## Total Return vs. the Upside/Downside Ratio

### Cy Lynch Chair, BetterInvesting Board of Directors



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# **Class Overview**

- Review our core methodology and traditional SSG value metrics
- Examine short-comings of Upside/Downside ratio
- Examine why projected total return is the best measure of a stock's value
- Examine using projected total return to guide our investment decisions

-Introduce Portfolio Centered Decision Making



# Core Methodology of Long-term, Fundamental Investors

- Invest in high quality companies, selling at good values
  - -Quality matters first
    - Junk can never be a good value
  - -Value matters most
    - Biggest mistake: overpaying for quality company
    - Is best measured by potential total return
- Hold for the long-term, as long as it makes sense



# **Quality Matters First**

- Measured by consistent and competitive growth and profitability, combined with financial wherewithal
  - -Boils down to management, management, management
- Bolsters confidence in our projections
- Helps protect us entering bear markets and other times of economic uncertainty



- Why focus on total return?
  - -It's the bottom line
    - Ultimately, we invest to make money
    - Best measure of our past performance as investors
    - Best measure of a stock's potential
      - -Other SSG measures are fatally flawed
  - -It's simple

### Let's review what total return is and how it's calculated

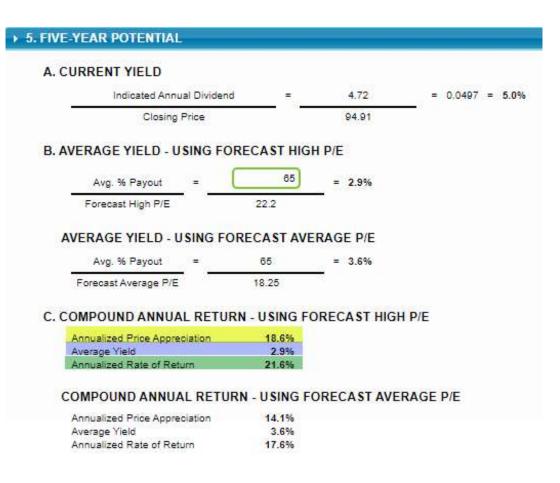


- Defined:
  - Potential price appreciation + potential dividend yield
  - –In the BI/NAIC community: Compounded and annualized over the next five years

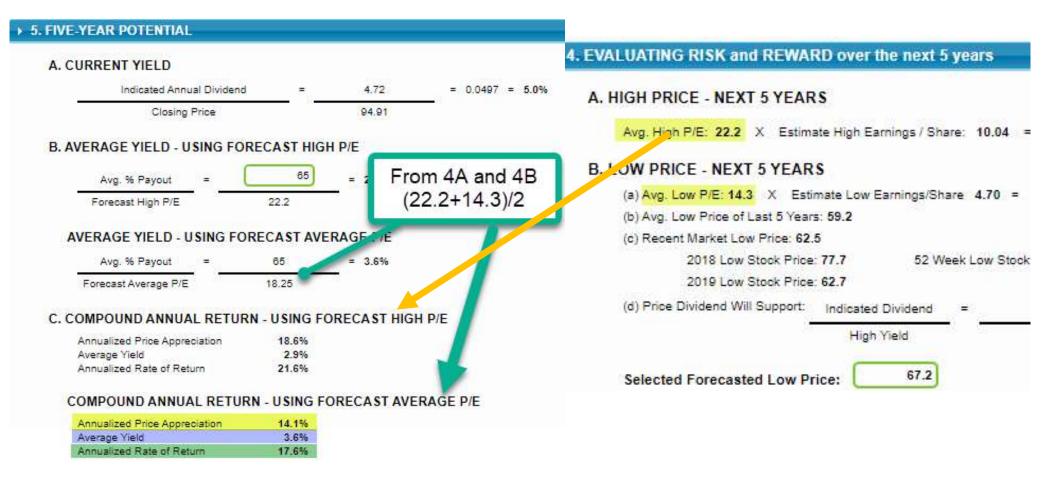


- Calculated on the Stock Selection Guide (SSG)
- Distinguish options on Line 5C: "Using Forecast High P/E" and "Using Forecast Average P/E"
  - Lines 5C and 5D on
     Toolkit 6 (with different name for 5D)





 Distinguish options on Line 5C: "Using Forecast High P/E" and "Using Forecast Average P/E"





- Best measure of a stock's present value
- Other "value" metrics traditionally applied in BetterInvesting methodology?
  - Relative value (PE comparison) → best viewed as a confidence measure
  - Price zoning  $\rightarrow$  redundant with U/D ratio

