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When considering investments, especially bonds, understanding their value is crucial. If you're presented with a debenture bond that has a face value of \$180,000, matures in 15 years, and offers an annual interest payment of \$9,000, you might wonder: What would I pay for this bond today? This question hinges on several factors, including prevailing interest rates, the bond's creditworthiness, and the time value of money. In this article, we'll explore how to evaluate such a bond's value, the key concepts involved, and practical examples to help you determine an appropriate price.

Understanding the Basics of a Debenture Bond

Before delving into valuation, it's important to understand what a debenture bond entails.

What Is a Debenture Bond?

- A debenture bond is a type of debt security that is not secured by physical assets or collateral.
- It relies on the issuer's creditworthiness and reputation.
- Debentures are typically issued by corporations or governments and pay fixed or variable interest.

Key Features of the Bond in Question

- Face (Par) Value: \$180,000
- Annual Interest (Coupon): \$9,000
- Interest Rate (Coupon Rate): Calculated as $(\text{Interest} / \text{Face Value}) = 9,000 / 180,000 = 5\%$
- Maturity Period: 15 years

Factors Affecting the Bond's Present Value

The current price you should be willing to pay depends on several key factors:

1. Current Market Interest Rates

- Market interest rates fluctuate based on economic conditions.
- If current rates are higher than 5%, the bond's value decreases because newer bonds offer higher returns.
- Conversely, if rates are lower, the bond becomes more attractive, and its price increases.

2. Credit Risk and Issuer's Creditworthiness

- The risk that the issuer might default impacts the bond's value.
- Higher risk typically results in a lower price.

3. Time to Maturity

- Longer maturity bonds are more sensitive to interest rate changes.
- The 15-year maturity affects the bond's present value calculation.

4. Discount Rate or Yield to Maturity (YTM)

- The YTM reflects the total return expected from the bond if held until maturity.
- It encompasses both interest payments and any capital gains or losses.
- Determining the bond's fair price involves discounting future cash flows at the YTM.

Calculating the Present Value of the Bond

To determine what you should pay for this bond today, you need to calculate its present value (PV). This involves discounting all future cash flows—interest payments and the face value at maturity—back to the present using an appropriate discount rate.

Step 1: Identify Cash Flows

- Annual Interest Payments: \$9,000 each year for 15 years

- Final Principal Repayment: \$180,000 at the end of Year 15

Step 2: Choose an Appropriate Discount Rate

- The discount rate often equates to the market YTM for similar bonds.
- For illustration, assume current market YTM is 5%, matching the bond's coupon rate.

Step 3: Use the Present Value Formula

The bond's price (PV) can be calculated as:

$$PV = (C \times [1 - (1 + r)^{-n}] / r) + (F / (1 + r)^n)$$

Where:

- C = Annual coupon payment = \$9,000
- r = Discount rate / YTM = 5% or 0.05
- n = Number of years = 15
- F = Face value = \$180,000

Step 4: Calculate the Present Value

- Present value of annuity (interest payments):

$$PV \text{ of coupons} = 9,000 \times [1 - (1 + 0.05)^{-15}] / 0.05$$

- Present value of face value:

$$PV \text{ of face value} = 180,000 / (1 + 0.05)^{15}$$

Calculations:

$$- (1 + 0.05)^{-15} \approx 1 / (1.05)^{15} \approx 1 / 2.0789 \approx 0.481$$

- PV of coupons:

$$= 9,000 \times [1 - 0.481] / 0.05$$

$$= 9,000 \times 0.519 / 0.05$$

$$= 9,000 \times 10.38 \approx \$93,420$$

- PV of face value:

$$= 180,000 \times 0.481 \approx \$86,580$$

- Total Present Value:

$$PV \approx \$93,420 + \$86,580 = \$180,000$$

This indicates that if the market YTM equals the coupon rate of 5%, the bond's fair value equals its face value of \$180,000.

How Changes in Interest Rates Affect Bond Pricing

Interest rates are rarely static. Understanding how they influence bond prices is essential for making informed investment decisions.

