

5.5.3 When NONE mode is preferable (experienced fitters, custom setups)

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oval method

Spectre Cloud's **Oval Cut Direction = NONE** mode is not just a fallback for shops without directional drill presses — it is also the preferred working mode for many experienced pro shop operators. This page explains the situations where NONE mode is the right professional choice, and why some of the best fitters in the industry work this way by design.

☐ NONE Mode Is a Valid Professional Workflow

When Spectre Cloud was designed, NONE mode was included to accommodate the full range of how pro shops actually operate — not just shops with basic equipment, but also highly experienced fitters who prefer to work from feel, chart, and judgment rather than app-guided directional suggestions. If you are an experienced driller, choosing NONE is not "turning off" a feature — it is

choosing a workflow that keeps *you* in control of the oval decision.

- NONE mode gives you full manual control over every oval value entered on a spec sheet.
- It keeps spec sheets clean and uncluttered — no F/B or L/R axis fields appear unless they are relevant to your setup.
- It works consistently across all span types: Full Span (F), Cut to Cut (C), and Oval (O).

Who Typically Prefers NONE Mode

NONE mode tends to suit operators in the following situations:

- **Veteran fitters with 10+ years of experience** who determine oval cuts by feel and fitting rather than formula — and find directional prompts unnecessary or distracting.
- **Solo operators** who have a consistent personal method and do not need the app to guide their oval decisions.
- **Shops with older or non-directional drill presses** that cut ovals without a defined axis orientation.
- **Fitters who use a custom oval chart** developed in-house over years of shop-specific data — where the IBPSIA standard chart does not reflect their preferred values.
- **Shops transitioning from a legacy system** (e.g., Ebonite ProShop Coordinator or a paper-based system) where oval values were historically recorded as a single measurement, and directional labels would break consistency with existing records.
- **Training environments** where an instructor wants students to derive oval cuts manually before relying on app suggestions.

Custom Setup Scenarios Where NONE Is the Better Fit

Beyond personal preference, there are specific equipment and workflow configurations where NONE mode is objectively the more appropriate choice:

Non-directional drill presses

Some drill press models — particularly older or entry-level units — do not have a calibrated forward/back or left/right axis for oval cutting. The oval is produced by the driller's hand technique rather than a machine axis. In these cases, recording a directional oval value in Spectre Cloud would be misleading, since the measurement has no axis reference to anchor it to.

Shops using a bench jig or custom fixture

Some operators use a bench-mounted jig or a proprietary fixture to cut ovals at a consistent angle that does not align with standard F/B or L/R conventions. NONE mode lets you record the resulting oval size without forcing it into a directional label that does not match your actual setup.

Multi-driller shops with mixed equipment

In shops where two or more drillers use different presses — one directional, one not — NONE mode provides a consistent recording format across all spec sheets, regardless of which press was used. This avoids confusion when one driller's records show directional labels and another's do not.

High-volume shops focused on throughput

Experienced operators in busy shops sometimes prefer NONE mode simply because it is faster. Entering a single oval value and moving on is quicker than working through directional fields, especially for straightforward fits where the oval decision is automatic from experience.

NONE Mode vs. Directional Mode — When to Switch

Situation	Recommended Mode
Experienced fitter, consistent personal method	NONE
Non-directional or older drill press	NONE
Custom in-house oval chart	NONE
Newer fitter learning IBPSIA-guided workflow	F/B or L/R (directional)
Modern directional press with calibrated axis	F/B or L/R (directional)
Multi-staff shop standardising on one method	F/B or L/R (directional)
Transitioning from legacy single-value records	NONE (initially)

☐ **Note:** There is no wrong answer here — both modes produce valid spec sheets in Spectre Cloud. The choice is about matching the app's recording format to how your shop actually works, not about one method being more accurate than the other.

☐ Switching Out of NONE Mode Later

If your shop upgrades equipment, adds a directional press, or brings on a new driller who works directionally, you can switch Oval Cut Direction in Settings at any time. The change applies to new spec sheets only — existing records are not altered. You do not need to retroactively update historical spec sheets unless you want to for record consistency.

Related Sections

- 5.5.1 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = NONE in Settings
- 5.5.2 — Using the oval cut chart to determine cuts manually
- 5.5.4 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = Forward / Back (F/B)
- 5.5.5 — Setting up: Oval Cut Direction = Left / Right (L/R)
- 2.x — Settings: Oval Calculator options

☐ **Tip:** If you are onboarding a new staff member who is still learning, consider temporarily switching to a directional mode so Spectre Cloud's suggestions can serve as a teaching reference — then switch back to NONE once they have developed their own reliable method.

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