FREE BONUS CHAPTER

THE 1ST HOUR DEALING RANGE

An ICT Smart Money Concepts lesson
by Ash Cole

INCLUDES A FREE TRADINGVIEW INDICATOR

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

> What the 1st Hour Dealing Range is

> Why your charts must run on New York time

> The Opening Range Gap and its 50% level

> The 70% rule in the first 30 minutes

> Marking the range + standard-deviation targets

> Bodies vs wicks: reading true order flow

ASH COLE

agenticedgelab.ai

FREE TRADINGVIEW INDICATOR

ICT 1st Hour Dealing Range | Ash Cole

Search TradingView's indicator list for that exact name to add it free. It plots the 9:30-10:30 range, its 50% midpoint and the standard-deviation levels on your chart automatically.

What Is It?

The 1st Hour Dealing Range is the high and low that price builds during the first hour of Regular Trading Hours — 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM Eastern Time.

That one-hour window becomes your reference range for the rest of the day. Think of it like a ruler. Once the algorithm builds it, it uses it as a measuring stick — and so should you.

Quick note on the name. In strict ICT terms, a “dealing range” is drawn from a swing high to a swing low where price grabbed liquidity on both sides — that’s how you read premium and discount. Here we’re borrowing that same read and applying it to the first hour of the session. So when I say “dealing range” in this lesson, I mean your 9:30–10:30 opening range, used the ICT way.

Charts Must Be on Eastern Time — No Exceptions

Before anything else, set your charts to New York time. Every level in this lesson — 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, the 4:14 close — only lines up if your clock matches the exchange. Wrong time zone, wrong levels, wrong trade. This is the one setting you never skip.

The Opening Range Gap Comes First

Before you mark the 1st Hour Dealing Range, mark the Regular Trading Hours Opening Range Gap (RTH ORG). This is the gap between yesterday’s 4:14 PM candle close and today’s 9:30 AM open.

You've got two prices: the prior 4:14 close and the 9:30 open. The higher of the two is your RTH ORG High. The lower of the two is your RTH ORG Low. That's it — it's just geometry:

- Gap up (9:30 open is above the 4:14 close) -> the 9:30 open is the ORG High, the 4:14 close is the ORG Low.
- Gap down (9:30 open is below the 4:14 close) -> the 4:14 close is the ORG High, the 9:30 open is the ORG Low.

Draw a Fibonacci between those two points. The 50% level is your consequent encroachment — the midpoint of the gap, and the level that matters most.

The 70% Rule in the First 30 Minutes

According to ICT, there's roughly a 70% chance price retraces at least halfway into the opening range gap inside the first 30 minutes — from 9:30 to 10:00 AM Eastern. In other words, price gets pulled toward that midpoint (the consequent encroachment) before the first hour even finishes.

The algorithm tends to steer price back to the gap's midpoint early. Make a habit of watching for it every single morning. Once you've seen it happen a few dozen times, you'll stop being surprised by it.

Marking the 1st Hour Dealing Range

Once 10:30 AM hits, your range is locked in:

- High = the highest price between 9:30 and 10:30 AM ET
- Low = the lowest price between 9:30 and 10:30 AM ET
- Midpoint (50%) = the consequent encroachment of the range — your most important internal level

Expecting an expansion day? Project the standard deviations of that range for your targets — ±0.5, ±1.0, ±1.5, ±2.0 of the range height extended above and below. On a quiet day, price mostly just rotates inside the first-hour range. The standard deviation levels are where it goes when it decides to run.

Bodies vs. Wicks — The Key Read

This trips up a lot of retail traders. ICT is clear: bodies matter more than wicks.

A wick can spike past the range and snap right back — that's normal. That's price reaching out to grab liquidity, running stops, then returning. So wicks aren't meaningless noise; they show you exactly where liquidity got taken. But they don't tell you where price wants to settle.

The bodies do. Where candles close — above or below the midpoint — is your real read on order flow. Bodies closing in the lower half of the range mean bearish order flow. Bodies closing in the upper half mean bullish. The wick shows you the raid. The body shows you the truth.

How It Connects to the Rest of the Day

The first hour sets the stage for the whole session. You use this range to define targets, anticipate the afternoon move, and pinpoint where price reacts to the Price Delivery Algorithm (PDA).

Once that hour closes, you stop guessing. You have a clean high, a clean low, and a midpoint. The algorithm handed you the range — now your job is simply to watch how price behaves around it: the bodies, the wicks, and the other ICT concepts you've been building.

The 1st Hour Dealing Range is your daily anchor. Mark the 9:30–10:30 high and low. Find the midpoint. Watch where the bodies land — and let the algorithm show you the way.

BEFORE YOU GO

Keep building the edge.

This is one free lesson from a much bigger system. If you want the whole thing — the daily script, the entry engine, the traps to avoid — it’s all laid out, step by step, in the books.

Day Trading for Beginners
ICT Smart Money Concepts - the foundations, A to Z

Conservative Day Trading Strategies
The mechanical system, session by session (Kindle)

Get the full free library
agenticedgelab.ai

ICT methodology was created by Michael J. Huddleston, The Inner Circle Trader (youtube.com/@InnerCircleTrader). This is an independent educational interpretation, not official ICT material.

Educational content only and not financial advice. Trading involves substantial risk; only trade with capital you can afford to lose.

Trade smart. Trade with patience. Trade for freedom. - Ash Cole