

Investing In Bonds, Especially High Yield Bonds

By Bernard E. Scoville, October 17, 2013. Revised April 20, 2016, Revised February 22, 2018.

On finra's home page (<http://www.finra.org/>),

1. I click on Investors.
2. Mouse over "Tools and Calculators".
3. Click on "Market Data".
4. Then under Market Data, I click on "Bonds".
5. Then I select "Search".
6. Then I select "Corporate".
7. Then I select "Show report as bonds".
8. I don't bother with irrelevant criteria, I use Quick Search, I next click on "SHOW RESULTS".
9. To sort my results, I click on yield twice. Then it points down. Highest yields come first.
10. Then I browse, today 2078 (2016) bonds, 40 bonds to a page. 52 pages of bonds sorted by yield.
11. Then I browse, today 2351 (2018) bonds, 40 bonds to a page. More than 52 pages of bonds sorted by yield.
12. The first page today has bonds yielding 16,280.810 to 270.721. Too much for me.
13. There are page numbers on the bottom to aid navigation. I look and navigate pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
14. There are page numbers on the bottom to aid navigation. I select Next until I find bonds I like on page 7.
15. To investigate a bond, I right click on its "Symbol" to open it in another tab, not disturbing my yield sorting.
16. From the newly opened tab, I copy symbol information to Yahoo Finance. I like to check profile, insider purchases, current ratio, earnings,
17. The 7 page today has bonds yielding 11.137 to 10199. Some of these interest me. So I print page 7.
18. I keep the selected bond pages up. Sometimes CUSIPS are not available on the original printed lists, and you have to select bond detail to get the CUSIP you may need for discussing with a broker and ordering..
19. I add bonds of interest to my Watchlist. The CUSIP will be added and tracked by finra. I can see them anytime.
20. Bond investing provides MANY options. I like high returns from companies that survive and pay.

Having selected and printed some pages of bonds, I can do more eclectic and in depth research, using:

1. Simple observation. Do I like the company? Is the yield adequate?
2. Yahoo Finance (<http://finance.yahoo.com/>), Yahoo Finance gives me all kinds of information including insider transactions. I love companies with insider buying. This has worked well for me.
3. Better Investing's (<http://www.betterinvesting.org/public/default.htm>) Toolkit software.
4. The company's website and its investment relations department.
5. Liquidity and solvency ratios.