each modelling convention are in section 6.

What this means for the two strategies before any backtest is run. Strategy 1 restricts entries to roughly one day in seven over the five-year window, about three in five of them near the plus-one line — which is where QQQ pauses on the way up rather than where it bottoms — and three in ten at the main line (122 and 59 of the 194 days in the table above). Strategy 2, triggered by the main line, gets a handful of loading days per year; on the minus-one line it would have fired on thirteen days in five years. The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered), for comparison, opened 63.5% of its 1,025 entries (651 of them) with QQQ between one and two sigma above the line and only four within 0.15 sigma of the minus-one line. Those entries are the ones the tables count as 1,017 trades, plus the eight positions still open at the end. The near-line days were not the unproductive ones: 149 of the 1,017 closed trades were opened on them, 15% of the trades and 22% of the profit, \$64 a trade against \$39 for the rest — a difference this sample cannot separate from zero. The frequency table shows how rarely the lines are touched, not how productive those days are; that is the hypothesis these runs test.

6. Results — the two strategies as the operator specified them

Every configuration was run on the same five-year history, the same frozen copy of the data and the same starting account of \$18,484, the value of the operator's live account when the drawdown study began. "Inside 25%" is the criterion the operator set on 4 September: the worst fall must stay within 25%. "Worst two months" is the largest loss over any 44 trading days, and "summer 2026 fall from peak" is the deepest fall from a high between 11 May and 3 September 2026, the stretch the operator's live account was running — not the whole calendar year, so a deeper fall earlier in 2026 does not appear in it. Two rows of section 7.4 have such a deeper fall: both pure strategy 2 variants troughed on 30 March 2026, at –11.8% and –7.8% from their highs, against the –6.1% and –6.3% the column shows. Five rows of the table below have one too: strategy 1 close test fell –7.4% over the whole of 2026 against the –2.0% shown, strategy 1 range test –7.6% against –5.8%, the 0.25-sigma band –7.5% against –6.5%, main-line full conviction –11.6% against –10.6% and three-line full conviction –19.1% against –16.3%; in section 7.5 the 1.5-sigma filter fell –8.3% against –6.7%. The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) and every hybrid row read the same on either window.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026), same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Strategy 1, entries only near the lines (close test)	2.1%	-22.05%	yes	-10.3%	-2.0%	238	15.1%
Strategy 1, entries only near the lines (range test)	8.2%	-23.50%	yes	-11.9%	-5.8%	307	20.8%
Strategy 2, main line, adopted sizing	5.0%	-24.86%	yes	-11.5%	-9.3%	147	15.6%
Strategy 2, main line, full conviction	3.6%	-41.90%	no	-23.9%	-10.6%	93	18.3%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing	20.2%	-27.14%	no	-14.4%	-11.5%	417	23.0%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, full conviction	31.6%	-54.01%	no	-29.7%	-16.3%	298	28.9%

Strategy 1, entries only near the lines, fails in every form. Restricting new positions to the days QQQ is within 0.15 sigma of a line keeps between a quarter and a third of the previous configuration's trades, 238 under the close test and 307 under the range test against the previous configuration's 1,017, and leaves the account fully in cash on 65% and 57% of all days. Growth collapses to 2.1% and 8.2% a year, and the worst fall does not improve for it: -22.1% and -23.5% against the previous configuration's -20.0%. The yearly table below shows why. In 2022 the strategy loses more than the previous configuration (-13.1% and -13.7% against -2.2%), because the touch days of 2022 were days on which the market was falling through its lines and the positions opened on them were stopped out; then it makes no entry at all in 2024, fully in cash on 90% of that year's days, and is in cash on half of 2025 (52%). 2023 is the year it trades most — 95 entries under the close test and 114 under the range test, in cash on only 20% and 18% of days — and it still returns -3.0% and +6.5% against the previous configuration's +21.4%: the shortfall there is the quality of the entries the bands allow, not sitting out. The previous configuration earned +21%, +20% and +46% in those three years. Widening the band to 0.25 sigma adds trades (405) and growth (11.5% a year) but pushes the worst fall to -25.9%, outside the limit. The lines are where QQQ pauses, not where the watchlist stocks start their moves, and the entries the previous configuration finds on the other days are what earn its return.

Strategy 2 on the main line has too few loading days to matter. QQQ's daily range reached the main line on 90 days in the five years, in 22 clusters; nearly all of those days fell in 2022 and 2023 and none in 2024. The strategy loaded on 63 of the 90: on 22 days no Nasdaq-listed name in that week's watchlist was eligible, and on 5 the eligible names sized to zero. Between clusters the account was entirely in cash, 71% of all days, so it did nothing for most of 2024 and 2025. With the adopted sizing rule the result is 5.0% a year and a worst fall of -24.9%, about two thirds of it in 2022 (the calendar year cost -14.2%): the fall runs from the high of 29 March 2022 to a trough on 3 May 2023, is -17.0% deep by the end of 2022 and takes the remaining eight points in the first four months of 2023. The loads were made into a falling market and, as the operator specified, held through it. With full conviction sizing the same days produce 3.6% a year and a worst fall of -41.9%: 2022 alone lost 25%.

Strategy 2 on any of the three lines loads more often and is still worse than the previous configuration.

Adding the plus-one and minus-one lines raises the count to 296 touch days in 59 clusters, of which 181 loaded (on 99 no Nasdaq-listed name was eligible, on 16 the eligible names sized to zero or were refused), so the account is invested most of the time: 19% of days in cash, the same as the previous configuration. Growth is 20.2% a year against the previous configuration's 26.2%, and the worst fall is –27.1%, outside the limit: like the main-line version it buys into the 2022 decline (–14.7% that year) and holds. Full conviction sizing lifts growth to 31.6% a year but the worst fall becomes –54.0% (2022: –42.6%), the deepest in this study. Leaving the regime exits switched on, so that risk-off days sell the loaded positions as they sell any other, is worse still, 14.1% a year and –33.7%: the strategy buys on the touch day, is sold out by the regime exit within days, and buys again on the next touch, 629 round trips with a 32% win rate, and 2022 costs –24.8%.

The yearly figures for every configuration in the study, including the variations of section 7, for reference:

Configuration	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026), same data	+13.7%	-2.2%	+21.4%	+20.2%	+45.8%	+44.0%
The previous configuration at a \$7,000 account	+15.1%	-2.8%	+16.4%	+11.7%	+42.0%	+42.9%
The previous configuration under bad fills	+10.9%	-4.1%	+16.1%	+9.0%	+38.7%	+36.3%
The previous configuration, path re-run at \$12,000	+12.6%	-0.9%	+16.3%	+16.7%	+45.1%	+42.3%
The previous configuration, path re-run at \$40,000	+13.2%	-2.7%	+21.2%	+17.0%	+43.0%	+45.1%
The previous configuration, path re-run at \$25,000	+13.8%	-2.4%	+21.5%	+18.5%	+45.7%	+43.9%
Strategy 1, entries only near the lines (close test)	+0.0%	-13.1%	-3.0%	+2.8%	+7.4%	+20.0%
Strategy 1, entries only near the lines (range test)	+3.9%	-13.7%	+6.5%	-0.0%	+11.6%	+42.2%
Strategy 1, wider band 0.25 sigma (range test)	+4.0%	-12.7%	+10.2%	+8.4%	+12.2%	+45.4%
Strategy 2, main line, adopted sizing	+0.0%	-14.2%	-5.0%	+0.0%	+7.2%	+47.9%
Strategy 2, main line, full conviction	+0.0%	-25.2%	-2.8%	+0.0%	+6.2%	+55.7%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing	+8.0%	-14.7%	+15.0%	+10.9%	+41.4%	+58.1%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, full conviction	+31.5%	-42.6%	+51.9%	+59.6%	+17.5%	+97.3%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing, regime exits left on	+1.3%	-24.8%	+9.5%	+2.6%	+21.0%	+93.6%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing, whole watchlist eligible	+7.1%	-10.7%	+7.6%	+20.3%	+65.3%	+15.8%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, per-position cap doubled on loading days	+11.2%	-21.4%	+32.2%	+24.3%	+38.8%	+33.7%
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	+20.7%	+3.5%	+38.3%	+34.6%	+87.8%	+5.0%
Hybrid, regime exits off for the whole book	+20.6%	-4.9%	+39.8%	+34.9%	+73.3%	+6.3%
Hybrid, regime exits left on for everything	+12.0%	-13.8%	+17.0%	+26.7%	+48.2%	+22.0%
Hybrid, whole watchlist eligible on touch days	+19.6%	-2.3%	+28.1%	+47.7%	+102.0%	+7.8%

Configuration	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Hybrid, per-position cap doubled on loading days	+22.4%	-0.6%	+26.7%	+56.6%	+78.8%	+12.3%
Hybrid loading only on the main line	+13.7%	-5.0%	+17.3%	+17.6%	+59.1%	+28.6%
Hybrid loading only on the plus-one line	+20.7%	-6.2%	+29.8%	+31.3%	+72.1%	+21.3%
Hybrid loading only on the minus-one line (dips)	+13.7%	+13.0%	+23.9%	+18.0%	+44.9%	+45.3%
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	+20.7%	+8.8%	+38.2%	+36.4%	+73.4%	+21.3%
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test	+24.8%	+6.1%	+16.4%	+45.4%	+84.5%	+22.9%
Hybrid under the close test (loading only when QQQ closes near a line)	+24.8%	+4.0%	+19.9%	+44.8%	+84.5%	+6.4%
Inverse filter: no entries when QQQ is more than 2 sigma above the line	+13.7%	-2.2%	+20.6%	+20.4%	+43.0%	+37.7%
Inverse filter at 1.5 sigma	+20.0%	-2.6%	+20.8%	-3.2%	+13.3%	+41.0%
Hybrid at a \$7,000 account	+23.8%	-4.7%	+19.4%	+40.4%	+82.4%	+32.6%
Hybrid under bad fills	+18.2%	-0.5%	+37.3%	+22.8%	+79.4%	+0.9%
Hybrid, path re-run at \$12,000	+20.6%	+3.4%	+37.7%	+31.4%	+86.8%	+2.7%
Hybrid, path re-run at \$40,000	+19.4%	+3.6%	+38.9%	+39.1%	+87.9%	+3.9%
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines at a \$7,000 account	+23.8%	+1.8%	+13.5%	+43.0%	+69.5%	+13.7%
Close-test hybrid at a \$7,000 account	+26.1%	+0.5%	+19.0%	+48.4%	+80.1%	+6.5%
Close-test hybrid under bad fills	+22.0%	+1.2%	+11.9%	+34.2%	+75.6%	+3.3%
Two-line close-test hybrid at a \$7,000 account	+26.1%	+3.7%	+6.4%	+51.7%	+87.2%	+21.1%
Two-line close-test hybrid under bad fills	+22.0%	+2.7%	+12.0%	+33.0%	+75.4%	+19.1%
Two-line close-test hybrid, path re-run at \$12,000	+22.9%	+7.7%	+10.9%	+47.7%	+82.9%	+23.3%
Two-line close-test hybrid, path re-run at \$40,000	+24.2%	+7.0%	+14.5%	+41.8%	+85.7%	+17.6%
Two lines at the close, band widened to 0.25 sigma (no first-day rule)	+8.1%	+10.2%	+26.8%	+26.7%	+72.8%	+30.7%
Two lines at the close, band 0.10 sigma (no first-day rule)	+13.7%	+16.9%	+31.6%	+42.5%	+62.6%	+19.5%
Two lines at the close, band 0.05 sigma (no first-day rule)	+13.7%	+11.8%	+23.6%	+31.0%	+57.1%	+18.8%
Two lines, intraday range, band 0.10 sigma	+24.8%	+3.6%	+25.7%	+43.8%	+83.0%	+27.9%
Two lines, intraday range, band 0.05 sigma	+13.7%	+7.8%	+24.9%	+39.1%	+81.6%	+30.6%
Two lines, intraday range, the line itself (no band)	+13.7%	-5.8%	+21.1%	+40.1%	+65.0%	+31.7%
Two lines at the close, first day of a cluster only (recommended in the second edition of this report)	+24.8%	+3.2%	+20.5%	+35.5%	+98.3%	+27.8%

Configuration	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026*
Two lines at the close, five-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	+24.8%	-2.4%	+22.6%	+34.7%	+81.6%	+28.7%
Two lines at the close, ten-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	+24.8%	-0.5%	+15.4%	+39.2%	+79.0%	+35.4%
Two lines, intraday range, first day of a cluster only	+21.8%	-2.3%	+25.9%	+31.1%	+83.6%	+40.7%
Three lines, intraday range, first day of a cluster only	+21.8%	-3.4%	+23.3%	+28.4%	+99.9%	+59.4%
THE CONFIGURATION ADOPTED ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2026: all three lines at the close, first day of a cluster only	+24.8%	-0.5%	+31.2%	+34.8%	+97.6%	+15.7%
The adopted configuration at a \$7,000 account	+26.1%	-4.4%	+27.7%	+43.9%	+94.1%	+18.0%
The adopted configuration at \$12,000	+22.9%	+0.9%	+27.6%	+41.0%	+99.6%	+18.2%
The adopted configuration at \$25,000	+24.9%	+0.0%	+31.4%	+36.8%	+97.2%	+15.5%
The adopted configuration at \$40,000	+24.2%	+0.7%	+28.8%	+35.1%	+98.0%	+16.5%
The adopted configuration under bad fills	+22.0%	-2.8%	+27.4%	+24.0%	+90.7%	+14.9%
The two-line first-day form at a \$7,000 account	+26.1%	+1.4%	+17.8%	+41.9%	+97.2%	+31.7%
The two-line first-day form at \$12,000	+22.9%	+5.6%	+15.8%	+40.9%	+96.0%	+33.1%
The two-line first-day form at \$25,000	+24.9%	+3.5%	+20.0%	+39.1%	+98.4%	+28.8%
The two-line first-day form at \$40,000	+24.2%	+4.5%	+20.4%	+34.8%	+97.6%	+29.3%
The two-line first-day form under bad fills	+22.0%	+0.1%	+13.1%	+28.5%	+87.7%	+28.7%

* 2021 runs from 1 June; 2026 to 3 September. Each year's figure is the change in account value from the last day of the previous year, so the yearly figures chain into the total.

Did the account reach 1.5 times leverage on the loading days? Under the adopted sizing rule, rarely. The rule caps each position at 0.4% of the account at risk when the stop-loss is more than 3% away and shrinks positions further as the stop widens beyond 2.8%; a loaded position is bought without regard to the support zone, so its stop is farther away than an ordinary entry's, 4.1% to 4.3% at the median against 2.9% for the previous configuration's entries. The median loaded position is therefore about 5% of the account, but the sizes are bimodal, clustering at two very different levels: about three loaded positions in ten are 20% of the account or more and a quarter sit at or near the 30% per-position conviction cap, because the risk ceiling binds only when the stop is wide. So the median loading day buys two names worth 29% of the account between them; the most names bought on one day was nine, and the largest day's buys came to 130% of the account. The book after a load was 0.56 times the account at the median on the main line and 0.76 on the three lines; the 1.5-times rail stopped the load on none of the 63 main-line loading days and on 2 of the 181 — the rail is measured as the position-sizing routine builds the book, and the day's closing marks can leave the book below 1.5 times by the close — though on the two adopted-sizing days counted here the shortfall is trivial, 1.4964 times at worst. It is under full conviction that the gap is real, as low as 1.2826 times on a flagged day. Only full conviction sizing, with the ceiling lifted, fills the account to that rail, on 22 of 38 main-line loading days and 94 of 129 three-line days, and it does so with 7.0% to 7.5% of the account at risk to the stops at the median and up to 12.9%, about three times the open-risk cap the strategy applies to an ordinary day when running live. That is where the -42% and -54% come from.

