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StochasticMA\_Alerter\_mj

Note: some of the description is kept also more general as I might use some of this in other indicators too.

some related discussion: <http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=283291>

<http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=119483>

<http://www.forexfactory.com/showthread.php?t=283259>

```
//=====
//---- Input parameters
//=====
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//===== GENERAL SETTINGS
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**UniquePrefix:** e.g. "TEST\_ALERT"

This is used for Indicator name, objects, other infos, Alerts etc. etc. ... especially if Objects are used in the indicator it should be really Unique. Normally the default is good enough.

In case one applies the indicator more than once to the same chart (with different settings) it is good too have a real unique prefix: (e.g. add to the beginning numbers 1,2,3, or something like that...)

Note: if the indicator uses objects/trend lines/text etc. one has to watch that the final names is not too long (might cause problems)

## //===== ALERTER SETTINGS

**alertsOn:** e.g. true/false

Activates/Deactivates the general alert option. If it is false: there is no alert no matter what the other settings below are.

**alertsMessage:** e.g. true/false

Activates/Deactivates MT4 message alerts (pop-up window)

**alertsSound:** e.g. true/false

Activates/Deactivates MT4 Sound alerts

**SoundFileName:** e.g. "my\_long\_wakeup\_alert.wav" or "alert.wav" ...

Let's you switch sound files – maybe an own created one.

Name of soundfile to use: soundfile must exist in MT4's folder: sounds

**alertsEmail:** e.g. true/false

Activates/Deactivates MT4 email alerts

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**what\_when\_AlerterOption:** e.g. 0/1

This let's one filter a bit what/when an alert is triggered (has nothing to do with a valid or false Alert Event but only how this valid Events are finally transmitted.)

Basic idea is: especially on live candles one could get every tick an alert if there are just few simple criteria choose. e.g. 1 Stoch or MA: Alert Direction Up or Down. You probably get at each tick an alert ;) as they are not too often completely flat.

Maybe here shortly an explanation how a final message is put together

*UniquePrefix | OriginalAlertTime | PairName | mainMessage*

*UniquePrefix:* we had already in the beginning

*OriginalAlertTime:* this is the Opening Time of the **Chart Bar** when the event happened.

For live action usually the same as the MT4 active candle opening time.

*It is especially important for Past events(later more)*

*PairName:* Well, simple the pair name.

*MainMessage:* this can vary on the indicator: but let's consider two examples here for later discussion.

“Direction: < UP >”

“Direction: < DOWN >”

1.

**what\_when\_AlerterOption=0**

Alert *Only Once* per **Chart Bar** **OR** if the *mainMessage* **changed**.

e.g. if you have set 1 Stoch/MA to Alert for Direction you might get all the time (every tick) alerts as mentioned above.

With *what\_when\_AlerterOption=0* we reduce this to: only 1 alert per chart bar (So consider this if you applied the alerter to High TimeFrame CHARTs) **OR** if the *mainMessage* changes.

For an example it is best illustrated on a bit Higher TF

e.g. Alerter is applied to a M15 chart. (and something like Stoch/MA to Alert for Direction)  
The 1 Stoch/MA is pointing all the time up. In that case you would get at every tick a alert.

With our Option 0: you get once every Chart Bar (M15 Chart – more or less every 15 minute – normally on the first tick of a new bar an alert)

But to not silently drop an important alert we have the second part too: **OR** if the *mainMessage* **changed**.

At : 10:15 the Alert goes up with: *mainMessage*: “Direction: < UP >”

At 10:22 an even happens and the Direction has changed to down.

In that case you still get the alert within the 1 chart bar *because the mainMessage has changed*:  
“Direction: < DOWN >”

So theoretically (on small TF with simple criteria) you could still get on every tick an alert ;) if all the time the *mainMessage* changes. (So be aware of this, it's not an error in such a case)

2.

**what\_when\_AlerterOption=1**

Alert *Only IF* the *mainMessage* **changed**.

