

Structure Shift Continuation

Expert Advisor Documentation

PLATFORM	TYPE	TIMEFRAME	WEBSITE
MetaTrader 5 (MT5)	Price-Action Breakout (BoS)	M15 – H1	www.algotbot.live

⚠ Important Disclaimer This document is for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute financial or investment advice. Trading forex, CFDs, and other leveraged instruments involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for all investors. Past backtest performance does not guarantee future results. Never trade with capital you cannot afford to lose.

Overview

Structure Shift Continuation is a pure price-action Expert Advisor built on the ICT concept of a *Break of Structure* (BoS). It uses **no indicators whatsoever** — no moving averages, no RSI, no ATR. Instead, it reads market structure directly from confirmed fractal swing pivots and anchors every trade to those swings.

The core idea is simple: when price decisively breaks the most recent confirmed swing high or swing low with a strong-bodied *displacement* candle, it signals that order flow has shifted in that direction. The EA trades in the direction of that shift — long when a swing high is broken, short when a swing low is broken — and protects the position with the opposing structural swing.

Because each swing level can only be broken once, the strategy waits for fresh structure to form before it will signal again in the same direction. This built-in cooldown reduces choppy, repeated entries on the same level and keeps the EA aligned with genuine continuation moves.

Why no indicators? Lagging indicators smooth and delay price. By reading raw swing pivots and candle displacement instead, this EA reacts to structure itself — the same levels discretionary price-action traders watch — rather than to a derived signal.

How It Works

1. Mapping Market Structure

On each newly closed bar, the EA looks back `SwingLookback` bars and tests whether that bar is a confirmed fractal pivot. A bar is a **confirmed swing high** if its high is strictly greater than the highs of `SwingLookback` bars on *each* side; a **confirmed swing low** requires its low to be strictly lower than the lows on each side. When a new pivot confirms, the EA records its price as the active swing high or swing low and resets that level's "broken" flag.

2. Detecting the Break of Structure

The just-closed bar is the signal bar. The EA measures its *body fraction* — the absolute body size divided by the full bar range — to confirm displacement (a decisive, strong-bodied candle rather than an indecisive one).

- **Bullish BoS** → **Buy**: the signal bar closes *above* the active swing high, is a bull candle (close > open), and its body fraction is at least `DisplacementBodyPct`. A swing low must also exist to anchor risk.
- **Bearish BoS** → **Sell**: the signal bar closes *below* the active swing low, is a bear candle (close < open), and meets the same displacement threshold. A swing high must exist to anchor risk.

Once a level is broken, its flag is set so the same level cannot trigger a second trade — a brand-new pivot must form first.

3. Entry, Stop Loss & Take Profit

- **Entry**: a long enters at the current Ask; a short enters at the current Bid, immediately after the breakout bar closes.
- **Stop Loss**: placed just beyond the *protective* swing — for a long, below the swing low minus a buffer; for a short, above the swing high plus a buffer. The buffer equals `S1BufferFrac` × the signal bar's range.
- **Take Profit**: set at an R-multiple of the measured risk. With the default `RiskReward` of 2.0, the target sits twice as far from entry as the stop.

4. Position Management

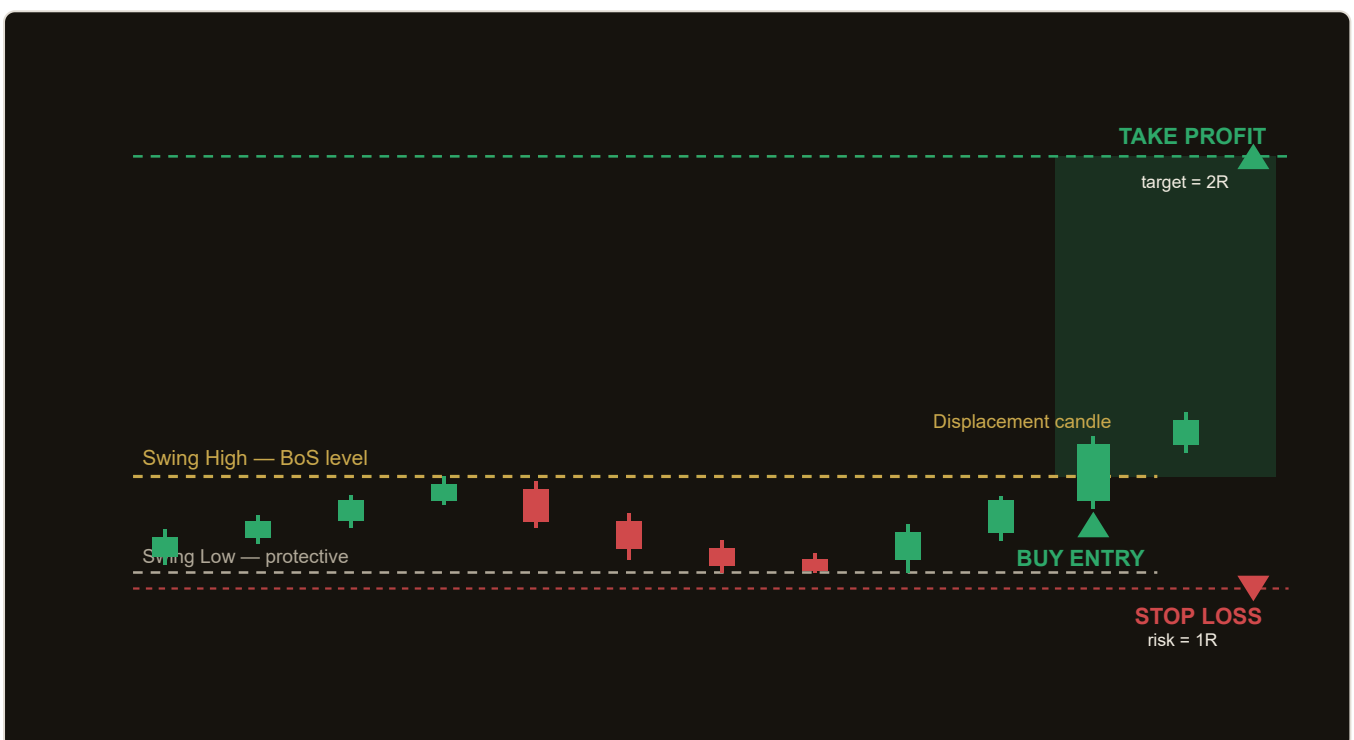
The EA holds **one position at a time**. While a trade is open it takes no new signals — the structural stop loss and take profit manage the trade to completion. The EA also acts only **once per closed bar**, never on intrabar ticks, so signals are evaluated on confirmed price action only.

