

ECFX XAU BLACKSTAR

cTrader user manual
Build 8.0.9 | Manual 1.1
18 November 2026

Installation, configuration, testing and operation

Seven strategy modules share one cTrader account. This guide documents the renamed build, its exposed settings, supplied presets and account protection controls.

Automated gold trading can cause substantial losses. Review total account exposure, costs and historical drawdown before selecting a configuration. Simulations and demo observations do not guarantee future results.

Support and documentation
expertcodefx.com/manuals/ecfx-xau-blackstar-ctrader
support@expertcodefx.com

1. Product and build identity

ECFX XAU BLACKSTAR is a cTrader cBot for XAUUSD-style gold symbols on an M5 chart and a hedging account. It contains Aster, Polaris, Vega, Orion, Lyra, Cygnus and Draco. Depending on the active module, it can submit market, limit and stop orders.

What changed in 8.0.9

The product name, engine identifiers, parameter groups, dashboard rows, log text and future trade-comment aliases use the current names. The chart retains the white background, star watermark and dark statistics panel. This release is a naming revision to the existing seven-engine strategy package.

Verification area	Status for this build
Release compilation	Completed with zero warnings and zero errors.
Offline checks	203 checks passed against the assembly and exported metadata, including comment recovery and scoped order labels.
Host configuration	50 exposed parameters. Further strategy parameters remain embedded in the source.
Native historical replay	A completed replay of the renamed 8.0.9 build remains pending.
Forward and restart validation	A forward/restart validation of the renamed build remains pending. Forward trading defaults to False.

Historical results and video

The earlier 8.0.8 archive reports 20,761 trades, profit factor 1.09, maximum balance drawdown 35.60% and maximum equity drawdown 37.31%. Those observations indicate high historical risk and belong to the earlier package. The video and dated trade export are separate runs. Save a completed report from the exact renamed build and its applied parameters before comparing results.

The linked historical video shows earlier engine names and an earlier Store-availability message. Confirm the current distribution and approval status with ExpertCodeFX.

2. Installation and migration

Requirement	Setup
Package	ECFX XAU BLACKSTAR.algo, build 8.0.9.
Platform and chart	cTrader Desktop, intended broker's XAUUSD-style symbol, M5.
Account	Hedging account. Account equity, balance and margin are shared by enabled modules.
Presets	Use the renamed USD 10K or USD 50K .cbotset file when reproducing the supplied configuration.

Install a separate instance

1. Import the supplied .algo file in cTrader Desktop.
2. Confirm the displayed product and build, then add a new XAUUSD-style M5 backtesting instance.
3. Load the matching renamed preset and review every parameter.
4. Set the exact broker symbol, capital, leverage, quote source and trading costs in Backtesting.
5. Run a short replay and inspect startup and order messages before testing a longer period.

Moving from an earlier build

This release renames parameter keys and embedded trade labels and uses a new cTrader host type. The new host has a separate persistent-storage identity. Prior presets and saved loss checkpoints need deliberate reconciliation. The supplied renamed presets already use the new keys.

Evaluate this version in a fresh backtest. For a forward transition, use a flat account with prior positions and pending orders reconciled. The new instance cannot be assumed to recover the previous instance's order metadata or persistent protection state.

Broker history records the original comments on completed trades. New orders from this build show ASTER, POLARIS, VEGA, ORION, LYRA, CYGNUS or DRACO, followed by an optional metadata token. Keep that token intact because it identifies strategy setup information during the run.

3. Run and archive a reproducible backtest

Choose the deposit and preset together. The USD 10K preset selects XAUUSD.P M5. The USD 50K preset selects XAUUSD M5. Change the selected symbol to the broker's actual gold contract before running; suffixes and contract sizes vary.

Backtesting procedure

1. Confirm build 8.0.9 and the renamed preset.
2. Verify Allow forward (demo/live) trading is False.
3. Record whether FTMO 2-Step mode is selected. Both supplied presets enable it.
4. Select the test dates, deposit, leverage, tick data and spread assumptions. For a BlackBull comparison, verify 1:30 and server ticks in the completed native report.
5. Enter or confirm commission, financing and the symbol's lot size, minimum volume and volume step.
6. Review startup checks, accepted orders, pending fills and protective exits.
7. Save the report, parameter set, logs, equity graph and positions/orders remaining at the end.

