MT4 / MT5

Indicator & EA Installation Guide

Windows desktop edition · Illustrated instructions



Fig. 1 Authentic MetaTrader 5 interface. Source: MetaQuotes official Help.

From copying the files to checking that the program is running.

Indicators / Expert Advisors / Trading permissions / Presets / Troubleshooting

> **About the screenshots** All software images are authentic screenshots published in MetaQuotes Help. Images may be cropped, scaled or highlighted. Menu labels and appearance can vary by terminal build.

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http://aistim.cn | 271715999@qq.com | 13058170665

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01

Before you install

Check the platform, file type and package structure before copying any files.

File / purpose	MT4	MT5
Compiled program	.ex4	.ex5
Source code (compile first)	.mq4	.mq5
Custom indicator folder	MQL4\Indicators	MQL5\Indicators
Expert Advisor folder	MQL4\Experts	MQL5\Experts
Input preset	.set; load in Inputs	.set; load in Inputs

> **Use the matching platform** EX4 is for MT4; EX5 is for MT5. Renaming a file does not convert it. Compiled files normally need no further compilation. For MQ4 / MQ5 source only, use the matching folder, open it in MetaEditor (F4) and compile with F7.

Preparation

1. **Extract the package.** Extract ZIP / RAR files and identify the EA, indicators, templates, presets and dependencies.
2. **Open the intended terminal.** If several broker terminals are installed, open the data folder from the terminal you intend to use.
3. **Check the scope.** This guide covers manual installation on Windows desktop. Mobile and web terminals do not use this custom-file workflow. Install Market products through the platform.

Where to go next

Topic	Pages
Data folder and file placement	03
MT4: indicators, EAs, permissions and presets	04 - 06
MT5: indicators, EAs, permissions and presets	07 - 09
Dependencies, troubleshooting and support	10 - 12

02

Open the correct data folder

Common entry point: File → Open Data Folder.

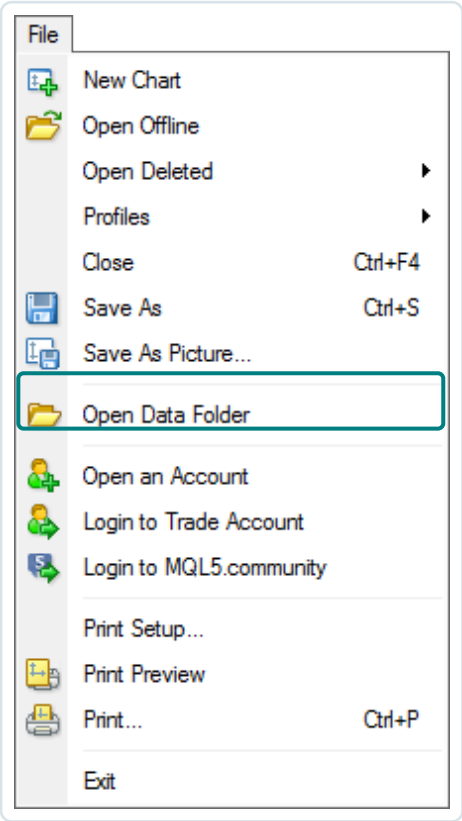


Fig. 2 MT4 File menu. The highlighted item opens the data folder.

1. **Open it from the terminal.** Choose File, then Open Data Folder. MT5 has the same entry point.
2. **Open MQL4 or MQL5.** Use MQL4 for MT4 or MQL5 for MT5.
3. **Copy to the right folder.** Put indicators in Indicators and EAs in Experts, then refresh the Navigator.

Program	Path inside the data folder
MT4 indicator	MQL4 → Indicators
MT4 EA	MQL4 → Experts
MT5 indicator	MQL5 → Indicators
MT5 EA	MQL5 → Experts

> **Copying tip** Use the folder opened by the terminal instead of guessing a Program Files path. If the package already contains MQL4 / MQL5, merge its contents into the matching folder; avoid MQL4\MQL4 or MQL5\MQL5.

Back up older files with the same name. Check the version and file name before replacing an existing file.

03

MT4: install an indicator

File location: Data Folder\MQL4\Indicators\YourIndicator.ex4

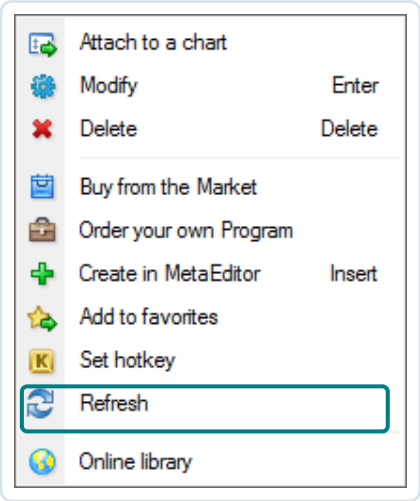


Fig. 3 Navigator context menu: Refresh is near the bottom.

