

Guide to Option Symbols



In February 2010, the financial services industry will be transitioning to a new option symbol format. The current system poses several limitations to the industry, and the new symbology created by the Options Clearing Corporation (OCC) is designed to be better equipped to accommodate current and future options products. Scottrade is scheduled to make this transition beginning after market close on **Jan. 22, 2010**.

Option Symbol Quick Reference

Option Contract Example <i>(company is fictional)</i>	Call option on XYZ Corporation expiring March 2010 with a strike price of \$27.50
Option Root Symbol	XYQ
Underlying Ticker Symbol	XYZ
Current Option Symbol	XYQCU

After Conversion (Jan. 22, 2010)

The symbol changes to the new format, but preserves the old root symbol.

OCC Format	XYQ 100320C00027500
Scottrade Format	XYQ 27.50 MAR 10 C

After Consolidation (see consolidation dates to the right)

The root symbol changes to match the ticker symbol for the underlying.

OCC Format	XYZ 100320C00027500
Scottrade Format	XYZ 27.50 MAR 10 C

Symbol Formats Explained

OCC Format

XYZ	10	03	20	C	00027	500
Symbol	Year	Month	Day	C/P	Dollar	Decimal
Underlying	Expiration Date			Call/Put	Strike Price	

Scottrade Format

XYZ	27.50	MAR	10	C
Symbol	Dollars & Cents	Month	Year	C/P
Underlying	Strike Price	Expiration Date		Call/Put

Conversion vs. Consolidation

Conversion

Industry-wide transition to a more comprehensive system of option symbols. Scottrade is scheduled to begin making this transition on **Jan. 22, 2010**. On that date, all open option orders will be canceled after market close. You may re-enter your orders once the conversion process is complete.

Consolidation

Process by which options with root symbols that are different than the ticker symbol of the underlying will be phased out. Once consolidated, all options will use the same symbol as the underlying security. On the consolidation date for a given symbol, open option orders for that symbol will be canceled and may be re-entered once consolidation is complete.

How You're Affected

- All open option orders will be canceled after market close on Friday, Jan. 22, 2010. You may re-enter these orders once the conversion process is complete.
- To keep your watch lists and alerts up to date after conversion and consolidation, you will need to convert any option symbols to the new format used by Scottrade.
- If you have Scottrader Streaming Quotes or ScottradeELITE layouts where option symbols are present, you should load, modify and save your layouts using the new Scottrade option symbol format.
- After market close on the consolidation date for a given symbol, all open option orders for that symbol will be canceled and may be re-entered once consolidation is complete.

2010 Dates to Remember

Conversion

Jan. 22 All option symbols

Consolidation

March 12 Special group of symbols
 April 9 Symbols beginning "A" to "C"
 April 23 Symbols "D" to "I"
 May 7 Symbols "J" to "R"
 May 14 Symbols "S" to "Z"

Consolidation groups are based on the first letter of the underlying security. Dates are subject to change.

Questions? Call your local branch office at 1-800-619-SAVE or e-mail support@scottrade.com.