

# VectorVest 7 Premium

## Part 1: Daily Color Guard, Market Timing, UniSearch, and Stock Viewer

### VECTORVEST, INC.

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Cornelius, NC 28031

**Phone:** 888 658-7638

**Internet:** www.vectorvest.com

**System requirements:** Microsoft Windows 10 with high-speed internet. Mac Users: Cloud-based Parallels Client provided by VectorVest.

**Pricing plans:** \$69/mo. for “Basic” end-of-day service; \$99/mo. for “Enhanced” streaming 15-minute delay; \$149/mo. for “Premium” real-time version.

by *Leslie N. Masonson*

**T**rading stocks has never been easier, more fun, or more affordable. But if new or experienced investors or traders learn the wrong approach instead of educating themselves, the results can be catastrophic mentally and financially. Platforms that offer good educational components and decision support can help, and that’s what this review will focus on.

VectorVest has a 30-year track record of providing high-quality market timing and stock selection decision support for self-directed individuals. The vast majority of self-directed investors and traders need guidance in mastering the market and managing their portfolios in a responsible, non-emotional fashion. That is what VectorVest has set out to offer, and the software provides guidance and support to the investor on the three most important questions: *when to buy*, *what to buy*, and *when to sell*. Here in part 1 of this review, I’ll focus on the first two questions. Next time in part 2, I’ll address the last question of when to sell with coverage of the

ProfitLocker Pro component of the VectorVest platform. Also in part 2 I’ll also discuss other VectorVest components including The Jockey Club, RoboTrader, Portfolio Genius, RealTime Derby, BackTester, WatchDog, and TradeNOW.

### VECTORVEST BACKGROUND

First, some background on the company: Company founder Bart DiLiddo first released the VectorVest ProGraphics system in 1995. Market timing was the cornerstone of its systematic, rules-based investing methodology. The software has been greatly enhanced over the years. DiLiddo earned a PhD in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University and attended the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. That background makes him well-suited to developing mathematical formulas to help answer those three critical questions.

DiLiddo has said: “The single most important thing to know is whether the market is going up or down. Everything else follows from that.” Market timing is by no means perfect, but it could allow you to capture the bulk (say, 75% or more) of up or down moves while reducing the drawdown of buy-and-hold investing, as the market experienced two 50% or more declines in the 2000–2010 period.

VectorVest’s software (VV) offers both slow and fast market timing signals for conservative and aggressive investors. Individuals determine their risk tolerance, trading style, trading timeframe, and trading rules—all aspects of their trading. VectorVest’s timing models have accurately pinpointed the beginning and ending of

every bull and bear market over 25 years, not exact tops and bottoms, but within a few days for their quicker timing models (known as the Primary Wave and Green Light Buyer), a bit later for the DEW timer, and a few weeks or longer for the slowest timing model (named Confirmed Call). This is information an investor can use to profit on the ride both up and down.

VectorVest has a worldwide following with a growing subscriber base, a well-trained staff, ongoing software enhancements and upgrades, and add-ons. For example, VectorVest’s RoboTrader add-on automatically routes orders to the customer’s brokerage firm (Ally Invest, Interactive Brokers, TradeStation, and Questrade are currently available connections) for seamless execution. Moreover, using the ProfitLocker Pro add-on provides the user with a way to protect profits in a rising stock. I’ll cover more on these add-ons and others in part 2.

### DAILY COLOR GUARD MARKET TIMING SYSTEM

The heart of the VectorVest software is the Daily Color Guard (DCG). Figure 1 shows the homepage of VectorVest, which can be rearranged with different data points and layouts. The DCG can be seen in the top middle of the page and is updated in real time (for real-time users) or every night for end-of-day customers. Each of the data cells in the DCG changes colors—green, red, and yellow—like a traffic light, depending on values derived from specific data measurements. The DCG matrix, the daily market performance, and the “hot stocks” for the next day are presented

each weekday night after 8 pm in a 10-minute video that is archived for future viewing. The six key DCG columns are:

1. *Price of the VectorVest Composite (VVC) index* represents over 8,900 stocks that are equally weighted and combined into this index that is a very broad measure of the market's performance. A green light is displayed when the price is higher than it was five days ago as well as the prior day, and a red light if the conditions reverse.
2. *Relative timing (RT)* measures the short-term trend of the market. A number above 1.00 is bullish and vice versa on a scale of 0 to 2.
3. *Buy-sell ratio (BSR)* provides the percentage of the stocks in their index that is rated by the software as a buy or sell. Above 1.00 is bullish and vice versa.
4. *Market timing index (MTI)* is the aggregation of the VVC, RT, and BSR based on a proprietary formula. Above 1.00 is bullish and vice versa.
5. *Trend values* are based on the VVC and MTI. If the VVC price action over the last five days is higher and the current MTI is above 1.00, then the trend is recorded as Up/Up, and vice versa to get a Dn/Dn.
6. *Call* indicates whether the Confirmed Call (the slowest VV timing signals) is currently on a buy or sell signal. A Confirmed Call buy signal occurs when the VVC rises for two consecutive five-day periods and is confirmed by the BSR rises above 1.00. A sell signal is the opposite occurrence.

