

VPC Levels Indicator User Manual NT 8

Volume Profile Confluence

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1. Quick Start Guide

a. Data Requirement

The VPCLevels indicator uses a preloading feature of minute and second data to load historical data for calculating swings and Volume Profiles. The indicator can be used with as little as 1 day of chart look-back while still processing up to 300 days of data internally. This is a very powerful component because we can leverage the power of large Volume Profile sequences using Multiple Timeframes, while using small charts for trading.

Futures

For futures it is necessary to use merged contracts. The gap that occurs during rollover should be eliminated, because it can otherwise distort the swing sizes which are used to calculate the Volume Profiles. It is recommended to use <u>back adjusted futures</u>. NinjaTrader will automatically merge and back adjust your contracts, if you set the merge policy to <u>Merge Back Adjusted</u> under -> Tools -> Options -> Data -> Merge Policy. The rollover dates used for merging the contracts are downloaded from NinjaTrader servers. For financial futures the rollover dates are correctly preset, for agricultural, energy, metals and softs it is recommended to check all rollover dates, as some of the default settings cannot be used. NinjaTrader will either download the offsets from NinjaTrader servers or calculate them from the close values of your daily data prior to rollover date. The back adjusted contracts can be used for periods up to about 2 years. If 2 years are exceeded the skew may become important and falsify results.

Equities and FOREX

The data does not pose any problems here.

b. Default Settings of the Indicator

It is recommended to first use the indicator with the default settings.

•	✓ Levels Parameters				
	Extend Levels	V			
	SR ATR Break Filter	1			
	Extended Line width	2			
	Extended Line Opacity (%)	100			
•	MTF Parameters				
	Total lookback (days)	300			
	Bar period for Swing bars (minutes)	3			
	Swing Timeframe	Small 🗸			
	Threshold for confluence lines	100			
•	Plots Colors				
	Resistance lines	Maroon 🗸			
	Support lines	Blue 🗸			
	POC lines	Yellow Y			
	VWAP lines	Cyan 🗸			
	VAH lines	Magenta 🗸			
	VAL lines	Lime 🗸			
•	Plots Settings				
	Differentiate levels				
	Show POC levels	•			
	Show VWAP levels	•			
	Show VAH levels	•			
	Show VAL levels	•			
	Line width	2			
	Plot style	Line 🗸			
	Dash style	Solid 🗸			
•	Volume Weight				
	POC specific Weight	100			
	VWAP specific Weight	90			
	VAH specific Weight	70			
	VAL specific Weight	70			
•	Data Series				
	Input series	CL 09-16 (FullRange 4 Tick)			
•	Set up				
	Calculate	On bar close 🗸 🗸			
	Label	VPCLevels			
	Maximum bars look back	256			
•	Visual				

c. Description of Parameters

Below is a description of parameters of the VPCLevels indicator that can be accessed via the indicator dialogue box. Although the default settings are recommended, adjustments may be necessary for individual preferences.

Changing the "Bar period for Swing bars" & "Swing Timeframe" will result in swings being used to calculate the confluence. Changing the "Swing Timeframe" from {Smallest} to {Largest} will result in populating less or more confluence levels on the chart. We recommend leaving the "Threshold" set to {100}. It is strongly recommended to leave the "Dash Style" set to {Solid} as this will increase computer performance while using the indicator.

Group	Parameters	Allowable Values	Description
Levels	Extend Levels	True/False	Choose to extend or not the levels
Parameters		Default = True	to the current bar or until there
			are broken.
	SR ATR Break	Double > 0	Multiple of ATR to consider
	Filter	Default = 1	extended levels as broken.
	Extended Line	Integer >= 1	Sets the line width for extended
	width	Default = 2	levels.
	Extended Line	Double [0;100]	The Opacity of extended levels in
	Opacity (%)	Default = 50	%.
MTF	Total Look-Back	Integer > 0	This sets the number of days for
Parameters	(Days)	Default = 300	pre-loading data to calculate the
			Confluence.
	Bar Period For	Integer > 0	This is the minute bar used for
	Swing Bars	Default = 3	calculating the swings.
	(minutes)		
			Ex: If set to 3. the indicator will
			use 3 minute bars for calculating
			the swings despite the default
			chart you are using
	Swing	Smallest Small	Shifts the timeframes used to
	Timeframe	Default Increased	calculate the confluence levels
		Largo Largost	this increases or reduces the
		Laige Laigest	number of lines displayed
		Default = Small	number of lines displayed
	Threshold for	Integer > 0	Sets the minimum threshold
	Confluence	Default = 100	required for major lines. We
	Lines		recommend not changing this
			number.
Plots Settings	Differentiate	True/False	When set to false, Confluences are
	levels	Default = False	processed on POC, VWAP, VAH and
			VAL. If set to true, Confluences are
			processed on same kind of level only.
	Show POC	True/False	When "Differentiate" is set to true,
	Levels	Default = True	you can display or hide POC Confluences.

