CLARA SYSTEMS

AUTOMATED FUTURES TRADING

CLARA CORE SETUP GUIDE

INSTALLATION · SETTINGS · DAILY OPERATIONS

CLARA CORE 2026 · NINJATRADER 8

CLARASYSTEMS.IO

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01 OVERVIEW & THE CONTROL CENTER

If you do not have a NinjaTrader account yet, you need one. It is free. Create the account, sign in once to confirm it is active, then download NinjaTrader Desktop from your account and sign in there.

Clara Systems is an affiliated partner of NinjaTrader. If you create your account through our link we may earn a commission, at no cost to you. It is a free way to support us and we appreciate it.

CREATE FREE ACCOUNT (referral link)

ninjatraderus.pxf.io/bkyoxM

You can run Clara Core on your own computer, a laptop, or a VPS. A VPS is a rented Windows machine in a data centre that stays on when yours is off, so the strategy does not depend on your own power or your own internet.

We run ours on Hyonix, referral link: the HS-2 and HS-3 for our live accounts, and since September 2026 the HS-1, the cheapest plan, as a test. Which plan suits you, and what to do about the storage the cheapest ones arrive with, is in our guide, How To Free Up Storage Space On A Windows VPS, on the Downloads page.

> **THE FIRST TIME DESKTOP OPENS**
>
> NinjaTrader Desktop asks whether you want to trade Live or Simulation. To try Clara Core with no financial risk, choose Simulation. Choose Live only if you have a funded brokerage account or want to fund one: Live opens the NinjaTrader website in your browser so you can fund it. Then, before any settings: click Workspaces at the bottom right of the Control Center, then New, give the workspace a name, hover over it and click Save. Everything you set from here on lives in that workspace.

If you already have a NinjaTrader account, we suggest updating the platform if you have not done so recently. To update, close NinjaTrader and reopen it. If an update is available you will be prompted to install it.

THE CONTROL CENTER

This guide mentions the Control Center often. In the desktop app it is the window with the orange NinjaTrader logo in the top left corner. It is also where you adjust and manage settings, though depending on the version you are running Settings may appear as Options instead. Along the bottom, the sphere on the left shows your connection status: green means your accounts are connected. The tabs beside it, Orders, Executions, Strategies, Positions, Accounts, Logs and Messages, are your dashboard, and you will mainly use Accounts and Strategies. Everything we adjust today is handled in the Control Center.

AFTER ANY SETTINGS CHANGE

Any change made in settings needs to be saved, and NinjaTrader closed completely, before it takes effect. Click Apply on every tab you change, General, Trading, Strategies, Market data, before you move to the next one, then OK at the end, then close NinjaTrader completely.

ON A MAC

Everything in this guide assumes Windows. NinjaTrader Desktop does not install on macOS, and NinjaTrader Web runs in a browser but does not run automated strategies, so it cannot run Clara Core.

Two ways to get there. Run Windows on the Mac itself with a virtualization tool, which is fine for backtesting and learning the platform. Or run Clara Core on a Windows VPS and connect to it from your Mac, which is what we would use for anything live: a VPS has its own connection and power, so the strategy keeps running when your Mac is off. The FAQ on the website covers both in full.

We run Windows, so we have not tested a Mac setup ourselves and cannot tell you which virtualization tool works best. Do your own research before you commit: look at what other Mac users running NinjaTrader are using, and compare VPS providers, free ones included. We use Hyonix (referral link), which is the one we can speak for.

02 INSTALLING OR REPLACING CLARA CORE

Control Center › Tools › Import › NinjaScript Add-On

INSTALLING FOR THE FIRST TIME

1. Download Clara Core from clarasystems.io/downloads. It is the only place we distribute it. The button opens a short form asking for your email, your name, how you found us, and your acceptance of the terms.

   Submit it and the download link is emailed to you, usually within a minute. Open the email and click Download. The link works for 7 days and 2 downloads, and the same email carries a link to clarasystems.io/start, which lays out every next step in order. If it is not in your inbox, look in Spam or Promotions. If you lose the file, check your Downloads folder for ClaraCore26.zip before filling the form in again, and if the link has run out, fill the form in again and a fresh one goes out.