1. **Copy, then refresh.** Press Ctrl+N. Right-click in Indicators and choose Refresh. Restart the terminal if needed.
2. **Attach to the chart.** Open the required symbol and timeframe. Double-click the indicator or drag it onto the chart. Expand any subfolders.

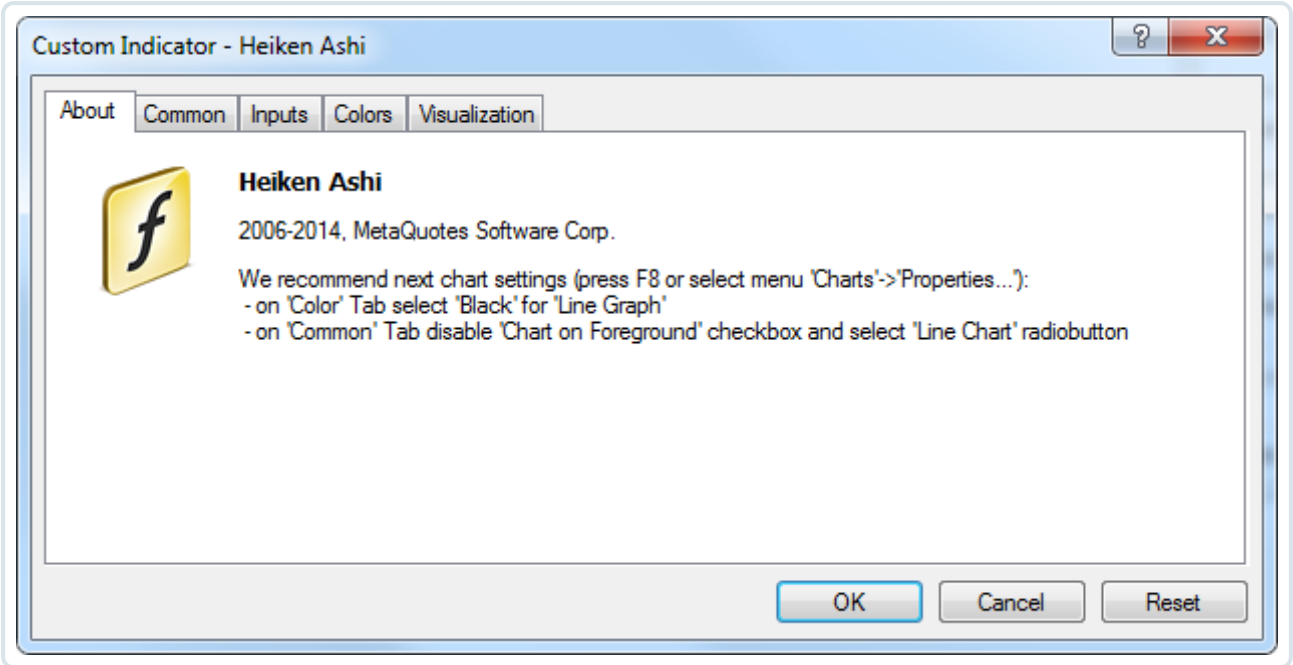


Fig. 4 MT4 indicator properties: Inputs, Colors and Visualization tabs.

3. **Review and finish.** Review Inputs and select the required timeframes in Visualization, then click OK.

Check the result Check for the expected lines, arrows, panel or subwindow. The indicator should appear in the list opened by Ctrl+I. Ordinary indicator display normally does not require AutoTrading.

04

MT4: attach an Expert Advisor

File location: Data Folder\MQL4\Experts\YourEA.ex4

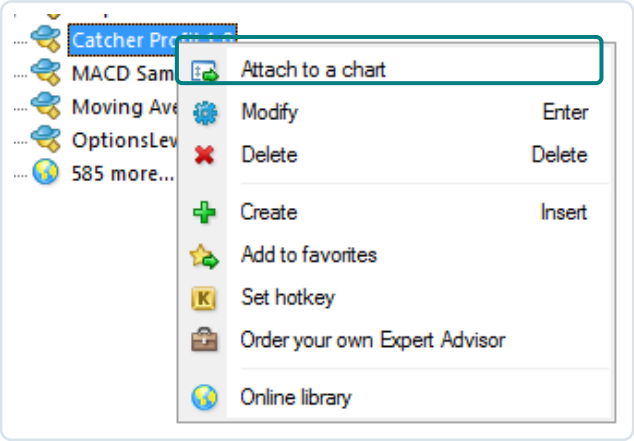


Fig. 5 Right-click the EA and choose Attach to a chart.

1. **Refresh the EA list.** Refresh Expert Advisors in the Navigator, or restart the terminal.
2. **Choose the chart.** Use the symbol and timeframe required by the product, then double-click or drag the EA.

