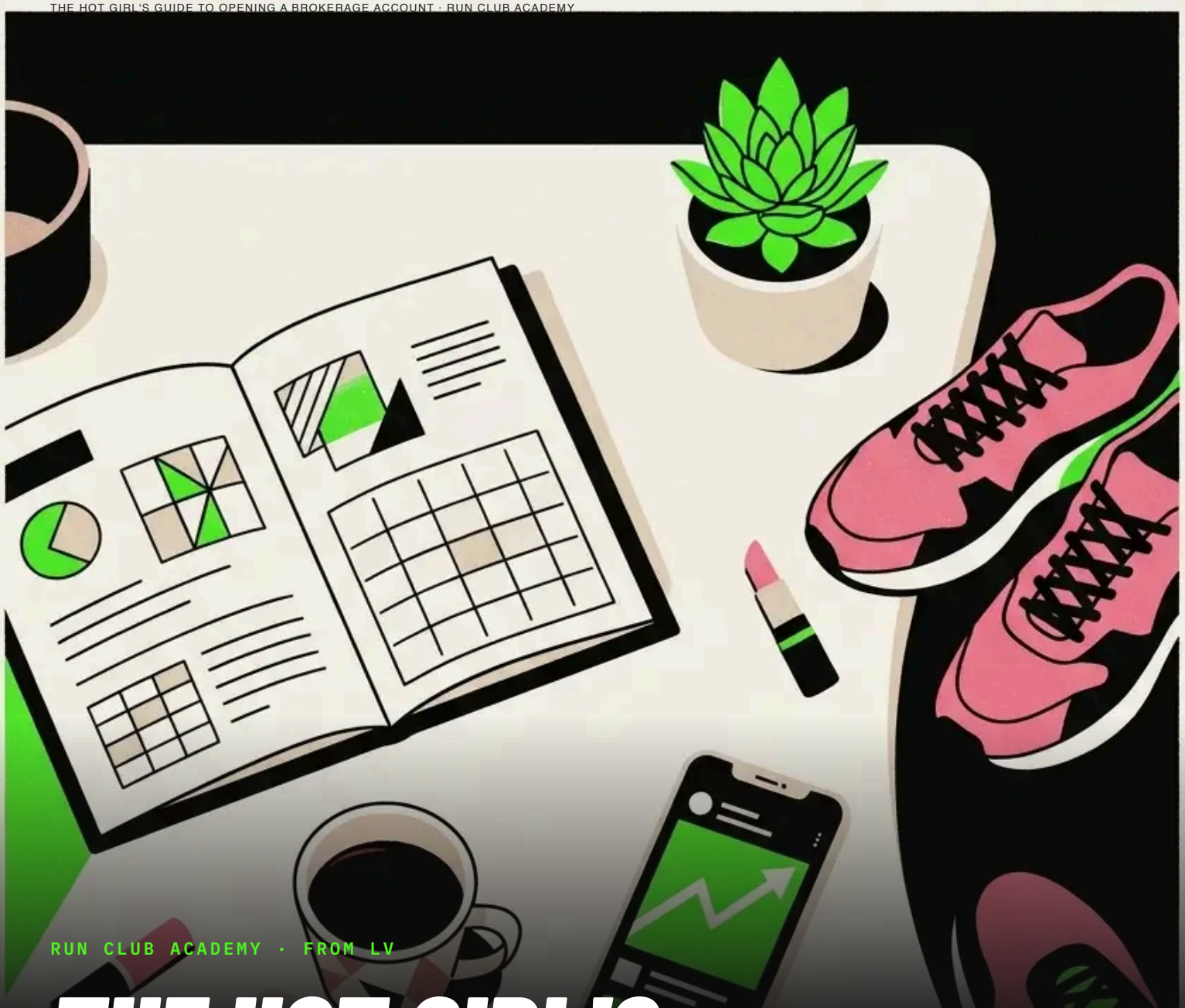


RUN CLUB ACADEMY · FROM LV

THE HOT GIRL'S GUIDE TO OPENING A BROKERAGE ACCOUNT

Where your money lives before it does anything. Which app to pick, what they'll ask you, and the settings to flip on, explained the way your smartest friend would.

FROM LV · EDUCATION, NOT ADVICE

BEFORE YOU START

WHY THIS GUIDE?

Hi, it's LV.

Before anyone talks about charts, you need somewhere to actually do it. A brokerage account is that place: your money sits there, and you place trades from it. Think of it as the bank account that can buy things the bank can't.

Opening one takes about as long as a nail appointment, but they ask a lot of questions, and some of them matter more than they look. So here's every step, broker by broker, plus the settings I'd turn on before I did anything else.

