PropTradeBot

USER GUIDE · APP 1.11.2

Getting started with *PropTradeBot*

From download to your first signal, in order. Start on a practice account, check that it does what you expect, then switch on the accounts you trade.

Updated 16 October 2026 · About 20 minutes, plus your signal source

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01

Before you start

- **A Mac.** PropTradeBot is a macOS app and runs on your own Mac, not on a server. It must be running, and the Mac awake, while you trade.
- **A PropTradeBot subscription** (the 7-day trial counts).
- **Where your orders go**, one of:
  - **Topstep**, through Topstep's API. API access is billed by Topstep/ProjectX, separately from PropTradeBot. See Topstep's API access article (https://help.topstep.com/en/articles/11187768-topstepx-api-access) for the current price.

  - **NinjaTrader 8**, for any account you trade in NT8. NT8 runs on a Windows PC or a Windows virtual machine; follow the NinjaTrader 8 guide for that part, then come back to step 5. On this route you confirm that your firm allows automated trading through NT8; PropTradeBot doesn't check that for you.

- **Your signals**, one of:
  - **TradingView alerts**: a TradingView plan with webhook alerts, and two-factor authentication turned on.
  - **A Discord provider**: Google Chrome on the same Mac, open on the provider's channel.

> PropTradeBot executes **your** signals. It doesn't provide signals, trade calls or a strategy, and it doesn't promise any result.

02

Install the app

1. Download the app from proptradebot.com/downloads/PropTradeBot.dmg (https://proptradebot.com/downloads/PropTradeBot.dmg).
2. Open the DMG and drag **PropTradeBot.app** onto the **Applications** shortcut.
3. Open PropTradeBot from Applications. It's signed and notarized by Apple, so macOS opens it normally.

Setup opens by itself on first launch. Its four steps are shown at the top: **1. Connect · 2. Accounts · 3. Strategy · 4. Review & Save**.

Prefer to watch? Install PropTradeBot and connect Topstep (https://youtu.be/flwVcYgAV5s) (5 minutes) covers steps 2 to 7 on a practice account. No trades are placed in it.

03

Your PropTradeBot API key

Sign in at proptradebot.com/dashboard (https://proptradebot.com/dashboard) with the **same email you used on Whop**, and copy your PropTradeBot API key. The first setup screen, **Connect Your Broker(s)**, asks for it.

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Connect Topstep

Get your Topstep API key (from Topstep's article)

1. Create a ProjectX Dashboard account.
2. Subscribe to API Access there.
3. Link the subscription to your TopstepX profile. Skip this and you'll see "User lacks subscription".
4. Generate the API key in TopstepX.

Topstep doesn't give coding or API support, so if a step on their side fails, their article is the place to check.

In the app

1. Paste your **PropTradeBot API key**.
2. Answer **Which prop firm is your account with?**
3. Enter your **Topstep Username** (your email) and **Topstep API Key**, then click **Connect Topstep**.
4. When it works, the line changes to ✓ **connected** and you'll see **Topstep connected.** Click **Next →**.

> Key fields show **dots, not the key**, with a **Show** button. Don't click Show while you're recording or sharing your screen.

05

Choose your accounts

Trading Accounts asks **Do you use Topstep's Trade Copier?**

Answer	What PropTradeBot does
Yes	Trades one leader account. Topstep's copier copies it to your other accounts.
No	Places orders on each account you tick.

Nothing is selected for you. An account trades only when you turn it on. Practice accounts (their names contain `PRAC`) are listed first. **Start with one practice account.**

Topstep Live Funded accounts can't trade through Topstep's API (Topstep's rule), so PropTradeBot can't trade them.

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Strategy, stops and flatten time

Every trade is managed the same way: **one market entry, a stop on every position, T1 and T2 trims and a runner**, and flat before the close. Sizes, targets and stops are your settings.

Quick presets

MNQ 3-1-1, MNQ 1-1-1, MES 1-1-1, MNQ 4-1-1, MES 4-1-1, or Custom. **MES 1-1-1 is the smallest risk** (3 MES, 11-point stop), a sensible place to start. A preset sets the other instrument to 0 contracts, and an alert for an instrument left at 0 is refused.