When Market Rates Rise

- If the YTM increases above 5%, the bond's price will fall below \$180,000.
- Investors can purchase the bond at a discount, reflecting a yield higher than the coupon rate.

When Market Rates Fall

- If the YTM drops below 5%, the bond's price rises above \$180,000.
- Investors pay a premium for a bond that offers interest payments higher than new issues.

Practical Implication

- For example, if market rates increase to 6%, the bond's price drops, and vice versa.
- This inverse relationship is fundamental in bond investing.

Estimating the Price You Would Pay

Given the bond's features and prevailing market conditions, here's how to estimate its fair price.

Scenario 1: Market YTM Equal to 5%

- Price $\approx$ \$180,000 (par value)

Scenario 2: Market YTM Higher Than 5%

- Suppose the YTM is 6%:

$$\text{PV of coupons} = 9,000 \times [1 - (1 + 0.06)^{-15}] / 0.06$$

$$- (1 + 0.06)^{-15} \approx 1 / (1.06)^{15} \approx 1 / 2.396 \approx 0.417$$

$$\text{PV of coupons} \approx 9,000 \times (1 - 0.417) / 0.06 \approx 9,000 \times 0.583 / 0.06 \approx 9,000 \times 9.717 \approx \$87,453$$

$$\text{PV of face value} = 180,000 / (1.06)^{15} \approx 180,000 / 2.396 \approx \$75,120$$

$$- \text{Total PV} \approx \$87,453 + \$75,120 \approx \$162,573$$

This indicates that if the market YTM is 6%, the bond's price should be around \$162,573.

Scenario 3: Market YTM Lower Than 5%

- Suppose the YTM is 4%:

$$\text{PV of coupons} = 9,000 \times [1 - (1 + 0.04)^{-15}] / 0.04$$

$$- (1 + 0.04)^{-15} \approx 1 / (1.04)^{15} \approx 1 / 1.872 \approx 0.534$$

$$\text{PV of coupons} \approx 9,000 \times (1 - 0.534) / 0.04 \approx 9,000 \times 0.466 / 0.04 \approx 9,000 \times 11.65 \approx \$104,850$$

$$\text{PV of face value} = 180,000 / (1.04)^{15} \approx 180,000 / 1.872 \approx \$96,090$$

$$- \text{Total PV} \approx \$104,850 + \$96,090 \approx \$200,940$$

This suggests a premium over face value when the market rate is lower.

Conclusion: What Is the Fair Price for This Bond?

Based on the calculations above, the fair price you should pay for this \$180,000 debenture bond depends primarily on the prevailing market YTM:

- If the YTM is 5% (matching the coupon rate): The bond's value is approximately \$180,000.
- If the YTM is higher than 5%: The bond's price decreases below \$180,000, reflecting a discount.
- If the YTM is lower than 5%: The bond's price increases above \$180,000, reflecting a premium.

In practical terms, to determine what you should pay today, you should:

1. Compare the current market YTM for similar bonds.
2. Calculate the present value of all future cash flows at that YTM.
3. Adjust

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I determine the present value of a \$180,000 debenture bond that matures in 15 years with annual interest payments of \$9,000?

To determine the present value, you need to discount the future cash flows—annual interest payments and the face value at maturity—using the appropriate market interest rate or yield to maturity (YTM). This involves calculating the present value of an annuity for the interest payments and the present value of a lump sum for the face value, then summing these amounts.

What factors influence the price I should pay for this bond today?

Key factors include current market interest rates, the bond's credit rating, the remaining time to maturity, and the bond's coupon rate compared to prevailing rates. If market rates are higher than the bond's coupon rate, the bond will trade at a discount; if lower, at a premium.

How does the bond's annual interest payment of \$9,000 relate to its face value?

The \$9,000 annual interest payment represents a coupon rate of 5% ($\$9,000 / \$180,000$). This rate helps determine how attractive the bond is compared to current market rates, which influences its price.

If market interest rates rise above 5%, how will that affect the bond's value?

