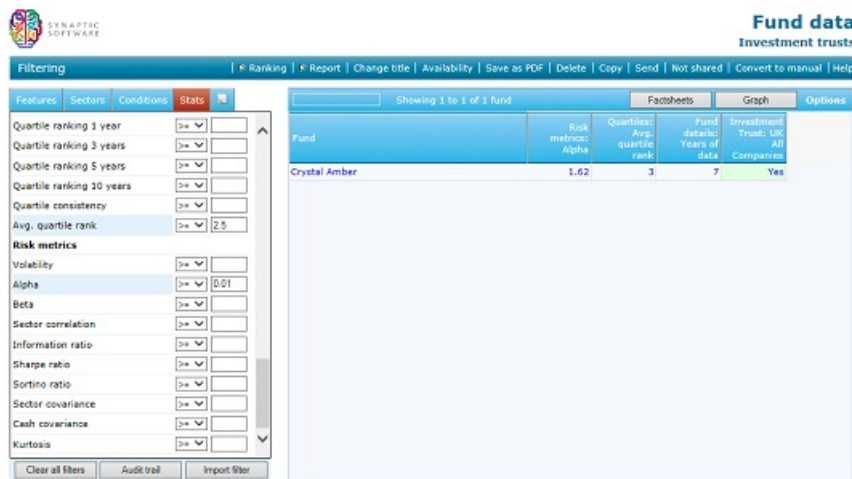


Are there any tips when using fund research?

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Synaptic Research obviously responds faster if there are fewer funds which it needs to display in the grid. Therefore, wherever possible, it's best to set up filtering, using the **Features** and **Stats** tabs, **before** you add funds to the grid using the **Sectors** tab. Let's say that you are going to research all unit trusts in the UK All Companies sector, and you are only interested in funds with positive alpha, whose average quartile ranking is 2.5 or better, and which have been around for at least five years. It's more efficient to set up this filtering first (using the Stats tab as illustrated by the screenshot below) and then add the sectors using the Sectors tab, rather than selecting the sectors first and then filtering the grid down.



The screenshot shows the Synaptic Software interface for 'Fund data' (Investment trusts). The 'Stats' tab is active, displaying a list of filters on the left and a data grid on the right. The filters include:

- Quartile ranking 1 year: [dropdown]
- Quartile ranking 3 years: [dropdown]
- Quartile ranking 5 years: [dropdown]
- Quartile ranking 10 years: [dropdown]
- Quartile consistency: [dropdown]
- Avg. quartile rank: [dropdown] 2.5
- Risk metrics:
 - Volatility: [dropdown]
 - Alpha: [dropdown] 0.01
 - Beta: [dropdown]
 - Sector correlation: [dropdown]
 - Information ratio: [dropdown]
 - Sharpe ratio: [dropdown]
 - Sortino ratio: [dropdown]
 - Sector covariance: [dropdown]
 - Cash covariance: [dropdown]
 - Kurtosis: [dropdown]

The data grid shows one fund, 'Crystal Amber', with the following values:

Fund	Risk metric: alpha	Quantiles: Avg. quartile rank	Fund details: Years of data	Investment Trust: UK	Compensation
Crystal Amber	1.62	3	7	All	Yes

Fund features

The Features tab of fund research includes a number of items which are quick ways of filtering out funds based on minimum performance requirement. The Top Crown rating field eliminates contracts unless they are top-ranked (i.e. 5 Crowns) by FE; the quartile features eliminate funds unless they have been top-quartile performers over the chosen period. All of these are simply quick ways of imposing conditions which can also be set via the Stats tab. The first screenshot below shows filtering on the features for the FE Crown rating, and on quartile ranking over 3 years.

The screenshot shows the 'Fund data' interface with the 'Features' tab selected. A list of funds is displayed with columns for Fund, Annual AP 3 years, Change since launch, Fund Assets, Top Crowns, and Top Quartile. The list includes funds like Aberdeen UK Mid Cap A Acc, Barclays UK Core Cap A Acc, and others. On the left, a 'Features' sidebar shows various filter options, with 'Top Crowns' and 'Top Quartile' selected.

The second screenshot shows the equivalent filtering on the Stats tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Fund data' interface with the 'Stats' tab selected. A table of 11 funds is displayed with columns for Fund, Risk metric: Alpha, Quartiles: Avg. quartile rank, Fund details: Years of data, Investment Trust: UK All Companies, and Financial Express rating: Crown. The table lists funds like Aberdeen UK Tracker Trust Pic Ord 10P, Artemis Alpha Trust plc, and others. On the left, a 'Stats' sidebar shows filter options for AP 6 years, AP 7 years, AP 8 years, AP 9 years, AP 10 years, Annual Quartiles, Best/worst, and Changes.

The fields on the Stats tab are obviously more flexible – for example, you can say that you want a quartile ranking of 2 or better, rather than just top-quartile performers. The fields on the Features tab are simply intended for convenience and speed.

Finding funds within a grid.

If you are looking at a grid which contains lots of funds (e.g. hundreds of funds) and you want to find a specific fund within the grid, you can simply use the find functionality built into your web browser. Simply press **Ctrl+F**.