2. In the Control Center, open **Tools**, then **Import**, then **NinjaScript Add-On**, and select the ClaraCore26.zip file you downloaded.

3. Two standard NinjaTrader notices appear. First a caution that third party add-ons can affect the platform; this is NinjaTrader's boilerplate for every import. Click **OK**.

4. Then the confirmation: "NinjaTrader successfully imported all scripts contained in the NinjaScript Archive File." Click **OK** again. Both messages are normal; nothing about them is specific to Clara Core.

REPLACING A VERSION YOU ALREADY HAVE

Control Center › Tools › Remove NinjaScript Assembly

If Clara Core is already installed, remove it before importing the new file. In the Control Center open **Tools**, then **Remove NinjaScript Assembly**, select Clara Core, and confirm. Close NinjaTrader completely, reopen it, and only then import the new file. NinjaTrader keeps the first version it loaded in memory for as long as it is running, so importing over a copy that is still loaded leaves the old one running.

03 PLATFORM SETTINGS, SET ONCE

GENERAL

Control Center › Tools › Settings › General

Multi-provider	On
Reopen all previously opened workspaces at startup	On
Save username on log in window	On

Multi-provider is what lets you connect multiple accounts in one desktop platform.

GENERAL · TIME ZONE

Control Center › Tools › Settings › General

Time zone	(UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Clara Core runs on Eastern Time. If you run other strategies that need a different platform time zone, you can leave your setting as it is: the strategy carries its own time zone offset, covered in section 05.

TRADING

Control Center › Tools › Settings › Trading

Confirm order placement	Unchecked

Clara Core places its orders itself. With this box ticked, every entry waits for a click you are not there to give.

TRADING · AUTO CLOSE (OPTIONAL SAFETY LAYER)

Control Center › Tools › Settings › Trading

Auto close position, all instruments	Enabled · 3:35:00 PM

Anything still open gets flattened before the futures session closes. Clara Core exits its own trades by session end, so this only ever fires if something has gone genuinely wrong. One honest caveat: this runs inside NinjaTrader, so it only protects you while the platform is running. Skip it if you trade other instruments manually in the evenings on the same machine. When it fires it also turns the strategy off, the same as pressing Close by hand. That is expected, not a fault. From then on the day's result lives under the Accounts tab rather than the Strategies tab, so read it there.

STRATEGIES · NINJASCRIPT (THESE MATTER MOST)

Control Center › Tools › Settings › Strategies

Cancel entry orders when a strategy is disabled	Unchecked
Cancel exit orders when a strategy is disabled	Unchecked
Display warning for ignored errors on alert strategies	Once per strategy

"Once per strategy" means you hear about a problem without being buried in popups.

> **DO NOT CHANGE**
>
> "Cancel exit orders when a strategy is disabled" stays UNCHECKED. This is the setting that keeps your stop alive at the broker if the strategy ever stops. Do not check it.

ON CONNECTION LOSS

On connection loss	Keep running
Disconnect delay	10 seconds
Number of restart attempts	20
Restart attempts within	30 minutes

These settings control how NinjaTrader responds to a connection loss, and how many times it will try to restart the strategy, within a determined window.

AUTOMATED TRADING INTERFACE

Leave this section exactly as you found it, disabled. It is for third party integrations Clara Core does not use.

THE OPTIONAL SAFETY STOP: A DAILY LOSS LIMIT IN TRADOVATE

Tradovate lets you set a maximum daily loss on the account itself, outside NinjaTrader. It is optional, and it is a worst-case switch, nothing more. The largest single loss in the $300 model's backtest was $381, and the strategy plans no more than $400 of risk a trade; it takes at most two trades a day, which is $800. Setting the limit a touch above, at $805, keeps it clear of a normal day; an actual loss can still run past the planned figure, which is the case the limit is for. In our testing and daily monitoring Clara Core has not left a position without its protective orders; the limit exists for the case we have not seen.

