

TIQ Range Identifier

User Guide
Trader IQ Pty Ltd

What It Does

The Range Identifier is a MetaTrader 5 indicator that automatically detects price consolidation zones and draws them on your chart. It finds periods where price is trading sideways within a defined range, marks the high and low boundaries, and then monitors for a breakout. When price closes outside the range, the drawing stops and the range is stored as a completed historical zone.

Installation

Copy the .mq5 file into your MQL5/Indicators folder, compile it in MetaEditor, then drag it onto any chart. The indicator works on whatever symbol and timeframe the chart is set to.

How It Works

Range Detection

The indicator scans backward from the current bar looking for a stretch of consecutive candles where the overall high-to-low spread stays within an acceptable ATR-based envelope. It requires the range size to be between a minimum and maximum number of ATRs – too narrow and it may be noise, too wide and it is not a genuine consolidation.

Touch Validation

A valid range must show that price has interacted with both the upper and lower boundaries. The indicator defines a “touch zone” as the top and bottom 20% of the range, then counts how many distinct visits price makes to each zone. A range is only confirmed if there are at least two touches on one side and at least one on the other.

Active vs Completed Ranges

Once a valid consolidation is found and price has not yet broken out, the range is marked as active. The high and low lines extend to the right edge of the chart in real time. When a bar closes outside the range (plus any optional breakout threshold), the range is frozen at that point and stored as a completed range.

Historical Scan

On startup, the indicator can scan backwards through historical bars to find and draw completed ranges from the past. This gives you immediate visual context of where previous consolidation zones formed and broke.

What Gets Drawn

For each range, the indicator draws a high boundary line (blue by default), a low boundary line (red by default), and optionally a filled rectangle between them (grey by default). Active ranges have their lines extended to the right. Completed ranges end at the breakout bar.

Input Parameters

Detection Settings

Input	Default	Description
Lookback period in bars	50	How far back from the current bar the indicator searches for consolidation patterns.
Minimum bars for consolidation	10	The minimum number of bars a sideways period must last to qualify as a range. Shorter periods are ignored.
Maximum range size in ATR	3.5	The upper limit for range size measured in ATR units. Consolidations wider than this are rejected.
Minimum range size in ATR	1.5	The lower limit for range size measured in ATR units. Very tight consolidations below this are rejected.
ATR period	14	The ATR lookback period used to normalise range measurements.
Breakout threshold in ATR	0.0	How far beyond the range boundary a bar must close to count as a breakout. Set to 0 for any close outside the range. A value of 0.2 would require the close to be 0.2 ATR beyond the boundary.

Historical Scanning

Input	Default	Description
Scan historical bars on startup	true	Enable or disable the historical scan when the indicator first loads.
Number of historical bars to scan	5000	How many bars of history to process during the initial scan.

Display Settings

Input	Default	Description
Range High Line Color	DodgerBlue	Colour of the upper boundary line.
Range Low Line Color	Crimson	Colour of the lower boundary line.
Range Box Color	SlateGray	Colour of the filled rectangle between the boundaries.
Line Width	2	Thickness of the boundary lines.
Line Style	Solid	Style of the boundary lines (solid, dash, dot, etc.).
Show Range Rectangle	true	Toggle the filled background rectangle on or off.
Maximum ranges to display	50	Maximum number of ranges kept on screen. Older ranges are removed when this limit is exceeded.

Tips

The indicator works best on timeframes where consolidation patterns are meaningful for your trading style – typically H1 and above for swing setups, or M15/M30 for intraday ranges. Adjust the minimum/maximum ATR range to suit the instrument's typical consolidation behaviour. If you are seeing too many or too few ranges, start by adjusting the Minimum bars for consolidation and the ATR range limits.