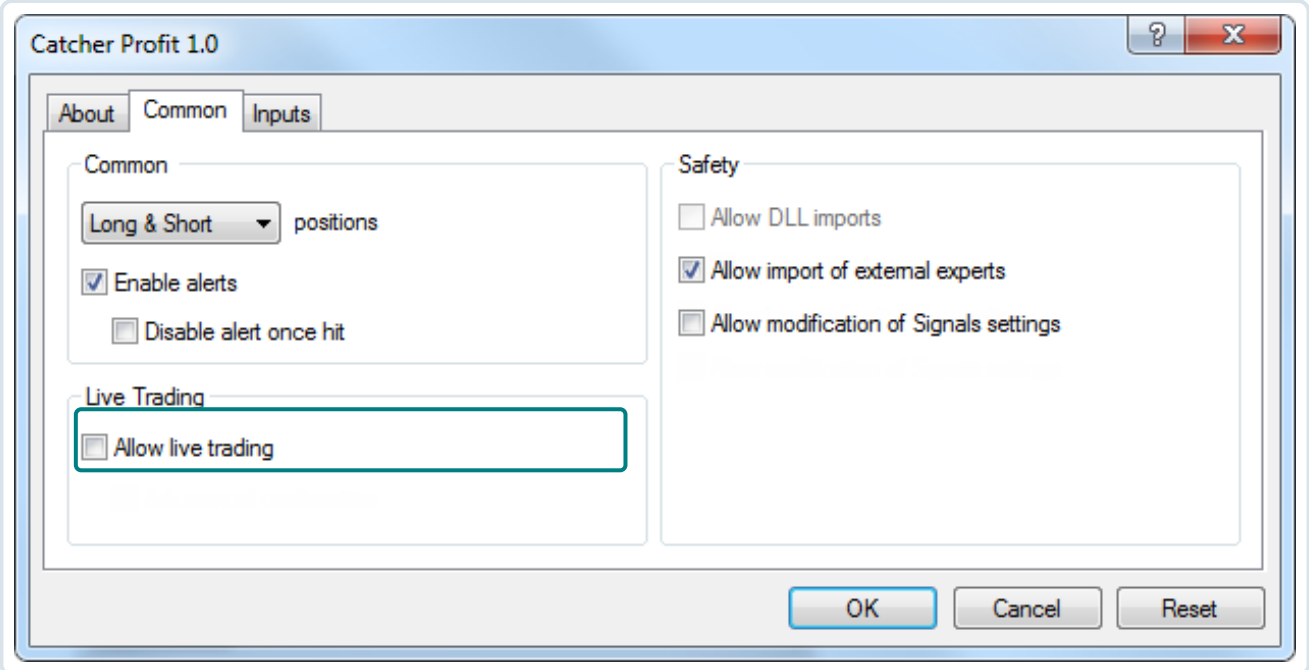


Fig. 6 MT4 Common tab: Allow live trading controls this EA instance.

3. **Review this EA permission.** Enable Allow live trading when the EA should place orders. Review Inputs before clicking OK. The platform-wide switch is covered on the next page.

> **One EA per chart** Attaching another EA to the same chart replaces the first one. Use separate charts for multiple EAs. Example names and values in screenshots only illustrate the controls.

05

MT4: permissions and inputs

An EA needs both platform-wide AutoTrading permission and its own Allow live trading permission.