By monitoring the DCG daily, the user can readily assess the market's condition, which will be in one of four modes:

- *Bullish time to buy stocks*—The



**FIGURE 1: VECTORVEST HOMEPAGE.** The homepage can be changed from the default to provide other information. However, the Daily Color Guard is usually placed front and center because of its importance. Here, the DCG signals caution with three yellow lights for the last four days. This screenshot was taken on July 26, 2021.

DCG will show three green lights with trend Up/Up and call C/Up indicating a bullish market in which positive technicals suggest buying.

- *Neutral/not a time to buy stocks*—The DCG will show three yellow lights with trend Up/Dn.
- *Bearish time to avoid or sell stocks*—The DCG will show three red lights with trend Dn/Dn and Call C/Dn, indicating a bearish market suggesting shorting the market or going to cash, depending on user's risk tolerance.
- *Caution*—With this mode, the DCG will show a mixture of any two or more colors. Caution is urged, as the market may be in a trading range with no immediate discernible trend. The color mixture may tilt bullish or bearish. For example, one green light and two yellows suggest a mildly bullish market.

In Figure 1 you see that the DCG is solid yellow for the most recent four days, bouncing off five solid red days. That means the market was



**FIGURE 2: DEW MARKET TIMING SYSTEM.** The buy signals are shown with green arrows, and sell signals with red arrows. (This example was taken on August 16, 2021.) The DEW is a popular intermediate choice of market timing system with a reasonable number of trade signals. By comparison, the Primary Wave and Green Light Buyer timing models produce many more signals.

bearish during the red days where no stocks are recommended for buying. From that point forward the market improved to yellow, which indicates caution. A change to all green in subsequent days would be bullish.

In VectorVest's nightly 10-minute market update, the hosts always mention that "market timing is of utmost importance." In other words, know the market's direction before trading or investing. Each night's video reviews the latest Color Guard status, the condition of each of the different market timing models, and a list of 10

“hot stocks” to consider for entry the next business day, as well as “*tomorrow’s headlines*” including government and economic reports being issued the next day such as durable goods orders, pending home sales, FOMC statements, GDP and jobless claims, and many others. Users can tune in each night as well as visit past videos to see what was said on big down or up days and to become attuned to how the DCG works.

Users who plan to go long the next morning are cautioned to make sure the trend remains up by 10 am the next morning before executing any bullish trades or vice versa (if inverse ETFs are recommended in a down-trending market).

### WHEN TO BUY: SELECTING A MARKET TIMER

Users select a timing system that is compatible with their trading time horizon. The timing models vary according to the time needed to trigger based on the criteria. The fastest timer with the most signals is the Primary Wave timer. It triggers green or red by evaluating the VVC price change over the latest five trading days. A consecutive five-day price increase results in a green cell in the DCG and vice versa.

The intermediate-term timer is the DEW (Figure 2), which tracks three technical indicators with specific parameters—the detrended price oscillator (DPO), envelopes, and a weighted moving average—and when all three meet their pre-set criteria, they are marked as bullish. Similarly, the other four timers (the Green Light Buyer or GLB, the GLB/RT Kicker, the RT Kicker Combo, and the RTX Kicker) are the second fastest and have other technical requirements to trigger.

The Confirmed Call (CC) is the slowest timer and is used by the most conservative investors who are

looking for the fewest trades on a yearly basis. Naturally, by design it is slower at signaling tops and bottoms. As the name suggests, this signal waits for extra confirmation. The requirements for a CC are that the price of the VVC has increased over a five-day period for two consecutive weeks, the price has increased over the prior day, and the buy/sell ratio (BSR) is greater than 1.00.

During the early 2020 market collapse, the CC issued a sell signal on February 28 right near the market top. However, its May 18th buy signal was very late compared to the March 23rd market low. That is why some VV users prefer to use a faster timer such as the GLB or Primary Wave (PW) after a big decline to catch the rebound faster.

