How to Enable & Manage AutoTrading in MT5 (Step-by-Step)

Overview

This guide explains how to turn on AutoTrading in MetaTrader 5 and manage per-EA permissions safely. You will learn the global switch, chart-level status, required settings, and best practices when running multiple EAs.

What You Need

- MT5 desktop platform installed and logged into a trading account
- An Expert Advisor (EA) attached to a chart
- Basic familiarity with input settings and the Navigator window

Global AutoTrading Switch

Step 1: Enable the Global AutoTrading Button

In the MT5 toolbar, click the AutoTrading button so it turns green.

If it is red, all EAs are blocked from trading, regardless of chart settings.

Step 2: Check the Smiley on the Chart

A smiley icon in the top right of the chart indicates the EA is allowed to trade on that chart.

A frown or neutral face indicates trading is blocked for that EA or chart.

Per-EA Permissions

Step 3: Allow Algo Trading in EA Properties

Right-click the chart > Expert Advisors > Properties, or press F7.

In the Common tab, tick 'Allow Algo Trading' and any required options such as 'Allow DLL imports' if your EA needs them.

Step 4: Symbol and Timeframe

Ensure the EA is attached to the correct symbol and timeframe specified by your strategy.

If your EA is timeframe-sensitive, confirm the chart period matches your plan (e.g., M15, H1).

Running Multiple EAs Safely

- Use unique MagicNumber values per EA and per symbol to prevent order conflicts.
- Attach each EA to its own chart to isolate settings and logs.
- Avoid running multiple EAs that trade the same symbol and timeframe unless designed to coexist.

Important Platform Settings

- Tools > Options > Expert Advisors: allow or restrict algorithmic trading platform-wide.

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- Set 'Disable algorithmic trading when switching profiles or changing accounts' per your safety preference.
- If your EA relies on DLLs or WebRequests, enable those specifically and add allowed URLs if needed.

Broker and Server Constraints

- Respect minimum lot size, step, and stop level distances for your symbol.
- Consider trading hours, sessions, and news filters if your strategy requires them.
- Use realistic spreads and commissions when testing; live conditions may differ from demo.

Monitoring and Logs

- Open Terminal (Ctrl+T). In 'Experts' and 'Journal' tabs, monitor EA messages, order attempts, and errors.
- Enable on-chart comments or alerts if the EA supports them for quick status checks.
- If you see frequent 'Trade context busy' or 'Not enough money' errors, review risk and broker limits.

Pausing or Stopping Safely

- To pause all EAs: click the global AutoTrading button (it turns red).
- To pause one EA: remove it from the chart or untick 'Allow Algo Trading' in its Properties.
- Before removal, verify whether the EA manages open trades; closing the EA may stop management logic.

24-7 Operation with a VPS

- For continuous operation, run MT5 on a reliable VPS with stable power and internet.
- Use Remote Desktop to connect, then start MT5 and ensure AutoTrading is on.
- Disable sleep/auto-updates that could interrupt the platform while EAs are active.

Troubleshooting

- No trades: check global AutoTrading, per-EA 'Allow Algo Trading', and the Experts/Journal logs.
- Orders rejected: review lot size, stop levels, margin, and symbol trading hours.
- EA removed or disabled: ensure the chart is open and EAs are allowed after profile/account changes.

Best Practices

- Start on a demo, then go live gradually with small risk.

- Set clear max risk, max orders, or daily loss limits if your EA supports them.
- Use per-symbol MagicNumbers and keep a change log of settings and EA versions.
- Back up your MT5 configuration and .set files regularly.

Summary

AutoTrading in MT5 uses a global switch and per-EA permissions. Keep the toolbar button green, tick 'Allow Algo Trading' in EA settings, monitor the smiley status, and use unique MagicNumbers when running multiple EAs. Always confirm broker constraints and monitor logs.