



Weekly Routine for Success with Blackbeard v1.2.1.1 (updated 11.7.2024)

Best Practices

Since Blackbeard and his crew of misfits raid the markets anywhere between 12:30am and 4pm ET, you want to prepare your crew for the coming week on SUNDAY evening before 11:59pm ET. Best Practice is to enable the bots SUNDAY evening between 6:00pm and 11:59pm ET for the entire week and then disable them on FRIDAY after 4:00pm ET market close.

If you use a VPS, to keep your VPS running optimally, it is recommended that you empty the recycle bin and re-start your VPS once a month (minimum), weekly is better. You can do this at any time over the weekend before preparing (enabling) your crew of pirates for the coming week to raid the markets.

To keep NinjaTrader running optimally, it is recommended that over the weekend (after you've closed NinjaTrader) you remove the cache and all historical data by going into `\Documents\NinjaTrader 8\db` and deleting ONLY these four subfolders: `\cache`, `\day`, `\minute`, and `\tick`.

Helpful Links:

[Blackbeard PRO – Bot Names and Details](#)

[2024 Contract Rollover Market Calendar](#)

Adjustments to NinjaTrader Settings (you only have to do this once):

It is recommended that you make some adjustments to the following NinjaTrader Settings via the NinjaTrader Control Center (you only have to do this once):

- Go to **Tools** -> **Options** -> **General** and check **Confirm on window or tab close** to avoid inadvertently closing a chart window (with a strategy attached to it).
- Go to **Tools** -> **Options** -> **Trading** and uncheck **Confirm order placement** to avoid NinjaTrader from opening a popup window to confirm each order placed.
- Go to **Tools** -> **Options** -> **Strategies** -> **NinjaScript** and change **On connection loss Handling** to **Keep running** and **Disconnect delay seconds** to **300** in order to keep your strategies running if there is a connection loss (so when the connection is automatically reestablished, the strategy will resume as if no disconnection occurred).

Weekly Routine:

SUNDAY between 6:00pm and 11:59pm ET:

- Login to VPS AND before starting NinjaTrader (**THIS IS IMPORTANT**):
 - If you did not already do this over the weekend, be sure to remove the cache and all historical data (with NinjaTrader closed) by going into the following folder **\Documents\NinjaTrader 8\db** and deleting **ONLY** these four subfolders: **\cache**, **\day**, **\minute**, and **\tick**.
 - [CLICK HERE](#) to download the latest **Historical Data Set** from the members area and extract the contents of the zip file to **\Documents\NinjaTrader 8\db** (to minimize discrepancies and enhance the quality, accuracy, and efficiency of the Predictive Time Windows).
- Start **NinjaTrader** and wait for the workspace to load (the strategies will load last) in its entirety.
- **Connect** to your real time data feed.
- Make sure that there is real time data coming in -> look at a **Time & Sales** window (select the current ES or NQ futures contract) to confirm real time data is flowing.
- Prepare your crew (enable your bots 10 at a time) on the **Strategies** tab by selecting the first bot, hold down **SHIFT** and select the 10th bot (to select all the bots in between), then right click and click **Enable**.

Each Morning before 9:00 AM ET (MONDAY through FRIDAY):

- Login to VPS AND make sure that there is real time data coming in -> look at a **Time & Sales** window (select the current ES or NQ futures contract) to confirm real time data is flowing.
- Make sure that all your bots are still enabled.

Throughout the trading day MONDAY through FRIDAY

- Occasionally login to VPS and check on the bots.
- Remember, these are fully automated strategies, you do not have to intervene. However, should you choose to treat them as semi-automated strategies, and manage stops and targets at your own discretion, you will have to disable the bot(s) to take over and manage its position(s).
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** If at any time throughout the trading day, you disable a bot, be sure to cancel any active orders associated with those bots unless you are managing the position at your discretion.
- **IMPORTANT:** Check the **Positions** column on the **Strategies** tab for any bot positions, then check the **Positions** tab to confirm those positions are open in your account, and finally, check the **Orders** tab (**Filtered by Only Active Orders**) to confirm that there are active stop orders and profit taking orders (if necessary) in place for any open positions in the **Positions** tab. Any open position should have a stop in place! Cancel any unnecessary working orders if needed.