Configuration	Loaded positions	Position size, median (largest)	Account at risk per position, median (largest)	Stop distance, median	Names bought per loading day, median (most)
Strategy 2, main line, adopted sizing	147	5.1% (30%)	0.21% (0.83%)	4.3%	2 (8)
Strategy 2, main line, full conviction	93	22.7% (30%)	1.12% (1.50%)	4.9%	2 (8)
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing	419	5.8% (30%)	0.23% (0.84%)	4.1%	2 (9)
Strategy 2, any of three lines, full conviction	299	21.6% (30%)	0.93% (1.50%)	4.6%	2 (9)
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	345	5.2% (30%)	0.22% (0.83%)	4.3%	2 (8)
Hybrid loading only on the minus-one line (dips)	40	9.9% (30%)	0.26% (0.83%)	3.3%	2 (8)

The same facts for every configuration, with the profit split between positions bought on loading days and positions bought on ordinary days (the split matters in section 7):

Configuration	Entries	of which on loading days	Loading days	Book after a load, median / max	Days the 1.5x rail stopped the load	Stop-risk after a load, median / max	Days fully in cash	Profit from loading-day entries	Profit from normal-day entries
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026), same data	1025	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$43,783
The previous configuration at a \$7,000 account	980	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$13,453
The previous configuration under bad fills	1021	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$27,995
The previous configuration, path re-run at \$12,000	1025	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$25,100
The previous configuration, path re-run at \$40,000	1037	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$88,600
The previous configuration, path re-run at \$25,000	1030	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$58,215

Configuration	Entries	of which on loading days	Loading days	Book after a load, median / max	Days the 1.5x rail stopped the load	Stop- risk after a load, median / max	Days fully in cash	Profit from loading- day entries	Profit from normal- day entries
Strategy 1, entries only near the lines (close test)	238	0	—	—	—	—	65%	—	\$2,162
Strategy 1, entries only near the lines (range test)	307	0	—	—	—	—	57%	—	\$9,512
Strategy 1, wider band 0.25 sigma (range test)	405	0	—	—	—	—	43%	—	\$14,240
Strategy 2, main line, adopted sizing	147	147	63	0.56x / 1.41x	0	1.7% / 4.2%	71%	\$5,390	\$0
Strategy 2, main line, full conviction	93	93	38	1.49x / 1.50x	22	7.5% / 11.4%	73%	\$3,750	\$0
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing	419	419	181	0.76x / 1.50x	2	1.7% / 4.0%	19%	\$29,931	\$0
Strategy 2, any of three lines, full conviction	299	299	129	1.50x / 1.50x	94	7.0% / 12.9%	18%	\$58,925	\$0
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing, regime exits left on	629	629	216	0.68x / 1.50x	1	1.6% / 4.3%	46%	\$18,555	\$0
Strategy 2, any of three lines, adopted sizing, whole watchlist eligible	569	569	178	0.94x / 1.50x	7	2.3% / 4.3%	15%	\$25,195	\$0
Strategy 2, any of three lines, per-position cap doubled on loading days	406	406	170	1.05x / 1.50x	19	2.7% / 5.4%	19%	\$30,458	\$0
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	1063	345	156	0.84x / 1.50x	7	1.6% / 4.2%	2%	\$48,098	\$17,047

Configuration	Entries	of which on loading days	Loading days	Book after a load, median / max	Days the 1.5x rail stopped the load	Stop- risk after a load, median / max	Days fully in cash	Profit from loading- day entries	Profit from normal- day entries
Hybrid, regime exits off for the whole book	1039	334	156	0.89x / 1.50x	12	1.6% / 4.1%	1%	\$38,374	\$15,731
Hybrid, regime exits left on for everything	1373	564	196	0.70x / 1.50x	8	1.5% / 4.4%	12%	\$22,086	\$6,756
Hybrid, whole watchlist eligible on touch days	1108	492	154	1.13x / 1.50x	17	2.4% / 4.3%	1%	\$47,609	\$21,907
Hybrid, per-position cap doubled on loading days	1044	344	156	1.12x / 1.50x	22	2.6% / 5.5%	1%	\$62,626	\$7,009
Hybrid loading only on the main line	1070	104	51	0.54x / 1.50x	4	1.4% / 4.5%	10%	\$5,386	\$31,905
Hybrid loading only on the plus-one line	1026	226	105	0.85x / 1.50x	7	1.4% / 3.4%	9%	\$34,888	\$20,136
Hybrid loading only on the minus-one line (dips)	1016	40	14	0.83x / 1.49x	0	1.9% / 2.9%	17%	\$3,452	\$50,506
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	1008	266	117	0.86x / 1.50x	3	1.7% / 3.4%	6%	\$49,608	\$26,817
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test	1014	199	84	0.87x / 1.50x	3	1.6% / 3.6%	6%	\$34,178	\$39,916
Hybrid under the close test (loading only when QQQ closes near a line)	1037	257	107	0.83x / 1.50x	5	1.7% / 3.9%	2%	\$37,403	\$24,807
Inverse filter: no entries when QQQ is more than 2 sigma above the line	997	0	—	—	—	—	19%	—	\$39,618
Inverse filter at 1.5 sigma	617	0	—	—	—	—	30%	—	\$21,447
Hybrid at a \$7,000 account	1068	366	179	0.91x / 1.50x	3	1.6% / 4.4%	2%	\$24,487	\$1,570

Configuration	Entries	of which on loading days	Loading days	Book after a load, median / max	Days the 1.5x rail stopped the load	Stop- risk after a load, median / max	Days fully in cash	Profit from loading- day entries	Profit from normal- day entries
Hybrid under bad fills	1042	332	153	0.88x / 1.50x	9	1.7% / 4.1%	2%	\$38,387	\$8,747
Hybrid, path re-run at \$12,000	1066	343	161	0.80x / 1.50x	5	1.6% / 4.1%	2%	\$28,486	\$10,741
Hybrid, path re-run at \$40,000	1044	344	158	0.89x / 1.50x	11	1.7% / 4.1%	1%	\$105,039	\$38,863
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines at a \$7,000 account	1017	273	126	0.86x / 1.50x	3	1.7% / 4.5%	7%	\$14,159	\$6,112
Close-test hybrid at a \$7,000 account	1025	266	125	0.89x / 1.50x	5	1.6% / 4.3%	3%	\$12,897	\$9,756
Close-test hybrid under bad fills	1032	256	108	0.83x / 1.50x	2	1.7% / 4.1%	2%	\$27,913	\$15,004
Two-line close-test hybrid at a \$7,000 account	1001	203	91	0.91x / 1.50x	3	1.6% / 4.2%	7%	\$11,491	\$14,584
Two-line close-test hybrid under bad fills	1010	196	83	0.90x / 1.50x	5	1.7% / 4.1%	6%	\$25,945	\$26,824
Two-line close-test hybrid, path re-run at \$12,000	1025	199	86	0.89x / 1.50x	2	1.7% / 4.2%	6%	\$21,194	\$24,627
Two-line close-test hybrid, path re-run at \$40,000	1029	202	83	0.87x / 1.50x	5	1.6% / 3.8%	6%	\$75,490	\$70,258
Two lines at the close, band widened to 0.25 sigma (no first-day rule)	1027	300	127	0.89x / 1.50x	8	1.7% / 4.1%	4%	\$41,210	\$19,143
Two lines at the close, band 0.10 sigma (no first-day rule)	1039	162	60	0.92x / 1.50x	3	1.7% / 3.7%	10%	\$26,678	\$43,171
Two lines at the close, band 0.05 sigma (no first-day rule)	1049	109	35	1.09x / 1.50x	3	1.7% / 4.2%	12%	\$16,456	\$35,381

Configuration	Entries	of which on loading days	Loading days	Book after a load, median / max	Days the 1.5x rail stopped the load	Stop- risk after a load, median / max	Days fully in cash	Profit from loading- day entries	Profit from normal- day entries
Two lines, intraday range, band 0.10 sigma	1015	222	92	0.91x / 1.50x	5	1.6% / 4.2%	7%	\$47,013	\$34,202
Two lines, intraday range, band 0.05 sigma	1025	164	65	0.97x / 1.50x	1	1.7% / 4.0%	8%	\$29,886	\$43,684
Two lines, intraday range, the line itself (no band)	1031	111	41	1.00x / 1.50x	3	1.5% / 4.2%	9%	\$12,433	\$41,106
Two lines at the close, first day of a cluster only (recommended in the second edition of this report)	1021	135	40	1.00x / 1.50x	4	1.9% / 3.7%	8%	\$31,879	\$47,063
Two lines at the close, five-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	1025	128	39	1.02x / 1.50x	2	1.7% / 3.7%	8%	\$18,939	\$48,375
Two lines at the close, ten-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	1023	98	26	1.03x / 1.50x	1	1.7% / 3.7%	8%	\$21,668	\$48,205
Two lines, intraday range, first day of a cluster only	1025	137	34	0.94x / 1.50x	2	1.8% / 3.7%	8%	\$29,788	\$44,398
Three lines, intraday range, first day of a cluster only	1042	172	49	0.82x / 1.49x	3	1.7% / 3.8%	5%	\$70,559	\$19,310
THE CONFIGURATION ADOPTED ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2026: all three lines at the close, first day of a cluster only	1033	181	56	0.90x / 1.50x	7	1.9% / 3.8%	4%	\$36,250	\$36,981
The adopted configuration at a \$7,000 account	1019	171	57	0.91x / 1.49x	1	1.7% / 3.5%	6%	\$12,941	\$15,222

Configuration	Entries	of which on loading days	Loading days	Book after a load, median / max	Days the 1.5x rail stopped the load	Stop- risk after a load, median / max	Days fully in cash	Profit from loading- day entries	Profit from normal- day entries
The adopted configuration at \$12,000	1031	175	57	0.93x / 1.50x	5	1.8% / 3.7%	5%	\$24,323	\$26,118
The adopted configuration at \$25,000	1038	182	56	0.92x / 1.50x	7	1.9% / 3.8%	4%	\$49,704	\$51,630
The adopted configuration at \$40,000	1042	181	55	0.93x / 1.50x	7	1.9% / 3.8%	4%	\$77,477	\$80,995
The adopted configuration under bad fills	1032	178	56	0.90x / 1.50x	5	1.9% / 3.7%	4%	\$29,367	\$27,128
The two-line first-day form at a \$7,000 account	996	129	39	1.02x / 1.49x	0	1.9% / 3.4%	9%	\$11,440	\$20,006
The two-line first-day form at \$12,000	1018	131	41	1.05x / 1.49x	3	1.8% / 3.7%	8%	\$20,019	\$33,481
The two-line first-day form at \$25,000	1022	134	40	0.99x / 1.50x	4	1.9% / 3.8%	8%	\$44,422	\$66,868
The two-line first-day form at \$40,000	1027	134	39	1.00x / 1.50x	4	1.9% / 3.6%	8%	\$70,579	\$102,059
The two-line first-day form under bad fills	1012	132	40	1.01x / 1.49x	2	1.9% / 3.7%	9%	\$23,800	\$36,047

When the stops happen to be tight the ceiling does not bind, and the adopted sizing can fill the book, as on the first day below; the second day is the typical one. Prices are as the data holds them, adjusted for later stock splits, so some historical prices read lower than they were at the time.

A day the adopted sizing did fill the book — 10 October 2022, account worth \$15,553 before the load, QQQ's range crossed the -1 line, market regime *downtrend expanded risk off*; 5 Nasdaq-listed names eligible, 5 bought.

Stock	Shares	Entry price	Stop-loss	Stop distance	Position	Share of account	Account at risk if stopped
BIIB	18	\$255.42	\$253.06	0.9%	\$4,598	30%	\$42 (0.27%)
ON	70	\$62.08	\$60.60	2.4%	\$4,346	28%	\$104 (0.67%)
DXCM	40	\$100.47	\$98.39	2.1%	\$4,019	26%	\$83 (0.53%)
EWBC	54	\$70.89	\$70.42	0.7%	\$3,828	25%	\$25 (0.16%)
MCHP	57	\$61.38	\$60.12	2.1%	\$3,499	22%	\$72 (0.46%)

Book after the load: \$22,519, that is 1.45 times the account. The buys above put 2.1% of the account at risk; counting the positions already held from earlier days, the whole book has 2.9% at risk to its stops.

A typical loading day under the adopted sizing (the day closest to the median book size) — 18 August 2023, account worth \$16,961 before the load, QQQ's range crossed the +1 line, market regime *downtrend normal mixed*; 3 Nasdaq-listed names eligible, 2 bought.

Stock	Shares	Entry price	Stop-loss	Stop distance	Position	Share of account	Account at risk if stopped
ADBE	9	\$509.40	\$506.01	0.7%	\$4,585	27%	\$31 (0.18%)
NFLX	51	\$40.55	\$39.33	3.0%	\$2,068	12%	\$62 (0.37%)

Book after the load: \$12,863, that is 0.76 times the account. The buys above put 0.5% of the account at risk; counting the positions already held from earlier days, the whole book has 1.8% at risk to its stops.

The same day with full conviction sizing (a different path: the account is already smaller and already carrying positions from earlier loads) — 10 October 2022, account worth \$12,643 before the load, QQQ's range crossed the -1 line, market regime *downtrend expanded risk off*; 6 Nasdaq-listed names eligible, 2 bought.

Stock	Shares	Entry price	Stop-loss	Stop distance	Position	Share of account	Account at risk if stopped
BIIB	14	\$255.42	\$253.06	0.9%	\$3,576	28%	\$33 (0.26%)
ON	57	\$62.08	\$60.60	2.4%	\$3,539	28%	\$84 (0.67%)

Book after the load: \$18,013, that is 1.43 times the account. The buys above put 0.9% of the account at risk; counting the positions already held from earlier days, the whole book has 8.9% at risk to its stops.

7. Variations tried on the study's own initiative

The operator's brief invited variations, so beyond the two strategies as specified the study tried the ideas below. Each is given with its mechanism, an example, the result and a verdict. The table repeats the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) so every row can be read against it.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
Previous configuration, same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	33.6%	-17.94%	yes	-15.7%	-17.5%	1053	21.5%
Hybrid, regime exits off for the whole book	30.1%	-25.48%	no	-14.3%	-15.2%	1029	19.6%
Hybrid, regime exits left on for everything	19.8%	-27.88%	no	-15.6%	-19.9%	1365	24.5%
Hybrid loading only on the main line	23.6%	-22.14%	yes	-17.2%	-18.9%	1062	19.2%

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
Hybrid loading only on the plus-one line	30.4%	-20.10%	yes	-17.0%	-18.8%	1016	21.5%
Hybrid loading only on the minus-one line (dips)	29.9%	-19.86%	yes	-18.2%	-19.9%	1009	20.8%
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	36.9%	-18.96%	yes	-17.0%	-18.7%	998	22.8%
Hybrid under the close test (loading only when QQQ closes near a line)	32.7%	-19.61%	yes	-15.0%	-17.2%	1027	21.9%
Hybrid, whole watchlist eligible on touch days	34.8%	-21.02%	yes	-16.3%	-18.0%	1100	22.6%
Hybrid, per-position cap doubled on loading days	35.0%	-23.90%	yes	-16.6%	-18.0%	1033	21.3%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, the previous configuration's sizing, whole watchlist eligible	17.8%	-25.04%	no	-12.5%	-6.3%	568	25.4%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, per-position cap doubled on loading days	20.5%	-35.40%	no	-18.8%	-6.1%	403	25.1%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, the previous configuration's sizing, regime exits left on	14.1%	-33.71%	no	-15.6%	-11.4%	629	32.0%
Inverse filter: no entries when QQQ is more than 2 sigma above the line	24.6%	-20.01%	yes	-15.6%	-17.4%	989	19.3%
Inverse filter at 1.5 sigma	16.0%	-19.92%	yes	-13.7%	-6.7%	614	22.0%
Strategy 1, wider band 0.25 sigma (range test)	11.5%	-25.94%	no	-13.2%	-6.5%	405	19.5%

7.1 The hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere, plus loading on the touch days

Mechanism. Strategy 2 as specified forbids entries on every day that is not a touch day, and that restriction is what emptied the account for most of 2024. The hybrid removes only that restriction. On every ordinary day the strategy trades exactly as the previous configuration does; on a touch day it does what strategy 2 does: ignores the regime and the zone condition and buys the Nasdaq-listed names from the watchlist in rank order until the leverage limit or the position limit. Positions bought on a touch day are exempt from the two broad-market exits (risk-off and downtrend) and leave only by their stop-loss, the trailing stop or the 60-day limit; positions bought on ordinary days keep every exit of the previous configuration. A second form, with the broad-market exits switched off for the whole book, was run for comparison, and a third, with those exits kept for everything, is in the table.

Example. On Tuesday QQQ sits 1.4 sigma above the line and no line is near: the strategy runs its ordinary 15:55 cycle, regime gate and zone tests included, and opens perhaps one position from the watchlist. On Wednesday QQQ's range dips to the plus-one line: the strategy buys every eligible Nasdaq-listed name from the watchlist in rank order, whatever the regime, and marks those positions as loaded. On Friday the regime turns risk-off: Tuesday's position is sold as usual, Wednesday's loaded positions are kept and ride until their stops.

Result. 33.6% a year and a worst fall of –17.9%, against 26.2% and –20.0% for the previous configuration: the shallowest fall of the five configurations in this study that beat the previous configuration on both counts, though not the highest growth — the close-test form of the same hybrid (32.7% and –19.61%), the dips-only hybrid (29.9% and –19.86%) and the two-line forms of section 7.3, which grow faster (36.9% and –18.96% from the daily range, 36.2% and –18.94% from the close), also clear it, though their margins on the fall are inside this study's own resolution limit, as is the hybrid's own 2.1-point margin (section 8.1) — and it stays inside the 25% limit. The whole-book form of the exemption is worse on both counts, 30.1% a year and –25.5%: letting ordinary positions ride through risk-off days is exactly what the previous configuration's regime exit protects against, and the numbers confirm it. Keeping the broad-market exits for everything, loaded positions included, is worse still: 19.8% a year and a worst fall of –27.9%, from 1,365 trades, because the risk-off exit sells the loads within days of the touch and the next touch buys them back, the churn already seen in section 6. The exemption for loaded positions is not a detail of the hybrid; it is what makes it work at all.

