ORDERVANE_

Big-Trade Detection for Quantower

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Lite — Installation & Activation Guide

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OrderVane flags large institutional trades on your Quantower charts the instant they print — with an adaptive threshold that tunes itself to every market. It draws the aggressive tape directly on your chart: big-trade bubbles, aggression clusters, and absorption.

OrderVane is an analysis & visualization tool. It does not place orders and does not give buy/sell signals; every trading decision and execution is made by you in your own broker.

> At a glance — about 3 minutes. Close Quantower -> copy the `OrderVane_Lite` folder into Quantower's `Settings\Scripts\Indicators` folder -> restart Quantower -> paste your license key. Full step-by-step below.

Before you begin

You will need:

- Quantower installed (the free edition or your broker's edition; latest version recommended). Built and tested against Quantower 1.144.4 (Help -> About); older versions may work but are not tested.
- Windows (Quantower desktop).
- Your OrderVane license key — in your purchase or free-trial confirmation email.
- The OrderVane download (a `.zip` file) — from the download link in that email. The `.zip` contains the indicator and this guide.
- An internet connection for the first activation, and for re-validation — which runs when the indicator loads and when you change its settings.

Step 1 — Find your Quantower "Indicators" folder

Quantower loads custom indicators from its `Settings\Scripts\Indicators` folder. On a standard install this is:

```
C:\Quantower\Settings\Scripts\Indicators
```

If you're not sure where Quantower is installed: find the Quantower folder that contains `Settings\Scripts\Indicators`.

Step 2 — Close Quantower

Save your workspace if needed, then fully exit Quantower (close the application, not just the chart). The indicator file cannot be installed or replaced while Quantower is running.

Step 3 — Copy the OrderVane folder

1. Unzip the OrderVane download.
2. Copy the `OrderVane_Lite` folder into the `Indicators` folder from Step 1.

You should end up with this exact layout:

```
...\Settings\Scripts\Indicators\OrderVane_Lite\OrderVane_Lite.dll
```

> The Windows "blocked" flag (optional) — Windows marks files downloaded from the internet. It does not stop Quantower from loading the indicator, so you can skip this. To clear it anyway: right-click the `.zip` -> Properties -> Unblock -> OK.

> Tip — if the `Indicators` folder doesn't exist yet, create it. Keep the DLL inside its own `OrderVane_Lite` subfolder (don't drop it loose).

> Antivirus note — some antivirus or Windows SmartScreen may flag a new, unsigned `.dll` as a false positive. OrderVane is safe; if your antivirus quarantines `OrderVane_Lite.dll`, restore it from quarantine and add an exception for the `OrderVane_Lite` folder.

Step 4 — Restart Quantower

Start Quantower again so it detects the new indicator.

Step 5 — Add OrderVane to a chart

1. Open a chart for the instrument you want to analyze — for example CL crude-oil futures (e.g. CLEM26). OrderVane works on any timeframe and any instrument that has trade (time & sales) data — not just CL.
2. Right-click the chart -> Add indicator (or click the indicators icon on the toolbar).
3. Find OrderVane under Custom -> OrderVane_Lite, or type "OrderVane" in the search box.
4. Select it and confirm — it is added to the chart.

Step 6 — Enter your license key

1. Open the indicator's Settings (right-click the OrderVane name on the chart -> Settings, or click its gear icon).
2. In the License section, paste your License key.

Once entered, OrderVane validates your key online and unlocks. Until a valid key is entered, a watermark is shown and the OrderVane markers stay hidden (your candles and chart remain fully usable).

Step 7 — Verify it's working

- The chart shows a name badge that starts with `OrderVane Lite`.
- The License status line in Settings shows your license as active.
- On an active market you'll see the order-flow markers appear on the tape (big-trade bubbles, aggression-cluster diamonds, absorption bars).

You're all set — OrderVane is now reading the tape on your chart.

