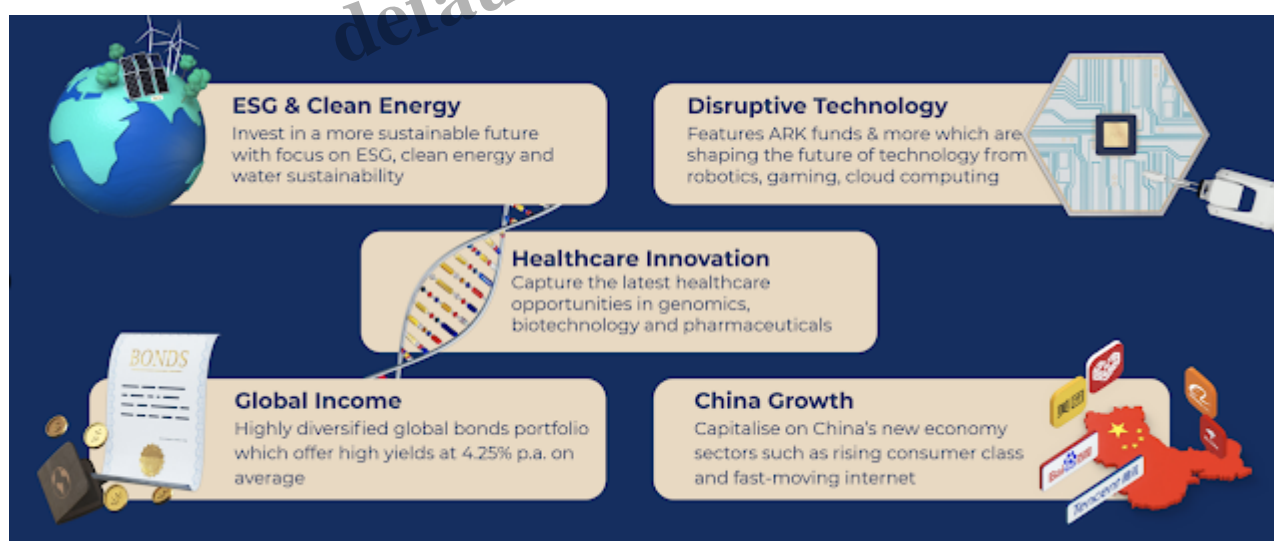




Trends that investors can ride on for the next decade

Description

As an investor, we want to ensure that we own great businesses that can consistently grow their earnings and deliver outsized returns to us for many years to come. Which is why identifying companies riding on mega trends that will shape our world in the next few decades sits at the core of my investing approach, given that these powerful tailwinds can drive the business to greater success and thus profits.



View the full [Syfe factsheet here](#).

Over the years, I've found that my returns on such investments have proven to be a far better strategy than when I bottom-fish on stocks in struggling industries (e.g. [see what I said about SPH in 2017 here](#)):

