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Big-Trade Detection for Quantower

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DOM — Installation & Activation Guide

ordervane.com

Contents

OrderVane DOM reads the order book of your chart's instrument. It is a separate indicator that opens a price-aligned depth ladder in its own window (or, if you prefer, on the right side of the chart): resting bid and ask size, what was added and pulled in the last seconds, fills versus pulls, order counts and refills when your data feed sends order-level depth (MBO), a reconstructed tape next to the ladder, and a flow panel that shows how resting size at each price changed over the last few minutes.

OrderVane DOM is an analysis & visualization tool. It does not place, modify or cancel orders and does not give buy/sell signals. Order entry stays in Quantower's own DOM Trader; every decision is yours.

> At a glance — about 3 minutes. Close Quantower -> copy the `OrderVane_DOM` 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).
- Windows (Quantower desktop).
- Your OrderVane DOM license key — in your purchase confirmation email.
- The OrderVane DOM 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 periodic re-validation).
- Level 2 (market depth) data for the instruments you analyze. The ladder is built from depth events; without depth it shows `waiting for depth`.
- Trade (time & sales) data for the tape, fills and the power meter.

OrderVane DOM installs alongside OrderVane Lite or Pro. It is its own indicator with its own license key; the other products do not need to be installed.

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. Unblock the download first (Windows). Right-click the downloaded `.zip` -> Properties -> if there is an Unblock checkbox near the bottom, tick it and click OK. Windows flags files downloaded from the internet; unblocking the zip before you unzip lets Quantower load the indicator.
2. Unzip the OrderVane download.
3. Copy the `OrderVane_DOM` folder into the `Indicators` folder from Step 1.

You should end up with this exact layout:

```
...\Settings\Scripts\Indicators\OrderVane_DOM\OrderVane_DOM.dll
```

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

Step 4 — Restart Quantower

Start Quantower again. It scans the `Indicators` folder on startup and loads the new indicator.

Step 5 — Add OrderVane DOM to a chart

1. Open a chart for the instrument you want to watch (any timeframe — the ladder is aligned to price, not to bars).
2. Open the chart's Indicators list and search for OrderVane DOM.
3. Add it. Once the license key is active (Step 6), the ladder opens in its own window titled `OrderVane DOM · <symbol>`. Keep the chart open — the window follows that chart's symbol.

Until the license key is entered the chart shows a watermark and the window does not open.

Prefer the ladder on the chart itself? Set DOM surface to Chart in the indicator's settings. It then draws on the right side of the chart, and the window button in its header moves it back into a window.

Step 6 — Enter your license key

1. Open the indicator's settings (right-click the indicator name in the chart legend -> Settings).
2. Find OrderVane: License key (paste after purchase) in the License section and paste the key from your purchase email.
3. Click Apply / OK.

The watermark disappears within a few seconds once the key is validated online. License status (auto) in the same section shows the current state.

Step 7 — Verify it's working

- The window's Session field reads `depth since HH:MM` once depth events arrive. (On the chart surface the same line sits under the ladder header `DOM · <symbol>`.)
- Rows fill with bid size on the left and ask size on the right; the best bid and ask match Quantower's own DOM Trader.

- In the window toolbar, the dot before MBO is filled when your feed sends order-level depth and hollow when it does not, with a hint on where to switch it on. (On the chart surface the header badge reads MBO on or MBO off.)

If it says `waiting for depth events` for more than a minute, check that your data feed provides Level 2 for this instrument (see Troubleshooting).

Reading the ladder

Every row is one price, unless you raise DOM ladder ticks per row to merge several into one. On the chart surface rows are also merged automatically when they would fall under three pixels tall.