Most of it should be clear already from what I said above. This considers only changed *mainMessage* but has quite some other effects as you will see.

Someone (I at least) might be sometimes only interested to be alerted once per a LONG or SHORT possible opportunity.

Let's consider a 3 MA directional Order bases: for long Alert: MA1 above MA2 and MA2 above MA3 ( short Alert Mas below each other)

e.g. we applied the Alerter to M5 chart.

Often this is what you will see: for a couple of Bars (20-50 the Order is intact):

With the first *what\_when\_AlerterOption=0* one would get every 5Minutes an Alert which probably defeats the purpose.

In such case the *what\_when\_AlerterOption=1* is what I want:  
Alert *Only IF* the *mainMessage* **changed**.

So I would get an alert when the MAs turn first into correct Order “UP” and than only if the *mainMessage* *changes*: in our example case *the first time it changes to*: “Direction: < DOWN >”

As you see this is quite a difference in the end.

Both have there usage.

## //===== ADDITIONAL ALERTER SETTINGS

**WriteToFile:** e.g. true/false

Activates/Deactivates the possibility to write Alerts (for past events only theoretical alerts more later) to a file.

This file is usually located in MT4 folder: experts/files

To make it easier to check them I follow this FileName rule:

TEST\_ALERT\_\_EURUSD\_\_M1\_\_2011-3-24--8\_16\_59.csv

UniquePrefix | PairName | *CHART* Period | Year | Month | Day | Hour | Minute | Seconds |.csv

(such files can be opened in Text editors or in Spreadsheet programs like Excel/Openoffice)

Reason: I like to have them not merge all into one file but in defined files to inspect later on (the only purpose in the first place to write to file).

BUT be aware that this also means: whenever you have *WriteToFile* enabled and switch for instance chart period: a new file will be created. This is on purpose as stated above.

**IMPORTANT:** I would not in general recommend having *WriteToFile* enabled: *as it might additionally slow down the chart: especially if you have also the next option enabled and many bars set in*

MT4: TOOLS-OPTION-CHARTS: Max bars in chart.

For me *WriteToFile* is a nice extra feature for manual kind of back-checking theoretical past events.

But it is also possible to record live forward running alerts – just I do not see the point in it does not mean someone else does not like it ;)

Note sure but probably it is best to open just finished Files and not the active one MT4 writes too – not sure too.

**EnablePastAlertWriteToFile:** e.g. true/false

As the name implies this refers only to PastAlert events when also: *WriteToFile=true*.

I do not send actual an Alert (makes no sense to get 100 emails does it? I never use the email function myself but anyway)

What you can do is use the MT4: TOOLS-OPTION-CHARTS: Max bars in the chart to adjust how far back you want to go (I'm not a MT4 expert but normally Max bars history should be slightly higher I guess). I think you can put also manual numbers in and have to restart MT4 afterwards to take effect.

But best you read up on it in help or somewhere on the web.

Ok: basically *EnablePastAlertWriteToFile* does the same as what I explained about the Alerter options above.

*EnablePastAlertWriteToFile*: **Does NOT** use tick to tick past data ( but only the data which are available for a specific TimeFrame)

But that should be quite good enough otherwise you would not plot at all any charts with past bars – but only live Ticks or the last active Candle ;)

**IMPORTANT:** if you have set Max bars in chart to a high number you might have computer resource problems – especially with the option: *EnablePastAlertWriteToFile* so It might take a little while (probably partial this has to do also because I do not have a very good programming style)

Anyway, what I notice by similar things in the past is that sometimes you may have to apply the Alerter, kill MT4 and restart it fresh – and wait. You can always check in the file folder experts/files if a file was created and with refresh if it is written too (file gets bigger).

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There might be some changes later on but for the basic along this line I plan to do it.

Of course this does not yet include the other inputs ... but only the actual Alerter situation.