# Expected Returns 

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Results, Remarks and References Regarding Investment Initiatives

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## Honoring Walter Schloss

Long-time readers are somewhat familiar with the exploits and achievements of the late Walter Schloss (August 28, 1916 - February 19, 2012). This month, we celebrate his approach to investing -- including a nod to Warren Buffett (Ben Graham) and Value Line. We'll briefly explore the drivers behind our focus on the Value Line low total return forecast. Value Line is good enough for Buffett who wrote about the achievements of Walter in his work, The SuperInvestors of Graham-and-Doddsville. In addition to the investing guidelines detailed here, Schloss relied extensively on Value Line. In Buffett's words, "Schloss practiced investing in a way that any ordinary investor can."
"Over 39 years of investing had delivered annualized returns of slightly over 20\% to the clients of Walter Schloss. He worked entirely from a few publications like Value Line ..." -- Warren Buffett, "The SuperInvestors of Graham-and-Doddsville"

Schloss shared the following investing guidelines in a presentation dated March 10, 1994. As we've said before, and we'll be happy to repeat -- when an extremely successful investor with a track record that spans more than five decades says, "Listen up. This is what is important." We listen.

## 1. "Price is the most important factor to use in relation to value."

Price is an important component of the return forecast equation. The expectations we build for the companies we study necessarily seeks superior returns. We're here for the returns. Superior long-term performance depends on the discovery of better returns -- based on attractive prices.
2. "Try to establish the value of the company. Remember that a share of stock represents a part of a business and is not just a piece of paper."
"When you buy a stock, you become an owner of the company. There is just as much reason to exercise care and judgment in being an owner as in becoming a shareholder." -- Benjamin Graham
3. "Use book value as a starting point to try and establish the value of the enterprise. Be sure that debt does not equal $100 \%$ of the equity. (Capital and surplus for the common stock)."

The value of any enterprise is a combination of book value and the discounted value of a future stream of cash flows. Remember that capital structure is a management decision -- and that we expect our leaders to prudently pursue the optimum blend. That said, a company steeped in debt makes interest payments and in the case of failure, common stock holders are often deserted. It's quite a challenge for a company to go bankrupt with no debt -- prudent advice for beginning investors.
4. "Have patience. Stocks don't go up immediately."

Patience. Discipline. Good advice.
5. "Don't buy on tips or for a quick move. Let the professionals do that, if they can. Don't sell on bad news."

Do diligence. Pun intended.


Value Line Investment Survey Low Total Return Forecast (1999-Present). Was the faith in Value Line held by Walter Schloss misplaced? Why does Manifest Investing focus on the low total return (VL LTR) forecasts at Value Line? We think Walter's faith was well-founded and that Value Line has the potential to deliver outstanding opportunities as a trusted resource. Since 1999, the average quarterly low total return forecast for the Standard Edition has been $8.5 \%$. The actual quarterly returns have been $8.6 \%$. We think it's a really good idea that MANIFEST PAR tracks LTR, in general.

## In This Issue...

Kohl's (KSS)
6. "Don't be afraid to be a loner but be sure that you are correct in your judgment. You can't be 100\% certain but try to look for weaknesses in your thinking."

What are the threats to your assumptions for growth, profitability and valuation? Have you digested the bulls case vs. the bears case from sources like Morningstar? How about the 5 -and- 3 influences discussion from sources like the Motley Fool Stock Advisor.
7. "Have the courage of your convictions once you have made a decision."

Do you believe that our approach to understanding the trends associated with growth, profitability and valuation work? If so, let them work.
8. "Have a philosophy of investment and try to follow it. The above is a way that $I^{\prime} v e$ found successful."

We know that our mettle will always be tested. The discipline of building expectations and vigilantly monitoring for threats and opportunities with respect to a few key factors makes it easier to adhere to our convictions and philosophy. It doesn't hurt to have the peer pressure and source of ideas from a community of like-minded investors, either.
9. "Don't be in too much of a hurry to sell. If the stock reaches a price that you think is a fair one, then you can sell but often because a stock goes up say 50\%, people say sell it and button up your profit. Before selling try to reevaluate the company again. Be aware of the level of the stock market. Are yields low and P-E ratios high? If the stock market historically high. Are people very optimistic etc?"

Buy. Hold. For as long as it makes sense to do so?

We think the analysis should be a CONTINUOUS process. Is your return


Value Line Forecast Efficacy (1999-Present). This graphic profiles the collective low total return forecasts for the Value Line Investment Survey. The green bars represent quarterly four year forecasts based on the 3-5 year median projected low total return. The blue graph provides the actual results four years later. As shown, the second bar from the left represents the $6.1 \%$ low total return forecast on $3 / 31 / 2000$. The second blue dot from the left on the line graph is the actual returns realized for the trailing four years ending 3/31/2004 -- the forecast period. The average forecast and average actual result is $8.5 \%$ with periods of optimism and pessimism from 1999-present.
forecast for any stock below money market rates. Market levels? With respect to market barometers, what is the median return (MIPAR) for all stocks? Does your overall portfolio PAR need bolstering? If not, don't hurry.

