



SmartInvestor  
Models.com

# Bucket Investor series

*Maintain Investor Sanity: Use Separate Accounts for Multiple Strategies*

with **Rich Warner**



SmartInvestor  
Models.com

# Investor Sanity

The Power of  
**Separate**  
**Accounts**



# Disclaimer

- This video/pdf is intended for educational and informational purposes only. Since each household's financial situation—including cash flows, net worth, goals, wants, and needs—varies significantly, the author suggests consulting with an experienced, certified financial planner or tax specialist. They can help evaluate your financial condition and develop personalized plans to achieve your specific goals and needs.
- The funds, portfolios, and ideas discussed in this video/pdf are intended to offer general guidance on important issues related to personal investing. There is no guarantee that they will be the best fit for your specific financial situation, nor is this a solicitation to invest in them.
- Past performance of funds, benchmark indices, and models does not guarantee future results. Investing carries risks. The author encourages readers to conduct their own due diligence before making any investment decisions and to use the concepts outlined in this and other reliable sources.





**SmartInvestor  
Models.com**

*Ever stare at your  
investment positions in  
dismay, trying to make  
sense of it all?*





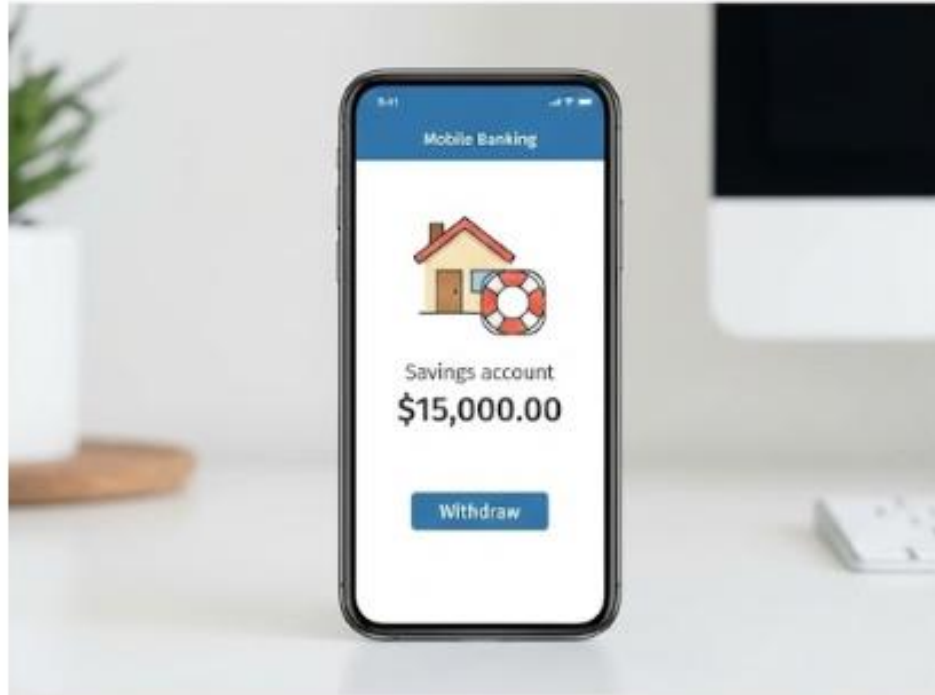
**SmartInvestor  
Models.com**

*There's just too much going on...your portfolio positions page is a mosaic of tickers and trades, some of which you barely recognize...*



# Why separate accounts?

## EMERGENCY FUND



## ROTH IRA (RETIREMENT)



**You wouldn't manage an emergency fund the same way you would manage a retirement account portfolio, would you?**

# Why separate accounts?



If you tried to mix the two, you'd end up with a mixed blend of confusion.

# Why separate accounts?

**Separating accounts ensures clarity** – helps investors **avoid the confusion** of overlapping strategies/models

Just as each and every flight has its own number, departure and arrival path, so should your investment accounts!



