

By John Del Vecchio



New Trades this week:

No Trades

Still only 9 positions. The 10th spot remains in cash

Current Portfolio June 17, 2024

Ticker	Name	Return	Days Held	Sector	
BURCA	Burnham Holdings, Inc.	0.47%	67	Industrials	
CBKM	Consumers Bancorp, Inc.	-1.36%	25	Finance	
FUSB	First US Bancshares, Inc.	16.09%	74	Finance	
MCEM	The Monarch Cement Co.	35.71%	277	Non-Energy Materials	
PSX	Phillips 66	45.55%	403	Energy	
RSKIA	George Risk Industries, Inc.	-1.92%	39	Technology	
THFF	First Financial Corp. (Indiana)	4.83%	381	Finance	
VLO	Valero Energy Corp.	16.15%	242	Energy	
WEYS	Weyco Group, Inc.	22.06%	214	Consumer Cyclicals	
CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	



Eight is Enough

The most valuable feature of the *Max Profits* and *Microcap Millions* newsletters is access to my *Forensic Accounting Stock Tracker* (FAST).

I developed the FAST Model nearly 15 years ago.

It helped me launch my own business.

Two prior employers immediately hired me as a consultant, and for the most part, I named my own price.

It's funny how that works.

You work for someone else, and they hem and haw about this that and the other, then you quit, and they throw money at you to access your services.

Anyway...

At one point a large European bank approached me to offer the *FAST Model* to their clients.

The head of U.S. business development at the bank had come from a well-regarded trading firm that had a similar quantitative model.

And he loved my work.

So much so that he bought copies of *my* first book *What's Behind the Numbers?* to give to prospects for *his* software product.

This wasn't low brow stuff.

And here's where it gets interesting.

Fourteen clients each paid \$500,000 a year to the trading firm for a list of the top 25 ranked stocks in their model.

Fourteen is a very specific number.

It has something to do with compliance rules.

That's over my head.

When he left the trading firm, he wanted to recreate that business with my FAST Model.

I was charging between \$20,000 to \$300,000 and carved out a very nice business for myself.

Today, I'd rather have my eye poked out with a dull spoon than work directly with institutional investors.

You get the ratings for the price of the subscription to Max Profits or Microcap Millions.

I know by the lack of inquiry on a week-to-week basis that most people do not use *FAST*.

And that's OK.

However, in real-time the *FAST Model* continues to kick ass a take names.

The top *FAST* stocks have destroyed the market.

Consistently.

For about 15 years.

The worst ranked stocks in the FAST Model have lagged badly.

Consistently.

For about 15 years.

Not to pat myself on the back but identifying the laggards ahead of time in one of the most powerful bull markets of all-time is my best professional achievement.

It's the clunkers you own that set you back in your investments.

Monster stocks with big gains take care of themselves.

Now, you don't need to own 100 stocks.

Or 25 stocks like those fourteen clients.

Eight is enough.

I picked eight stocks at random.

There's *nothing magical* about the number eight.

"Eight is Enough" is the name of a popular TV show from the 1970's and '80's and that made the wittiest headline to this week's newsletter issue.

That's precisely why I picked eight stocks to illustrate the power of the *FAST Model* and forensic accounting.

Eight stocks also provide some diversification.

On the other hand, it doesn't water down the results either.

Ten stocks would probably work well too.

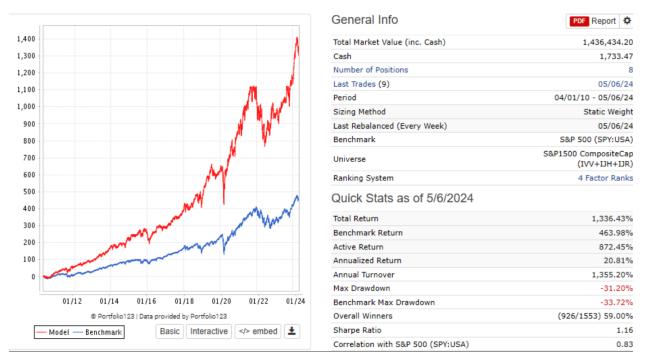
Or nine.

Feeling lucky?

Go with seven!

Again, there's no magic here.

Let's look at the results:



The FAST Eight outperform the S&P 500 by nearly 875% since April 2010 which is when I started my business and launched the model.

The annualized return of nearly 21% blows away the active management universe.

You can go look that up yourself online rather than take my word for it.

The drawdown is about the same at a touch over 30%.

As a result, the risk-adjusted returns for the *FAST Eight* are better than the market (see Sharpe Ratio above).

An interesting statistic is that 59% of the stocks were winners.

How do you then generate massive returns with fewer winners?

You let winners run and cut losers short...quickly.

There's no big secret.

That is the secret.

Of course, most people want to "win" rather than make money.

That's why you see newsletter sales promotions with 90% winners.

Newsletters with 90% winners are for losers.

What good is it to "win" 90% of the time only to lose everything once in a while??? Stay away.

Like the plague.

Now, the FAST Eight didn't just kick the market in the pants in a single year.

Or two.

The outperformance was consistent.

Here's the performance year-to-year up to May 6, 2024 when I had this test conducted.

Performance by Calendar Year

Excess	17.04	23.26	6.26	12.83	3.38	8.25	-3.81	4.42	15.96	1.27	15.60	-3.30	5.77	-5.61	4.92
Benchmark	8.40	1.89	15.99	32.31	13.46	1.23	12.00	21.71	-4.57	31.22	18.33	28.73	-18.18	26.18	7.90
Model	25.43	25.16	22.25	45.14	16.84	9.49	8.19	26.13	11,39	32.49	33.93	25.43	-12.41	20.57	12.82
Return (%)	2010*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024**

There's lot of other ways to use *FAST* beyond just focusing on the top eight, ten, or 25 stocks..

For example, *FAST* can be used for short-term options trades around quarterly earnings announcements.

Stocks move on earnings announcements.

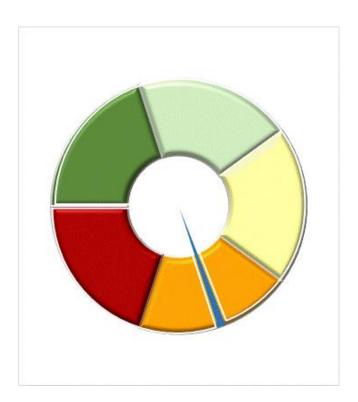
If you have an edge on which companies will beat or miss expectations in a big way, you can do quite well for yourself.

Back to basics though...if you can cull one big stinker out of your portfolio, the benefits to your financial wealth can be massive.

Use it or lose it.

As a reminder, I am out next week and there will be no weekly commentary.

However, you will still receive a weekly newsletter with the up-to-date portfolios!



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