But if it is, don't wait.
10. "When buying a stock, I find it helpful to buy near the low of the past few years. A stock may go as high as 125 and then decline to 60 and you think it attractive. 3 years before the stock sold at 20 which shows that there is some vulnerability in it."

NAIC co-founder George Nicholson also liked to monitor trailing period low prices, usually 3-5 years.

Stock prices fluctuate.
The key takeaway is to de-emphasize stock price. Heed the chronicle of return forecasts. Keep your eye on the projected returns.
11. "Try to buy assets at a discount than to buy earnings. Earn-
ings can change dramatically in a short time. Usually assets change slowly. One has to know how much more about a company if one buys earnings."

Earnings and P/E ratios are the staples of the underperforming rhino playground. Earnings fluctuate. Stock price follows earnings -- but the focus should be on long-term trends.

Build an understanding of (1) the top line and growth, (2) the profitability trend and (3) the valuation characteristics -- particularly as a function of life cycle and industry-specific tendencies.

We don't buy earnings streams. We invest and own successful enterprises.
12. "Listens to suggestions from people you respect. This doesn't mean you have to accept them. Remember it's your money and generally it is harder to keep money than to make it. Once you lose a lot of money it is hard to make it back."

Solomon Select Kohl's (KSS)

## Starting with this month's Sweet 16 and avoiding all stocks with PAR >10\% more (18.3\%) than MIPAR and/or stocks with low EPS stability, we're left with Kohl's (KSS) and Tupperware (TUP).

I like Tupperware. We have a kitchen cabinet that serves as a shuffled shrine to Tupperware. Going there necessarily means risking an avalanche and an admission that none of the lids will match the specific container you're trying to use. Combine that with the competitive threat of the prepared meats resealable packages we seem to hoard and I just can't warm up to selecting Tupperware this month. We'll burp and seal somewhere else.

Somewhere else comes in the form of repeat selection Kohl's (KSS). We selected KSS back in December 2005 and achieved a relative return of $+45.6 \%$ when we closed the position for the October 2006 issue. Kohl's is an old friend.

## Growth, Profitability, Valuation

Our sales growth forecast for KSS is $5.2 \%$. This is based on analyst consensus forecasts and a regression from 2004-2016.

We're using $5.8 \%$ for the projected net margin -- a median for the span 2008-2016.

The median P/E for the period 20042016 is $15 x$. Value Line has a longterm projected average P/E of $15 x$. Based on consensus and industry analysis, we're assigning a projected average $P / E$ of $15 x$.

At a stock price of $\$ 50.94$, the projected annual return is approximately $17 \%$. The quality rating is 74.4 (excellent) and the financial strength rating is 78 (A).

Kohl's has returned to projected market outperformance -- a red tag situation, if you will. We wait as long as it takes for these conditions to take shape.


Kohl's (KSS): Evolving Opportunity? Combine a stock price that has been stagnant for an extended number of years (top graph) with an earnings trend that has been steadily improving (bottom graph) and ultimately -- for a sustainable, strong business -- and we have a recipe for an opportunity with fairly high potential. For us, it's a return engagement with an old friend. Note the price gains on the chart from December 2005 thru September 2006, the last time we selected Kohl's for the Solomon Select feature.


Kohl's (KSS): Chronicle. We're often asked "How long will you wait?" when the result of a stock study suggests that the return forecast is insufficiently high to justify a purchase decision. Answer: As long as it takes. In this case, note the steadily improving projected annual return over the years. The PAR has now reached levels last seen in 2008 and the buying conditions appear to be as strong as they've been in quite some time. Reminder: When the projected relative return (red/pink shaded area) is less than zero, we project that the stock will underperform the general market. And the reverse is true -- a shaded area above 0\% (we strongly prefer 5-10\% for our sweet spot) we expect market outperformance. How long? "As long as it takes ..." and somewhere, Walter Schloss smiled.

Fund Analysis: Hoard vs. Herds

## Buy Vanguard Technology (VGT)

by Cy Lynch
The Hoard's relative return since its inception (January 2009) is $1.0 \%$, which remains below our long-term goal of at least 3\%. That's based on its total return of $13.0 \%$ versus $12.0 \%$ for the Herd (total stock market) during the same period. Accuracy remains solid at 71.4\%.

## Decisions

Shifting to projections, all key portfolio design characteristics for the Hoard Portfolio remain acceptable. Overall PAR (12.5\%) is 4.1 points above current MIPAR ( $8.7 \%$ ), well above our goal of MIPAR +3 percentage points. Overall quality is excellent at 69.6 and financial strength (79\%) is solid
as well. Projected sales growth (11.0\%) continues to fall around the middle of our target range of 10-12\%.