	Show VWAP	True/False	When "Differentiate" is set to true,
	Levels	Default = True	you can display or hide VWAP
			Confluences.
	Show VAH	True/False	When "Differentiate" is set to true,
	Levels	Default = True	you can display or hide VAH Confluences.
	Show VAL	True/False	When "Differentiate" is set to true,
	Levels	Default = True	you can display or hide VAL Confluences.
	Line width	Integer >= 1	Sets the line width for confluence
		Default = 2	lines
	Plot style	Default = Line	Sets the plot style for confluence
			lines
	Dash style	Solid, Dash, Dot,	Sets the dash style for confluence
		DashDot, DashDotDot	lines
		Default = Solid	
Volume	POC Weight	Integer > 0	Weight set to POC levels in
Weight		Default = 100	Confluences' Calculation.
	VWAP Weight	Integer > 0	Weight set to VWAP levels in
		Default = 90	Confluences' Calculation.
	VAH Weight	Integer > 0	Weight set to VAH levels in
	_	Default = 70	Confluences' Calculation.
	VAL Weight	Integer > 0	Weight set to VAL levels in
	_	Default = 70	Confluences' Calculation.
Data	Calculate	OnBarClose /	When set to OnBarClose, indicator
		OnEachTick /	recalculates at bar close only. This
		OnPriceChange	reduces the processing load and give
		Default = OnBarClose	you best performance. For best
			results the indicator should remain
			on Calculate = OnBarClose.
Plots Color	Resistance	Color	Sets the color for resistance lines
	Lines	Default = Maroon	when Differentiate is False.
	Support Lines	Color	Sets the color for support lines
		Default = Blue	when Differentiate is False.
	POC Lines	Color	Sets the color for POC lines when
		Default = Yellow	Differentiate is True.
	VWAP Lines	Color	Sets the color for VWAP lines
		Default = Cyan	when Differentiate is True.
	VAH Lines	Color	Sets the color for VAH lines when
		Default = Fuchsia	Differentiate is True.
	VAL Lines	Color	Sets the color for VAL lines when
		Default = Lime	Differentiate is True.

2. The VPCLevels Indicator Explained

The VPCLevels indicator identifies high probability confluence lines where price action is likely to pause or to reverse. To find these lines the indicator identifies swings by using different timeframes and then calculates up to 40 support and resistance lines based on the Volume Profile of each swing. Below you can see a 3 min chart for with all these lines plotted:





Below is the same chart with Differentiate mode **ON**. This helps to know on what kind of Volume Profile level (POC, VWAP, VAH, VAL) the confluence is based on:



a. ZigZags



In a first step the indicator creates 10 different zigzags, each of them representing a different timeframe. The minimum deviations of the zigzags auto adjust to the volatility of the instrument via the average true range over the data period. This has the advantage that the indicator can be used for different instruments, timeframes and chart types with the same default settings. The default settings are well adapted for standard fixed period charts such as shown above.

Fine-tuning of the adjustment of the zigzags to volatility can be done via the **Swing Timeframe** option. This effectively changes the minimum deviation of the zigzags. On narrow range days the Swing Timeframe can be reduced to adjust to low volatility, on wide ranging and trending days it is possible to select a higher Swing Timeframe to avoid displaying too many lines. It is important not to display too many lines, but only leave the strong support and resistance lines on your chart. The timeframes selected should also depend on the time horizon of your trade. The distance between two confluence zones and the profit target for your trade should have the same magnitude.

The indicator determines support and resistance by using zigzags' Volume Profile. These are not only determined for the current swing, but the indicator has a memory and remembers prior swings as well.

b. Volume Profile

Volume Profile helps you analyze volume versus price on a vertical scale. The Volume Profile information is very critical because it gives you a deeper look to what is going on onto the market by looking at volume instead of only price.

It is possible to create Volume Profiles based on a time period (30Minutes, 60 Minutes etc.), swings or even a single bar.