MARKET DATA

Control Center › Tools › Settings › Market data

Historical · Global merge policy	Merge back adjusted
Real-time · Auto subscribe to required instruments	On
Real-time · Enable market recording for playback	Off

Market recording silently fills your disk over time, which on a small VPS eventually causes real problems. If yours is already short of space, our guide, How To Free Up Storage Space On A Windows VPS, has the steps. Everything else stays at its default.

> FINISH HERE
>
> Click Apply, then OK, then close and reopen NinjaTrader. Settings changes take effect on restart.

04 CONNECTING YOUR ACCOUNTS

Before you add a prop firm account, know which trailing drawdown rule it uses. We suggest using end of day trailing drawdown. The Structure page on the website explains why in detail.

If you are running prop firm accounts or a cash account, this is where you add your login credentials. Multi-provider must be enabled first, in General settings, followed by a restart; go back to section 03 if you skipped it. If you are running simulation inside NinjaTrader, there is no account to add here; you connect to one of the built-in connections instead. Simulation is the one that works for everything in this guide, the historical download included. Its live data can be delayed by ten minutes after the free two-week trial. If your chart is delayed, NinjaTrader support answers connection questions directly.

Control Center › Connections (plug icon) › Configure

1. **Add the account.** Choose NinjaTrader in the left box labelled Available, click Add at the bottom left, then enter your username and password on the right.

Connection name	Something you recognise at a glance
Connect on startup	On
Settings	Simulation for prop accounts Live for cash accounts

Apply, then OK.

2. **Connect.** Open the Connections menu again and click the account's name. You will hear the confirmation, a green dot appears to the left of the name with "disconnect" to its right, and the status bar at the bottom left of the Control Center turns green.

COLUMNS WORTH TURNING ON

Both tabs let you choose which columns appear. Click the Accounts tab, right-click anywhere in the Control Center, choose Properties, and tick what you want visible. What we use, and suggest:

Accounts tab: account balance, cash value, connection, display name, gross realized P&L, realized P&L, trailing max drawdown, unrealized P&L. Unrealized P&L is what is open right now; realized is what has already closed.

Strategies tab: account display name, account position, data series, enabled, instrument, strategy.

05 ADDING CHARTS & THE STRATEGY

1 **Create the chart.** Click New in the Control Center and select Chart. In the top left, type MNQ and choose MNQ Micro E-mini Nasdaq-100 Futures. The defaults are usually correct; these are the properties that matter.

Control Center › New › Chart

Data Series	
Price based on	Last
Type	Minute
Value	2
Time Frame	
Load data based on	Days
Days to load	5

Optional. Under Visual, turn on Auto scale, Center price on scale, and Display in data box. Leave everything else unchanged and click OK.

> HOW THE THREE PIECES FIT
>
> For a strategy to run you need a chart, that chart needs a strategy, and that strategy needs an account linked to it. If you have connected your accounts, use your prop firm or cash account. If you are running simulation, set up a simulation account first.

2 **Create a simulation account.** In the Control Center, click the Accounts tab at the bottom, then right-click anywhere in the panel. The first option is Add simulation account.

Name	Anything you like, for example ClaraCore300_SIM
Denomination	US Dollar
Commission	NinjaTrader Brokerage Free
Forex lot size	Leave at 1000
Initial cash	2000, to match a 50K prop firm account
Max order size · Max position size	0
Risk	None
Minimum cash value	5

Click OK. A message appears telling you a disconnect and reconnect is required for the account change to take effect.

To reset or delete a simulation account it must be disconnected first. To reset the balance: right-click the account, choose Edit, then Reset at the bottom right, then OK. To rename: you cannot rename a simulation account. Right-click, choose Remove account, OK, then create a new one with the name you want.

3. **Add the strategy to the chart.** Right-click the chart you just created and choose Strategies. Clara Core 26 appears in the list at the top left; click it, then click Add at the bottom left. It moves into the configured box, and the panel on the left is where you set which account runs it and how much it risks.

01. Risk Settings · Risk Per Trade ($)	300 (default)
02. Time Zone · Time Hours Offset	0
02. Time Zone · Time Minutes Offset	0
Data Series · Input series	MNQ, current contract, 2 minutes
Setup · Account	Your SIM, prop or cash account
Setup · Start behavior	Adopt account position (ships this way, leave it)

Leave the time zone offsets at 0 if NinjaTrader is set to Eastern Time. If the input series shows 1 minute, your chart is on 1 minute; that gets corrected below.

