

# 5.2.3 Entering Starting Bit and Oval Width — Decimal mode

## Entering Starting Bit and Oval Width — Decimal mode



5.2.3

oval method

When using the Oval Calculator in **Decimal mode**, you enter the same two core values as Bit Size mode — the **starting drill bit diameter** and the **oval width** — but expressed as **decimal numbers** rather than fractional inches. This mode suits drillers who use digital calipers, prefer decimal-based record keeping, or work in metric-adjacent workflows where fractions feel imprecise.

### What Is Decimal Mode?

Decimal mode is an alternative input format for the Oval Calculator's Bit Size workflow. The underlying calculation is identical to Bit Size (fraction) mode — Spectre Cloud takes your starting bit diameter, adds the oval width, and returns the resulting oval dimensions. The only difference is how you enter those values.

-  **Decimal mode** — Values entered as decimal numbers (e.g.,  for 1-1/16"). Ideal for shops using digital calipers or decimal drill charts.
-  **Bit Size (fraction) mode** — Values entered as fractional inches (e.g., ). Ideal for shops working from traditional fraction-based bit sets.

Both modes produce the same oval result — choose whichever matches how your tooling is labeled and how your team communicates measurements.

## ☐☐ The Two Fields Explained

### Starting Bit Size (Decimal)

Enter the **diameter of the drill bit** used to open the initial round hole, as a decimal value. If your caliper reads  , enter exactly that. Common decimal bit sizes used in bowling drilling fall roughly between  and  depending on hole type and bowler fit.

- ☐ Read the value directly from your digital caliper or decimal drill chart for best accuracy.
- ☐ Enter as many decimal places as your measurement tool provides — Spectre Cloud handles the precision.
- ☐ Do not convert to fractions before entering — that introduces rounding error. Enter the decimal as measured.

### Oval Width (Decimal)

Enter the **amount of stretch** applied beyond the starting round hole, as a decimal value. A stretch of 1/16" is  ; a stretch of 3/32" is  . Typical oval widths in decimal terms fall between  and  .

- ☐ Measure the actual stretch applied at the press — do not estimate.
- ☐ The oval width is the *additional* material removed, not the full hole size.
- ☐ Do not enter the total oval dimension — Spectre Cloud adds the width to the starting bit to compute the result.

## ☐☐ How to Enter Values in Decimal Mode

### ☐☐ Desktop

1. Open the **Oval Calculator** from the navigation menu.
2. Use the mode selector at the top of the calculator to switch to **Decimal** mode.

3. In the **Starting Bit** field, type the bit diameter as a decimal (e.g., ).
4. In the **Oval Width** field, type the stretch amount as a decimal (e.g., ).
5. Spectre Cloud calculates and displays the resulting oval dimensions immediately, formatted per your **Oval Cut Direction** setting (V/H or H/V).

## ☐☐ Mobile / Tablet

1. Open the **Oval Calculator** from the main menu or avatar icon.
2. Tap the mode selector and choose **Decimal** mode.
3. Tap the **Starting Bit** field and enter the decimal diameter using the numeric keyboard.
4. Tap the **Oval Width** field and enter the decimal stretch amount.
5. The resulting oval displays automatically below the input fields.

## ☐☐ Common Fraction-to-Decimal Reference

Fraction	Decimal Equivalent	Typical Use
<input type="text" value="1/32"/>	<input type="text" value="0.03125"/>	Minimum practical oval width
<input type="text" value="1/16"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0625"/>	Common light oval stretch
<input type="text" value="3/32"/>	<input type="text" value="0.09375"/>	Moderate oval stretch
<input type="text" value="1/8"/>	<input type="text" value="0.125"/>	Heavier oval stretch
<input type="text" value="3/16"/>	<input type="text" value="0.1875"/>	Maximum common oval width
<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="1.0"/>	Typical round starting bit size
<input type="text" value="1-1/16"/>	<input type="text" value="1.0625"/>	Common finger hole bit size
<input type="text" value="1-1/8"/>	<input type="text" value="1.125"/>	Larger finger or thumb bit size

## ☐☐ Example Calculation

Input	Value Entered	What It Represents
<b>Starting Bit</b>	<input type="text" value="1.0625"/>	Round hole opened with a 1-1/16" bit
<b>Oval Width</b>	<input type="text" value="0.0625"/>	1/16" stretch applied beyond the round hole

Input	Value Entered	What It Represents
Resulting Oval (V/H)	1.125 × 1.0625	Oval dimensions recorded on the spec sheet

The output may display in fractional or decimal format depending on your Spectre Cloud display settings. If your shop records spec sheets in fractions, confirm your output format preference in **Settings** before entering measurements on live spec sheets.

## □ Tips for Accurate Decimal Entry

- □ **Use a digital caliper** set to inches for the most reliable decimal readings — avoid estimating decimal equivalents from fraction markings on analog tools.
- □ **Confirm your decimal point** before saving — entering  instead of  will produce an obviously wrong result, but smaller errors (e.g.,  vs. ) can be harder to catch at a glance.
- □ **Oval width direction follows your V/H setting** — the stretch is applied along whichever axis is listed first in your Oval Cut Direction preference, same as in fraction mode.
- □ **Don't round prematurely** — enter the full decimal your caliper displays. Rounding  to  before entry introduces a small but cumulative error across a bowler's spec history.

## Related Sections

- 5.2.1 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction (V/H) in Settings
- 5.2.2 — Entering Starting Bit and Oval Width — Bit Size mode
- 5.2.4 — Entering Oval Dimensions in Direct Entry mode
- 5.1 — Overview of the Oval Calculator
- 4.x — Spec Sheets: Recording Hole Measurements

**Tip:** Decimal mode and Bit Size (fraction) mode are interchangeable — use whichever your calipers or bit set naturally produces. If your shop uses both analog and digital tools across staff members, pick one mode and standardize it in your onboarding process so spec sheets stay consistent over time. [△ Verify the exact mode selector label, decimal input format, and output display options against the live app](#) — contact the Spectre team if your calculator screen differs from the steps above.

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