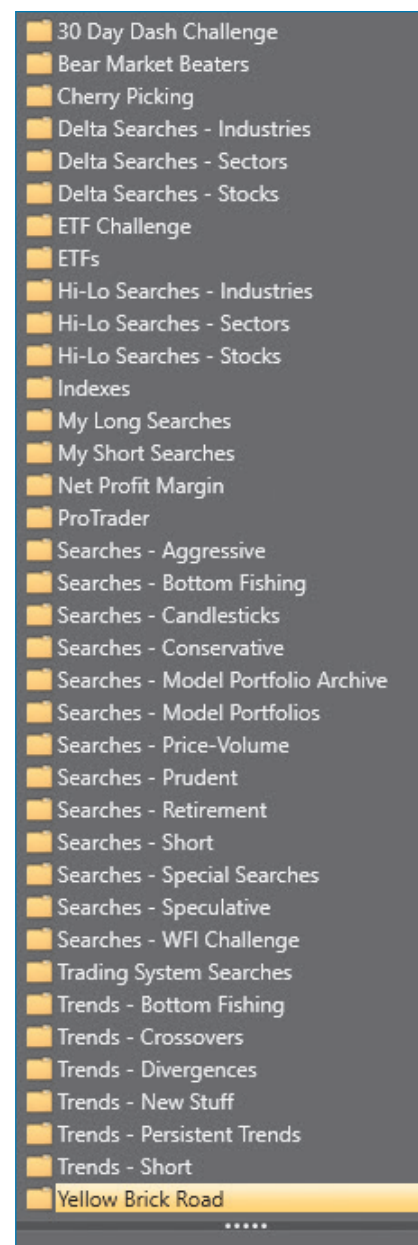
For example, DEW had a sell on February 24, 2020 four days after the high, and its buy signal was on April 6, ten days after the bottom—clearly faster than the CC. The Primary Wave issued a sell signal on February 21, 2020, two days after the market top, followed by the March 25th buy signal. Both were on the money, producing the most profitable timing results. However, the large number of PW signals throughout the year may be unsettling for all but active traders.

Regarding the signal frequency during the period from late February 2020 through July 26, 2021, here are the counts:

- Confirmed Calls: 6 buys and 7 sells
- DEW: 8 buys and 8 sells

Timers	Conf. Call	DEW	Prim.Wave	GLB	B&H
Percent Gain	17.7%	55.7%	43.4%	47.1%	70.40%
Annual Return	11.3%	35.6%	28.1%	30.1%	45.00%
Max Drawdown	13.9%	12.8%	8.40%	17.3%	28.50%
Winners	4	8	19	7	n.a.
Losers	4	2	10	1	n.a.
% Winners	50%	80%	63.30%	87.50%	n.a.

**FIGURE 3: COMPARISON OF FOUR VECTORVEST TIMERS.** The Nasdaq Composite and specifically the Nasdaq 100 (QQQ) experienced a monster rally and can lead to whipsaw signals using the timing models. Using the timers in conjunction with UniSearch strategies would provide better results.



**FIGURE 4: UNISEARCH MAJOR CATEGORIES.** Here, the vast capability of UniSearch is shown in summary form, breaking out all the categories’ results in over 400 searches suitable for all types of investors and risk levels.

- Primary Wave: 27 buys and 27 sells
- Green Light Buyer: 66 buys and 7 sells

Obviously, most active traders use the Primary Wave timing model, and less aggressive traders will find the DEW and Confirmed Call variations a good compromise. These timers alone do not beat buy-and-hold during big bull runs with only a few minor pullbacks. That's because sell signals during the market's ascent degrade overall performance, as any upside performance before the next buy signal is missed. However, when corrections or bear markets occur, the timers prove their value in limiting losses.

Figure 3 provides a comparison of four market timers using the backtester module with QQQ compared to buy-and-hold for QQQ for the period January 2, 2020 through July 26, 2021. This starting date was selected on purpose, as it preceded the 34% decline into the March 23, 2020 low, and then had a spectacular runup, one of the fastest in history to power to new highs. As you can see, all the timers did not perform as well as buy-and-hold. However, all the timers offered at least 50% lower maximum drawdowns than buy-and-hold.

Performing this same analysis over a five-year period from January 2, 2015 through July 26, 2021 shows similar results with the QQQ buy-and-hold widely outpacing the timers by at least double the performance, but with a maximum drawdown that was 68% higher than the highest timer's drawdown. Moreover, note

that these comparisons do not use any of the VectorVest UniSearch strategies or sell criteria, which is where the software provides unique value to both traders and investors. In VectorVest, a strategy is always used with a timer to generate a portfolio and the results have been very good over time with smaller drawdowns.