-Same data points, different math

-3 to 1 U/D ratio will always be in the buy zone

Upside/downside (U/D) ratio



# Flaws in U/D Ratio

- Dividends not considered
  - -Could both significantly raise potential return and lower potential loss
  - Renders U/D ratio useless in comparing stocks with different dividend vields



 Could be as high as 26.1 to 1 if yield added to low price (to reduce potential loss)



## Flaws in U/D Ratio

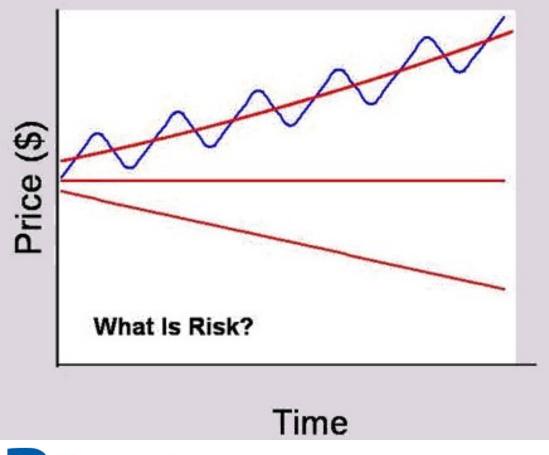
• Fallacy: The upside/downside (U/D) ratio properly measures risk in buying a stock

-Volatility isn't risk, it's opportunity



# Volatility isn't Risk

• Which line is riskiest?





Squiggly and up?

Straight and flat?

Straight and down?

# Volatility isn't Risk



 Which line do you prefer?

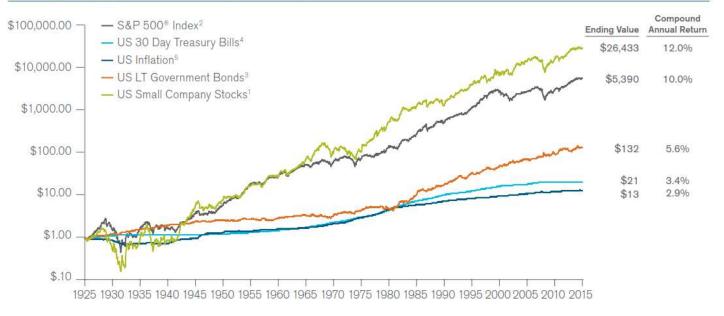
#### The Potential Strength of Equities

Hypothetical Long-Term Growth of \$1

By looking at the value of a hypothetical investment of \$1 into stocks, Government Bonds and Treasury Bills, you can see just how differently the \$1 grew in each investment (1926–2015). Stocks outperformed Bonds and Bills over the long term, showing the growth potential equities have historically offered investors. Historically, however, Government Bonds and Treasury Bills have offered lower volatility, risk and return than equities.

#### Stocks, Bonds, Bills and Inflation (as of 12/31/15)







# Flaws in U/D Ratio

- Fallacy: The upside/downside (U/D) ratio properly measures risk in buying a stock
  - -It's impossible to quantify market irrationality on either high (exuberant) or low (pessimistic) end
    - How well did your projected low prices hold up during the last bears
    - 2008 2009
    - March 2020



- How much is enough?
- It depends!
  - -On your goals
  - -On the market
  - -On potential return for the **rest of your portfolio**



### Depends on your goals

- -Set target for your total return to beat market by enough to achieve your objective
- "Traditional" BetterInvesting goal is 15% compound average per year
  - Based on history, beat "market" by average of about 5 percentage points per year