> **ATTENTION WHEN CHOOSING THE ACCOUNT**
>
> If you create two strategies and select the same account on both, your position doubles. This happens to people running five or more accounts who click the wrong one. Check the account carefully, and use the label below to make it obvious.
>
> Label is where you name and identify the strategy. With ten Apex accounts, for example, we label each one ClaraCore26 - Apex01, and then confirm the account is correct. Nothing else needs changing. Click Apply and the name updates in the configured list on the left, which is the label doing its job; the new strategy also appears in the Control Center in the Strategies tab. Click OK and close.

On the chart, top left, you will see Chart in orange, then the instrument and the timeframe. Both need to read MNQ and 2 minutes. To check which contract is current, search online for the current MNQ micro contract month and year.

> **IF YOU ALSO TRADE MANUALLY**
>
> Be careful changing the timeframe on a chart that holds a strategy. If you switch that chart to 1 minute or 5 minutes, Clara Core is now trading a timeframe it was never built for, and a signal will enter incorrectly. If you do not trade manually, this does not affect you.

4 **Save the workspace.** Workspaces button at the top of the Control Center, then Save.

HOW MANY CHARTS

You can run more than one chart. We usually keep two: one carrying Clara Core on the prop firm, cash and Roth accounts, and a second for simulation accounts. Every extra chart costs NinjaTrader performance, so keep the number to what you actually need. If you also trade by hand, give that its own chart and keep it away from the ones running the strategy.

HABITS WORTH KEEPING

Run the strategy on its own chart and never change that chart's timeframe while the strategy is on it. If you also trade manually, do it on a separate chart.

Never close the chart or the Control Center before saving. Closing the chart deletes the strategy with it, and you start the chart and strategy setup again from the beginning.

To shut NinjaTrader down, save the workspace and close the Control Center only, not the charts: closing the Control Center closes everything else with it.

On a VPS, when you step away, close the remote desktop WINDOW only. Do not use Shut Down inside the VPS: that turns the machine off entirely, and the strategy with it. Closing the remote window leaves the VPS and the strategy running without you.

If the strategy runs on your own computer, the computer must never go to sleep. In Windows: Settings, then System, then Power. Under Screen, sleep and hibernate timeouts, set every option to Never: Turn my screen off after, Make my device sleep after, and Hibernate after if it appears, for Plugged in and for On battery. Sleep and hibernation pause everything, NinjaTrader included, and on many computers turning the screen off is what starts the sleep. A laptop stays plugged in.

That completes account setup and strategy creation for Clara Core.

06 THE DAILY STARTUP ROUTINE

This can be done any time before 9:30am Eastern.

1. Connect your accounts. If you have multiple accounts, make sure they are all green.

2. **Enable the strategy.** Tick the Enable box, or with multiple strategies click the first, hold Shift, click the last, then right-click and choose Enable. Careful: Remove sits almost directly under it. Every enabled strategy turns green in the Strategies column.

3. **Reload the data.** Right-click the chart and choose Reload All Historical Data. A warning appears about active strategies; click Yes. Right-click again and choose Reload NinjaScript, and click Yes again. Do this on every chart you have open, not just one. Check that every strategy is still green.

4. **Confirm the chart is alive and not frozen.** Add a tool that makes it obvious: right-click the chart, choose Indicators, find Bar Timer, click Add at the bottom left, then Apply and OK. A countdown appears in the corner. Always check that the chart is moving, the open candle is not frozen, price is fluctuating, and the countdown is running down from 2 minutes on each new bar.

5. **Done.** The strategy handles the session from here. Follow along on Telegram or Discord, or disconnect completely and check at the end of the day.

ROLLOVER WEEK, FOUR TIMES A YEAR

MNQ moves to a new contract in March, June, September and December. When the date arrives NinjaTrader asks you to roll, usually when you open it on the Monday of rollover week. Accept it. Clara Core sits out rollover week, so there is no open position and nothing to protect. After the roll, check that each Clara Core chart shows the new contract month.