## Yes, There Comes a Time to Sell

Generally we advocate looking hard at sell-

| Company | Symbol | $\frac{\text { Sales }}{\text { Grth }}$ | Qity | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| T. Rowe Price Science \& Technology | PRSCX | 13.9\% | 64.8 | 16.3\% |
| iShares DJ Technology | IYW | 12.7\% | 79.0 | 15.7\% |
| Putnam Voyager | PVOYX | 11.8\% | 69.3 | 15.3\% |
| PowerShares QQQ (Nasdaq-100) | QQQ | 13.4\% | 76.7 | 15.2\% |
| Fidelity NASDAQ | FNCMX | 13.5\% | 76.9 | 15.2\% |
| Vanguard Technology | VGT | 12.6\% | 79.5 | 15.2\% |
| Fidelity NASDAQ | ONEQ | 13.4\% | 76.7 | 15.1\% |
| Fidelity OTC | FOCPX | 14.6\% | 73.0 | 14.8\% |
| Fidelity Select Technology | FSPTX | 15.3\% | 77.6 | 14.4\% |
| Fidelity Select Electronics | FSELX | 8.8\% | 58.1 | 14.3\% |
| iShares Dow Jones US Oil Equipment | IEZ | 10.6\% | 58.8 | 14.0\% |
| Schwab U.S. Large-Cap Growth | $\underline{\mathrm{SCHG}}$ | 12.0\% | 75.7 | 13.9\% |
| Firsthand Technology Opportunities | TEFQX | 18.6\% | 72.1 | 13.5\% |
| SPDRs Technology Select Sector | XLK | 11.2\% | 77.7 | 13.5\% |
| Fidelity Select Comm Equip | FSDCX | 10.0\% | 67.6 | 13.5\% |
| Monetta | MONTX | 12.2\% | 67.7 | 12.9\% |
| SPDR S\&P Oil \& Gas Equipment \& Services | XES | 9.7\% | 54.8 | 12.9\% |
| BLDRS Asia 50 ADR Index | ADRA | 7.7\% | 57.3 | 12.8\% |
| Fidelity Select Computers | FDCPX | 10.5\% | 63.7 | 12.8\% |
| TIAA-CREF Inst Large-Cap Grth | TILIX | 10.8\% | 77.3 | 12.7\% |
| Vanguard Growth | VUG | 11.0\% | 76.4 | 12.7\% |
| AIM Constellation A (L) | CSTGX | 12.6\% | 72.5 | 12.7\% |

October 2012 Funds. Top funds ranked by projected annual return (PAR).
ing a fund when its current PAR falls much below MIPAR. iShares DJ US Medical Devices (IHI) has been on a short leash for several months as its PAR has ranged around MIPAR, this month falling 1.1 points below. As a result, reinforced by the funds narrow sub-industry focus, we are selling IHI.


Results (September 30, 2012). The average selection for the Hoard has outperformed the total stock market benchmark by $+1.0 \%$ since inception. Accuracy, the percentage of selections outperforming the Wilshire 5000 since selection, is now $71.4 \%$.

ELEMENTS M* Wide Moat Focus (WMW), an exchange-traded note (ETN) with a relatively concentrated 20 -stock portfolio, has the second lowest current PAR among Hoard holdings, 4 points below MIPAR. Given its "semi-managed" status, coupled with below market expected returns, we believe that it's time to break ties with WMW, as well.

Both funds have performed well, with all seven selections beating the market. We choose to reinvest the proceeds from both sales into an existing holding, Vanguard Growth Index (VUG) and to use this month's new contribution to accumulate Vanguard Technology (VGT).

Among current Hoard holdings, VGT's current PAR ( $15.3 \%$ ) ranks third and VUG's (12.7\%) ranks seventh. Their projected growth rates are $12.6 \%$ and $11 \%$, respectively. Both funds have excellent quality with VGT's at 79.5 and VUG's at 76.4. With MIPAR ranging around relatively low historical levels (currently $8.4 \%$, but having drifted into the high 7s recently), we find both fund's financial strengths in excess of 90 comforting. Remember the time to ratchet up the quality of holdings is while the bull market ages (and potential returns are low). Once the bear takes hold and MIPAR heads toward relatively high levels, it's generally too late.

Replacing IHI and WMW with VUG raises overall PAR by a full percentage point to $13.5 \%$ and growth by over one-half point to $11.6 \%$. Quality also gets a small boost to 71.9 (from 69.6). Accumulating more VGT will also increase each of those portfolio design characteristics slightly.

## A New Tool to Hone Our Search for Opportunity

We've long used a dashboard of sectors index funds, the ETF Sector GPS to help guide shopping for both funds and individual stocks. We've recently added yet another tool to help investors focus their shopping efforts where there is opportunity: the Fidelity Select Funds Dashboard.

That dashboard currently includes 22 of the 44 Fidelity "Select" group of funds. The Select funds are actively managed funds which focus on a specific sector, industry or sub-industry. Fidelity Select Insurance (FSPCX) and Fidelity Select Technology (FSPTX) are examples of members of that fund group currently held in the Hoard Portfolio (the latter, a sector fund, is not included in the new dashboard which we currently limit to industry/sub-industry funds, since the Sector GPS covers sector funds).