Quick menu (on-chart)

A small button sits on the left edge of the chart, near the top. Click it to open the quick panel — the fastest way to change what is on screen without opening Settings. It holds two groups: MARKERS for the tape markers, and LEVELS for the volume shelves. The marker switches are:

- Big trade markers — the big-trade bubbles
- Aggression clusters — the aggression diamonds
- Absorption — the horizontal absorption bars

The panel also includes Lane stacking, Apply adaptive to markers, and [–]/[+] number controls for the settings you tune most often — the minimum volumes for bubbles, clusters and absorption, and how many bars back the markers are drawn (0 shows all, and the box then displays the actual loaded bar count).

The LEVELS group below controls the volume shelves: the master switch, Shelf strength (how unusual a price has to be), Shelf count and Label count (how many lines and labels are drawn), Detect min and Show min (the absolute volume floors for finding and for drawing), Shelf scales (how many of the three windows must agree), and Shelf label (what the label says).

Click a row to toggle it (a check mark shows what's on). The panel stays open while you work and while you pan the chart — click the button again to close it.

At the top of the panel sits Symbol preset — click it and the markets unfold (CL / ES / NQ / GC / RTY / 6E). Picking one writes that market's starting thresholds immediately, and the dot moves to show which set is active; touch any of the three volume steppers afterwards and the row reads Custom, because the numbers no longer match a preset.

These mirror the same options in Settings, just faster to reach. As always, they change only what is displayed — never your orders.

Bubbles are prints — and shelves mark the levels

Every bubble is a large print: OrderVane takes it from the tape and draws it at the exact price and time it happened (a burst of prints inside Time interval (sec) counts as one). Where your broker's tick history does not reach there are simply no bubbles — see Historical tick lookback (h). That gap is deliberate: OrderVane will not draw an estimate in the shape of a trade.

Older bars are described instead by the volume shelf (Volume shelf levels) — a price that took an unusual share of the volume traded around it. OrderVane keeps that price on the chart until price comes back to it:

- Solid line — price has not come back to that level yet, so the line runs to the right edge. Dashed line — it has, and the line stops at the bar where that happened. The shelf stays either way: a level that price already tested is still worth knowing. Shelves do not expire with age; when there are more than the chart draws, the oldest ones drop off first (Volume shelf max active). Volume shelf extend past touch runs every line to the edge instead — easier to see, but the lines then cross the bars. A short vertical tick marks where the shelf began; when the start is off-screen the label carries a leading `«` instead.
- The color is the side that traded more at that price. When the two sides are close the line stays neutral grey — a balanced level has no side to claim.
- The label reads `762×438 30m 64%`: volume at the bid on the left, at the ask on the right — the same order as the footprint cells — followed by the winning side's share. If big-trade prints landed on

that price inside the bar, ●2 is appended — how many of them built the shelf, which separates a few large orders from a crowd of small ones. Both sides are always shown, including the levels where buyers and sellers fought each other. The `30m` after the two volumes is the window they were measured over (30m / 60m / 4h) — shelves can carry different windows, so read it before comparing two numbers. A leading « means the shelf started further left than the screen shows.

- Thicker means confirmed by more windows. OrderVane measures every level against three windows at once — 30, 60 and 240 minutes — and the line weight follows how many of them found it unusual. A level that stands out in all three is a different thing from one that only shows up over a single stretch. The size itself is in the label.
- The same shelf sits at the same price on every timeframe. The measurement does not use your chart bars at all — it reads a fixed five-minute source and slides those three windows across it, so switching from 1-minute to hourly does not move a shelf or change its numbers. If you only want the levels that stood out everywhere, Volume shelf min scales keeps the ones confirmed by that many windows; at 3 roughly a third survive.
- You can also demand that a shelf be genuinely large. `Volume shelf min volume` is an absolute floor in contracts, the same kind of number as Min volume for bubbles. By default it is derived from the observed average, which adapts on its own; set a number and that number wins. The strength setting asks whether a level is unusual for its window — this one asks whether it is big at all.
- "Unusual" means large against the average level of the window it was measured in (Volume shelf strength (x avg level)) — a ratio, so it carries the same meaning in a quiet session as in a busy one.

