THE PLAYBOOK PAGE: ONE SETUP, FULLY SPECIFIED

Vajgrt Labs - Education - Lesson 59 of 72 - 8 min read - Updated Oct 21, 2026

TL;DR

- A PlayBook is the trader’s own catalogue of setups - one page per setup, each page specifying: the thesis in one sentence; the market context it works in; the trigger, observable and judged on closes; the size, from the division; the four doors; the statistics computed from YOUR OWN log; three filed examples - best, typical, botched; and a verdict - mine, candidate, probation, retired - with the guard the evidence demands.

- The method is SMB Capital’s, credited in the panel below and taught here in this course’s own words and formats. Its non-negotiable core: the page is built from trades YOU have taken and reviewed. Statistics are computed from your log or left blank. A page with borrowed numbers describes a trader who doesn’t exist.

- The sample’s stays-up page shows why the stats box prints TWO lines: the total (-2.46R over five trades) and the split - clean -0.16R, errors -2.30R. The total says what happened; the split says why, and the verdict reads the split: the structure stays in the book, the entries get a leash. A page that printed only the total would retire a sound structure; a page that printed only the clean line would be marketing.

THE TAKEAWAYS

- The anatomy, in the order the page is filled: (1) THESIS - one sentence the trade believes (’SPY holds above the 770 shelf and leans up; own the shelf’s upside in a fenced structure’). (2) CONTEXT - the regimes the slice blesses and forbids (this page: range-to-trend off a held shelf; forbidden on breakdown days - and the sample’s regime line is why: its breakdown trades were behaviour, not setups). (3) TRIGGER - the observable event, judged on closes, that permits the ticket. (4) SIZE - the division’s answer, written as a number of contracts. (5) THE FOUR DOORS - profit, invalidation, time, max-loss, at this structure’s printed marks. (6) MY OWN NUMBERS - total, clean line, error line, each with its count. (7) THREE EXAMPLES - filed by journal number, not by memory. (8) THE VERDICT + ITS GUARD, and the date it is re-judged.

- The stays-up page’s working parts, from Stages 7-8 verbatim: the 773/775 call debit at its 1.42 fill - max loss $142, max gain $58; the profit door at the 1.90 mark (+?$48, +0.34R); invalidation a close below the 770 shelf, exit next session; the time door out before expiry week; size one contract while the division says one ($142 inside the $25,000 account’s $250 budget - Stage 7’s arithmetic). Nothing on the page is new invention: a PlayBook page is where the course’s earlier machinery gets filed under one setup’s name, so that at ticket time there is one page to obey instead of eight lessons to remember.

- The three examples are the page’s conscience, and the selection rule is strict: BEST = the cleanest full-process trade (sample: #2, +0.34R - trigger waited for, door taken); TYPICAL = the ordinary clean outcome, win or lose (sample: #8, -0.50R - the shelf test failed, the invalidation exit taken as written: tuition, filed without shame); BOTCHED = the worst process failure (sample: #5, -0.70R - entered before the confirming close). A page whose ’typical’ slot holds a second-best trade is lying in the direction traders always lie, and the botched slot is the one that teaches: at ticket time, the botched example is the picture the guard exists to prevent.

- The verdicts are paperwork states, not feelings: MINE - a clean line at a real sample supports it; CANDIDATE - being paper-traded for evidence, no verdict yet; PROBATION - in the book with written terms (what its clean line must show, by when); RETIRED - archived with its numbers, Lesson 6. The stays-up page's verdict is the split's child: MINE - ON A LEASH. The structure's clean line (-0.16R over its two clean trades) is roughly flat - there is nothing to retire - while its error line (-2.30R, all entries) names the disease exactly: entries taken before the trigger. So the guard is an entry rule, written on the page where the next entry will be read: no ticket before a held close above the shelf. Verdicts and guards are re-judged at the 30-trade review, never mid-week on a feeling.

RULE: A PlayBook page earns its stats or prints them blank. Borrowed numbers make borrowed traders.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Filling the statistics box with borrowed numbers - a teacher's win rate, a video's results. The box then describes a trader who doesn't exist, and the first drawdown deletes the book.

- Printing only the total line. -2.46R with no clean/error split retires a sound structure for its owner's entries - the split is the diagnosis; the total is just the fever.

- Filing a second-best trade as 'typical'. The examples are the page's conscience: best, typical (ordinary, tuition included), botched - chosen by the journal numbers, not by pride.

- Writing the guard as a resolution ('be more patient') instead of a rule with a trigger ('no ticket before a held close; plan card read aloud first'). Resolutions evaporate at the first red morning; rules with triggers execute.

DO IT - WRITE YOUR FIRST PLAYBOOK PAGE

Download the PlayBook Page (Downloads) and write the page for the setup your paper log trades most. Fill every box from your own materials: thesis and doors from your plan cards; trigger and context in Stage 3's vocabulary; size from your division; statistics from your log's slices (total, clean line, error line, each with its count); the three examples filed by journal number. Any box your log can't fill stays blank, and the verdict reads CANDIDATE until it can. If your most-traded setup is one of this course's three structures, your page should be checkable against the sample's the way the sample's is against its twelve lines. Paper only.

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.