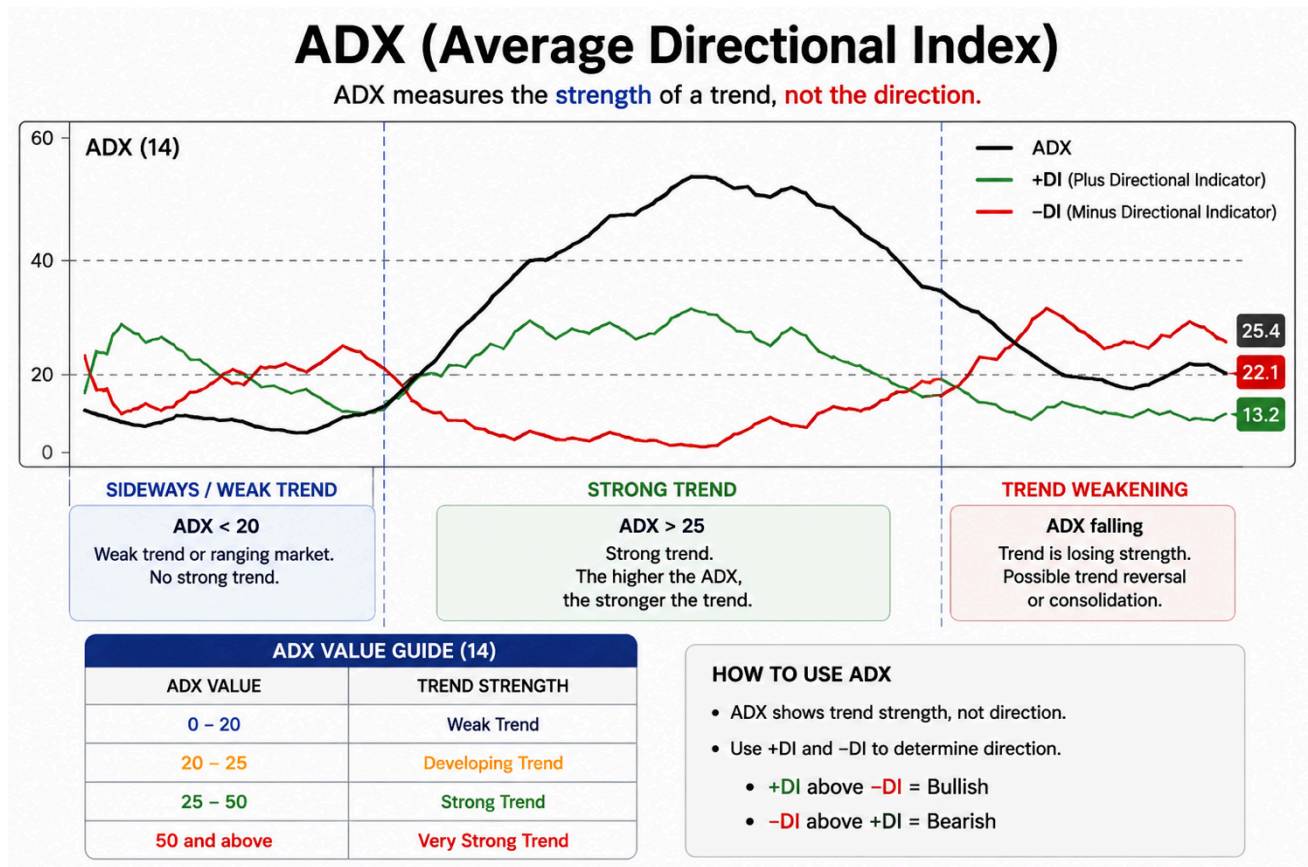


ADX SIDEWAY ZONE DETECTOR

Usage Guide - MT5 Custom Indicator

Author / Credit: **LengScalper**

Idea from: [B Sai \(Btrader Founder\)](#)



This guide covers how the indicator detects sideways (ranging) zones from ADX behavior, how to install it in MetaTrader 5, what every input does, and how to read the on-chart dashboard - including the calendar heatmap and the Phnom Penh (or any timezone you choose) time display.