### WHAT TO BUY—UNISEARCH STOCK ANALYSIS STRATEGIES

After determining when to buy based on one of the timers of your choice, the next step is to decide *what* to buy. In order to select stocks for your consideration, VV uses a mathematical approach to develop the criteria. The three most important VV stock evaluation criteria are relative value (RV), relative safety (RS), and relative timing (RT). RV measures a stock's long-term price appreciation. RS measures a company's financial consistency and predictability of future performance. Lastly, RT measures the direction, size, and changing aspects of the stock's price history. More details about these items can be found on their website and tutorials.

The values of these three calculations are then combined into one master indicator appropriately labeled "VST," but with more weight on RT. This indicator, when arrayed in the Stock Viewer or UniSearch tool, results in the top-ranked VST stocks automatically appearing at the top of each list, as VST descending is the default sort upon strategy execution. All four values are on a scale of 0 to 2 with 2.00 being the highest, similar to the scale for the MTI, RT, and BSR in the DCG. Moreover, each stock is assigned a buy, sell, or hold designation every day, so users can easily see the cream of the crop or the dogs for potential shorting.

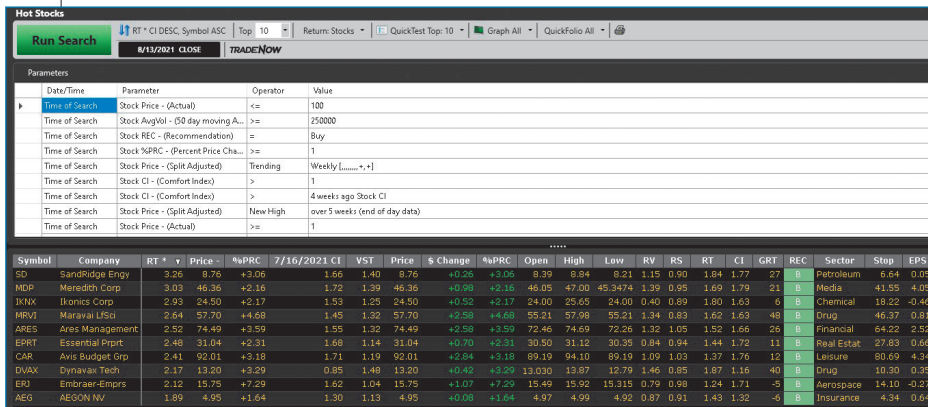
The stock selection process is easily accomplished by viewing and running any of 400 UniSearch strategies



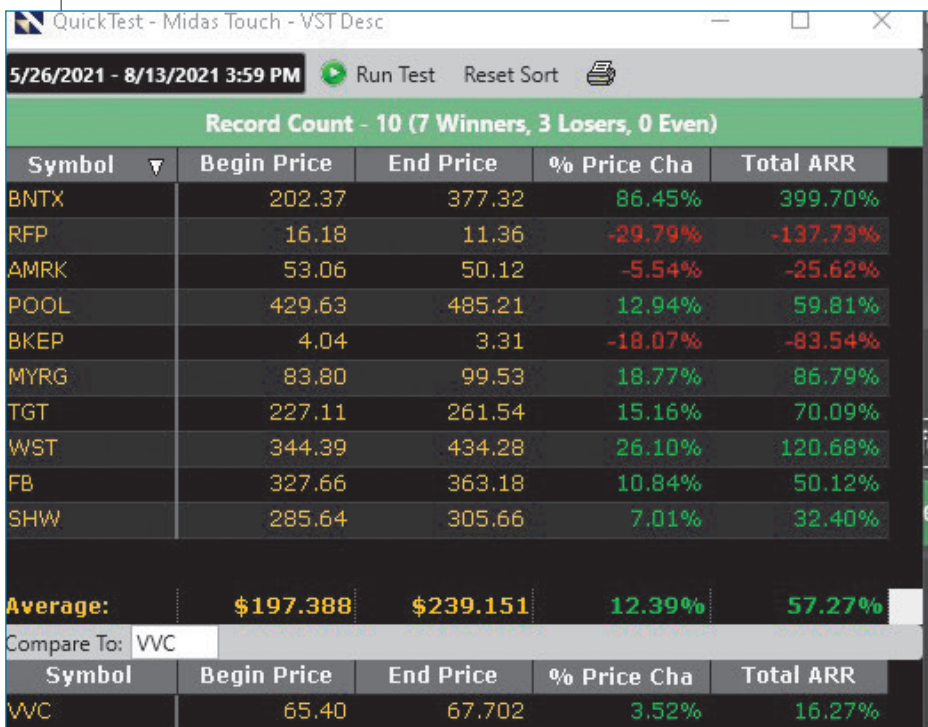
**FIGURE 5: BOTTOM-FISHING AND CONSERVATIVE SEARCHES.** Here, 19 bottom-fishing searches and seven conservative searches are shown.