There are several potential uses for the dashboard.
One would be to find candidates for fine-turning a mutual fund portfolio already stocked with core holdings by adding narrowly focused funds with current attractive potential. Currently five of the 22 funds exceed our goal of MIPAR+3. One of the five, Fidelity Select Automotive (FSAVX), isn't a technology-heavy fund as recent Fund Manifests have tended to be dominated by. Another

| Company | Symbol | Growth | Proj P/E | Proi <br> Yield | Fin Str | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EPS } \\ & \text { Stab } \end{aligned}$ | Qlty | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fidelity Select Comm Equip | FSDCX | 10.0\% | 18.5 | 1.0\% | 73\% | 56 | 68.0 | 13.8\% |
| Fidelity Select Computers | FDCPX | 10.4\% | 15.9 | 0.8\% | 71\% | 49 | 65.5 | 13.0\% |
| Fidelity Select Electronics | FSELX | 8.5\% | 15.6 | 0.9\% | 73\% | 36 | 59.8 | 12.9\% |
| Fidelity Select Automotive | FSAVX | 5.8\% | 11.5 | 1.3\% | 48\% | 36 | 46.3 | 12.2\% |
| Fidelity Select Software \& Comp | FSCSX | 12.7\% | 20.3 | 0.8\% | 92\% | 67 | 74.5 | 12.1\% |
| Fidelity Select Brokerage | FSLBX | 6.6\% | 13.2 | 1.9\% | 48\% | 48 | 49.2 | 10.9\% |
| Fidelity Select Insurance | FSPCX | 8.4\% | 11.6 | 1.4\% | 65\% | 55 | 58.0 | 10.6\% |
| Fidelity Select Medical Delivery | FSHCX | 7.0\% | 13.9 | 0.6\% | 80\% | 85 | 70.7 | 9.5\% |
| Fidelity Select Transportation | FSRFX | 6.6\% | 15.3 | 1.6\% | 67\% | 68 | 58.7 | 9.2\% |
| Fidelity Select Leisure | FDLSX | 8.8\% | 20.7 | 1.4\% | 67\% | 70 | 71.4 | 8.5\% |
| Fidelity Select Industrial Equip | FSCGX | 6.4\% | 14.3 | 2.0\% | 83\% | 75 | 69.9 | 8.3\% |
| Fidelity Select IT Services | FBSOX | 11.6\% | 17.2 | 0.6\% | 85\% | 71 | 72.8 | 7.9\% |
| Eidelity Select. |  | - | $\because$ | -3093 | - | $\rightarrow$ |  | - |

Industry Select Dashboard Excerpt (10/2/2012). This collection of industry funds from Fidelity Select can be used to target attractive industry groups and to drill down for study opportunities.
would be to survey the holdings of one or more of the funds for candidates to start or include in industry studies.

Check it out and let us, and your fellow subscribers, know what you think on the Forum.

| Dashboard: Hoard vs Herd |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10/01/2012 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Company | Symbol | Shares | Price | Value | 9 of <br> Total | Growth | Proi P/E | Proi Yield | Fin Str | EPS <br> Stab | Qity | PAR |
| T. Rowe Price Science \& Technology | PRSCX | 380.80 | \$27.34 | \$10,411.07 | 9.5\% | 13.9\% | 18.3 | 0.5\% | 77\% | 42 | 64.8 | 16.3\% |
| Powershares QQQ <br> (Nasdaq-100) | QaO | 255.12 | \$68.57 | \$17,493.58 | 15.9\% | 13.4\% | 17.8 | $1.2 \%$ | 90\% | 62 | 76.7 | 15.2\% |
| Vanguard Technology | VGT | 140.85 | \$73.40 | \$10,338.32 | 9.4\% | 12.6\% | 17.0 | $1.2 \%$ | 95\% | 6.4 | 79.5 | 15.2\% |
| Fidelity Select Technology | FSPTX | 18.62 | \$105.45 | \$1,963.69 | $1.8 \%$ | 15.3\% | 21.9 | 0.9\% | 92\% | 50 | 77.6 | 14.4\% |
| iShares Dow Jones US Oil Equipment | IEZ | 76.10 | \$52.01 | \$3,957.96 | 3.6\% | 10.6\% | 15.4 | 0.6\% | 68\% | 53 | 58.8 | 14.0\% |
| Monetta | MONTX | 737.18 | \$14.87 | \$10.961.82 | 10.0\% | 12.2\% | 17.2 | 0.9\% | 76\% | 46 | 67.7 | 12.9\% |
| Vanguard Growth | VUG | 123.55 | \$72.40 | \$8,945.02 | 8.2\% | 11.0\% | 16.5 | 1.6\% | 9196 | 70 | 76.4 | 12.7\% |
| BLDRS <br> Emerging Mkts 50 ADR | ADRE | 227.49 | \$39.21 | \$8,919.88 | 8. $1 \%$ | 8.9\% | 13.7 | 2.0\% | 54\% | 67 | 63.6 | 12.2\% |
| iShares Morningstar Large Growth Index | JKE | 97.36 | \$79.15 | \$7,706.04 | 7.0\% | 11.3\% | 17.7 | 1.5\% | 90\% | 67 | 76.3 | 11.6\% |
| Fidelity Select Insurance | FSPCX | 39.42 | \$51.39 | \$2,026.00 | $1.8 \%$ | 8.4\% | 11.6 | 1.5\% | 65\% | 55 | 58.0 | 10.9\% |
| Market Vectors Coal ETF | KOL | 80.40 | \$23.36 | \$1,878.21 | 1.7\% | 6.3\% | 13.6 | 1.7\% | 66\% | 62 | 58.7 | 10.6\% |
| Vanguard FTSE <br> All-world x-US | VEU | 45.77 | \$42.96 | \$1,966.06 | 1.8\% | 4.0\% | 11.2 | 4.7\% | 64\% | 51 | 59.6 | 9.8\% |
| First Trust ISE Chindia | FNI | 101.08 | \$20.38 | \$2,059.97 | 1.9\% | 12.6\% | 17.9 | $1.2 \%$ | 59\% | 50 | 63.9 | 9.6\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { ELEMENTS M* } \\ & \text { Wide Moat } \\ & \text { Focus } \end{aligned}$ | WMW | 1098.22 | \$14.53 | \$15,957.14 | 14.5\% | 8.2\% | 17.7 | 1.8\% | 74\% | 64 | 62.2 | 8.0\% |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { iShares DJ US } \\ & \text { Medical } \\ & \text { Devices } \end{aligned}$ | 1H1 | 74.35 | \$68.75 | \$5,111.56 | 4.7\% | 6.6\% | 17.8 | 0.7\% | 81\% | 77 | 69.7 | 7.3\% |
| Averages |  |  |  | \$109,696.33 |  | $11.0 \%$ | 16.9 | 1.3\% | 79\% | 60 | 69.6 | 12.5\% |