Record	Purpose
Build, package hash and preset	Distinguishes factory settings, modified inputs and different builds.
Broker, symbol and account	Identifies contract, hedging mode, volume rules and leverage.
Dates and execution inputs	Makes quote history, spread, commission and swap assumptions inspectable.
Balance and equity drawdown	Separates closed losses from floating exposure and peak-to-trough risk.
Trade count and end exposure	Shows activity, unfinished positions and pending orders.

The available comparison archive requested 9 August 2023 to 14 November 2026. Matching dates alone does not identify the same preset or execution model. Use a fresh paired replay when comparing the renamed version with an earlier package.

A visual video is a demonstration of the selected replay. Its recording, titles and chart overlays should identify the version whose report you save.

4. Seven modules and shared controls

Both supplied presets enable all seven modules. Each module has an Enable switch and a base lot-cap input. Modules may request less than the cap. The host exposes 50 parameters; additional entry and exit settings inside each strategy are embedded source defaults.

Module	New comment alias	10K / 50K preset cap
Aster	ASTER	0.05 / 0.20 lots
Polaris	POLARIS	0.05 / 0.20 lots
Vega	VEGA	0.05 / 0.20 lots
Orion	ORION	0.05 / 0.20 lots
Lyra	LYRA	0.05 / 0.20 lots
Cygnus	CYGNUS	0.05 / 0.20 lots
Draco	DRACO	0.05 / 0.20 lots

Weekly market activation

The shared filter can wait for market activity before allowing new entries. Factory and supplied values use H1, fast ATR 14, baseline ATR 100, maximum ATR ratio 3.0, ADX period 14, minimum ADX 18 and maximum spread/ATR fraction 0.08. A waiting dashboard message can therefore be expected.

Coincident entry staggering

Factory StaggerEntries is False. Both supplied presets set it to True with an 8-second second-entry gap and a 12-second gap for later entries. Signals are reevaluated on later callbacks. Pending orders placed at different times can still fill together.

Vega execution mode

Vega has A/B/C switches plus an execution mode. Mode 0 allows backtesting; mode 1 also allows demo; mode 2 also allows live. The host Allow forward switch is a separate gate. The supplied presets use mode 2 and keep host forward trading disabled.

5. Capital sizing and account protection

A base lot cap of zero selects an allocation from account capital. Automatic capital references are enabled by default. A custom capital reference can be entered when required. Ordinary growth uses the lower of balance and equity, with a factory maximum growth cap of 0.25 lots. A strategy can request smaller volume.

FTMO 2-Step mode

Factory mode is off. Both supplied presets turn it on. This mode selects fixed per-engine caps and uses a daily allowance of 4% of original capital, plus a static total-equity floor at 91% of original capital.

Original capital	Automatic cap	Daily allowance	Total equity floor
USD 10,000	0.05 lots	USD 400	USD 9,100
USD 50,000	0.20 lots	USD 2,000	USD 45,500

The daily floor equals the Prague-midnight balance less 4% of original capital. During the last 15 minutes before the Prague reset, the cBot also evaluates a projected next-day floor. A positive Fixed lot cap for all engines overrides the automatic cap. FTMO mode disables growth sizing for new orders.

On an internal breach, cancellation and closing cover the entire account, including other cBots and manual positions. Entry remains blocked while the relevant lock is active. A daily lock may reset after the next Prague day when state reconciles and exposure clears. The total lock persists across resets and restarts on a supported persistent installation.

Persistence and risk interpretation

Use Desktop or a compatible persistent CLI installation for FTMO-mode restart testing. The source refuses FTMO mode on cTrader Cloud because its protection checkpoint cannot be carried safely across a restart there. A renamed instance also starts with its own storage identity.

This mode is an internal software safeguard. It does not establish current programme approval or compliance. Gaps, spread changes, latency, rejection or disconnection can cause losses beyond a threshold. There is no single fixed risk percentage for the whole portfolio. An embedded 2% Polaris sizing input is constrained by other sizing rules and caps; it is not an account-wide 2% ceiling.

