Quant Launch

FREE FRAMEWORK

The 60-Day Algo Trading Framework

A 60-day plan to go from no strategy to a tested bot on a prop firm evaluation. 8 steps, shown on one real bot you can download free. Built to get you funded, with no promise that it will.

By Dylan

60	8	1
days, start to evaluation	steps, in order	free bot, tested at every step

Days 1–7	Days 8–28	Days 29–38	Days 39–52	Days 53–60
Set up	Build and retest	Break it	Demo	Evaluation

WHAT THIS IS

Your first 60 days in algo trading.

A good backtest is easy to get. In my experience, most bots with one still fall apart on a live account. This plan is 8 steps, in order, that tell you whether a bot is real before any money is on it. I ran one real bot through all of them so you can see what each step catches.

WHO IT'S FOR

You want to trade with bots and get funded, and you don't have a strategy you'd trust yet.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

One free bot taken through every step, with its real numbers. It passes three steps and fails one. Nothing is hidden.

BY DAY 60

A bot of your own through every test, run on demo and started on an evaluation. Or a clear no.

THE 8 STEPS

1. Pick your instruments
2. Get a backtesting tool
3. Split your data 50/25/25
4. Build on in-sample, then retest
5. Try to break it
6. Walk-forward
7. Holdout, once
8. Deploy

WHO'S WRITING THIS

I'm Dylan. I've run trading bots on live accounts for 5 years.

I'm an algo trader from the UK. I've also sat on the other side of the table: I co-founded a prop firm. This is the process I use before a bot goes near a live account.

5 years

Trading live accounts with bots since 2021.

400%+

Up 400%+ since 2021 on my live record, risk adjusted to 25% max drawdown.

7 figures

Seven figures of other people's money copying my trades, for years.

SLF

I co-founded and own SLF (Sure Leverage Funding), a prop firm.



My live record since 2021, risk adjusted. Past results don't predict future results.

> Quant Launch is the app I built to run these checks. Every number for the example bot in this guide comes from it.

THE 60-DAY PLAN

The 60 days, in five stages.

A plan of work, not a promise of results. Most ideas won't make it through, and that's the point. The 8 steps follow, one by one.

1–7	8–28	29–38	39–52	53–60

DAYS 1–7

Set up

Steps 1–3

Pick your market, set up your tool, load the data and write down your three date ranges.

Done when: the data is split and the holdout is locked.

DAYS 8–28

Build and retest

Step 4

Build ideas on in-sample and retest each one on out-of-sample. Expect most to fail.

Done when: one idea has passed out-of-sample.

DAYS 29–38

Break it

Steps 5–7

Robustness tests, walk-forward, then the holdout. None left? Go back to days 8–28.

Done when: one strategy has passed the holdout.

DAYS 39–52

Demo

Step 8

Export it and run it on demo, untouched. A slow bot needs longer.

Done when: the demo trades match the backtest.

DAYS 53–60

Evaluation

Step 8

Size the risk from the shuffled drawdown, then start. Nobody can promise a pass.

Done when: the bot is live on an evaluation.

1 Pick your instruments.

Start with the big indices and gold: CFDs or futures, either is fine. Pick one and stay on it. I leave currencies alone. In my experience they're the hardest place to find a real edge.

- Nasdaq (US100)
- Gold (XAUUSD)
- Dow (US30)
- S&P 500 (US500)
- Nikkei (JP225)
- ~~Currencies~~

2 Get a backtesting tool.

You can't do this by eye. You need 10 years or more of data and a tool built for testing. I built Quant Launch to be that tool:

High-quality data
One-minute bars from real tick data, with spread, commission and overnight fees.

Your idea, as a strategy
Describe it in plain English. The AI plans it with you, then builds the rules.

Optimise and test
Backtest it, tune the settings, then run up to 27 stress tests.

Agentic research
Ask what a change would do. An AI agent tests it and reports what held up.

