5.5.2 Using the oval cut chart to determine cuts manually

Using the oval cut chart to determine cuts manually

> `5.5.2` oval method

When your **Oval Cut Direction** is set to **NONE**, Spectre Cloud does not auto-suggest directional oval measurements. Instead, you determine the correct oval cut size yourself using the **oval cut chart** — a standard industry reference table used by pro shop operators to match a bowler's span and ball track characteristics to the appropriate oval cut value. This page walks you through how to read and use that chart.

□□ What the Oval Cut Chart Is

The oval cut chart is a reference grid that maps two key inputs — **forward pitch** (or span-related measurement) and **track width / ball type** — to a recommended oval cut size, expressed as a fraction of an inch (e.g., `1/8"`, `1/4"`, `3/8"`). It is based on IBPSIA guidelines and decades of pro shop practice. Most experienced drillers have a version of this chart on the wall or committed to memory; Spectre Cloud provides it as a built-in reference when working in NONE mode.

□□ **Note:** The oval cut chart is a *starting point*, not an absolute rule. Experienced operators often adjust slightly based on a bowler's grip preference, hand size, and comfort level. Use the chart as your baseline, then fine-tune as needed.

□□ Inputs You Need Before Using the Chart

Before consulting the chart, you will need the following measurements from the bowler's spec sheet:

- □ **Forward pitch** on the finger holes (the primary driver of oval cut size).
- □ **Span type** — Full Span (`F`), Cut to Cut (`C`), or Oval (`O`).
- □ **Ball track profile** — whether the bowler has a high, medium, or low track.
- □ **Finger hole diameter** — larger holes may require a slightly larger oval to maintain clean release.

□□ How to Read the Oval Cut Chart

1. Locate the **forward pitch value** for the finger holes along the chart's vertical axis (or left-hand column, depending on chart format).
2. Move across the row to the column matching the bowler's **track type** or grip style.
3. The cell where the row and column intersect gives you the **recommended oval cut size**.
4. Note the value — for example, `1/4"` — and enter it into the **Oval** field on the spec sheet in Spectre Cloud.
5. If the bowler is between two values, default to the **smaller cut** and adjust after fitting.

✏ Entering the Oval Cut Manually in Spectre Cloud

Once you have determined the oval cut size from the chart, enter it directly into the spec sheet:

1. Open or create the bowler's **Spec Sheet**.
2. Locate the **Oval** field in the finger hole section.
3. Type or select the oval cut value you determined from the chart (e.g., `1/4"`).
4. Because Oval Cut Direction is set to NONE, you will enter a **single value** — no forward/back or left/right axis split is required.
5. Save the spec sheet. The value will appear on printed spec sheets and in the bowler's history.

□□ **Desktop &** □□ **Mobile:** The spec sheet oval field behaves the same on all devices. On mobile, tap the field to bring up the numeric input.

□□ Common Oval Cut Values — Quick Reference

Forward Pitch Range	Low Track	Medium Track	High Track
0 (no pitch) to 1/8" forward	`1/8"`	`1/8"`	`1/4"`
1/4" forward	`1/8"`	`1/4"`	`1/4"`
3/8" forward	`1/4"`	`1/4"`	`3/8"`
1/2" forward or more	`1/4"`	`3/8"`	`3/8"`

⚠ **Verify with Spectre team:** The table above represents general industry guidelines. The exact chart built into Spectre Cloud may differ — confirm the reference values with the Spectre team or cross-check against your shop's IBPSIA materials.

□ Tips for Getting the Best Results

- □ Always fit the bowler with an insert before finalizing the oval — the physical fit may reveal that a slightly different cut is needed.
- □ For bowlers with unusually large or small hands relative to their span, lean toward fitting feel over chart value.
- □ If you switch from NONE to a directional Oval Cut Direction setting later, you can re-examine existing spec sheets and update them individually — there is no bulk conversion tool.
- □ Do not enter a `0` oval unless the bowler genuinely requires a round hole — most bowlers benefit from at least a `1/8"` oval for comfort and release consistency.

Related Sections

- 5.5.1 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = NONE in Settings
- 5.5.3 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = Forward / Back (F/B)
- 5.5.4 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = Left / Right (L/R)
- 5.1 — Overview of the Oval Calculator
- 4.x — Creating and editing spec sheets

 Tip: Keep a printed copy of your preferred oval cut chart at your drill press as a quick reference. Even if you use Spectre Cloud's built-in chart, a laminated backup is handy when working fast or training a new staff member.

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