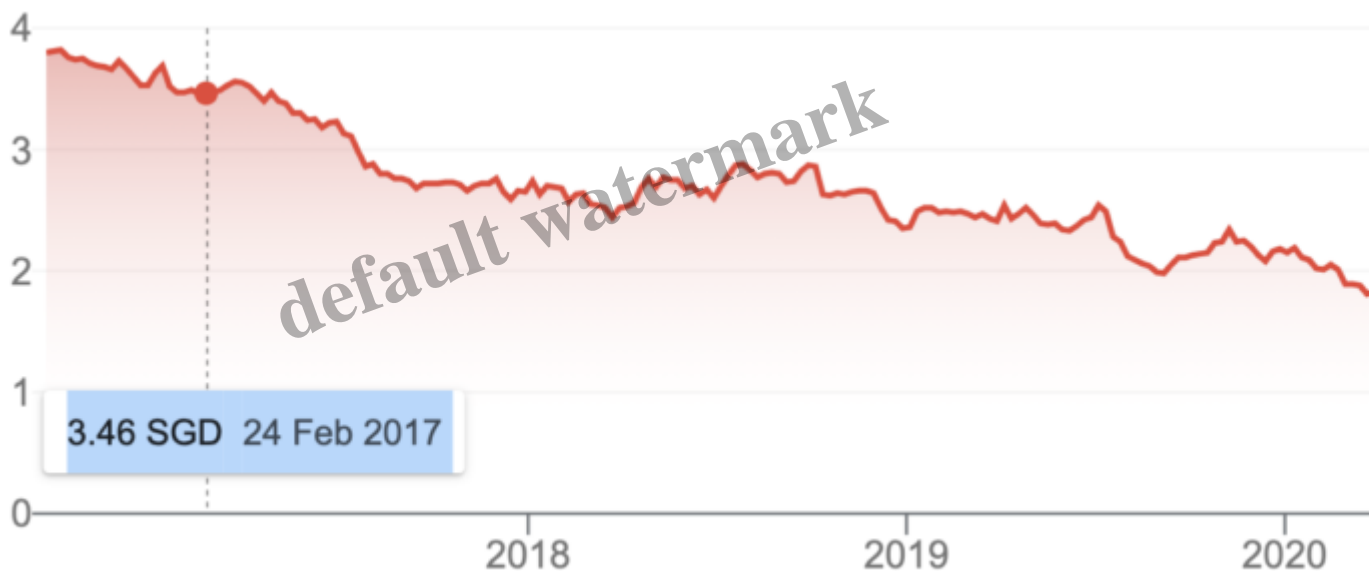
Singapore Press Holdings Limited

1.93 SGD

-1.87 (-49.21%) ↓ past 5 years

17 Sep, 1:49 pm SGT ·Disclaimer

1D | 5D | 1M | 6M | YTD | 1Y | 5Y | Max



But of course, identifying winning companies isn't always easy.

It takes up a lot of my time and energy, and when an industry is completely out of my circle of competence (such as oil or energy), it can take me several months to complete my analysis. And even then, I often end up *not* investing.

I tend to approach this in a top-down manner:

1. Which are the long-term trends that are going to lead to bigger addressable markets over time?
2. Who are the leaders in this industry, and what are the competitive advantages that will keep them winning over their rivals?
3. Are margins sustainable?
4. Will profits eventually accrue to us as investors?

Even then, it isn't easy to identify the potential winners. In the field of technology, for instance, just take a look at how the top 20 list has changed. The 2000s darlings such as Dell, EMC and Cisco have since lost their leadership positions.

Tech disruption has driven a change in leadership

1990	2000	2010	2020
1 IBM	1 Microsoft	1 Microsoft	1 Microsoft
2 Panasonic	2 Cisco	2 Alphabet	2 Apple
3 Hitachi	3 Oracle	3 Apple	3 Amazon
4 Toshiba	4 Intel	4 IBM	4 Alibaba
5 Sony	5 Nokia	5 Cisco	5 Tencent
6 NEC	6 IBM	6 Oracle	6 Facebook
7 Fujitsu	7 Dell	7 HP	7 Alphabet
8 Mitsubishi	8 Ericsson	8 Intel	8 Visa
9 Fanuc	9 Sony	9 Samsung	9 Mastercard
10 Sharp	10 Qualcomm	10 Qualcomm	10 TSMC
11 Fuji Film	11 Yahoo	11 Visa	11 Intel
12 HP	12 HP	12 Amazon	12 Samsung
13 Nintendo	13 EMC	13 SAP	13 Nvidia
14 Canon	14 Motorola	14 Canon	14 Netflix
15 Showa	15 Fujitsu	15 TSMC	15 Cisco
16 Motorola	16 Texas Inst	16 Nokia	16 Adobe
17 Relx	17 NTT Data	17 Hon Hai	17 Paypal
18 Pioneer	18 Panasonic	18 Tencent	18 Oracle
19 Intel	19 Murata	19 Blackberry	19 Salesforce
20 Kyocera	20 Hitachi	20 EMC	20 Tesla

Source: BlackRock analysis on Thomson Reuters data, as at 22 May 2020. Shading indicates tech companies that were not among largest by market cap during the previous major tech disruption shown. References to specific securities are for illustrative purposes and are not intended and should not be interpreted as recommendations to purchase or sell such securities. Figures in USD.

If you're not familiar with the industry, there's nothing wrong with admitting that you have no clue on who's going to be the winner.

You can be confident that solar energy is going to become a dominant energy source in the near future, but whether it'll be First Solar or Sunrun who becomes a winning stock is a different story.

[More than 50% of global GDP growth in the next decade is projected to come from China](#), but which Chinese companies will thrive as a result?

I know that cancer treatments will become huge in the coming decade, but whether Fate Therapeutics or Ionis Pharmaceuticals will succeed is anyone's guess.