Hoard Dashboard. Our \$82,750 invested so far is now worth \$109,696. (10/2/2012) Vanguard Technology (VGT) and Nasdaq-100 (QQQ) continue as the best-performing active selections to date. http://www.manifestinvesting.com/dashboards/public/hoard-vs-herd

## All Bulls Go To Octoberfest

This month's screening results continue to explore some of the concepts we're evaulating when it comes to blending elements of momentum, sentiment and trend as we search for opportunities.

## Fundamentals First

Remaining true to the fundamentals and our time-honored process over the decades, we first concentrate on the core fundamentals of projected annual return (PAR) and quality. We use the MANIFEST Rank, an equallyweighted combination of the return forecast and quality rating to focus on the top companies seeking the best combination of both key characteristics while starting our shopping.

## Sentiment (Trend) Matters

We're trying something a little differ-

Overall Projected Annual Returns Manifest Investing Median PAR (MIPAR)

ent this month. All of the companies in the surviving screen also have BULLISH trend characteristics per StockCharts.com and their Point-andFigure trends. All of them. I tend to think of this condition as "positive price pressure, or support." So we're looking at a list with solid long-term
characteristics when it comes to potential returns (and quality) combined with the nudge of bullish sentiment -- according to price action -- and not merely some words, but potentially actionable actual transactions (decisions made) by the herd. Run with the bulls at Octoberfest.

| Company | Symbol | Industry | Growth | Proi P/E | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Proil } \\ & \text { Yield } \end{aligned}$ | Fin Str | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EPS } \\ & \text { Stab } \end{aligned}$ | Price | Quality | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Apple Inc. | AAPL | Computer Systems | 18.0\% | 17.0 | 1.3\% | 98\% | 40 | \$667.11 | 84.6 | 21.2\% |
| Landauer | LDR | Environmental | 10.9\% | 22.0 | 4.8\% | 83\% | 96 | \$59.72 | 87.3 | 20.4\% |
| American Public Education* | APEI | Educational Services | 15.5\% | 18.0 | 0.0\% | 95\% | 67 | \$36.43 | 83.4 | 20.2\% |
| Echo Global Logistic* | ECHO | Air Transport (Freight) | 22.8\% | 24.0 | 0.0\% | 95\% | 99 | \$17.15 | 78.9 | 19.9\% |
| Coach | COH | Retail Special | 12.5\% | 19.0 | 1.8\% | 91\% | 82 | \$56.02 | 93.3 | 19.6\% |
| Microsoft | MSFT | Software (Systems) | 9.4\% | 13.0 | 2.5\% | 97\% | 88 | \$29.76 | 76.7 | 19.2\% |
| Cognizant Technology | CTSH | Software (Consulting) | 19.6\% | 21.0 | 0.0\% | 98\% | 83 | \$69.89 | 91.0 | 19.0\% |
| Knight <br> Transportation | KNX | Trucking | 9.2\% | 20.0 | 1.4\% | 94\% | 81 | \$14.30 | 79.9 | 18.8\% |
| Rio Tinto | RIO | Steel (General) | 6.9\% | 9.0 | 2.0\% | 72\% | 50 | \$46.76 | 68.5 | 17.9\% |
| Teva Pharma | TEVA | Drua (Generic) | 6.5\% | 11.0 | 2.0\% | 84\% | 88 | \$41.41 | 73.1 | 17.4\% |
| Kohl's | KSS | Retail Store | 5.2\% | 15.0 | 1.8\% | 78\% | 93 | \$51.22 | 74.5 | 17.2\% |
| Bio-Reference Labs* | BRLI | Medical Services | 16.8\% | 21.0 | 0.0\% | 88\% | 86 | \$28.58 | 81.9 | 17.1\% |
| Genpact* | G | Industrial Services | 17.1\% | 18.0 | 0.0\% | 97\% | 41 | \$16.68 | 84.4 | 17.1\% |
| Tupperware | TUP | Household Products | 8.8\% | 15.0 | 1.9\% | 76\% | 78 | \$53.59 | 75.2 | 16.7\% |
| Forward Air Corp. | FWRD | Trucking | 9.2\% | 19.0 | 0.8\% | 88\% | 61 | \$30.41 | 73.8 | 16.1\% |
| SolarWinds* | SWI | Software (Application) | 26.3\% | 36.0 | 0.0\% | 97\% | 86 | \$55.74 | 95.8 | 15.5\% |