- bid / ask — resting size on each side. Empty cell means nothing resting.
- cumulative depth — with DOM column: cumulative depth on, the number is the running total from the best price outward.
- ±NsB / ±NsA — size added (+) and pulled (−) at that price in the last N seconds, N being DOM add/pull window (sec), with the bid side and the ask side in their own columns. A short bar shows the net direction, and both columns share one scale so their lengths can be compared. Switching the header to `±Sum` counts from when the window was attached instead. Turning DOM column: add/pull split by side off puts both sides back in one column, which saves width but has to net them against each other on any row the price has crossed.
- imb — the row's share of bid versus ask size. The header also sums the top N levels on each side (DOM imbalance top-N levels) and shows the bid percentage.
- sess — volume that traded at that price this session. When OrderVane DOM attaches, it loads the session's trades from your data feed's tick history and then adds each new trade, so the column covers the whole session from the start. While that history loads the column stays empty and the window's Session vol field reads `loading ticks`; if the feed provides no tick history, the column falls back to the chart's bars and the field's name ends in `chart`. Session vol shows the session total and `delta`, the difference between buyer- and seller-initiated volume; trades whose side is unknown count in the total but not in `delta`. The session's point of control is filled in and drawn in bold. With DOM session VWAP line on, a dash-dot line marks the session volume-weighted average price, computed from the same trades over the whole session, not only the prices this ladder happens to show; the last decimal can differ from your broker's own VWAP.
- trd — buy and sell prints observed at that price since the indicator was added (live only).
- Large resting size is highlighted when it exceeds the visible average by DOM large-lot highlight (x avg). If the bid/ask wall registry is running, the chip also shows how long that size has been sitting there.
- Absorption chips (`F 41`, with a refill count in front when the row refilled at least DOM iceberg min refills times) — size that left a row through fills rather than pulls, and how many times the row refilled. These are observations, not a verdict.

Fills versus pulls

When resting size shrinks, OrderVane DOM waits up to DOM fill match window (ms) for a print at that price on the matching side. If one arrives, the decrease counts as a fill; if not, it counts as a pull. The window is short on purpose — a long window would attribute unrelated prints to unrelated cancels.

Order-level depth (MBO)

Some feeds send every individual order (Market by Order) instead of one total per price. With MBO on, the ladder adds an ord column with the number of orders resting at each price, and can tell a refill from a new order.

On AMP/CQG this is a connection setting: Enable "Market by Order" (MBO) mode in the CQG connection settings, then reconnect. The MBO dot in the window toolbar (or the header badge on the chart surface) confirms it. Without MBO the ord column is simply not drawn — it never shows zeros that mean "unknown".

Your own working orders

With DOM my orders queue estimate on, OrderVane DOM reads your working limit orders from Quantower (read-only) and marks their rows. The chip `me 3 · ≤41 est` means: your order for 3, with at most 41 contracts estimated ahead of it. The estimate starts from the size that was resting when your order was first seen and goes down as that row fills or pulls. It is an upper bound — the exchange does not tell us your exact place in the queue, and a cancel behind you looks the same as one ahead of you. Moving the order to another price restarts the estimate.

The tape and the power meter

- Tape panel — a reconstructed time & sales docked to the left of the ladder, newest row on top. Prints at the same price and side arriving within DOM tape group window (ms) are shown as one row with a `×N` count. DOM tape min size (0=all) hides small rows.
- Power meter — two fields in the window's info bar, Effort and Book ±5 (on the chart surface, two lines in the ladder header). `effort 30s buy 118 · sell 96 · 41 prints` sums what traded in the last DOM power meter window (sec) by aggressor side. `book ±5 5s bid +40 -12 · ask +8 -33` sums adds and pulls in the five prices around the best bid and ask. Both are totals of what was observed; there is no score behind them.

The flow panel

Between the tape and the ladder, the flow panel shows how resting size at each price changed over the last few minutes. Rows are the same prices as the ladder; time runs left to right, with the newest slice at the right edge next to the ladder. DOM window flow panel length (min) sets how far back it goes.

- Brightness is resting size. Anything under DOM flow heat lower cutoff % of the scale is left as background, so only sizes worth looking at are painted; anything over DOM flow heat upper cutoff % is drawn at full brightness. The scale itself is printed in the panel header as `=N`.
- Green and red separate bid-side from ask-side rows (DOM flow heat bid/ask colors).
- Circles are trades, coloured by which side was the aggressor. A circle of a given width always means the same number of lots: the scale is printed in the header as `●=N`, and a trade larger than the scale is drawn at full width with an outer ring rather than being silently clipped.
- The stepped line is the price of the most recent trade in each slice; the two coloured lines are best bid and best ask.

Reading a row: a band that stays while circles hit it was held; a band that ends with circles was filled; a band that ends without circles was pulled; a band that comes back after circles was refilled. These are observations, not signals.