Where the extra return comes from, and why the study is cautious about it. The hybrid is not the previous configuration plus a small addition. It shares only 59% of the previous configuration's trades (same stock, same entry day), because every loaded position changes the leverage room and the account value from which every later position is sized. Its 343 loading-day trades made \$48,098 and its 710 ordinary trades made \$17,047, against the previous configuration's \$43,783 from 1,017 trades: the loads earned, and the ordinary trades earned much less than they do in the previous configuration.

Line touched	Loading-day trades	Profit	Win rate
+1	210	\$35,858	31%
-1	38	\$3,251	32%
main	95	\$8,989	18%

Year of entry	Loading-day trades	Profit
2021	9	\$1,597
2022	118	–\$439
2023	78	\$5,258
2024	15	\$3,532
2025	75	\$32,416
2026	48	\$5,733

The ten largest loading-day trades made \$38,247 of the \$48,098 that all 343 loading-day trades made together:

Stock	Entered	Exited	Line	Profit
WBD	2025-10-10	2026-01-02	+1	\$11,545
WDC	2025-10-14	2025-11-19	+1	\$5,867
SNDK	2026-04-02	2026-06-24	main	\$3,485
NFLX	2025-04-07	2025-05-12	main	\$3,105
STX	2025-10-22	2025-11-18	+1	\$2,982
INTC	2025-12-24	2026-02-12	+1	\$2,967
MSFT	2025-05-07	2025-08-01	+1	\$2,563
INTC	2026-03-31	2026-06-05	main	\$2,098
AMAT	2025-11-24	2025-12-16	+1	\$1,820
NXT	2025-12-03	2026-02-26	+1	\$1,815

Ten trades made \$38,247 of the \$48,098, and eight of the ten were entered between April and December 2025. The month-by-month comparison below starts in January 2025, and within that stretch the lead is concentrated in two months, October 2025 (+33.7% against +14.9%) and December 2025 (+6.6% against –2.0%), with November 2025 a third (–0.5% against –6.2%). Over the whole five years it is not a two-month story: the hybrid was already 1.43 times the previous configuration's account value at the end of 2024 (2023 +38.3% against +21.4%, 2024 +34.6% against +20.2%). Taking October and December 2025 out leaves it 1.5 points a year ahead, inside the resolution limit of section 8. In 2026 the hybrid did worse than the previous configuration: up 20.6% from New Year to the end of May against the previous configuration's 57.8%, then down 13.0% into September against the previous configuration's 8.7%.

Month	Previous configuration	Hybrid, any of three lines	Hybrid, minus-one line only	Hybrid, main line only	Hybrid, plus-one line only	Hybrid, close test
Jan 2025	+6.0%	+6.2%	+6.0%	+5.9%	+6.1%	+6.1%
Feb 2025	-8.3%	-8.4%	-8.4%	-8.2%	-8.4%	-8.4%
Mar 2025	-0.3%	-3.4%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-3.4%	-0.5%
Apr 2025	+2.5%	+5.5%	+2.6%	+10.8%	-2.0%	-0.2%
May 2025	+4.2%	-1.8%	+4.2%	+4.6%	-1.3%	-0.4%
Jun 2025	+15.7%	+15.5%	+15.7%	+16.2%	+15.2%	+13.6%
Jul 2025	+8.3%	+12.5%	+8.2%	+9.1%	+10.0%	+10.6%
Aug 2025	+2.3%	+0.6%	+2.3%	+2.3%	+1.4%	+3.9%

Month	Previous configuration	Hybrid, any of three lines	Hybrid, minus-one line only	Hybrid, main line only	Hybrid, plus-one line only	Hybrid, close test
Sep 2025	+4.0%	+4.2%	+3.7%	+3.5%	+4.5%	+4.8%
Oct 2025	+14.9%	+33.7%	+14.9%	+14.9%	+33.2%	+33.2%
Nov 2025	-6.2%	-0.5%	-6.3%	-6.2%	-0.5%	-1.5%
Dec 2025	-2.0%	+6.6%	-2.1%	-2.0%	+6.6%	+7.1%
Jan 2026	+22.4%	+7.4%	+22.3%	+22.5%	+7.1%	+12.0%
Feb 2026	+5.4%	-0.2%	+5.5%	+5.5%	-0.3%	+0.1%
Mar 2026	-6.9%	-7.0%	-6.9%	-8.4%	-5.3%	-6.6%
Apr 2026	+11.2%	+7.2%	+11.4%	+7.4%	+12.2%	+6.4%
May 2026	+18.2%	+12.8%	+18.8%	+13.6%	+23.7%	+11.7%
Jun 2026	+6.8%	+3.2%	+7.1%	+6.3%	+3.2%	+1.5%
Jul 2026	-9.8%	-10.2%	-10.0%	-11.6%	-10.9%	-10.4%
Aug 2026	-3.7%	-4.0%	-3.3%	-3.4%	-4.0%	-4.2%
Sep 2026	-1.6%	-2.1%	-1.9%	-1.9%	-2.1%	-1.8%

Configuration	Year	Normal-day entries: trades / profit	Loading-day entries: trades / profit
Previous configuration	2021	146 / \$3,281	0 / —
Previous configuration	2022	155 / -\$1,225	0 / —
Previous configuration	2023	186 / \$3,361	0 / —
Previous configuration	2024	188 / \$5,942	0 / —
Previous configuration	2025	196 / \$25,047	0 / —
Previous configuration	2026	146 / \$7,378	0 / —
Hybrid, any of three lines	2021	126 / \$3,035	9 / \$1,597
Hybrid, any of three lines	2022	79 / \$1,540	118 / -\$439
Hybrid, any of three lines	2023	82 / \$2,017	78 / \$5,258

Configuration	Year	Normal-day entries: trades / profit	Loading-day entries: trades / profit
Hybrid, any of three lines	2024	162 / \$7,781	15 / \$3,532
Hybrid, any of three lines	2025	141 / \$12,167	75 / \$32,416
Hybrid, any of three lines	2026	120 / –\$9,492	48 / \$5,733
Hybrid, minus-one line only	2021	146 / \$3,281	0 / —
Hybrid, minus-one line only	2022	126 / –\$339	40 / \$3,452
Hybrid, minus-one line only	2023	164 / \$3,327	0 / —
Hybrid, minus-one line only	2024	190 / \$6,354	0 / —
Hybrid, minus-one line only	2025	197 / \$28,700	0 / —
Hybrid, minus-one line only	2026	146 / \$9,182	0 / —
Hybrid, main line only	2021	146 / \$3,281	0 / —
Hybrid, main line only	2022	117 / \$205	50 / –\$2,002
Hybrid, main line only	2023	163 / \$1,107	29 / \$1,385
Hybrid, main line only	2024	190 / \$4,952	0 / —
Hybrid, main line only	2025	195 / \$25,715	4 / \$1,951
Hybrid, main line only	2026	147 / –\$3,356	21 / \$4,051
Hybrid, plus-one line only	2021	126 / \$3,035	9 / \$1,597
Hybrid, plus-one line only	2022	132 / –\$300	33 / –\$1,872
Hybrid, plus-one line only	2023	115 / \$2,539	59 / \$3,070
Hybrid, plus-one line only	2024	167 / \$6,215	15 / \$2,778
Hybrid, plus-one line only	2025	138 / \$9,120	72 / \$21,686
Hybrid, plus-one line only	2026	114 / –\$473	36 / \$7,630
Hybrid, close test	2021	135 / \$4,096	5 / \$1,315
Hybrid, close test	2022	97 / \$1,193	91 / –\$560
Hybrid, close test	2023	106 / \$1,014	56 / \$4,228
Hybrid, close test	2024	166 / \$8,557	14 / \$3,137
Hybrid, close test	2025	138 / \$19,541	56 / \$24,016
Hybrid, close test	2026	130 / –\$9,593	33 / \$5,267

Verdict. The first configuration to beat the previous configuration on both counts, and the subject of the stress tests in sections 8.1 to 8.3. It is not the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026: section 7.6 moves the touch to the closing price, section 7.10 adds the first-day rule, and section 8.7 shows that with those two in place all three lines belong in the trigger; section 8.4 tests the adopted configuration on its own evidence. On

this five-year window alone the lead rests on ten trades in one year, which is exactly the shape a lucky path produces, so nothing is settled in section 7. Section 8 re-runs the comparison at three account sizes, at the size of the operator's live account, under bad fills and over ten years, and that is where the question is decided.

7.2 Loading only on the dips: the minus-one line

Mechanism. The same hybrid, but loading only when QQQ reaches the minus-one line, one sigma below the average price paid since the anchor: a genuine dip rather than a pause in a rally.

Result. 29.9% a year and a worst fall of –19.9%. QQQ's range reached the minus-one line on 26 days in the five years, all of them between 30 September 2022 and 6 January 2023, the bottom of that bear market. On 14 of those days a Nasdaq-listed watchlist name was eligible and the strategy loaded, the last on 27 December 2022, making 40 purchases across 18 names; they made \$3,452, about 16% of the account's value at the time, and turned the –2.2% that the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) made in 2022 into +13.0%. After that the two paths converge again: the configuration shares 91% of the previous configuration's trades, and from 2025 on its monthly returns match the previous configuration's to within a fraction of a percent.

Verdict. The most intuitive result in the study: buying the index's dip with conviction and holding through the risk-off regime paid. Within these five years it is one episode, which on its own could not support a rule. The ten-year runs of section 8.3 add a second, independent episode, six loading days in the Covid crash of 2020, which also paid, and over the decade this configuration grows 25.9% a year against the previous configuration's 22.6% with an identical worst fall. Two episodes in ten years is still thin evidence, and the trigger is rare by construction: QQQ's range reached the minus-one line on 32 days in ten years and none at all between 2023 and today. Kept as the fallback in section 9, not as the recommendation.

7.3 Which line carries the hybrid: main line only, plus-one line only

The hybrid loads on any of the three lines. To see which of them earns its result, the study re-ran it loading on one line at a time; the dips-only run of 7.2 is the minus-one row.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026), same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	33.6%	-17.94%	yes	-15.7%	-17.5%	1053	21.5%
Hybrid loading only on the main line	23.6%	-22.14%	yes	-17.2%	-18.9%	1062	19.2%
Hybrid loading only on the plus-one line	30.4%	-20.10%	yes	-17.0%	-18.8%	1016	21.5%
Hybrid loading only on the minus-one line (dips)	29.9%	-19.86%	yes	-18.2%	-19.9%	1009	20.8%
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	36.9%	-18.96%	yes	-17.0%	-18.7%	998	22.8%

Result. The lines are not equal. Loading on the main line alone makes the hybrid worse than the previous configuration on both counts, 23.6% a year and a worst fall of –22.1%: its 104 main-line loads earned \$5,386, but the account's ordinary trades earned \$31,905 against the previous configuration's \$43,783. That \$11,878 shortfall is almost all 2026: –\$10,733 in that year alone, on the same number of ordinary trades as the previous configuration (147 against 146), so it is the changed sizing and timing of a diverged path rather than entries crowded out. The 2022 and 2023 loads did displace ordinary entries — 117 and 163 against the previous configuration's 155 and 186 — but cost \$823 net over the two years, and in 2022 the ordinary trades were \$1,430 better than the previous configuration's. Loading on the plus-one line alone gives 30.4% a year with the previous configuration's worst fall (–20.1% against –20.0%), and its month-by-month path shows that it is where the growth lives: the same October 2025 spike (+33.2%), the same December 2025 (+6.6%), and the same shortfall in January 2026 (+7.1% against the previous configuration's +22.4%). Seven of the ten largest loads in section 7.1 were bought at the plus-one line (WBD, WDC, STX, INTC of 24 December 2025, MSFT, AMAT and NXT), but the plus-one-only run is a different path: WBD, WDC, STX, INTC and AMAT make \$19,208 there of its \$34,888 of loading-day profit, and its own second- and fourth-largest loads, SNDK on 15 April 2026 (\$4,856) and AMD on 13 April 2026 (\$3,248), are not in section 7.1's list at all. The minus-one line alone is the one 2022 episode of section 7.2.

What the combination adds that no line adds alone. Neither line improves the worst fall by itself: the main line deepens it, the plus-one and minus-one lines leave it where the previous configuration had it. Yet all three together give –17.9%. An improvement that appears only in the combination and in none of its parts is the signature of path interaction, the way one extra position early in the history shifts every later position's size and timing, rather than of a mechanism that can be relied on. Section 8 puts the resolution limit of the worst fall at 4.17 points across the four starting sizes it re-runs — a spread driven by the \$7,000 path, which falls 4.2 points further than the \$12,000 one — so the two-point gap between the three-line hybrid and its parts is well inside noise; but an effect that none of its components shows has no mechanism behind it and no reason to repeat, and on the \$7,000 path it is gone (worst fall –21.9%, section 8).

Dropping the main line from the combination. If the main line is a drag on its own, the combination without it should be better. It is, mildly: loading only on the plus-one and minus-one lines gives 36.9% a year, the highest growth of any configuration in this study, with a worst fall of –18.96%. Against the three-line hybrid's 33.6% and –17.9% that is 3.3 points more growth and 1.0 point more fall, and section 8 puts the resolution limit at 3.3 and 4.17 points, so neither difference clears the noise on its own. Two separate tests point the same way, though: the main line alone is worse than the previous configuration, and removing it from the combination improves growth. The evidence mildly favours a two-line trigger on growth alone. What settled it in the second edition of this report was drawdown: the two-line form beat the previous configuration on both measures at every account size, where the three-line form read intraday was worse at \$7,000. The third round of the study then found that reading the touch at the close and loading only on the first day of a cluster cuts the main-line loads from 104 to 52 and turns their profit positive, though 27 of them still went into the 2022 decline for –\$1,357, and with those two rules in place the three-line form has the shallower headline fall of the two everywhere, an advantage that comes from the unfinished summer-2026 episode (section 8.7). That three-line form, read at the close and loaded on the first day only, is the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026, set out in section 9.

Verdict. The hybrid's extra growth comes from the plus-one line, and within it from one quarter of 2025. The main line is a drag when the touch is read intraday and loads repeat into a decline; read at the close and loaded once per cluster, it stops being one (section 8.7). The minus-one line contributes rarely but has paid in both episodes it has had.

7.4 Filling the book without abandoning the 5 September sizing rule

Section 6 showed that the sizing rule adopted on 5 September 2026 rarely fills the account on a loading day, because only about two Nasdaq-listed names are eligible and each is sized to about 5% of the account. Two ways to give a loading day more to buy without lifting the per-trade risk ceiling: let a loading day take any name in that week's watchlist, Nasdaq-listed or not, in the same rank order; or double the ceiling on loading days only, from 0.4% to 0.8% of the account at risk per position, leaving every ordinary day exactly as that sizing rule has it. Both were run on the pure strategy 2 and on the hybrid.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026), same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, 5 September sizing rule	20.2%	-27.14%	no	-14.4%	-11.5%	417	23.0%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, 5 September sizing rule, whole watchlist eligible	17.8%	-25.04%	no	-12.5%	-6.3%	568	25.4%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, per-position cap doubled on loading days	20.5%	-35.40%	no	-18.8%	-6.1%	403	25.1%
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	33.6%	-17.94%	yes	-15.7%	-17.5%	1053	21.5%
Hybrid, whole watchlist eligible on touch days	34.8%	-21.02%	yes	-16.3%	-18.0%	1100	22.6%
Hybrid, per-position cap doubled on loading days	35.0%	-23.90%	yes	-16.6%	-18.0%	1033	21.3%

Result. Both devices do fill the book more often. With the whole watchlist eligible, the pure strategy 2 bought 569 names on its loading days, 297 of them not Nasdaq-listed, and the book after a load rose to 0.94 times the account at the median (from 0.76); the hybrid's rose to 1.13 times, and the 1.5-times rail (the ceiling on the book's total size relative to the account) stopped the load on 17 days instead of 7. Doubling the ceiling had a similar effect on size: the doubled ceiling was the binding limit on 247 of strategy 2's 406 loads, the book after a load was 1.12 times the account at the median in the hybrid, and 1.5 times was reached on 19 and 22 days.

The pattern holds in three of the four runs: the doubled ceiling deepens the worst fall in both the pure strategy 2 and the hybrid (−35.4% and −23.9%) and the whole watchlist deepens it in the hybrid (−21.0%). The exception is the pure strategy 2 on the whole watchlist, which buys more — 569 loads against 419, and a book after a load of 0.94 times the account at the median against 0.76 — and yet falls 2.1 points less (−25.0% against −27.1%), a reminder that these worst-fall differences are path-dependent rather than mechanical. For the pure strategy the extra buying adds no growth at all. The whole watchlist gives 17.8% a year against 20.2% for Nasdaq names only, because the non-Nasdaq names it adds are the ones the specification excluded and they earn less; the doubled ceiling gives 20.5% a year with a worst fall of −35.4%, since the same 2022 loading days are now made with twice the size. For the hybrid the extra buying adds about one point of growth (34.8% and 35.0% against

33.6%) and costs three to six points of worst fall (–21.0% and –23.9% against –17.9%). One point of growth is inside the path-noise spread measured in section 8. So is the whole watchlist's 3.1-point deeper fall, against a 4.17-point limit; only the doubled ceiling's 6.0 points is outside it.