If market interest rates increase above the bond's coupon rate, the bond's value will decrease because its fixed interest payments become less attractive compared to new bonds issued at higher rates. Therefore, the bond will trade at a discount.

What is the approximate price I should expect to pay for this bond if the current market yield is 6%?

Assuming a market yield of 6%, you would discount the bond's future cash flows—\$9,000 annually for 15 years plus \$180,000 at maturity—using a 6% discount rate. The current fair value would be slightly below \$180,000, approximately in the range of \$165,000 to \$170,000, depending on precise calculations.

Is the bond a good investment if I pay less than its face value?

Paying less than the face value (discount) can be advantageous if the bond's yield to maturity exceeds other comparable investment yields. However, it's essential to consider the issuer's credit risk and market conditions before deciding if it's a good investment.

Additional Resources

What Would You Pay For A \$180,000 Debenture Bond That Matures In 15 Years And Pays \$9,000 A Year In Interest

Investors seeking fixed income securities often face a complex web of factors that influence the value and attractiveness of bonds. Among these, debenture bonds—unsecured debt obligations backed only by the issuer's general creditworthiness—pose unique considerations. A common question arises when evaluating a specific bond offering: What would you pay for a \$180,000 debenture bond that matures in 15 years and pays \$9,000 a year in interest? This question involves understanding the bond's present value, the interest rate environment, credit risk, and market conditions.

In this comprehensive review, we will dissect this question thoroughly, exploring the key components that determine the fair price of such a bond, the methodologies involved in valuation, and the broader implications for investors. Whether you are a seasoned bondholder or new to fixed income investing, this analysis aims to equip you with the tools and insights necessary to make informed decisions.

Understanding the Basic Components of the Bond

Before delving into valuation, it's essential to clarify the fundamental features of the bond in question.

Principal (Face Value)

- The bond's face value (or par value) is \$180,000. This is the amount the issuer agrees to pay back at maturity.

Coupon Interest Payments

- The bond pays \$9,000 annually in interest.
- To determine the coupon rate: $\$9,000 / \$180,000 = 5\%$.
- The bond, therefore, has a coupon rate of 5% annually, paid typically semi-annually or annually depending on the terms.

Maturity Period

- The bond matures in 15 years, meaning the principal is repaid at that time.

Type of Bond

- It is a debenture, meaning it's unsecured—no specific collateral backing the debt.
- The creditworthiness of the issuer heavily influences the bond's risk and thus its price.

Pricing a Bond: Key Concepts and Methodologies

Valuing a bond involves calculating its present value (PV) based on expected future cash flows discounted at an appropriate rate. The main components are:

- Coupon Payments: Fixed annual interest (\$9,000).
- Face Value at Maturity: \$180,000.
- Discount Rate: Reflects market interest rates, credit risk, and time value of money.

Present Value Formula

The general formula for a bond's price is:

Bond Price = Present Value of Coupon Payments + Present Value of Face Value

Mathematically:

$$PV = C \times [(1 - (1 + r)^{-n}) / r] + FV / (1 + r)^n$$

Where:

- C = annual coupon payment (\$9,000)
- r = discount rate per period (annual market rate)
- n = number of periods (15 years)
- FV = face value (\$180,000)

The challenge lies in selecting the appropriate discount rate (r), which reflects the current market conditions, the issuer's credit risk, and alternatives available to investors.

Determining the Appropriate Discount Rate

The discount rate is crucial because it influences the present value calculation directly. Several factors impact this:

Market Interest Rates and Yield Curves

- The prevailing yields on similar bonds with comparable credit ratings and maturities.
- The yield curve provides insights into expected future interest rate movements.

Credit Risk Premium

- As a debenture is unsecured, it carries higher risk compared to secured bonds.
- Investors require a risk premium, which inflates the discount rate.

Inflation Expectations

- Expected inflation erodes real returns; thus, the discount rate includes an inflation premium.

Liquidity Premium

- Less liquid bonds demand higher yields.

Estimating the Discount Rate:

Suppose similar bonds with comparable credit ratings and maturities are yielding around 6%. Given the increased risk of unsecured debt, an investor might require an additional risk premium, say 1-2%, resulting in a discount rate of approximately 7-8%.

