CHART CODE ACADEMY

Decode The Market Code

Unicorn Model

vs Venom Model

A side-by-side breakdown of two **ICT entry frameworks**: the structure each one needs, and **when to reach for one over the other**, explained with diagrams.

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About This Guide

The **Unicorn Model** is a single-entry ICT setup: a breaker block overlapping a Fair Value Gap in the same zone. The **Venom Model**, as commonly taught, chains two Unicorn-style combinations in one move, with an inducement sweep between two legs, giving two entries. Choose Unicorn when the chart shows one clean overlap, and Venom when it shows two sequential structure-shift-and-gap legs. Neither is better; they suit different chart conditions.

By the end of this guide you will be able to:

- Define the Unicorn Model and the Venom Model, and the building blocks they share
- Compare the two on structure shifts, Fair Value Gaps, breaker blocks and liquidity sweeps
- Understand how entry count and risk distribution differ between them
- Recognise the chart conditions that suit each model
- Apply a simple decision framework and a five-point checklist before using either model

Unicorn Model vs Venom Model

Why Compare These Two Models

The Unicorn Model, introduced in our Advanced Institutional Concepts guide, is one of the cleanest confluence-based entries in the ICT toolkit — a breaker block and a Fair Value Gap overlapping in the same zone. The Venom Model borrows the same building blocks but stretches them across two separate legs, producing two entries instead of one.

Neither model is objectively "better" than the other — they're built for different chart conditions. This guide puts them side by side so it's easier to recognise, in real time, which one a given situation actually calls for.

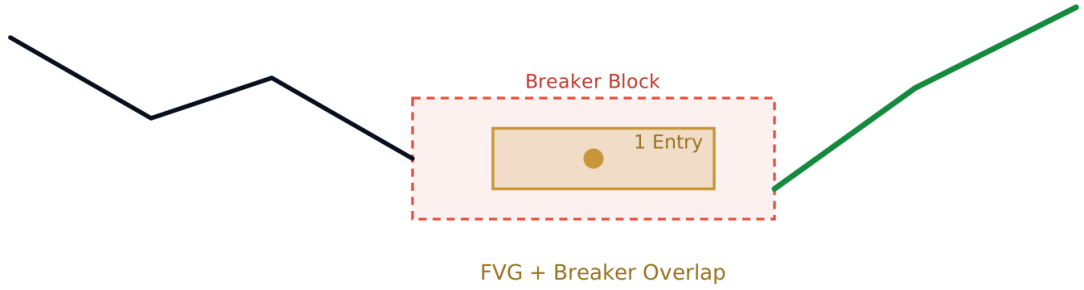
How to Actually Use This Comparison (Before You Trade Either)

The most common mistake when comparing named models is treating the comparison as a search for "the best one," rather than a tool for matching the right model to the right chart condition. Both models depend on the same underlying skills — reading structure, spotting displacement, and locating Fair Value Gaps — covered elsewhere in this series.

Before applying either model, run it through three quick filters: **Are the basics already solid?** — neither model works without a reliable read on structure and FVGs first. **Does the chart genuinely show one leg or two?** — forcing a two-legged Venom read onto what's really a single clean Unicorn setup (or the reverse) adds confusion, not precision. **Is the wider context supportive?** — both models still need to align with the higher-timeframe trend to make sense.

CONCEPT 01 · SINGLE-ENTRY MODEL

1. What Is the Unicorn Model?



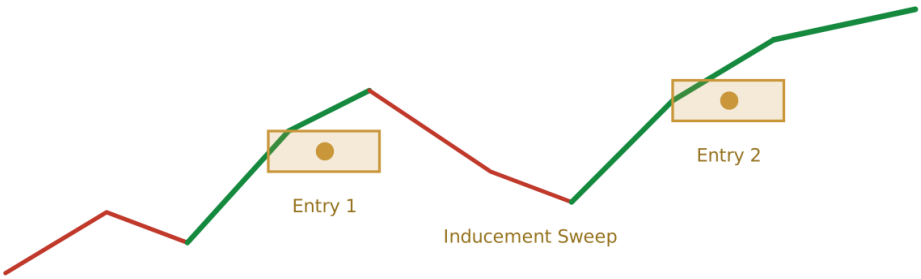
As covered in the earlier advanced concepts guide, the Unicorn Model is a single-entry setup: a breaker block — a former order block that failed and flipped role — overlapping with a Fair Value Gap in the same price zone. That overlap gives one clean, well-defined area to take one entry.

HOW TO READ IT

The strength of the Unicorn Model comes from simplicity — a single, tightly-defined zone with two independent sources of confluence pointing at the same spot.

CONCEPT 02 · TWO-ENTRY MODEL

2. What Is the Venom Model?



As it's commonly taught, the Venom Model is essentially two Unicorn-style combinations chained together within the same overall move: a first structure shift and Fair Value Gap produce an initial entry, price then sweeps a smaller inducement level, and a second structure shift and gap produce a follow-up entry further along the same directional move.

HOW TO READ IT

Because interpretations of this model vary across different educators and communities, treat this as the widely-taught version rather than a single, universally fixed rulebook.