Verdict. Rejected. On the hybrid both devices buy about a point of growth, inside the study's resolution limit. The doubled ceiling's 6.0 points of extra worst fall is outside that limit; the whole watchlist's 3.1 points is inside it, so that device is rejected for buying no measurable growth and for contradicting the operator's Nasdaq-only specification, not for a measurable fall. On the pure strategy the whole watchlist gives up 2.4 points of growth (17.8% against 20.2%), itself inside the 3.3-point growth limit, while the doubled ceiling adds none and takes the worst fall to –35.4%. The Nasdaq-only hybrid under the 5 September ceiling remains the candidate.

7.5 The inverse filter: no entries when QQQ is far above the line

Mechanism. If the lines mark value, the entries made when QQQ is stretched far above them ought to be the poor ones. This filter blocks new entries on any day QQQ closes more than 2 sigma (a second run: 1.5 sigma) above the main line; nothing else changes, and positions already open are managed as usual.

Result. At 2 sigma the filter blocked entries on 123 days and changes little: 997 entries against the 1,025 of the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered), growth 24.6% a year against 26.2%, and exactly the same worst fall, –20.0%, because that fall (August 2022 to April 2023) happened with QQQ well below the plus-two line. At 1.5 sigma it removes 40% of the entries and most of the return: 16.0% a year, worst fall –19.9%. The days QQQ is stretched above its lines are strong-rally days, and the watchlist entries made on them are profitable on balance.

Verdict. Rejected. At 2 sigma nothing it does can be measured: the worst fall is the previous configuration's to two decimals (–20.01%) and the 1.6 points of growth it costs are inside this study's resolution limit. At 1.5 sigma the cost is real, 10 points of growth. Both settings do shorten the other two falls — worst two months –15.6% and –13.7% against the previous configuration's –17.8%, and the summer 2026 fall –17.4% and –6.7% against –19.6% (over the whole of 2026 the 1.5-sigma filter's fall is –8.3%) — but not the worst fall, which is the criterion, and the entries they remove are profitable ones.

7.6 The close test for the hybrid: what the strategy could run without intraday data

The hybrid above uses the range test, which models the intraday touch the operator asked for. The strategy, as it runs live, decides at 15:55 from the closing price, and no minute data for QQQ exists to model anything finer (section 4). This run is the same hybrid with the close test: a loading day is one on which QQQ closes within 0.15 sigma of a line. It is the form that could be ported as it stands.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
The previous configuration, same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	33.6%	-17.94%	yes	-15.7%	-17.5%	1053	21.5%
Hybrid under the close test (loading only when QQQ closes near a line)	32.7%	-19.61%	yes	-15.0%	-17.2%	1027	21.9%

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
Close-test hybrid at a \$7,000 account	31.9%	-19.82%	yes	-13.4%	-15.8%	1016	21.2%
Close-test hybrid under bad fills	25.9%	-21.91%	yes	-16.9%	-19.0%	1023	21.5%
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	36.9%	-18.96%	yes	-17.0%	-18.7%	998	22.8%
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test	36.2%	-18.94%	yes	-17.0%	-18.9%	1004	22.6%

Result. Nearly the same. The close test finds fewer touch days, 193 in 67 clusters against the range test's 296 in 59, loads on 107 of them with 257 positions (the range test: 156 days, 345 positions), and gives 32.7% a year with a worst fall of -19.6%, against 33.6% and -17.9%. It shares 67% of the previous configuration's trades where the range-test hybrid shares 59%, and its October 2025 is the same spike (+33.2% against the range test's +33.7%): the large loading-day winners of 2025 were bought on days QQQ closed near a line, not only on days it ranged to one. The difference between the two tests is about a point of growth, inside the resolution limit of section 8 (3.3 points), and 1.7 points of worst fall, also inside that limit (4.17 points) — though in the direction one would expect from loading on fewer days with the same rules.

The same holds for the two-line form of section 7.3: reading its touch at the close gives 36.2% a year against 36.9% for the intraday-range version, and the same worst fall to within a hundredth of a point (-18.94% against -18.96%).

Verdict. The intraday touch is not what the hybrid's result depends on, so the close-test form is the one to adopt: it needs no intraday data, the 15:55 cycle already computes QQQ's distance to the lines, and it would behave as tested rather than as modelled. Section 9 recommends it with all three lines and the first-day rule — the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026 — and sections 8.4 and 8.7 stress-test that form on its own rather than letting it inherit the intraday version's results.

7.7 Strategy 1 with a wider band

Covered in section 6: 0.25 sigma instead of 0.15 gives 11.5% a year with a worst fall of -25.9%, outside the limit.

7b. Every idea and test, in one place

A complete inventory of everything that was tried in this study — the two strategies as specified, each variation, each sensitivity and each verification run — with what it was meant to find out, what it found, and whether it changed the conclusion. Ideas considered but not run are listed too, with the reason.

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered), re-run on the frozen data copy	The yardstick every row is compared with	26.2% a year, worst fall -20.01%, 1017 trades	—
Strategy 1, close test	The operator's first strategy: entries only when QQQ closes within 0.15 sigma of a line	2.1% a year, worst fall -22.05%, 238 trades	Rejected: loses most of the return, deeper fall
Strategy 1, range test	The same with the intraday touch modelled from the day's range	8.2% a year, worst fall -23.50%, 307 trades	Rejected
Strategy 1, band widened to 0.25 sigma	Whether a wider band restores enough trades	11.5% a year, worst fall -25.94%, 405 trades	Rejected: outside 25%
Strategy 2, main line, risk ceiling in place	The operator's second strategy on the main line with the per-entry risk ceiling in place	5.0% a year, worst fall -24.86%, 147 trades	Rejected: 22 clusters in five years, account idle most of 2024–25
Strategy 2, main line, full conviction	The same with the ceiling lifted so the book can reach 1.5 times	3.6% a year, worst fall -41.90%, 93 trades	Rejected: -25% in 2022 alone
Strategy 2, any of three lines, risk ceiling in place	More loading days from the plus-one and minus-one lines	20.2% a year, worst fall -27.14%, 417 trades	Rejected: outside 25%
Strategy 2, any of three lines, full conviction	The same with the ceiling lifted	31.6% a year, worst fall -54.01%, 298 trades	Rejected: the deepest fall in the study
Strategy 2, any of three lines, regime exits left on	Whether keeping the previous configuration's broad-market exits helps the pure strategy	14.1% a year, worst fall -33.71%, 629 trades	Rejected: churn, worse on both counts
Strategy 2, whole watchlist eligible on loading days	Filling the book with more names without lifting the ceiling	17.8% a year, worst fall -25.04%, 568 trades	Rejected: less growth than Nasdaq-only, still outside 25%

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
Strategy 2, per-position ceiling doubled on loading days	Filling the book with bigger positions on loading days only	20.5% a year, worst fall -35.40%, 403 trades	Rejected: same growth, far deeper fall
The hybrid (the study's own variation): the previous configuration everywhere, loading on touch days, loaded positions exempt from regime exits	Keep the previous configuration's return on ordinary days and add the loads	33.6% a year, worst fall -17.94%, 1053 trades	One of five configurations that beat the previous configuration on both counts, and the shallowest fall of them; the stress-test subject of sections 8.1-8.3
The hybrid with regime exits off for the whole book	Which form of the exemption is right	30.1% a year, worst fall -25.48%, 1029 trades	Worse on both counts: the exemption must be limited to loaded positions
The hybrid with regime exits kept for everything	Whether the exemption is needed at all	19.8% a year, worst fall -27.88%, 1365 trades	Worse than the loaded-only exemption on both counts: the exemption is needed
The hybrid loading only on the minus-one line (dips)	Whether the benefit comes from buying dips	29.9% a year, worst fall -19.86%, 1009 trades	One episode (Q4 2022); a lead, not a rule
The hybrid loading only on the main line	Which line carries the hybrid	23.6% a year, worst fall -22.14%, 1062 trades	Worse than the previous configuration on both counts: the main line is a drag
The hybrid loading only on the plus-one line	Which line carries the hybrid	30.4% a year, worst fall -20.10%, 1016 trades	Carries the hybrid's growth (one quarter of 2025); worst fall equal to the previous configuration's
The hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	Whether dropping the main line, which is a drag on its own, improves the combination	36.9% a year, worst fall -18.96%, 998 trades	Highest growth in the study, but the gain over the three-line form does not clear the noise threshold
The hybrid, whole watchlist eligible on loading days	Filling the book, hybrid form	34.8% a year, worst fall -21.02%, 1100 trades	Rejected: about one point more growth (noise), three points deeper fall
The hybrid, per-position ceiling doubled on loading days	Filling the book, hybrid form	35.0% a year, worst fall -23.90%, 1033 trades	Rejected: about one point more growth (noise), six points deeper fall

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
The hybrid under the close test	The form the live software could run at 15:55 without intraday data	32.7% a year, worst fall -19.61%, 1027 trades	Nearly identical to the range test: the intraday touch is not what the result depends on
The inverse filter at 2 sigma	Whether entries far above the line are the poor ones	24.6% a year, worst fall -20.01%, 989 trades	Rejected: same worst fall, less return
The inverse filter at 1.5 sigma	The same, tighter	16.0% a year, worst fall -19.92%, 614 trades	Rejected
The hybrid at a \$7,000 account	Robustness: the live account's size	34.7% a year, worst fall -21.87%, 1059 trades	Grows much faster (34.7% against 22.9%) but falls 1.9 points deeper; still inside 25%
The hybrid under bad fills	Robustness: every gapped stop fills at the next open	27.5% a year, worst fall -19.79%, 1033 trades	Costs 6.1 points of growth against the previous configuration's 6.8: no extra fragility to bad fills
The hybrid at \$12,000 and \$40,000	Robustness: path noise, the spread between re-runs of one configuration at different starting sizes	\$12,000: 32.1% a year, worst fall -17.70%, 1056 trades; \$40,000: 34.0% a year, worst fall -18.70%, 1032 trades	The spread across sizes is the study's resolution limit: 3.3 points of growth, 4.17 points of worst fall
The hybrid over ten years	Robustness: two more bear markets (2018, 2020) and the 2019 slide	32.7% a year, worst fall -19.49%, 1934 trades	Decisive: the advantage is not a five-year accident
The close-test hybrid over ten years	Robustness: does the portable form hold over the decade	31.4% a year, worst fall -20.54%, 1909 trades	Holds over the decade: 31.4% a year against the previous configuration's 22.6%
The runner-up: the hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, touch read from the closing price, on every touch day	The finalist that loads on every touch day, measured on its own rather than inheriting the three-line results	36.2% a year, worst fall -18.94%, 1004 trades	Runner-up: 10.0 points more growth than the previous configuration, worst fall 1.07 points shallower
The runner-up at a \$7,000 account	Robustness: the live account's size	34.7% a year, worst fall -17.65%, 992 trades	Shallower than the previous configuration by 2.37 points, unlike the three-line form, which is deeper there

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
The runner-up at \$12,000	Robustness: path noise	35.2% a year, worst fall -18.61%, 1015 trades	Worst fall 0.26 points shallower than the previous configuration's, well inside the 4.17-point limit
The runner-up at \$40,000	Robustness: path noise	34.3% a year, worst fall -18.93%, 1018 trades	Worst fall 1.59 points shallower than the previous configuration's, inside the 4.17-point limit
The runner-up under bad fills	Robustness: every gapped stop fills at the next open	29.5% a year, worst fall -20.89%, 1001 trades	The deepest of its five conditions, and its trough is the last day of the data
The runner-up over ten years	Robustness: does it hold over the decade	31.8% a year, worst fall -18.41%, 1895 trades	Holds: 31.8% a year against the previous configuration's 22.6%; ahead in 8 of the 11 calendar years
Round two: band widened to 0.25 sigma (two lines, close test)	Was 0.15 sigma a lucky choice?	32.1% a year, worst fall -18.39%, 1017 trades	No: inside the study's noise. Every band run was made without the first-day rule
Round two: band 0.10 sigma (two lines, close test)	The same question, narrower	35.0% a year, worst fall -19.26%, 1030 trades	Inside the study's noise
Round two: band 0.05 sigma (two lines, close test)	The same question, narrowest	29.2% a year, worst fall -19.53%, 1042 trades	The weakest band setting on growth; still inside the noise on the fall
Round two: band 0.10 sigma (two lines, intraday range)	The band question on the range test	38.2% a year, worst fall -18.58%, 1005 trades	Became candidate C of the seed sweep
Round two: band 0.05 sigma (two lines, intraday range)	The same, narrowest	36.1% a year, worst fall -19.04%, 1015 trades	Inside the study's noise
Round two: no band at all - the day's range must contain the line	Does precision help?	29.9% a year, worst fall -20.71%, 1022 trades	Rejected: deeper than the previous configuration. It triggers on 53 days in five years instead of 206 and loads on only 41 of them instead of 117

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
Round two: the two-line close form, loading only on the first day of a cluster (recommended in the second edition)	Does skipping the rest of a cluster help?	37.5% a year, worst fall -18.89%, 1012 trades	Recommended in the second edition: 11.3 points more growth than the previous configuration, worst fall 1.12 points shallower; superseded by the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026 (the three-line form) in section 8.7
Round two: a five-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	An alternative spacing rule	34.2% a year, worst fall -19.35%, 1016 trades	Rejected: below the first-day rule on both measures, and it suppressed 90 loading days against the first-day rule's 89
Round two: a ten-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	The same, longer	35.0% a year, worst fall -19.74%, 1014 trades	Rejected: below the first-day rule on both measures
Round two: the first-day rule on the two-line intraday form	Does the spacing rule need the close test?	36.2% a year, worst fall -19.71%, 1016 trades	Works, but below the close-test form on both measures
Round two: the first-day rule on the three-line intraday form	The spacing rule with the main line back in	40.3% a year, worst fall -23.22%, 1033 trades	Rejected: the highest growth in the study, at -23.22%, deeper than the previous configuration
The two-line first-day form at a \$7,000 account	Robustness: does the second edition's recommendation survive at the live account's size	38.6% a year, worst fall -18.16%, 988 trades	Yes; compared with the adopted configuration (the three-line form) in section 8.7
The two-line first-day form at \$12,000	Robustness: path noise	38.4% a year, worst fall -18.77%, 1009 trades	Worst fall 0.10 points shallower than the previous configuration's
The two-line first-day form at \$25,000	Robustness: path noise, a size the runner-up was never run at	38.4% a year, worst fall -18.77%, 1013 trades	Worst fall 1.33 points shallower than the previous configuration's
The two-line first-day form at \$40,000	Robustness: path noise	37.7% a year, worst fall -18.85%, 1018 trades	Worst fall 1.67 points shallower than the previous configuration's
The two-line first-day form under bad fills	Robustness: every gapped stop fills at the next open	31.9% a year, worst fall -20.87%, 1003 trades	Its deepest fall in any run, -20.87%, and the trough is the last day of the data

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
The two-line first-day form over ten years	Robustness: does the second edition's recommendation hold over the decade	30.1% a year, worst fall -19.21%, 1921 trades	Holds on growth, 30.1% against the previous configuration's 22.6%, but ahead in only 6 of the 11 calendar years
Round two: the seed sweep over five years	The deciding test - five candidates x six seeds, each dropping a different 5% of entry candidates	Thirty runs; results in section 8.5	Settled the recommendation: the first-day rule won all six seeds on growth and four of six on the worst fall
Round two: the seed sweep at \$7,000	The same test at the live account's size	Six runs; results in section 8.5	The previous configuration breached 25% on one seed (-25.05%)
Round two: the seed sweep over ten years	The tie-break between the two finalists	Nine runs; results in section 8.6	Growth a dead heat; the first-day rule shallower in all three seeds. The previous configuration breached 25% again (-25.12%)
Round three: all three lines at the close, first day only (the operator's preferred shape; the adopted configuration)	Does the main line still hurt once the close test and the first-day rule are combined?	35.9% a year, worst fall -18.10%, 1024 trades	Shallower fall than the two-line form in every condition; recommended (section 8.7) and adopted
Round three: the same at a \$7,000 account	The live account's size	36.2% a year, worst fall -17.82%, 1011 trades	Better than the previous configuration on both measures; shallower than the two-line form
Round three: the same at \$12,000, \$25,000 and \$40,000	Path re-runs	\$12,000: 37.2% a year, worst fall -17.61%, 1022 trades; \$40,000: 35.9% a year, worst fall -17.85%, 1033 trades	Shallower fall than the two-line form at every size
Round three: the same under bad fills	Pessimistic execution	30.8% a year, worst fall -20.00%, 1023 trades	30.8% a year at -20.00%; 5.0 points of margin to the limit
Round three: the same across six seeds	The deciding test repeated	Median growth 35.1%, deepest fall -18.72%; the shallowest worst case of any candidate	Recommended over the two-line form on drawdown
Round three: the same over ten years, and across three ten-year seeds	Robustness on the longest sample	32.1% a year, worst fall -19.48%, 1943 trades	Over ten years 32.1% a year at -19.48%, ahead of the previous configuration in 8 of 11 years; best median growth of any candidate across the ten-year seeds

