



Excel Mixer Pro Quick Help

Important notice:

Excel Mixer Nano users should consider reading the Slider section only.

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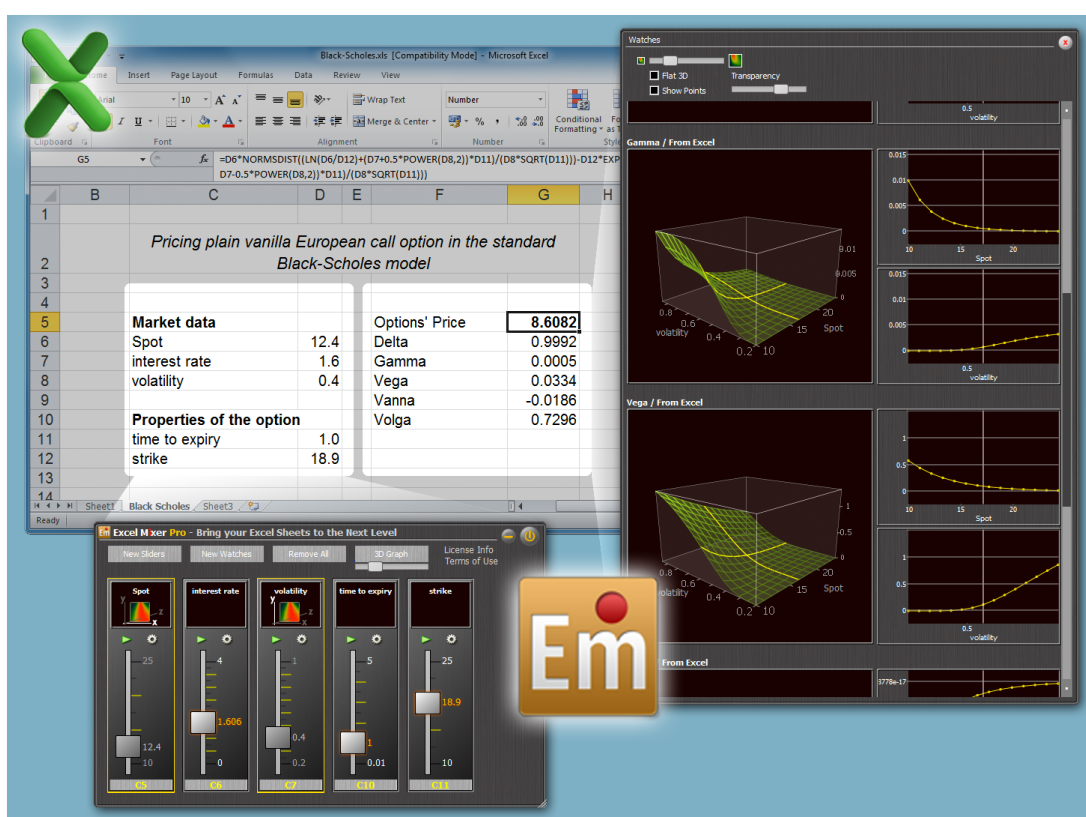


Excel Mixer Pro Quick Help

1 In Just a Few Words... and a Picture!

Excel Mixer Pro is the ultimate tool for advanced Microsoft® Excel users who want to “feel” their formulas and bring their charts to life.

It is the result of a brand new approach to data manipulation and graphical output visualization. In just a few clicks, sliders and watches can be added to control input values and draw 2D or 3D graphs of formula outputs.



There is a lot more that you can do with Excel Mixer Pro. Amongst others, graphs can show dynamically how outputs evolve while any of the inputs changes.

Have a look at our website, www.convexdna.com, and at our videos on YouTube (www.youtube.com/ConvexDNA)!

2 Excel Mixer Pro Interface

Excel Mixer Pro consists of two windows, respectively for sliders and for watches. The interface design has been thought to allow switching between Excel Mixer Pro and Excel the easiest way.

