



# Viking Analytics: Weekly Gamma Band Update

## 10/11/2021

*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 a strong rally last Thursday and closed the week just under our calculated gamma flip level. This Friday, we have the October monthly option expiration in stocks, which has seen volatility and a pullback in and around this day over the last several months.

The gamma band model began the week with an allocation of 30% to SPX and 70% cash.

The Gamma Band model<sup>[1]</sup> 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 4,400), the model will reduce exposure to avoid price volatility and sell-off risk. If the market closes below what we call the  $\gamma$  lower gamma level (currently near 4,260), 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  $\gamma$  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.

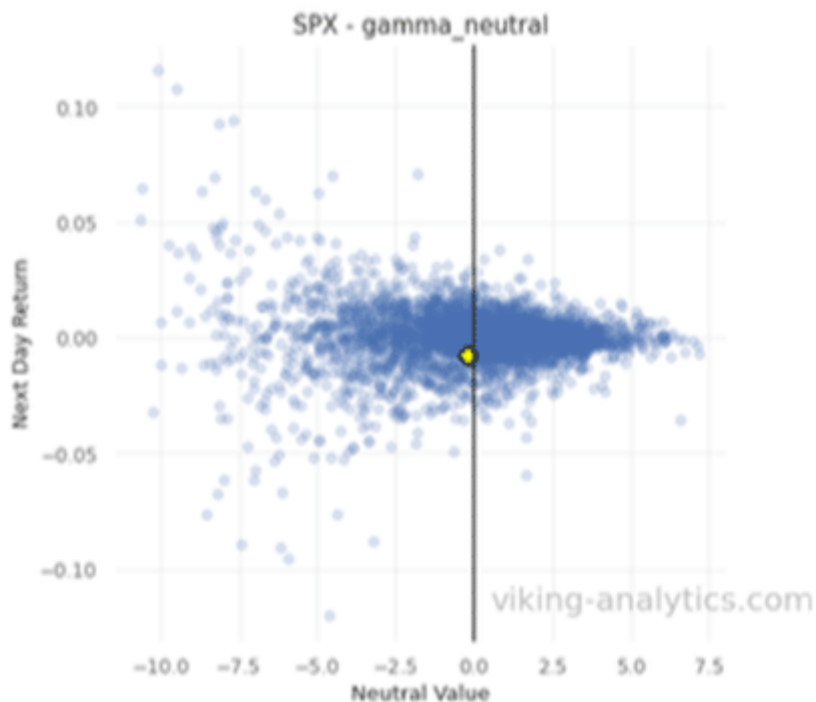


The Gamma Band model is one of several indicators that we publish daily in our SPX Report (click [here](#) for a sample report).

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.



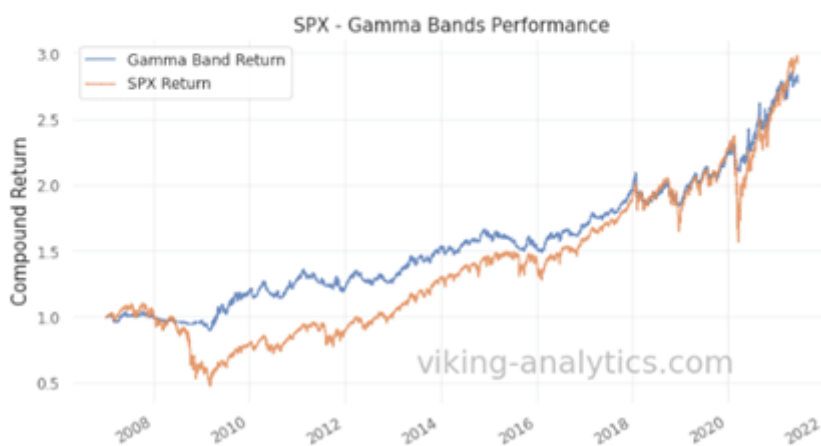
## Gamma Band Model ? Background

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 2008. The Gamma Band model can limit drawdowns while maintaining the return of the market.

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%



The Gamma Band model can limit drawdowns while maintaining the return of the market.

## 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

Erik Lytikainen, the founder of Viking Analytics, has over twenty-five years of experience as a financial analyst, entrepreneur, business developer, and commodity trader. Erik holds an MBA from the University of Maryland and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Rob McBride has 15+ years of experience in the systematic investment space and is a former Managing Director at a multi-billion dollar hedge fund. He has deep experience with market data, software and model building in financial markets. Rob has a M.S. in Computer Science from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

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