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
The two-line range-test form at a \$7,000 account	Whether the two-line intraday form holds at the live account's size	29.8% a year, worst fall -18.81%, 1008 trades	7.1 points below the same configuration at \$18,484 - the widest spread between re-runs of one configuration in this study
The three-line close-test hybrid at a \$7,000 account	The line-set comparison at the live account's size	31.9% a year, worst fall -19.82%, 1016 trades	Deeper than the two-line form (-19.82% against -17.65%): part of the case for dropping the main line
The three-line close-test hybrid under bad fills	The line-set comparison under bad fills	25.9% a year, worst fall -21.91%, 1023 trades	Deeper than the two-line form (-21.91% against -20.89%)
The previous configuration at a \$7,000 account	The previous configuration's half of the live-account pair	22.9% a year, worst fall -20.02%, 972 trades	The comparator in sections 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4
The previous configuration at \$12,000	The previous configuration's half of the \$12,000 pair	24.2% a year, worst fall -18.87%, 1017 trades	The comparator in sections 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4
The previous configuration at \$40,000	The previous configuration's half of the \$40,000 pair	25.1% a year, worst fall -20.52%, 1030 trades	The comparator in sections 8.1, 8.2 and 8.4
The previous configuration under bad fills	The previous configuration's half of the bad-fills pair	19.4% a year, worst fall -21.65%, 1013 trades	The comparator in sections 8.2 and 8.4
Verification: the study code with every new feature switched off	Proof the new code changed nothing for the previous configuration	Byte-identical to the pre-study engine on decisions, trades, equity, positions and watchlists; the side record of which rule limited each position's size differs, because the pre-study build recorded a binding constraint that disagreed with its own fills on 559 of 1,037 admitted entries and never reported the risk rule at all - the new record matches all 1,037 and the fills themselves are unchanged	Required before any run was trusted
Not run: filling loads at the touch minute (high or typical price) instead of the close	The size of the fill bias	No minute data for QQQ or for the stocks; the bias direction is known per day, its size is not (section 4). The full-conviction form it would refine is already far outside 25%	None
Not run: filling loads at the next morning's open	An alternative fill convention	A session later than the touch the operator specified, crosses the overnight gap, needs a new fill path	None

Idea	What it was meant to find out	Result	Effect on the conclusion
Not run: loading in scattered watchlist-rank order	An ordering variant	The operator specified rank order from first to last; a different order changes which names come first on the rare day the book fills, not whether it fills	None
Not run: a minimum stop distance for loaded positions	Screening out tight stops on loading days	Loaded positions already have wider stops than ordinary entries (4.1–4.3% median against 2.9%); the rule would remove the few tight-stop loads that are the only ones that fill the book	None
Not run: keeping the open-risk cap or the exposure governor on loading days	Softer forms of the load	The operator's specification loads irrespective of the regime; in the adopted configuration the strategy's own weekly safety brakes still cut a load back on 10 of the 296 touch days and refused one outright on 12 more — six because the week was already blocked for new buying, four because the account was in its post-loss cooling-off period, two because the week had been ordered to reduce risk. The 4% ceiling on the total money at risk across all open positions, which a loading day lifts, would have bitten on 3 days. Keeping any of these changes a handful of days, not the picture	None

The table is regenerated from the run records each time the report is assembled, so no figure in it is typed by hand.

7c. Round two: the band, the line itself, and how often to load

The first round of this study fixed two things without testing them: the band was always 0.15 sigma, and a touch was never required to reach the line itself. The operator asked about both, so this section tests them, and then follows the trade records to a third idea that came out of the analysis itself.

7.9 How wide should the band be?

The band is the zone around a line inside which QQQ counts as having touched it, measured in sigma. Sigma is about \$68.70 for QQQ at the time of writing, so 0.15 sigma is roughly \$10 and 0.05 sigma about \$3.40. Narrower means the touch has to be more precise, and there are fewer of them. Every row below is the same configuration, the hybrid loading at the plus-one and minus-one lines, with only the band and the price test changed.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
The previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered), same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test	36.2%	-18.94%	yes	-17.0%	-18.9%	1004	22.6%
Two lines at the close, band widened to 0.25 sigma (no first-day rule)	32.1%	-18.39%	yes	-16.7%	-18.4%	1017	22.0%
Two lines at the close, band 0.10 sigma (no first-day rule)	35.0%	-19.26%	yes	-17.3%	-19.3%	1030	22.2%
Two lines at the close, band 0.05 sigma (no first-day rule)	29.2%	-19.53%	yes	-17.9%	-19.5%	1042	21.0%
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	36.9%	-18.96%	yes	-17.0%	-18.7%	998	22.8%
Two lines, intraday range, band 0.10 sigma	38.2%	-18.58%	yes	-16.8%	-18.6%	1005	23.0%
Two lines, intraday range, band 0.05 sigma	36.1%	-19.04%	yes	-17.1%	-19.0%	1015	21.6%
Two lines, intraday range, the line itself (no band)	29.9%	-20.71%	yes	-17.3%	-19.2%	1022	21.0%

The band barely matters. Between 0.05 and 0.25 sigma, growth runs from 29.2% to 38.2% a year and the worst fall from –18.39% to –19.53%, with no clean trend in either. The 1.3 points that separate the best band from the setting originally chosen are inside this study's 3.3-point resolution limit. The honest reading is that 0.15 sigma was not a lucky choice and no other band in the usable range is measurably better.

Requiring the day to reach the line itself is the worst setting in this table. With the band removed entirely, so that the day's low-to-high range must contain the line, the trigger fires on 53 days in five years instead of 206 and loads are placed on only 41 of those days instead of 117, and the result is 29.9% a year with a worst fall of –20.71%, worse than the previous configuration on drawdown and the weakest of every variant here. Precision is not the point. Waiting for the exact line costs more in loads never made than it gains in loads better placed.

Worked example, 30 July 2026. The intraday test read the previous session's line, \$666.77 with sigma \$65.87, putting its 0.15 zone at \$656.89 to \$676.65 and its 0.10 zone at \$660.18 to \$673.36. The closing test reads that day's own line, \$667.14 with sigma \$65.93, and zones of \$657.25 to \$677.03 and \$660.55 to \$673.73. QQQ traded between \$673.30 and \$685.12 and closed at \$683.55. The intraday test calls this a touch under both bands, because the day traded down into the zone — under the 0.10 band by six cents; the closing test calls it no touch under either, because the close finished well above. The line itself, \$666.77, was never reached at all that day, so the line-crossing rule ignores it.

7.10 Should the strategy load again the next day, and the day after?

Touches arrive in clusters. QQQ reaches a line, and often stays near it for several sessions, so the strategy loads again and again into the same episode. Before the runs, the trade records suggested that was a mistake.

Configuration	Where in the cluster the load was bought	Trades	Profit	Average per trade	Win rate
Two lines, decided at the close	First day of the cluster	110	\$28,979	\$263	39%
Two lines, decided at the close	Second or third day	65	\$4,207	\$65	26%
Two lines, decided at the close	Fourth day or later	22	\$993	\$45	14%
Three lines, read intraday	First day of the cluster	142	\$38,488	\$271	37%
Three lines, read intraday	Second or third day	87	\$5,212	\$60	23%
Three lines, read intraday	Fourth day or later	114	\$4,398	\$39	19%

A cluster is an unbroken run of consecutive touch sessions, exactly as the engine's first-day rule defines it: the first day is a touch day whose previous trading session was not one.

That gap is large enough to be worth a rule, so the study added one to the strategy's backtesting engine: load on the first day of a cluster and ignore the rest of it, plus an alternative version that simply waits a fixed number of sessions after any load — not, in this history, a softer one: the five-session cooldown suppressed 90 loading days where the first-day rule suppressed 89. Both are switched off unless deliberately enabled, and change nothing while they are off.

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
The previous configuration, same data	26.2%	-20.01%	yes	-17.8%	-19.6%	1017	19.8%
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test	36.2%	-18.94%	yes	-17.0%	-18.9%	1004	22.6%
Two lines at the close, first day of a cluster only (recommended in the second edition of this report)	37.5%	-18.89%	yes	-16.2%	-18.9%	1012	22.4%
Two lines at the close, five-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	34.2%	-19.35%	yes	-17.6%	-19.4%	1016	22.3%
Two lines at the close, ten-session cooldown instead of the first-day rule	35.0%	-19.74%	yes	-17.7%	-19.4%	1014	22.3%
Hybrid loading on the plus-one and minus-one lines, main line excluded	36.9%	-18.96%	yes	-17.0%	-18.7%	998	22.8%
Two lines, intraday range, first day of a cluster only	36.2%	-19.71%	yes	-18.0%	-19.7%	1016	22.4%

Configuration	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	Worst two months	Summer 2026 fall from peak	Trades	Win rate
Hybrid: the previous configuration everywhere plus loading on touch days (loaded positions exempt from regime exits)	33.6%	-17.94%	yes	-15.7%	-17.5%	1053	21.5%
Three lines, intraday range, first day of a cluster only	40.3%	-23.22%	yes	-21.6%	-23.2%	1033	21.8%

On a single history the rule looked like noise. It gained the two-line close-decided form (the second edition's recommendation) 1.3 points of growth, which is inside the resolution limit, and it damaged the three-line form badly when the touch was read intraday, taking its worst fall from -17.94% to -23.22%. Read at the close instead, the three-line form with the first-day rule — the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026 — is a different animal, and section 8.7 is about it. The cooldown versions were worse than either. Read on one path, the conclusion would have been that the per-trade signal does not survive at portfolio level, and the rule would have been dropped.

Across the six seeded re-runs it is the clearest improvement on the plain version in the study. Section 8.5 re-runs each candidate six times with a different 5% of entry candidates removed each time; this report calls those re-runs the seeds. There the first-day rule's *worst* growth, 34.6% a year, beats the plain version's *median* of 33.9%, and it does so while loading on half as many days — 40 against 84 on the single path, 36 to 42 against 80 to 91 across the seeds — and buying about a third fewer loaded positions, 135 against 199 on the single path and 131 against 198 on average across the seeds. On the worst fall the two are level: the first-day rule is shallower in four of the six seeds and deeper in two, and its deepest seeded fall, -19.32%, is 0.35 points worse than the plain version's -18.97%. Against the study's other closely matched finalist — the same two lines read intraday at a 0.10 band, candidate C — the seeds are a tie: median growth 36.1% against 35.7%, an eighth of the resolution limit, with candidate C fractionally shallower at -19.27%. What the seeds settle is first-day against every-day, not first-day against every other candidate. This is the one finding in this report that a single backtest would have thrown away, and it is the reason the deciding test was run that way.

8. Does it hold up?

One family of configurations reached this section: the hybrid of 7.1, the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) everywhere plus loading on the touch days, in its several forms. Everything else was outside the 25% limit, below the previous configuration's growth, or both. Eight questions decide whether the result is real: how much of the difference is path noise, does it survive at the live account's size, does it survive pessimistic fills, does it repeat over a longer history, does the close-decided, first-day form that section 9 settles on, the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026, stand up on its own evidence rather than inheriting these answers, does it survive when 5% of the entry candidates are taken away (8.5), does that still hold over ten years (8.6), and does the shape the operator asked for, all three lines, hold up once the first-day rule is in place (8.7).

8.1 How large is path noise?

The same rules, on the same days, with a different amount of money on day one give different results, because position sizes are rounded to whole shares and every fill changes what the account can afford next. That spread is the resolution limit of this study: a difference smaller than it means nothing. It is not the only reason to discount a difference: section 7.1 showed the hybrid's growth lead is concentrated in two months of 2025. Compound the monthly returns of both configurations with October and December 2025 removed and the hybrid's lead over the five years falls from 7.4 points a year to 1.5, which is inside this limit.

Both configurations were re-run on the identical five years from 4 starting sizes, \$7,000, \$12,000, \$18,484, \$40,000. The same rules on the same days give the hybrid 32.1% to 34.7% a year and the previous configuration 22.9% to 26.2%; worst falls run -21.87% to -17.70% for the hybrid and -20.52% to -18.87% for the previous configuration. Nothing differs between the runs in a pair except the amount of money on day one, so the wider of the two spreads is this study's resolution limit: **3.3 points of growth per year and 4.17 points of worst fall**. A difference smaller than that means nothing.

The four sizes are not all the same kind of test. The spread across \$12,000, \$18,484 and \$40,000 is path noise pure and simple. The \$7,000 run is a different regime as well: at that size whole-share rounding makes each position lumpier. The September drawdown study found the opposite of a size penalty, though: account size moved the worst fall by at most 1.2 points in either direction, and the smaller account fell less in four of its seven pairs. In this study the previous configuration's own worst fall is shallower at \$7,000 (-20.02%) than at \$40,000 (-20.52%); it is the hybrid alone whose worst fall is deepest. Both are reasons a difference of this size may not repeat.

The adopted configuration behaves better under the same test than either of them: re-run from the same four sizes it gives 35.9% to 37.2% a year, a spread of 1.3 points, and worst falls of -18.27% to -17.61%, a spread of 0.66 points. Its four re-runs landed closer together than the previous configuration's did, but four runs cannot establish that as a property: the widest spread between re-runs of one configuration anywhere in this study is 7.1 points, in the same two lines read from the daily range instead of the close (36.9% a year at \$18,484 against 29.8% at \$7,000, the only difference between the two runs being the starting amount). Treat the figures above as a floor on this study's resolution limit rather than a measurement of it.

Measured against the limit, the hybrid's growth lead of 7.4 points at \$18,484 is about 2 times it, and the lead holds at every size, so the higher growth is established. Its worst-fall advantage of 2.07 points is smaller than the 4.17-point limit and reverses at \$7,000, so the shallower fall is *not* established: read the hybrid as clearly higher-growth and no better than the previous configuration on drawdown.

Starting size	Previous configuration: growth / worst fall	Hybrid: growth / worst fall
\$7,000	22.9% / -20.02%	34.7% / -21.87%
\$12,000	24.2% / -18.87%	32.1% / -17.70%
\$18,484	26.2% / -20.01%	33.6% / -17.94%
\$40,000	25.1% / -20.52%	34.0% / -18.70%

8.2 The same conditions, the previous configuration and the hybrid side by side

Each row below is one condition run twice, once with the previous configuration and once with the hybrid, on the same frozen data, so the pair is directly comparable.

Condition	Previous configuration: growth / worst fall	Hybrid: growth / worst fall	Better on growth?	Better on the fall?	Both inside 25%?	Margin to the 25% limit
At the live account's size, \$7,000	22.9% / -20.02%	34.7% / -21.87%	yes (+11.8 pts)	no (-1.85 pts)	yes	3.1 pts
Under bad fills (every gapped stop fills at the next open)	19.4% / -21.65%	27.5% / -19.79%	yes (+8.1 pts)	yes (+1.86 pts)	yes	5.2 pts
Path re-run at \$12,000	24.2% / -18.87%	32.1% / -17.70%	yes (+7.9 pts)	yes (+1.17 pts)	yes	7.3 pts
Path re-run at \$18,484 (the main run)	26.2% / -20.01%	33.6% / -17.94%	yes (+7.4 pts)	yes (+2.07 pts)	yes	7.1 pts
Path re-run at \$40,000	25.1% / -20.52%	34.0% / -18.70%	yes (+8.9 pts)	yes (+1.82 pts)	yes	6.3 pts

The growth advantage survives every condition; the shallower fall does not. The hybrid grew faster than the previous configuration in all five conditions, by 7.4 to 11.8 points a year, which is two to four times the resolution limit. Its worst fall was shallower in four of the five, by 1.2 to 2.1 points, which is well inside that limit; and at \$7,000, the size the live account actually is, it was 1.9 points **deeper** (–21.87% against –20.02%). Both remain inside the 25% the operator set, at every size and under bad fills.

Bad fills cost both configurations about the same. Assuming every gapped stop fills at the next morning's open instead of at the stop price takes the previous configuration from 26.2% to 19.4% a year and the hybrid from 33.6% to 27.5%: 6.8 and 6.1 points. Loading on touch days does not make the strategy more fragile to bad execution, which was a real possibility because loaded positions are bought without regard to the support zone and carry wider stops.

The \$7,000 case deserves its own sentence. The live account is the smallest size tested and the one whole-share rounding bites hardest on. The September drawdown study found the opposite of a size penalty, though: account size moved the worst fall by at most 1.2 points in either direction, and the smaller account fell *less* in four of its seven pairs. In this study the previous configuration's own worst fall is shallower at \$7,000 (–20.02%) than at \$40,000 (–20.52%); it is the hybrid alone whose fall is deepest at that size. The hybrid grows much faster there (34.7% against 22.9%) but gives back its drawdown advantage: –21.87% against –20.02%, and a summer 2026 fall from the peak of –21.8% against the previous configuration's –18.1%. If the hybrid were run on the live account today, the deeper fall is the case to plan for, not the shallower one seen at larger sizes.