1. What This Indicator Does

The indicator watches the ADX (Average Directional Index) for a specific sequence of events that, historically, tends to precede a period of range-bound / choppy price action. When that sequence completes, it draws a shaded box ('SIDEWAY zone') directly on the price chart for a fixed duration, so you can visually avoid trading breakout strategies inside it (or specifically target it for range strategies).

The logic is a simple 4-state machine:

ADX Sideway Zone Detector — State Machine

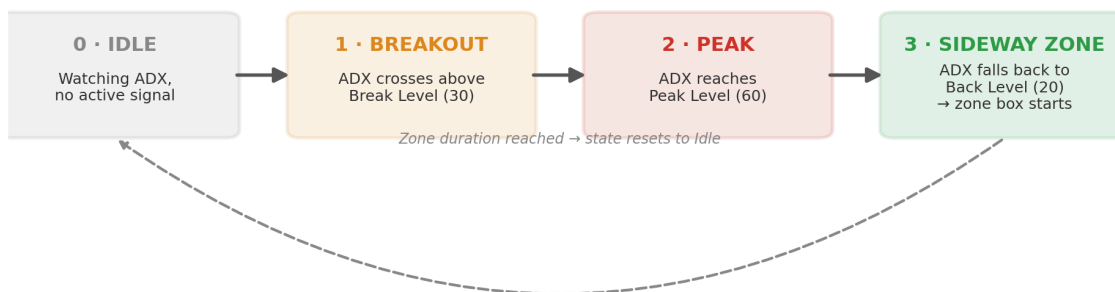


Figure 1 - The four states the indicator cycles through on every closed bar.

2. How a Zone Gets Drawn on the Chart

The diagram below illustrates the same sequence against a real ADX line and price chart. Once ADX breaks above the Break Level and later touches the Peak Level, the indicator arms itself. When ADX then falls back down to the Back Level, it marks that bar as the start of a sideways zone and begins drawing/growing the shaded rectangle until the configured duration is reached.

