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# The Smart Option Seller

Let's Grab That Cash!



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Issue #1081 January 31, 2024 - By Lee Lowell

## Profit Results - Micron Technology (MU)

Hello Smart Option Sellers,

Quick housekeeping note:

I've been getting messages from my email server that my responses to some of your email questions are being returned to me undeliverable. I'm trying to find out if it's on my end or your end.

In the meantime, if you've sent me an email and haven't heard back from me, please check your spam folder.

Also, I'm trying to send replies to your questions from a back-up Gmail account of mine, so if you receive something from me from a Gmail address, don't worry, it's legit.

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Another profitable MU trade in the books.

We had no problem getting filled yesterday on the buy-back trade.

Fills occurred at both \$.06 & \$.07 per contract, so we'll take the official mark at \$.07 per.

As mentioned yesterday, MU's chip sector colleague AMD, was reporting their earnings after the bell yesterday and that it was prudent that we lock in gains on MU.

Well, AMD didn't really excite the market, and it's stock price got hit, dragging MU (and NVDA) down with it in sympathy.

As I type, MU is down under \$1 per share so far. Not too bad.

Here's what we did (official):

**Bought back (bought-to-close) all of the MU March 15, 2024 \$62.50 strike put option contracts for an official debit buy price of \$.07 per contract as a closing transaction (bought-to-close).**

Currently, this put option is trading \$.08 to \$.09 per, so if you didn't place your buy-back trade yet, you can still get filled under the \$.10 per contract high limit we set.

Or if you wish, you can opt to hold for longer and see if the option prices declines a bit more.

**Do not** pay more than \$.10 per contract.

The U.S. Federal Reserve will be releasing its latest interest rate policy decision at 2pm EDT today, and chairman Powell will have his news conference at 2:30pm EDT.

I don't expect too much craziness in the market after the decision is released, but to err on the side of caution, we will hold off on any new play today.

Here are the MU profit details:

We originally established (sold-to-open) this put option on January 3, 2024 for a sale price of \$.26 per contract, and now we took gains by buying it back (bought-to-close) for \$.07 per contract.

With the fill at \$.07, it locked in a gain of \$.19 per contract (\$19 for every contract traded) and a return on margin (ROM) of 1.5% ( $\$19/\$1,250$ ) in four week's time. If you like to annualize, the return is roughly 19.5%.

You might notice, that although our dollar gains are typically the same for each trade, our ROM can fluctuate quite a bit.

The reason being - the strike price has everything to do with how much margin you will be required to hold aside, and thus, will affect your ROM. The higher the strike price, the higher the margin requirement. And vice versa. This is the main reason why I like to focus on lower-priced stocks - typically \$50 and under.

To understand how the margin works and the calculations involved, here's the breakdown:

Whenever we sell an option contract, your broker will require you to maintain a "margin requirement".

The margin requirement is made up of free cash funds that are already in your account and will need to be held aside while the trade is active. Think of it as collateral. You are not borrowing money from anyone nor are you paying interest to anyone.

Some people can confuse the margin requirement with "buying on margin". They are completely different concepts. We are not "buying on margin" when selling put options (you can read my Margin Primer in the Members-Only section of the website).

The margin requirement is typically 20% of what it would cost to buy 100 shares of the stock at the strike price. In this case:  $20\% \times \$6,250 = \$1,250$ . Your specific margin requirement at your broker may be higher or lower than that. If you are unsure, just ask them. Your margin requirement will also have an effect on your final ROM.

So for this trade, our margin requirement was \$1,250 per each put option contract sold.

Our profit on this trade turned out to be \$19 per each put option contract sold.

Hence, the return on margin (ROM) comes out to  $\$19/\$1,250 = 1.5\%$ .

Also, the fill at \$.07 allowed us to capture 73% of the full profit potential ( $\$.19 \text{ gain}/\$.26 \text{ full potential} = 73\%$ ).

When selling options (puts or calls), your full profit potential is capped at what you initially sell the option for. In this case, that amount was \$.26 per contract.

We like to close trades early (buy-to-close) before expiration when we can capture at least 80% of the full profit potential. This is called my "80% Rule". Although we captured a touch less than 80% on this trade, we still locked in good gains.

Locking in early wins is just smart money management and it allows us to free up cash to put towards new trades.

Congratulations to those of you who participated.

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Ok, that's all for now.

Continue to hold all other positions as-is.

Contact us [here](#) with fills, comments, questions or concerns.

Best,

Lee

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## Current Portfolio

Continue to work all other trades as instructed and continue to hold all other open positions as-is.

See the Current Portfolio below for current prices & instructions.

**Note on the Current Portfolio - if you are a new subscriber and don't have a position yet on any of our trades, make sure you enter your order at the original recommended prices. The Current Instructions column gives the most recent updates. If you are unsure or have any questions, please ask us!**

# Smart Option Seller Portfolio

<u>Put-Sell Option Positions</u>	<u>Entry Date</u>	<u>Entry Sell Price</u>	<u>Current Price</u>	<u>Current Instructions</u>
CVS Feb 16, '24 \$60 P	12/11/2023	\$ .25/contract	\$0.05	Closed. BTC for \$.06 per contract See instructions from 1/12/24 Alert
BMY Mar 15, '24 \$42 P	12/22/2023	\$ .26/contract	\$0.16	STO for \$.25 per contract or higher See instructions from 12/22/23 Alert
MU Mar 15, '24 \$62.50 P	1/3/2024	\$ .26/contract	\$0.08	Closed. BTC for \$.07 per contract See instructions from 1/30/24 Alert
SCHW Apr 19, '24 \$50 P	1/24/2024	\$ .29/contract	\$0.31	STO for \$.25 per contract or higher See instructions from 1/24/24 Alert
<b><u>Unofficial Position</u></b>				
CVS Feb 16, '24 \$72.50 P	12/11/2023	Various	\$0.94	See instructions from 12/11/23 Alert
CVS Feb 16, '24 \$75 P	12/11/2023	Various	\$1.93	See instructions from 12/11/23 Alert
BMY Mar 15, '24 \$52.50 P	12/22/2023	Various	\$3.65	See instructions from 12/22/23 Alert
MU Mar 15, '24 \$80 P	1/3/2024	Various	\$1.55	See instructions from 1/3/24 Alert
SCHW Apr 19, '24 \$65 P	1/24/2024	Various	\$3.90	See instructions from 1/24/24 Alert
<b><u>Legend</u></b>				
STO = Sell-To-Open/Sold-To-Open				
BTC = Buy-To-Close/Bought-To-Close				
BTO = Buy-To-Open Bought-To-Open				