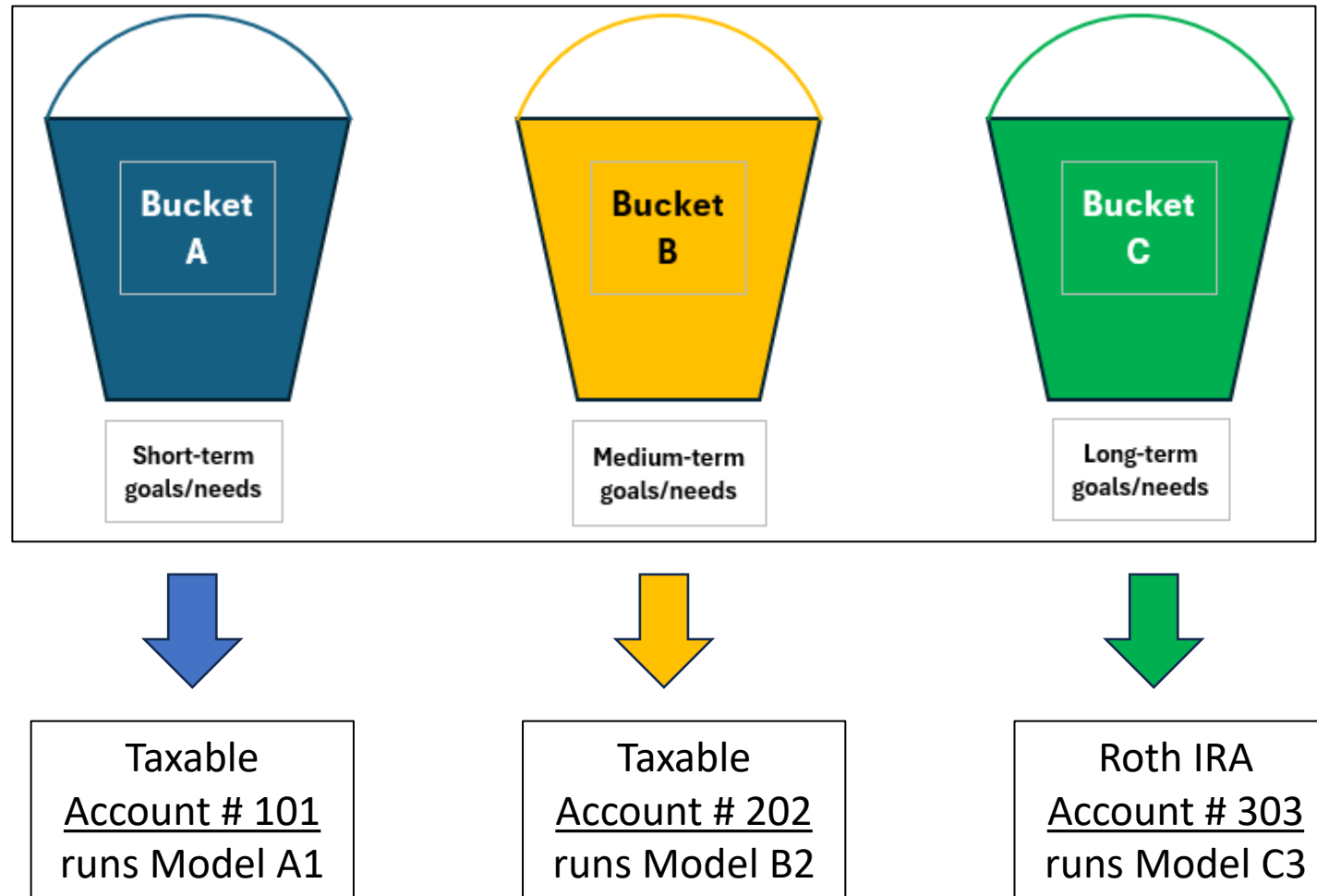


**SmartInvestor  
Models.com**

...the solution...