In this case, there are 2 strategies you can adopt:

1. make many small bets (the Peter Lynch approach)
2. invest in an ETF that tracks the industry, or holds a basket of your shortlisted stocks

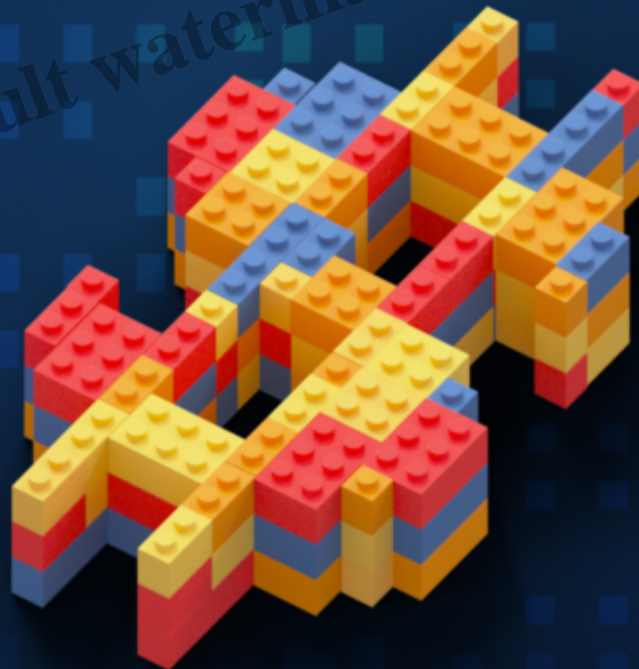
In this case, I've chosen the latter, and [I'm doing it through Syfe Select](#).

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Introducing
Syfe Select
Singapore's First Fully
Customisable ETF
Portfolio Builder

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No minimum investment,
no lock-ups, automatic
dividends reinvesting

[Learn more](#)

Why use [Syfe Select](#) when you can DIY?

Now, some of you have questioned me on Instagram on why I put my money into [Syfe](#) when I'm an active stock picker, so let me preface this with two things:

Firstly, if you're new to Budget Babe, you should know that I walk my talk. I'm extremely selective about the sponsored engagements that I take on (*perhaps more so than necessary, considering how much advertising money I've rejected till date*), and if I say I've put my money in it, I mean it.

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We have received your funds!



Syfe Sep 13 

To: me 

Block

Syfe

Dear [REDACTED] Dawn,

We have received your funds.

It will be invested within 1 - 2 business days.

Portfolio ID: 8[REDACTED]

Portfolio name: Dream Basket

Deposit amount: [REDACTED]

Why did I put my money into Syfe Select's portfolios even though I'm a DIY investor who actively manages my own portfolio? Well, when I see an ETF that gives me a solution by way of exposure to a growing industry that's out of my circle of competence (*i.e. I have trouble analyzing and identifying the potential winners*), I won't say no, especially when it is more cost-efficient as well.

Imagine having to manually buy the 8 ETFs by yourself and paying 8 x brokerage fees every month.

Now contrast that to creating your portfolio of 8 ETFs with Syfe and setting up a one-time standing

instruction to fund your account each month.

It's almost a no brainer.

What are the themes in Syfe Select?

There are [5 thematic portfolios](#) offered to investors in Syfe Select:

- [Disruptive technology](#)
- [ESG and clean energy](#)
- [Healthcare and innovation](#)
- [China growth](#)
- [Global income](#) (bonds)

I urge you to click on the links above to read more about each portfolio before you decide what's more suitable for you.

Syfe has curated a list of 8 ETFs for each portfolio, selected based on their asset size, expense ratio and liquidity. In other words, in order to keep costs low for investors, Syfe requires that the ETFs must be low-cost, highly liquid, track their benchmarks closely, and the asset manager must have a good reputation.

The weightages are assigned based on Syfe's own "asset-class risk allocation method" (read more about it [here](#)), where an ETF with a lower risk score is given more weight compared to one with a higher risk rating, as shown below:

	ETF A	ETF B	ETF C
Risk budget	20	20	20
Risk score	2	1	4
Contribution to risk budget	10	20	5
Portfolio weight	23.1%	46.6%	11.65%

Source: [Syfe](#). Sample illustration of portfolio optimisation using asset class risk budgeting

If you prefer to remove some of the proposed ETFs, or even tweak the asset allocation, then you'd want to move into [Syfe Select](#) (Custom).

That's what I did.

For instance, if you're going for Healthcare Innovation but already have a sizable allocation to ARKG in your existing portfolio, then you can click on the "Customize" button to reduce your exposure, or even remove it completely.

