2.6.8 Auto-calculate ring finger span based on 5/16" rule

Auto-calculate ring finger span based on 5/16" rule

> 2.6.8 auto

The **Auto-Calculate Ring Span** setting controls whether Spectre Cloud automatically derives the **ring finger span** from the middle finger span using the **5/16" rule**. This long-established fitting convention holds that the ring finger span should be 5/16" shorter than the middle finger span for a properly fitted fingertip or conventional grip. When enabled, entering the middle finger span is all that is required — the ring finger span populates automatically, removing a calculation step and ensuring the two spans maintain the correct relationship.

□□ What Is the 5/16" Rule?

The 5/16" rule is an IBPSIA-recognised fitting convention that defines the standard offset between the middle and ring finger spans. It reflects the natural length difference between the two fingers — the ring finger is typically shorter than the middle finger by an amount that corresponds to a 5/16" span reduction when measured in the context of a bowling ball grip.

- □ Applying the 5/16" rule produces a grip where both fingers are loaded evenly at the point of release, reducing the tendency for one finger to carry more of the ball's weight than the other.

- The rule applies to both fingertip and conventional grips, though the absolute span values differ between the two styles.
- It is one of the most consistently applied conventions in pro shop fitting — the majority of bowlers will be correctly served by the standard offset.
- Bowlers with an atypical length difference between their ring and middle fingers — due to anatomy, injury, or amputation — may require a different offset. The auto-calculated value should always be physically verified before drilling.

Note: The 5/16" rule produces a starting point, not a guaranteed correct span. Always confirm the ring finger span against the bowler's actual hand before committing to a drilling. A physical fit check — confirming the finger seats correctly at the intended depth — takes precedence over the calculated value in all cases.

How the Calculation Works

The auto-calculation is straightforward: Spectre Cloud subtracts 5/16" from the entered middle finger span and populates the ring finger span field with the result.

Middle Finger Span	Auto-Calculated Ring Finger Span	Offset Applied
`3 3/4"`	`3 7/16"`	5/16" subtracted
`3 7/8"`	`3 9/16"`	5/16" subtracted
`4"`	`3 11/16"`	5/16" subtracted
`4 1/8"`	`3 13/16"`	5/16" subtracted
`4 1/4"`	`3 15/16"`	5/16" subtracted

Tip: The calculated ring span values above assume fractional display. If your account is set to decimal display (see 2.3.3), the same values will appear in decimal format — the underlying calculation is identical. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm whether the auto-calculated ring span respects the Bit Size vs. Decimal display setting from 2.3.3, and whether fractional results are rounded to the nearest measurable increment.*

Enabling or Disabling Auto-Calculate Ring Span

1. Navigate to **Settings** from the top menu.
2. Locate the relevant settings section. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm the exact section name for 2.6.x settings, consistent with earlier pages in this chapter.*

3. Find the **Auto-Calculate Ring Span** option.
4. Toggle the setting on or off according to your shop's preference. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm whether this is a toggle, checkbox, or other control.*
5. The change takes effect immediately for all new spec sheets. Existing spec sheets are not affected. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm auto-save behavior, consistent with other settings in this chapter.*

□□ Overriding the Auto-Calculated Value

The auto-calculated ring span is a suggestion, not a lock. It can be overridden manually on any individual spec sheet without affecting the account setting or the bowler's history of auto-calculated values.

- □ Simply type or select a different ring span value — the override is saved to the spec sheet as entered.
- □ The overridden value is stored in the bowler's spec sheet history and is visible in future sessions for reference.
- □ Consistent overrides for the same bowler are a signal that their finger length difference is not standard — consider noting this in their bowler profile so future fittings start with the correct expectation. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm whether Spectre Cloud tracks or flags consistent overrides of auto-calculated values, or whether this pattern is only visible by manually reviewing the bowler's spec sheet history.*

□□ Relationship to Span Type Settings

The 5/16" rule and the auto-calculation it drives apply to the span measurement regardless of which span type — Full Span (F), Edge (E), or Center (C) — is selected on the spec sheet. The offset is consistent across span types because it reflects the physical finger length difference, not the measurement convention used to record the span.

- □ Auto-Calculate Ring Span fires for **all three span types** when enabled. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm whether the auto-calculation applies equally to Full Span, Edge, and Center span types, or whether it is limited to specific types.*
- □ The calculated value is expressed in whichever unit and format the spec sheet is using — fractional or decimal, consistent with the display settings in chapter 2.3.

⚙ When to Consider Turning Auto-Calculate Ring Span Off

- **Training new staff** — disabling this setting requires trainees to apply the 5/16" rule manually, reinforcing the underlying fitting logic and ensuring they understand why the offset exists rather than simply accepting an auto-populated value.
- **Shops with a different standard offset** — some fitters use a slightly different ring-to-middle offset based on their own fitting philosophy or a specific bowler population. If your shop's standard is not 5/16", this setting will produce an incorrect suggestion on every sheet.
- **Bowlers with known non-standard offsets** — for a bowler who consistently requires a different ring-to-middle offset, turning off the auto-calculation prevents an incorrect value from appearing on every new sheet, reducing the risk of it being accepted without review.
- Turning this off in a standard-practice shop adds a manual calculation step to every fitting — a step that is simple but repetitive, and one where transcription errors occasionally occur under shop pressure.

☁ Scope of This Setting

This setting is stored at the account level and applies to all new spec sheets across all devices. ⚠ *Verify with your Spectre team: confirm per-user vs. per-account/shop scope — this question has persisted from 2.3.5 through 2.6.8 and must be resolved before this chapter is published. It is the single most overdue verification item across all pages drafted to date.*

Related Sections

- 2.6.7 — Auto-Repeat Insert Size: mirror size from ring to middle finger
- 2.6.6 — Autofill Insert OD: auto drill bit size per insert type and grip
- 2.6.5 — Autofill Bridge: auto standard bridge (1/4" fingertip, 3/8" conventional)
- 2.6.1 — Overview: why leaving all auto-suggestions on saves time
- 2.6.9 — Next auto-suggestion setting *(if applicable)*
- 2.3.2 — Span type configuration: Full Span, Edge, Center
- 4.x — Spec Sheet: entering span measurements
- 3.x — Bowlers: recording finger measurements in a bowler profile

Tip: The 5/16" rule has been a pro shop standard for decades because it works for the overwhelming majority of bowlers. Auto-Calculate Ring Span turns that standard into a zero-effort step — the ring span is simply there when the fitter reaches that field. For the small number of

bowlers where the standard offset doesn't apply, the override takes seconds. The math is always done; the question is only whether Spectre Cloud does it or the fitter does.

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