We can see that 4 specific levels are highlighted:

- **POC (Point of Control)**: This is the level with the highest traded volume over the profile period.
- VWAP (Volume Weighted Average Price): It is the average price weighted against its traded volume.
- VAH (Value Area High): This is the high bound of 70% of the Profile's total volume.
- VAL (Value Area Low): This is the low bound of 70% of the Profile's total volume.

There are various ways to use these 4 levels when looking at Volume Profile, but one thing that there is in common is the fact that these levels are strong levels of support or resistance because there are based on volume and not on an arbitrary price based formula

c. Confluence Explained

Let us summarize at this point, what the indicator does. It identifies support and resistance by using Volume Profile calculation. By using a zigzag function, swings are identified for different timeframes. From these swings the indicator identifies

- The swing's POC
- The swing's VWAP
- The swing's VAH
- The swing's VAL

In total the indicator may identify up to 40 Volume Profile lines on any chart, if the lookback period is large enough. Not all these lines are of equal importance, but some are higher probability lines and others are lower probability lines. To determine the conditional probabilities that price reverses, when hitting a line, statistical distributions of the relative swing sizes have been studied for several instruments and various timeframes. As a result of this analysis each of the 40 Volume Profile lines is attributed a statistical weight which depends on timeframe and Volume Profile level. The indicator also remembers the preceding generation of Volume Profile lines generated via the same zigzag function and includes them by using a reduced weighting factor.

Below, is an example of what the indicator does on 10 timeframes. It is on purpose made simple to understand the overall concept:



Manual Profiles above are drawn thanks to the Print Profiler indicator. (sold Separately)

d. Confluence: Standard mode

The Standard mode displays Volume Profile confluences of all kind of levels together.

After setting the significance of each line, by changing the weight parameters, the whole price range of the chart is scanned with a confluence window, which has a fixed size depending on the average true range over the entire chart period.

This confluence window has two possible settings - a wide or a narrower window can be chosen. The wide window will show fewer, but more important confluence zones, which is the default setting for the indicator.

The indicator then adds up the weights of all the lines within the confluence window, and if a threshold value is reached detects a confluence area.

The confluence area becomes a confluence zone, if it prevails over the neighboring confluence areas. The indicator displays the strongest Volume Profile line within the confluence zone, which is not necessarily the midrange of the confluence zone, but the highest probability area for a reversal. Please keep in mind that the line displayed stands for a confluence area, which could also be displayed.



The chart below shows the VPCLevels on standard mode:

e. Confluence: Differentiate mode

The Differentiate mode displays Volume Profile confluences of all kind of levels **individually**. This means that the lines you'll see on the chart are POC confluences, VWAP Confluences, VAH Confluences, VAL Confluences.

This mode is useful to analyze in detail what kind of Volume Profile level drives the confluence. For example, a confluence line made by POC confluence and VWAP confluence may have more impact and a higher probability of being a working support or resistance.



The chart below shows the VPCLevels on differentiate mode:

You can choose to alter the weighting of each line to put a heavier emphasis on your preferred Volume Levels. EXAMPLE...

You want your confluence lines to be more weight to the VAH/VAL instead of the POC/VWAP, then you can adjust these settings to alter the levels and it will show in the differentiation settings. Details to this are below in the setting section.

From Standard to Differentiate mode

The settings for standard mode and differentiate mode are not the same.

Standard Mode:

To use standard mode (by default), you need to set Differentiate levels to OFF.

Then you can adjust the weights of each levels independently to give them importance comparatively to others. By default, POC is 100 and VWAP gets 90 to give it less importance than POC. VAH and VAL are obviously the same importance and set to 70.

Notice: you should not change these settings unless you are experimented with Volume Profile.

Finally, you can set the color for support and resistance lines only.



Differentiate Mode:

To use differentiate mode, you need to set Differentiate levels to **ON**.

Then you can choose to hide or display each kind of level individually.

Changing the weight won't affect the result because the indicator is looking at each kind of confluence separately. They are not competing together anymore.

Finally, you can set the color of each kind of level. Support and resistance colors won't be considered.