How a Sideway Zone Gets Drawn

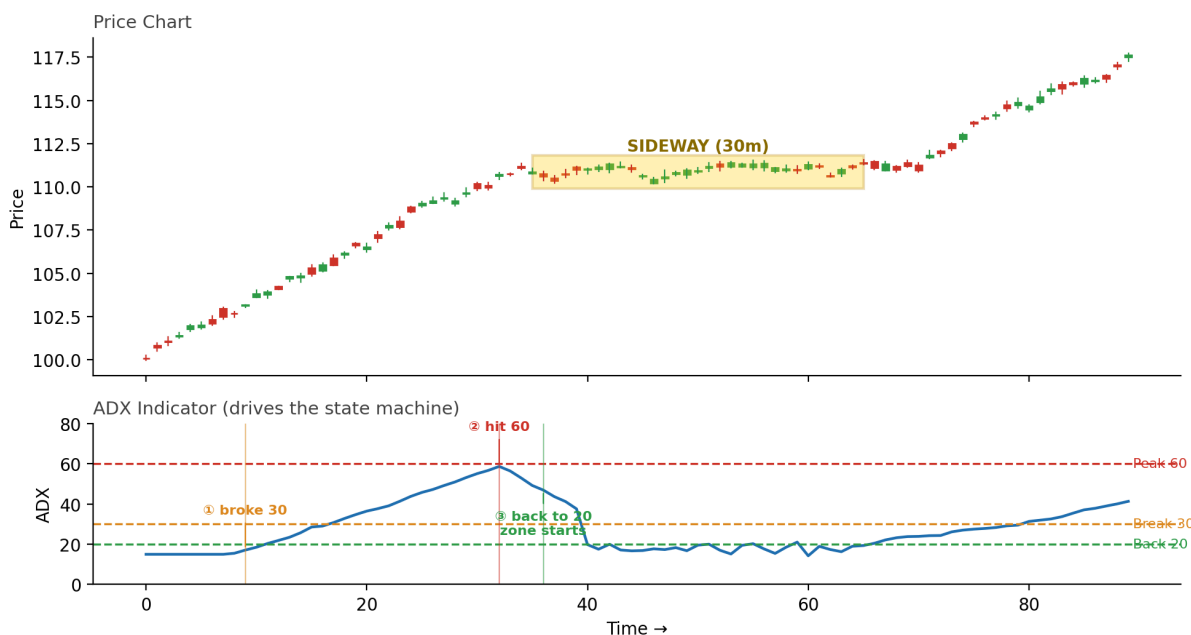


Figure 2 - Conceptual illustration; your actual chart will use real candles and ADX values.

3. Installation

1. Open MetaTrader 5, then go to File → Open Data Folder.
2. Navigate to MQL5 → Indicators and copy ADX_Sideway_Zone_Detector.ex5 into that folder.
3. Back in MT5, right-click Indicators in the Navigator panel and choose Refresh (or restart MT5).

4. Drag the indicator from the Navigator onto the chart you want to use it on.
5. In the settings window, review the input groups (covered in Section 4) and click OK.

4. Input Reference

ADX Settings

Input	What it does
InpADXLen	ADX / DI calculation length (default 14).
InpADXSmooth	ADX smoothing period (default 14).

Logic Levels

Input	What it does
InpBreakLevel	ADX level that, once crossed upward, marks the start of a trend (default 30).
InpPeakLevel	ADX level that confirms a strong trend is underway (default 60).
InpBackLevel	ADX level the indicator waits for on the way back down - crossing it starts the sideways zone (default 20).

Zone Settings

Input	What it does
InpZoneDurationMin	How many minutes the shaded zone box covers once it starts (default 30).
InpZoneColor / InpZoneBorderColor	Fill and border color of the zone rectangle.
InpShowLabels	Show the 'SIDEWAY (Xm)' text label above each completed zone.
InpShowDebug	Show small debug labels at each state transition (① broke, ② hit, ③ back to) - useful while tuning levels.

Alert Settings

Input	What it does
InpEnableAlerts	Master switch for all alerts below.
InpAlertPopup / InpAlertPush / InpAlertSound	Choose one or more alert delivery methods: popup, mobile push, or sound.
InpAlertSoundFile	Sound file played when InpAlertSound is on.

Session / Timezone

Input	What it does
InpBrokerUTCOffsetHours	Your broker server's own UTC offset (hours). Check your broker's server time vs. real UTC and enter it here - e.g. 3 for a GMT+3 broker.
InpDisplayUTCOffsetHours	The timezone the dashboard displays everything in. Defaults to 7 (Phnom Penh / Bangkok / Jakarta). Set to 0 for UTC, -5 for New York, 9 for Tokyo, etc.

These two settings work together: the indicator converts every broker-time bar into **(broker time) + (Display offset – Broker offset)** hours before showing it anywhere on the dashboard - the live clock, the calendar day grouping,

and every zone's start time in the day list. Getting *InpBrokerUTCOffsetHours* right is the important one; *InpDisplayUTCOffsetHours* is just 'what timezone do I want to look at'.

Dashboard

Input	What it does
InpShowDashboard	Show/hide the whole on-chart dashboard panel.
InpDashboardX / InpDashboardY	Pixel offset of the dashboard's top-left corner.
InpHistoryStartDate / InpHistoryEndDate	Date range of zones to track for the calendar/stats (0 for end date = until now).
InpColorGoodDay / InpColorMixedDay / InpColorChoppyDay	Calendar day-cell tint for 1 / 2 / 3+ zones that day.
InpColorNoZoneDay / InpColorInProgress	Calendar day-cell tint for no zones, and for a zone still forming today.

Chart Appearance

Input	What it does
InpSetWhiteBackground / InpBackgroundColor / InpGridColor / InpForegroundColor	Optionally force the chart to a clean white theme with matching grid/text colors.
InpSetCandleColors + Bull/Bear color inputs	Optionally recolor candle bodies and wicks to match the white theme.

