



Weekly Market Update December 3, 2009

Bottom-Line: Overall, we continue to maintain our neutral stance (we turned neutral from bullish on Oct 16th) on the markets given the deteriorating market internals. However, within that context, we argued on Nov 18th (SPX closed at 1110) for a short-term “correction”, followed by one last move higher into year-end/early 2010 – our upside target remains 1160-1170.

We argued for a “correction” going into the beginning of Dec. So far it has unraveled for the most part through time instead of price - we are at the same levels we were at on Nov 18th. Therefore, one can argue that enough consolidation has taken place, and that we are on the verge of breaking out and beginning the final surge higher into year-end.

We initiated a few shorts on Nov 18th with the intention of covering those shorts and getting long at approximately 1060 at the beginning of Dec to play for the last surge higher. So, why don't we get long at these levels given our belief that, whether or not we get a small pullback, we are going to end up heading higher into year-end? We find the risk/reward for longs at current levels unfavorable in light of the deteriorating market internals. However, if we manage to pullback to the 1060-1080 range over the next few trading days, then we will most likely initiate long positions.

Given that we saw several failed breakouts over the last two trading days, we are keeping our short positions. However, we are mindful that enough time has passed for this “correction” to unfold, so we are tightening our stop levels. In the S&P 500, a confirmed breakout (closing price) above 1116 would confirm the end of the “correction”.

At this stage, the structures are painting two potential scenarios. (1)- we are still missing the final “C” leg lower to approximately 1060 to complete this “correction” before another move higher into year-end. (2) – slightly more likely scenario is that we are on the verge of breaking out from a triangle/consolidation pattern that began on Nov 16th. This scenario is illustrated below in Chart 1.

The important resistance levels continue to be 10,500 (a level where the first wave up from March to June would be equal to this wave up from July to now) in the Dow and 1121 in the S&P 500 (50% retracement from the entire move from October of '07).

We have argued on several occasions that the market internals continue to deteriorate, and that we continue to advance on the strength of a narrowing base of rising stocks. The market has become increasingly defensive but once again, despite not boding well for the sustainability of the rally, it does not preclude the markets from going higher or staying at elevated levels into year-end.

The percent of NYSE stocks trading above their respective 50-dma continues to be lower than the highs seen from August till mid-October (see Chart 2), and roughly half of NYSE stocks are trading at least 10% below their YTD highs. Several sectors continue to deteriorate technically including Regional Banks, Energy, Semis, and Financials.

We think these markets are exhibiting several signs of “topping” price action and overall the trading range over the last couple of weeks reflect the markets nervousness at this stage of the game. There are several examples of

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non-confirmations that we illustrate in Charts 3 and 4.

Chart (3a) shows non-confirmation of new highs by the S&P 500 equal weighted index, which indicates that the recent rally was not a broad based rally, and can be attributed to the most heavily weighted stocks. There is also a clear divergence between the markets and the McClellan Summation Index, which is a bearish signal, shown in Chart (3b). Chart (3c) which tracks the number of new highs also suggests we are seeing less and less new highs and that momentum is waning. Chart (4a) illustrates another non-confirmation with advancers/decliners, once again telling us that this rally is not broad-based. Lastly, there is no confirmation from up-volume, as shown on chart (4b).

Although, we have not been stopped out of our short on utilities on a closing basis, we want to address the recent surge in utilities. The rising belief in sustained low treasury yields and a generally more defensive and yield driven market, have conspired to force utilities higher. We will address our thoughts on treasury yields in more detail on a separate report.

Our stops have been elected and we are closing our long position in the Dollar and our short on the Euro. The decline in the Dollar has been relentless and has failed at the 50 day moving average every time despite the bullish divergences that we are seeing with longer-term oscillators. The dollar held the 75 support level for several weeks, but the break below that level has now opened the door for the DXY to reach the 71-73 support area, which could coincide with another leg higher in equities and risky assets in general.

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BKX (Financials) – Consolidating in a sideways fashion after breaking below uptrend. Oscillators confirmed breakdown, and we are now testing important resistance levels. Financials have underperformed the S&P since the end of August.

XOI (Energy) – Continues to find support from 50dma. Finding resistance at 38.2% Fibonacci retracement level of ~1100. Oscillators are holding above important support levels. Outperformed the S&P from August to early November, but has since underperformed.

OSX (Oil Services) – Showing signs of deterioration as price is slipping below the March uptrend line. Oscillators have also fallen below important support levels, suggesting weakness. In general, has outperformed the S&P since December '08, but pace has moderated since June, and has outright underperformed since late October.

IXI (Industrials) – Price continues to fight with resistance in the 275-280 area. A Bearish divergence in daily RSI still exists despite RSI breaking its downtrend. Relative performance versus S&P has been neutral overall since May.

IXR (Consumer Staples) – Broke above resistance at ~266 pivot level to continue March uptrend. New index high is not being confirmed by RSI, suggesting a weak technical uptrend. Has been underperforming the broader market since March.

IXB (Materials) – Broke above range between 300-338. Divergence with daily RSI. Has outperformed since end of October, but neutral performance since August.

DRG (Pharmaceuticals) – Broke above resistance at 300, continuing its March uptrend. Next resistance at 318. Overall since summer of '08 has been outperforming, and longer-term we expect this trend to continue.

BTK (Biotech) – Has reclaimed its 50dma, which it broke in late October. RSI is breaking out of its downward trend, and MACD is testing zero level resistance. Overall, entered into a period of massive out-performance in the summer of '08 and we expect that to continue longer-term.

DJR (Real Estate) – Has reclaimed its 50dma, but is once again finding resistance in the 175-179 area. Maintaining March uptrend. Broadly speaking, has been underperforming since early '07. Interestingly, the relative chart failed near the '07 pivot low and December '08 resistance, suggesting that we are entering another major period of intermediate underperformance by this sector.

NDX (Tech) – Bounced off of the 50dma. Broadly speaking, began a period of longer-term out-performance in 2007 and we expect that to continue in the longer term.

SOX (Semiconductors) – Continues to consolidate in a sideways fashion after breaking uptrend. RSI has moved back above 50, which is an important level. Has outperformed since end of 2008, but has been underperforming since beginning of September and has broken its relative strength trendline, which has bearish intermediate term implications.

UTY (Utilities) – Broke out above recent pivot high on high volume. Oscillators have been able to move back above pivotal “bullish/bearish” levels. Has been underperforming since beginning of '09 and broke below a major longer-term support level on the relative chart.

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Active Short-Term Trading Ideas

Short SPX (S&P 500) with short-term target of 1060. Stops at 1116.

Short MID (S&P 400) with short-term target of 665. Stops at 712.

Short RTY (Russell 2000) with short-term target of 555. Stops at 608.

Short UTY (Utilities) with target of 340-345. Stops at 412.

Closed Short-Term Trading Ideas

Short IBOV (Brazil) had stop elected at the 65,500 level

Long DXY (Dollar) had stop elected at 75 level.

Short EURUSD (Euro) had stop elected at 1.505 level.

*Stops on a closing basis

Chart 3



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Chart 4



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