Sweet 16 Screening Result for October 2012. A focus on fundamentals first, then sentiment. PAR: Return forecast (annualized) Quality Rating: Proprietary factor including financial strength, earnings stability and relative growth and profitability characteristics. (Source: www.stockcharts.com)

## Tin Cup Model Portfolio

 Accumulate Cisco Systems (CSCO)Total assets are \$986,539 (9/30/12) and the net asset value is $\$ 223.75$. The model portfolio gained $1.90 \%$ during September 2012 (Wilshire 5000 checked in at $+2.86 \%$ for the month.) Tin Cup has generated a $+2.1 \%$ annualized total return over the trailing five years vs. $+1.5 \%$ for the total stock market for a trailing 5 -year relative return of $+0.6 \%$.

## Portfolio Characteristics

With MIPAR at 8.4\%, our target for the minimum overall portfolio PAR is at least $13.4 \%$. The overall portfolio PAR is $14.9 \%$ on $9 / 30 / 2012$. Quality and financial strength are sufficient at the current levels of 81.7 (Excellent) and 91\%. EPS Stability is 86 for the portfolio. Sales growth is acceptable at $10.6 \%$.

## Decisions

Our $\$ 1875$ (and dividend stockpile) for October is destined and allocated to Cisco Systems (CSCO) situated at the upper edge of the sweet spot. CSCO has a PAR of $17.6 \%$ based on a sales growth forecast of $8.3 \%$, net margin of $20.0 \%$ and a projected average P/E of 15.0x.

## Benchmarking Tin Cup (2005-2012) <br> Total Assets vs. Market

Total Assets (Tin Cup)


Jan-05 Jan-06 Jan-07 Jan-08 Jan-09 Jan-10 Jan-11 Jan-12
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Million Dollar Moment(s). We've had three of them so far as Tin Cup first passed \$1,000,000 a few months ago and has recently been toggling/teetering sufficiently close enough to the 7-figure threshold that it's becoming a regular occurrence. Since we celebrate with "ice cream all around" we're not exactly complaining. And there's little or no truth to the rumors about Kurt and Charlie encouraging stock price manipulation to keep that ice cream bubble, well... bubbling. We're ready now to focus on $\$ 2,000,000$ and leave $\$ 1,000,000$ in the rear view mirror, Tin Cup.

