

CONVERTIBLE ARBITRAGE Where Does It Fit?

THE ABSOLUTE CONVERTIBLE ARBITRAGE FUND [ARBIX] - Q226



A few questions we are often asked: “where does the strategy fit in a portfolio?” “Is it more like traditional bonds, or alternative strategies like market-neutral?” “How does it compare to nontraditional bond funds or bank loans?” The answer, and the reason we like convertible arbitrage so much, is that it has the ability to fit in several different places in a portfolio.

Here’s why - Convertible bonds are hybrid securities – part corporate bond with a conversion to equity feature that essentially makes them part stock. Just owning convertibles outright tends to produce returns that are highly correlated to the underlying equities. But shorting a company’s stock against a long bond position hedges that equity sensitivity away. It isolates the underlying credit. This process is the most common version of convertible arbitrage.

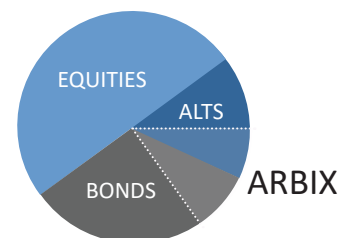
The underlying credits are unique and don’t trade in lockstep with stocks or other bond groups for a number of reasons – many of the issuers are small and mid-cap companies, many of these companies only issue convertible bonds, the bonds themselves are often not rated by agencies, and the bonds are often issued with moderate duration.

Investors can use convertible arbitrage any of several different buckets depending on how they construct portfolios.

NONTRADITIONAL BONDS & BANK LOANS	TRADITIONAL CORPORATE BONDS	ALTERNATIVES
<p>Goal = lower interest rate sensitivity</p> <p>Those looking to limit interest rate sensitivity may use convertible arbitrage alongside nontraditional bond funds or bank loan funds. The unique nature of convertible arbitrage trades has made them somewhat agnostic to rate rises. In fact, the Absolute Convertible Arbitrage Fund has generated a positive return in 10 of 11 rising rate environments since its’ inception in 2002 (data through 3/31/26), as defined by a 90+ basis point move in the 10 Year US Treasury Yield.</p>	<p>Goal = moderate total return</p> <p>Those building a portfolio based on the source of returns may use convert arbitrage alongside traditional bond funds. Returns come primarily from the same idea - picking individual bonds based on credit research. Once the equity sensitivity is hedged out of a convertible bond, the remaining credit can be modeled in much of the same manner a straight bond can – current price, interest rate, spread over comparable treasury yield. Volatility does act as an additional factor.</p>	<p>Goal = diversify long only stocks and bonds</p> <p>Those looking to lower the beta or volatility of a portfolio may use convertible arbitrage alongside alternative strategies. ARBIX’s beta to the S&P 500 Index is 0.07 and beta to the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index is 0.10 and standard deviation is 1.96% (since its conversion from a hedge Fund on 8/14/17 through 3/31/26). This is similar to what managed futures and market neutral funds may offer. Additionally, convertible arbitrage may be considered as part of a credit oriented strategy. The majority of alternative funds are more equity oriented.</p>

CONCLUSION

The biggest challenge to using convertible arbitrage may be demystifying the strategy and understanding its merits compared to other commonly used investments. It doesn’t require a radically new approach to asset allocation. The potential benefits on the both risk and return side suggest that convertible arbitrage will fit within many investors’ current portfolio construction methodology.



ANNUALIZED RETURNS as of 3/31/26 at NAV Since Inception Date: 10/01/2002	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Absolute Convertible Arbitrage Fund (ARBIX)	7.86%	7.15%	4.74%	6.05%	6.43%

Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end, call the Fund at 888-99-ABSOLUTE. Returns include the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Some of the Fund's fees were waived or expenses reimbursed; otherwise, returns would have been lower.