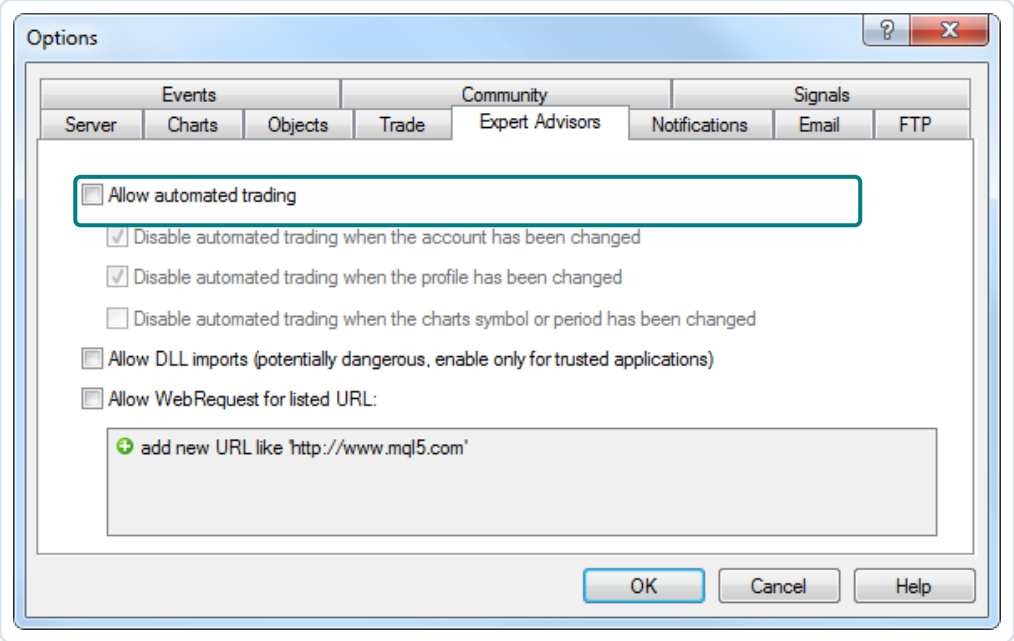


Fig. 7 Tools → Options (Ctrl+O) → Expert Advisors.

Platform switch: enable Allow automated trading and check the AutoTrading toolbar button. Recheck permission after changing accounts, profiles, symbols or timeframes if a related protection option is enabled.

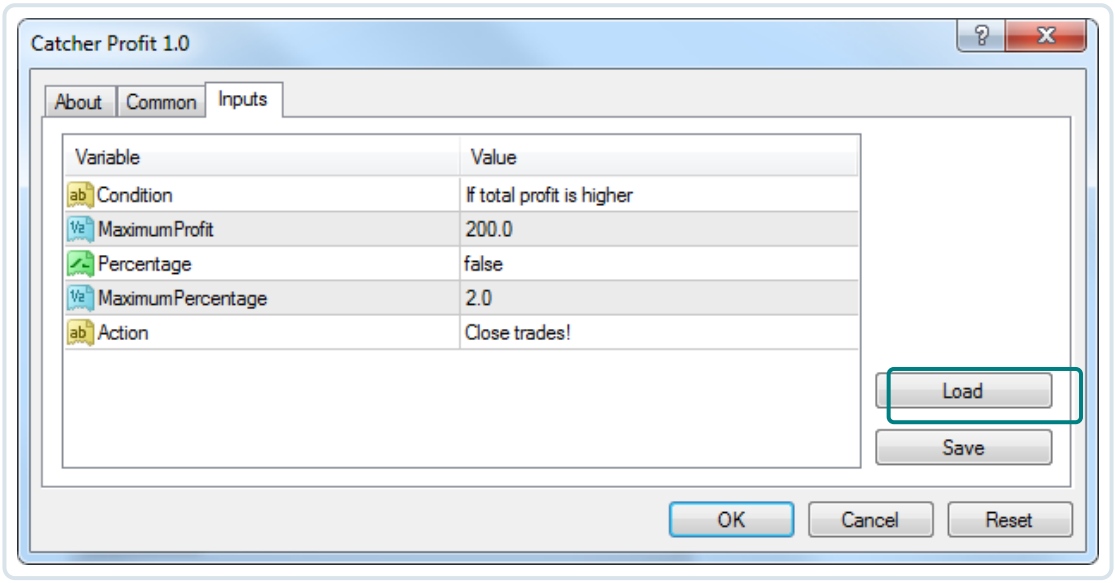


Fig. 8 Inputs: Load imports a preset, Save exports one, and Reset restores defaults.

Import a .set: open EA properties → Inputs → Load → select a preset for the matching version → review important values → OK. F7 normally opens the properties of the EA on the active chart.

Check the EA name and permission indicator at the top-right of the chart, then review Experts and Journal in the Terminal (Ctrl+T).

06

MT5: install an indicator

File location: Data Folder\MQL5\Indicators\YourIndicator.ex5

1 **Copy and refresh.** Copy the EX5, press Ctrl+N and refresh Indicators in the Navigator. Restart if needed.