Create Your Custom ETF Portfolio

You can either (i) tweak one of Syfe's existing portfolios or (ii) choose from over 100 ETFs curated by Syfe and create your own portfolio.

For instance, imagine you wanted to create a portfolio combining all of Ark's ETFs so you can do dollar-cost averaging via Syfe.

Step 1: Choose Custom and click on "Select"

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ADD PORTFOLIO

CHOOSE A PORTFOLIO TO CONTINUE

CORE

REIT

CASH

Build wealth your way



Themes

Invest in global megatrends with our five thematic portfolios covering ESG, healthcare, disruption and more

Learn more

Select



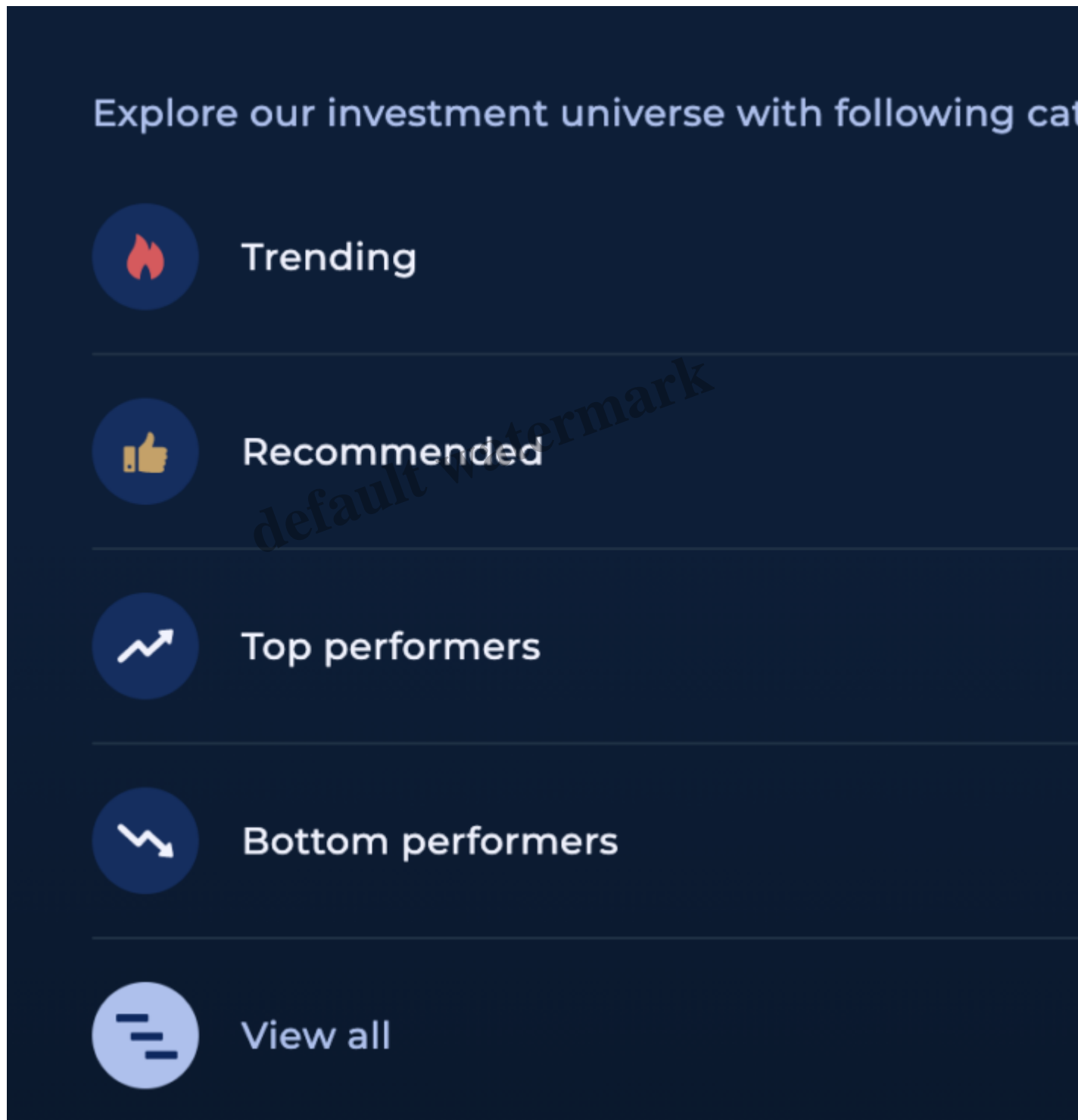
Custom

Design your own portfolio by selecting individual investments

Learn more

Step 2: Click on “View all”.

