FIND YOUR ONE LEAK

Vajgrt Labs - Education - Lesson 63 of 72 - 9 min read - Updated Oct 21, 2026

TL;DR

- The leak is found by scoring your error patterns on two axes - how often the pattern repeats, and what it costs in total R. The single most expensive LINE is not automatically the leak (the sample's is a one-off oversize, -1.00R, fixed with a mechanical lock today). The leak is the pattern that REPEATS - in the sample, early entry: twice in twelve trades, -1.30R - because repetition is what compounds, and what a single written rule can actually retire.

- The fix is one rule with two homes: it is written INTO the PlayBook page (the stays-up page's leash - no ticket before a held close, plan card read aloud) and it becomes the weekly goal until the pattern's count stops growing. Companion errors get mechanical locks, not goals: size copied from the division line at the ticket; any exit not at a written door tagged the same day, whatever it paid. One leak at a time, judged at the 30-trade review - whack-a-mole is how leaks rotate forever.

- The board keeps the book honest: setups are promoted, held on probation, or retired on their CLEAN lines at the 30-trade review - tallies every ten trades, verdicts at thirty. Retired pages are archived, never deleted, stamped with the numbers that retired them; a retired setup can only return as a fresh paper candidate. Promotion is equally unglamorous: the goes-up debit's +0.83R over two trades makes it a candidate with promise, not a position size. In this system, paperwork events - not feelings after wins - are what change a setup's status.

THE TAKEAWAYS

- The scoring, done on the sample so the practice can copy it exactly: pattern words with (count, total R) - EARLY ENTRY (2, -1.30R); REVENGE ENTRY (1, -1.00R); OVERSIZE (1, -1.00R); DOOR BEND (1, +0.02R). Read the table like the method does: revenge is already handled by a standing guard (Stage 8's circuit-breaker - its fix exists and is mechanical, so it needs vigilance, not the goal slot); oversize gets a lock today (size copied from the division line - a ten-second change at the ticket); the door bend is flagged for watching precisely BECAUSE it paid - paid bends are how doors quietly become suggestions. Early entry is the only pattern with a count above one and a four-figure trajectory if annualised by habit: it takes the goal slot, the leash, and the next review's first line. Frequency x price, with guards credited - that's the whole algorithm.

- Why the leak outranks a new strategy, in the sample's own arithmetic: the best available 'new strategy' evidence in the sample is the goes-up debit's +0.83R over two trades - a hypothesis. The leak's -1.30R over twelve is a measurement: those two trades happened, at those prices, for one stated reason (the trigger existed; the waiting didn't). Retiring the leak is worth more than the sample's entire clean profit (+0.43R) three times over, and it requires no market insight whatsoever - only a rule, obeyed. This is the craft stage's central economic claim, and it is modest on purpose: across a real log, the recurring-error line is usually the largest single recoverable sum a trader owns, and it is recoverable by paperwork.

- Deliberate practice is aimed at the leak, not at 'the market': between trades, the sample's trader rehearses THE TRIGGER on historical SPY charts - Stage 3's discipline turned into drills. Twenty old shelf days, chart paused at the test: call 'trigger / no trigger' before revealing

the next day's bar; score it in the journal like a trade. The drill targets the exact muscle that failed (waiting for the held close) on evidence that can't cost money, and its score is a process metric the weekly review can watch while the live count is still small. Practice aimed generally ('study more charts') diffuses; practice aimed at the leak compounds. When the leak changes - Lesson 4 watched it migrate from entries to an exit bend in one week - the drills re-aim at the 30-trade review, not before: one target per cycle, or the aiming itself becomes whack-a-mole.

- The board, and its constitution: verdicts are read off CLEAN lines (a setup is never convicted of its owner's errors, nor acquitted by their luck), at the 30-trade review, with tallies every ten trades in between (Stage 4's rhythm, promoted). PROMOTE - a candidate whose clean line at its own 30 supports it joins the book, with its page's stats box finally filled from its own log. PROBATION - terms in writing: what the clean line must show, by which review, or the page retires. RETIRE - a setup whose clean line is negative at a real sample is archived: the page kept, stamped RETIRED with the numbers that retired it and the date; the archive is the tuition receipt drawer, and an archived setup returns only as a new paper candidate with blank stats - never by quietly resuming. The sample's board at twelve trades is PROVISIONAL (the graphic says so): candidate, leash, probation - three paperwork states, zero executions, because twelve trades haven't earned the court a verdict yet. That restraint is the system working.

RULE: The leak is the pattern that repeats, not the loss that screams. One rule, written into the page, judged at thirty trades.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Hunting the loudest loss instead of the repeating pattern. The -$396 was one revenge trade with a guard already installed; the leak was two quiet early entries summing -1.30R - frequency x price, or the hunt convicts the wrong trade.

- Writing the fix as insight ('be more patient') instead of a rule with a trigger ('no ticket before a held close; plan card read aloud first'). Eulogies don't execute at 11am on a red day; rules do.

- Whack-a-mole: a new 'leak of the week' every review. No rule accumulates a count, nothing is ever judged, and the patterns rotate unwatched. One leak per cycle, judged at thirty trades.

- Deleting a retired setup's page. The archive is the tuition receipt drawer - stamped RETIRED with its numbers, it is both evidence and warning. Deleted, it can be 'discovered' again next season at full price.

DO IT - NAME YOUR LEAK, SET YOUR BOARD, ASSEMBLE THE GATE

From your own tagged log: (1) score your error patterns - (count, total R) per pattern word - credit the guards already standing, and name your ONE leak in the book's format: 'THE LEAK (cycle 1): ___ - ___R across trades #___, #___. Rule: ___. Judged at trade ___.' (2) Write that rule into the PlayBook page it belongs to (Lesson 2's page) and install the mechanical locks for the single-instance errors the same day. (3) Set your board: every setup in your log listed as CANDIDATE, IN THE BOOK (with its leash), PROBATION (terms written), or RETIRED (archived, numbers showing) - each read off its clean line, each labeled provisional until its 30. (4) Assemble the gate's four artefacts (panel above) and check them against what you actually hold. Paper only. The cycle now runs itself: tallies at ten, verdicts at thirty, one leak at a time.

Education only - not financial advice. Stage 9’s worked examples are a labeled sample log - the course’s example numbers, built on Stages 7-8’s own structures (the 765/760 put credit spread; the 773/775 and 780/785 call debit verticals at their printed fills) on a $25,000 paper account - marked EXAMPLE on the page and on every graphic; every tally is arithmetic on that sample’s printed figures. The PlayBook and daily/weekly review methods are credited to SMB Capital’s published method (Bellafiore, One Good Trade; The PlayBook), taught here in the course’s own words and formats; no SMB material is reproduced and no endorsement is implied. Vajgrt Labs - Education.