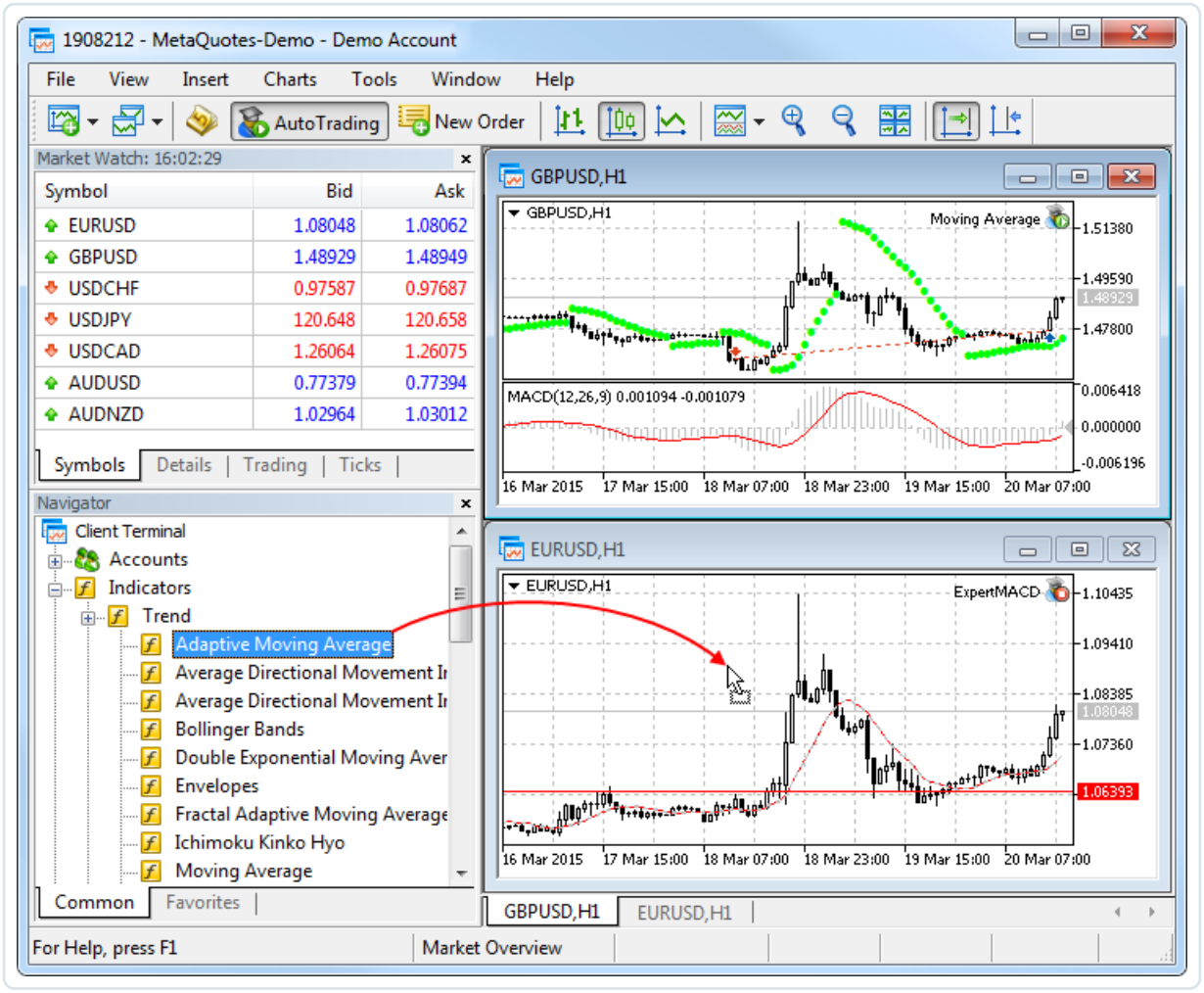


Fig. 9 Drag an indicator from the MT5 Navigator. Indicators may use the main chart or a subwindow.

2 **Review display settings.** Review inputs, colors and visible timeframes, then click OK. Use Ctrl+I to inspect or edit indicators on the active chart.

> **If only MQ5 source is supplied** Place MQ5 in the matching Indicators folder. Press F4 to open MetaEditor, open the file and press F7 to compile. Refresh after an EX5 is created. Resolve compiler errors or missing dependencies before attaching it.

07

MT5: attach an Expert Advisor

File location: Data Folder\MQL5\Experts\YourEA.ex5



1. Refresh
Refresh Expert Advisors in the Navigator.

2. Choose a chart
Check symbol and timeframe.

3. Attach
Double-click or drag the EA to open its properties.

Fig. 10 MT5: drag an Expert Advisor onto the intended chart.