THE EXAMPLE BOT FOR THIS GUIDE

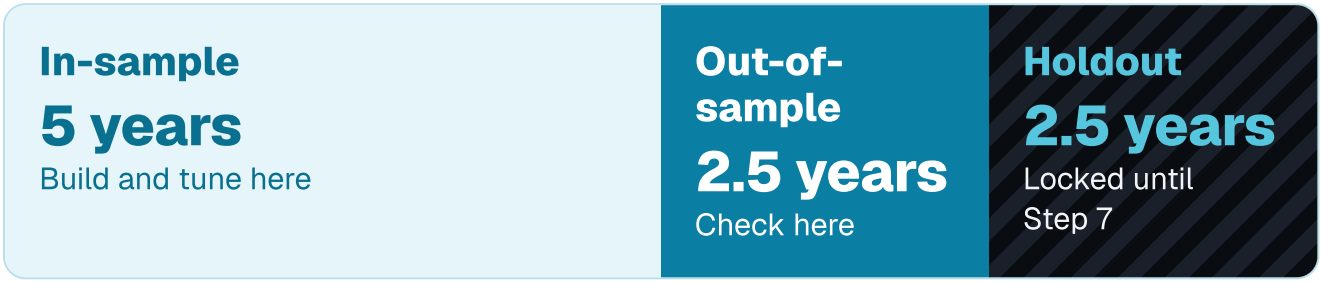
Nasdaq IBS mean reversion (daily)

Rules	Nasdaq (US100), daily bars, long only. Buys after a close near the day's low, sells after a close near its high. Stop 2x ATR, 1% risk a trade.
Backtest	+87.43%, worst drop 4.09%, 471 trades, Jan 2012 to Oct 2026, costs on. Just holding the Nasdaq made far more, with a 37.69% drop on the way.

Textbook rules (Pagonidis, 2013) plus a stop we chose. Nothing was tuned, and we'd seen this result before we started: a demonstration, not a blind test. On a 10,000 account, lot rounding often keeps real risk below 1%.

3 Split your data 50/25/25.

Before you test anything, cut your data into three parts, by date. With 10 years: 5 to build on, 2.5 to check on and 2.5 you don't touch until Step 7.



The example bot: in-sample Jan 2012 to Jun 2019, out-of-sample to Feb 2023, holdout to Oct 2026.

4 Build on in-sample only. Then retest.

Build your idea and tune it lightly on the in-sample years: few settings, one change at a time. Then run it, unchanged, on the out-of-sample years. The pass marks are on the checklist page.

DO THIS

If it fails out-of-sample, bin it and start the next idea. Tweaking it until it passes is just fitting it to the new data.

EXAMPLE BOT · NASDAQ IBS — PASS

+16.94%	1.93%	140	2.06x
out-of-sample	worst drop	trades, 38 a year	wins vs losses

In-sample: +39.04%, worst drop 4.09%, 212 trades.

5 Try to break it.

It worked on data it hadn't seen. Now try to break it, with the holdout still locked. Four checks.

Monte Carlo shuffle

The same trades in a random order, 1,000 times. Shows the drawdown with bad luck.

Example bot: 6.28% against 3.25% on closed trades in the backtest. That's 1.93 times, and 1.5 is the limit. FAIL

Skip trades

Misses 1 trade in 10 at random, 1,000 times. Live, you will miss some.

Example bot: still up in 95% of runs. PASS

Other markets

The same rules on related markets, like the S&P 500 and the Dow.

Example bot: up on the S&P 500 and the Nikkei, down on the Dow and gold. 2 of 4, and it needed 3. FAIL

Other timeframes

One timeframe up and one down, where your tool offers them.

Example bot: still up on 4-hour bars, the only other timeframe the app offers for a daily bot. 1 of 1. PASS

Same trades, unluckier order, nearly double the drawdown. That gap is why you never size risk from the backtest.

DO THIS

Run all four on everything that survived Step 4. Kill the weak ones here, where it costs nothing.

EXAMPLE BOT · NASDAQ IBS FAIL

Failed 2 of the 4 checks. By these rules it gets sized down or left out. I kept going so you can see every step.

6 Walk-forward.

Tune on one stretch of data, test on the next stretch it hasn't seen, then roll forward and repeat, 10 times. It shows whether the bot keeps working as time moves on.



EXAMPLE BOT · NASDAQ IBS

PASS

9 of 10	0.79	226
unseen stretches up	unseen vs tuned, 0.5 needed	trades on unseen data

Only two settings were allowed to move: the buy level and the sell level.

7 Holdout, once.

Now unlock the last 25%. Run the bot on it once, unchanged, with the same pass marks as Step 4. Pass: go to Step 8. Fail: it's dead.

DO THIS

Run it once and accept the answer. Twice, and it isn't a holdout any more.

