

## These days I trade mechanically, without emotion.

I've been running two portfolios since March 2006, after running a test portfolio with small (\$2,000) position sizes from Nov '05 to Mar '06. My larger portfolio is in Super and the other in an individual'.

From 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, the portfolios grew by 51% and 65% respectively.

The latter missed out on some potential compounding, as I withdrew around 20% of the 1 July 2006 value during the course of the year. The percentage growth figure that I've quoted includes the amount that I withdrew. In other words, for the purpose of the calculation, the 30 June 2007 balance includes the withdrawn amount, but obviously without any potential compounding that may have occurred if I hadn't withdrawn any funds.

As an aside, I gave up on share trading for an extended period after having my fingers burnt in the 2000 "tech wreck". Apart from the amounts lost (which were relatively minor compared to the sums I'm trading these days), I couldn't handle the anxiety and all the negative emotions that came with chasing elusive big winners in the Infotech sector.

In late 2004, I was playing the same game again, but his time in other sectors. In early 2005, I discovered ShareFinder and promptly sold my existing stock holdings. That was fortunate, as all suffered big losses soon after.

It took me a while to get going with ShareFinder. I waited until June 2005 to undertake training, and then took some time to set up my trading plans (including the plan for the initial "trial" trading exercise) and also to set up my self-managed Super Fund.

My portfolios went into drawdown soon after I commenced full trading, due to the fall in the market during May 2006. The training and reading (including "Trading in the Zone" by Mark Douglas and ShareFinder's Advanced Coaching Notes) certainly helped me through that period of drawdown, as I continued to sell and buy (following my rules), so as to continually re-enter the "endless stream of opportunities".

That's the approach that I'm taking now, as the market is again going through a tough period. Sure, I'm well down from my previous highs, but still a long way ahead of where I started. I'm remaining confident by thinking of what I want to happen (rather than what I don't want to happen) and considering that whatever the lowest point the portfolio reaches will be the base from which to launch a new period of growth.

One of the highlights of my ShareFinder trading so far has been to see the occasional stock multiply in value. It's been those occasional big winners that have really helped to achieve a steadily increasing equity curve. In all cases, they were stocks that I hadn't heard of before the entry signal appeared in my nightly SPA3 scans. It's the knowledge that such winners can occasionally come along, whether the market is heading up or down, that adds to my incentive to keep getting back into the market after selling another stock. If you don't get back in, you're going to miss out on the winners. I like the analogy presented by one of the forum members, i.e. we're like surfers in the water, waiting for the next wave. If you're sitting on the beach, you won't catch it.

I couldn't imagine going back to my old pre-ShareFinder way of trading. As far as I'm concerned, the only way to go is to strictly follow the rules of a thoroughly researched system with a probabilistic edge. These days I trade mechanically, without emotion.

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