CONCEPT 03 · COMPARISON

3. Side-by-Side: Structural Requirements

Requirement	Unicorn Model	Venom Model
Structure shifts needed	One	Two, in sequence
Fair Value Gaps needed	One	Two, one per leg
Breaker block required	Yes, overlapping the FVG	Not strictly required for both legs
Liquidity sweep between legs	Not applicable	Yes — an inducement sweep separates the two legs
Typical chart condition	One clean, decisive move	A longer, more drawn-out, two-stage move

HOW TO READ IT

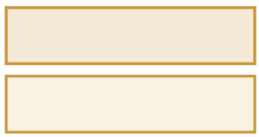
The Venom Model's second leg is essentially the same logic as the Unicorn Model applied a second time — the models share a common foundation rather than being built from entirely different concepts.

CONCEPT 04 · COMPARISON

4. Entry Count & Risk Distribution



Unicorn — 1 full entry



Venom — 2 staged entries

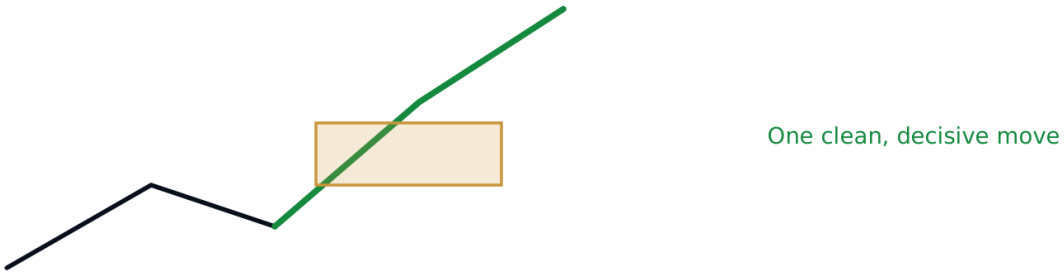
The Unicorn Model typically results in one entry, often taken with full intended size at the single overlap zone. The Venom Model spreads that same intended position across two separate entries at two different price levels, which can average the overall entry price across a larger portion of the move rather than depending entirely on one zone.

HOW TO READ IT

Two smaller entries generally means more decision points and more chances to manage risk along the way, but it also means the setup depends on two zones working out reasonably well, not just one.

CONCEPT 05 · BEST USE CASE

5. When to Reach for the Unicorn Model



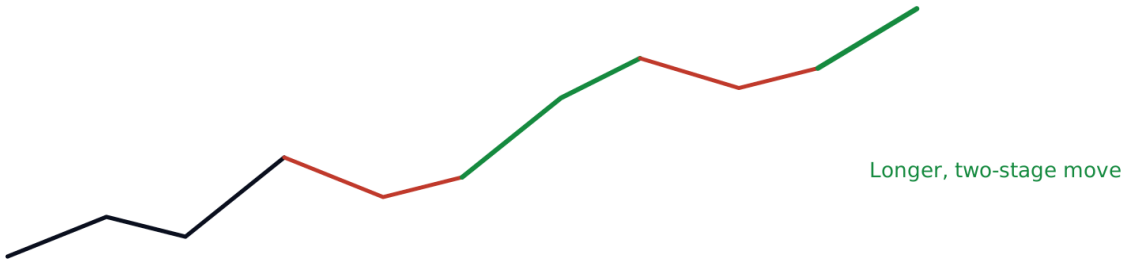
The Unicorn Model tends to fit best when a chart shows one sharp, decisive displacement move with a single obvious breaker-and-gap overlap — a market that made its structural point clearly and directly, without a lot of back-and-forth beforehand.

HOW TO TRADE IT

If the setup is straightforward enough that the same zone would likely be marked by most traders looking at the same chart, that clarity itself is a sign the Unicorn Model is the natural fit.

CONCEPT 06 · BEST USE CASE

6. When to Reach for the Venom Model



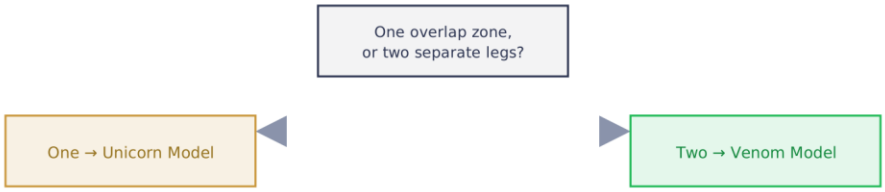
The Venom Model tends to fit better when a move unfolds in two visible stages — an initial push, a pause with a liquidity sweep, and then a second push continuing the same overall direction — rather than one single clean leg. Choppier, more drawn-out trending conditions are where this two-legged structure naturally appears.

HOW TO TRADE IT

Forcing a Venom read onto a market that actually only shows one clean structural break tends to produce an unnecessary second entry that the price action doesn't really support.

