Market Manipulation
What *You* need to know to stay profitable using Wyckoff / Volume Spread Analysis
Important Disclaimer

Trading Stocks, Options on Stocks, Futures, Options on Futures, and retail off-exchange foreign currency transactions (FOREX) involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for all investors. Past performance, whether actual or indicated by historical tests of strategies, is no guarantee of future performance or success. There is a possibility that you may sustain a loss equal to or greater than your entire investment regardless of which asset class you trade (equities, options, futures or forex); therefore, you should not invest or risk money that you cannot afford to lose.
Gavin Holmes
Author “Trading in the Shadow of the Smart Money” & “The Complete Volume Spread Analysis System Explained”
Head Trader – Wyckoff Williams Investment Portfolio Hedge Fund
Hampshire Police Officer
Over 1000 presentations in 45 countries online and live
VSA Smart Trader Symposium 2016
Are The Financial Markets Manipulated - Fact or Fiction?
'The market is rigged' - Michael Lewis
Market Manipulation - Evidence

In his seminal work on the role of high-frequency traders in global stock markets, Michael Lewis quotes Charlie Munger, Warren Buffett's right hand man.

Mr Munger said that high-frequency trading was "the functional equivalent of letting a lot of rats into a granary".

The central thesis of Flash Boys, which is published, with an updated final chapter, in paperback this week, is that electronic trading has rigged the market against ordinary investors, particularly in America.

Computer algorithms allow high-frequency trading (HFT) firms to "get ahead" of institutions investing on behalf of our pension funds and savings schemes.

Because HFT firms execute deals in tiny fractions of seconds they are able to "front run" human traders who are buying stocks and make a small "skim" on the deal by pushing prices up or down.

Although each "skim" is tiny, the overall effect, according to Mr Lewis, is that billions of dollars are being lost by investors to HFT firms which have inserted themselves into the market.

When the incentives are screwed up the behaviour is screwed up.
UK 'flash crash' trader appears in court

22 April 2015 | Business
Market Manipulation - Evidence

Forex scandal: How to rig the market

By Sebastian Chrispin
Business reporter, BBC News

12 November 2014 | Business

The foreign exchange market is not easy to manipulate.

But it is still possible for traders to change the value of a currency in order to make a profit.

As it is a 24-hour market, it is not easy to see how much the market is worth on a given day.

Institutions find it useful to take a snapshot of how much is being bought and sold. This happens every
Forex manipulation: How it worked

Catherine Boyle | @cboylecnbc
Wednesday, 12 Nov 2014 | 12:59 PM ET
Market Manipulation - Evidence

The Telegraph

Thomas Pascoe

Thomas Pascoe worked in both the Lloyd's of London insurance market and in corporate finance before joining the Telegraph. He writes about the financial markets. His email is thomas.pascoe@telegraph.co.uk and his Twitter address is @PascoeTelegraph

The price of gold has been manipulated. This is more scandalous than Libor

By Thomas Pascoe  Economics  Last updated: July 11th, 2012

289 Comments  Comment on this article
Market Manipulation
Gold and Silver
The Truth in the Newspaper!!

The prices of gold and silver have been allegedly suppressed by JPMorgan Chase and HSBC, according to a London whistleblower. Andrew Maguire, who laid the banks' plot in emails to the CFTC prior to trading on the Comex on Feb. 5.

High, low silver

The prices of gold and silver have been allegedly suppressed by JPMorgan Chase and HSBC, according to a London whistleblower. Andrew Maguire, who laid the banks' plot in emails to the CFTC prior to trading on the Comex on Feb. 5.

Trade blows whistle on gold & silver price manipulation

By MICHAEL GRAY

There is no silver lining to the activities of JPMorgan Chase and HSBC in the precious-metals market here and in London, says a 40-year veteran of the metal pits.

The banks, which do the Federal Reserve’s bidding in the metals markets, have long been the government’s lead actors in keeping down the prices of gold and silver, according to a former Goldman Sachs trader working at the London Bullion Market Association.

Maguire was scheduled to testify last week before the Commodities Futures Trade Commission, which is looking into the activities of large banks in the metals market, but was knocked off the list at the last moment. So, he went public.

Maguire — in an exclusive interview with The Post — explained JPMorgan’s role in the metals pits in both London and here, and how they can generate a profit even when the market moves.