8.3 Ten years

The five-year window contains one bear market. The ten-year window adds the fourth quarter of 2018, the Covid crash of 2020 and the 2019 slide, which was the deepest fall of the decade for the previous configuration. The hybrid, the dips-only hybrid, the close-test hybrid, the two-line close-test form, the two-line first-day form recommended in the second edition and the three-line first-day form that section 9 adopts (the adopted configuration) were re-run over 30 May 2016 to 3 September 2026 against the previous configuration's own ten-year run, all seven on the same frozen copy of the company-filings data.

Configuration, 30 May 2016 to 3 September 2026	Total return	Growth per year	Worst fall	Inside 25%?	When	Trades
Previous configuration, ten years	+710.3%	22.6%	-23.31%	yes	2019-05-03 to 2019-12-03	1900
Hybrid, any of three lines, ten years	+1,728.1%	32.7%	-19.49%	yes	2020-01-17 to 2020-03-20	1934
Hybrid, minus-one line only (dips), ten years	+959.2%	25.9%	-23.31%	yes	2019-05-03 to 2019-12-03	1923
Hybrid under the close test, ten years	+1,548.2%	31.4%	-20.54%	yes	2021-11-18 to 2022-07-14	1909
Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test, ten years	+1,595.9%	31.8%	-18.41%	yes	2018-09-14 to 2019-01-23	1895
Two lines at the close, first day only, ten years	+1,384.1%	30.1%	-19.21%	yes	2018-01-22 to 2018-05-02	1921
THE ADOPTED CONFIGURATION (all three lines), ten years	+1,641.6%	32.1%	-19.48%	yes	2018-09-14 to 2019-01-03	1943

The deepest fall inside each episode (from the episode's own high):

Episode	Previous configuration	Hybrid, any of three lines	Hybrid, minus-one line only (dips)	Hybrid under the close test	Hybrid on the plus-one and minus-one lines under the close test	Two lines at the close, first day only	THE ADOPTED CONFIGURATION (all three lines)
The 2018 fourth quarter	-16.8%	-18.5%	-16.8%	-19.6%	-18.4%	-18.2%	-19.5%
The 2019 slide	-23.3%	-15.0%	-23.3%	-15.8%	-14.2%	-13.4%	-13.8%
Covid, early 2020	-15.0%	-19.5%	-16.3%	-16.9%	-16.9%	-17.0%	-17.0%
The 2022 bear market	-20.1%	-17.9%	-13.5%	-19.5%	-17.3%	-14.8%	-17.8%
Summer 2026	-20.1%	-17.3%	-20.2%	-17.3%	-17.7%	-18.1%	-17.8%

Over ten years the hybrid is not a lucky path. The three-line range hybrid — not the adopted configuration — turns \$18,484 into 2.4 times what the previous configuration makes, grows 32.7% a year against 22.6%, and its worst fall is shallower, –19.49% against –23.31%. The adopted configuration's own decade result is 32.1% a year at –19.48%, ahead of the previous configuration in eight of the eleven calendar years rather than nine, and +16.8% in 2026 rather than +3.9%; the two-line form recommended in the second edition made 30.1% at

–19.21%, ahead in six. Both stay inside the 25% limit. The three-line range hybrid was ahead of the previous configuration in nine of the eleven calendar years, and the two exceptions are 2017, a year in which QQQ never came within 0.15 sigma of any line and no loading day occurred, and 2026.

Year	Previous configuration	Hybrid, any of three lines	Hybrid, minus-one line only (dips)	Hybrid under the close test	Hybrid, close test, main line dropped	Two lines at the close, first day only	The adopted configuration (all three lines)
2016*	+0.8%	+24.7%	+0.8%	+19.4%	+19.4%	+14.2%	+14.2%
2017	+23.1%	+12.1%	+23.1%	+16.8%	+16.8%	+17.0%	+17.0%
2018	+11.0%	+16.5%	+11.0%	+9.4%	+11.1%	+9.9%	+8.3%
2019	+8.2%	+30.4%	+8.2%	+45.6%	+36.4%	+29.5%	+38.4%
2020	+51.5%	+59.3%	+64.5%	+60.1%	+65.7%	+46.0%	+72.7%
2021	+22.7%	+32.3%	+23.0%	+28.3%	+28.0%	+30.3%	+28.7%
2022	-4.1%	+4.2%	+10.7%	+2.5%	+4.6%	+2.0%	-1.3%
2023	+20.9%	+37.4%	+24.3%	+20.5%	+14.6%	+19.8%	+28.7%
2024	+19.5%	+43.7%	+17.8%	+43.2%	+43.1%	+34.7%	+35.0%
2025	+45.1%	+90.9%	+49.0%	+93.0%	+93.2%	+94.9%	+95.6%
2026*	+45.6%	+3.9%	+45.7%	+5.8%	+14.2%	+27.7%	+16.8%

Hybrid, any of three lines was ahead of the previous configuration in 9 of the 11 calendar years.

Hybrid, minus-one line only (dips) was ahead of the previous configuration in 6 of the 11 calendar years.

Hybrid under the close test was ahead of the previous configuration in 7 of the 11 calendar years.

Hybrid, close test, main line dropped was ahead of the previous configuration in 8 of the 11 calendar years.

Two lines at the close, first day only was ahead of the previous configuration in 6 of the 11 calendar years.

The adopted configuration (all three lines) was ahead of the previous configuration in 8 of the 11 calendar years.

* 2016 runs from 30 May; 2026 to 3 September. Figures are chained, so they multiply out to the totals above.

The advantage does not come from the weakest data. The early years of the ten-year history are the least trustworthy part of it: the watchlist for 2016 to 2019 was built by a screener using company data that did not exist at the time, which flatters every configuration run on it. Because the hybrid buys more of those same names on loading days, it could in principle be flattered more. It is not: its growth advantage is present in every sub-window, clean or not. It is not at its largest in the cleanest ones, though. For the three-line hybrid the widest gap of the four windows is a clean one, 2020 to the end of 2024 (33.1% a year against 20.1%), but in the cleanest full window, 2020 to today, the gap is the narrowest of the four (37.3% against 28.3%, 9.0 points against 13.0). For the three-line close-test form the widest gap of all four is in the weakest early years (25.0% against 11.8%), and for the two-line close-test form the same is true (23.2% against 11.8%), as it is for the two-line first-day form of the second edition (19.7% against 11.8%); for the three-line first-day form, the adopted configuration, the four gaps are nearly equal, 9.3 to 9.7 points, and the widest is the clean 2020-to-2024 window

(29.8% against 20.1%), not the early years (21.4% against 11.8%). Measured as a ratio rather than a difference, both hybrids grow fastest relative to the previous configuration in exactly those early years. Read the table as showing that the advantage survives the removal of the weak data, not that it is strongest without it.

Window	Previous configuration: growth / worst fall	Hybrid, any of three lines: growth / worst fall	Hybrid, dips only: growth / worst fall	Hybrid, close test: growth / worst fall	Hybrid, close test, no main line: growth / worst fall	Two lines, first day only: growth / worst fall	THE ADOPTED CONFIGURATION (all three lines): growth / worst fall
The whole decade	22.6% / -23.31%	32.7% / -19.49%	25.9% / -23.31%	31.4% / -20.54%	31.8% / -18.41%	30.1% / -19.21%	32.1% / -19.48%
The early years, where the watchlist data is weakest	11.8% / -23.31%	23.4% / -18.51%	11.8% / -23.31%	25.0% / -19.62%	23.2% / -18.41%	19.7% / -19.21%	21.4% / -19.48%
2020 to today	28.3% / -20.06%	37.3% / -19.49%	33.6% / -20.16%	34.4% / -20.54%	36.0% / -18.33%	35.4% / -18.14%	37.6% / -18.80%
2020 to the end of 2024, before the quarter that carries the hybrid	20.1% / -20.06%	33.1% / -19.49%	26.1% / -18.30%	28.6% / -20.54%	28.6% / -18.33%	24.9% / -17.04%	29.8% / -18.80%

Growth inside a window is measured from the account value on its first day, so these figures do not chain into the decade total; they are for comparing the configurations with each other over the same days.

Where the decade's loading profit came from. The 634 closed loaded trades made \$232,213 against \$82,432 from the 1,300 ordinary ones, but the profit is very unevenly spread: the ten largest loaded trades made 69% of it, and the loads entered in 2025 alone made \$134,835, 58% of the total. Loading days were also unevenly spread: 272 of them in ten years, 34 in 2025 and only 3 in 2024. A configuration whose advantage depends this heavily on a handful of outcomes cannot be expected to reproduce that advantage on demand, even though the direction has been consistent.

Two things the decade shows that five years could not. First, the minus-one line, the dip trigger of section 7.2, fired in two separate episodes rather than one: six loading days in the Covid crash of 2020 and fourteen in the autumn of 2022. Both paid: 2020 became +64.5% against the previous configuration's +51.5% and 2022 became +10.7% against -4.1%, and the dips-only configuration finishes the decade at 25.9% a year against 22.6%, with the same worst fall as the previous configuration because it makes no difference in 2019, when QQQ never reached the line. Second, the 2018 and 2020 crashes show where loading hurts: the hybrid's fall in the fourth quarter of 2018 was -18.5% against the previous configuration's -16.8%, and in the Covid crash -19.5% against -15.0%. Loading into a market that keeps falling is exactly the risk of this idea, and in a fast crash it costs about three to four points more than not loading.

2026 is the warning. In the most recent eight months the three-line range hybrid earned +3.9% where the previous configuration earned +45.6% (the adopted configuration earned +16.8%, the two-line form of the second edition +27.7%), and the five-year run shows the same thing (+5.0% against +44.0%). The mechanism is visible in the trades: the hybrid's 2026 loaded positions made \$20,674, but its ordinary positions lost \$39,242 where the previous configuration's made \$19,229. Because loaded positions do not leave on a risk-off day, the account stays fuller, 10.9 open positions on average against 9.1, and it was never once fully in cash where the previous configuration was in cash on 19 days. In a year that chops sideways and then falls, that extra exposure costs more than the loads earn. Note that the hybrid's 2026 *fall* was still shallower (–17.3% against –20.1%): what it gave up in 2026 was upside, not safety.

8.4 The configuration adopted on 9 September 2026, tested on its own

Everything above tests the hybrid that loads on all three lines and reads the touch from the daily range. Section 9 arrives at a different form, the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026: the same three lines, but the touch read from the closing price and loading only on the first day of a cluster. That is a different configuration, so it was put through the same conditions in its own right rather than inheriting the results above, at five account sizes and under pessimistic fills, against the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered). (The two-line version of it, which this report recommended in its second edition, is compared with it in 8.7.)

Condition	Previous configuration: growth / worst fall	Adopted configuration: growth / worst fall	Better on growth?	Better on the fall?	Both inside 25%?	Margin to the 25% limit
At the live account's size, \$7,000	22.9% / -20.02%	36.2% / -17.82%	yes (+13.3 pts)	yes (+2.20 pts)	yes	7.2 pts
\$12,000	24.2% / -18.87%	37.2% / -17.61%	yes (+13.0 pts)	yes (+1.26 pts)	yes	7.4 pts
\$18,484 (the main run)	26.2% / -20.01%	35.9% / -18.10%	yes (+9.7 pts)	yes (+1.91 pts)	yes	6.9 pts
\$25,000	25.9% / -20.10%	36.4% / -18.27%	yes (+10.5 pts)	yes (+1.83 pts)	yes	6.7 pts
\$40,000	25.1% / -20.52%	35.9% / -17.85%	yes (+10.8 pts)	yes (+2.67 pts)	yes	7.1 pts
Under bad fills (every gapped stop fills at the next open)	19.4% / -21.65%	30.8% / -20.00%	yes (+11.4 pts)	yes (+1.65 pts)	yes	5.0 pts

The adopted configuration is better than the previous configuration on both measures in all six, including at the live account's size, and its fall is 1.3 to 2.7 points shallower in every one of them. The two measures are not equally well established, though: the growth lead of +9.7 to +13.3 points is 2.9 to 4.0 times the 3.3-point limit of section 8.1, but the worst-fall advantage of +1.26 to +2.67 points is inside the 4.17-point limit, so by the study's own rule the shallower fall is not established -- read the table as clearly higher growth with a fall that is no

worse. Its margin to the operator's 25% limit is 5.0 points at its worst, under bad fills, and 6.7 to 7.4 points elsewhere. In five of the six conditions, \$12,000, \$18,484, \$25,000, \$40,000 and bad fills, the deepest fall is the completed episode of 18 November 2021 to 14 July 2022; only the \$7,000 run troughs on 1 September 2026, in the summer-2026 decline that had not ended when the data stopped. That decline is within 1.2 points of the measured worst in every condition, –17.3% to –18.8% from its peak, so the margins are still best read as floors. Its worst two months at \$7,000 are –14.9%, against the previous configuration's –16.4% and the intraday three-line form's –20.2%.

Section 8.7 explains why the main line, a drag when read intraday and loaded on every touch day, no longer is under the close test and the first-day rule, and sets the adopted configuration beside the two-line form it replaces.

8.5 The deciding test: the same method, many times over

By the end of round two, four load-day variants sat within 4.6 points of growth and 1.0 point of worst fall of each other. The fall spread and most of the growth gaps are inside the 3.3-point resolution limit of section 8.1, so picking the highest number would mostly have been picking noise -- though the widest growth gap, 4.6 points, is not. The previous configuration, 7.4 to 12.0 points of growth below them, was seeded too, as the yardstick. So each candidate was run six more times, and in each run a different 5% of the entry candidates was removed before the strategy ever saw them, chosen deterministically from the run's seed (a fixed starting number for the random selection, so that the same seed always removes the same trades) and therefore every configuration loses exactly the same 5% in a given seed. The question each seed asks is simple: if this history had offered slightly different trades, would this configuration still have worked?

Configuration	Seeds run	Growth per year: worst / median / best	Worst fall: deepest / median	Worst two months, deepest	Inside 25% on every seed?
The previous configuration	6	20.6% / 24.1% / 26.3%	-24.14% / -20.56%	-17.8%	yes
Load at the plus-one and minus-one lines, decided at the close, band 0.15 sigma	6	31.2% / 33.9% / 37.1%	-18.97% / -18.59%	-17.7%	yes
The same, loading only on the first day of a cluster	6	34.6% / 36.1% / 38.9%	-19.32% / -18.57%	-17.9%	yes
The same two lines read intraday, band 0.10 sigma	6	32.9% / 35.7% / 38.9%	-19.27% / -18.69%	-16.9%	yes
All three lines read intraday, band 0.15 sigma	6	27.8% / 31.3% / 35.4%	-20.59% / -19.93%	-16.1%	yes
All three lines at the close, first day of a cluster only (the adopted configuration)	6	33.5% / 35.1% / 37.9%	-18.72% / -17.42%	-16.0%	yes

Configuration	seed 1	seed 2	seed 3	seed 4	seed 5	seed 6
The previous configuration	24.0% / -19.9%	22.2% / -21.2%	25.2% / -18.6%	20.6% / -24.1%	26.3% / -19.0%	24.2% / -21.5%

Configuration	seed 1	seed 2	seed 3	seed 4	seed 5	seed 6
Load at the plus-one and minus-one lines, decided at the close, band 0.15 sigma	32.7% / -19.0%	31.2% / -18.7%	37.1% / -18.0%	32.0% / -18.6%	35.1% / -18.6%	36.9% / -18.4%
The same, loading only on the first day of a cluster	35.8% / -19.3%	34.7% / -18.7%	38.9% / -18.6%	34.6% / -18.5%	36.4% / -17.6%	37.5% / -18.0%
The same two lines read intraday, band 0.10 sigma	35.0% / -19.3%	32.9% / -18.3%	38.9% / -18.7%	34.7% / -18.6%	36.3% / -18.4%	37.5% / -18.9%
All three lines read intraday, band 0.15 sigma	31.7% / -19.8%	27.9% / -20.5%	35.4% / -17.9%	30.9% / -20.6%	31.9% / -17.4%	27.8% / -20.0%
All three lines at the close, first day of a cluster only (the adopted configuration)	33.5% / -18.3%	34.4% / -17.0%	37.9% / -18.7%	33.9% / -17.4%	36.6% / -17.3%	35.8% / -17.5%

Each cell is growth per year and the worst fall for that seed. A seed skips 5% of entry candidates, the same 5% for every configuration, so the columns are directly comparable.

This is what settled the recommendation. On the single unperturbed history (the actual record, with nothing removed), loading only on the first day of a cluster beat the plain version by 1.3 points of growth, inside the noise, and this report was ready to call it nothing. Across seeds it won all six on growth, and its worst seed, 34.6% a year, came in above the plain version's median of 33.9%. On the worst fall the two are level: the first-day rule is shallower in four seeds and deeper in two, and its deepest seeded fall, -19.32%, is 0.35 points worse than the plain version's -18.97%. That is a different kind of evidence from a single backtest, and it is the reason this report recommends the first-day rule.