2.1 Sliders



Sliders are controls that are linked to specific numeric cells in Excel and let you adjust their value in a continuous way with the mouse.

2.1.1 Add Sliders

To add a slider, select a cell with a numeric value, but without a formula, then click « New Sliders ». You can add multiple sliders at a time by selecting one or more ranges of cells in Excel.

Note that Excel Mixer Pro won't add any slider (or watch) if too many cells are selected in Excel (whole columns or rows, for instance).

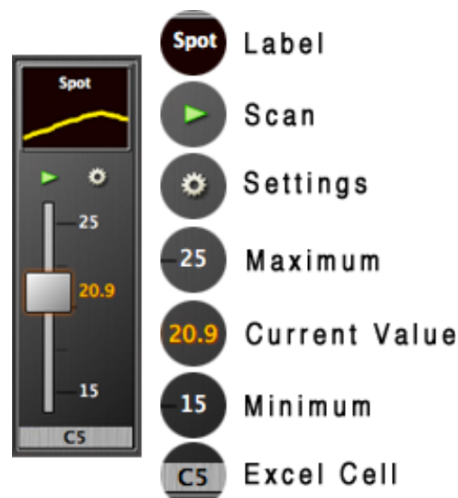
2.1.2 Configure Sliders

By default, the slider ranges from zero to twice the current value of the cell.

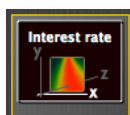
Sliders are smart enough to set their label text automatically, if possible. If no text can be found, sliders use the cell name as label text.

Sliders can be manually configured for their minimum, maximum and step values, and for their label text.

Sliders try to remember the last configuration for a specific cell in order to spare you the hassle of configuring sliders again and again each time you use Excel Mixer Pro.



2.1.3 Select Sliders



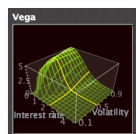
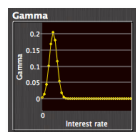
In order to make graphs, one must select sliders (see « How to Make Graphs » section) by clicking their top area, where the label is.

Unselect by clicking again the same area.

2.1.4 Remove Sliders



To remove a slider, move the mouse pointer to the top-left corner of the slider, then click the small triangular sign that appears, then click the red cross button.

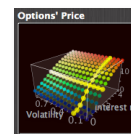


New Watches

2.2 Watches

Watches are linked to specific numeric cells in Excel. They show graphically the value of the cells.

Watches can show a graphical representation of the value of cells in many ways, depending on the type of data that is sent to them (see the « How to use Excel Mixer Pro" section).



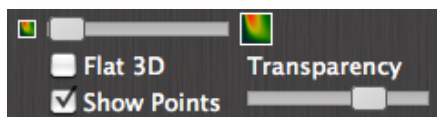
2.2.1 Add Watches

To add a watch, select a cell with a numeric value, but with a formula, then click « New Watches ». You can add multiple watches at a time by selecting one or more ranges of cells in Excel. The current cell value must not be an error (division by zero, for instance), or Excel Mixer Pro will not recognize it as a candidate for a watch.

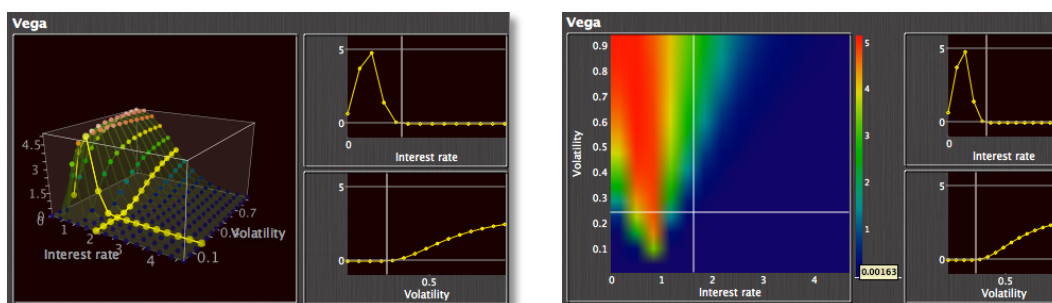
Note that Excel Mixer Pro won't add any watch (or slider) if too many cells are selected in Excel (whole columns or rows, for instance).