“JPMorgan acts as an agent for the Federal Reserve; they act to halt the rise of gold and silver against the US dollar. JPMorgan is insulated from potential losses on their short positions by the Fed and/or the US taxpayer,” Maguire said.

In the gold pits, Maguire sees HSBC betting against the precious metal’s price without having any skin in the game in the form of a naked short.

“HSBC conducts an ongoing manipulative concentrated naked short position in gold. Silver is much easier to manipulate due to its much smaller [market] size,” Maguire added.

“No one at JPMorgan is familiar with Andrew Maguire,” said Brian Marchiony, a company spokesman. HSBC declined comment.

Also during the CFTC hearing, Jeff Christian, founder of the commodities firm CPM Group, said that the LBMA, the physical delivery market for gold and silver in the UK, has been using leverage, which is another way to depress the price of gold and silver.

Christian said that the LBMA, the same market Maguire trades in — has leverage of about 100-1 on the gold bars settled on the exchange. In layman’s terms, that means if 100 clients requested their bullion bars be delivered, the exchange could only give one client the precious metal.

The remaining requests would have to be settled for cash equivalent. “That is tantamount to default on the trade,” says Bill Murphy, chairman of the Gold Antitrust Action committee.

Murphy goes further and calls it a fraud: “If you sell something you do not own, then that is fraud.”

Back in 2007, Morgan Stanley agreed to settle a $4.4-million lawsuit brought by precious-metal clients, who alleged that Morgan offered to buy gold and silver and store it for the investors, but never purchased any metal and still charged them storage fees.

Morgan Stanley denied the charges at the time, but “settled the case to avoid the cost and distractions of continued litigation,” the firm said.

Despite gold’s rise each of the last 10 years, Murphy believes the price of gold today would be closer to $2,300 an ounce if the price just moved with inflation.

Murphy believes the price should be even higher given the fear that would have sent prices spiking during the financial crisis in 2008-09.

Both precious metals have seen a recent spike since Maguire’s email became public. Gold has gained 6.5 percent to close at $1,161.55, while silver has spiked 10.1 percent to $15.86.

According to the emails Maguire sent to CFTC regulators, he was spot-on in his expectations of how the precious metals would trade on release of the January jobs report.

This message is to “confirm that the silver manipulation was a great success and played exactly to plan as predicted yesterday. How would this be possible if the silver market was not in the full control of the parties we discussed in our phone interview?”

Kind regards,
Andrew T. Maguire

From: Andrew Maguire
To: Ramirez, Eliud (CFTC)
Cc: BChilton (CFTC); GGenesler (CFTC)
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2010 3:37 PM
Subject: Tw: Silver today

A final mail to confirm that the silver manipulation was a great success and played exactly to plan as predicted yesterday. How would this be possible if the silver market was not in the full control of the parties we discussed in our phone interview?

Kind regards,
Andrew T. Maguire

From: Ramirez, Eliud
To: Andrew Maguire
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2010 1:29 PM
Subject: RE: Silver Today

Good afternoon, Mr. Maguire. I have received and reviewed your email communications. Thank you so very much for your observations.

From: Andrew Maguire
To: Ramirez, Eliud (CFTC)
Cc: BChilton (CFTC); GGenesler (CFTC)
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 3:18 PM
Subject: Re: Silver today

I thought I would be helpful to your investigation if I gave you the heads up for a manipulative event signaled for Friday, 5th Feb, Scenario 1. The news is bad (employment is worse). This will have a bullish effect on gold and silver as the US dollar weakens and the precious metal draw bids, spiking higher. This will be sold into within a very short time (1-2 mins) with thousands of new short contracts being added.

Scenario 2. The news is good (employment is better than expected). This will result in a massive short position being instead, almost immediately with no move up. This will not initially be liquidation of long positions but will result in stop losses being tripped, again targeting key support levels.

Kind regards,
Andrew T. Maguire
Andrew Maguire
Former Goldman Sachs Trader and Whistle Blower

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From: Andrew Maguire  
To: Ramirez, Eliud [CFTC]  
Cc: BCHilton [CFTC]  
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2010 3:18 PM  
Subject: Re: Silver today

Dear Mr. Ramirez,

Thanks for your response.