A small `> Legend` pill sits in the top right of the chart. Click it and a box opens naming the level types currently drawn — in Lite that is the volume shelf, the only level family this tier draws. It starts collapsed, so it costs almost no space until you want it; Overlay legend (level types) turns it off entirely.

What this tier draws. Lite is the tape and the levels it leaves behind — big-trade prints, aggression clusters, absorption bars, and the volume shelf. The bid × ask numbers inside each bar — footprint cells, imbalance, POC and value area — belong to Pro. If you came expecting cells and cannot find them, that is the tier and not a fault. Each tier has its own 14-day free trial.

A shelf records what happened at that price. It is not a forecast that price will react there.

Big trades list

A button with a list icon (three dots and lines) sits in the left button column of the chart. Click it and a separate window opens with the big trades on that chart, newest first. It lists the same trades the bubbles draw — the same minimum and the same loaded bars — up to 500 rows. Click the button again to close the window.

- Columns — TIME (your local time; the date appears when it is not today), SIDE (B = buyers took the offer, S = sellers hit the bid), PRICE and SIZE. The bar inside SIZE is the trade against the largest one in the list, split into its buy and sell shares; a bold number is at least twice the chart minimum.
- Widen the window for three more columns — delta% (buy minus sell as a share of the trade), BASIS (the trade as a share of all volume in the basis window, Basis volume interval) and L2 % (the trade as a share of the resting size on the opposite side of the book at that moment, live trades only, Level2 level count). Hover a column header for its explanation.
- Click a row — the chart moves to that bubble and circles it for a few seconds (Highlight color). The up and down arrow keys move through the rows and the chart follows; Enter goes to the selected

row again and Home jumps to the newest.
- Toolbar — All / Buy / Sell, a minimum size for this list ([–]/[+], hold Shift for steps of 10, the mouse wheel, or click the number to type it; it never goes below the chart's own bubble minimum), a pin that keeps the window on top, and a button that goes back to the newest trade.
- Right-click the window — Theme (Auto follows Quantower, Dark, Light, Slate, Terminal), Always on top, Go to newest. The window remembers its position, size, theme and on-top setting.

There is one list window at a time, and it shows the chart whose button you pressed last. To hide the button, turn off Big trades list in the quick panel's MARKERS group or in Settings. Buy/sell split, right next to it, draws each bubble as its buy and sell shares.

Next steps

- Make it yours. Right-click the OrderVane name -> Settings to adjust marker size, colors, sounds, and detection thresholds.
- Display-only by design. OrderVane visualizes order flow — it never places orders or issues buy/sell signals. You stay in control.
- Need a hand? Email hello@ordervane.com — we're happy to help.

License & activation

- One-time purchase. OrderVane is a one-time purchase — not a subscription. A 14-day free trial is available.
- Machine-bound. Your license activates up to two computers — your desk and your laptop, for example. Activation is tied to the machine you enter the key on.
- Connectivity grace. The first activation must be online. After that, a brief outage won't lock you out: with no internet connection, your license stays valid for up to 7 days from the last successful check; if you are online but our licensing service can't be reached, the software keeps retrying; only if the service stays unreachable for about 2 hours does it pause — its drawings are hidden and a notice is shown — until the service is back, then it resumes automatically.
- Moving to a new computer. On the old PC, open OrderVane Settings -> "Release license from this PC" (a two-step confirmation), which frees the seat. Then enter your key on the new computer.
- Keep your key safe — it's in your purchase or free-trial email.

Updating to a new version

When a newer package exists, the indicator name on your chart shows ↑ Update available. Updates are included with your license — the full walkthrough is at ordervane.com/update.