EXAMPLE BOT · NASDAQ IBS

PASS

+10.78%	2.62%	104	1.82x
on the holdout	worst drop	trades, 28 a year	wins vs losses

THE FRAMEWORK · STEP 8

8 Deploy.

A bot that got this far has earned a real test, in this order. Don't skip the demo.

1 **Export**
Export the strategy as an EA for MT5.

→

2 **Demo**
Run it on demo for two weeks, or about 20 trades if it's slow. Don't touch it.

→

3 **Compare**
Put the demo report next to the backtest. They should match.

→

4 **Evaluate**
Start a prop firm evaluation, with the risk sized first.

Size the risk first: the bad-luck drawdown from Step 5 has to fit inside the firm's loss limits. Quant Launch's prop firm test set draws that line at 8%, in 95% of runs.

DO THIS

Never size your risk from the backtest's drawdown. Size it from the shuffled one.

EXAMPLE BOT · NASDAQ IBS

NOTE

0 errors
MT5 export compiled

6.71%
shuffled drop, whole backtest

8%
the prop firm line

On the 10,000 account the shuffled drop sits under the 8% line, but the app still grades the bot Caution because of Step 5. It hasn't had its demo run yet.

THE CHECKLIST

Every pass mark, on one page.

Screenshot this. It's the whole framework in numbers.

	STEP	PASS MARKS
1	**Pick your instruments**	One index, or gold No currencies
2	**Get a backtesting tool**	Real costs on every trade Holds data back Robustness tests built in Exports a bot
3	**Split your data**	50% in-sample 25% out-of-sample 25% holdout Split by date
4	**Build, then retest**	100+ trades, 20+ a year Up after costs Wins at least 1.1x losses Return per 1% of drawdown at least half of in-sample
5	**Try to break it**	Shuffle: bad-luck drawdown within 1.5x Skip 1 in 10: still up in 95% of runs Other markets: 6 in 10 hold up Other timeframes: half hold up
6	**Walk-forward**	10 runs 6 in 10 unseen stretches up Up overall on unseen data Unseen at least half as good as tuned
7	**Holdout, once**	One run, no changes Same marks as Step 4
8	**Deploy**	Demo: 2 weeks or 20 trades Demo matches the backtest Shuffled drawdown fits the firm's limits

Quant Launch's default marks: my line, not a law. Move one before the test, never after.

QUANT LAUNCH

Idea in. Tested bot out.

The free bot shows you the process. Quant Launch is where you run the process on your own ideas, start to finish.

1

Describe your idea

Say what you want to trade. The AI plans it with you, then builds rules you can read. No code.

2

Test it on real data

One-minute bars built from real tick data, with spread, commission and overnight fees on every trade.

3

Optimise and stress-test

Tune the settings, or let an AI agent test the changes and report what held up on unseen data. Then try to break it with up to 27 stress tests, including a prop firm set.

4

Export the bot

When it passes, export it as a MetaTrader 5 bot and run it on demo first.

> You bring the idea. Quant Launch does the heavy lifting, and the 8 steps tell you whether to trust the result.

Quant Launch

YOUR TURN

Start with the free bot. Then build your own.

You've seen the whole process on one bot. It's in the Quant Launch free bot library: join free and run it on demo to test the waters. Keep it off a prop firm account, though. Everyone reading this can get the same bot, and identical trades across accounts can break many firms' copy-trading rules. It also failed Step 5. To get funded you need a bot of your own. Quant Launch takes your idea through the same 8 steps.

Nasdaq IBS: the report card	3 steps passed, 1 failed	
Step 4 · Out-of-sample	+16.94%, worst drop 1.93%	PASS
Step 5 · Break it	Shuffle 1.93x (1.5x allowed), 2 of 4 markets	FAIL
Step 6 · Walk-forward	9 of 10 unseen stretches up	PASS
Step 7 · Holdout	+10.78%, worst drop 2.62%	PASS
Step 8 · Deploy	Compiles for MT5. Demo run still to do.	NOTE

Get the free bot →

`https://quantlaunch.ai/signup`

Testing your own strategies in Quant Launch needs a paid plan; walk-forward and the AI agent's autopilot runs are on Pro and above. Trading is risky and you can lose money. Past results and backtests don't predict future results. The example bot is a teaching example, not a recommendation. General education, not personal advice.