AshFx V2 system – Steve Hopwood's trading robot

Read the trading methodology at http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=156889. There, you will also find Ronald Raygun's robot – try that out as well to see if it does better.

This robot shows some promise as the underlying trading system appears to be sound. Future development will be around using support and resistance as trade filters, and in guiding the robot towards better selection of stops.

This can be used as a fire-and-forget robot, but I do not advise this. I use support and resistance, and trend direction to both: cancel impending trades if they are in the wrong direction; trade exit. Read the section **Deleting Impending Trades** at the end to see how to cancel impending trades.

Here is a list of the inputs along with their defaults. The robot adapts to 5 digit pillock brokers, so always think in 'old money' here. Obvious inputs are listed but not described.

Prerequisites
Included in the download are: FFCal.mq4 and OrderReliable.mqh.
- **FFCal.mq4:** this goes in your Experts\Indicators folder. The news filter will not function without it.
- Unzip LibOrderReliable.mq4 to the Experts|Libraries folder.
- Unzip LibOrderReliable.mqh to the Experts|Include folder.
    - The released code is mql source code that needs to be compiled for the robot to run. Your platform should do this automatically, but sometimes fails. If nothing happens when you drag the robot onto a chart for the first time, read the **Robot does not run when dragged onto a chart** section at the end of this document. You will need to follow the same steps with LibOrderReliable.mq4 and LibOrderReliable.mqh

MagicNumber; the robot recognises its own trades by this but you cannot alter it. The robot generates a pseudo-random number that it stores in a Global Variable on you disk drive. The purpose of this is to hide from the brokers the fact that a number of people are all using a successful trading robot.

If you do not like the magic number the robot generates, simply delete the Global Variable called "AshFxMagicNumber" and reinstall an instance of the robot. This will force a recalculation of a pseudo-random number. There is a section about deleting magic numbers at the end of this document – see **Deleting Impending Trades**. It is probably a good idea to do this from time to time so your own broker does not realise you are always using the same robot. Well, not quite so easily, at least.

General trade inputs
- **Lot = 0.01;** your trade lot size.
- **MaxSpread=10;** the biggest spread you will allow the robot to change. Ideally, this wants to be different on every chart if you trade this robot live.
- **TradeComment="AshFX Steve";**
- **TradeLong=true;** change to 'false' to force the robot only to take short trades.
- **TradeShort=true;** change to 'false' to force the robot only to take long trades.
- **BrokerIs2stageCrook:** set this to true if your broker is playing the particularly nasty trick of only allowing sl\tp to be sent after the initial trade is place. I assume this is in

the hope that there will be a lengthy systems crash\disconnect before the stops are sent, followed by a massive move against the trade that will cost the trader a lot of money. Frankly, I think only an idiot uses such a broker, but people do. Setting this input to true will do the 2-stage thingy for you.

- **Birthday:** enter somebody's birth date in the form DDMMYY. The robot uses this to help seed the pseudo-random MagicNumber.
- **SleepAfterTradeClosesMins:** this setting stops the robot sending a new trade within a short time of one closing – an attempt to avoid 'chop'. The default represents 1 candle on the 4H chart.
- **Robot-calculated lot size**
- **RobotCalcLotSize=false;** turn this to true to use this feature; the robot will ignore your Lot setting.
- **RiskPercent=1;** percentage of account you are willing to risk on an individual trade.

The robot has two methods of calculating your lot size, depending on whether you have a stop loss (either your own manual sl or the AutoCalculated one):

1. With a stop loss: this is the most realistic as the RiskPercent figure represents the maximum percentage of loss of equity you will accept if a trade goes wrong. It uses the formula (AccountEquity() / SI) * (RiskPercent * 0.01), where 'SI' is the stop loss.
2. Without a stop loss: the robot bases its calculation on a formula that looks at your equity, RiskPercent, minimum lot size and leverage: (AccountEquity * (RiskPercent * 0.01)) / (brokers minimum lot size / Account leverage).

Stop loss and take profit

- **TakeProfit = 250;** the figure recommended by, I think, Gary. With the default stop loss, this gives a risk:reward ratio of 1:2, which is excellent.
- **AutoCalculateTakeProfit=false;** overrides the TakeProfit figure if set to true. This forces the robot to calculate a take profit using ATR and ADX. Ignore it and do not use it if you do not understand these features. The settings are:
  - **AtrPeriod=20;**
  - **AdxPeriod=14;**
- **StopLoss=125;**
- **AutoCalculateStopLoss=false;** overrides the StopLoss setting if set to 'true'. This forces the robot to calculate a stop using the low (for a buy) or high (for a sell) of the previous 10 candles. The figure of 10 is a bit rough and ready, and I use it in the hope that this will encompass the previous swing. This might benefit from some attention.

