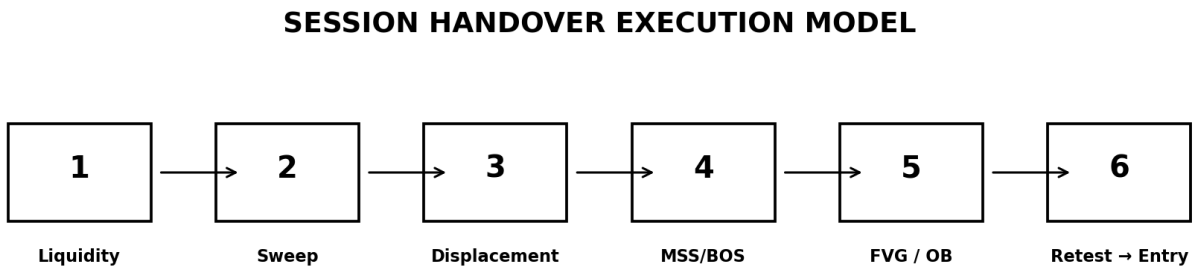
PRECISION PIPS

SESSION HANDOVER — ICT / SMC XAUUSD GUIDE

How to read Asia → London → New York without chasing the first move

Core idea: The new session does not automatically give us a trade. It gives us information about what happened to the previous session's liquidity.



Location first. Confirmation second. Execution last.

1. WHAT IS A SESSION HANDOVER?

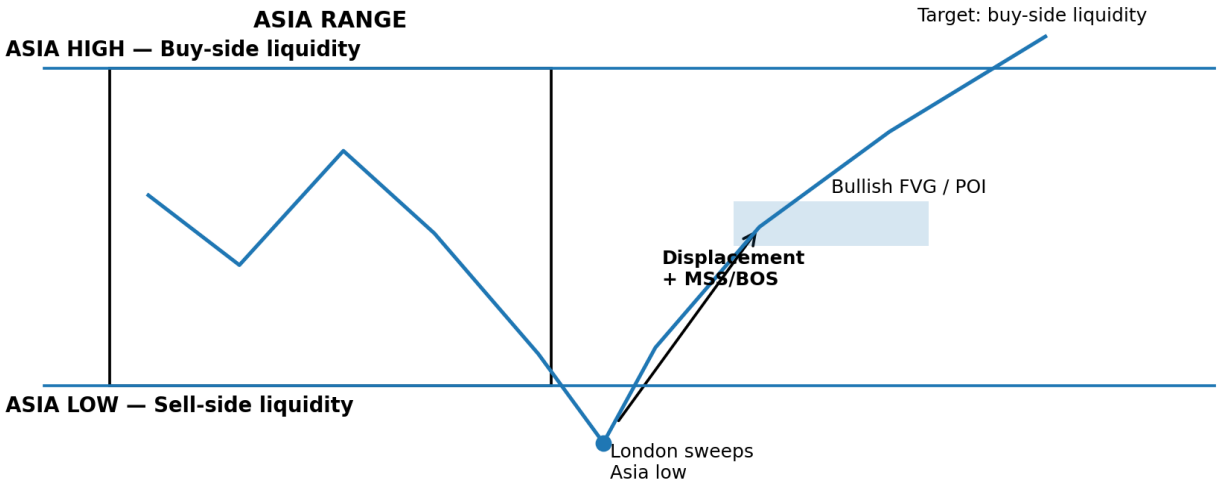
A session handover is the transition from one major trading session into another. For XAUUSD, the practical framework is Asia → London → New York. Each session leaves a high, low, liquidity pools, imbalances and market-structure information that the next session can interact with.

Basic sequence: Previous-session range → identify liquidity → wait for the next session → observe sweep or acceptance → confirm displacement and structure → locate FVG/OB → execute toward opposing liquidity.

2. ASIA → LONDON HANDOVER

Asia often gives the trader a clean reference range. Mark the Asia High and Asia Low. Those extremes can become liquidity pools for London. A London sweep of the Asia Low is not automatically bullish; the key question is what price does after the sweep.

Illustration 1 — Asia → London Session Handover



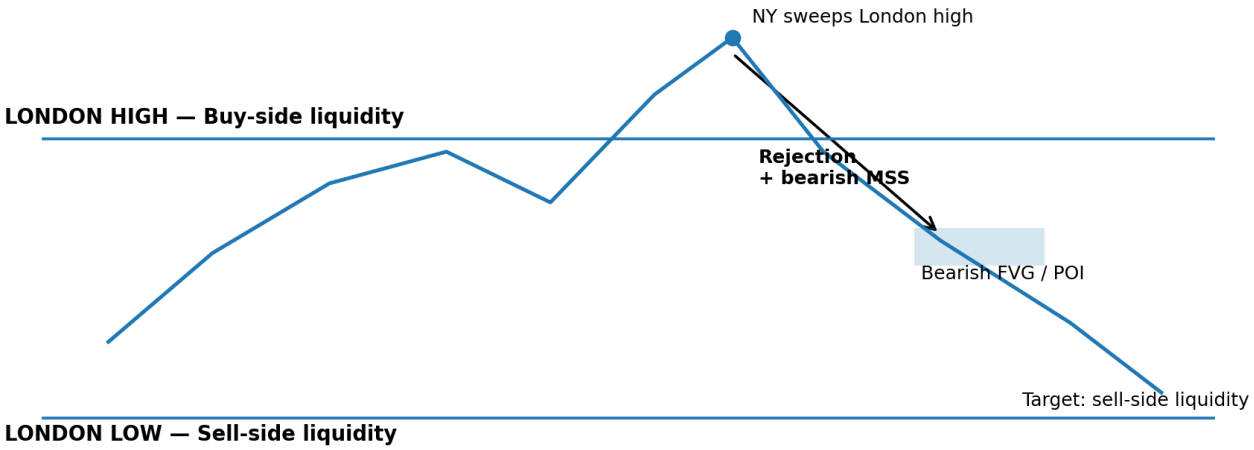
Example: London sweeps Asia Low → rejects below it → bullish displacement → MSS/BOS → bullish FVG/OB → retracement → potential long.