Thought it may be helpful to your investigation if I gave you the heads up for a manipulative event signaled for Friday, 5th Feb. The non-farm payrolls number will be announced at 8.30 ET. There will be one of two scenarios occurring, and both will result in silver (and gold) being taken down with a wave of short selling designed to take out obvious support levels and trip stops below. While I will no doubt be able to profit from this upcoming trade, it is an example of just how easy it is to manipulate a market if a concentrated position is allowed by a very small group of traders.

I sent you a slide of a couple of past examples of just how this will play out.

Scenario 1. The news is bad (employment is worse). This will have a bullish effect on gold and silver as the U.S. dollar weakens and the precious metals draw bids, spiking them higher. This will be sold into within a very short time (1-5 mins) with thousands of new short contracts being added, overcoming any new bids and spiking the precious metals down hard, targeting key technical support levels.

Scenario 2. The news is good (employment is better than expected). This will result in a massive short position being instigated almost immediately with no move up. This will not initially be liquidation of long positions but will result in stops being triggered, again targeting key support levels.

Both scenarios will spell an attempt by the two main short holders to illegally drive the market down and reap very large profits. Locals such as myself will be "invited" on board, which will further add downward pressure.

The question I would expect you might ask is: Who is behind the sudden selling and is it the entity/entities holding a concentrated position? How is it possible for me to know what will occur days before it will happen?

Only if a market is manipulated could this possibly occur.
The “Shakeout” – Just as Maguire predicted BEFORE it happened – VSA Highlights this – The Yao Ming Bar

4th and 5th February 2010. “Smart Money” try to hide their positions over two days - look at the massive volume. Andrew Maguire identified this manipulative event, VSA showed a classic long trade set up.
The Yao Ming Bar – What is it?
Houston’s Yao Ming would be ULTRA HIGH VOLUME on a chart!! He is currently the tallest player in the NBA, at 2.29 m (7 ft 6 in).
CAN ANYONE SPOT YAO MING VOLUME?

Where is the HIGHEST volume on this chart?
The “Shakeout” – Just as Maguire predicted 3 months BEFORE it happened – VSA Highlights this – The Yao Ming Bar
The “Shakeout” – Wait for the trend to change and price to move above the top of the “Shakeout” bar. Stop loss below low of “Shakeout” bar.
The “Shakeout” – Often causes a trend reversal from bear to bull trend, especially when the volume is ULTRA HIGH or Yao Ming!!
After a “Shakeout” is identified – WAIT. Market price action will move above the top of the “Shakeout” bar. Now we look for the following.

NOTE: None.

Bar Description:
A test is a mark down during the bar (often on bad news) to challenge any weak holders to panic and sell. If they do not sell the price rebounds up towards the middle or high and volume is low (can be high in the futures market). This lack of selling gives the professionals confidence that they do not have to absorb large amounts of supply.

Add extra weight if the low of the bar is into fresh new low ground and also if it is a down bar.

If the news was bad and volume was high this can appear as a shakeout of even a selling climax which would mark the start of accumulation.

Tests on low volume in the cash market will cause the professionals to enter the futures market resulting in higher volumes there.
A “Test after a Shakeout” – ANY signal number with this description.
A “No Supply” – ANY signal number with this description.
The Masters & Teachers of the Wyckoff Method & Volume Spread Analysis

Tom Williams

Richard Wyckoff
Richard Demille Wyckoff (November 2, 1873 – March 19, 1934) was a stock market authority, founder and onetime editor of the *Magazine of Wall Street* (founding it in 1907), and editor of *Stock Market Technique*.  

"...Thousands of those who operate in the markets now recognize the fact that the market momentarily indicates its own immediate future, and that these indications are accurately recorded in the market transactions second by second, and therefore those who can interpret what transactions take place second by second or moment by moment have a distinct advantage over the general trading public...."

*Richard D Wyckoff, 1914*
VSA Measures the forces that drive the markets

Successful tape reading is a study of Force; it requires ability to judge which side has the greatest pulling power and one must have the courage to go with that side.

—Richard Wyckoff—
"If you can read a chart correctly, you will understand the markets do not move randomly but are moved by the “Smart Money” and you can see their intention at support and resistance levels by looking for the footprints hidden in the volume and price, and then you will have a chance to profit by following their footsteps.

Volume is vital in your analysis, which is why the self regulated exchanges around the world will not release true volume figures until the day after trading took place!!

