



WINNAT SALES

as a Technical
Founder

Without hiring a rep. Without selling your soul.



Adhiraj Hangal
Founder @ Tiger

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Most technical founders **struggle** with **sales**.



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Not because they're bad at it.
But because they're doing it like a
salesperson, not a founder.

This is the playbook YC teams actually use.
You'll want to **save this.**



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#1 Diagnose. Don't pitch.

Sales isn't about **convincing**.
It's about **discovering**.

The best founders sell like doctors.

They ask, they listen, and then they prescribe.



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#1 Diagnose. Don't pitch.

Start every call with these **3 questions**

- 1 What's the **painful part** of [X] right now?
- 2 What have you **tried already**?
- 3 What would make this **feel solved**?

If they don't have **real pain**, there's nothing to sell.



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#2 Write like a founder, not a rep.

Most cold emails sound like automation.

Founders have an unfair advantage: they're real. Use it.



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#2 Write like a founder, not a rep.

Instead of:

"Hi {{first name}}, we help companies like yours improve {{metric}}..."

Try:

"Hey - saw you're hiring BDRs. Curious if outbound is actually working or still a pain?"

Short. Specific. No fluff.



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#2 Write like a founder, not a rep.

If your cold messages aren't getting replies manually...

Automating them won't fix it — it'll just help you get ignored faster.

You don't have a sending problem. You have a messaging problem.



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#2 Write like a founder, not a rep.

How to fix it before you scale:

Write 3 versions of your pitch:

- Send each one manually to **5–10 people**
- **Track** which one gets replies
- **Double down** on what works

Outbound isn't guessing. It's iteration.



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#3 Follow up like a human.

Most deals die in silence. Not in rejection.

If you don't follow up, you're wasting 80% of your effort.



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#3 Follow up like a human.

But follow-ups should feel like part of a conversation.

Use this template:

"Just bubbling this up in case it slipped through - still something you're looking at?"

Or

"Quick ping - we've helped 3 teams fix this last month. Want to see if it's relevant?"

No bump. No pressure. Just context.



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Founder-led sales starts manual, but it shouldn't stay that way.

You figure out what works by doing it by hand.

But once it's working? You need leverage.



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sales team. You need
leverage.**

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