WHICH DRAWDOWN NUMBER IS THE REAL ONE

On prop firm accounts the trailing drawdown shown in the platform can report incorrectly right after a trade, especially after a fast move. The number in your broker platform, Tradovate at most firms, is the actual trailing drawdown, to the cent.

CHECKING THE DAY'S RESULT

You can check results after 3:35pm Eastern. Keep in mind the market closes at 5pm, so account figures can reset to zero at the end of the session. Run a backtest, check your broker account, or log into your prop firm after the close to see the day's result.

07 SKIP DAYS AND DAILY NOTICES

Every trading day ends with an answer. Whatever happens, the chart and our channels tell you what the strategy did and why, so you are never left guessing; the notices post daily to Telegram and Discord. The same labels appear on your chart even if you start the strategy late, and every skip day is visible in your own backtest.

These are the notices, what each one means, and when it posts:

No trade today · FOMC day	7:00am
No trade today · Rollover week	7:00am
No trade today · Half day, or the session after one	7:00am
No trade today · Daily conditions	10:00am
Trade skipped	When it happens
No signal today · Conditions never met	2:30pm

The three 7:00am notices are calendar filters skipping the day, and they label your chart as well. Daily conditions means the morning's conditions failed the strategy's daily checks, so no trade is taken.

Trade skipped means a signal appeared but the entry's risk exceeded the built-in $400-per-contract limit, so the strategy refused it. That is the limit protecting the account, and the day stays open for a new signal.

TRADE NOTICES

Entries and exits post as they happen. A short starts with a sell and ends with a buy; a long starts with a buy and ends with a sell. The position figure tells you where the trade stands: -1 means one contract short, 0 means the trade is closed.

```
Clara Core | sell 1 MNQ1! @ 29375.00 | Position: -1
Clara Core | buy 1 MNQ1! @ 29434.25 | Position: 0
```

ONE THING TO KNOW

The channel notices follow the strategy's default settings. Every risk model trades the same days and the same entries, only the position sizing differs, so the notices apply to all of them.

REMEMBER

A quiet day means no valid entry appeared. That is the strategy working, not failing.

08 IF YOUR CONNECTION DROPS, OR YOUR COMPUTER RESTARTS

Automation runs on real machines, and real machines occasionally lose internet, restart, or crash. Read this once now; it is the difference between a calm five minute fix and a panic.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT FIRST

Your stop loss does not live on your computer. When Clara Core places a trade, the protective order rests at your broker's servers. If your internet dies or your computer shuts off mid-trade, the stop remains active at the broker.

What is lost while NinjaTrader is down is the active management: breakeven, trailing, and the end-of-session exit only run while the strategy is enabled. From that point on, your trade is protected by its original stop, nothing more.

A short internet drop: NinjaTrader reconnects the account on its own once the network returns. Whether the strategy is still enabled afterwards depends on how long the drop lasted. Check the Strategies tab when you are back.

A longer outage: the strategy may be disabled by the platform. Check the Strategies tab when you are back, and if it is disabled, nothing re-enables it for you. Follow the recovery steps below. Your stop is resting at the broker the whole time.

RECOVERY AFTER A RESTART OR A LONG OUTAGE

None of this is something you monitor for. Short drops happen and fix themselves; a full outage while a trade is open is rare. The stop is resting at the broker either way, so this is a calm check when you are back at the machine, not something to sit and watch.

1. Reconnect your account in NinjaTrader if it has not reconnected on its own. "Connect on startup" covers the account connecting when you open NinjaTrader, not reconnection during a session.

2. Find the trade. On the chart, top left, you will see Chart in orange, then the instrument, MNQ, and the timeframe, 2 minutes. To the right of those are a few icons; if you cannot see them, click the down arrow. Look for an icon shaped like a mirrored F pointing left, hover until one reads Chart Trader, and click it. Under Account, select the account in question to see the open position and where the stop is sitting. Normally you will see only the stop resting; if it had already trailed before the outage it can sit past your entry price, locking gain in.