or ones that the user develops. The major search categories are shown in Figure 4. Figure 5 provides a more detailed look at the bottom-fishing and conservative search options. Other options cover choices for aggressive or conservative investors, retirement portfolio, prudent, short selling, and others are technically focused such as those for moving average crossovers, MACD and RSI overbought and oversold levels, technical divergences, sector and industry, price deltas over days, weeks or months, bear market beaters, candlestick bullish and bearish patterns, trends, and many more. Figure 6 shows the search criteria for "hot stocks" and the top 10 stocks as

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**FIGURE 6: HOT STOCK SEARCH FOR AUGUST 13, 2021.** Each nightly report lists hot stocks for the next day's consideration. Hot stocks are listed in the cherry-picking tab in UniSearch.



**FIGURE 7: MIDAS TOUCH TOP 10 QUICK TEST.** In 2.5 months, these Midas Touch stocks outperformed the VVC by almost four times with eight winners and two losers without any intervention such as stop-losses.

of the August 13, 2021 close without going into an explanation of any of the data or search fields.

Moreover, the search parameters can be changed at the user's direction to include fundamental data points such as growth rate, earnings yield, P/E ratio, sales per share, price to sales ratio, comfort index, dividend yield, safety and growth, and sales. With the ProTrader add-on, technical factors can be embedded in any search such as simple and exponential moving

averages, RSI, ADX, stochastics, Bollinger Bands and MACD crossovers, specific support & resistance levels, and average daily volume. Over 100 VV data fields are also available for search criteria. Also, there are criteria for selecting or deselecting any industry or sector data points. In essence, the search criteria capability is massive and completely under the control of the user. Users can also change any of the parameters of any pre-set strategy or create their own

and save them. Technical support is available if there are any questions on how to set up a particular strategy. On the other hand, many users may decide that the pre-selected searches are more than sufficient without making any changes.

A fair number of the UniSearches have the main default set as "VST descending," which brings the fundamentally and technically top-ranked stocks to the top of the screen with the highest VST scores. With the click of a mouse, all 8,900 stocks are scanned for the selected search criteria, then arrayed in order from the highest to lowest VST values. They can then be placed in a watchlist, portfolio, or run as a QuickTest over selected time periods to determine their performance.

Figure 7 provides a QuickTest for the top-10 stocks selected for the Midas Touch search from May 26, 2021, the date of a Confirmed Call, through August 13, 2021. This strategy gained 12.39% versus 3.52% for the VVC, clearly a solid performance. A QuickTest is a straight buy-and-hold comparison and does not contain any risk control matters like stops, which are very important. Clearly, the 30% price decline in RFP and 18% decline in BKEP could have been capped at 10% with a stop at that level, resulting in an even better portfolio performance.

Let's consider one popular bullish-oriented UniSearch strategy—Russell 2000/RT—coupled with the four different timers (one at a time) for the period shown in Figure 3 from January 2, 2020 to July 26, 2021 to see how they performed. This strategy's parameters include a stock price greater than \$1, daily average volume over 100,000, no inverse ETFs or special ETFs, and listed on major stock exchanges. I used the backtester with a five-stock portfolio, as well as stop criteria of

selling any position with a 50% gain or a 10% loss to avoid big drawdowns and lock in any big profits.

Figure 8 provides the results, demonstrating that using this strategy, three of the four timers provided at least a 4X better performance than buying and holding the Russell 2000 index (34.4% return), all with a 50% less maximum drawdown. The best performer was the Primary Wave timer with a 320.2% return versus only a gain of 34.4% for buy-and-hold with a drawdown of 22.7% versus 43.2%, respectively, a difference of 86% lower drawdown. Although the Confirmed Call performance was only 1.6 percentage points worse than buy-and-hold, its low maximum drawdown of 20.1% versus 42.3% for the Russell 2000 was a significant improvement. So, in essence, every timer provided excellent results.

Two additional factors need to be mentioned. First, the number of trades for the Primary Wave (PW) was 177, much higher than for the other timers by a large amount, as was the return. The GLB appears to be a better approach for traders who want fewer trades (47) with a solid return. However, with zero-commission trading commonly available, there is no additional transaction cost for the extra PW trades.