This will then bring up the list of ETFs available to you via Syfe. Scroll and click on “Add” for the relevant Ark ETFs that you’re keen on.



Step 3: Syfe will then allocate equal weightage to each of your ETFs, but if you want to tweak this

further, just click on the pencil icon to amend the allocations to your desired percentages.

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● Equity ● Bond ● REIT ● Commodity

▼ ● ARK Autonomous Tech & Robotics
ARKQ

▼ ● ARK Fintech Innovation
ARKF

▼ ● ARK Genomic Revolution
ARKG

▼ ● ARK Innovation
ARKK

▼ ● ARK Next Generation Internet
ARKW

▼ ● ARK Space Exploration
ARKX

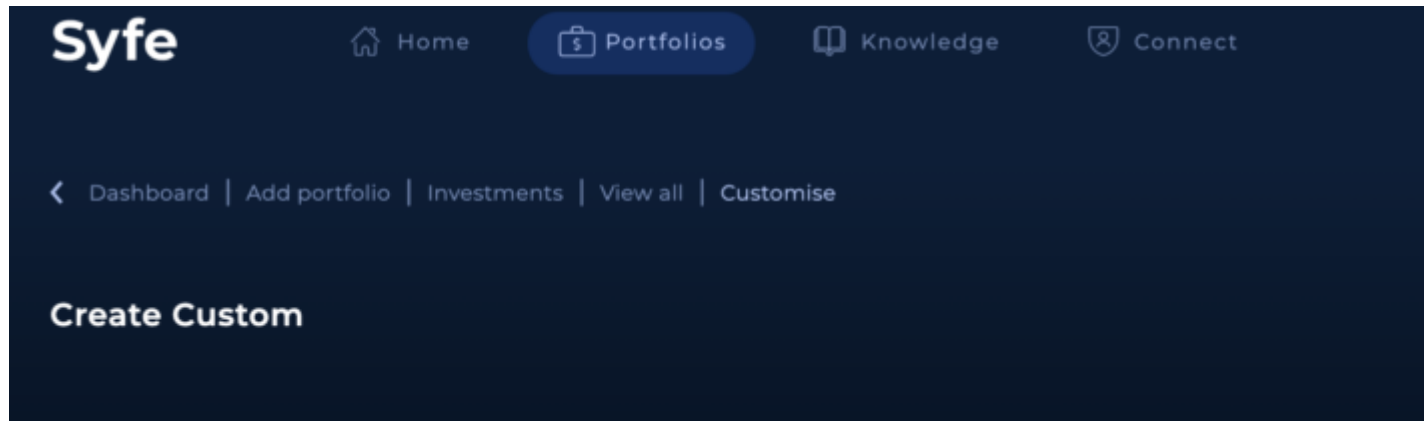
You can then toggle through the charts that are generated based on your allocations, to see how diversified (or concentrated) you are, including the top stock holdings, country exposure, etc.

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Step 4: Once you're satisfied, click on "Confirm portfolio" at the top.



Step 5: Name your portfolio and set how much funds you wish to invest with.

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Portfolio name
Ark's Funds

Lumpsum: SGD
10000

Monthly: SGD (0
500

- ✓ Lumpsum and monthly transfer amounts are in SGD. You can transfer any amount at any time.
- ✓ You can withdraw from your portfolio at any time without fees.

Done

Click on "Done".

For fans of ARK and/or Cathie Wood, **Syfe Select (Custom)** is actually a more cost-efficient way to **DCA into Ark's funds** on a regular basis.

After all, if you've tried doing your own DCA into Ark's funds yourself, you'll know that manually buying it each month, incurring all the brokerage expenses for each fund and also managing it...can be a real pain.

Tweaking Themes for your own custom portfolio

Alternatively, if you find sieving through Syfe's entire ETF list too daunting, then you can also opt to work off their existing Select portfolios and simply tweak the allocations for yourself.

This was what I did.

First, [choose the theme that you want](#) and click on "Customise".

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Disruptive Technology

Invest in the most promising areas of the future economy from artificial intelligence to cloud computing.