Tom Williams, 2016
What Is Volume Spread Analysis
www.volumespreadanalysis.com
Volume – Spread or Range of Bar and Closing Price
How Can Volume Spread Analysis Identify These Moves?

Volume = Activity

We are interested in volume because it tells us the consensus of opinion amongst the “Smart Money”

The Spread and Close in Relation to the background Confirm
Will Volume Spread Analysis Work In All Markets (Including Currencies)?
YES – EVEN IN FOREX
Interest rate warning sends pound surging

Bank of England governor Mark Carney surprises City with Mansion House speech, leading to expectations of early rate rise

Sean Farrell
d ateg uardian.com, Friday 13 June 2014 10.21 BST
Jump to comments (65)

Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney at his Mansion House speech.
Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid/PA

The pound has risen sharply after the governor of the Bank of England
Daily Chart GBP/USD SPOT FOREX MT4 Activtrades

Indicator Information
SOW 26 SUPPLY COMING IN

Note: None.

Bar Description:
This is an up bar showing an increase in volume suggesting supply has entered the market. If volume is ultra high this could be a climax action.

Sometimes this can be a breakout through an old top which is a sign of strength. However make sure that it is not a false breakout which is a SOW.

Background:
Look carefully to the background. Do you have strength or weakness behind you? After a period of rising prices this could be the start of distribution by one or more professional groups.

Daily Chart Activ Trades MT4 - GBP/USD
Note the massive volume but the price closes near the middle of the daily range and look at the next day. We have a lower close. Only one thing can cause this. SUPPLY (SELLING) IS OVERCOMING DEMAND
Some Words of Wisdom from WD Gann

WD Gann's Trading Rules

- Don’t enter a trade if you are unsure of the trend. Never buck the trend.
- When in doubt, get out, and don’t get in when in doubt.
- Only trade active markets.
- Distribute your risk equally among different markets.
- Never limit your orders. Trade at the market.
- Don’t close trades without a good reason.
- Extra monies from successful trades should be placed in a separate account.
- Never trade to scalp a profit.
- Never average a loss.
- Never get out of the market because you have lost patience or get in because you are anxious from waiting.
- Avoid taking small profits and large losses.
- Never cancel a stop loss after you have placed the trade.
- Avoid getting in and out of the market too often.
- Be willing to make money from both sides of the market.
- Never buy or sell just because the price is low or high.
- Pyramiding should be accomplished once it has crossed resistance levels and broken zones of distribution.
- Pyramid issues that have a strong trend.
- Never hedge a losing position.
- Never change your position without a good reason.
- Avoid trading after long periods of success or failure.
- Don’t try to guess tops or bottoms.
- Don’t follow a blind man’s advice.
- Reduce trading after the first loss; never increase.
- Avoid getting in wrong and out wrong; or getting in right and out wrong. This is making a double mistake.

William Delbert Gann
(June 6, 1878 – June 14, 1955)
Scan Confirm Trade – The Concept

• To identify trading opportunities by finding unusually high volume on a chart (climactic action) followed by low volume (No Demand or No Supply) at the same price level.

• To show visually clear trend alignment in multiple timeframes.

• To alert the trader when a major VSA trade set up has been found in any timeframe via email.

• To alert the trader when a VSA sequential trader set up has been found in any timeframe via email.

• To allow a trader to monitor and scan hundreds of charts at one time so the system is “sniffing” out trading opportunities for the trader to then analyse on the charts.
Scan Confirm Trade – The Concept

• To show when the market is in congestion using the proprietary trading tools developed by TradeGuider Systems International.
• When the scanner is misaligned in multiple timeframes, no trade.
• When the scanner is aligned in multiple timeframes, possible VSA trade set up.
• Visual and audible alerts when trade set up located.
• Bar information window for bar by bar VSA analysis.
• Each VSA indicator has a number and a detailed description of market conditions that caused the indicator to appear.
The Market Participants – The “Herd” and The “Smart Money”
Soon You Will Be Trading in Harmony with “Smart Money”
To get our VSA info pack containing:

- Beginners Guide to Trading the Markets online course
- Trading in the Shadow of the Smart Money - complete ebook
- Complete VSA System Explained ebook
- Scan Confirm Trade online training course
- Articles and webinars
- Copy of todays slides

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Text your email to me – 07801 267160