Same promise as always: nothing in here tells you what to buy or sell. This is just getting your house in order.

– LV

THE LINEUP

PICK YOUR BROKER

BROKER	BEST FOR	AVAILABILITY
Robinhood	Simple U.S. trading, beginner-friendly app	U.S. account covered in this guide (see note)
Charles Schwab (thinkorswim)	Full-service broker with the thinkorswim trading platform and strong research tools	U.S. residents, plus a separate Schwab International account for many non-U.S. residents
Webull	Advanced charting, active and options traders	U.S. plus a growing list of other countries (Canada, UK, Australia, parts of Asia and Latin America, etc.). Check your country first
Interactive Brokers (IBKR)	Widest global reach, professional-grade tools	150+ countries. The most likely option outside the U.S./UK

Which account? Open an **individual brokerage account**. Just you, no IRA, no joint, no business account. Country rules change and depend on your passport and residency papers. Check the broker's own site before you fall in love with one. Note on Robinhood: this guide covers its U.S. account. Robinhood has also launched apps in some other regions with different products, so check what's offered where you live.



01 ROBINHOOD

Clean, simple, made for your phone. It's where most of the Run Club starts. U.S. residents.

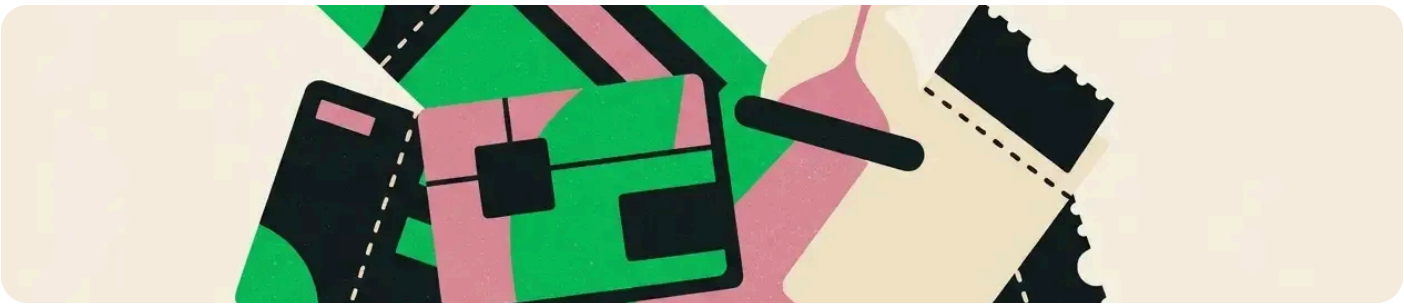
OPEN ROBINHOOD WITH MY LINK →

runclubacademy.com/go/robinhood

> Affiliate disclosure: LV may earn a commission or reward when you sign up through these links. It costs you nothing extra, and she only lists tools she uses or teaches with.

SETUP STEPS

1. Download the Robinhood app (iOS or Android) or go to robinhood.com
2. Sign up with your email or phone number and create a password
3. When it asks which account to open, choose an **individual brokerage account** (not a retirement/IRA account)
4. Verify your identity: full legal name, address, date of birth, SSN and a government-issued ID
5. Link a bank account (Plaid instant verification, or enter it manually)
6. Make your first deposit



02 CHARLES SCHWAB (THINKORSWIM)

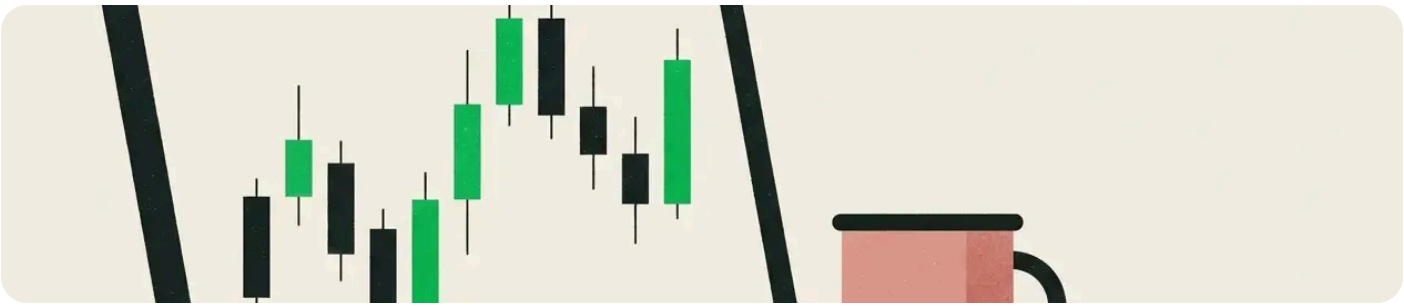
The old-money option with serious research tools, and thinkorswim is where you actually trade. Open the Schwab account first, then log in to thinkorswim. Steps below are for U.S. residents.

