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What Are ICT Intraday Profiles? Complete Guide!

ICT intraday profiles represent a comprehensive **day trading methodology** grounded in the **ICT Central Bank Dealers Range (CBDR)** and **ICT Asian range liquidity sweep** during the **London session**.

Understanding these profiles enables traders to identify **potential scenarios** and improve their **trading precision**.

These profiles include insights into **market movements** at different times and under various conditions.

What Are ICT Intraday Profiles?

ICT Intraday Profiles analyze **market behavior** throughout the day, particularly during the **London session**. These profiles assist traders in identifying **recurring patterns** and **key market levels** to make informed decisions.

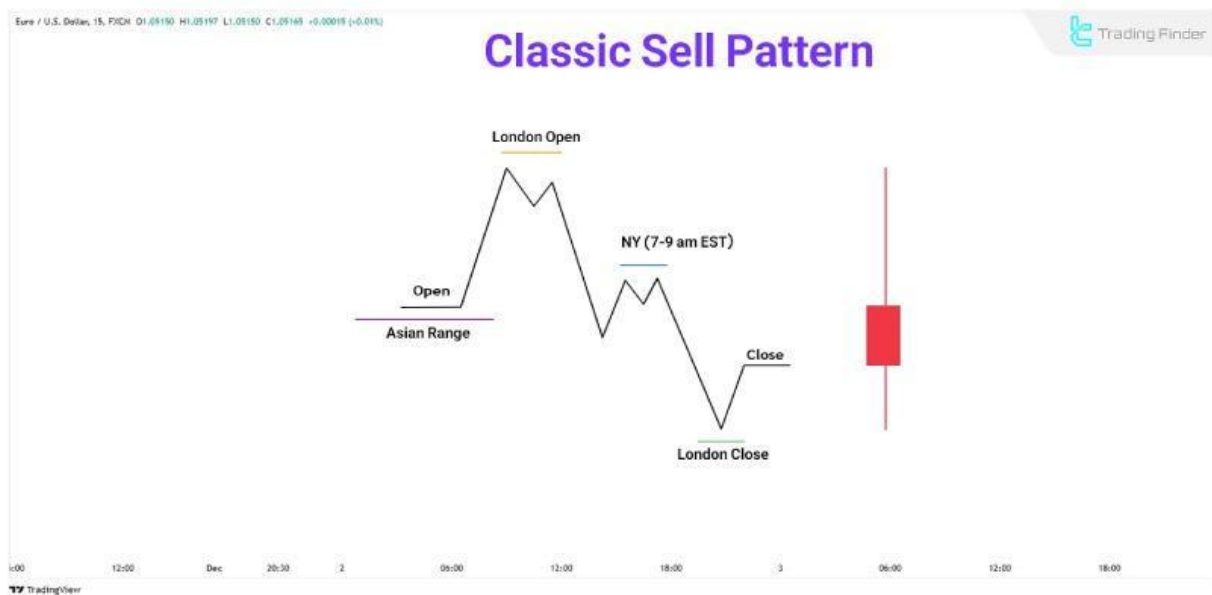
They also allow traders to determine **optimal entry and exit points** while managing **risk**. These profiles are handy for **day traders** leveraging **short-term market fluctuations**.

Sell Profiles During the London Session

The **bearish version** of this pattern typically begins like a **classic buy or sell setup** with a **price increase** above the **opening price**, followed by a **decline**.

As the **price rises**, a **selling entry point** is formed, and the **price reaches a target** in a **higher timeframe**, such as a **bearish order block** or an **unfilled Fair Value Gap (FVG)**. It signifies a **classic reversal** if this occurs during the **New York session**.

