We share the Weekly Gamma Bands Update by Viking Analytics. The report uses options gamma to help you better manage risk and your equity allocations.

Gamma Band Update

The S&P 500 (SPX) had sharp down days on Tuesday and Thursday, with a recovery rally to close out the week on Friday.• There have been three straight weeks that the SPX has failed to overtake the Gamma Flip level, which is currently near 4,440. Our risk-avoiding model currently has an allocation of 30% to SPX and 70% cash.• •

The Gamma Band model[1] is a simplified trend following model that is designed to show the effectiveness of tracking various ?gamma? levels. This can conceptually be viewed as a risk along with other tools. When the daily price closes below Gamma Flip level (currently near 4,440), the model will reduce exposure to avoid price volatility and sell-off risk. If the market closes below what we call the ?lower gamma level? (currently near 4,285), the model will reduce the SPX allocation to zero. The range between Gamma Flip and the lower gamma has tightened because risk is higher.

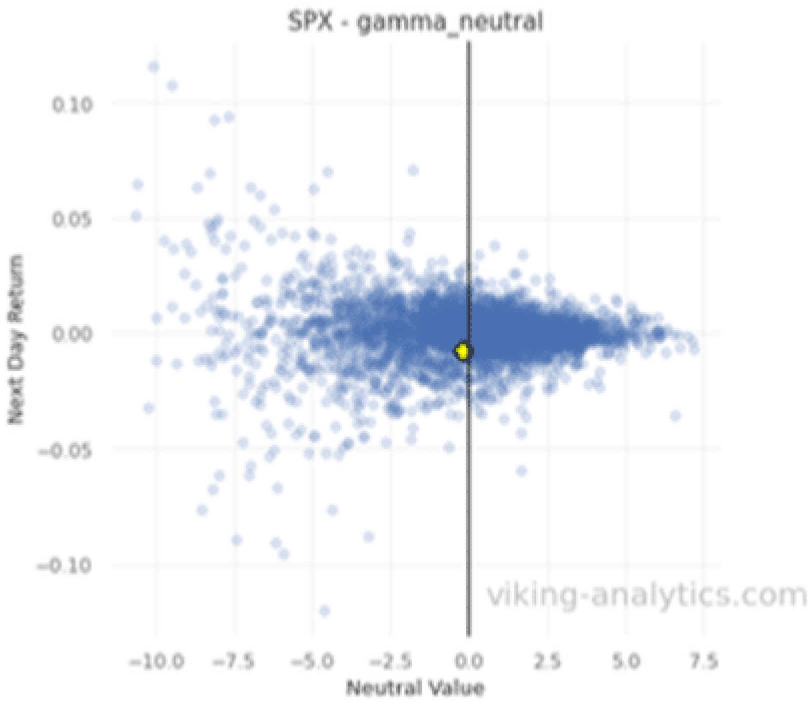
The main premise of this model is to maintain high allocations to stocks when risk and corresponding volatility are expected to be low.• For investors who have been conditioned to ?buy low and sell high,? it is counter-intuitive to increase allocations when the market rises, but this approach has shown to increase risk-adjusted returns in the back-test.••

The Gamma Band model is one of several indicators that we publish daily in our SPX Report (click here for a sample report). •Our ?Smart Money? Indicator signal remains long but may be turning cautionary as we head deeper into the fall months.

With stocks climbing to historically high valuations, risk management tools have become more important than ever to manage the next big drawdown. We incorporate many options-based signals into our daily stock market algorithms. Please visit our website to learn more about our trading and investing tools.

The Gamma Flip - Background

Many market analysts have noted that daily volatility in the S&P 500 will change when the value of the SPX moves from one gamma regime to another.•• Some analysts call this level the ?gamma flip.?• The scatterplot below shows how price volatility (on the y-axis) is increasingly lower as the value of SPX rises higher above the Gamma Neutral level (on the right side of the chart).• When the value of the S&P closes lower than Gamma Neutral (to the left of the chart), volatility increases.•



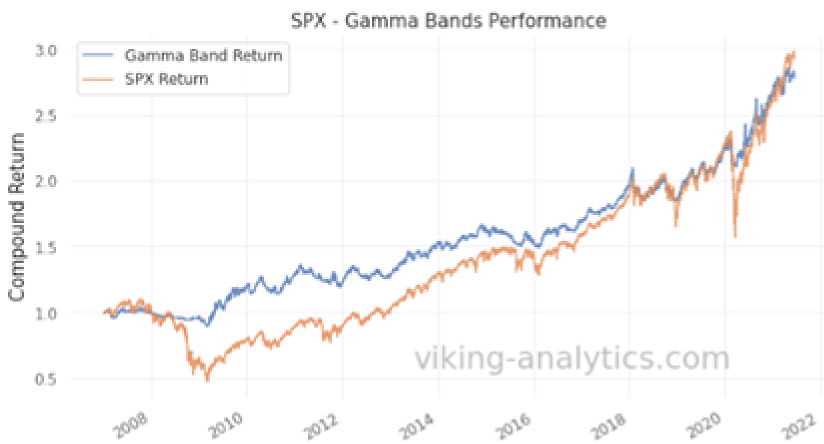
Gamma Band Model ? Background

The purpose of the Gamma Band model is to show how tail risk can be reduced by following a few simple rules.• The daily Gamma Band model has improved risk-adjusted returns by over 60% since 2 … t drawdowns while maintaining g … del can be seen by following [this l](#)

Gamma Band Historic Information

	sharpe	kurtosis	annual_vol
Gamma Band Return	0.75	7.67	0.10
SPX Return	0.46	12.74	0.21

* Gamma Bands improve backtested Sharpe by: 62.2%



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Disclaimer

This is for informational purposes only and is not trading advice.• The information contained in this article is subject to our full disclaimer on our website.

[1] **The Gamma Band model in our SPX Market Report adjusts position size DAILY based upon the daily closing levels of SPX value and calculated Gamma Neutral.• The Weekly Gamma Band model is shown for illustrative purposes only.**

Authors

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