Recording starts when the DOM window is attached — the platform does not store past depth, so there is no history before that. Shaded areas are prices outside the range the book has been sending.

The equalizer

The `EQ` button in the window toolbar opens five sliders over the panel, so you can tune it while watching it rather than from the settings dialog:

	What it does
FLOOR	Sizes under this share of the scale stay background. Raise it when the panel looks like one flat wash.
TOP	Sizes over this share are drawn at full brightness. Lower it to bring out the middle of the range.
BUBBLE	How wide the largest trade circle may get.
MIN TRADE	Trades under this size are not drawn.
SCALE	The trade size that fills a circle to full width. `AUTO` holds a round number (5, 10, 20, 50…) and only moves it once the panel has stayed at a new level for a while, so the same circle keeps meaning the same lots.

Drag a track for a rough value, or click the number and type an exact one — `20%`, `14px` and `auto` are all accepted, and a value outside the allowed range is clamped rather than rejected.

Position display

Four optional read-only markers show where you already are. OrderVane DOM never places, changes or cancels an order — it only draws what your broker already holds. All four are off by default.

- DOM position average line — a line at your average price with the size and price beside it. If one symbol holds both a long and a short, no line is drawn: there is no single average to show.
- DOM position stop / target lines — the prices of the stop-loss and take-profit orders already attached to the position.
- DOM column: P&L ticks — a column showing how many ticks you would be up or down if you closed at that price. Ticks only: the platform does not expose the cash value of a tick, so converting would mean guessing. The column is empty when you are flat.
- DOM position P&L in ticks — adds the open profit in ticks next to the cash figure in the toolbar.

Quick menu (on-chart)

A small ladder-shaped button on the left edge of the chart opens a panel with the most used switches and steppers: the column toggles, the orders column and queue estimate, the tape panel and power meter, the flow panel, and the width / window / add-pull / large-lot / tape steppers. Click a row to toggle it; use the `–` `+` buttons or the mouse wheel over a stepper row. Every change is saved with the chart.

The window's own menu button opens a Clear submenu. Besides clearing everything, it can clear the recent trades above or below the current price on their own — useful when price is working toward a level and the stale activity on the other side is in the way.

License & activation

- The key activates on two computers at a time. To move to a new PC, tick Release license from this PC and Confirm: release license now on the old one, then enter the key on the new one.
- The indicator re-validates periodically and keeps working through short offline periods.
- Lost your key? It is in your purchase email; the download link there also gives you the current package.

Updating to a new version

When a newer package is available the name badge on the chart shows ↑ Update available · ordervane.com/update. Download the current package from your order page, close Quantower, replace the `OrderVane_DOM` folder, restart. Charts, settings and the key are kept.

Uninstalling

Close Quantower, delete the `OrderVane_DOM` folder from `Settings\Scripts\Indicators`, restart.

Troubleshooting

Symptom	What to check
`waiting for depth events` for more than a minute	Your feed is not sending Level 2 for this instrument. Open Quantower's own DOM Trader for the same symbol — if it is empty too, the data subscription is the cause.
`idle Ns` in the window's Session field (`no depth events Ns` in the chart header)	The feed stopped sending depth. It usually resumes on its own; reconnecting the connection also resets it.
The MBO dot stays hollow (MBO off on the chart surface) although the feed supports it	On AMP/CQG switch on Enable "Market by Order" (MBO) mode in the connection settings and reconnect.
The ladder is not drawn on the chart surface	The chart is too short (less than about 140 px of free height) or the ladder width is larger than the chart. Enlarge the chart or lower DOM ladder width (px).
Each row covers more than one tick	DOM ladder ticks per row is above 1. Click `T×N` in the window toolbar to step it, or set it back to 1. On the chart surface rows are also merged when they would fall under three pixels tall.
The tape panel is missing	It needs room to the left of the ladder. In the window it is hidden while the window is narrower than about 520 px — the Tape button's tooltip says so; on the chart surface it is skipped on narrow charts. Widen the window or chart, or lower the ladder width.

Symptom	What to check
Watermark stays after entering the key	Check the internet connection and that the key was copied completely. License status (auto) shows the reason.

Settings reference

All settings live in the DOM Ladder section unless noted. Labels below are exactly as they appear in the settings dialog.