2.2.2 Configure Watches

Watches don't have any real configuration. There are instead a few display settings, which are straightforward.



2.2.3 3D Splits

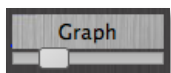


The two graphs above show the exact same data, as real 3D and as so-called flat 3D.

The 2D graphs on the right show the curves going along the two split lines (vertical and horizontal), which one can move along the 3D surface.

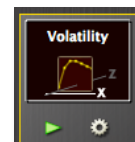
3 How to Make Graphs

3.1 2D Graphs

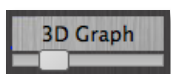


Watches obviously show the value of outputs while one slider variable changes in 2D graphs.

To make a 2D graph, you must either have one slider selected, then click « Graph », or click the small play-like green triangle on any slider.

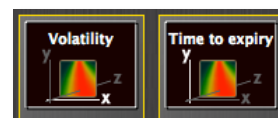


3.2 3D Graphs

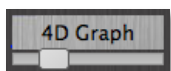


When two sliders are selected, watches show the output as 3D (or flat 3D) graphs.

To make a 3D graph, one must select at least two sliders, then click « 3D Graph ».



3.3 More than 3D?



Excel Mixer Pro can record the outputs for more than two changing inputs. A multidimensional data cube is then stored, and any combination of one or two sliders can be selected to have their respective graph result shown.

3.4 Graph Precision

The small grey button below the « Graph » or « 3D Graph » button lets you adjust the number of points that will be scanned. Excel Mixer Pro sets the step for each slider variable as a multiple of the step specified in slider settings.

Note that, due to this step adjustment, it often happens that the last scanned value is not equal to the maximum set in the slider settings.

4 How to Bring Graphs to Life

4.1 Automatic recalculation

Once a 2D or 3D graph has been made, Excel Mixer Pro automatically updates the graph as values of sliders that are not part of the graph are changed.

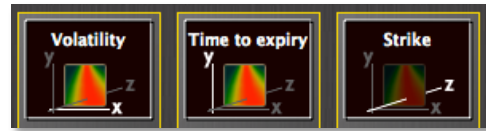
This is probably the best way to get to « feel » how a formula behaves when its parameters change.

It is actually also possible to make Excel graphs dynamic. One needs to build a graph in Excel and add a slider in Excel Mixer Pro for any of the data inputs.

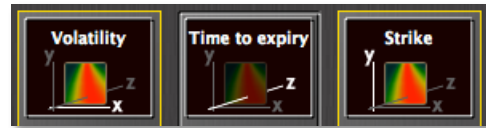
See our videos for a demonstration of this major functionality, which really brings graphs to life!

4.2 Data Pre-Calculation

Any number of sliders can be selected before a graph is started. The first two selected sliders determine which are going to be the default axes.



The other selected sliders are going to be used to generate the data cube, but are not going to be shown on the graphs, unless one of the x and y sliders is unselected.



After a few tries, it is quite easy to become “fluent” with slider selection and graphs axes!

5 Shortcut Summary

S	New sliders
W	New watches
G	Make graph
1, 2, 3...	Select / Deselect slider
Alt + 1, Alt + 2, Alt + 3...	Configure slider
<i>While showing 3D graph only:</i>	
F	Enable / Disable flat 3D

6 3D Graph Adjustments

Mouse Left Button	Move graph split views
<i>The following do not apply to Flat 3D:</i>	
Mouse Right Button	Rotate graph
Ctrl + Mouse Left Button	Rotate graph
Alt + Mouse Left Button	Adjust graph height
Shift + Mouse Left Button	Move graph
Alt + Mouse Wheel	Adjust graph zoom