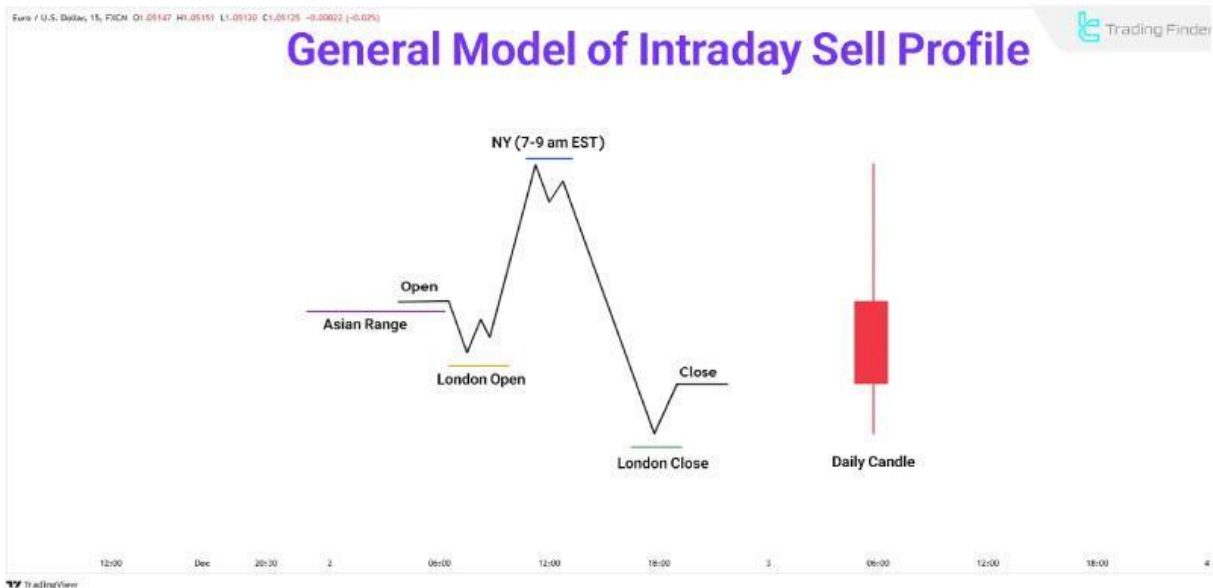
This pattern aims to reach a **bullish order block** in **higher timeframe** for a **Turtle Soup attack** or a **closing range**.



Detailed framework for executing classic sell-off days using ICT Intraday Profiles

On a **bearish day**, an initial **high** is formed during the **London session**, followed by a price **decline**. It'll lead to the day's **lowest price** during the **New York session** [around the **London close**].

Subsequently, the price **rises** again and **retraces** the initial **high** created during the **London session**. Ideally, this **pattern** should occur after a market **range** and align with the prevailing **trend** on a higher **time frame**.



Comprehensive visualization of the London session sell setup based on ICT Intraday Sell Profile

When discussing **sell profiles** during the **London session**, there are two main types:

- ⚡ **Normal Sell Profile**
- ⚡ **Delayed Sell Profile**

Both profiles require a **bearish market view** but differ in **timing** and **setup criteria**.

London Normal Protraction Sell Profile

This profile is considered a **high-probability sell setup**. The criteria for a **normal sell** in the **London session** are as follows:

- ⚡ **Central Bank Dealers Range (CBDR):** When the **CBDR** is less than **40 pips**, it sets the stage for a **classic sell day**;
- ⚡ **Asian Session Range:** The **Asian session** should also maintain a range of **20 to 30 pips** to provide suitable conditions for this **sell setup**;
- ⚡ **Intraday Market Movement:** The **market** should **rally** after **midnight New York time** and continue until approximately **2 AM**;
- ⚡ **Protraction Phase (Judas Swing):** The **price movement** should equal **one or two standard deviations** of the **CBDR range**. This **deceptive movement**, or **Judas Swing**, involves an initial **rally** to attract and trap **buyers** before the **market reverses**.

Example of an Ideal Setup:

Market consolidates during the **Asian session** and immediately starts to **rally** after **midnight**. It reaches its **peak** by **2 AM** and then begins to **decline**, providing an **ideal setup** for **sell positions**.



Step-by-step depiction of the London Normal Sell Profile for bearish Intraday setups

Steps for Trading with the London Normal Sell Profile:

1. **Bearish Bias:** Make sure the market trend is **bearish** today;
2. **Check All Key Criteria:** Verify all the **key metrics** mentioned above;
3. **Entry:** Look for a **price rally** immediately after **12:00 AM (New York time)**. A slight **downward movement** before the **rally** is acceptable. Entry may occur as early as **1:00 AM** or after **2:00 AM**;
4. **Market Structure Shift (MSS):** After the **price movement** in the **London session** above the **CBDR**, wait for a **Market Structure Shift (MSS)** on a **lower timeframe** (e.g., **5 minutes** or less);
5. **Execution:** Place a **sell trade** in the **premium zone** with a **stop loss** above the **highest point** of the **London session**;
6. **Take Profit:** Target **higher timeframe liquidity pools** or **discount PD Arrays**.