A second factor is the low percentage of trade winners with all the timers—all less than 40%. The key is not the percent of winners, but the risk-reward ratio, which needs to be at least 2:1 or 3:1 or higher for the strategy to show a profit. Believe it

or not, many of the top traders in the country have a 52% or less win rate but still make a fortune. One example is trader Mark Minervini, who performs exceedingly well with a 48% win rate over decades with a risk-to-reward ratio at or above 2:1. (See my interview with him in the June 2020 issue of this magazine.)

I could have selected other strategies to compare against buy-and-hold of the Nasdaq Composite, S&P 500 or Russell 2000 or any other major US stock market index, and the results would have been similar. I didn't just cherry-pick the Russell 2000/RT for this example. Users can easily run backtests to check out this information during their trial period or after to see the value of market timing coupled with strategy selection and stop criteria.

### “VIEWERS” OFFER MORE BUYING CANDIDATES

In addition to UniSearch, which provides many more searches than you will ever need, there are additional searches and systems available under the *viewers* tab at the top of the homepage. Not only is there a stock viewer, but also one for VV trading systems, industries, sectors, market indexes, as well as for watchlists (built-in or create your own), and ETFs. I'll cover three of these.

#### *Stock viewer*

This viewer provides a quick way to see all 8,900 stocks in the universe ranked in VST descending order as of July 29, 2021. Familiar names include Moderna, BioNTech SE, IDT Corp.,

Timers	Conf. Call	DEW	Prim.Wave	GLB	B&H
Percent Gain	32.8%	165.3%	320.2%	228.4%	34.40%
Annual Return	21.0%	105.7%	204.8%	146.1%	22.00%
Max Drawdown	20.1%	21.6%	22.70%	22.7%	42.30%
Winners	10	17	53	37	n.a.
Losers	30	27	124	10	n.a.
% Winners	25%	39%	29.8%	35.7%	n.a.

**FIGURE 8: COMPARISON OF RUSSELL 2000/RT TO BUY-AND-HOLD.**

Three of the four timers outperformed the benchmark 4X or more with about 50% of the drawdown. Even the slowest timer was only worse by 1.6 percentage points, but with less than 50% of the drawdown.

Additional Data Availability
<a href="#">View Stock News</a>
<a href="#">View Full stock Analysis Report</a>
<a href="#">View Historical Data</a>
<a href="#">View Stocks In Industry Group</a>
<a href="#">View Stocks in Business Sector</a>
<a href="#">Trade Now - Connect to Brokerage</a>
<a href="#">Trade Now - Manage Brokerages</a>
<a href="#">Upcoming Dividend Dates</a>
<a href="#">Calculate Option Price</a>
<a href="#">QuickTest</a>
<a href="#">QuickFolio</a>
<a href="#">Add to Portfolio</a>
<a href="#">Add to Watchlist</a>
<a href="#">View Stock Graph</a>
<a href="#">View Industry Graph</a>
<a href="#">View Sector Graph</a>
<a href="#">Layout</a>
<a href="#">Autofit all Columns</a>
<a href="#">Print</a>
<a href="#">Export to csv</a>

**FIGURE 9: STOCK VIEWER, ADDITIONAL DATA AVAILABILITY.**

From stock charts to news to viewing stocks in the same industry and sector, to adding to a watchlist or portfolio, this viewer offers a wealth of data available with a mouse click.

Crocs, NVDA, and perhaps some unfamiliar ones such as Camtek, Perficient Inc., and Ternium, all three of which were up for the year by 63.1%, 101.4%, and 66.9% respectively while the S&P 500 gained 17.2%. These stocks are the cream of the crop and are available with one mouse click.

By right-clicking on any stock, you can select from 20 different choices (Figure 9)—such as viewing news on the stock, looking at historical