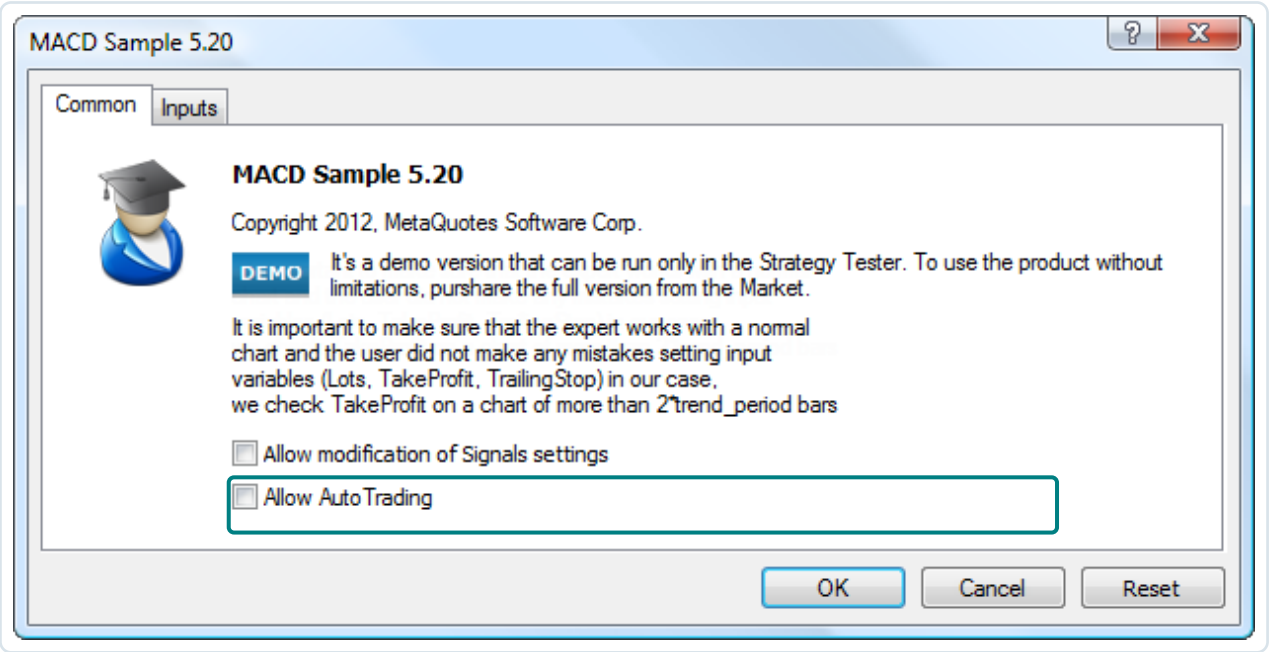


Fig. 11 MT5: the Common tab contains permission for this EA instance.

To let this EA place orders, enable Allow Auto Trading (Allow Algo Trading in some builds), then review Inputs. Check the platform-wide switch on the next page.

Only one EA can run on a chart. EX4 files cannot be used in MT5.

08

MT5: permissions and inputs

The platform switch affects every EA. Each EA also has its own trading permission.

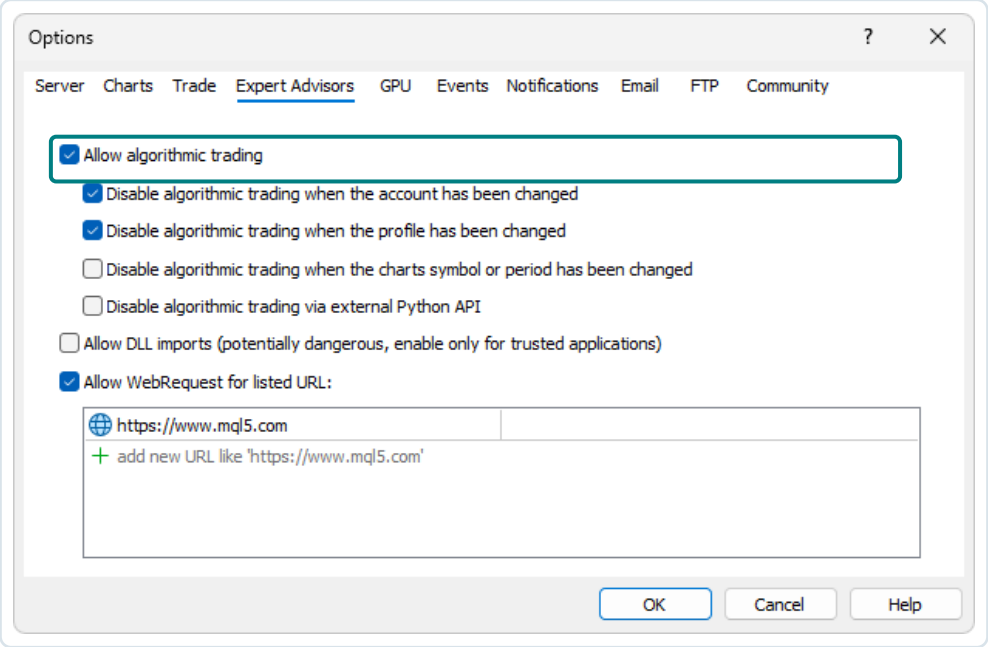


Fig. 12 Ctrl+O → Expert Advisors: Allow algorithmic trading.

Platform switch: enable Allow algorithmic trading and check Algo Trading on the toolbar (AutoTrading in older interfaces). After changing accounts or charts, check whether a protection option has disabled it.