3. Decide what to do with the trade, and doing nothing is a real option. The stop is resting at the broker; if price reaches it the trade closes on its own and your day ends there. If the trade is in profit and you would rather take it, cancel the resting order by clicking the x beside the stop line on the chart, then click Close. Check the Accounts tab and the chart afterwards to confirm nothing is still open. You can do the same from your broker's phone app.

4. Leave the strategy off for the rest of that session, and enable it again before the next one.

> **ONE WARNING ABOUT START BEHAVIOR**
>
> "Adopt account position" is the shipped setting; leave it. Any other option can cancel your protective order or close your open position at market.

IF YOU CANNOT GET TO THE COMPUTER

Open your broker's phone app and manage or close the position there. The point is that the position needs attention now and the platform does not: an open trade keeps moving whether or not NinjaTrader is running, while a strategy that is disabled or out of sync can be sorted out calmly once you are back at the machine.

09 IF NINJATRADER REFUSES TO REOPEN

Sometimes after a crash or a forced close, starting NinjaTrader shows an error that only one instance can run at a time. The old process is still alive in the background. The fix takes thirty seconds:

1. On a VPS, do not press Ctrl+Alt+Delete; that opens the task manager on YOUR computer, not the VPS. Instead, click the search bar at the bottom of the VPS's Windows taskbar, type task manager, and open it.
2. Find the NinjaTrader entry in the list (look for its logo).
3. Right-click it and choose End task.
4. Start NinjaTrader normally.

10 VERIFY THE PUBLISHED NUMBERS

Every statistic on clarasystems.io comes from a NinjaTrader backtest you can run yourself, free. This is how you check our numbers instead of taking our word. None of this is required to trade; it is here because being able to check is the point. Once you know how to download the data, you can test any other strategy you have the same way.

STEP 1 · THE RESET

NinjaTrader saves price data on your computer and reuses it. Downloading again does not replace what is already saved, it only fills in what is missing, so any bad or partial data from an earlier download stays. The reset below clears it inside NinjaTrader and on the disk, in this order. This is what makes your numbers match ours.

1 **Remove the stored data inside NinjaTrader.**

Control Center › Tools › Historical Data

Historical	Right-click, Remove
Market Replay	Right-click, Remove

Close the Historical Data window. Save the workspace. Close NinjaTrader.

2 **Delete the data folders on the disk.**

Documents › NinjaTrader 8 › db

cache · day · minute · replay · tick	Delete these five folders
Everything else in db	Leave alone

Close the window. Your accounts, settings, charts and strategies are not affected; NinjaTrader rebuilds these folders on its own.

3 **Reopen NinjaTrader and connect.**

Control Center › Connections (plug icon)

Connection	Simulation, or your live account if you have one
Kinetick	Not for this: no historical download

A free account is enough.

4 **Remove again.** Open Historical Data a second time.

Control Center › Tools › Historical Data

Historical	Right-click, Remove
Market Replay	Right-click, Remove

Then download, in Step 2.

STEP 2 · DOWNLOAD THE DATA

1. **Open Historical Data and click Download**, bottom right corner.

Control Center › Tools › Historical Data

Instrument: the current MNQ contract, which carries a month and year and changes four times a year. NinjaTrader shows the name in one of two ways, depending on a display setting; the four contracts of 2026 are below, and either form is the same contract. Next year only the year changes, 27 in place of 26. If you are not sure which is current, search online for the current MNQ contract month.

BY NUMBER	BY MONTH
MNQ 03-26	MNQ MAR26
MNQ 06-26	MNQ JUN26
MNQ 09-26	MNQ SEP26
MNQ 12-26	MNQ DEC26

2. Start date 05/06/2019, MNQ's first trading day. End date: use 9/30/2026 to match the reference run printed later in this guide, which never changes. If you would rather check against the current published numbers, use the end date printed on the performance page instead; those move at every quarter close and the reference run does not. If you would rather run a different window, just make sure the end date is a trading day that has already closed. Use the previous closed day on the New York calendar: if today is the 24th in New York, use the 23rd. A session that is still open is still changing, so two downloads of it will not match.

3. Set the two fields, then click **Download** and let it finish. It usually takes under a minute, and the button greys out while it runs.