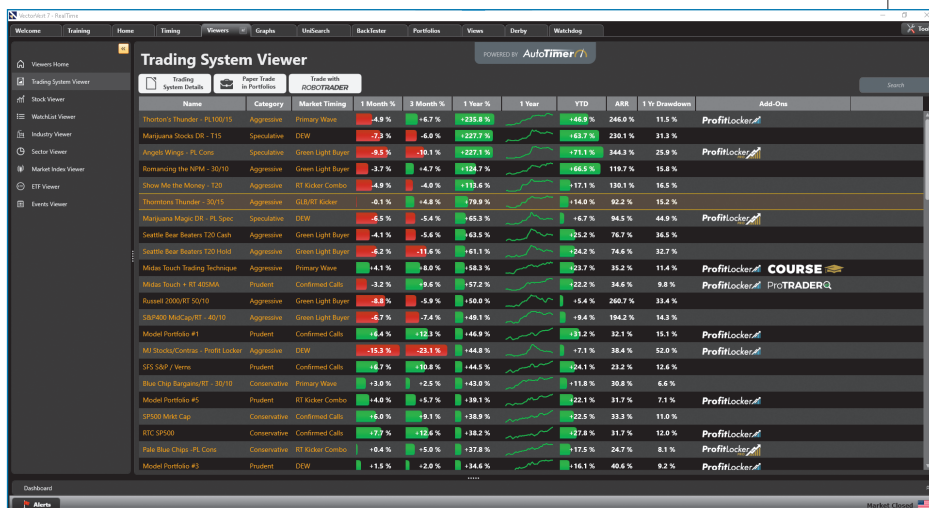
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data, charting it, seeing stocks in the industry or business sector, and connecting to a brokerage firm for seamless trading. You can then place any or all of the stocks in a watchlist or portfolio for tracking or as investment candidates after carefully viewing the stock chart to make sure it is trending higher over time with a left to right upward trend.

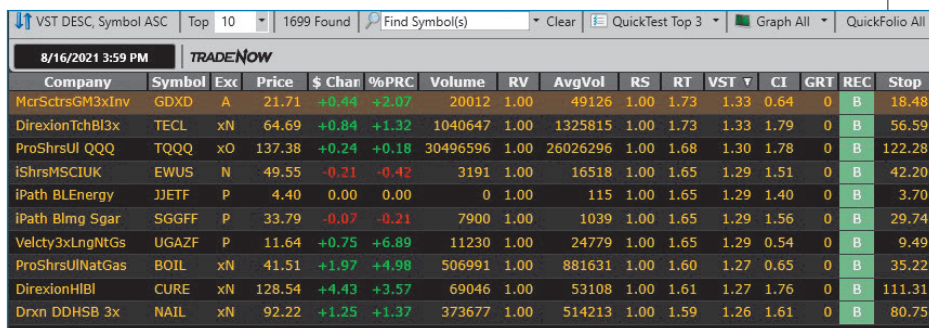
### Trading system viewer

Another powerful viewer is the trading system viewer (Figure 10), which is a spreadsheet listing 88 VV-selected trading systems with multiple performance data columns. Note that these systems are derived from UniSearch strategies as the basis, but they all have been backtested with buy and sell criteria with stops, with unique stock criteria. Be aware that any user-developed strategies *cannot* be added to this viewer. Moreover, 36 of these systems use ProfitLocker stop criteria, one uses ProfitLocker Pro (the latest addition to that add-on), and two use a combination of ProfitLocker and ProTrader. ProfitLocker Pro will be explained in part 2 of this review, as it is an add-on module.

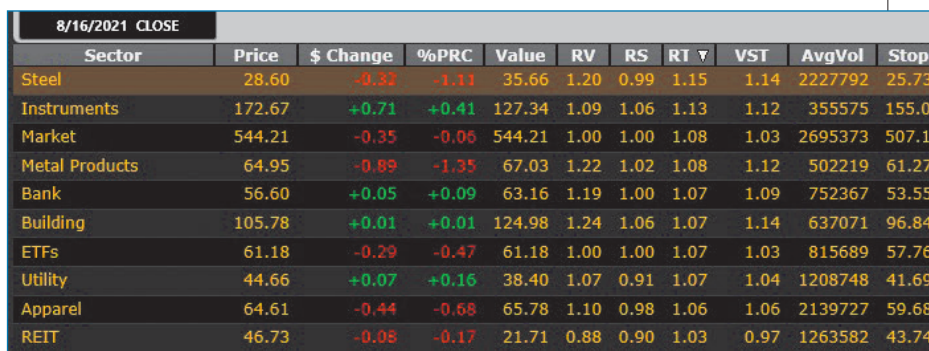
This viewer displays the performance over periods less than one year for pre-selected strategies. By sorting the columns, the user can make a list of the top performers in each time period to look for consistency. For example, sorting on the one-year and year-to-date columns brings up four systems that are on the top of both lists: Thornton’s Thunder, Angels Wings, Romancing the NPM, and Marijuana Stocks DR. However, each of their one- and three-month performance is not in the top 10. Comparing the top UniSearch strategies with these systems and finding common ground provide searches with the highest opportunity for success.