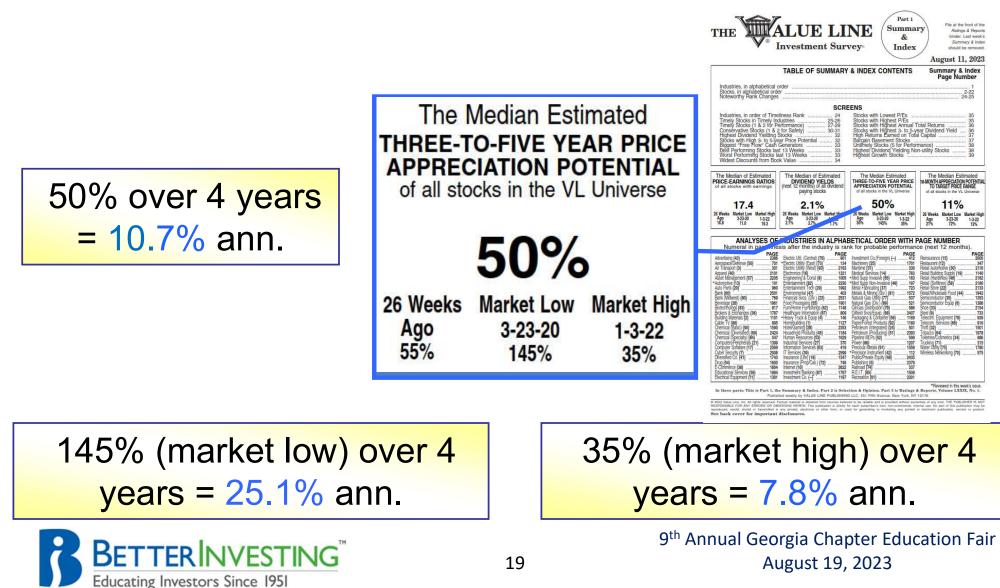


Depends on the market



Stock prices change, so does market's projected return. Consider a variable, rather than fixed 15%, goal





### Market high: 7.8% VL Median Compound Annual Appreciation

Market low: 25.1% VL Median Compound Annual Appreciation



•How does 15% stack

up?

•Very well, well

up into upper

half of all

stocks

How does 15% stack up?Not well, down in

lower half of all stocks

### Depends on the market

- -Goal is to beat market by about 5 percentage points
- -So consider a variable target of 5 percentage points above potential return for market
  - Remember dividend yield is part of potential return

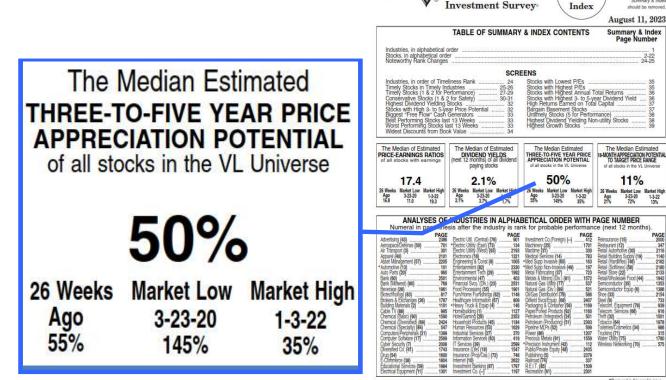


- Sources of projected return for entire market:
  - -Value Line Median Appreciation Potential (VLMAP)
    - For the stocks in Standard Edition (about 1700)
    - Doesn't include dividends
  - -Manifest Investing Projected Annual Return (MIPAR)
    - Found on <u>www.manifestinvesting.com</u> (a subscriptionbased website with 30-day free trial)
    - More companies than Value Line
    - Includes projected dividends



THE

From Value Line (VLMAP)



\*Reviewed in this week's isso t 1, the Summary & Index. Part 2 is Selection & Opinion. Part 3 is Ratings & Reports. Volume LXXIX, No. 1 Redukted models by Viller, and the second second

Part 1

Summary

&

ALUE LINE

File at the front of th

Ratings & Reports binder. Last week

Summary & Inde

Number

See back cover for important disclosure



- Calculating Projected Market Return Using Value Line (VLMAP)
  - Formula:

(Potential Future Value / Current Value) ^ .25 – 1

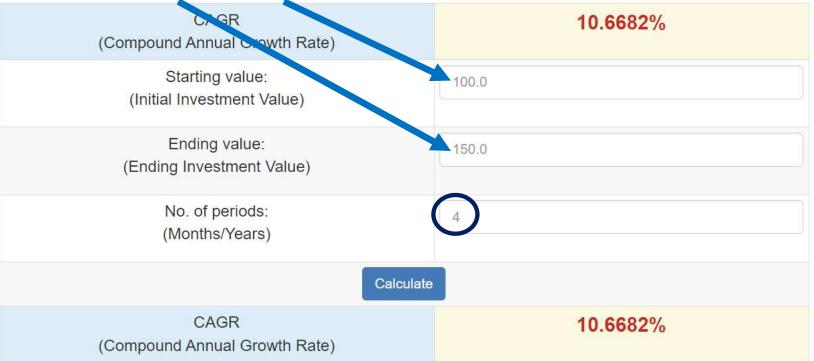
- Use 100 plus "Appreciation Potential" from VL as Future
   Value
- Use 100 as Current Value
- -(150 / 100) ^ .25 1 = **10.67%**