| Company | Symbol | Shares | Price | Value | \% of Total | Growth | Proi P/E | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Proi } \\ & \text { Yield } \end{aligned}$ | Fin Str | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EPS } \\ & \text { Stab } \end{aligned}$ | Qity | PAR |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mercadolibre* | MELI | 450.00 | \$82.55 | \$37,147.50 | 3.8\% | 27.4\% | 35.0 | 0.0\% | 84\% | 43 | 81.8 | 24.0\% |
| Quality Systems | QSII | 2000.00 | \$18.53 | \$37,060.00 | 3.8\% | 13.2\% | 20.0 | 1.6\% | 71\% | 77 | 70.4 | 20.8\% |
| Strayer Education | STRA | 420.00 | \$64.35 | \$27,027.00 | 2.7\% | 5.0\% | 15.0 | 2.6\% | 66\% | 83 | 68.9 | 20.7\% |
| Coach | COH | 1080.00 | \$56.02 | \$60,501.60 | 6.1\% | 12.5\% | 19.0 | 1.8\% | 91\% | 82 | 93.3 | 19.6\% |
| Microsoft | MSFT | 3350.00 | \$29.76 | \$99,696.00 | 10.1\% | 9.4\% | 13.0 | 2.5\% | 97\% | 88 | 76.7 | 19.2\% |
| Cisco Systems | Csco | 3950.00 | \$19.10 | \$75,425.25 | 7.6\% | 8.3\% | 15.0 | 1.3\% | 93\% | 88 | 84.0 | 17.6\% |
| Bio-Reference Labs* | BRLI | 2300.00 | \$28.58 | \$65,734.00 | 6.7\% | 16.8\% | 21.0 | 0.0\% | 88\% | 86 | 81.9 | 17.1\% |
| SolarWinds* | SWI | 990.00 | \$55.74 | \$55,182.60 | 5.6\% | 26.3\% | 36.0 | 0.0\% | 97\% | 86 | 95.8 | 15.5\% |
| CVS Caremark | CVS | 1650.00 | \$48.42 | \$79,893.00 | 8.1\% | 7.5\% | 15.4 | 1.7\% | 86\% | 95 | 80.7 | 14.1\% |
| Linear Technology | LLTC | 2200.00 | \$31.82 | \$70,004.00 | 7.1\% | 7.8\% | 18.0 | 2.1\% | 73\% | 70 | 70.4 | 14.0\% |
| Urban Outfitters | UREN | 2125.00 | \$37.56 | \$79,815.00 | 8.1\% | 10.9\% | 22.0 | 0.0\% | 96\% | 74 | 88.8 | 12.2\% |
| Pepsi | PEP | 900.00 | \$70.77 | \$63,693.00 | 6.5\% | 4.6\% | 18.0 | 2.0\% | 98\% | 96 | 74.8 | 11.1\% |
| Abbott Labs | ABT | 1400.00 | \$68.56 | \$95,984.00 | 9.7\% | 8.3\% | 14.0 | 2.6\% | 96\% | 99 | 81.2 | 10.7\% |
| Stryker | SYK | 1540.00 | \$55.66 | \$85,716.40 | 8.7\% | 7.5\% | 15.0 | 0.8\% | 99\% | 97 | 86.7 | 10.3\% |
| Medtronic | MDT | 1200.00 | \$43.12 | \$51,744.00 | 5.2\% | 3.2\% | 13.0 | 2.0\% | 97\% | 99 | 80.3 | 7.5\% |
| Cash |  |  |  | \$1,916.00 | 0.2\% |  |  | 0.1\% |  |  |  | 0.1\% |
| Averages |  |  |  | \$986,539.35 |  | 10.6\% | 18.4 | 1.4\% | 91\% | 86 | 81.7 | 14.9\% |

Tin Cup Dashboard: September 30, 2012. The holdings are ranked by PAR (last column on the right.) We accumulate Cisco Systems (CSCO) based on PAR, quality and \%-of-total assets. http://www.manifestinvesting.com/dashboards/public/tin-cup

## Cover Story (continued)

## Honoring Walter Schloss

We agree. We respect the achievers all around us. As a case in point, the relative return (alpha) of our quarterly summary of the (40) most widelyfollowed companies by MANIFEST subscribers (shown here) is $+4.9 \%$.

We believe in the wisdom of communities and our experience has been that this is a place where ideas are born.
13. "Try not to let your emotions affect your judgment. Fear and greed are probably the worst emotions to have in connection with the purchase and sale of stocks."

Incomparable advice. We believe that the comprehension of return forecasts (PAR) based on the major milestone judgments (growth, profitability and valuation) and quality enable patience and discipline.
14. "Remember the word compounding. For example, if you can make 12\% a year and reinvest the money back, you will double your money in 6 yrs, taxes excluded. Remember the rule of 72. Your rate of return into 72 will tell you the number of years to double your money."

Stay invested. That doesn't mean stay $100 \%$ in stocks at all times. It is OK, highly desirable, to hold cash equivalents for as long as it takes to shop. Near market tops, we think selectivity is important and opportunities should become more scarce.

Incremental impact matters. Using the $+4.9 \%$ relative return of the MANIFEST 40 as an example. $\$ 100$