Trading time filters

I am not going to describe these, as their use should be self-explanatory. The robot works on your computer's local time, so change the defaults with this in mind. Use 24 hour clock times. The settings are:

- **TradeSundayCandle=false;**
- **MondayStartHour=3;**
- **StopTradingOnFriday=true;**
- **FridayStopHour=14;**

Trade filters

Stochastic is the only filter used by Ash that you have any control over. You might note that his method states that the two Stoch lines should be crossed in the right direction, as well as clear of the overbought\sold areas. The robot makes no check of the direction thingy, as I figure they will be pointed in the right direction if all the other conditions are met. The settings should be self-explanatory:

- **UseStochastic=true;**
- **StochOverBought=80;**
- **StochOverSold=20;**

News filter

This tells the robot not to send a trade within MinsUntilNews before the release. It requires FFCal.mq4 (in the zip file) to be in your indicator's folder. The settings are:

- **UseNewsFilter=true;**
- **MinsUntilNews=60;**
- **NewsImpact=3;** FFCal grades upcoming news events as Low, Medium or High, so set this to either 1, 2 or 3.
    - **3=High**
    - **2=Medium**
    - **1=Low";**
- **CloseProfitableTrade=false;** this tells the robot to close a profitable trade during the run-up to the news release. If using it, you *must* be using at least V1.4 of the robot; previous versions had a bug that would make it close trades not belonging to it.

Trade management settings

This is the management section for open trades and allows manipulation of stops and tp's. They come from my Multi-Purpose Trade Manager. Go to http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=89371 and download the instructions manual to read about these settings.

- **EaManagesTrades=true;** tells the robot to manage the trades
- **Stop Loss & Take Profit Manipulation**
    - **BE="Break even settings";**
    - **BreakEven=false;**
    - **BreakEvenPips=200;**
    - **BreakEvenProfit=20;**
- **Jumping stop loss settings**
    - **JumpingStop=true;**
    - **JumpingStopPips=100;**
    - **AddBEP=true;**
    - **JumpAfterBreakevenOnly=false;**
    - **PartCloseEnabled=false;**
    - **Close_Lots = 0.01;**
    - **Preserve_Lots=0.01;**

Bits and bats
- **ShowAlerts=true;** turns on the Alerts.
- **DisplayGapSize=30;** the size of gap from the left of your screen, for the user feedback display.
- **CurrencySymbol="$";** change this to whatever symbol represents your trading currency.

Deleting Impending Trades
Sending a trade is a 2 stage process:
1. The robot spots the PSAR has flipped, and sets a Global Variable telling it to start looking at the other filters. It first consults any of the higher tf filters that are to be used.
2. When all the other filters line up, it attempts a trade.

A Global Variable (GV from here on) is a file stored on your disk drive. View them by pressing the F3 key to bring up the GV window. You will see some set by FFCal; leave these alone.

The robot's GV's all: start with "AshFx"; have the currency symbol in the middle; finish with "TradePending". An impending EU trade, for example, will have a GV named "AshFxEURUSDTradePending". They will contain the value of either 0 or 1:
- **0** means the robot is looking to trade long.
- **1** means the robot is looking to trade short.

If you decide you do not want this trade to go ahead, simply click on the GV and click the Delete key. This will kill the impending trade.

<u>Robot does not run when dragged onto a chart</u>
As I have released the source code, your platform has to compile it from an .mq4 file into an .ex4 form that it can use. Sometimes the platform looses contact with the compiling process; how or why, I have no idea. When this happens, the robot shows up in the navigation window but cannot actually run.

Try this:
1. Left click on the robot and select Modify from the menu. After a few seconds, the mql editor window should appear with the source code open.
2. Press the F5 key to compile the code.
3. After a few seconds, you will get a message at the bottom of your screen saying, "0 errors, 2 warnings" and some stuff about OrderReliable functions being deleted from the compiled file because they are not called. Ignore them.
4. Press the F4 key to call back your trading platform. The robot should work now.
5. Close the mql4 editor.

If stage 1 does not work, it means your platform has lost contact with the editor. In this case: shut down the platform; navigate to the Experts folder using Windows Explorer or my Computer; double click on the source code file and follow steps 2-5.

Disclaimer
Using this robot does not guarantee successful trades. There will be losers as well as winners. Sometimes there will be a string of losers.

Traders use this robot entirely at their own risk.