1. Download the current package from your order page — open the link in your purchase email, or go to app.lemonsqueezy.com/my-orders and enter the email you paid with. That download link always serves the current package, not the one you bought back then.
2. Close Quantower.
3. Replace the old `OrderVane_Lite.dll` with the new one (or replace the whole `OrderVane_Lite` folder).
4. Restart Quantower.

Your charts, layouts, and OrderVane settings are preserved — you do not need to re-add the indicator or re-enter your license key.

Uninstalling

1. Close Quantower.
2. Delete the `OrderVane_Lite` folder from `...\Settings\Scripts\Indicators`.
3. Restart Quantower.

Troubleshooting

Symptom	Fix
OrderVane isn't in the indicator list	Confirm the file is at `...\Scripts\Indicators\OrderVane_Lite\OrderVane_Lite.dll`, then fully restart Quantower (quit the app, not just the chart window).
"Can't restore indicator" / it vanishes after restart	Make sure you replaced (not duplicated) the DLL and fully restarted. If it persists, remove and re-add the indicator, then save your workspace.
Watermark shown / markers hidden	Enter a valid license key in Settings, and check your internet connection (the first activation is online).
"Activation limit reached"	The key is already active on two computers. Use "Release license from this PC" on one of them, or contact support.
No sound on alerts	Sounds are on by default and are auto-created in `Documents\OrderVane_Sounds\`. Check your Windows volume and the Sound options in OrderVane Settings.
No markers appear	Make sure the instrument has live or historical trade (tick) data (time & sales). Some markers require sufficient trade volume to appear.
Nothing happens when you click Add	From v1.5 the chart shows the reason in one line. If it mentions the Quantower version, update Quantower (1.144.4 or newer); otherwise send that line to hello@ordervane.com.
Antivirus flags or removes the DLL	A false positive on a new, unsigned indicator. Restore `OrderVane_Lite.dll` from quarantine and add an exception for the `...\Indicators\OrderVane_Lite` folder.

Settings reference

Right-click the OrderVane name on the chart -> Settings. Options are grouped exactly as listed below. Everything is display-only — OrderVane visualizes order flow and never places orders or issues trade signals. New settings apply to new instances; defaults are sensible, so most users only adjust colors, sounds, and thresholds.

License

Setting	What it does
License key	Paste your license key (purchase or free trial) here to activate OrderVane.
License status (auto)	Read-only — your current activation status.
Release license from this PC	Frees this computer's activation slot (use when moving to a new PC).
Confirm: release license now	Safety second-step — must also be ticked for a release to run.

Power Trades — the big-trade engine

Setting	What it does
Engine enabled (tick-based)	Master switch for big-trade detection from the tape.
Time interval (sec)	Window for grouping trades into one big trade (e.g. 0.10s).
Big trade min volume	Minimum size for a trade group to count as a big trade (bubble).
Bars to show (0 = all)	How many of the most recent bars still show markers (0 = all; the box then shows the loaded bar count).
Volume shelf levels	Marks a price that took an unusual share of the volume around it and keeps it on the chart until price comes back to it (on by default).
Volume shelf strength (x avg level)	How unusual the level must be, measured against the average level of the window it sits in (3.0 = three times).
Volume shelf max active	How many shelves are drawn at once. When there are more, the oldest ones drop off first.
Volume shelf labels	What the shelf label shows: nothing, the two volumes, or the volumes plus the winning share.
Volume shelf min volume (0=auto)	Absolute floor in contracts a level must reach. 0 derives it from the observed average instead.
Volume shelf show min (0=auto)	How large a shelf must be to be drawn. This is the setting that decides how crowded the chart looks; most shelves that are found never reach it. 0 derives it from the observed average.
Volume shelf min scales (1-3)	How many of the three windows (30 / 60 / 240 minutes) must find the level unusual. 3 keeps only the levels that stood out everywhere.
Volume shelf label max (0=all)	How many shelves carry a label. 0 = all of them; a number keeps the most recent. The lines are always drawn.
Volume shelf rolling window	On: the window slides with the data. Off: a fixed grid, which splits anything that straddles a boundary.
Volume shelf extend past touch	Off: a shelf line stops where price came back to it. On: every line runs to the right edge.
Overlay legend (level types)	A small collapsible box naming the level types currently drawn. On by default, and it starts collapsed as a `> Legend` pill so it costs almost no space until you click it.