CONCEPT 07 · PUTTING IT TOGETHER

7. Choosing Between Them: A Decision Framework



A simple, repeatable question resolves most cases: does the chart show one clean breaker-and-gap overlap, or two separate structure-shift-and-gap combinations separated by a liquidity sweep? One overlap points to the Unicorn Model; two sequential legs point to the Venom Model.

HOW TO TRADE IT

When it's genuinely unclear which pattern is forming, many traders default to waiting rather than forcing either model — a chart that doesn't cleanly fit one description yet may simply need more time to develop.

Common Unicorn & Venom Mistakes to Avoid

1. Forcing a two-legged read onto a single clean move: Looking for a second Venom-style entry on a chart that only ever showed one decisive structural break adds an unnecessary, unsupported trade.

2. Skipping the inducement sweep check: Treating any two structure shifts as a Venom setup, without a genuine liquidity sweep connecting them, loosens the model past the point of being meaningful.

3. Ignoring the shared foundation: Attempting either model without first being comfortable reading structure, displacement and FVGs on their own tends to produce unreliable results.

4. Treating one model as universally superior: Neither model is inherently better — each fits a different chart condition, and picking the wrong one for the situation defeats the purpose of having both.

5. Doubling risk instead of dividing it: Taking two full-size entries on a Venom setup, rather than splitting the original intended size across both legs, changes the total risk taken significantly.

6. Assuming rigid, universal definitions: Since terminology like this varies across educators, assuming every source defines the Venom Model identically can lead to confusion when comparing material from different places.

NEXT STEP

Recognising which model fits a given chart takes repetition. That pattern recognition is what we build hands-on in our structured courses at Chart Code, offline in Boisar or live online anywhere in India.

Your Unicorn/Venom Confirmation Checklist

Before entering either setup in this guide, run through this five-point check:

- **One Leg or Two, Clearly** — Does the chart genuinely show a single overlap, or two separate legs — rather than an ambiguous in-between?
- **Structure Shift Confirmed** — Has each required structure shift actually closed beyond a genuine, meaningful swing point?
- **FVG Present at Each Zone** — Is there a usable Fair Value Gap at the overlap (Unicorn) or at each leg (Venom)?
- **Inducement Sweep Present (Venom Only)** — For a Venom setup, did a genuine liquidity sweep occur between the two legs?
- **Defined Risk** — Do you know exactly where you'd be proven wrong on each entry, and have you placed a stop-loss there before entering?

Practice Exercises: Apply It on Real Charts

Reading a concept is not the same as spotting it live. Work through these on live charts, and treat the results as practice, not proof. No real orders needed.

1. **Mark one leg or two.** On chart replay of one instrument, find five completed directional moves. For each, note whether it shows one breaker-and-gap overlap or two structure-shift-and-gap legs separated by a sweep.
2. **Rebuild the comparison table.** From memory, write out the structural comparison: structure shifts, Fair Value Gaps, breaker block, liquidity sweep and typical chart condition. Then check it against the guide.
3. **Plan two entries on paper.** For one two-legged move, mark both entries, a stop for each and a shared target. Compare the average entry price with a single entry at the first zone. Do not place the trade.
4. **Practise waiting.** Find a chart that does not cleanly fit either description. Write down what would need to happen for it to qualify, instead of forcing a label on it.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between the Unicorn Model and the Venom Model?

The Unicorn Model is a single-entry setup built around one breaker block overlapping with one Fair Value Gap. The Venom Model is a two-entry setup built around two separate structure-shift-and-gap combinations, occurring one after another and separated by a smaller liquidity sweep (inducement) in between.

Which model produces a better entry price?

Neither is universally better — they suit different situations. The Unicorn Model offers one precise entry

when a single clean overlap forms. The Venom Model spreads entry across two separate zones, which can average into a position across a larger, choppier move rather than depending on one exact level holding.

Can both models appear on the same chart?

Yes. A market can present a clean single overlap early in a move (a Unicorn) and later develop into a more drawn-out, two-legged sequence (a Venom) as the move continues — the two aren't mutually exclusive across a full trading session.

Is the Venom Model an officially recognised ICT term like the Silver Bullet?

Terminology in this space varies across educators and communities more than core concepts like market structure or liquidity do. This guide presents the Venom Model as it is commonly taught and discussed — a two-legged entry sequence — so the definition should be treated as a widely used interpretation rather than a single fixed rulebook.

Do I need to master the Unicorn Model before learning the Venom Model?

Yes, in practical terms. The Venom Model is essentially two Unicorn-style combinations chained together, so being comfortable identifying a single breaker-and-FVG overlap is a prerequisite for reliably spotting the two-legged version.

What is the Unicorn Model in ICT?

The Unicorn Model is a single-entry ICT setup in which a breaker block, a former order block that failed and flipped role, overlaps with a Fair Value Gap in the same price zone. That overlap gives one well-defined area for one entry.

What is an inducement sweep in the Venom Model?

In the Venom Model as commonly taught, an inducement sweep is the move where price takes out a smaller liquidity level between the two legs. It separates the first structure shift and Fair Value Gap from the second, and its presence is one of the checks for reading a Venom setup.

Get in Touch

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