#### **Google CAGR calculator**



• Calculating VLMAP

### • Formula: (150 / 100) ^ .25 – 1 = 10.67%



### **Search Google for CAGR calculator**

#### This one from <a href="https://cagrcalculator.net/">https://cagrcalculator.net/</a>



#### • From Manifest Investing (subscription site)

eatured Posts		MIPAR Sweet Spot	9.9%
Expected Returns (8/7/2023) Returns We officially kick off a couple of seasons this week (1) the	e annual hunt for Red Rabbits between	Symbol or nat	
now and Halloween and (2) back to school as we add and Cup tops \$4,000,000. (Again)		Upcoming E	vents
Expected         Expected Returns (7/31/2023)           It's our quarterly plethora of widely-followed companies         Line Standard Edition.	— also known as Issue 13 of the Value	Investing Pc (August 7:02 Tue, Aug. 9 · O	3)
Walter Schloss: Investing Rules		More	
MIPAR	e Walter - including elines	Published Da	ashboards
		Manifest 40	
Groundhog Challenge XVII At The Half Celebrity Groundhog Leader: Launch Pad Screening (with	a nod to Broad Assets, St. Louis)	Round Table	
individual leader is Ginger Williams (Atlanta) and the gro Investment Club (California)		Groundhog	2023



- Depends on potential return for rest of your portfolio
  - -Focus on your "team," not individual "players"
    - 5 percentage points > potential market return isn't for each stock, but for total portfolio
  - "Portfolio-Centered Decision Making"
    - Making Buy/Accumulate/Sell decisions based on impact on your overall portfolio
    - Aim to maximize potential return (value) while maintaining sufficient overall quality



Portfolio-Centered Decision Making

-Portfolio Summary Report in Online SSGPLUS

Report Opt	PERT Diversification									PDF
Report Det	ails									PDF
Show All 🗸 entries										
				Portfolio Total Value	\$176,227.17	Portfolio dollar	weighted average	US/DS: 3.3	😽 😽 🕹 🕹	Return: 15.7
Ticker	Company	Price 💠	Shares 😂	Total Value 💠	% of Portfolio 💲	Buy Below 💠	Sell Above 💠	US/DS 🗘	% Tot Ret 👻	P 🗧 🗘
TSM	Taiwan Semiconductor	85.37	200.0	17,074.00	9.7	105.20	197.60	6.0	20.4	Buy
CTSH	Cognizant Tech Solns	59.49	200.0	11,898.00	6.8	78.50	132.80	12.3	23.0	Buy
ELV	Elevance Health	450.74	60.0	27,044.40	15.3	461.10	818.00	3.2	18.1	Buy
MA	Mastercard	375.24	75.0	28,143.00	16.0	373.30	670.20	2.9	17.4	Hold
BKNG	Booking Holdings	2687.33	9.0	24,185.97	13.7	2489.70	4235.40	2.3	13.7	Hold
FAST	Fastenal	54.81	350.0	19,183.50	10.9	49.00	70.90	1.8	12.7	Hold
TJX	TJX Companies	78.43	350.0	27,450.50	15.6	73.40	113.00	2.2	12.3	Hold
SYK	Stryker	303.54	70.0	21,247.80	12.1	246.50	361.90	1.0	7.7	Hold

Key is to keep this at target of at least 5% points > Projected Market Return (15.7% here)



- Portfolio-Centered Decision Making
  - -Manifest Investing's Dashboard

Key is to keep this in Target Range of 5-10 percentage points > Projected Market Return

Company	Symbol	Shares	Price	Value 🔺	% of Total	Growth	Proj P/E	Proj Yield	Fin Str	EPS Stab	Qlty	PAR
Masimo	MASI	1085.40	\$120.00	\$130,248.00	32.4%	14.3%	33.0	0.0%	88%	39	72	<mark>19.8</mark> %
Walgreen	WBA	2898.60	\$29.53	\$85,595.66	21.3%	4.1%	9.0	3.7%	51%	75	60	16.6%
ResMed	RMD	359.10	\$179.27	\$64,375.86	16.0%	10.9%	30.0	1.1%	99%	97	99	15.4%
CSG Systems	CSGS	820.01	\$54.55	\$44,731.40	11.1%	4.7%	19 <mark>.</mark> 0	1.5%	70%	79	53	10.4%
Arcner Coniels Mid	ADM	350.40	\$86.44	\$30,288.58	7.5%	6.0%	12.0	2.3%	74%	80	77	9.3%
General Dynamics	GD	90.50	\$224.47	\$20,314.54	5.0%	4.2%	16.0	2.5%	97%	99	84	7.9%
First Financial Bankshares*	FFIN	458.00	\$31.82	\$14,575.56	3.6%	9.6%	20.0	1.5%	96%	96	96	6.1%
Cognizant Technology	CTSH	173.14	\$70.26	\$12,164.68	3.0%	7.4%	16.0	1.4%	95%	79	87	12.2%
	QSII	292.32										
Averages				\$402,292.26		9.0%	22.4	1.5%	80%	70	73.9	15.3%