It also changed how the previous configuration looks. On one path the previous configuration falls -20.01%, four and a half points inside the operator's limit. Across six seeds its worst fall is -24.14%, less than a point inside it. The 25% criterion the operator set in September is closer to binding on the previous configuration than the single run suggested.

The seeding was repeated at the live account's size, so that the evidence does not all come from one capital.

At a \$7,000 account	seed 1	seed 2	seed 3	Worst of the three
The previous configuration	19.5% / -25.1%	19.6% / -21.8%	23.2% / -18.3%	19.5% / -25.1%
Two lines, first day only	35.7% / -18.0%	34.9% / -16.9%	38.5% / -17.5%	34.9% / -18.0%
All three lines, first day only (the adopted configuration)	33.9% / -17.5%	31.8% / -16.8%	37.0% / -17.5%	31.8% / -17.5%

Growth per year and worst fall, at the size the live account actually is. The same 5% of entry candidates is removed for every row within a seed, so the columns compare like with like.

8.6 The tie-break: seeds over ten years

Two answers disagreed. The five-year seed test preferred loading only on the first day of a cluster; the single ten-year path preferred loading on every touch day, by 1.7 points of growth and 0.8 of drawdown. One is six short histories, the other is one long history, and neither settles the question on its own. So both finalists were run across seeds on the ten-year window, which is the longest sample this study has.

Ten years, with seeds	seed 1	seed 2	seed 3	Median growth	Deepest fall
The previous configuration	21.6% / -22.6%	21.3% / -23.3%	21.4% / -25.1%	21.4%	-25.12%
Two lines at the close, loading on every touch day	28.6% / -19.3%	30.8% / -18.9%	32.2% / -21.6%	30.8%	-21.58%
Two lines, loading only on the first day of a cluster	29.0% / -17.8%	30.7% / -18.6%	30.9% / -19.5%	30.7%	-19.49%
All three lines, loading only on the first day of a cluster (the adopted configuration)	32.2% / -19.5%	33.1% / -18.6%	33.7% / -20.5%	33.1%	-20.51%

Growth per year and worst fall over 30 May 2016 to 3 September 2026. Each seed removes the same 5% of entry candidates from every row, so the columns compare like with like.

The tie-break between the two two-line forms goes to the first-day rule, on drawdown. Over ten years with seeds they earn the same, a median of 30.8% a year for loading on every touch day against 30.7% for loading only on the first day, but loading on every touch day falls as deep as –21.58% where the first-day rule's deepest is –19.49%, and the first-day rule is shallower in all three seeds. The single ten-year path that had favoured loading every day by 1.7 points of growth was one path; the seeds call growth a dead heat and drawdown a clear win for the first-day rule.

Adding the main line back, with the first-day rule kept, wins the ten-year seeds on growth and loses them on drawdown. The three-line form of section 8.7 has a median ten-year growth of 33.1% a year against 30.7% for the two-line first-day form, ahead in all three seeds, but its deepest seeded fall is –20.51% against –19.49%, a point deeper, and it is deeper in all three seeds. Put beside the five years, where the three-line form pays about a point of growth for a consistently shallower fall, the two windows trade in opposite directions. What moved this report's recommendation to three lines is therefore not that it wins on drawdown, which section 8.7 shows it does not on any completed episode, but that it is the shape the operator asked for, the evidence does not refute that choice, it out-grows the two-line form over the decade, and it stays at least four and a half points inside the operator's limit in every run made of it.

The previous configuration breached the operator's limit here too. Its deepest ten-year seed is –25.12%, the second independent breach of 25% in this study; the first was –25.05% at a \$7,000 account. Both are marginal, and both happened after removing just 5% of the entries the strategy would otherwise have taken. Neither is a reason to panic, but together they say the September criterion is closer to binding on the previous configuration than its unperturbed runs suggest, –20.02% at \$7,000 over five years and –23.31% over ten.

What the tie-break does not settle. Three seeds is a small sample, so no worst case here is measured better than about two points. The comparison is like for like, since every configuration in a given seed loses exactly the same 5% of candidates, but none of this makes a ten-year backtest a forecast.

8.7 The main line returns

The operator asked for all three lines, and the first two editions of this report told the operator the main line had to go. Section 7.3 showed that loading on it alone was worse than the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) on both measures, and 7.10 showed that adding it to the first-day rule, read intraday, took the worst fall to -23.22% . Both findings were real. Both were also made before the two refinements that ended up in the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026 were combined, and the combination changes the answer.

Why the main line hurt. Its loads were bought while QQQ was falling *through* its own average price, in 2022 and again in March 2026. Read intraday, a day whose range merely wicks across the line counts as a touch, so the strategy loaded into the middle of those declines and, with the regime exit switched off for loaded positions, held on.

What the close test and the first-day rule do to that. The first-day rule is what cuts the main-line loading: QQQ closed within the band of the main line on 58 days in five years and the rule loads on 18 of them. The close test changes which main-line days are taken rather than how many: read intraday with the first-day rule the main line loads on 17 days, read at the close on 18, and only 11 are shared. The six days the close test drops are days QQQ dipped to the line and closed 0.17 to 0.47 sigma (standard deviations) above it, four of them near the top of the day's range, not days still falling at the bell; none of the 17 intraday days closed below the line by more than the band. The seven days it adds are intraday touches that the range form's longer clusters had swallowed. It re-selects the plus-one and minus-one days even more (13 of the 27 to 31 plus-one days are shared), so the gap between -23.22% and -18.10% is a change in which days are loaded across all three lines, not a main-line filter, and the four March 2026 main-line days are loaded in both forms. What the combination keeps is the main-line loads on which QQQ settled at its average price, which is the case the line was meant to catch. Over five years the three-line form loaded on 56 days, 18 of them at the main line, against 40 days for the two-line form.

The result is a better risk profile at a small cost in growth. Against the two-line form recommended in the previous edition, at every account size and under bad fills:

Condition	Two lines: growth / worst fall	All three lines: growth / worst fall	Better on growth?	Better on the fall?	Both inside 25%?	Margin to the 25% limit
At the live account's size, \$7,000	38.6% / -18.16%	36.2% / -17.82%	no (-2.4 pts)	yes (+0.34 pts)	yes	7.2 pts
\$12,000	38.4% / -18.77%	37.2% / -17.61%	no (-1.2 pts)	yes (+1.16 pts)	yes	7.4 pts
\$18,484 (the main run)	37.5% / -18.89%	35.9% / -18.10%	no (-1.6 pts)	yes (+0.79 pts)	yes	6.9 pts
\$25,000	38.4% / -18.77%	36.4% / -18.27%	no (-2.0 pts)	yes (+0.50 pts)	yes	6.7 pts
\$40,000	37.7% / -18.85%	35.9% / -17.85%	no (-1.8 pts)	yes (+1.00 pts)	yes	7.1 pts
Under bad fills	31.9% / -20.87%	30.8% / -20.00%	no (-1.1 pts)	yes (+0.87 pts)	yes	5.0 pts

The three-line form gives up 1.1 to 2.4 points of growth in every condition and takes 0.3 to 1.2 points off the headline worst fall in every condition. Neither difference clears this study's resolution limit on its own, and the six shallower falls are not like for like: the two-line form's worst fall is the unfinished summer-2026 decline in all six conditions, while the three-line form's is the completed bear market of November 2021 to July 2022 in five of them. Split by episode the direction reverses. In the 2021–22 bear market the three-line form falls 1.9 to 2.7 points deeper than the two-line form in every one of the six conditions (–18.10% against –15.69% in the main run) and deeper in 14 of the 15 five-year pairs once the seeds are added; over ten years it is deeper in the 2018 fourth quarter and in the 2022 bear market in all four pairs. Its whole advantage is the summer-2026 episode, which had not ended when the data stopped: there it is shallower or level in all 15 five-year pairs (–17.48% against –18.89% in the main run) and in three of the four ten-year pairs. The caveat this report attaches to an unfinished fall, that it is a floor and not a measured worst case, therefore applies to the three-line form's advantage over the two-line form.

Five years, by episode. Deepest fall inside each episode from the episode's own high, two lines / three lines:

Run	the 2021-22 bear market	summer 2026 (unfinished)
At the live account's size, \$7,000	-14.84% / -17.51%	-18.16% / -17.82%
\$12,000	-15.10% / -17.61%	-18.77% / -17.30%
\$18,484 (the main run)	-15.69% / -18.10%	-18.89% / -17.48%
\$25,000	-15.87% / -18.27%	-18.77% / -17.47%
\$40,000	-15.30% / -17.85%	-18.85% / -17.71%
Under bad fills	-18.10% / -20.00%	-20.87% / -18.84%
Five-year seed 1	-16.18% / -18.32%	-19.32% / -17.39%
Five-year seed 2	-15.29% / -17.03%	-18.65% / -16.97%
Five-year seed 3	-16.27% / -18.72%	-18.02% / -16.76%
Five-year seed 4	-15.77% / -17.37%	-18.53% / -16.85%
Five-year seed 5	-15.06% / -14.89%	-17.60% / -16.85%
Five-year seed 6	-16.02% / -17.47%	-17.96% / -16.52%
\$7,000 seed 1	-14.56% / -17.52%	-18.05% / -17.32%
\$7,000 seed 2	-15.11% / -16.80%	-16.90% / -16.70%
\$7,000 seed 3	-14.39% / -17.33%	-17.49% / -17.49%

the three-line form is shallower or level in 1 of 15 pairs in the 2021-22 bear market; the three-line form is shallower or level in 15 of 15 pairs in summer 2026 (unfinished).

Ten years, by episode. Deepest fall inside each episode from the episode's own high, two lines / three lines:

Run	the 2018 fourth quarter	the 2021-22 bear market	summer 2026 (unfinished)
Ten years	-18.18% / -19.48%	-15.72% / -18.80%	-18.14% / -17.81%
Ten-year seed 1	-17.55% / -18.86%	-16.86% / -19.51%	-17.48% / -17.11%

Run	the 2018 fourth quarter	the 2021-22 bear market	summer 2026 (unfinished)
Ten-year seed 2	-17.69% / -18.64%	-15.86% / -17.83%	-17.31% / -16.81%
Ten-year seed 3	-19.49% / -20.51%	-16.99% / -20.27%	-17.06% / -17.12%

the three-line form is shallower or level in 0 of 4 pairs in the 2018 fourth quarter; the three-line form is shallower or level in 0 of 4 pairs in the 2021-22 bear market; the three-line form is shallower or level in 3 of 4 pairs in summer 2026 (unfinished).

The seeds say the same. In the six-seed test of section 8.5 the three-line form's median growth is 35.1% against the two-line form's 36.1%, and its deepest fall is –18.72% against –19.32%, with a median fall of –17.42% against –18.57%. Its fall is shallower in five of the six seeds. That –18.72% is the shallowest worst case of any candidate across the five-year seeds, and its median fall is the shallowest too.

Over ten years the three-line form pulls ahead on growth as well. From 30 May 2016 to 3 September 2026 it turns \$18,484 into \$321,922, a return of +1,641.6% or 32.1% a year, against +1,384.1% and 30.1% for the two-line form and +710.3% and 22.6% for the previous configuration. Its worst fall over the decade is –19.48%, level with the two-line form's –19.21% and four points shallower than the previous configuration's –23.31%. It is ahead of the previous configuration in eight of the eleven calendar years, behind in 2017, 2018 and 2026.

Year	The previous configuration	Hybrid, any of three lines	Hybrid, minus-one line only (dips)	Hybrid under the close test	Hybrid, close test, main line dropped	Two lines at the close, first day only	The adopted configuration (all three lines)
2016*	+0.8%	+24.7%	+0.8%	+19.4%	+19.4%	+14.2%	+14.2%
2017	+23.1%	+12.1%	+23.1%	+16.8%	+16.8%	+17.0%	+17.0%
2018	+11.0%	+16.5%	+11.0%	+9.4%	+11.1%	+9.9%	+8.3%
2019	+8.2%	+30.4%	+8.2%	+45.6%	+36.4%	+29.5%	+38.4%
2020	+51.5%	+59.3%	+64.5%	+60.1%	+65.7%	+46.0%	+72.7%
2021	+22.7%	+32.3%	+23.0%	+28.3%	+28.0%	+30.3%	+28.7%
2022	-4.1%	+4.2%	+10.7%	+2.5%	+4.6%	+2.0%	-1.3%
2023	+20.9%	+37.4%	+24.3%	+20.5%	+14.6%	+19.8%	+28.7%
2024	+19.5%	+43.7%	+17.8%	+43.2%	+43.1%	+34.7%	+35.0%
2025	+45.1%	+90.9%	+49.0%	+93.0%	+93.2%	+94.9%	+95.6%
2026*	+45.6%	+3.9%	+45.7%	+5.8%	+14.2%	+27.7%	+16.8%

Hybrid, any of three lines was ahead of the previous configuration in 9 of the 11 calendar years.

Hybrid, minus-one line only (dips) was ahead of the previous configuration in 6 of the 11 calendar years.

Hybrid under the close test was ahead of the previous configuration in 7 of the 11 calendar years.

Hybrid, close test, main line dropped was ahead of the previous configuration in 8 of the 11 calendar years.

Two lines at the close, first day only was ahead of the previous configuration in 6 of the 11 calendar years.

The adopted configuration (all three lines) was ahead of the previous configuration in 8 of the 11 calendar years.

* 2016 runs from 30 May; 2026 to 3 September. Figures are chained, so they multiply out to the totals above.

Where the decade puts the two forms side by side, the picture is consistent with the five years: the three-line form gives up a little over the short window and gains it back, with interest, over the long one. Its 2019 was +38.4% against the two-line form's +29.5%; its 2020 was +72.7% against +46.0%. Its 2026 is the other side of the same coin, +16.8% against +27.7%. That is not the March 2026 main-line loads: all fifteen of them were closed by 23 June 2026 at a net profit of \$16,856, and none was carried into the summer decline. The gap opens in the spring rally, +6.1%, +13.1% and +2.2% in April, May and June against the two-line form's +10.5%, +15.7% and +4.0%, and it is in the ordinary book: the same number and size of ordinary entries in those three months (32 against 35, about \$560,000 of notional value each) in different names at different times, earning \$19,529 against \$45,346. From July on the two paths move almost identically, and the summer fall itself is nearly the same for both, -17.8% against -18.1%. That is a diverged path, not a mechanism, and this report cannot say whether it would repeat.

Across seeds over ten years it grows fastest of the three, and it falls further than the two-line form. With 5% of entry candidates removed per seed, the three-line form's median growth is 33.1% a year against 30.7% for the two-line form and 21.4% for the previous configuration, and each of its three seeds beats each of the two-line form's. Its deepest seeded fall is -20.51%, a point deeper than the two-line form's -19.49%, and its median seeded fall, -19.51%, is 0.9 points deeper; both are four and a half points or more inside the previous configuration's -25.12%. So the decade reverses the five-year trade: over five years the three-line form pays growth for a shallower fall, over ten years it pays a deeper seeded fall for more growth. Three seeds is a small sample, but the growth ordering is the same in every one of them.

Where it is deeper than the previous configuration, and where it is shallower. In the two fast crashes of the decade it falls further: -19.5% against -16.8% in the fourth quarter of 2018, -17.0% against -15.0% in the Covid crash of early 2020, because it is loading while the market is still falling and holding through it. In the slow declines it falls far less: -13.8% against -23.3% in the 2019 slide, -17.8% against -20.1% in the 2022 bear market, and -17.8% against -20.1% in the summer of 2026. That trade, worse in a crash, better in a grind, is the shape of the whole idea, and the account should be run knowing it.

Verdict. The three-line form is the adopted configuration, but not because this section shows it to be safer. Its headline falls are shallower because they land in a different, finished episode from the two-line form's; on the episodes where the two can be compared like for like, it is the deeper one. What the section does establish is that the main line, which was a liability in every earlier form, is no longer one: with the close test and the first-day rule the three-line form matches the two-line form within the study's noise on both measures over five years and out-grows it over ten. It stays at least four and a half points inside the operator's limit in every run, it is the shape the operator asked for, and it uses all three lines the software already computes. The two-line form is the safer setting of the same method on completed bear markets, and a reader who weights that should prefer it.

8.8 What is not tested, and what would change the answer

- **One history.** Every figure here comes from a single path through a single decade. The 2025 quarter that carries the hybrid's growth happened once.
- **The lines are known with hindsight.** An anchor only becomes the anchor 126 trading days after its low. That delay is respected in every run, but it means the plus-one line of October 2025 was drawn from the April 2025 anchor, which had been confirmed only that month.