6. Dashboard, observation and support

The default appearance uses a white chart, star watermark and dark statistics panel. The panel displays balance, equity, floating P/L, exposure, module rows and run statistics. The seven rows use the current engine names.

Chart input	Factory value / function
Show BlackStar chart theme and stats panel	True. Controls the shared theme and dashboard.
Hide platform trade lines	True. Keeps platform order overlays out of the chart view.
Show strategy entry/SL/TP lines	False. Optional additional strategy overlays.
Panel scale and offset	Scale 1.0; left 12; top 18.
Watermark	Enabled; fill opacity 16%; size 66%.
Restore chart appearance on stop	True. Restores the chart appearance captured at startup.

Operational checks

Inspect symbol and account classification at startup. Observe the entire account's volume, margin, open positions and pending orders. Save the applied parameter set before changing it. If a native test passes your review, start any forward observation on a dedicated demo account and test reconnection and restart recovery.

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Check
Immediate stop	Hedging mode, XAUUSD-style symbol, Vega execution mode and startup log.
No entries	Weekly gate, enabled modules, spread filter, forward gate and active loss locks.
Different result	Version, preset, symbol, dates, ticks, costs, leverage and end exposure.
FTMO mode refuses startup	Persistent installation, original allocation and stored protection state.

For support, send the build, broker symbol, cTrader version, account type, preset, test dates, native report and relevant log excerpt to support@expertcodefx.com. Keep account credentials out of the bundle.

7. Factory input reference (1/3)

These values come from build 8.0.9's exported host metadata. The supplied presets override selected inputs. Property keys are shown to help inspect exported .cbotset files.

Input key / group	Factory value
OriginalAccountCapital Capital sizing	0
AllowForwardTrading Safety	False
FtmoTwoStepMode FTMO settings	False
FtmoFixedLotCap FTMO settings	0
AutoScaleCapitalReferences Capital sizing	True
CustomCapitalReference Capital sizing	0
GrowLotCapsWithCapital Capital growth	True
LotGrowthReferenceCapital Capital growth	0
MaximumGrowthLots Capital growth	0.25
HidePlatformTradeLines Chart	True
ShowRedSilverDashboard Chart	True
ShowStrategyTradeLevels Chart	False
DashboardScale Chart	1
DashboardX Chart	12
DashboardY Chart	18
RestoreChartAppearanceOnStop Chart	True
ShowWatermark Chart	True

8. Factory input reference (2/3)

These values come from build 8.0.9's exported host metadata. The supplied presets override selected inputs. Property keys are shown to help inspect exported .cbotset files.

Input key / group	Factory value
WatermarkOpacityPercent Chart	16
WatermarkSizePercent Chart	66
WaitForWeeklyMomentum Weekly market activation	True
MomentumTimeFrame Weekly market activation	h1
MomentumFastAtrPeriod Weekly market activation	14
MomentumSlowAtrPeriod Weekly market activation	100
MomentumAtrMaximumRatio Weekly market activation	3
MomentumAdxPeriod Weekly market activation	14
MomentumMinimumAdx Weekly market activation	18
MomentumMaximumSpreadAtrFraction Weekly market activation	0.08
VegaEngineAEnabled Vega modules	True
VegaEngineBEnabled Vega modules	True
VegaEngineCEnabled Vega modules	True
VegaExecutionMode Vega modules	2
StaggerEntries Timing experiment	False
FirstGap Timing experiment	8
FurtherGap Timing experiment	12

9. Factory input reference (3/3)

These values come from build 8.0.9's exported host metadata. The supplied presets override selected inputs. Property keys are shown to help inspect exported .cbotset files.

Input key / group	Factory value
TraceEntries Timing experiment	False
AsterEnabled Aster	True
AsterLots Aster	0
PolarisEnabled Polaris	True
PolarisLots Polaris	0
VegaEnabled Vega	True
VegaLots Vega	0
VegaEngineBCustomBalance Vega	0
OrionEnabled Orion	True
OrionLots Orion	0
LyraEnabled Lyra	True
LyraLots Lyra	0
CygnusEnabled Cygnus	True
CygnusLots Cygnus	0
DracoEnabled Draco	True
DracoLots Draco	0