`schwab.com`

SETUP STEPS

1. Go to schwab.com and select Open an Account
2. Choose an **individual brokerage account** (not a retirement, IRA or joint account)
3. Complete identity verification: legal name, address, date of birth, SSN, government ID
4. Link a bank account and fund the account
5. Once it's open, download thinkorswim (desktop, web or mobile) and log in with your Schwab login

Outside the U.S.? Schwab has a dedicated Schwab International account for non-U.S. residents. Search "Schwab International Account" on their site; the application is different from the U.S. one.



03 WEBULL

The one with the fancy charts. U.S. plus a growing list of countries, so check here first if you're not in the States and Robinhood isn't an option.

`webull.com`

SETUP STEPS

1. Download the Webull app or go to webull.com and select your country/region
2. Sign up with your email or phone number
3. Choose an **individual brokerage account** (not a retirement/IRA account)
4. Complete identity verification: legal name, address, date of birth, tax ID/SSN if applicable, government ID
5. Link a bank account or a funding method available in your region
6. Make your first deposit



04 INTERACTIVE BROKERS (IBKR)

Not the cute one, but the passport-stamped one: 150+ countries. If you're outside the U.S. or UK, this is your most likely yes.

`interactivebrokers.com`

SETUP STEPS

1. Go to interactivebrokers.com and select Open Account
2. Choose your country of residence and an **individual** account
3. Complete identity verification: legal name, address, date of birth, tax residency info, government ID. The application is more detailed than Robinhood's or Webull's, so expect more questions about your financial background
4. Fund the account by bank transfer (options vary by country)

05 FLIP THESE ON FIRST

> **DRIP (dividend reinvestment).** Usually under Settings → Investing or Dividends. When a company pays you a dividend, it buys more shares instead of sitting there as idle cash. Set it and forget it.

SETTING	WHY IT HELPS
Two-factor authentication (2FA)	Protects your account. Turn it on immediately, on any broker
Biometric login (Face ID / fingerprint)	Faster, secure login
Price and news notifications	Stay on top of positions without constantly checking
Fractional shares (if offered)	Buy part of a share of an expensive stock
Extended-hours trading	Trade pre-market or after-hours, if that fits your plan
Interest on uninvested cash	Idle cash earns something instead of sitting at 0%

06 HABITS THAT MAKE YOU THAT GIRL

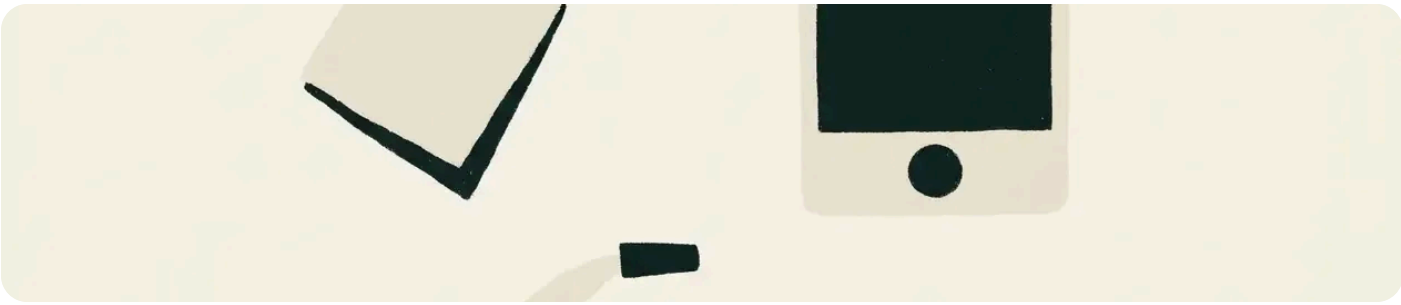
- Don't let one position become your whole personality. No single trade should be an oversized chunk of your account.
- Know cash account vs. margin account before you turn margin on. Margin is borrowed money, and it can leave you owing more than you deposited.
- Build watchlists for the tickers you follow, like a saved cart you're not buying yet.
- Default to limit orders over market orders. You name your price instead of taking whatever the market hands you.

07 BEFORE YOUR FIRST CONTRACT

Approved? Cute. Now learn the fundamentals before you place anything: calls and puts, strikes, expiration, risk management and position sizing. That's my free course, start to finish.