Setting	What it does
Parent-Order enabled	Groups iceberg refills and split fills into one logical order (P{N}).
Merge window (ms)	Time window within which nearby prints merge into one parent.
Price tolerance ticks (0-5)	Price distance still treated as the same parent order.
Show child count (P{N})	Shows how many child fills make up the parent bubble.
Sub-threshold filter enabled	Hides sub-threshold prints to cut noise.
Min trade size (1-500)	Ignore individual prints below this size (cluster cells + markers).
Show markers	Shows/hides the big-trade bubbles.
Big trades list	A button in the chart's left button column that opens a table of the chart's big trades, newest first. Click a row to move the chart to that bubble.

Power Trades (Advanced)

Setting	What it does
Min delta filter (%)	Minimum buy/sell imbalance required before flagging.
Big trade min / max span (ticks)	Price range a grouped big trade may cover.
Min / Max trade volume	Ignore individual trades below / above these sizes.
Basis volume interval (sec)	Reference interval for the volume baseline (advanced; 0 = off).
Single-print big trade min volume	Size for one single trade to count as big on its own.
Max markers per bar (1-100)	Caps how many bubbles a single bar can draw.
Marker X at bar center	Places the bubble at the bar center instead of at trade time.
Detect single-print big trades	Enables single-tick big-trade detection.
Historical tick lookback (h)	How far back to scan ticks when a chart opens.
History hours (broker fetch)	How many hours of history to request from your broker.
Min aggression ticks (0=off)	Require the trade to sweep this many ticks before flagging (0 = off).
Min DOM pressure (0=off)	Require this much resting depth on the opposite side before flagging (0 = off).
Cache retention days (0=all)	How long to keep the local trade cache (0 = keep all).
Filter by basis ratio (%)	Shows only big trades that were at least this share of all volume traded in the basis window (0 = off). Bubbles, the list and the sound all follow it.
Level2 level count	How many levels of the opposite side of the book to count at the moment of a live big trade (the list's L2 % column).

Big Trade Display — how bubbles look

Setting	What it does
Lane stacking enabled	Spreads overlapping bubbles into vertical lanes.
Max lanes per bar / min events	Lane limit, and how many bubbles trigger stacking.
Display mode	Total volume, or split buy/sell, on the bubble.
Shape type	Bubble shape (Circle, etc.).
Bubble size min (px) / Bubble size max (px)	Smallest / largest bubble size.
Buy color / Sell color	Bubble colors for buy / sell.
Show volume label	Shows the volume number inside the bubble.
Sizing mode	Size scaling: Auto (on-screen), Auto (full history), or Custom.
Bubble buy/sell split	Draws each bubble as its buy and sell shares instead of one color for the side that won.
Bubble coloring	By delta = the color of the side that won. Single color = every bubble in one color, so only size stands out.
Bubble single color	The bubble color when Bubble coloring is Single color.
Highlight color	The ring drawn around a bubble you pick in the big trades list.

Adaptive Threshold — auto-tunes "big" per market

Setting	What it does
Threshold enabled	Computes a "big trade" size from recent activity and shows it on the chart as Adapt N.
Apply adaptive to markers	On: bubbles use the adaptive size (fewer, larger trades — the whole chart re-filters as the market shifts). Off: the Adapt N value is shown for reference only, and bubbles keep using your fixed Big trade min volume.
Lookback days (3-30)	Days of history used to compute the threshold.
Factor (0.1-3.0, step 0.05)	Multiplier on the threshold. Lower = more bubbles, higher = only the largest. (e.g. with Adapt ≈ 270, Factor 1.0 -> 270, Factor 0.5 -> ≈ 135.)