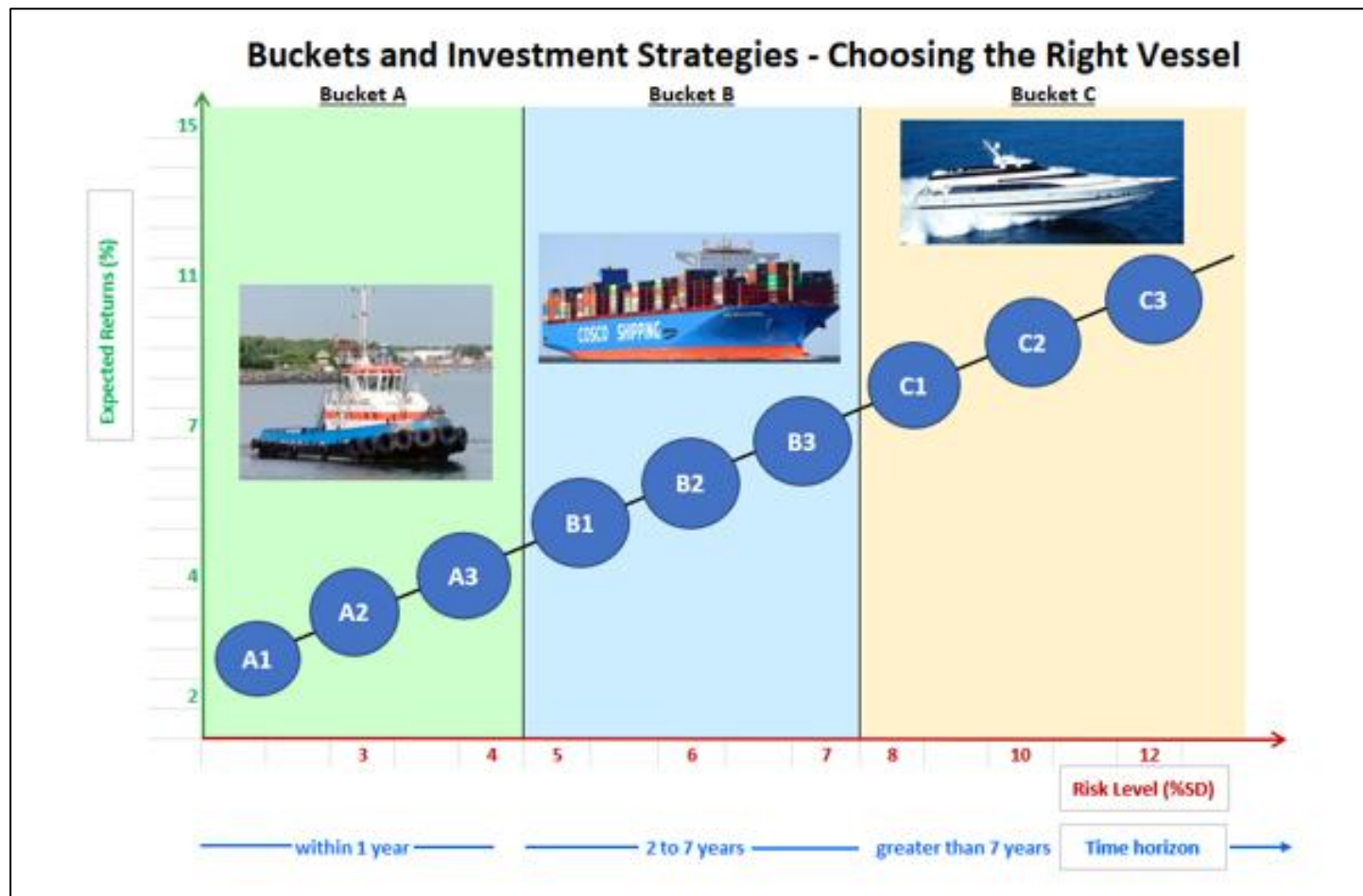
# Why separate accounts?