London Delayed Protraction Sell Profile

This profile is applicable when the **market** does not show a **price rally** after **12:00 AM (New York time)**, and the **CBDR** might exceed **40 pips**.

The key differences between the **delayed** and **normal sell profiles** are as follows:

- ⚡ **Flexible CBDR:** This profile does not strictly require a **CBDR** smaller than **40 pips**; a **larger or smaller range** is also suitable
- ⚡ **Delayed Protraction:** Unlike the **normal protraction**, the **rally** in this profile occurs right after **2:00 AM (New York time)**

Example of a Setup:

Imagine the **market** does not show a **significant rally** after **midnight**; Instead, it continues to **decline** until **2:00 AM**. At this point, it makes a small **rally**, providing an **ideal entry point** for **sell positions** as the **price moves** toward a **premium PD Array**.



Illustration of delayed sell setups during the London session based on ICT Intraday Profile

Steps for Trading with the London Delayed Sell Profile:

1. **Wait for a Price Rally at 2:00 AM:** Be patient until a **price rally** occurs around **2:00 AM**;
2. **Mark the Recent ICT Range:** After the **rally**, mark the **recent ICT range** and identify **premium PD Arrays**;
3. **Enter a Sell Trade:** Enter a **sell trade** when the **price** reaches the **premium PD Array** or wait for a **Market Structure Shift (MSS)** on a **lower timeframe** for confirmation;
4. **Stop Loss and Take Profit:** Set your **stop loss** above the **highest point** of the **ICT range**; Target **discount PD Arrays** or **sell-side liquidity** for take profit.

Buy Profiles During the London Session

The bullish version of this pattern begins like a classic buy or sell setup with a price drop **below** the **open** price. Then, the price starts to rise.

When the price **decreases**, a buy entry point is formed, and the price reaches a target point on a **higher** timeframe, such as a bearish order block or an unfilled Fair Value Gap (FVG).

If this happens during the New York session, it indicates a **classic market reversal**. This pattern is aligned with reaching a **bearish** order block on a higher timeframe, attacking a Turtle Soup, or closing a range.

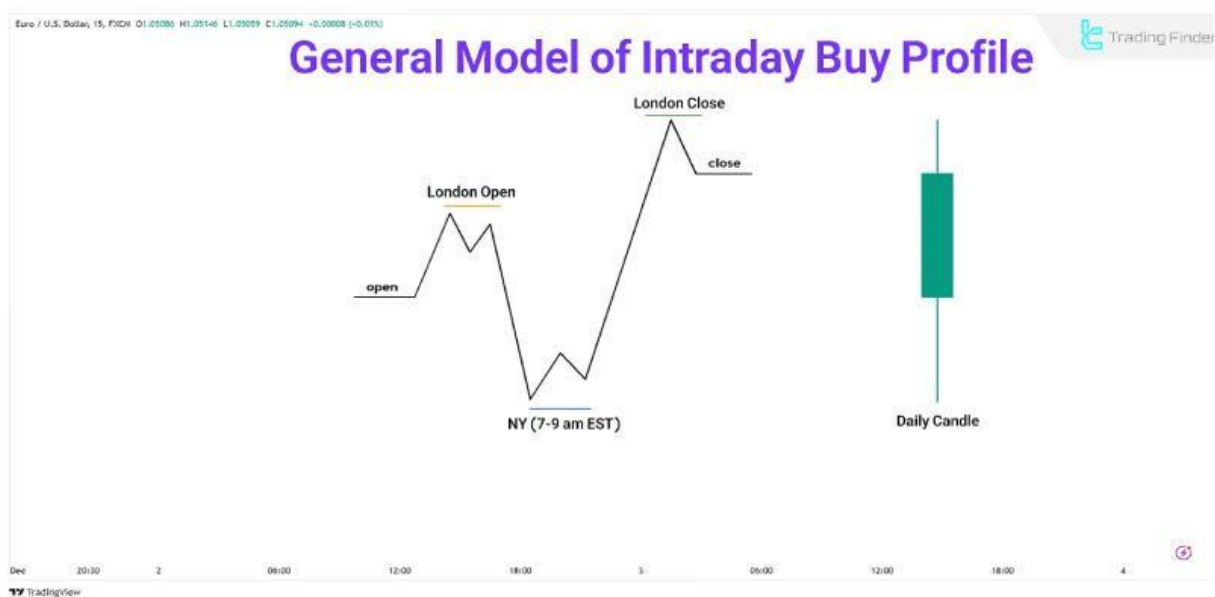


Visual representation of the ICT Classic Buy Day pattern for bullish intraday Profile

On a **bullish day**, an initial **low** is formed during the **London session**, followed by a price increase; This increase forms the day's **high (High of Day)** around the closing of the **London session** during the **New York session**.