#### Source: www.manifestinvesting.com



MIPAR



Edit •

08/08/2023

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Chapter Education Fair August 19, 2023

#### My Dashboards: Stock Pickers 2012

- Total return at or above target of 15.7%:
  - Accumulate
     highest Tot Return
     consistent with
     reasonable
     diversification
    - MKSI in this example

Alerts	J		(	Overv	iew	Portfolio Features - Wor			
Port	folio Report Card - Do	ollar wo	eighted av	verages					
	Total Return:	16.2 %	R	elative Valu	e: 134.(	0	Proje	ected EPS G	row
	Projected Average Return:	10.5 %	R	ational Valu	e: \$ 184	4,588.10			
	Upside/Downside Ratio	7.3 To		Total Valu	e: \$ 180	0,119.10			
loldir	ngs								
Ticker	Name	Shares	Last Quarter	Last Price	Total Return	Upside / Downside	Proj RV	Value	
MKSI	MKS Instruments	6.5	3/31/2022	4/29/2022	34.7	31.6	50.5	736.31	
AX	Axos Financial Inc	21.9	12/31/2021	4/29/2022	29.4	6.3	78.2	828.32	
ROW	T. Rowe Price Group	14.6	12/31/2021	4/29/2022	26,8	16.6	61.2	1,794.17	
SBUX	STARBUCKS CORP	79.1	12/31/2021	4/29/2022	26.0	99.9	64.1	5,905.22	
RCX	Lam Research Corp	1.4	3/31/2022	4/29/2022	25.9	9.3	74.1	653.93	
SKX	Skechers USA Inc	39.2	3/31/2022	4/29/2022	24.8	9.0	43.6	1,500.21	
WMS	Maximus Inc	91.2	12/31/2021	4/29/2022	24.5	99.9	74.9	6,647.38	
		5.0 million (1997)	second and a second	and the second se	and the second se	1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	in the first sector	and the second se	1.000

#### Assume potential market total return of 10.7%



- Focus on projected total return takes emotion out of selling
  - -Portfolio projected return above target
    - No sell needed
  - -Portfolio projected return below target
    - Test accumulation of holding with highest projected return
    - If portfolio projected return still below target,
      - -Consider adding new holding

-Replace/sell holding with lowest projected return



- Total return not above target of 15.7:
  - Test accumulation of highest Tot Return consistent with reasonable diversification

**Assume potential** market total return of 10.7%

- -Test adding new stock
- -Challenge lowest return holding for possible replacement (in this case MA)

eport Deta	ails —							
how All	Total I	Return: 14						
icker	Company	Price Date	Price \$	Shares 💠	Total Value 💠	% of Portfolio 💠	% Tot Ret 👻	Rec
AST	Fastenal	4/29/2022	55.31	160.0	8,849.60	4.9	29.8	Buy
IVI	11-VI	4/29/2022	61.21	355.0	21,729.55	12.1	23.8	Buy
BKNG	Booking Holdings	4/29/2022	2210.31	9.0	19,892.79	11.1	16.8	Hold
CTSH	Cognizant Tech Solns	4/29/2022	80.90	300.0	24,270.00	13.5 🖌	16.1	Buy
GIS	General Mills	4/29/2022	70.73	300.0	21,219.00	11.8	11.5	Hold
ANTM	Anthem	4/29/2022	501.93	70.0	35,135.10	19.5 ┥	11.3	Hold
TJX	TJX Companies	4/29/2022	61.28	350.0	21,448.00	11.9	9.2	Hold
MA	Mastercard	4/29/2022	363.38	75.0	27,253.50	15.2	7.3	Hold

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• What about diversification?

-Don't let it dominate decisions

- Sector diversification works out over time
- Let winners run
- -Consider it primarily in accumulation decisions



# **Keeping Focus on Total Return**

• Can you have too much?

-"If it looks too good to be true ..."

- Be wary when total return exceeds projected market return by 10 or more points
- Test your judgments
  - -Especially projected P/Es
  - -Projected growth, too
  - –Does market know something you don't?



# Summary

- Invest in high quality companies, selling at good values
  - -Quality matters first
  - -Value matters most, and is best measured by projected total return
- Focus on projected total return for overall portfolio, not just individual stocks



# Summary

- Consider a variable target for portfolio return based on projected market return
- Sell when necessary to restore overall portfolio potential return to your target
- Beware of excessive projected total returns



### **Questions or Comments**

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