

Indicator Repaint & Selection Test Checklist

An indicator that repaints shows you a history that never existed: signals that look perfect on a closed chart were moving, appearing and disappearing while the candle was live. This checklist tests any indicator for repainting and scores it before it earns a place in a strategy.

1. The repaint test (30 minutes, demo chart)

- ☐ Attach the indicator to a live demo chart on a low timeframe (M1 or M5) where repainting is easiest to catch.
- ☐ Take a screenshot the moment a signal appears, with the time visible.
- ☐ Wait for the candle to close and for two more candles to form. Screenshot the same moment again.
- ☐ Compare: did the signal move, change size, or vanish? Any change after the candle closed is repainting, whatever the sales page calls it ("recalculation", "optimisation").
- ☐ Repeat with the terminal's strategy tester in visual mode: signals must appear at the same bars in the tester and on the live chart.

2. Questions that separate tools from toys

Question	Good answer	Bad answer
What data does it use?	Closed candles, stated in the description	"Proprietary AI formula" with no inputs you can see
Can you see and change the inputs?	Periods, sources and thresholds are exposed	Locked black box
Does it lag honestly?	Vendor states the delay (e.g. confirms after 1–2 bars)	"No lag, no repaint, 95% accurate" — pick at most one of those claims to believe
Alerts	Fire on candle close, configurable	Fire mid-candle and re-fire as the signal flickers
Backtest honesty	Works in the tester with the same rules as live	"Not suitable for backtesting" — translation: the history is redrawn

3. Selection scorecard

- ☐ It answers one question well (trend, momentum, levels, volatility) instead of promising all four.
- ☐ It agrees with price more often than it argues with it: if you need three filters to make it usable, it is not the tool.
- ☐ You can explain, in one sentence, what would make its signal wrong. If nothing can, it is decoration.
- ☐ Two weeks of forward screenshots before it influences a single trade decision.

The repaint rule: judge an indicator only by what it showed at the moment of decision. A signal you could not have seen in real time was never a signal.

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