5. Reading the Dashboard

The dashboard sits in the top-left of the chart by default (movable via InpDashboardX/InpDashboardY). Here's what each numbered section shows:

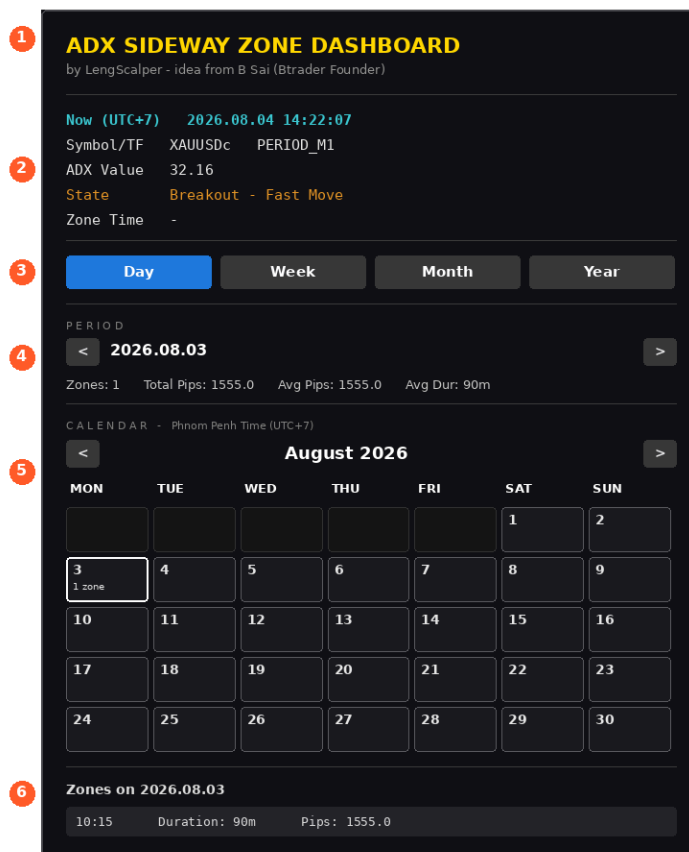


Figure 3 - Dashboard layout with numbered sections (mock data shown).

#	Section	Description
1	Title & credit	Indicator name plus the 'by LengScalper - idea from B Sai (Btrader Founder)' credit line.
2	Live status	Live clock in your chosen display timezone, current symbol/timeframe, live ADX value, current state, and the in-progress zone's elapsed/remaining time.
3	Period filter	Switch the stats/calendar view between Day, Week, Month, and Year.
4	Range nav + stats	Step the selected period backward/forward with </>, and see zone count, total pips, average pips, and average duration for it.
5	Calendar	Month heatmap - click </> to change month, click any day to list its zones below. Cell color reflects how many zones happened that day.
6	Zone list	Every completed zone on the day you clicked: start time (in your display timezone), duration, and size in pips. Click a row to jump the chart to that zone.

Calendar cell colors (configurable via the Color inputs): green = 1 clean zone that day, orange = 2 zones, red/tomato = 3+ zones (choppy day), dark gray = no zone, and a blue-purple tint = a zone still actively forming today.

6. Tips

- **Tuning levels:** turn on InpShowDebug temporarily to see exactly where each ADX threshold is being crossed on your chart, then adjust Break/Peak/Back levels to fit the instrument and timeframe you trade.
- **Timezone:** set InpBrokerUTCOffsetHours once per broker/account - it does not change with daylight saving unless your broker's own offset does. If zone times on the dashboard look off by a fixed number of hours, this is almost always the input to check first.
- **Performance:** the state machine only processes each bar once it closes, so leaving the indicator running for a long time on a low timeframe is fine - it doesn't replay full history on every tick.
- **Alerts:** combine InpAlertPopup with InpAlertSound if you want to notice a fresh breakout/peak/zone-start without staring at the chart.

ADX Sideway Zone Detector - by LengScalper; idea from B Sai (Btrader Founder).