

XAUUSD Scalping (5-minute) strategy

A 5-minute gold scalping strategy with IST hours, a cost check and a free Pine Script. By M. A. Horaira, updated 5 October 2026.

THE RULES

- **Chart:** XAUUSD on the 5-minute chart, with a 20 EMA and a 50 EMA
- **Trend filter:** longs only when the 20 EMA is above the 50 EMA and the 15-minute chart's close is above its own 50 EMA; shorts the other way round
- **Entry:** a candle dips to the 20 EMA and closes back above it as a bullish candle (bearish and below for a short)
- **Stop loss and target:** $1 \times$ the 14-period ATR from the entry; target $1.5 \times$ the risk
- **Hours:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. London time: 12:30 to 21:30 IST in summer, 13:30 to 22:30 IST in winter
- **Limits:** 0.5% risk a trade and at most 3 trades a day

WORKED EXAMPLE

XAUUSD long at 4,278.36, ATR \$1.86
 → stop 4,276.50, target 4,281.15
 (1.5R). \$10,000 at 0.5% = \$50 ÷
 (\$1.86 × 100 oz) = 0.26 lots: −\$48.36
 at the stop, +\$72.54 at the target,
 before costs.



Illustrative chart drawn to show the rules, not a real day's prices.

TIMES IN IST

	Summer	Winter
London open	12:30	13:30
London–New York overlap	17:30 – 21:30	18:30 – 22:30
US data (stand aside)	18:00	19:00
Window ends	21:30	22:30

Summer = BST for London times and US daylight time for US times.
 UK clocks change on 25 Oct 2026, US clocks on 1 Nov 2026.

BEFORE EVERY TRADE

- ☐ 20 EMA above 50 EMA AND 15-minute close above its 50 EMA?
- ☐ Candle touched the 20 EMA and closed back above it, bullish?
- ☐ Inside the trading window, no big news due?
- ☐ Fewer than 3 trades and less than 1.5% lost today?
- ☐ Spread small compared with the \$ stop?

BACKTEST IT BEFORE YOU TRADE IT

1. Open the chart on TradingView.
2. Pine Editor → paste the free script → Add to chart.
3. Settings → Properties: add your commission and slippage.
4. Look for 100+ trades, a profit factor above 1 after costs, and a drawdown you can live with.
5. Check the same settings on other dates, then demo trade for a few weeks.
6. Free script: pipledgerfx.com/downloads/xauusd-scalping-strategy.pine

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pipledgerfx.com/xauusd-scalping-strategy