Ann. Past Returns

🏆 3Y: 25.22%

Risk Rating



Very High

Funds in your portfolio

✓ SPDR Health Care Sector ● Equity
XLV

✓ iShares Biotechnology ● Equity
IBB

✓ iShares U.S. Medical Devices ● Equity
IHI

✓ SPDR Health Care Equipment ● Equity
XHE

✓ iShares U.S. Healthcare Providers ● Equity
IHF

✓ ARK Genomic Revolution ● Equity
ARKG

Add or remove funds from the current theme and adjust asset allocations to make it y

You'll then see this prompt:

Ready to switch from Themes to Custom?

- Using this option, you will be able to customise this portfolio to your own liking
- Change allocations or edit the composition from a curated selection of 100+ ETFs
- Automated dividend reinvestments and DCA per target allocation set
- Custom portfolios will not follow the theme methodology or re-optimization strategy

Confirm

Cancel

Click on the pencil icon to tweak to your desired allocation. Here's a sample view if you were to opt for just ARKW, ARKF and CIBR in your own customized Disruptive Tech portfolio.

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- ✓ ● Global X Robotics & AI
BOTZ
- ✓ ● ARK Next Generation Internet
ARKW
- ✓ ● KraneShares China Internet
KWEB
- ✓ ● ARK Fintech Innovation
ARKF
- ✓ ● VanEck Video Gaming & eSports
ESPO
- ✓ ● Global X Cloud Computing
CLOU
- ✓ ● Renaissance IPO
IPO
- ✓ ● First Trust Cybersecurity
CIBR

What's cool is that the charts change in real-time as you tweak the asset allocations, showing you how diversified or concentrated you are.

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Composition		Past returns
 ISS	 Companies	 Sectors
		 History
Top 5	% of portfolio	Annualised re
 Shopify Inc	4.57%	YTD
 Square Inc	4.5%	1 Year
 Tesla Inc	4.22%	3 Years
 Grayscale Bitcoin Trust BTC	2.21%	5 Years
 Twitter Inc	2.08%	Source: Syfe int from Bloomberg guarantee for f
Last update - 31st July 2021 14:30 SGT		Last update - 31

I've set up 2 portfolios on Syfe Select to function as my satellite holdings (if you've no idea what that means, [read this](#)) in this manner, and customised it to fit my own beliefs of the ETFs that I'm more optimistic on.

For [healthcare](#), I picked 5 out of the 8 suggested ETFs. Similarly, for [disruptive technology](#), I eliminated Renaissance IPO ETF because I seldom invest in IPOs, given that companies generally try to list during good times so they can get a higher valuation than what they're worth. The top 10 holdings in this ETF further confirmed my concerns, given that I'm not a fan of more than half of [its list \(click here to view\)](#).

I'm still thinking if I should set up a custom ESG portfolio, because frankly speaking, only three ETFs (iShares Global Clean Energy ETF, Invesco Solar ETF and Water Resources ETF) appeal to me.

What if I already have an existing Syfe portfolio?

Given Syfe's rising popularity among Singaporeans, I won't be surprised if most people already have an existing portfolio with Syfe.

You could use Syfe Select's thematic portfolios as satellites to complement your overall investment strategy. Given the higher risk, I wouldn't recommend that these form your main, core portfolio. You might want to [check out Syfe Core](#) instead for that.

As for active investors, Syfe Select might just change your perception towards robo-advisory offerings entirely.

Is Syfe Select worth exploring?

With no minimum investment, no lock-in periods (meaning you can withdraw your funds anytime you need to) and no brokerage fees, I find Syfe Select portfolios to be extremely attractive. For the newbie investor, this is probably the easiest and most cost-efficient method available right now.

Even as a DIY investor myself, I like Syfe Select because it removes the manual work of buying the underlying ETFs each month for me, but also reinvests the dividends on my behalf.

Unless you opt for the Customised route (like I did), Syfe will even automatically rebalance your portfolio for you – once every 6 months.

All these, for a flat 0.65% management fee p.a. And if you were to invest more funds with them, the management fee drops to 0.5% for \$20k and 0.4% for \$100k.

Definitely worth taking a look at.

Sponsored Message

If you're looking to outsource your investments and [start investing with Syfe](#), use promo code BUDGETBABE to waive off your management fees for the first 3 months (up to your first \$30,000).

Disclosure: This article is sponsored by Syfe. All opinions are that of my own.. This article is for information purposes only and does not constitute financial advice. Past performance of a product is

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Category

1. Investing

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