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { MANIIFEST } 40 \\ & 9 / 10 / 2012 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Ticker | Dashboards | Sales Growth | PAR | Quality Rating |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Apple (2) | AAPL | 1894 | 18.0\% | 20.4\% | 84.6 |
| 2 | Stryker (1) | SYK | 1865 | 7.5\% | 10.8\% | 86.7 |
| 3 | Abbott Labs (3) | ABT | 1552 | 8.3\% | 11.3\% | 81.2 |
| 4 | Microsoft (4) | MSFT | 1441 | 9.4\% | 18.2\% | 76.7 |
| 5 | AFLAC (6) | AFL | 1396 | 10.7\% | 17.1\% | 79.8 |
| 6 | Teva Pharmaceutical (5) | TEVA | 1385 | 6.5\% | 19.9\% | 66.5 |
| 7 | Bio-Reference Labs (7) | BRLI | 1351 | 16.8\% | 18.0\% | 81.9 |
| 8 | Quality Systems (9) | QSII | 1285 | 12.7\% | 23.6\% | 68.6 |
| 9 | Johnson \& Johnson (8) | JNJ | 1241 | 4.4\% | 7.5\% | 74.1 |
| 10 | Cognizant Technology (10) | CTSH | 1201 | 19.6\% | 18.6\% | 90.9 |
| 11 | PepsiCo (12) | PEP | 1186 | 4.6\% | 10.7\% | 74.8 |
| 12 | Cisco Systems (13) | CSCO | 1158 | 8.3\% | 15.8\% | 82.8 |
| 13 | Walgreens (11) | WAG | 1151 | 5.6\% | 14.7\% | 76.6 |
| 14 | Oracle Corp (16) | ORCL | 1107 | 13.4\% | 17.3\% | 84.3 |
| 15 | Fastenal (15) | FAST | 1092 | 12.4\% | 9.9\% | 83.4 |
| 16 | General Electric (14) | GE | 1091 | 3.6\% | 10.1\% | 67.6 |
| 17 | FactSet Research (17) | FDS | 1026 | 12.4\% | 13.5\% | 89.3 |
| 18 | Coach (18) | COH | 986 | 12.5\% | 17.2\% | 93.2 |
| 19 | Exxon Mobil (20) | XOM | 958 | 7.1\% | 9.7\% | 75.5 |
| 20 | Procter \& Gamble (19) | PG | 955 | 3.8\% | 8.5\% | 80.9 |
| 21 | Medtronic (21) | MDT | 917 | 3.2\% | 8.2\% | 80.2 |
| 22 | Intel Corp (23) | INTC | 877 | 6.7\% | 13.7\% | 73.6 |
| 23 | Google (22) | GOOG | 866 | 18.9\% | 14.2\% | 77.9 |
| 24 | Buffalo Wild Wings (24) | BWLD | 779 | 13.0\% | 8.7\% | 87.0 |
| 25 | Danaher (25) | DHR | 717 | 9.9\% | 10.8\% | 83.2 |
| 26 | Wal-Mart (26) | WMT | 665 | 5.5\% | 11.1\% | 74.2 |
| 27 | McDonald's (28) | MCD | 637 | 5.6\% | 8.6\% | 84.5 |
| 28 | Wells Fargo (29) | WFC | 626 | 7.3\% | 9.1\% | 68.3 |
| 29 | Portfolio Recovery (27) | PRAA | 622 | 10.6\% | 5.5\% | 75.5 |
| 30 | Resmed (39) | RMD | 585 | 12.3\% | 12.0\% | 81.4 |
| 31 | Pfizer (31) | PFE | 584 | 3.5\% | 1.7\% | 55.2 |
| 32 | Varian Medical (34) | VAR | 583 | 8.9\% | 13.3\% | 75.2 |
| 33 | Chevron (36) | CVX | 582 | 8.0\% | 10.1\% | 75.1 |
| 34 | Infosys Tech (30) | INFY | 574 | 13.8\% | 20.0\% | 86.4 |
| 35 | Lowe's (33) | LOW | 566 | 2.9\% | 10.3\% | 59.2 |
| 36 | 3M Company (38) | MMM | 565 | 6.5\% | 8.8\% | 85.1 |
| 37 | CVS Caremark (37) | CVS | 560 | 7.5\% | 14.3\% | 82.2 |
| 38 | Sysco Foods (40) | SYY | 518 | 5.3\% | 10.3\% | 80.6 |
| 39 | Gilead Sciences (35) | GILD | 514 | 5.7\% | 7.9\% | 65.7 |
| 40 | Strayer Education (*) | STRA | 499 | 5.0\% | 20.3\% | 68.9 |
|  | Averages |  |  | 8.9\% | 12.8\% | 78.0 |

MANIFEST 40: September 2012. Our quarterly summary of the (40) most widelyfollowed stocks by Manifest Investing subscribers. Apple (AAPL) finished its ascent up the list, dislodging Stryker (SYK) from the pole position. The outperformance accuracy of the MANIFEST 40 is $69 \%$ with an overall relative return (alpha) of $+4.9 \%$.
invested for 40 years at 8.0\% attains a value of $\$ 2172$. Achieving $12.9 \%$ over that same 40 years turns $\$ 100$ into $\$ 12,816$. Every percentage point increment matters. Big.

## 15. "Prefer stocks over bonds.

 Bonds will limit your gains and inflation will reduce your purchasing power."True. But carefully consider balanced
investing and asset allocation when you're ready.

## 16. "Be careful of leverage. It can go against you."

Two words. Great Recession. What was so great about it? Speaking of great ... Thanks, Walter Schloss, for these 16 nuggets. He showed us that superior performance is possible and told us how to do it.

## Contact Us

You may write us at Manifest Investing LLC, P.O. Box 81120, Rochester MI 48308. If you prefer e-mail, contact us at manifest@manifestinvesting.com. Every effort will be made to answer your questions individually. Your inquiries, comments and recommendations tell us what you want to see and we'll do our best to provide it.
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