Q: What causes a bot to become out of sync?

- enabling a bot after the bot has already triggered a trade
- human intervention (manually close a position, etc.) without disabling the bot first
- data or price connection loss for an extended period of time

Each evening shortly after US Equities RTH 4pm ET Close MONDAY through THURSDAY

- Login to VPS AND check the **Positions** tab and make sure that any open positions were in fact closed at 4pm ET.
- Check the **Orders** tab and double check that there are no active working orders in the market. If there are, right click anywhere on the **Orders** tab and **Cancel All Orders**.

FRIDAY between 4pm and 5pm ET (after US Equities RTH 4pm ET Close)

- Check the **Positions** tab and **Flatten Everything** if necessary (this will close all your positions and cancel any active working orders).
- If no open positions, then 1) on the **Strategies** tab, disable all bots and then 2) on the **Orders** tab, if necessary, **Cancel All Orders** (to cancel any remaining active working orders).
- Look at your results for the week via the **Trade Performance** window (New -> Trade Performance), etc.
- Close NinjaTrader.
- Remove the cache and all historical data by going into the following folder **\Documents\NinjaTrader 8\db** and deleting ONLY these four subfolders: **\cache**, **\day**, **\minute**, and **\tick**.
- **Re-start** the VPS and go and enjoy your weekend! 😊

Blackbeard - Contract Rollover Instructions

It is recommended that we wait until after Market Close (4:00pm ET) before rolling over into the next contract month. Therefore, on the day of contract rollover, if/when NinjaTrader pops open a window asking if you want to rollover futures contracts... to avoid any rollover issues, DO NOT rollover futures contracts UNTIL after market close.

It is recommended that we roll all of the contracts by going into **NinjaTrader's Control Center -> Tools -> Database Management -> Rollover**

Please follow these Step by Step instructions:

Step by Step Rollover Guide (after 4pm (US Eastern Time) on Day of Rollover

- 1) On the **Positions** tab, Flatten Everything. If no open positions, then disable all the bots on the **Strategies** tab AND **Cancel All Orders** on the **Orders** tab
- 2) Disconnect from real time data
- 3) On NinjaTrader's **Control Center**, go to **Tools -> Database Management -> Rollover**
- 4) Save the workspace and close NinjaTrader
- 5) Re-open NinjaTrader, and then rollover futures instruments one more time (if necessary) via pop up window or from **NinjaTrader's Control Center**, go to **Tools -> Database Management -> Rollover**
- 6) Save Workspace
- 7) Enable the bots

Q: Why do we wait until after Market Close or until the end of the CME Globex trading hours session?

A: These bots use RTH Trading Hours templates, therefore, you won't be able to enable the bot until after the market opens on the day of rollover. If you rollover futures contracts before the Trading Hours template start time (i.e. 9:30am ET), since the opening price hasn't printed yet for that Trading Hours template, the bot will not enable.

Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) Meeting Announcements and High Impact News Events

Trading just before a Major Economic (High Impact) News announcement can expose you to unforeseen risks and unexpected losses. To ensure that you are always prepared, regularly check an economic calendar and/or a good news source for upcoming High Impact News events (i.e. RED FOLDER news events at <https://www.forexfactory.com/>).

The FOMC Meeting Announcement and other High Impact News events are typically associated with range expansion and volatility. Therefore, we will typically disable the bots 15 to 30 minutes prior to and re-enable the bots 15 to 30 minutes after the FOMC Meeting Announcement and/or a High Impact News event.

By prioritizing awareness of High Impact News, we can manage risks effectively and improve overall performance of the strategies.

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