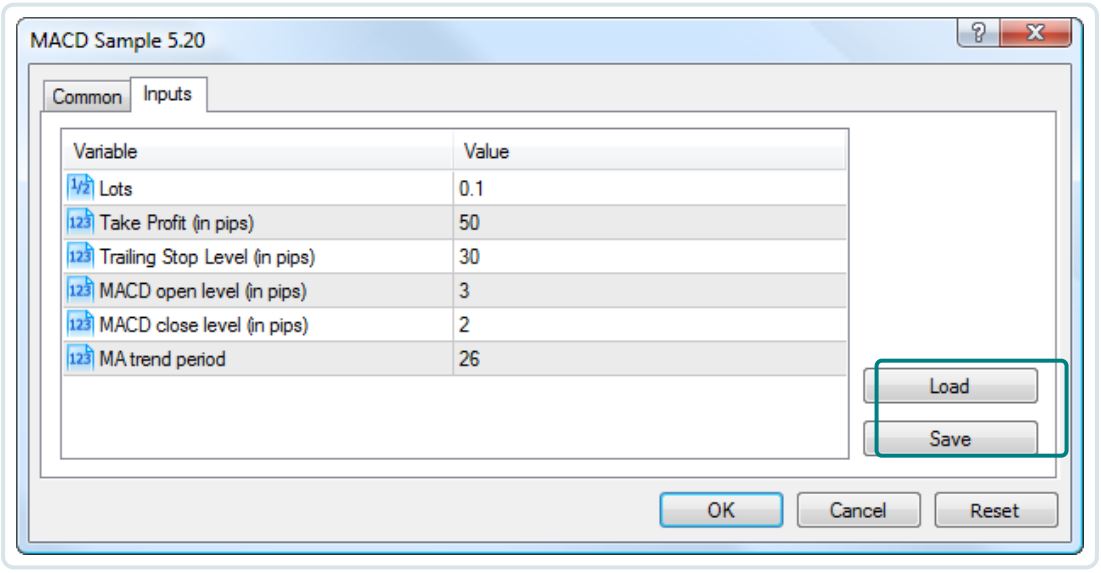


Fig. 13 MT5 Inputs: Load / Save. The displayed values are interface examples only.

Load a .set: EA properties → Inputs → Load → choose the matching product and version → review values → OK. Do not copy the example lot size or stop settings as a product configuration.

After attachment, check the EA name and status icon at the top-right. A visible icon does not mean the strategy has a valid entry signal.

09

Dependencies and web access

Keep the package folder structure and enable only the permissions the product requires.

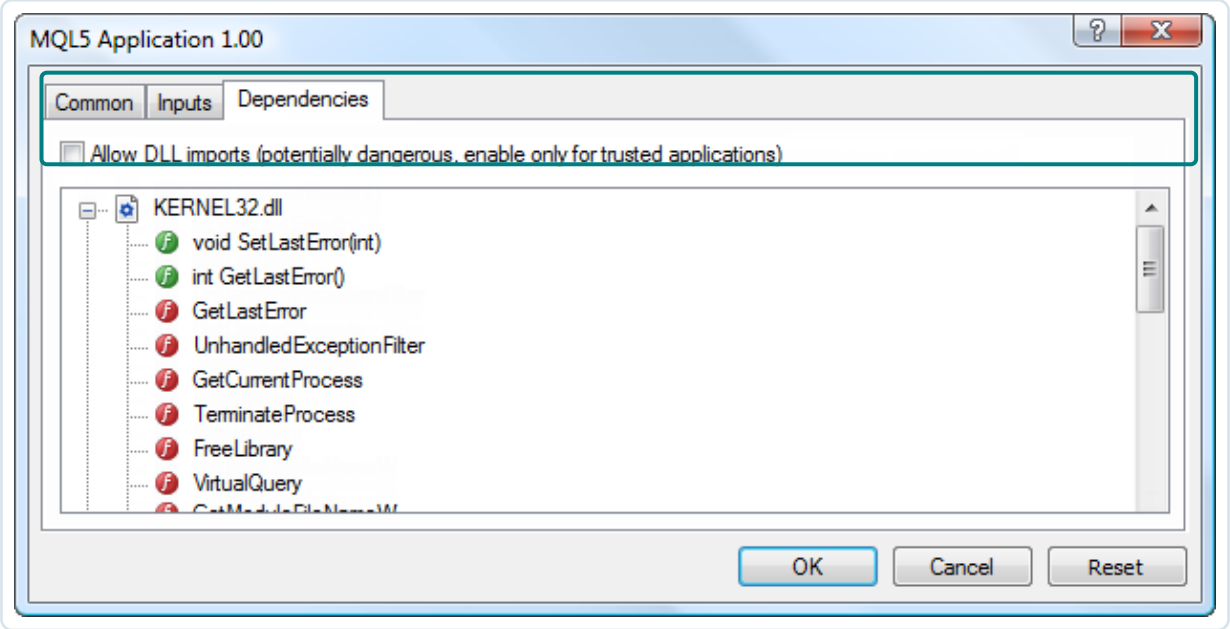


Fig. 14 The MT5 Dependencies tab lists external libraries and the DLL permission.

