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Directional Trading using Currency Options



What is a Currency Option?



- Based on a currency pair value.
- Reflects an “exchange rate”.
- USX reflects USD/CAD.
- The value of US\$1.00 in Canadian dollars.
- U.S. dollar is considered the base currency.

Directional Trading



- Buying calls or puts
- Shorting or writing calls or puts

Currency Options Strategies



Forecasted Future USD/CAD Exchange Rate		
S T R A T E G I E S	Higher (↑ USD)	Lower (↓ USD)
	Buy calls	Buy puts
	Write puts	Write calls

Bullish on the USD – Buy Calls



- The USD/CAD spot market quote is 1.0250
- The at-the-money, USX Call option would be listed at 102.50.
- Investor believes the USD will strengthen.
- Two month, 102.50 call option premium is trading at \$2.35
- 10 call options = \$2,350.00. $(2.35 \times 100 \times 10)$

Long Call



BoC noon rate at expiration	Option Value at Expiration
107.00	\$4,500.00
106.50	\$4,000.00
106.00	\$3,500.00
105.50	\$3,000.00
104.85	Break Even
102.50	-\$2,350.00
101.00	-\$2,350.00
100.00	-\$2,350.00

Bullish on the USD – Buy Calls



- Assume the USD/CAD is at 1.0550 on expiration
- Credit received: \$3,000.00 CAN
 - $(105.50 - 102.50) \times 100 \times 10$ contracts
- Net profit: \$650
 - $\$3,000.00 - \$2,350.00$
- ROI: 27.5%
 - $\$650.00 / \$2,350.00$

Bullish on the USD – Write Puts



- Investor may be bullish to neutral on the USD/CAD.
- Sell USX put options to collect the premium.
- If the USD/CAD rate is at or above the sold strike price at expiration, the option expires and profit is realized.
- Limited profit, unidentifiable risk.

Bullish on the USD – Write Puts



- The USD/CAD spot market quote is 1.0200
- The at-the-money, USX put option would be listed at 102.00.
- Investor believes the USD will strengthen or stay the same.
- One month, 102.00 put option premium is trading at \$1.75

9 10 put options = \$1,750.00. (1.75 X 100 X 10)

Short Put



BoC noon rate at expiration	Option Value at Expiration
108.50	\$1,750.00
102.50	\$1,750.00
102.00	\$1,750.00
101.50	\$1,250.00
100.25	Break Even
100.00	-\$250.00
99.50	-\$750.00
99.00	-\$1,250.00

Bullish on the USD – Write Puts



- Maximum profit is realized when the USD/CAD is at or above the sold strike price.
- If the USD/CAD is below the breakeven point, a loss is incurred.
- The investor's account will be debited the difference between the strike price sold and the settlement value at expiration.

Bearish on the USD – Buy Puts



- The USD/CAD spot market quote is 1.0350
- The at-the-money, put option would be listed at 103.50.
- Investor believes the USD will weaken.
- Two month, 103.50 put option premium is trading at \$2.50
- 10 call options = \$2,500.00. $(2.50 \times 100 \times 10)$

Long Put



BoC noon rate at expiration	Option Value at Expiration
104.50	-\$2,500.00
104.00	-\$2,500.00
103.50	-\$2,500.00
102.00	-\$1,000.00
101.00	Break Even
100.50	\$3,000.00
100.00	\$3,500.00
99.50	\$4,000.00

Bearish on the USD – Buy Puts



- Assume the USD/CAD is at 1.0050 on expiration
- Credit received: \$3,000.00 CAN
 - $(103.50 - 100.50) \times 100 \times 10$ contracts
- Net profit: \$500
 - $\$3,000.00 - \$2,500.00$
- ROI: 20%
 - $\$500.00 / \$2,500.00$

Bearish on the USD – Write Calls



- Investor may be bearish to neutral on the USD/CAD.
- Sell USX call options to collect the premium.
- If the USD/CAD is at or below the sold strike price at expiration, the option expires and profit is realized.
- Limited profit, unidentifiable risk.

Bearish on the USD – Write Calls



- The USD/CAD spot market quote is 1.0400
- The at-the-money, call option will be listed at 104.00.
- Investor believes the USD will weaken or stay the same.
- One month, 104.00 call option premium is trading at \$1.70

Short Call



BoC noon rate at expiration	Option Value at Expiration
108.00	-\$1,500.00
107.50	-\$1,000.00
106.00	-\$500.00
105.70	Break Even
104.00	\$1,700.00
103.50	\$1,700.00
100.00	\$1,700.00
99.50	\$1,700.00

Bearish on the USD – Write Calls



- Maximum profit is realized when the USD/CAD is at or below the sold strike price.
- If the USD/CAD is above the breakeven point, a loss is incurred.
- The investor's account will be debited the difference between the settlement value and the strike price sold at expiration.

