

## Fixed Income Substitute?

**Bonds play a critical role in asset allocation** because of their low correlation to stocks and their modest volatility. Merger arbitrage, whose risk and returns are dependent on the successful or unsuccessful completion of a merger – as opposed to bonds' risk drivers of credit and duration – has also had, historically, low correlation to stocks and modest, bond-like volatility.

Mathematically, however, bonds are cursed by rising rates. In contrast, merger arbitrage returns are poised to benefit when interest rates rise, as deal spreads incorporate a higher risk-free rate of return. As a result, for investors who don't need regular income, we believe merger arbitrage may be an appropriate fixed-income substitute and diversifier for investors as the U.S. Federal Reserve looks to unshackle interest rates from their historically low levels.

## Investment Strategy: Enduring Advantages

### Small Asset Base:

In merger arbitrage we believe smaller is better. With a small asset base, we can be "picky." We only invest in deals that we believe have a high probability of closing, and we don't have to take on riskier deals just to get our portfolio fully invested. To maintain the benefits of a small asset base, we anticipate a "soft" close at \$500 million in assets.

### Small-Cap Appetite:

Because we are committed to a smaller asset base, we can make meaningful investments in smaller companies. Because there is less competition in these mergers, spreads tend to be larger.

**Leverage:** We use it. Leverage has both good and bad attributes because it magnifies both gains and losses. The degree of leverage used is not constant, but opportunistic. It is based on the specific characteristics of each merger and the overall current portfolio positioning. Currently, the portfolio is 24% long, 4% short, for a total of 28% gross exposure to merger investments.

### Appropriate Diversification:

In stock and bond portfolios, holding 80 positions is generally considered less risky than 30 positions. In merger arbitrage, however, as more mergers are included, deal quality tends to fall. Investors accept more risk that a merger does not close as scheduled due to anti-trust, financing, regulatory and divestiture complications. With 25 to 35 positions, our goal is diversification among merger deals while attempting to maintain overall deal quality.

# Silver Pepper

## MERGER ARBITRAGE FUND

Class Instl: **SPAIX** | Class Adv: **SPABX**



MORNINGSTAR RATING™

Overall rating out of 99  
Market Neutral funds as  
of 6-30-2020

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## Expert

### Battle-Tested Hedge Fund Manager, Steve Gerbel.

As the founder of Chicago Capital Management, and portfolio manager of Chicago Capital Management, LP, Steve has specialized in merger arbitrage investing since 1998.

For funds with at least a three-year history, a Morningstar Rating™ is based on a risk-adjusted return measure (including the effects of sales charges, loads, and redemption fees) with emphasis on downward variations and consistent performance. The top 10% of funds in each category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% 4 stars, the next 35% 3 stars, the next 22.5% 2 stars, and the bottom 10% 1 star. Each share class is counted as a fraction of one fund within this scale and rated separately. SPAIX & SPABX are rated 3 stars out of 99 funds in Market Neutral category for prior three-year period. SPAIX & SPABX are rated 3 stars out of 83 funds in Market Neutral category for prior five-year period. ©2020 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete, or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.



# MERGER ARBITRAGE FUND

## Our Story

SilverPepper specializes in offering “hedged” investment strategies within the regulatory structure of a mutual fund, making them easily accessible *For The Rest Of Us*. The value we offer smart investors can be crisply explained as:

- Hedged investment strategies, that until now, have only been accessible to wealthy individuals and large institutional investors.
- Hedge Fund Experts who have been independently selected, based on their long and demonstrable track records of success managing assets for their exclusively-offered, private hedge funds.
- We offer “Hedge Fund Experts at Mutual Fund Prices.”

### Correlation to Benchmarks

Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	0.17
S&P 500 Index	0.49

### Top Five Merger Deals\*

Target	Acquirer	Position Size	Deal Type
El Paso Electric	Infrastructure Investment	6.27%	Cash
Craft Brew Alliance	Anheuser-Busch	5.53%	Cash
Legg Mason	Franklin Templeton	5.38%	Cash
IberiaBank	First Horizon	4.34%	Stock
Portola Pharmaceuticals	Alexion	2.15%	Cash

### Performance as of 6.30.20 (Annualized Returns)

Inception Date: 10.31.13	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Since Inception	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Class Institutional: SPAIX	-7.09%	-3.96%	-0.43%	1.91%	2.40%	2.44%	8.49%	4.30%	1.76%	0.44%	5.26%
Class Advisor: SPABX	-7.29%	-4.21%	-0.72%	1.66%	2.15%	2.24%	8.22%	4.14%	1.59%	0.18%	4.95%
S&P 500 Index	-3.08%	7.51%	10.73%	10.73%	8.41%	13.69%	1.38%	11.96%	21.83%	-4.38%	31.49%

### Fund Information

Share class	Ticker	Investment Minimum	Shareholder Servicing Fee	Expense Ratios	
				Net	Gross
Institutional	SPAIX	\$5,000	None	2.81%	2.84%
Advisor	SPABX	\$5,000	0.25%	2.94%	3.00%

\*Expense Limitation: 1.99% for SPAIX; 2.24% for SPABX. See full disclosure below.

### Deals by Market Capitalization\*\*

Number of Deals in Portfolio:	10
< \$2 billion	7
\$2 billion to \$10 billion	3
\$10 billion+	0

*\*Total gross-annual fund-operating expenses are 2.84% for Institutional and 3.00% for the Advisor shares. The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive its fees and/or pay for expenses to ensure that total fund operating expenses (excluding, as applicable taxes, leverage interest, brokerage commissions, dividend and interest expenses on short sales, acquired fund fees and expenses (as determined in accordance with Form N-1A), incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, or any extraordinary expenses such as litigation expenses) do not exceed 1.99% for the Institutional class and 2.24% for the Advisor class. This agreement is in effect until October 31, 2029.*

*The returns represent past performance. Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investment returns and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Call 855-554-5540 for current month-end per performance.*

*\*\* Fund holdings and allocations shown are unaudited, and may not be representative of current or future investments. Fund holdings and allocations may not include the Fund's entire investment portfolio, which may change at any time. Fund holdings should not be relied on in making investment decisions.*

**Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, fees and expenses of the Funds carefully before investing. This and other information can be found in the prospectus. To obtain a prospectus, please call 855-554-5540 or visit [silverpepperfunds.com](http://silverpepperfunds.com). The prospectus should be read carefully before investing.**

All investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. There can be no assurance that either Fund will achieve its investment objective. The primary risk of the Merger Arbitrage Fund is event risk, which revolves around the successful or unsuccessful completion of an announced merger or acquisition. If a merger doesn't close as expected, the Fund could lose money. Other risks include smaller companies risk, foreign investment risk, derivatives risk and non-diversification risk. Long positions could fall in value and short positions may rise or be imperfect hedges. Specific risks include derivatives risk, high-fee risk, tax risk, foreign investment risk and non-diversification risk. Please [see the prospectus](#) for a complete discussion of the risks of investing in these Funds.

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