Continuation alternative: If London breaks below Asia Low and accepts below it, the market may be continuing lower rather than reversing.

3. LONDON → NEW YORK HANDOVER

By New York, London has already created its own liquidity map. Mark London High and London Low, then watch whether New York raids one side and rejects or accepts beyond it.

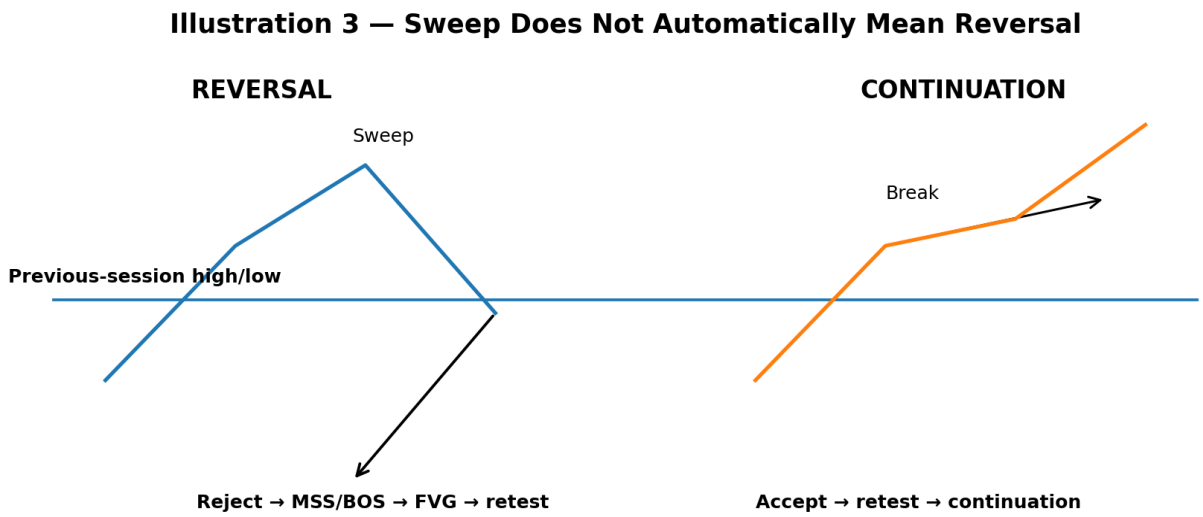
Illustration 2 — London → New York Handover



Bearish example: New York sweeps London High → rejection → bearish MSS/BOS → bearish FVG/OB → retest → potential short toward sell-side liquidity.

Bullish alternative: New York breaks London High and holds above it → retest → continuation may develop.

4. SWEEP VS. ACCEPTANCE



A liquidity sweep is a location/event; it is not the entry by itself. For a reversal, look for rejection and a structural shift. For continuation, look for acceptance beyond the level and a retest/continuation structure.

5. LOWER-TIMEFRAME EXECUTION

15M: Which liquidity was taken? What is the directional context? Has structure shifted?

5M: Look for displacement, MSS/BOS, FVG and/or OB.

1M: Use for precision after the higher-timeframe idea is already valid.

6. NEWS-DAY HANDOVERS

Major releases such as FOMC can produce unusually fast liquidity sweeps and reversals. Do not chase the first news candle. Wait to see which liquidity was taken, whether price reclaimed/accepted the level, and whether displacement plus structure confirmation appears.

7. LIVE MARKET CONTEXT — 17 SEPTEMBER 2026

The market snapshot used in the original guide showed XAU/USD around $4,372, with a reported daily range of approximately $4,257.67–$4,381.69. September 17 was showing a strong rebound after the previous day's Federal Reserve decision.

Reuters reported spot gold reaching approximately $4,360/oz on September 17 as the dollar and Treasury yields eased. The key educational point is that elevated volatility can make the first sweep much less reliable as an immediate entry signal.

Market figures are a snapshot for educational context, not permanent trading levels. XAU/USD prices can differ slightly by broker/feed.

8. SESSION HANDOVER CHECKLIST

✓	Previous session High marked
✓	Previous session Low marked
✓	Buy-side and sell-side liquidity identified
✓	HTF context established
✓	Draw on liquidity identified
✓	New-session sweep or acceptance observed
✓	Displacement confirmed
✓	MSS/BOS confirmed
✓	FVG / OB identified
✓	Entry and invalidation defined
✓	Target liquidity defined
✓	High-impact news checked

9. PRECISION PIPS — MEMBER SUMMARY

Asia builds the range → London interacts with Asia liquidity → New York interacts with London liquidity.

Do not trade simply because a previous-session high or low is touched. Let price show you whether it is rejecting the level or accepting beyond it. Then use displacement + MSS/BOS + FVG/OB to structure the entry.

LIQUIDITY → SWEEP → DISPLACEMENT → MSS/BOS → FVG/OB → RETEST → ENTRY

10. SOURCE NOTES

Market snapshot: Investing.com XAU/USD data, accessed September 17, 2026. Reuters market report on gold's September 17 rebound after the Federal Reserve decision. All diagrams in this PDF are original educational illustrations created for Precision Pips and are not broker screenshots.

Educational material only; not financial advice. Session behavior is probabilistic and risk management remains essential.