- Bucket investors run **multiple strategies across separate Buckets A, B, and C.**
- Each bucket serves its own **specific purpose.**
- Each bucket has **its own assigned investment model** based on time horizon and risk level factors.
- And **each bucket has its own account number.**



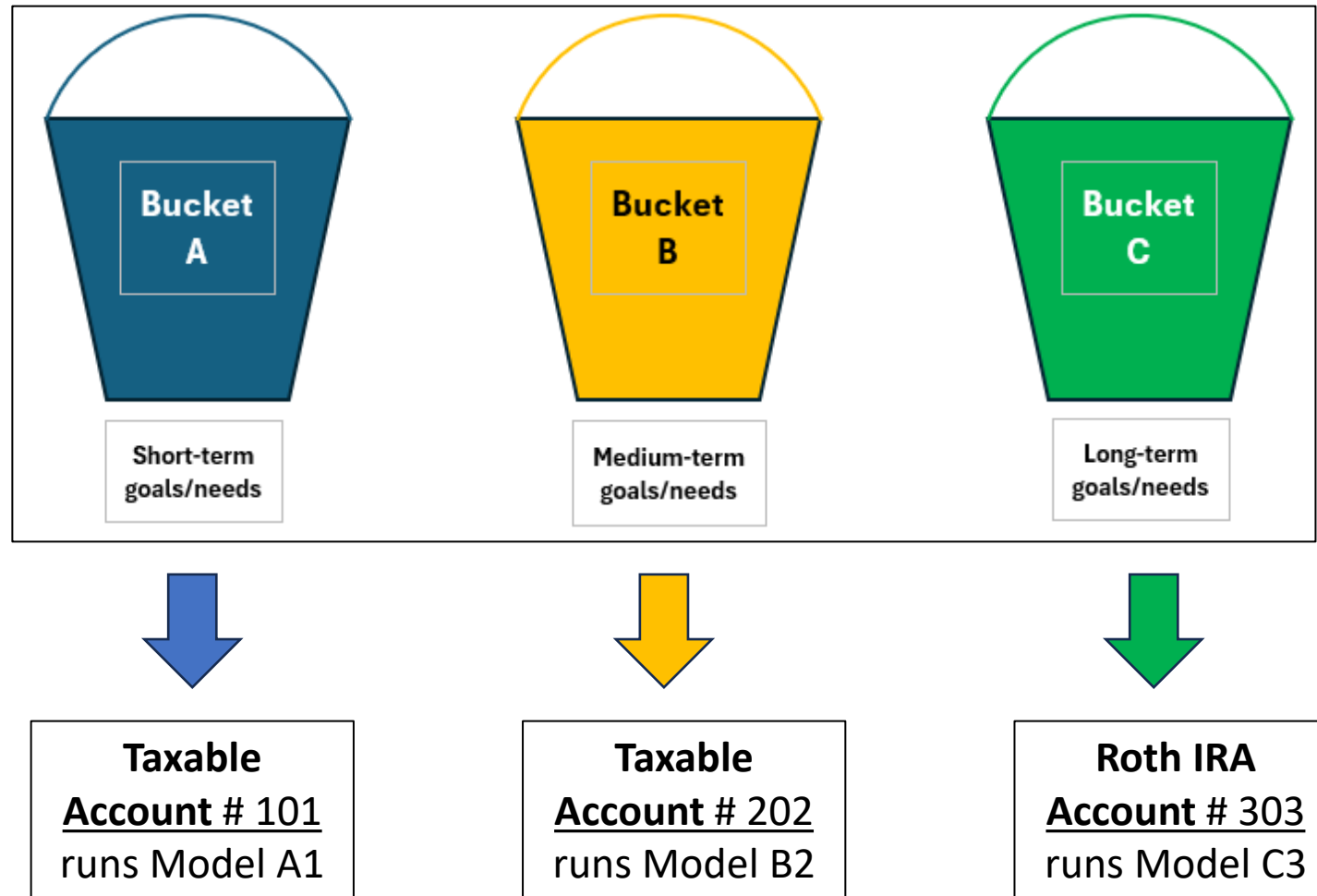
# Why separate accounts?

- Bucket investors run **multiple strategies across Buckets A, B, and C.**
- But each bucket has **its own assigned investment strategy/model with its own distinct account.**



# Why separate accounts?

- Buckets A and B are typically **taxable brokerage accounts**
- **Bucket C** is usually a **qualified account** for retirement
- Separating accounts makes sense, **especially during tax season**



# Why separate accounts?



By creating a separate account for each model/strategy, you can **clearly track and evaluate each model's performance** over time, while understanding portfolio composition and purpose.



