



# MT4i Spread Controller v2

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## Contents:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Overview.....                                | 2 |
| 1.1 Overview of the MT4i Spread Controller..... | 2 |
| 1.2 Licence.....                                | 2 |
| 2. Installing the Spread Controller.....        | 3 |
| 3. Using the Spread Controller.....             | 4 |
| 3.1 Activating the Spread Controller.....       | 4 |
| 3.2 Altering the spread in backtests.....       | 4 |
| 3.3 Checking the spread.....                    | 5 |
| 3.4 Unloading the Spread Controller.....        | 5 |



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## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Overview of the MT4i Spread Controller

The MT4i Spread Controller is a tool for manually controlling the spread which is used in MetaTrader 4 strategy tests. Without this control, MT4 simply uses the most recent spread reported by the broker, which can often be unrepresentatively tight and beneficial. Control of spreads is particularly important when backtesting systems which place short-duration trades looking for small amounts of profit (e.g. scalpers).

Version 2 of MT4i's Spread Controller uses a different, simpler method to version 1. It no longer requires MT4 to be restarted after each change of spread.

### 1.2 Licence

**Unless otherwise specified in writing by MT4i.com, this software is licensed for personal use only. You are not allowed to distribute it to other people, regardless of whether or not money is changing hands.**

**The software is provided entirely at the user's risk, and you should check it thoroughly before deploying it on computers trading real money. MT4i.com accepts no responsibility whatsoever for any loss of any kind caused by installation or use of the software.**



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## 2. Installing the Spread Controller

The Spread Controller is supplied with an automated setup program. You simply run this setup program and the software is automatically added into the copies of MT4 which you choose.

The setup program installs the following files into MT4:

- experts\scripts\MT4i - Spread Controller v2.ex4. This is a script which you [run once each time after starting MT4](#).
- experts\libraries\MT4iSpreadChanger2Dll.dll. This is a DLL used by the above script.
- experts\MT4 – CheckSpreadEA.ex4. This is an EA which you can use in visual-mode backtests to [check that the spread is being altered correctly](#).

Please note that you need to turn on the “Allow DLL imports” setting in MT4’s Tools/Options/Expert Advisors in order to use the Spread Controller. (You can turn off “Confirm DLL function calls” to avoid unnecessary confirmation questions.)

The Spread Controller has been tested with build 432 of MT4 only. It may not be compatible with future releases of MT4; in future you may need to downgrade to build 432 in order to continue using the Spread Controller.



# MT4i Spread Controller v2

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## 3. Using the Spread Controller

### 3.1 Activating the Spread Controller

After starting MT4, you need to activate the Spread Controller by running the script “MT4i Spread Controller v2”. The script then remains active until you close MT4.

You only need to run this script once each time that you start MT4, on the chart for **any** symbol. You do not need to run the script before each backtest, and you do not need to run it for each symbol which you are going to backtest.

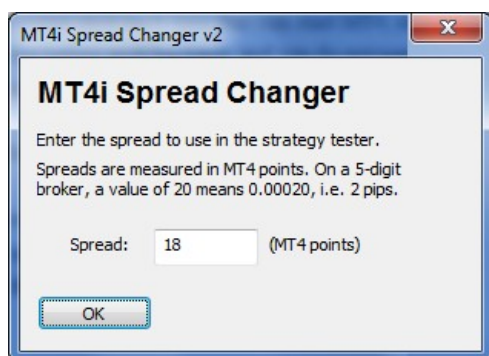
Instructions for running the script are simply as follows:

- Turn on the “Allow DLL Imports” setting in Tools/Options/Expert Advisors.
- Open a chart for any symbol and timeframe.
- Double-click on the script in the MT4 Navigator list, or drag the script from the Navigator onto the chart.

The script will display a confirmation message when you load it. You can close the chart after running the script.

### 3.2 Altering the spread in backtests

Each time that you start a backtest, you will be prompted to override the spread which is used. The following window will appear soon after you click on the Start button in the Tester pane:



The window shows the default spread, in MT4 points. If your broker uses 5 digits, then a point is one-tenth of a pip, i.e. 1 means 0.00001 on EUR/USD, and 20 therefore means 2 pips. On a 4-digit broker/symbol, a point is a pip. For example, a spread of 1 means 0.0001 on EUR/USD.



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(The default spread which MT4 suggests is simply the current market spread for the symbol.)

## **3.3 Checking the spread**

You can check that the spread is being altered correctly by running a visual-mode backtest of the “MT4i – CheckSpreadEA” EA which is supplied with the Spread Controller. This will display the spread being used.

## **3.4 Unloading the Spread Controller**

You can unload the Spread Controller simply by restarting MT4.