Three ways to use it (combine the two toggles above):

1. Fixed — Threshold enabled off. Bubbles use your Big trade min volume; no Adapt value is shown.
2. Show only (default) — Threshold enabled on, Apply adaptive to markers off. The Adapt N value appears on the chart as a reference, but bubbles still use your fixed size.
3. Adaptive — both on. Bubbles show only trades at or above the adaptive size, and the whole chart re-filters automatically as the market changes. Use Factor to set how strict it is.

> Works even with tick logging off — the adaptive size is derived from your detected big-trade history.

Aggression — cluster (diamond) markers

Setting	What it does
Aggressor mode	How buy/sell side is decided: BidAsk, Tick, or Adaptive.
Aggression cluster detection	Enables clustering of rapid same-side aggression.
Idle timeout ms	A pause longer than this ends a cluster.
Finalize on price change	Closes the current cluster when price moves.
Cluster min volume	Minimum total size for a cluster to show.
Side filter	Show buy, sell, or both clusters.
Cooldown ms (0=off)	Minimum gap between cluster markers.
Aggression cluster markers	Shows/hides the diamond cluster markers.

Absorption — horizontal absorption bars

Setting	What it does
Absorption show on chart	Shows/hides absorption markers.
Absorption min volume	Minimum volume absorbed at a price to flag.
Absorption max range (ticks)	How tightly price must hold to count as absorption.
Absorption min prints	Minimum number of trades stacked at the level.
Absorption side	Show buy-side, sell-side, or both.
Absorption DOM confirm (live)	Resting order-book depth (live only) that strengthens the mark.
Absorption show volume	Shows the absorbed-volume label.
Absorption buy / sell color	Colors for buy-side / sell-side absorption.
Absorption stack zone	Merges two or more same-side absorption bars on nearby prices into a zone, labeled `Abs▲ ×N` / `Abs▼ ×N`. Boundary lines over past bars, hatched projection to the right; the zone fades once a closed bar trades through its far side.
Absorption stack min count	How many stacked absorption bars are needed before a zone is drawn.
Symbol preset (apply on close)	One-shot starting thresholds for a market: pick CL / NQ / GC / RTY / 6E (or the ES defaults) and close the settings window — Quantower commits dialog edits on close, so that is when the big-trade, cluster and absorption volume thresholds change. The dropdown then returns to None. RTY and 6E share one entry because their starting values are the same. Starting points scaled by typical daily volume — not measured optima; adjust on your chart. Faster route: the same preset sits at the top of the on-chart quick menu, where it applies the moment you pick it.

Sounds — audio alerts

Setting	What it does
Sound enabled	Master switch for alert sounds.
Sound volume (1-10)	Alert loudness.
Buy / Sell sound	Sound file for buy / sell big trades (auto-created if missing).
Sound cooldown (ms)	Minimum gap between sounds.
Cluster sound enabled	Separate sound when a cluster fires.
Cluster buy / sell sound	Sound file for buy / sell clusters.

View & Timeframe Visibility (Quantower built-in)

Setting	What it does
Position on chart	Draw over the chart, or in a separate panel.
Use indicator values in 'Auto' scaling	Whether OrderVane affects the chart's auto-scaling.
Timeframe Visibility (Seconds … Years)	Show OrderVane only on the timeframe ranges you tick.

Support

- Website: https://ordervane.com
- Email: hello@ordervane.com

Disclaimer

OrderVane is an analysis & visualization tool. It is not investment advice, it does not provide trade signals, and it does not place orders. Trading futures, CFDs, and FX carries a substantial risk of loss, including the possibility of losing more than your initial deposit. Any simulation or backtest statistics shown in marketing are hypothetical, are based on historical data, and do not guarantee future results. You are solely responsible for all trading decisions and outcomes. See the End User License Agreement at https://ordervane.com/eula for the full terms (also bundled as `OrderVane_EULA.pdf`).