# SmartInvestor Models.com

By using separate accounts for each model/strategy, you can easily **spot shadow or obsolete inventory** – shelf ghost positions that are easily overlooked when you try to blend multiple trade ideas in one account.

Only keep what you need...



# Why separate accounts?



Separate accounts are **especially useful when testing new strategies** (even if it's just a paper trading account).

# Why separate accounts?

## Rebalance Spreadsheet

### Bucket A Model Dollar Allocations:

Model	SGOV	VGUS	TBIL	TFLO	USFR	ICSH	JPST	JAAA	CLOA	Total
A1	\$4,648	\$5,070	\$4,436	\$7,077	\$7,077	\$6,971	\$6,971			\$42,250
A2	\$3,803	\$4,225	\$2,535	\$5,281	\$5,281	\$8,450	\$8,450	\$2,113	\$2,113	\$42,250
A3	\$2,958	\$3,380	\$2,113	\$4,225	\$4,225	\$6,338	\$6,338	\$6,338	\$6,338	\$42,250

### Bucket A Allocations by # Shares:

Model	SGOV	VGUS	TBIL	TFLO	USFR	ICSH	JPST	JAAA	CLOA	Total
A1	46	67	89	140	140	138	138			758
A2	38	56	51	104	105	167	167	42	41	771
A3	29	45	42	84	84	125	125	125	122	781

### Bucket A ETF Most Recent Prices:

Bucket A tickers	Data Link	Last Price
SGOV	<a href="#">1-Month Trs Bd</a>	\$100.49
VGUS	<a href="#">1-Short Treas</a>	\$75.36
TBIL	<a href="#">3-Month E</a>	\$49.90
TFLO	<a href="#">Rate Bond</a>	\$50.54
USFR	<a href="#">1-M Rate Trs</a>	\$50.40
ICSH	<a href="#">SD Bd Act</a>	\$50.55
JPST	<a href="#">1-M Short In</a>	\$50.51
JAAA	<a href="#">1-M AAA CLO</a>	\$50.66
CLOA	<a href="#">1-M AAA CLO</a>	\$51.84



Separate accounts are especially useful when **rebalancing** positions once a year.

# Renaming Accounts Feature



These days, brokerage firms offer a feature that lets you assign nicknames/aliases to each account, so you can quickly identify the purpose and strategy for each.

# Renaming Accounts Feature



Fidelity INVESTMENTS

Portfolio Summary Monday, January 26, 2026 12:44 PM EST [Customize](#)

My Accounts

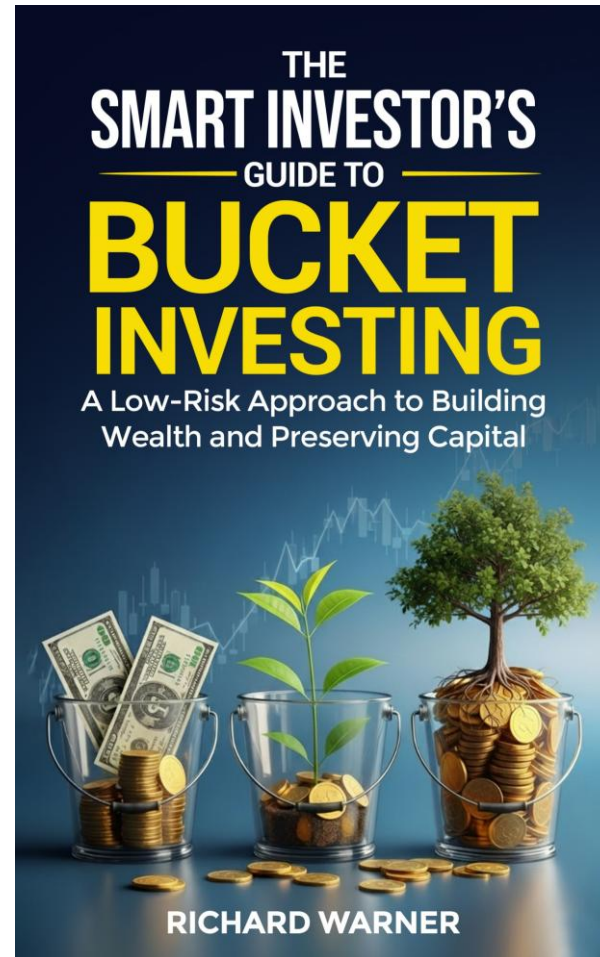
Balance	Today's Change	Total Gain/Loss	Holdings	
<b>Retirement Hub</b> (Rollover IRA)	\$345,678.90	\$2.15%	+2.15%	>
<b>Future Home Down Payment</b> (Taxable Brokerage)	\$75,210.55	\$60.8%	+1.70%	>
<b>Kids' College Savings</b> (Custodial UGMA)	\$120,450.30	\$22,890.12	+1.05%	>
<b>Emergency Fund</b> (Cash Management)	\$120,450.30	\$22,90.12	+0.00%	>
<b>Trading Fun</b> (Rollover IRA)	\$15,5000.00	\$15,500	-0.30%	>
<b>Spouse's IRA</b> (Taxable Brokerage)	\$280,123.45	\$1,92%	-1.92%	>