START THE FREE COURSE → runclubacademy.com/begin/

Rather learn live? Join the free class at **runclubacademy.com/webinar/live/**. Want to talk it through with the team? Book a call at **runclubacademy.com/book/**.



08 BEFORE YOUR FIRST TRADE: SET YOUR OCO

People lose because they trade without a stop loss. So here is the order that puts the stop in for you, with the plan for the win on the same ticket: an **OCO**, one cancels the other. A limit order at your target and a stop order where you're wrong, sent together. Whichever fills first cancels the other, with no help from you.

You're a beginner, so you won't have fast execution. By the time you read the number and find the button, the move is over. The OCO is working before the move happens, so it doesn't need you to be fast. That's why I want one on **every single trade**, placed while you're calm and before you look away. It's imperative.



THINKORSWIM DESKTOP: BRACKET ON A NEW TRADE

1. Open thinkorswim desktop and go to the **Trade** tab → **All Products**. Type the symbol.
2. Click the **Ask** price (or open the Symbol menu) → **Buy custom** → **with OCO Bracket**. Order Entry now shows three rows: your **BUY**, a **SELL LIMIT** (the target) and a **SELL STOP** (the stop). The same thing lives in the **Advanced Order** dropdown as **1st trgs OCO**: first order triggers the OCO.
3. Fill in the BUY row the way you normally would (quantity, limit price).
4. In the SELL LIMIT row, type the price of your plan for the win. In the SELL STOP row, type the price where you are wrong. Order type STOP gets you out at the next available price; STOPLIMIT only fills at your limit or better and can leave you in a fast market.

5. Set both child legs to **GTC** (good till cancelled), so the bracket keeps working tomorrow if you hold overnight. Leave it DAY only if you will be flat by the close.
6. Click **Confirm and Send**. Read the Order Confirmation Dialog: one buy, one sell limit above, one sell stop below. Then **Send**.
7. Check the **Monitor** tab → **Activity and Positions**. After the buy fills, both sell legs show as working. When one fills, the other cancels by itself.

ALREADY IN THE TRADE WITH NO BRACKET?

1. **Monitor** tab → **Activity and Positions** → find the position.
2. Right-click it → **Create closing order** → **with OCO Bracket**.
3. Type the target in the SELL LIMIT row and the stop in the SELL STOP row, set both GTC, Confirm and Send.

> Want the stop to follow price up? In the order type column click **STOP** and change it to **TRAILSTOP**. The offset defaults to –$0.10; click it to switch to a percentage. A trailing stop steps up as price rises and never moves back down. It can be the stop leg of your OCO.

THINKORSWIM MOBILE APP

1. thinkorswim mobile: **Trade** → type the symbol → **Buy** (or tap the option contract) to open the order editor.
2. At the bottom of the order editor look for **Create advanced order** (your app may word it slightly differently) and pick **1st trgs OCO**. Fill the sell limit (target) and sell stop (stop), both GTC, then review and **Send**.
3. Already in the trade on your phone? **Positions** → tap the position → look for **Create closing order** and choose the OCO bracket. Confirm the exact labels in your own app once; they move between versions.

> **Robinhood:** options orders still have no OCO and no trailing stop (stock and ETF OCO is rolling out now; options are promised for early next year). Until then, use thinkorswim for any options trade you can't babysit.

Steps checked against Schwab's own thinkorswim tutorials, October 2026. Menus change; if a label has moved, search the thinkorswim Learning Center for "OCO bracket".

MY EVERYDAY TOOLS

TRADINGVIEW

Where I read the chart before I touch anything. Your mirror check before you walk out the door.

runclubacademy.com/go/tradingview

ALPHA FUNDED

A funded-trader program: you trade the firm's money under its rules after passing its evaluation. Read the rules and fees before you pay for anything.

runclubacademy.com/go/alphafunded

My live trading signals are a **separate, optional add-on** on Whop. Not included in any Run Club program. whop.com/the-run-club-611b/products/

> Affiliate disclosure: LV may earn a commission or reward when you sign up through these links. It costs you nothing extra, and she only lists tools she uses or teaches with.

Education, not financial advice. Options involve risk and aren't suitable for everyone; you can lose all of the money you put into an option, and margin can make you owe more than you deposited. Nothing here tells you what to buy or sell, and no result is promised. Broker features, fees, availability and approval rules change: confirm everything on the broker's own site before you open an account.

TRCA LLC, doing business as Run Club Academy. Robinhood, Charles Schwab, thinkorswim, Webull, Interactive Brokers, TradingView and Alpha Funded are independent companies; their names, menus and order types are described for education only and change over time. Questions: write to therunclublv@gmail.com. runclubacademy.com