# MacroVoices Harley Bassman 

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## A Guide for the Perplexed - November 15, 2018

Notwithstanding the above, projecting the -verditer line- forward would be consistent with a -shaded-area- recession in early 2020. It is important to note that a flat Yield Curve does not cause a recession, but rather is a harbinger. A flat rate profile suggests that investors are not demanding a higher return in exchange for locking up their funds into the distant future; likely in anticipation of an economic slowdown that will reduce the demand (price) for money.


Similarly, a flat Yield Curve does not directly cause a decline in Implied Volatility, but rather reduces the demand for financial market insurance (options).



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.


Source: S\&P, Bloomberg-Barclays, GFD, BLS; Minack Advisors

## Implied Volatility vs Yield Curve





## Constant Current Coupon MBS Libor-OAS





SX5E div yield vs. 5 Y bund yield


SPX div yield vs. 5 Y tsy yield


## SX5E 5-year Percent of Spot Price



## SPX 5-year Percent of Spot Price



## Listed Option Trade Idea:

S\&P $500=3000 \quad \sim$ SPY $=300$
Forward Price $=284.75$

Buy December 16, 2022 call; K = 340 @ \$21.0; Vol = 21.25\%; Delta = 37\% Sell December 16, 2022 put; K = 230 @ \$21.5; Vol = 27.00\%; Delta $=23 \%$

Convexity $($ gamma $)=+0.45$
Time decay (theta) $=-3.75$
340 is the all time high
230 is 16.75 P/E (6\% earnings yield) to earnings of \$137
2019 Actual SPX earnings = \$163

