

## Alpha Architect Launches U.S. Equity ETF (AAUS) with \$445 Million in Assets via Syndicated 351 Exchange Structure

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Havertown, PA – July 23, 2025 – Alpha Architect is pleased to announce the launch of the **Alpha Architect U.S. Equity ETF (AAUS)**, now actively trading with **\$445 million in assets under management** (as of the close on 7/22/2025). AAUS is designed to provide **core U.S. equity exposure** and was funded via a **syndicated 351 exchange**, which allows eligible individuals and financial advisors' clients to contribute securities to seed a new ETF with substantial AUM out the gate.

Through this structure, AAUS seeks to offer a streamlined way to maintain market exposure while simplifying portfolio complexity. The fund provides a cost-efficient solution (0.15% expense ratio) for investors seeking to transition from baskets of stocks and ETFs into a single, diversified ETF vehicle.

"We're excited to bring AAUS to market as a purpose-built solution for investors looking to simplify complex portfolios," said Jack Vogel, PhD, Co-CIO of Alpha Architect. "This structure may offer a more efficient way to reallocate appreciated assets while staying fully invested in U.S. equities."

### Simplified Access Through 351 Exchange

AAUS was launched through a **syndicated Section 351 exchange**. While 351 exchanges are not new, this syndication implementation allows multiple clients with a similar investment objective to all contribute alongside one another, as opposed to having to develop and launch an ETF on their own—which is complex and costly.

"351 syndication is a great tool to minimize the financial risk of launching an ETF. The ability to achieve economic scale in an ETF, pre-launch, dramatically lowers the risk of an ETF having to shut its doors down the road, which is terrible for shareholders," said Wes Gray, PhD, co-CIO of Alpha Architect.

### About the AAUS Strategy

The AAUS strategy is two-fold. First is to provide a core U.S. equity exposure, similar to market-cap equity funds. Second, the fund will, at times, seek to avoid dividends from certain companies. What is the idea behind avoiding dividends for certain companies?

"Academic research shows that investors, at times, overvalue dividend stocks before they go ex-dividend," said Jack Vogel, PhD, Co-CIO of Alpha Architect. "The research finds that these firms have abnormal returns before the ex-date, with reversals thereafter. By possibly avoiding these firms, at times, the fund seeks to take advantage of this aggregate investor behavior."

### AAUS Seeks to offer:

- **Portfolio simplification** – Consolidate multiple securities into one ETF
- **Market continuity** – Maintain exposure to large-cap U.S. equities
- **Efficient pricing** – 0.15% expense ratio, below category median
- **Dividend Management** – the fund will, at times, avoid certain dividends

Learn more about  
the Alpha Architect U.S. Equity ETF (AAUS)  
<https://funds.alphaarchitect.com/aaus>

This launch reflects **Alpha Architect's continued commitment to empowering individuals through education**. By combining transparent structures with evidence-based strategies, AAUS offers a new path for simplifying complex portfolios - aligned with the real-world needs of independent advisors and their clients.

#### IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

**Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risk, charges, and expenses of the funds. This and other important information is in the indicated fund's prospectus, which can be obtained by calling (215) 882-9983 or by visiting [www.AlphaArchitect.com/funds](http://www.AlphaArchitect.com/funds). The prospectus should be read carefully before investing.**

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Investing involves risk, including loss of principal. or by In-Kind Contribution Risk:

At its launch, the Fund expects to acquire a material amount of assets through one or more in-kind contributions that are intended to qualify as tax-deferred transactions governed by Section 351 of the Internal revenue Code. If one or more of the in-kind contributions were to fail to qualify for tax-deferred treatment, then the Fund would not take a carryover tax basis in the applicable contributed assets and would not benefit from a tackled holding period in those assets. This could cause the Fund to incorrectly calculate and report to shareholders the amount of gain or loss recognized and/or the character of gain or loss (e.g., as long-term or short-term) on the subsequent disposition of such assets.

**Tax Advisory Disclaimer:** Neither ETF Architect nor its affiliates provide tax advice. In compliance with IRS Circular 230, we wish to inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication was not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax-related penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing, or recommending to another party any matters discussed herein. We strongly advise that you consult an independent tax advisor to assess your specific circumstances.

**Estate Planning Notice:** The information included in this communication is not intended as a substitute for comprehensive estate planning and does not constitute legal or estate advice. It serves only as a preliminary outline of how tax-free conversions operate. For detailed guidance, we recommend consulting your legal counsel. **Investment Risk.** When you sell your Shares, they could be worth less than what you paid for them.

The Fund could lose money due to short-term market movements and over longer periods during market downturns. Securities may decline in value due to factors affecting securities markets generally or particular asset classes or industries represented in the markets. The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions, economic trends, or events that are not specifically related to the issuer of the security or to factors that affect a particular industry or group of industries.

During a general downturn in the securities markets, multiple asset classes may be negatively affected. Therefore, you may lose money by investing in the Fund. **Investment Strategy Risk.** There is no guarantee that the Fund will be able to successfully minimize the taxable income generated by an investment in Fund Shares. The Sub-Adviser will actively monitor the Fund's portfolio holdings and look to sell a holding prior to the distribution record date. **Management Risk.** The Fund is actively-managed and may not meet its investment objective based on the Sub-Adviser's or portfolio managers' success or failure to implement investment strategies for the Fund. The success of the Fund's investment program depends on the Sub-Adviser and the portfolio managers' skill in implementing the Fund's investment strategy. It is important to note that, as part of the security selection process, the Sub-Adviser does not perform any type of fundamental or quantitative analysis on the component companies. Security selection and weighting are driven primarily by a securities market capitalization. **New Fund Risk.** The Fund is a recently organized investment company with no operating history. As a result, prospective investors have no track record or history on which to base their investment decision. There can be no assurance that the Fund will grow to or maintain an economically viable size.

The Funds are distributed by Quasar Distributors, LLC. The Funds investment advisor is Empowered Funds, LLC, doing business as Alpha Architect.

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