DOM Ladder

Setting	Default	What it does
DOM ladder	On	Master switch for the ladder and everything below.
DOM ladder width (px)	300	Width of the ladder panel (160-520).
DOM ladder window (ticks)	200	Half-height of the price window kept in memory (50-1000 ticks each side).
DOM ladder ticks per row	1	Merge this many ticks into one row - the DOM equivalent of zooming out. Also on the window toolbar as `T×N`.
DOM column: cumulative depth	Off	Show running totals from the best price outward.
DOM column: session volume (sess)	On	Session volume traded at each price.
DOM column: trades at price	Off	Buy and sell prints at each price since the indicator was added.
DOM column: imbalance	On	Bid versus ask share per row and top-N summary in the header.
DOM imbalance top-N levels	5	How many levels each side the header sums (1-50).
DOM add/pull window (sec)	5	Seconds of adds and pulls shown per row (1-30).
DOM large-lot highlight (x avg)	4.0	Resting size above this multiple of the visible average is highlighted (1.5-20).
DOM absorption chips	On	Show fills and refills observed per row.

Setting	Default	What it does
DOM column: order count (#ord)	On	Number of resting orders per price. Drawn only when the feed sends order-level depth.
DOM fill match window (ms)	150	A size decrease is counted as a fill if a matching print arrives within this window; otherwise as a pull (50-1000).
DOM iceberg refill window (ms)	800	An add at a row that just filled within this window counts as a refill (100-5000).
DOM iceberg min refills	2	Refill chips appear from this many refills (1-10).
DOM my orders queue estimate	On	Mark your own working limit orders with an upper-bound estimate of size ahead. Read-only.
DOM tape panel	On	Reconstructed time & sales left of the ladder.
DOM tape rows	20	Rows shown (5-60).
DOM tape group window (ms)	50	Merge same-price, same-side prints within this window into one row (0-500; 0 = no merging).
DOM tape min size (0=all)	0	Hide tape rows smaller than this.
DOM power meter	On	Effort and book lines in the ladder header.
DOM power meter window (sec)	30	Seconds the effort line sums (5-110).
DOM window flow panel	On	Resting-size history panel between the tape and the ladder.
DOM window flow panel length (min)	3	Minutes the flow panel covers (1-10).
DOM flow trade markers	On	Draw trades in the flow panel as circles; the scale is printed in the header.
DOM flow marker max size (px)	14	Widest a trade circle may get (6-40).
DOM flow marker scale (lots, 0=auto)	0	Trade size that fills a circle to full width. 0 = a round number that only moves after the panel has stayed at a new level.

Setting	Default	What it does
DOM flow min trade size (0=all)	0	Hide trades smaller than this in the flow panel.
DOM flow last price line	On	Stepped line through the most recent trade price.
DOM flow heat scale	Ladder bars	What full brightness means: the same scale as the bid/ask bars, or the largest size on the panel.
DOM flow heat lower cutoff %	20	Sizes under this share of the scale are left as background (0-80).
DOM flow heat upper cutoff %	100	Sizes over this share are drawn at full brightness (80-100).
DOM flow heat bid/ask colors	On	Colour the resting size by side.
DOM session VWAP line	Off	Line at the session volume-weighted average price, computed from the session's trades.
DOM position average line	Off	Line at your average entry price. Read-only.
DOM position stop / target lines	Off	Prices of the stop and target orders already attached to the position. Read-only.
DOM column: P&L ticks	Off	Ticks up or down if you closed at each price. Empty when flat.
DOM position P&L in ticks	Off	Show open profit in ticks next to the cash figure in the toolbar.
DOM diagnostic log (support only)	Off	Writes a plain-text log of window moves to your Documents folder. Turn it on only if support asks; nothing is sent anywhere.

DOM Analysis — bid/ask walls

The bid/ask wall lines from OrderVane Pro are included and feed the wall-age chip in the ladder. Their settings (Bid/ask walls (resting size) and the wall thresholds) are in the DOM Analysis section.

Support

Email hello@ordervane.com with your order number, Quantower version, data feed and a screenshot of the chart. Replies usually within one business day.

Disclaimer

OrderVane DOM displays market data. It does not predict price, does not rate setups and does not place orders. Futures trading involves substantial risk of loss and is not suitable for every investor. Past market activity shown on screen does not indicate future results.