

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF STOCKS & COMMODITIES™

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REVIEWS, WEBSITES

- *Commodity Explorer*
- *ETFConnect.com*
- *AlphaTrends.blogspot.com*

TRADERS' RESOURCE

Online trading services 87



MARCH 2007

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ALPHATRENDS.BLOGSPOT.COM

One of the blogs I try to read on a regular basis, equityinvestmentideas.blogspot.com, had a posting where author Yaser Anwar listed all the blogs and tools that he considered his favorites. In the technical analysis section within that list, one that was mentioned was Alpha Trends, mainly because of its excellent video posts. Curious because I'd never visited a technical analysis video blog, I clicked on it. Sure enough, Brian Shannon from MarketWise had several video posts of technical charts on his blog, alphatrends.blogspot.com.

Consider it the YouTube of technical analysis. Shannon discusses charts and draws trendlines, points out various scenarios on the charts, literally walks you through several charts, and gives you a condensed version of what he sees in these charts. You essentially get one-on-one tutoring with him. Some days he will discuss trading ideas; sometimes he gives a general review of the stock market, and other times he will discuss the stock of the day on Wallstrip, another blog (the review of which we will save for another issue). When discussing trading ideas, Shannon will at times suggest what price at which to enter a trade, where to place the stop-loss, and where the price target should be. In his review of the stock market, he mostly discusses the broader indexes but discusses relevant stocks as well.

WEBSITES: ETFCONNECT.COM

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asked questions, a glossary, and a set of links to other financial resources including and not including information about closed-end and exchange traded funds (links to a REIT website and to the CBOE Learning Center, for example).

Know Your Funds is especially thorough, covering a wealth of topics that investors and traders in closed-end and exchange traded funds need to know, from legal structure to net asset value to investment risk and buying and selling. ETFConnect.com's glossary is also complete and extends beyond the world of closed-end and exchange traded funds.

There are a number of good websites on the Internet — many of them spon-

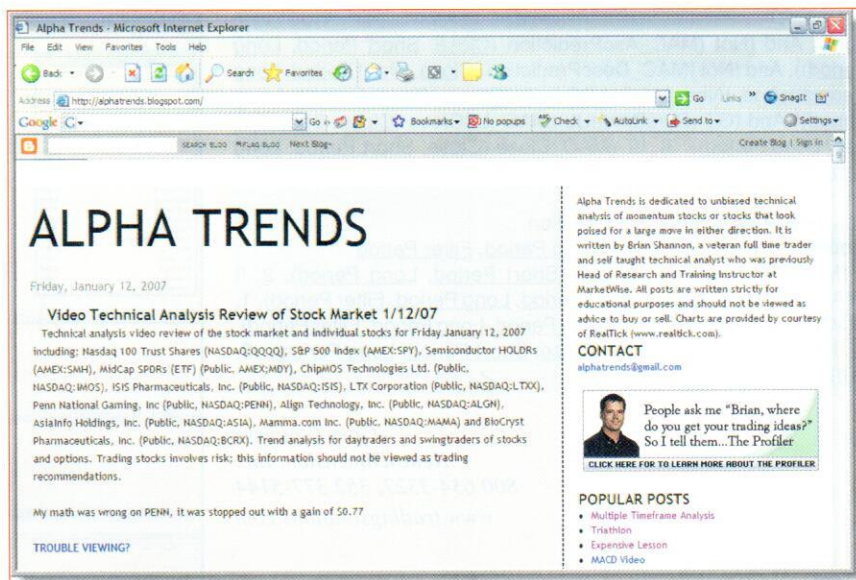


FIGURE 1: ALPHATRENDS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Shannon doesn't tell you what to trade, but he teaches you how to apply technical analysis by walking you through several examples in each posting. He points out where the pullbacks are, where the market may be indecisive, the support/resistance levels, and where to be cautious or aggressive. There are times when he will discuss certain trades MarketWise was involved in and identify where the trade was placed, where the stop-loss was, and where the exit was. He uses this as a plug for the course he offers at MarketWise, which is where he will teach you how to iden-

tify these setups.

Although you may have to take one of the courses Brian Shannon offers at MarketWise, you still can learn a lot from viewing the videos posted on this site. And given that it is a blog, you'll find other features that are quite entertaining, especially from some of the links that are listed as well as personal stories of tech gadgets. I can guarantee that chartists will find this blog entertaining and interesting.

—Jayanthi Gopalakrishnan, Editor

‡AlphaTrends.blogspot.com



sored by firms like Nuveen Investments — that provide excellent, accurate information about closed-end and exchange traded funds. Some limit their information to those funds that they themselves sponsor, while others — like ETFConnect.com — strive to be more of an all-purpose resource for closed-end and exchange traded fund information. The website advertises itself as being a new and improved version with a “new layout, features and content.” It will be worthwhile to see how ETFConnect.com grows as interest in and the market for closed-end and exchange traded funds grows in the years to come.

—David Penn, Technical Writer

‡ETFConnect.com



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