Then the price **drops again**, wiping out the **initial low** created in the **London session**. Ideally, this pattern should form after a **market range** and follow the **dominant trend** on a higher timeframe.

This strategy involves monitoring the market during the **last hour** of the **London session** and the **first hour** of the **New York session**.



General Model of ICT Intraday Buy Profile – London Normal Protraction Buy Profile

Similarly, there are two types of **buy profiles**:

- ⚡ **Normal Buy Profile**
- ⚡ **Delayed Buy Profile**

These setups are based on a **bullish market outlook**.

London Normal Protraction Buy Profile

This profile is used to initiate **buy positions** in the **London session** and requires specific conditions:

- ⚡ **Central Bank Dealers Range (CBDR):** A CBDR smaller than **40 pips** is essential for this profile;
- ⚡ **Asian Session Range:** As in the sell profile, a **narrow range** of **20 to 30 pips** is required;
- ⚡ **Intraday Market Movement:** The market should begin to **drop immediately** after **midnight New York time** and continue until **2 AM**;
- ⚡ **Protraction Phase:** Before the price starts to **rise** and creates an **ideal buy opportunity**, look for a **price drop** of **one or two standard deviations** below the **CBDR**.

Example of an Ideal Setup:

The market consolidates during the **Asian session** and starts to **decline after midnight**. By **2 AM**, it reaches its **lowest point**, providing an excellent entry point for **buy positions** as the price starts to rise.



Structured overview of the ICT Intraday Profile Normal Buy applied in the London session

Steps to Trade with the London Normal Buy Profile:

1. **Bullish Bias:** Ensure the overall market trend for the day is **bullish**;
2. **Verify Key Criteria:** Check all **key metrics** mentioned above;
3. **Entry:** Look for a **price rally** immediately after **12:00 AM**, although a slight upward movement before the rally is acceptable. Entry could occur as early as **1:00 AM** or after **2:00 AM**;
4. **Market Structure Shift (MSS):** After the price movement in the **London session** and below the **CBDR range**, wait for a **market structure shift (MSS)** on a **lower timeframe** (e.g., 5 minutes or less);
5. **Execution:** Place a **buy trade** in the **discount zone** with a **stop loss** below the **lowest point** of the **London session**;
6. **Take Profit:** Set your target on higher timeframe **liquidity pools** or any **premium PD Array**.

London Delayed Protraction Buy Profile

This buy profile applies if the price fails to drop as expected after **12:00 AM**. Here, the **London expansion** is **delayed**, meaning the price does not drop immediately after **12:00 AM**, even though the overall market bias remains **bullish**.

- ⚡ **Flexible Central Bank Dealers' Range (CBDR):** This setup works with both **CBDRs** larger and smaller than **40 pips**;
- ⚡ **Timing and Market Behavior:** The **protraction phase** or initial drop occurs right after **2:00 AM** (New York time).

Example of a Setup:

If the market does not show a significant drop after **midnight** but instead continues to move upward, look for a return to a **premium/discount array (PD Array)**; this setup can provide an **optimal buy entry point**.



Illustration of the Delayed Intraday Buy Profile setup for trading in a bullish market bias

Steps for Effective Use of This Profile:

1. **Trading Setup from Midnight to 2 AM:** Be vigilant from **midnight to 2:00 AM** (New York time); if significant movements occur, follow the **buy profile criteria**;
2. **Backup Plan from 2 AM to 3 AM:** If initial conditions are not met by **2:00 AM**, shift your focus to **delayed protraction profiles** and look for setups within this time frame;
3. **Daily Chart Analysis:** Begin your assessment with the **daily chart** to determine the **directional bias**;
4. **Intraday Chart Setup:** On **intraday charts**, place **vertical lines** at key times (**12:00 AM** and **2:00 AM**) and observe market behavior around these points.

Conclusion

Whether focusing on **normal** or **delayed protraction scenarios**, these profiles provide a robust framework for navigating the **London session** and achieving **profitable trades**.

But, trading in the **London session** requires an in-depth understanding of **ICT Intraday Profiles**.

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