Stop after T1

After T1 fills, the stop moves to your **Stop after T1** setting, in points from entry (0 = breakeven). The presets use 7 for MES and 35 for MNQ, so it is **not** breakeven unless you set 0.

Daily loss limit

Set per account. P&L comes from the broker's own fills. Setup refuses a strategy whose full stop is bigger than the daily loss limit (default $500).

Flatten time and entry cutoff

- **Set a flatten time.** There's no default, and until you set one, new entries are refused.
- Optional: **Stop taking new entries at**, a cutoff before the flatten.

- Both are on the **Strategy** tab after setup, so you can change them any time.

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Review and save

Check the summary on ✅ **Review & Save**, then click 💾 **Save & Restart Bot**. The app restarts into its home screen on the **Status** tab. If a position is open, it saves but won't restart until you're flat.

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Connect TradingView alerts

Your chart must be the contract you trade: `MES1!`, `ES1!`, `MNQ1!` or `NQ1!`. Video version: TradingView alerts: webhook, alert message, test alert (https://youtu.be/LIiwuvwtZrY) (4 minutes).

1. Get your webhook

On proptradebot.com/dashboard (https://proptradebot.com/dashboard), find 📈 **TradingView Strategy** and click **Generate Webhook**. You'll get a **Webhook URL**, a **Passphrase**, the alert message and a **Test first** message, each with a Copy button.

> The webhook URL and passphrase are **secrets**: together they let anyone send trades to your account. Never post or share them. If they leak, click **Regenerate Webhook**: the old URL and passphrase stop working, so paste the new ones into your TradingView alerts.

2. Send a test first

1. In TradingView, create an alert with any simple condition. Under Notifications, turn on **Webhook URL** and paste yours.
2. Paste the **Test first** message as the alert message.
3. When it fires, ask the dashboard's 💬 **Setup Assistant** "did my test alert arrive?"

The test is recorded on the website and **never sent to the app**, so it can't place an order. Delete the test alert afterwards.

3. Create the real alert

The dashboard's main message works on an alert **on your strategy**. Create an alert on your strategy, paste the Webhook URL under Notifications, and paste the message exactly as shown.

Using an indicator instead of a strategy? The app's **Alerts** tab has one message each for **Buy**, **Sell** and **Exit**. Replace `YOUR_WEBHOOK_PASSPHRASE` in them with your passphrase.

Alerts go TradingView → proptradebot.com → the app, which collects them while it's open and connected. **An alert not collected within 60 seconds is dropped, not traded late.**

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Connect a Discord provider

1. Download the PropTradeBot Connector (https://proptradebot.com/downloads/PropTradeBot-Connector-v5.0.2.zip) and unzip it.
2. In Chrome, open `chrome://extensions`, turn on **Developer mode**, click **Load unpacked** and choose the unzipped folder.
3. Open the Connector from Chrome's toolbar and paste the passphrase from PropTradeBot → **Alerts**.
4. In PropTradeBot → **Discord**, add the provider and **teach** it their messages: paste one real entry and one real exit.
5. **Start in Shadow.** The app logs what it would have traded, without trading.
6. Keep the provider's channel open in Chrome while you trade. When the shadow log looks right, switch the provider to **Live**.

Only messages that match what you taught are traded. Unrecognised or ambiguous messages never trade. If you still have the old Chrome extension (Connector 4.x or earlier), remove it.

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Day to day

- **Keep the app running and the Mac awake** during your session. If the Mac sleeps, signals in that time are missed.

- The home tabs are **Status, Alerts, Strategy, Accounts, Discord, Connection**, plus a red **Flatten all** button.
- **Status** shows the connection, the accounts being traded, the open trade, today's P&L and **Recent notices**.
- **One trade at a time.** A second entry while a trade is open is refused ("send an exit first").
- At your flatten time, positions are closed. On the NT8 route that's **every position on those accounts**, not only PropTradeBot's.
- The app won't restart while a trade is open.