- **The touch is modelled, not observed.** No minute data for QQQ exists, so an intraday touch is inferred from the daily range and filled at the 15:55 close (section 4). Section 7.6 shows the result barely changes when the touch test is replaced by the close test, which needs no inference at all.
- **The data copy is frozen.** All five-year runs read the frozen 5 September 2026 copy of the company-filings data and the ten-year runs the frozen 30 August 2026 copy, because that data is rewritten every week and old runs are otherwise not reproducible. Numbers here are comparable with each other, not with runs made on other dates.
- **The adopted configuration is stress-tested; the older three-line range form is what 8.1 and 8.2 measure.** The four account sizes and the bad-fills run were repeated on the adopted close-decided form in section 8.4, but the noise measure of 8.1 and the head-to-head of 8.2 are still computed on the three-line range form, so the 3.3-point and 4.17-point resolution limits quoted throughout are that form's. Three gaps remain. The two stresses are never combined: there is no bad-fills run at \$7,000, the live account's size. No three-line close-test run exists at \$12,000 or \$40,000, so the line-set comparison at those two sizes rests on the range-test pair. And the ten-year run of the adopted configuration exists only at \$18,484 with normal fills, on a different frozen copy of the filings data and a different run procedure from the five-year runs.
- **What would change the answer.** A second, independent episode in which loading on a line paid: another cluster of plus-one touches followed by a rally, or a minus-one touch outside the 2022 bottom. Both are things to look for as the live account accumulates history, not things this study can manufacture.

9. Conclusion

9.1 What the study found

1. **Both strategies as the operator specified them are worse than the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered), and this report does not recommend either.** Restricting entries to the days QQQ is near a line (strategy 1) cuts growth from 26.2% a year to between 2.1% and 11.5% and makes the worst fall deeper, not shallower. Loading the account on a touch and buying nothing on other days (strategy 2) gives 5.0% a year on the main line and 20.2% on all three lines, with worst falls of -24.9% and -27.1%. The lines are rare, and they are not where the watchlist's stocks begin their moves.
2. **Full conviction sizing on a loading day is dangerous and is ruled out.** It is the only way the account fills to its 1.5 times leverage limit as a matter of routine, and it does so by putting 7.0% to 12.9% of the account at risk to the stops against the live limit of 4%. The result is a worst fall of -41.9% on the main line and -54.0% on all three.
3. **One variation works: keep everything the previous configuration does and add the loading day.** On a day QQQ is near a line, buy the Nasdaq-listed watchlist names in rank order regardless of regime and zone, exempt only those positions from the two broad-market exits, and change nothing else. Most forms of this beat the previous configuration, but not all; the eight that do not are listed in section 9.3, and the rest of the study was deciding which form.
4. **Three refinements each earned their place, and each was tested against the alternative rather than assumed.** The touch should be read from the closing price, not intraday: it performs the same, needs no data that does not exist, and leaves the trading day free for other uses. The strategy should load only on the first day of a cluster, which was the discovery of the second round. And, with those two in place, all three lines should be triggers, which was the discovery of the third: the main line was a drag when the touch was read intraday and loads repeated into a decline, and it stops being one once those two rules cut the loads

that did the harm: over five years the main line's loads fall from 104 in the main-line-only form of section 7.3 to 52, and its profit turns positive, +\$5,193, but it still loaded 27 times into the 2022 decline for −\$1,357, and in that episode the three-line form falls 1.5 to 3 points deeper than the two-line form.

5. **The band does not matter, and precision actively hurts.** Between 0.05 and 0.25 sigma no setting beats 0.15 by more than this study's own noise (the best, 0.10 read intraday, is 1.3 points ahead), while the 0.05 and 0.25 bands under the close test are 7.0 and 4.1 points behind it, so the original 0.15 was not a lucky choice and nothing narrower or wider is measurably better, though every band run was made on the two-line form without the first-day rule. Requiring the day's range to contain the line itself is the worst of the band and touch-test variants, 29.9% a year at −20.71%: it loads on 41 days in five years instead of 117, and the loads never made cost more than the precision gains.
6. **The first-day rule is the finding a single backtest would have discarded.** On one history it was worth 1.3 points of growth, inside the noise. Across six seeds it won all six on growth against loading every touch day, and over ten years with seeds it earns the same while falling two points less at its deepest, on half as many loading days.
7. **The main line's return is the finding the second edition of this report got wrong.** Read intraday and loaded on every touch day, the main line was worse than the previous configuration on both measures alone, and adding it to the first-day rule took the worst fall to −23.22%. Read at the close and loaded once per cluster, the three-line form stops being worse than the two-line form: its headline worst fall is shallower at every account size and under bad fills, but that headline is an artefact of which episode each form's worst fall lands in, and inside the completed bear markets the three-line form is the deeper of the two, by 1.5 to 3 points in 2021–22 and by one to three points in 2018 and 2022 over the decade. Over ten years it grows faster, 32.1% against 30.1% on the single path and 33.1% against 30.7% across seeds; over five years it grows slower, by 1.1 to 2.4 points. On this evidence the two forms are two settings of one method, separated by less than the study's own noise.
8. **The previous configuration is closer to the operator's 25% limit than one run suggests.** Its unperturbed runs fall −20.01% over five years at \$18,484, −20.02% at \$7,000 and −23.31% over ten years. Remove 5% of its entries and it falls −24.14% over five years, −25.05% at a \$7,000 account and −25.12% over ten years. Two of those twelve seeded runs are outside the limit the operator set in September.
9. **The cost is upside in a year like this one, worse falls in fast crashes, and concentration.** In 2026 the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026 earned +16.8% on the decade path where the previous configuration earned +45.6%. That is not its March 2026 main-line loads, which were all closed at a profit by 23 June; the shortfall is in its ordinary trades during the April-to-June rally, a diverged path with no mechanism behind it that this report can name. In the two fast crashes of the decade it fell further than the previous configuration: −19.5% against −16.8% in late 2018, −17.0% against −15.0% in the Covid crash. In the slow declines it fell far less: −13.8% against −23.3% in 2019, −17.8% against −20.1% in 2022 and again in 2026. Over eleven calendar years it is ahead in eight and behind in three, winning by far more than it loses: 2025 alone was +95.6% against +45.1%.

9.2 The recommendation

The recommendation is the hybrid in its three-line, close-decided, first-day-only form, which is the adopted configuration. Precisely, with nothing else altered:

- On any day QQQ's **closing** price is within 0.15 sigma of its anchored-VWAP line, its plus-one-sigma line or its minus-one-sigma line, **and the previous session was not itself such a day**, the strategy buys the Nasdaq-listed names from that week's watchlist in rank order, ignoring the market regime and ignoring whether the stock is above its support zone, until the 1.5 times leverage limit or the 14-position limit is reached. On that day the 4% cap on total open risk and the four-a-day entry cap do not apply to the load; only those two rails stop it. The rank handed to the sizing ladder is the name's rank within the eligible Nasdaq-listed names, so the first of them gets the top conviction size whatever its watchlist rank. (The corresponding run is listed in the appendix; the close touch test, all three lines, the open-risk lift, the subset rank and the close fill are the engine's default settings for this method.)
- Those positions are sized by the sizing rule adopted on 5 September, which the adopted configuration keeps unchanged: at most 0.4% of the account at risk when the stop is more than 3% away, shrinking as the stop widens beyond 2.8%.
- Those positions, and only those, are exempt from the risk-off and downtrend exits. They leave by their stop-loss, their trailing stop, or the 60-day maximum hold.
- Every other day, and every other position, behaves exactly as it does under the previous configuration.

Over five years that fired on 56 loading days, 18 of them at the main line, and bought 181 positions; the median loading day bought three names (most: eight).

Why this one. Two decisions are stacked here, and the evidence for each is different.

Adopting some form of this is strongly supported. The adopted configuration beat the previous configuration on growth in **19 of the 19** paired tests made of it, by 9.4 to 14.5 points a year, and on the worst fall in **18 of the 19**; the exception is Five-year seed 3 (-18.72% against -18.56%). Its deepest fall in any of them is **-20.51%**, in the ten-year seed 3 run, 4.5 points inside the operator's 25% limit. Every one of the 19 pairs is the identical history, account size and seed for both configurations.

Test	Previous configuration: growth / worst fall	Adopted configuration: growth / worst fall	Growth lead	Fall difference
Five years at \$7,000	22.9% / -20.02%	36.2% / -17.82%	+13.4	+2.21
Five years at \$12,000	24.2% / -18.87%	37.2% / -17.61%	+13.0	+1.26
Five years at \$18,484	26.2% / -20.01%	35.9% / -18.10%	+9.7	+1.91
Five years at \$25,000	25.9% / -20.10%	36.4% / -18.27%	+10.5	+1.83
Five years at \$40,000	25.1% / -20.52%	35.9% / -17.85%	+10.8	+2.68
Five years under bad fills	19.4% / -21.65%	30.8% / -20.00%	+11.4	+1.65
Ten years	22.6% / -23.31%	32.1% / -19.48%	+9.5	+3.83
Five-year seed 1	24.0% / -19.87%	33.5% / -18.32%	+9.4	+1.55
Five-year seed 2	22.2% / -21.25%	34.4% / -17.03%	+12.1	+4.22

Test	Previous configuration: growth / worst fall	Adopted configuration: growth / worst fall	Growth lead	Fall difference
Five-year seed 3	25.2% / -18.56%	37.9% / -18.72%	+12.7	-0.15
Five-year seed 4	20.6% / -24.14%	33.9% / -17.37%	+13.3	+6.78
Five-year seed 5	26.3% / -18.98%	36.6% / -17.28%	+10.3	+1.71
Five-year seed 6	24.2% / -21.48%	35.8% / -17.47%	+11.6	+4.01
\$7,000 seed 1	19.5% / -25.05%	33.9% / -17.52%	+14.5	+7.53
\$7,000 seed 2	19.6% / -21.76%	31.8% / -16.80%	+12.2	+4.96
\$7,000 seed 3	23.2% / -18.27%	37.0% / -17.49%	+13.8	+0.78
Ten-year seed 1	21.6% / -22.65%	32.2% / -19.51%	+10.5	+3.14
Ten-year seed 2	21.3% / -23.26%	33.1% / -18.64%	+11.8	+4.62
Ten-year seed 3	21.4% / -25.12%	33.7% / -20.51%	+12.3	+4.61

Choosing the three-line form over the two-line form is not decided by the evidence, and this report is exact about that. Over five years the two-line form grows faster by 1.1 to 2.4 points in every condition and the three-line form's headline worst fall is shallower by 0.3 to 1.2 points in every condition; across six seeds the three-line form's median fall is 1.15 points shallower and its worst case 0.6 points shallower. But those shallower headline falls are not like for like. The two-line form's worst fall is the unfinished summer-2026 decline in 14 of the 15 five-year pairs; the three-line form's is the completed 2021–22 bear market in 12 of them. Inside that completed bear market the three-line form falls 1.5 to 3 points *deeper* than the two-line form in 14 of the 15 pairs, and over ten years it is deeper in the 2018 and 2022 episodes in every pair. Where the two can be compared on a finished episode, the two-line form is the safer one. Over ten years the three-line form grows faster, 32.1% against 30.1% on the single path and 33.1% against 30.7% across seeds, with its deepest ten-year seed a point deeper, –20.51% against –19.49%. Every one of those differences is inside this study's resolution limit.

So the grounds for recommending three lines are these, and only these: the operator asked for all three lines on principle, and the evidence does not refute that choice; over ten years it earns more; and every run made of it, nineteen in all, stays at least four and a half points inside the operator's limit. If the operator would rather weight what happened in the completed bear markets, the two-line form is the better choice, and nothing in this report argues against it. They are two settings of one method, and either is a large improvement on the previous configuration.

The case against, stated plainly. This form was chosen after seeing results from more than sixty configurations on the same history, so part of its margin is selection. In most of its runs its worst fall is the completed fall that began on 18 November 2021 (the main run, the \$12,000, \$25,000, \$40,000 and bad-fills runs, five of the six seeds and two of the three \$7,000 seeds); only the \$7,000 run and one \$7,000 seed have it in the summer-2026 decline. That decline had not ended when the data stopped and, at –17.5% in the main run, sits within a point of the measured worst, so its margin to the operator's limit should still be read as a floor. It gives up more of 2026 than the two-line form does. And every figure here is a backtest on one market history, however many ways it has been re-cut.

What would make this report withdraw the recommendation. If the port of the method into the trading software cannot reproduce the backtest exactly, or if paper trading shows loading days firing on names the backtest would not have bought, then the case rests on trades that would not have happened.

9.3 What is ruled out, and why

Ruled out	Why
Strategy 1 in any band width	2.1% to 11.5% a year against 26.2%, and the worst fall gets deeper
Strategy 2 as specified, either sizing, any line set	Best case 20.2% a year at –27.1%; the account sits in cash through the rallies
Full conviction sizing on loading days	–41.9% and –54.0%; up to three times the live 4% limit on total open risk
Reading the touch intraday	A tie with the close test on performance, and it rests on an intraday assumption no data can check
Requiring the range to contain the line itself	The worst variant tested: 29.9% a year at –20.71%, deeper than the previous configuration
Bands of 0.05, 0.10 or 0.25 sigma	None beats 0.15 by more than the study's noise; 0.05 and 0.25 under the close test are 7.0 and 4.1 points behind it
Loading on every touch day instead of the first	Same growth over ten years, two points deeper at the worst; twice the loading days
A cooldown between loads instead of the first-day rule	34.2% and 35.0% a year against 37.5%, with deeper falls
The main line read intraday, or loaded on every touch day	Worse than the previous configuration alone; –23.22% when added to the intraday first-day form
The plus-one line alone	30.4% a year at –20.10%, 0.09 points deeper than the previous configuration; it needs the minus-one line beside it
Switching broad-market exits off for the whole book	–25.5%, outside the operator's limit, and lower growth than the loaded-only form
Keeping broad-market exits for loaded positions too	19.8% a year at –27.9%: sold out days after each load, bought back on the next touch
Doubling the per-trade ceiling, or buying the whole watchlist, on loading days	About a point of growth, inside the noise, for three to six points of deeper fall
Blocking entries when QQQ is far above its lines	No protection at 2 sigma; at 1.5 sigma it removes 40% of the entries and most of the return

9.4 What acting on this requires

The change is larger than the sizing rule adopted on 5 September. That was a formula inside the position sizer; this adds a second admission path, a per-position marker that survives from entry to exit, an exception inside the exit loop, and one line of memory for whether yesterday was a touch day. The strategy's backtesting engine implements all of it behind switches that are off by default, with forty tests, and the study proved that with the switches off the engine reproduces its earlier results. A port would follow the September route: implement in

the decision code shared by the backtesting engine and the live trading software, prove byte-identity against a frozen run, then run it in paper trading. Nothing here touches the live account, which is paper-only under the standing decision of 3 September.

Two things to watch that this study cannot settle: another cluster of plus-one touches followed by a rally, the pattern that earned 2025, and a minus-one touch outside a bear-market bottom. The minus-one trigger has paid in both episodes it has had, 2020 and 2022, and has not fired since.

10. Appendix — how the runs were made

Every figure in this report was produced by the Nexus Trader strategy's own backtesting engine, running offline on the extended scanner corpus, which reaches through 3 September 2026. The five-year runs read the frozen 5 September 2026 copy of the company-filings data. The ten-year runs, which cover 30 May 2016 to 3 September 2026, read the frozen 30 August 2026 copy through a second run driver; they are comparable with each other but not with the five-year runs. Network fetching was disabled for every run, so nothing the engine read could change while the study was in progress.

Every configuration in this report differs from the previous configuration (adopted 5 September 2026, no longer offered) only by the entry rules described in the body; each one carries the previous configuration's sizing rule unchanged, and the previous configuration itself was re-run on the same data so that every comparison is like for like. The study made 69 runs in all, 62 over the five-year window and 7 over the ten-year window. They cover the previous configuration at several account sizes and under the bad-fills test; strategy 1 under the close test and the range test and with a wider band; strategy 2 on the main line and on any of the three lines, at the previous configuration's sizing and at full conviction, with regime exits left on, with the whole watchlist eligible, and with the per-position cap doubled on loading days; the hybrid forms that load on every touch day, on each line and each pair of lines, under the range test and the close test, with the regime-exit, watchlist and cap variations, at several account sizes and under bad fills; the band-width sweep; the inverse filter; the first-day-only and cooldown variants; the two-line form at several account sizes and under bad fills; and the configuration adopted on 9 September 2026 at several account sizes and under bad fills. The engine build is recorded against each run (it changed over the course of the study as the entry options were added to the engine), except for two early runs, the first close-test run of strategy 1 and the strategy 2 run on any of the three lines at the previous configuration's sizing, whose build was not recorded.

The run identifier, the exact flag settings and the engine build behind each figure are recorded, run by run, in the operator's internal edition of this report and are available on request. Every table in this report was generated from the runs' output files rather than typed, so a figure in a table is the figure the engine wrote.

The ten-year runs go through a second run driver that pins the company-filings data to the frozen 30 August 2026 copy, and they cover 30 May 2016 to 3 September 2026, so they are comparable with each other but not with the five-year runs above.

Every run carries the sizing rule of the previous configuration and goes through the study's pinned run driver on the extended corpus, with the frozen 5 September 2026 copy of the company-filings data, network fetching disabled, the final week fixed at the week beginning 31 August 2026, and the starting account size set for each run as described in the body. The ten-year runs instead read the frozen 30 August 2026 copy and start at the week beginning 30 May 2016, so five-year and ten-year figures are not interchangeable.
