

4.4.1 Selecting "Round" thumb hole on the spec sheet

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4.4.1 thumb

The thumb hole is the largest hole on the ball and the one most responsible for the bowler's ability to release cleanly and consistently. Before entering thumb measurements, the spec sheet requires you to specify the thumb hole shape. Selecting **Round** tells Spectre Cloud that the thumb hole will be drilled as a standard circular hole — no oval shaping — and sets the measurement fields accordingly.

☐ What "Round" Means for the Thumb Hole

A round thumb hole has a single diameter measurement — the hole is circular in cross-section at the point of insertion. The bowler's thumb sits in a hole that is the same width in every direction, relying on pitch, depth, and hole size alone to produce a comfortable fit.

- ☐ The most common thumb hole shape across all grip types and skill levels.

- Simpler to drill and measure than an oval thumb hole — one diameter value determines the hole size.
- Appropriate for most bowlers, including those using thumb slugs or inserts.
- Works well when the bowler's thumb cross-section is close to circular at the insertion point.
- May not provide the most precise fit for bowlers whose thumbs are notably wider than they are deep — in those cases an oval thumb hole may be worth considering. See 4.4.2 — *Selecting "Oval" thumb hole on the spec sheet.*

Selecting Round in Spectre Cloud

1. In the spec sheet, navigate to the **Thumb** section.
2. Locate the thumb hole shape selector and choose .
3. Spectre Cloud will display the measurement fields appropriate for a round thumb hole — a single diameter entry rather than separate width and depth fields.
4. Proceed to enter the thumb hole diameter, pitch, and any slug or insert details in the fields that follow.

Verify with Spectre team: confirm the exact label and UI element used for the thumb hole shape selector — whether it is a dropdown, radio buttons, or a toggle — and whether Round is the default selection when a new spec sheet is created.

Round vs. Oval — Choosing the Right Shape

Bowler situation	Recommended shape
Thumb cross-section is approximately circular	<input type="checkbox"/> Round
Bowler uses a thumb slug or moulded insert	<input type="checkbox"/> Round (slug is shaped to the bowler separately)
Bowler has a noticeably wider-than-deep thumb	Consider Oval — see 4.4.2
Returning bowler — previous spec sheets used Round	<input type="checkbox"/> Round (match existing records unless fit has changed)
New bowler, no previous fitting history	<input type="checkbox"/> Round as starting point — review after first few games
Bowler reports thumb feels loose in one direction only	Consider Oval — measure before deciding

☐ What Happens After Selecting Round

Once Round is selected, the thumb section of the spec sheet activates the following fields for completion:

- ☐ **Thumb hole diameter** — the size of the round hole, entered as a single measurement.
- ☐ **Forward/reverse pitch** — the vertical tilt of the thumb hole.
- ☐ **Lateral pitch** — the side-to-side tilt of the thumb hole.
- ☐ **Slug / insert type** — whether a slug, standard insert, or no insert is used in the thumb hole.
- ☐ **Drill bit OD** — the outer diameter of the bit used to drill the hole or the pilot hole for a slug.

Verify with Spectre team: confirm the complete list of thumb fields that appear after Round is selected, and whether any fields differ from those shown for the Oval option.

☐ Tips for Round Thumb Entry

- ☐ Measure the bowler's thumb diameter at the **widest point of insertion** — for most bowlers this is just below the first knuckle joint, not at the tip or base.
- ☐ For returning bowlers, always verify the current thumb diameter before cloning and drilling — thumb size is the measurement most likely to change between visits due to temperature, time of day, weight fluctuation, or injury.
- ☐ If the bowler will be using a **thumb slug**, the round hole is drilled to accept the slug's outer diameter — not the bowler's thumb directly. The slug is then shaped or sized to the thumb separately. Record the slug OD in the drill bit OD field, not the bowler's thumb measurement.
- ☐ Do not measure the thumb at its thickest point — the goal is the measurement at the point of comfortable insertion depth, which is typically slightly narrower.
- ☐ Do not carry a thumb diameter forward from an old spec sheet without re-measuring. Thumb size is the single most variable measurement in a bowler's fitting history.

Related Sections

- 4.4.2 — Selecting "Oval" thumb hole on the spec sheet
- 4.4.3 — Thumb pitch (forward, reverse, lateral)
- 4.4.4 — Thumb slug and insert entry

- 4.3.7 — Insert type and size: STD vs. VACU, selecting drill bit OD
- 4.3.5 — How to input a finger oval measurement (no inserts)

Tip: When in doubt between Round and Oval for a new bowler, start with Round. A round hole is quicker to drill, easier to adjust on a follow-up visit, and suitable for the vast majority of bowlers. Oval becomes the right choice once you have observed how the bowler's thumb actually sits in a round hole after a few sessions.

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