Worked example (bullish)

Suppose the active swing high is 1.10250 and the active swing low is 1.09950. A bar closes at 1.10310 (above the swing high) as a strong bull candle whose body is 60% of its range — above the 0.55 default. The EA buys at the Ask. With `SlBufferFrac` = 0.25 and a signal range of 40 pips, the stop sits at 1.09950 - (0.25 × 40 pips) = 1.09850. Risk is ~46 pips, so with `RiskReward` = 2.0 the take profit is placed ~92 pips above entry.

Strategy in Action

The illustration below shows an example of how the strategy identifies a setup and triggers its entry and exit. This is a simplified, illustrative example for educational purposes — not real market data.



Illustrative example only. Actual market behaviour varies.

Parameters

Parameter	Default	Description
SwingLookback	3	Fractal lookback — the number of bars required on <i>each</i> side of a pivot to confirm a swing high or low. Range 2–8. Larger values find rarer but more significant structure.
DisplacementBodyPct	0.55	Minimum candle body-to-range ratio for the breakout bar to count as displacement. Range 0.30–0.80. Higher values demand stronger, more decisive breakout candles.
RiskReward	2.0	Take-profit distance expressed as a multiple of the measured risk (entry-to-stop). Range 1.0–4.0. A value of 2.0 targets twice the risk.
SlBufferFrac	0.25	Extra stop-loss buffer placed beyond the protective swing, as a fraction of the signal bar's range. Range 0.0–1.0. Larger buffers reduce stop-out noise at the cost of wider risk.
Lots	0.10	Fixed trade volume in lots for each position. Range 0.01–1.0.
Magic	1001	Magic number used to identify and manage positions opened by this EA, keeping them separate from other strategies on the same account.

Recommended Settings

The EA is symbol-agnostic, but it performs best on liquid instruments with clean, trending structure.

Suggested starting points:

- **Symbols:** Major FX pairs (EURUSD, GBPUSD, USDJPY) or indices that produce clear swing structure.
- **Timeframe:** M15 to H1 — high enough to filter intrabar noise, low enough to deliver regular structure breaks.
- **SwingLookback:** keep at 3 for responsive structure; raise to 4–5 on lower timeframes or noisy symbols to demand more significant pivots.
- **DisplacementBodyPct:** 0.55 is a balanced default; raise toward 0.65–0.70 if you want only the most decisive breakouts.
- **RiskReward:** 2.0 is a sensible baseline; lower to 1.5 for a higher hit-rate, raise to 3.0 to let winners run further.

Tip: Always validate any configuration in the MT5 Strategy Tester on your specific broker's data before trading live. Spread, swap, and execution differ between brokers and materially affect a swing-anchored, R-multiple system like this one.

⚠ Volume & risk: The `Lots` input is a fixed volume and does *not* auto-scale to account size. Because the stop loss is anchored to market structure, the monetary risk per trade varies with how far the protective swing sits. Size positions conservatively relative to your account equity.

How to Install on MetaTrader 5

- 1 Copy `StructureShiftContinuation.ex5` to your MT5 `MQL5\Experts\` folder
- 2 Restart MetaTrader 5 and refresh the Navigator panel
- 3 Drag the EA onto a chart matching the recommended symbol and timeframe
- 4 Configure the input parameters and click **OK**
- 5 Enable **Algo Trading** in the MT5 toolbar

Risk Warning

Trading foreign exchange, CFDs, and other leveraged financial instruments involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for all investors. The strategies and tools described in this document are provided for **educational purposes only** and do not constitute financial advice, investment recommendations, or solicitation to trade. Always consult a qualified financial adviser before making trading decisions. Past backtest performance is not indicative of future results.