Interval	Minute
Data type	Last

When the button turns back to normal the download is done. Click the plus sign next to **Historical**: MNQ appears with one folder per contract month across the dates you chose. Close the window.

> DO NOT RELOAD THE CHART
>
> **After the download, do not reload the chart or touch anything on it. Run the backtest first.** After the backtest you can reload. On our VPS, reloading from the chart before the run put the trade count out by two or three; not reloading gave an exact match.

STEP 3 · RUN THE BACKTEST

1. **Open the Strategy Analyzer.** It opens as a Backtest.

Control Center › New › Strategy Analyzer

2. **Set the backtest.** Copy the checklist on the next page exactly. Leave every strategy setting at its default to see the published $300 reference model (Risk Per Trade 300), or test any other model you like.

Every field is in the checklist below, in the order the Strategy Analyzer shows them.

COPY THESE SETTINGS EXACTLY · THE CHECKLIST

General · Backtest type	Backtest
General · Strategy	Clara Core 26
01. Risk Settings · Risk Per Trade ($)	300
02. Time Zone · Time Hours Offset	0
02. Time Zone · Time Minutes Offset	0
Data Series · Instrument	the current MNQ contract
Data Series · Price based on	Last
Data Series · Type	Minute
Data Series · Value	2
Time frame · Start date	05/06/2019
Time frame · End date	the date on the performance page
Time frame · Break at EOD	Checked
Setup · Include commission	Checked
Setup · Commission template	NinjaTrader Brokerage Free
Historical fill processing · Order fill resolution	Standard (Fastest)
Historical fill processing · Slippage	0

One wrong field, most often the end date or the commission template, is almost always the reason results differ. Check this box first.

3. **Commission template: NinjaTrader Brokerage Free.** That is $0.95 per contract per side, $1.90 round turn, the highest of NinjaTrader's own rates. Most traders pay less than the numbers we publish assume.

4. Click Run. When it finishes, compare your total trades against the trade log on the Downloads page, or the figure on the Performance page. That is the number that tells you your data is right. Net profit and max drawdown should land very close, and the note below explains the small differences you may see.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Your trade count should match exactly, whichever target you picked: the reference run in this guide, or the published log if you used the performance page date. That is the number to check first, because it tells you your data is right.

Net profit may differ by a few dollars. Historical data is served fresh on every download and is not identical between them, so a fill can land a tick or two apart, and across fifteen hundred trades that is a few dollars. The trade count is the check.

If your trade count is off, close the Strategy Analyzer, open Historical Data and run the whole reset in Step 1 again, then download and run again. On our machines it matches on the first or second run.

None of this is specific to Clara Core; it is how historical data works in NinjaTrader. If you want it confirmed independently, NinjaTrader support will answer questions about their own data directly.

THE REFERENCE RUN

Clara Core 26, May 6, 2019 to September 30, 2026, the $300 model at every default. In the Strategy Analyzer, open the Summary tab, All trades, and you should see these lines, in this order:

Total net profit	$50,729.90
Commission	$3,950.10
Profit factor	1.56
Max. drawdown	($1,651.90)
Start date	5/6/2019
End date	9/30/2026
Total # of trades	1,568
Percent profitable	70.92%
# of winning trades	1,112

The trade count, the winners, the profit factor, the commission and the drawdown must match exactly; across three machines they did. Net profit is the one line that can differ, by a few dollars, and that is your data source. The drawdown here is NinjaTrader's closed-trade figure; the website publishes $1,811, the open-equity figure, and the Performance page explains the two. These figures are fixed. They are the run we published when this guide was written, and they are not updated when the website's numbers are. Use them as the demonstration: if your own run reproduces these, your data is right. For the current numbers, and the window they cover, go to the Performance page on the website.

IF YOUR NUMBERS DO NOT MATCH OURS

Almost always the cause is the data. Go back to Step 1 and run the whole reset again, then download with a completed trading day as the end date. Starting from empty is what makes the run repeatable.

One more setting to check if results still differ:

Control Center › Tools › Settings › Market data

Record live data as historical	Off

When it is on, NinjaTrader uses price data recorded on your own machine instead of the data from its servers.

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Trading futures involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for every investor. Past performance does not predict future results.

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