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When it refuses a trade

PropTradeBot **refuses rather than guesses**, and says why under **Status → Recent notices**:

```
⛔ Alert refused: …
⛔ Entry refused: …
```

Common reasons:

- No flatten time set, past your entry cutoff, or past the flatten time.
- The wrong contract size, or an instrument set to 0 contracts.
- A second entry while a trade is open, or an exit with no open trade.
- A message it doesn't understand (for strategy alerts: "action must be buy, sell or exit").
- Discord: the market is more than **10 points (S&P)** or **40 points (Nasdaq)** from the provider's price, or no current price can be read.

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Getting help

- Email support@proptradebot.com. We reply within 24 hours.
- The PropTradeBot Discord: setup help, release news and feedback. No trade calls, no P&L posts.
- FAQ and videos: proptradebot.com/support.html (https://proptradebot.com/support.html)

- Firm rules: proptradebot.com/support.html#firm-rules (https://proptradebot.com/support.html#firm-rules). Always check your firm's current published rules.

APPENDIX

Trading through NinjaTrader 8

Connect PropTradeBot on your Mac to NinjaTrader 8 on Windows. About 15 minutes.

PropTradeBot runs on your Mac. NinjaTrader 8 runs on Windows, either a separate Windows PC or a Windows virtual machine on your Mac. A small NinjaTrader add-on, **PTBBridge**, connects the two. It places PropTradeBot's orders in NinjaTrader and enforces its own hard limits, even if PropTradeBot stops.

> **Before you start:** confirm that your prop firm allows automated trading through NinjaTrader 8 on your accounts. That's your responsibility. Setup asks you to confirm it, and PropTradeBot does not check it for you.

> **Downloads** (save both on the Windows PC)
>
> - PTBBridge.cs: the add-on
> - ptbbridge.cfg.example: a sample settings file
>
> You'll also need a Windows administrator login (for one firewall rule) and NinjaTrader 8 logged in.

1. Find the two addresses

You'll need two addresses, one for each machine.

- **The Windows PC's address.** On Windows, open *Command Prompt* and run `ipconfig`. Use the **IPv4 Address** of the network adapter that's connected (for example `192.168.1.20`).
- **Your Mac's address.** Open *System Settings* → *Wi-Fi* (or *Network*), click **Details...** on your connection. The **IP address** is on the TCP/IP tab (for example `192.168.1.15`).

Home routers can hand out new addresses after a restart. To stop that, reserve both addresses in your router's DHCP settings (often called "DHCP reservation" or "static lease"). Otherwise, if one changes, repeat the steps below that use it.

2. Create the add-on's settings file

On the Windows PC, create the file `Documents\NinjaTrader 8\ptbbridge.cfg`. Start from `ptbbridge.cfg.example` and change:

Setting	Set it to
`accounts=`	your NinjaTrader account name(s), exactly as on NinjaTrader's **Accounts** tab
`instruments=`	`MES`, or `MES,MNQ` if you also trade the Nasdaq leg
`max_order_qty=` and `max_position_qty=`	at least your **Contracts** setting in PropTradeBot
`daily_loss_limit=`	a dollar loss per account per day. When an account reaches it, the add-on **closes that account's position** and refuses new entries for the rest of the session (`0` = off)
`listen=`	**the Windows PC's address** from step 1
`allow_from=`	**your Mac's address** from step 1

The add-on will not start without this file. If `listen=` is set but `allow_from=` is missing, it also refuses to start, so the port is never open to everyone.

3. Allow the connection through Windows Firewall

Open *Command Prompt* **as administrator** (right-click → Run as administrator) and run, with your Mac's address:

```
netsh advfirewall firewall add rule name="PropTradeBot add-on" dir=in
action=allow protocol=TCP localport=7811 remoteip=192.168.1.15
```

It should print `Ok.` This lets only your Mac reach port 7811. If your Mac's address changes later, update the rule:

```
netsh advfirewall firewall set rule name="PropTradeBot add-on" new
remoteip=NEW.MAC.ADDRESS
```

Never forward port 7811 on your router. The add-on is for your own local network only.

