5.2.4 Reading the DIFF (decimal difference) auto-calculation

Reading the DIFF (decimal difference) auto-calculation

> `5.2.4` oval method

Whenever you enter oval measurements in the Oval Calculator, Spectre Cloud automatically computes the **DIFF** — the decimal difference between the two oval dimensions. You do not need to calculate this manually. Understanding what the DIFF value represents and how to read it helps you interpret your oval results quickly and record accurate spec sheet data.

□□ What Is the DIFF?

The DIFF is the **arithmetic difference between the two oval measurements** — the larger dimension minus the smaller dimension — expressed as a decimal number. It represents how far the hole deviates from perfectly round: a DIFF of `0.000` means the hole is a true circle, while a larger DIFF indicates a more pronounced oval shape.

- □ **DIFF = Larger dimension − Smaller dimension**
- □ Always expressed as a positive decimal value (e.g., `0.0625`, `0.094`)
- □ A DIFF of `0.000` means the hole is perfectly round — no oval
- □ A larger DIFF means a more elongated oval shape

Where the DIFF Appears

Spectre Cloud displays the DIFF value automatically as soon as both oval dimensions have been entered or calculated. Depending on the input mode you are using, this happens slightly differently:

Input Mode	When DIFF Appears	What Triggers It
Bit Size (Fraction)	Immediately after both fields are filled	Starting bit + oval width entered
Decimal	Immediately after both fields are filled	Starting bit + oval width entered as decimals
Direct Entry	Immediately after both V and H values are entered	Both oval dimensions entered directly

No button press or confirmation is needed — the DIFF updates in real time as you type.

How to Read the DIFF Value

The DIFF is always shown as a decimal, regardless of which input mode you used to enter the oval. If you entered fractional values, Spectre Cloud converts internally and displays the DIFF as its decimal equivalent.

Oval Dimensions (V/H)	DIFF Calculation	DIFF Value	What It Means
`1-1/16 × 1`	1.0625 − 1.0000	`0.0625`	Light oval — 1/16" stretch
`1-1/8 × 1`	1.1250 − 1.0000	`0.1250`	Moderate oval — 1/8" stretch
`1-3/16 × 1-1/16`	1.1875 − 1.0625	`0.1250`	Moderate oval on a larger hole
`1 × 1`	1.0000 − 1.0000	`0.0000`	Perfectly round — no oval

How the DIFF Is Used in Practice

- **Spec sheet documentation** — The DIFF is recorded alongside the oval dimensions on the bowler's spec sheet, giving future drillers an at-a-glance summary of hole shape without needing to do the math themselves.
- **Fit consistency checks** — Comparing the DIFF across a bowler's spec history lets you see whether the oval has grown, shrunk, or remained stable over multiple drillings — a useful indicator of fit drift over time.

- **Cross-hole comparison** — When a bowler has different oval stretches on their ring and middle finger holes, the DIFF for each hole makes the difference immediately visible without reading raw dimensions.
- **Communication between drillers** — Saying "the DIFF is 0.0625" is faster and less ambiguous than reading two full fractional dimensions aloud, especially when fitting over the phone or handing off a job.

Important Notes on DIFF Precision

- The DIFF is computed from the **decimal equivalents** of your oval values — if you entered fractions, Spectre Cloud converts them before subtracting, so the DIFF is always precise to the decimal.
- Spectre Cloud displays the DIFF to a **consistent number of decimal places** — do not round this value when transcribing it to paper records, as small differences (e.g., `0.0625` vs. `0.063`) matter over a bowler's long-term fit history.
- The DIFF does **not** indicate the direction of the oval (vertical vs. horizontal) — that information comes from the V/H or H/V dimension pair itself and your **Oval Cut Direction** setting.
- A DIFF of `0.000` does **not** mean no hole was drilled — it means the hole that was drilled is round. Always read the full oval dimensions alongside the DIFF.

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
- 5.2.3 — Entering Starting Bit and Oval Width — Decimal mode
- 5.2.5 — Entering Oval Dimensions in Direct Entry mode
- 4.x — Spec Sheets: Recording Hole Measurements

Tip: The DIFF is one of the most useful values on a spec sheet for long-term bowler fit tracking — even a small change from `0.0625` to `0.0938` across two drillings can signal that a finger hole is being stretched during use and may need attention. Get in the habit of reviewing the DIFF alongside the raw dimensions whenever you re-drill a ball for a returning bowler. ⚠ *Verify the exact label Spectre Cloud uses for this field (it may appear as "DIFF", "Difference", or "Decimal Difference") and confirm the number of decimal places displayed — contact the Spectre team if your Oval Calculator screen differs from the description above.*

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