For the purpose of this analysis, we'll consider a range of discount rates:

- Scenario A: 6%
- Scenario B: 7%
- Scenario C: 8%

Calculating the Bond's Present Value Under Different Discount Rates

Let's perform detailed calculations using the formula, assuming annual coupon payments.

Scenario A: Discount Rate = 6%

- $r = 0.06$
- $n = 15$
- $C = \$9,000$
- $FV = \$180,000$

Calculations:

PV of coupons:

$$PV_{\text{coupon}} = 9,000 \times [(1 - (1 + 0.06)^{-15}) / 0.06]$$

$$PV_{\text{coupon}} \approx 9,000 \times [(1 - (1 + 0.06)^{-15}) / 0.06]$$

Calculating $(1 + 0.06)^{-15}$:

$$(1.06)^{-15} \approx 0.4173$$

Thus:

$$PV_{\text{coupon}} \approx 9,000 \times [(1 - 0.4173) / 0.06] \approx 9,000 \times [0.5827 / 0.06] \approx 9,000 \times 9.7117 \approx \$87,405$$

PV of face value:

$$PV_{\text{face}} = 180,000 / (1.06)^{15}$$

$$(1.06)^{15} \approx 2.396$$

$$PV_{\text{face}} \approx 180,000 / 2.396 \approx \$75,095$$

Total PV (Price):

$$\approx \$87,405 + \$75,095 \approx \$162,500$$

Scenario B: Discount Rate = 7%

$$- r = 0.07$$

PV_coupon:

$$(1 + 0.07)^{-15} \approx 0.3624$$

$$PV_{\text{coupon}} \approx 9,000 \times [(1 - 0.3624) / 0.07] \approx 9,000 \times [0.6376 / 0.07] \approx 9,000 \times 9.109 \approx \$81,981$$

PV of face value:

$$(1.07)^{15} \approx 2.759$$

$$PV_{\text{face}} \approx 180,000 / 2.759 \approx \$65,234$$

Total PV:

$$\approx \$81,981 + \$65,234 \approx \$147,215$$

Scenario C: Discount Rate = 8%

$$- r = 0.08$$

$$(1 + 0.08)^{-15} \approx 0.3152$$

PV_coupon:

$$9,000 \times [(1 - 0.3152) / 0.08] \approx 9,000 \times [0.6848 / 0.08] \approx 9,000 \times 8.56 \approx \$77,040$$

PV of face value:

$$(1.08)^{15} \approx 3.172$$

$$PV_{\text{face}} \approx 180,000 / 3.172 \approx \$56,747$$

Total PV:

$$\approx \$77,040 + \$56,747 \approx \$133,787$$

Interpreting the Results

Based on these calculations, the theoretical fair value of the bond varies significantly with the discount rate:

Discount Rate	Approximate Bond Price
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6%	\$162,500
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7%	\$147,200
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8%	\$133,800
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Implications:

- If market interest rates are around 6%, an investor should be willing to pay approximately \$162,500 for this bond.
- At 7%, the fair value drops to around \$147,200.
- At 8%, the fair value is roughly \$133,800.

This demonstrates that the bond's price is inversely related to the prevailing market interest rate: as rates increase, the bond's present value decreases.

Additional Factors Influencing the Price

While the above analysis captures the core valuation, several real-world factors could affect the actual market price:

Issuer's Creditworthiness

- A decline in the issuer's credit rating increases perceived risk, demanding a higher yield and thus lowering the bond's price.

Market Liquidity

- Less liquid bonds tend to trade at a discount.

Callable Features

- If the bond is callable, the issuer might redeem it early, affecting its valuation.

Inflation Expectations

- Rising inflation expectations reduce the present value of fixed interest payments.

Tax Considerations

- Tax treatment of interest income can influence investor demand and pricing.

What Would You Pay For This Bond?

Given the calculations and market considerations, what should an investor realistically pay?

- If current market yields for similar debentures are around 6-7%, then paying around \$147,000 – \$162,000

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