Options Fundamentals Ep 10

Butterflies

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Disclaimer

This presentation is for educational purposes only. Nothing in this presentation is intended to be trading or financial advice.



What is a Butterfly?

- A Butterfly is a spread composed of 2 vertical spreads
 - One Debit Spread, One Credit Spread
 - The short of both spreads is the same strike
- Risk is on both sides
- Positive Theta, Negative Vega
- Inexpensive
 - Positive: Good Risk/Reward
 - Negative: Not good expiration probability

Types of Butterflies

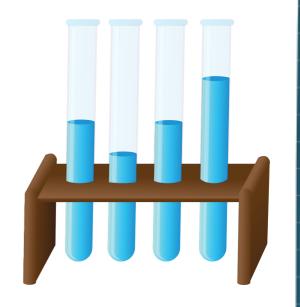
- Standard Butterfly
 - All calls or all puts
- Iron Butterfly
 - One credit spread in the calls, another credit spread in the puts, sharing the (nearly) same strike
- Balanced spreads are the same distance
- Unbalanced spread have different distances
 - Aka "Broken-wing" or "Skip Strike"
- ATM or OTM

When to Use Butterflies

- Implied Volatility is not at extremes
- Very cheap directional play
- High priced underlyings







Summary

- Butterflies are 2 verticals that share a common short strike
- Very flexible
 - Standard vs Iron
 - ATM vs OTM
 - Equal distant wings or "broken" wings
 - Directional or non-directional
- Adjusted by adding flies or rolling spreads.
- Good in most volatility environments