▼	Levels Parameters	
	Extend Levels	V
	SR ATR Break Filter	1
	Extended Line width	2
	Extended Line Opacity (%)	100
▼	MTF Parameters	
	Total lookback (days)	300
	Bar period for Swing bars (minutes)	3
	Swing Timeframe	Small 🗸
	Threshold for confluence lines	100
▼	Plots Colors	
	Resistance lines	Maroon 🗸
	Support lines	🗖 Blue 🗸
	POC lines	Yellow 🗸
	VWAP lines	Cyan 🗸
	VAH lines	Magenta 🗸 🗸
	VAL lines	드 Lime 🔨
✓ Plots Settings		
	Differentiate levels	
Γ	Show POC levels	
	Show VWAP levels	☑ Differentiate Mode
	Show VAH levels	☑ Settings
L	Show VAL levels	Y
	Line width	2
	Plot style	Line 🗸 🗸
	Dash style	Solid 🗸
▼	Volume Weight	
	POC specific Weight	100
	VWAP specific Weight	90
	VAH specific Weight	70
	VAL specific Weight	70
▼	Data Series	
	Input series	CL 09-16 (FullRange 4 Tick)
▼	Set up	
	Calculate	On bar close 🗸 🗸
	Label	VPCLevels
	Maximum bars look back	256 🗸 🗸
۲	Visual	

3. Settings for the Indicator

Below is a description of all selectable parameters of the VPCLevels indicator which appear in the indicator dialogue box. Although the default settings are recommended, adjustments may be necessary.

a. Extend Levels and SR ATR Filter

When a level is considered not relevant anymore by the algorithm, it is hidden from the chart. With the "Extend Levels" setting, you can choose to display and extend them until there are broken by prices or to the right-hand side of the chart (current bar).

In order to filter false breakout, when levels are extended, there are considered as broken by price if the penetration of the level is above a multiple of the current ATR. This multiple can be set by the "SR ATR Filter" parameter.

To visualize extended levels more easily, you can also change their opacity and thickness.

b. Total Look Back (Days)

This sets the number of days for pre-loading data to calculate the Volume Profile Confluences. This number can be changed however it's not recommended because the larger this number the stronger the levels will be for confirmed trading setups. Because it operates on an internal pre-loading feature, we have set this to 300 days as a default because this is just shy of 1 year and is ample for loading data for intraday trading.

c. Bar Period for Swing Bars (minutes)

The indicator uses pre-loading of minute data to calculate the swings and profile Confluence levels. This is important because some traders will use very small look-back period for intraday trading but still require the levels from large data periods.

This setting can be changed to any numerical value (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, 30, 60 minutes etc.) The variable used will be how the indicator calculates the swings. Despite using any other bar types, values or lookback periods, the indicator allows for calculating the Confluence from Higher timeframes despite the chart you are trading on.

d. Swing Timeframe

The only parameter that needs to be adjusted to use the indicator with different types of charts, instruments and timeframes is the *Swing Timeframe*. There are 6 different settings. If the indicator plots too many lines, change the setting to *Small or Default*, if it does not plot a enough lines, you can increase the number of lines by selecting a *Smallest* timeframe.

e. Threshold for Confluence lines

The Volume Profile confluence zones displayed by the indicator are calculated from a combined statistical weight of the individual lines. If the combined statistical weight is below the threshold value, no confluence zone will be displayed. The default value for the *Threshold* is 100. This is a low value and virtually no confluence zones will be filtered away. You may increase this value, which will reduce the number of confluence zones. **We recommend not changing this number!**

f. Differentiate Levels

This setting allows you to calculate confluences of POC, VWAP, VAH, VAL all together (if set to false), or only POC Confluences, VWAP Confluences, VAH Confluences, VAL Confluences and display each kind of confluence independently.

For example, you can choose to hide VWAP and VAL/VAH Confluences and display on POC Confluences to trade only with POC levels.

g. Volume Weight

A confluence is based on a cumulated weight at a certain price level. You can choose to give importance to each kind of level independently by changing this weight.

In our default settings, we give more importance to the POC so its weight is the biggest. WVAP is also important compared to VAH/VAL so it is set with a big value too.

Unless you are very experienced in Volume Profile analysis, we recommend you not changing this numbers.

h. Calculate on Bar Close

It is suggested to set this option to true, otherwise the indicator will recalculate the levels with every incoming tick, which is not necessary, as the levels barely change unless there is a substantial change in market structure during the day.

i. Auto scale

The indicator will reset itself to Auto Scale = false, as this feature is not required.

j. Plots

Dash style, plot style, strength and colors of the confluence zones can be selected for combined and individual confluence zones. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND LEAVING THE DASH STYLE – SET TO SOLID, AND THE PLOT STYLE – SET TO LINE... THIS IS TO IMPROVE PC PERFORMANCE WHILE USING THE TOOL!

Conclusion:

If you need assistance or have questions, please email support@architectsai.com