As stated in the prospectus, the Absolute Convertible Arbitrage Fund's Total Annual Operating Expense ratio for Institutional Shares is 1.47% (gross and net) through July 31, 2026. Absolute Investment Advisers LLC, the Fund's Adviser, has contractually agreed to waive its fee and/or reimburse Fund expenses to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses to 1.20% through July 31, 2026 (the "Expense Cap"). This Expense Cap, which excludes all taxes, interest, portfolio transaction expenses, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses, broker charges, proxy expenses and extraordinary expenses, may only be raised or eliminated with the consent of the Board of Trustees.

DEFINITIONS:

Correlation: Correlation is a statistic that measures the degree to which two securities move in relation to each other. **Duration:** Duration measures how long it takes, in years, for an investor to be repaid the bond's price by the bond's total cash flows. At the same time, duration is a measure of sensitivity of a bond's or fixed income portfolio's price to changes in interest rates. **Basis Point:** 1 Basis Points (bps) = 1/100th of a percent. **Beta:** Beta is the measure of a fund's relative volatility as compared to the S&P 500 Index which by definition is 1.00. Accordingly, a fund with a 1.10 beta is expected to perform 10% better than the Index in up markets and 10% worse in down markets. **S&P 500 Index:** The S&P 500, or simply the S&P, is a stock market index that measures the stock performance of 500 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States. **Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index:** The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, or the Agg, is a broad base, market capitalization-weighted bond market index representing intermediate term investment grade bonds traded in the United States.

HEDGE FUND CONVERSION - In August 2017, a hedge fund managed by Mohican Financial Management LLC reorganized into the Fund. The Fund's performance for periods prior to the commencement of operations is that of the hedge fund and is based on calculations that are different from the standardized method of calculations adopted by the SEC. The performance of the hedge fund was calculated net of the hedge fund's fees and expenses. The performance of the hedge fund is not the performance of the Fund, has not been restated to reflect the fees, estimated expenses and fee waivers and/or expense limitations of the Fund, and is not necessarily indicative of the Fund's future performance. If the performance of the hedge fund had been restated to reflect the applicable fees and expenses of the Fund, the performance may have been lower. The hedge fund was not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 ("1940 Act") and was not subject to certain investment limitations, diversification requirements and other restrictions imposed by the 1940 Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which, if applicable, may have adversely affected its performance.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. The Fund's net asset value and investment return will fluctuate based upon changes in the value of its portfolio securities. There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective, and an investment in the Fund is not by itself a complete or balanced investment program. For a complete description of the Fund's principal investment risks please refer to the prospectus.

Asset allocation decisions may not always be correct and may adversely affect Fund performance. The value of a convertible security is influenced by changes in interest rates, with investment value declining as interest rates increase and increasing as interest rates decline. The credit standing of the issuer and other factors also may have an effect on a convertible security's investment value. Debt securities have interest rate, inflation and credit risks and are subject to prepayment and default risk. High yield and junk securities involve greater risk and tend to be more sensitive to economic conditions and credit risk. Short sales may be considered speculative and it may be difficult to purchase securities to meet delivery obligations. The Fund may leverage transactions which include selling securities short as well as borrowing for other than temporary or emergency purposes. Leverage creates the risk of magnified capital losses. Diversification does not prevent loss or enhance returns. Foreign investments present additional risk due to currency fluctuations, economic and political factors, government

regulations, differences in accounting standards and other factors. Investments in emerging markets involve even greater risks. Small, mid and large cap stocks are subject to substantial risks such as market, business, size volatility, management experience, product diversification, financial resource, competitive strength, liquidity, and potential to fall out of favor that may cause their prices to fluctuate over time, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. The Fund is actively managed and may experience high turnover. This may cause higher fees, expenses and taxes, which could detract from Fund performance.

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Investors should carefully consider the Fund's investments objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. This and other information is in the prospectus, a copy of which may be obtained by calling (888) 992-2765 or visiting the Fund's web site: www.absoluteadvisers.com. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest.

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