File	Location / action
DLL / EX4 / EX5 library	Use MQL4\Libraries or MQL5\Libraries; preserve subfolders.
Indicators used by an EA	Place in Indicators; preserve the required name and relative path.
MQH include file	Needed for compilation; place under the matching MQL4 / MQL5\Include path.
Template .tpl	MT4: Data Folder\templates. MT5: MQL5\Profiles\Templates.
Preset .set	Select with Load in Inputs; it is not an executable EA.
Other supporting files	Copy folders such as Files as specified in the package; keep relative paths.

WebRequest and licensing

If the product explicitly requires it, enable WebRequest under Ctrl+O → Expert Advisors and add the exact URLs specified by the provider, including http:// or https://. The website in this guide is contact information, not a required URL for every product.

Allow DLL imports only for a trusted product that needs them. For account binding, expiry or online activation errors, follow the product instructions and contact its provider. Copying the files does not remove licensing requirements.

10

Verification and troubleshooting

Press Ctrl+T to open MT4 Terminal or MT5 Toolbox. Check Experts and Journal first.

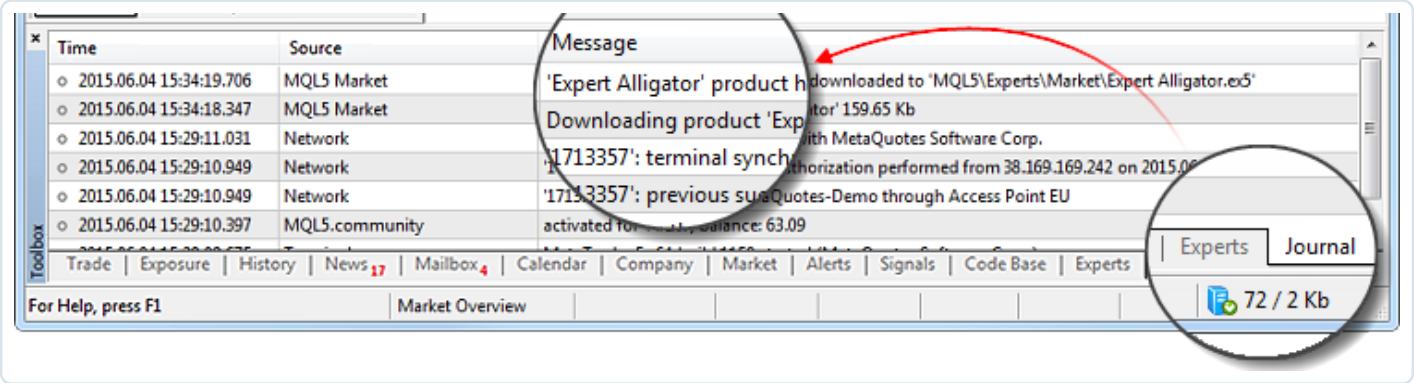


Fig. 15 Authentic MT5 log window (cropped): check time, source and message.

Symptom	Check first
Missing from Navigator	Correct terminal, platform and folder; Refresh / restart; compile source to EX4 / EX5.
Indicator loads but is invisible	Check Ctrl+I, visible timeframes, colors, price history and Experts messages.
EA is attached but does not trade	Platform and EA permissions, account trading rights, trading hours, symbol, inputs and entry conditions.
Initialization / load failure	Read the first error; check dependent indicators / libraries, paths, terminal build and license.
Unexpected preset behavior	Match the .set to the product and version, then review important values manually.
EA stops after restart	Check connection, restored charts, EA attachment, trading permission and computer sleep.

Installation checklist

□ Program visible in Navigator □ Attached to the correct chart
□ Inputs reviewed □ Both EA permissions checked
□ No unresolved loading errors in Experts / Journal

> **When requesting support** Provide MT4 / MT5, terminal build, program name and version, input screenshots, exact error text and time. Mask private account information in screenshots; no trading password is needed.

11

Copyright, support and sources

Copyright and technical support

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This is a general installation guide. Follow the supplied product instructions for product-specific names, inputs, licensing and dependencies. Labels, icons and layout may differ between broker terminals and builds.

Authentic screenshot and reference sources (click to open)

01 MT4 File menu
02 MT4 Navigator
03 MT4 Custom indicator: attaching to chart
04 MT4 Expert Advisor: launch
05 MT4 Expert Advisor: setup
06 MT5 User interface
07 MT5 Files and folders
08 MT5 Technical indicators
09 MT5 Expert Advisors and custom indicators
10 MT5 Compile downloaded source code
11 MT5 Platform logs

All images were obtained from original software screenshots in the MetaQuotes Help pages above; none are AI-generated. Original arrows, magnifiers and sample values are part of the official examples. Added outlines only identify controls.

Reference check date: 19 November 2026. Original image URLs are preserved in the screenshot manifest retained with the production files.