**FIGURE 10: TRADING SYSTEM VIEWER, AUGUST 2021.** Sorting each column brings the top-performing systems to the top of the screen. Then determine which ones show consistently top performance for further analysis with backtests and portfolio tracking.



**FIGURE 11: ETF VIEWER, AUGUST 16, 2021.** Almost 1,700 ETFs are sorted by VST descending order where any column can be sorted from high to low. Sorting average volume would bring top stocks to the top for trader consideration.



**FIGURE 12: TOP RT DESCENDING, SECTOR ASC.** Here, the steel and instrument sectors are the leaders with RT values above 1.13. Average volume is important for traders to keep in mind. Click on the sector name for more analysis and charts.

This viewer provides users with the ability to:

- Select a conservative, prudent, or aggressive approach
- Compare the system to the result of the best searches found

**Each night’s video reviews a list of 10 “hot stocks” to consider for the following business day.**

in UniSearch to look for commonality

- See a mini line chart of one-year performance to find the smoothest ride up from left to right
- See the timer used
- Find the ones with the lowest one-year drawdown
- Ascertain the performance over five timeframes, which can be sorted by best or worst performance
- Observe the annual rate of return and the one-year percentage drawdown
- Select which systems use ProfitLocker or ProfitLocker Pro
- View the trading system details
- Paper trade in a portfolio
- Trade with RoboTrader using a compatible brokerage firm

#### ETF viewer

This viewer (Figure 11) provides data on 1,700 ETFs with the standard spreadsheet format. You will notice that ETFs have a fixed *relative safety* and *relative value* setting of 1.0. That is because only stocks can be analyzed for those values. Moreover, columns not shown in Figure 1 are zero-filled data columns for the same reason include EPS, EY, GPE, sales, sales GRT SPS, and P/S.

However, RT can be calculated and results in the same order as the calculated VST value. In other words, all the top RT ETFs are the top VST ETFs. In this horizontally shortened example, the top five ETFs are GDXD, TECL, TQQQ, EWUS, JJETF, SGGFF, UGAZF, BOIL, CURE, AND NAIL as of the August 18, 2021 close. Traders would want to sort this list by average daily volume to find the most liquid ETFs with presumably the smallest bid-ask spreads. That sort brings the following tickers to the top in order: SQQQ, SPY, XLF, QQQ, EEM, XLE, IWM, TQQQ, EWZ, and VXX—all well-known tickers to active traders.

#### Sector viewer

Another excellent and quick way to search for potential buy candidates is to view the top-performing sectors based on *relative timing* out of the 41-sector universe (Figure 12). *Steel* and *instruments* are the top two in the August 16, 2021 view. By clicking on the sector name, you can see the stocks in that business sector. In the case of steel companies, the top VST stocks are Ternium SA, and Nucor. In the instrument sector, the top two are Perkin Elmer and Danaher.

#### TRIAL SIGNUP

First-time users should consider signing up for a 30-day low-cost trial (\$9.95 or \$0.99 on occasion). Surprisingly, VV offers new users the

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opportunity to test out the real-time version for \$9.95, which normally costs \$149 a month. By using the trial option, the user can determine whether the VectorVest market timing systems coupled with its stock and ETF selection strategies offer a compatible methodology to use. A monthly plan can be used going forward and can be canceled without difficulty for any reason with no further cash outlay.

Once you've signed up online, which takes a few minutes, you then select a user identification and password, download the software, and you are ready to begin. New users are urged to use the loads of free training by first registering for their live "getting started" coaching webinar.

There's also a five-part "successful investing" quick-start course you access by clicking on the *training* tab, and if you're looking for more detailed, in-depth instruction, a *navigation training series* is available covering all aspects of the program. Using these assets will drastically speed up your learning curve. I'll cover more educational tools in part 2.

#### UNTIL NEXT TIME

Here, I have covered some of the components of the software that help investors with two of the three key decisions that traders and investors need to make: when to buy and what to buy. Next time in part 2, I'll look at other key aspects of the program including the RealTime Derby, The Jockey Club, ProfitLocker Pro, and the overall topic of when to sell, the last of the three critical decisions.

In the meantime, for more about the many tools and strategies in the software, readers can revisit past reviews of VectorVest in the Traders.com article archive.

*S&C Contributing Writer Leslie N. Masonson is president of Cash Management Resources, a firm that focuses on ETF strategies. He is an active ETF and Nasdaq futures trader, and he writes a monthly subscription blog. He can be reached at lesmasonson@yahoo.com.*

#### FURTHER READING

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‡VectorVest

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