KNOW YOUR CHARTS - THE DESK TOUR

Vajgrt Labs - Education - Lesson 72 of 72 - 9 min read - Updated Oct 21, 2026

TL;DR

- Eight charts, one job each: two set the morning lean, two print the day's tickets, three are specialists that speak rarely, and one is the referee. Watching all eight equally is the beginner's error this tour corrects.

- The watch order: CONTEXT and WATCHBOARD first (the lean), SCALP and PLUS DAY all session (the tickets), ORB, SQUEEZE and SNAPBACK on a glance (their setups only), PLUS LIVE for the verdict. DAY MAP is duelling PLUS DAY for its seat - one job, one engine at a time.

- When two charts arm against each other within a few dimes - it happened on this very morning - the desk is not offering two trades. It is detecting a pin. Disagreement is information.

THE TAKEAWAYS

- MORNING FIRST - CONTEXT + WATCHBOARD (chart 8): the higher timeframes' structure in words, and eight desk symbols against their 200 EMA. Two minutes before the session: they set the lean every other chart must respect.

- THE LEVELS BOARD - SPY SCALP (chart 1): walls, gamma flip and session levels from the SPY Sheet, typed in and refreshed when the alerts ping. It arms only at its levels; a rip that never tests one produces a blank SETUP row - silence, correctly.

- THE TICKET PRINTER - PLUS DAY (chart 2): today's levels, with the bigger timeframes demoted to tint. It arms bounces, retests and momentum breaks and prints the strike, the spread alternative and the expiry math. T1 hit means take it and move the stop to breakeven; T2 is the full exit.

- THE CHALLENGER - DAY MAP (chart 6): the same day-trading job rebuilt intraday-only, with the hard clock PLUS DAY doesn't have - entries to 2:15pm CT, forced flat 2:45, done 3:00. Two engines, one job: run both, keep the scoreboard that wins, never take both signals.

- THE MORNING SPECIALIST - ORB (chart 3): the first 15 minutes become a box; the first close outside it, on 1.2x relative volume or better, is the trade; the far side of the box is the stop. After its window it has no opinion - and on Oct 21 its volume filter kept it out of a breakout that hadn't proven itself.

- THE COIL - SQUEEZE (chart 4): Bollinger Bands trapped inside Keltner Channels store energy; the momentum histogram's turn after the coil is the release. No coil, no trade - momentum alone, however pretty, is weather, not a signal.

- THE CONTRARIAN - SNAPBACK (chart 5): in an uptrend (price above the 200 EMA) it buys only RSI(2) dips under 10 and exits on the close back through the 5 SMA. At RSI(2) 87 it is the desk's designated voice of restraint. On dead, pinned days it also calls out the iron-condor window.

- THE REFEREE - PLUS LIVE (chart 7): swing structure on closed bars - qualified breaks, retests, continuations - with stops and targets measured against real zones. It will miss vertical moves by design. Its job is the verdict (this shot: MONITOR LONG, inside resistance), not the trigger.

RULE: One chart, one job - and a chart that hasn't spoken hasn't given you a trade.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Watching all eight charts equally - attention is the budget; the watch order exists because most charts, most of the day, have nothing to say.

- Reading a pending arm as an entry: PENDING means the level hasn't been tested yet. The test - the bounce, the retest, the hold - is the trade.

- Taking both duel engines' signals on the same idea (PLUS DAY and DAY MAP) - double exposure dressed as confirmation.

- Firing a specialist early: ORB before its volume prints, SQUEEZE before the coil, SNAPBACK before the extreme. Each specialist's filter is the strategy.

- Asking the referee for a trigger: PLUS LIVE confirms and manages; by the time it speaks, the scalp entry it would have given is usually gone - that is the price of its reliability, paid knowingly.

DO IT - RUN THE TOUR IN REPLAY

In TradingView, open SPY on the 5-minute chart and start Replay at 8:25am CT on Wednesday Oct 21, 2026 - the session in these pictures. Step forward slowly. At each pause, go around the desk in watch order and say each chart's job and its current verdict out loud: CONTEXT and WATCHBOARD (the lean), SCALP and PLUS DAY (any ticket?), ORB, SQUEEZE and SNAPBACK (any specialist setup?), PLUS LIVE (the verdict). Write the one-sentence combined read at 9:42am and again at 10:44am, then compare with this lesson's worked steps. Repeat on two more past sessions this week, at least one of them a trend day. The skill being built is not prediction - it is knowing, at any moment, which chart the moment is asking about.

Education only - not financial advice. Layer ? lesson 1: Friday Oct 16, 2026 closes (SPY 763.30; SPX 7,659.44; QQQ 709.86; VIX 19.99; 10-year 5.10%; Brent $109.86) from Robinhood / Barron's / AP closing reports; Monday Oct 19, 2026 calendar and earnings from Morningstar / TipRanks / Trading Economics - checked Oct 18, 2026. Lesson 2: the author's own TradingView captures, Tuesday Oct 20, 2026, 9:47-9:48am CT (SPY 763.72 to 772.26; VIX 19.99 to 17.61), personal bars cropped, approved for publication Oct 20, 2026; its option figures are Black-Scholes estimates, labeled theoretical. The lessons teach a reading process; they forecast nothing. Vajgrt Labs - Education.