4. Install the add-on in NinjaTrader

1. Copy `PTBBridge.cs` into `Documents\NinjaTrader 8\bin\Custom\AddOns\` on the Windows PC.
2. In NinjaTrader: **New → NinjaScript Editor**.
3. In the *NinjaScript Explorer* on the right, double-click **AddOns**, then double-click **PTBBridge**.
4. Right-click in the code → **Compile**. When it finishes there are no errors at the bottom, and the add-on starts straight away.
5. Close the NinjaScript Editor.

Check it started: in NinjaTrader's Control Center open the **Log** tab and look for

```
PTBBridge listening on 192.168.1.20:7811 allow_from=192.168.1.15
accounts=... roots=MES ...
```

with your addresses. The add-on starts by itself every time NinjaTrader starts.

5. Get the add-on token

The first time it starts, the add-on creates a random token in `Documents\NinjaTrader 8\ptbbridge_token.txt` on the Windows PC. Open the file and copy the token. PropTradeBot needs it to connect. Keep it private; anyone with the token and network access to the PC could send orders through the add-on.

6. Connect PropTradeBot

On your Mac, open PropTradeBot's setup:

1. Firm: **I trade through NinjaTrader 8 (any firm)**, and tick the confirmation.
2. **Add-on address:** the Windows PC's address from step 1. **Port:** `7811`. **Token:** from step 5.
3. **Connect & Find My Accounts**, then pick the account(s) PropTradeBot should trade.
4. **Flatten my NinjaTrader accounts at:** set it before your firm's cutoff, with a margin. It's required and has no default. At that time PropTradeBot closes **every position on those accounts**, not only its own trades, and takes no new entries until the 6:00 PM ET reopen.
5. Set your strategy and **Save & Restart**.

NinjaTrader must stay running and logged in while PropTradeBot trades. If the connection drops, PropTradeBot stops taking entries, then rebuilds any open trade from NinjaTrader's own positions when it reconnects.

If it doesn't connect

What you see	What it means	Fix
NinjaTrader Log: `PTBBridge refused a connection from 192.168.1.37 (not in allow_from)`	A machine at that address tried to connect but isn't in `allow_from=`. Usually your Mac's address changed	Put the address from the log line in `allow_from=` (and in the firewall rule), then restart NinjaTrader
NinjaTrader Log: `PTBBridge FAILED to start: listen=... needs allow_from=`	`listen=` is set without `allow_from=`	Add `allow_from=` with your Mac's address
NinjaTrader Log: `PTBBridge FAILED to start: missing ...ptbbridge.cfg`	The settings file is missing or misnamed (Windows may have added `.txt`)	Create `Documents\NinjaTrader 8\ptbbridge.cfg` (step 2)
NinjaTrader Log: `PTBBridge FAILED to start: unknown key in ptbbridge.cfg: ...`	A typo in a setting name	Fix the line it names
PropTradeBot setup can't connect, and nothing appears in NinjaTrader's Log	The connection never reached NinjaTrader: wrong address, firewall rule missing, or the two machines aren't on the same network	Check the address against `ipconfig`, re-run the firewall command in step 3, and make sure both machines are on the same home network
PropTradeBot says the token was refused	The token doesn't match `ptbbridge_token.txt`	Copy the token again (step 5)

Good to know

- The token travels unencrypted on your local network. That's normal for local trading tools, but only use this on a network you trust (your home network, not public Wi-Fi), and keep `allow_from=` to your Mac's address.

- The add-on's limits (`max_order_qty`, `max_position_qty`, `daily_loss_limit`) are a second safety net beside PropTradeBot's own. They hold even if PropTradeBot misbehaves.
- Only the stop rests at NinjaTrader. PropTradeBot fires its targets from NinjaTrader's live price, so you'll see one working stop order per trade and no resting target orders. That's by design.

Stuck? Contact support.

PropTradeBot is not affiliated with or endorsed by Topstep, ProjectX, NinjaTrader, TradingView, Discord or any signal provider. It executes your own signals and does not provide signals, trade calls, a strategy or advice. Futures trading involves substantial risk of loss.

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