

InvestiQuant

Trader Spotlight: Steve

Client Since 2017 – Discretionary Trader, Part-time



Background

I am currently a content creator for an options trading education/software company. My educational background was a degree in English. I was a competitive tournament golfer throughout high school and college and chose to pursue a career in the golf industry. I was a golf professional for six years and worked in the golf industry for over a decade. I had absolutely no background in finance, economics, trading, or markets. I literally knew nothing until I started educating myself in late 2017. I was at a crossroads in my personal and professional life and had made the decision to move on from the golf industry, and finally decided to take the leap into the markets, an idea I had flirted with on and off for a few years. My personality is such that when I decide to do something and am interested in the subject, I dive in full speed. I knew it wouldn't be a full-time "job" at first, but the goal was to eventually generate consistent income to supplement myself while I continued to search for a career.

Trading Pursuit

The more time I've spent trading the more I enjoy all the aspects that have nothing to do with money. The psychological challenges presented by actively trading are of great interest to me, and the more time I spend trading, the less I worry about chart patterns and indicators and the more time I spend on books related to the mental aspects of trading. I truly want to get better at everything involved with trading full-time and it is a pursuit that I imagine never gets easier or fully understood.

History with InvestiQuant

I have been a client with InvestiQuant since late 2017. My dad was a subscriber on and off going back to the days of Master the Gap, and he introduced me to InvestiQuant. I came to trading in general and iQ specifically with no prior knowledge or interaction with the market. I wanted to focus on a small portion of the market to become an "expert" while constantly learning and educating myself on the overall broad market. I initially joined the premium membership so that I could have access to the education series and that was invaluable in my learning process. I have stayed with InvestiQuant because, in my opinion, there is no substitute for historical, quantifiable data. This provides an edge that enables me to trade with a high level of confidence and allows me to trade across multiple time frames, built out a daily bias, and strategically exit trades.

I am relatively young (34) and still very new to trading (2.5 years now) so as you can imagine this has been a wild ride since day one (shortly before the shenanigans of Feb 2018). I'm not sure what "normal" is in this world but I know I haven't experienced much of it. But I am also grateful to experience these times and thankful to have been surrounded by trustworthy people and systematic trading such as iQ. To have made money these last two years as a new trader feels like an accomplishment in these circumstances.

The customer service has been exceptional, and the daily trading room with Matt is a key part of my daily routine. I also admire the company's desire to continually improve its product. The tools available in the Discover platform take everything to the next level and provide traders with a comprehensive package to identify and implement strategies using hundreds of potential inputs.

To learn more: email: Brian@InvestiQuant.com

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Trading Style

I trade ES and NQ futures on short-term time frames (iQ style gap and range trades) and occasionally swing trade index futures with micro contracts. I also trade options on sector ETFs. The majority of these trades are neutral and in the 30-60 day time frame. I will occasionally use options for directional trades on shorter timeframes and rely on technical indicators to trigger those strategies.

How I Use InvestiQuant

InvestiQuant is the cornerstone of my daily trading routine. I am a big believer in routines and I have started my trading day with iQ every day for three years. The interface is extremely user friendly and provides so much usable information in a very short amount of time. I use the four tabs (Analyze, Discover, Edges, and Alerts) to build out a daily trading strategy with unparalleled confidence (or to avoid trading in environments without edges) and love the way I can scan across different time frames to see if edges are gaining strength or weakness, and can use the stops and targets to have strategic exit points.

I am especially impressed with the Alerts page. I start the day by examining the pre-loaded Bias Alerts to identify what major edges are potentially in play. The ability to then refine these biases with more market-specific data is a huge bonus, as is the ability to create and save strategies as edges appear. This is instrumental in maintaining discipline and is very helpful in avoiding negative psychological biases.

Advice for Traders

InvestiQuant provides confidence with historical, quantifiable, ensemble data. This is such a huge advantage in the modern trading environment. However, this will only take you so far as a trader. You must develop strict trading plans to manage risk and emotion and consider if you want to trade entirely systematically (potentially automate) or include discretion. The data provided by iQ aids in this process because you don't have to second guess what may or may not work. The historical data is provided with so many inputs and entry/exit parameters that you have all the tools necessary at your fingertips, without having to code or spend hours mining for information.

Make sure you find a trading style that suits your personality, strengths/weaknesses, financial goals/risks, lifestyle and time availability. I think it is valuable for new and existing members to reconcile how they want to use this software. I have personally now gone through it all, from strict systematic trading to purely discretionary. It is important for traders to find their own balance between the styles and use the data to help structure their daily trading plan.

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