External Accounts  
Linked bank accounts can named in Full View

...beats account numbers!

These days, brokerage firms offer a feature that lets you assign nicknames/aliases to each account, so you can quickly identify the purpose and strategy for each.

For more tips like this, consider picking up your copy of



# Sign Up Today, visit us at:



[SmartInvestorModels.com](https://SmartInvestorModels.com)

Also, visit us at

[YouTube.com/@SmartInvestorModels](https://YouTube.com/@SmartInvestorModels)

# Video Transcript p.1



This video focuses on a practical strategy to eliminate the confusion and anxiety often associated with managing multiple investments. The core solution presented is the use of **separate accounts** assigned to specific "buckets" or financial goals.

## **The Problem: Portfolio "Hodgepodge"**

- Many investors face a "mosaic of past trades" where their brokerage screen is filled with various tickers, making it difficult to remember the purpose of each security [[01:56](#)].
- Mixing different strategies (e.g., an emergency fund with a retirement portfolio) leads to confusion and poor tracking of performance [[02:44](#)].

# Video Transcript p.2



## The Solution: The Bucket System

To maintain clarity, the video suggests organizing investments into three distinct time-segmented buckets, each with its own unique account number [\[05:04\]](#):

**Bucket A (Immediate Needs):** Covers expenses for the next two years, including emergency funds. This typically uses ultra-conservative models like safe bond ETFs [\[04:04\]](#).

**Bucket B (Intermediate Goals):** For goals 2–7 years away (e.g., a down payment on a home). These are often taxable accounts useful for tax-loss harvesting [\[04:54\]](#).

**Bucket C (Long-term Growth):** Primarily for retirement. This bucket typically uses more aggressive strategies and qualified accounts for tax advantages [\[04:28\]](#).

# Video Transcript p.3



## Key Benefits of Separate Accounts

**Operational Clarity:** Like an air traffic controller, assigning a specific account to a specific "flight path" (goal) prevents strategies from colliding [\[03:30\]](#).

**Simplified Tax Reporting:** Separate accounts make it much easier to decipher realized gains or losses for specific strategies during tax season [\[05:14\]](#).

**Performance Tracking:** It allows you to clearly evaluate which specific models are working and which are not [\[06:32\]](#).

**Discipline:** It helps resist the temptation of "experimental trades" within a core strategy. Instead, the video suggests creating a dedicated **experimental trading account** to isolate and test new ideas [\[08:05\]](#).

# Video Transcript p.4



## Bonus Tip: Using Account Aliases

Most major brokerage firms allow you to rename accounts to avoid the confusion of remembering long account numbers [08:48]:

**Fidelity** refers to these as "Nicknames" [09:28].

**Interactive Brokers** calls them "Account Aliases" [09:28].

Examples of helpful labels include "Retirement Hub," "Future Home Down Payment," or "Emergency Fund" [09:44].

The video concludes by emphasizing that this organization provides the "peace of mind" necessary for successful, long-term investing [06:24].

**Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/97f2VowTJCM>

