

7.1.2 Adding a ball to a bowler's arsenal

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KEY

step-by-step

Adding a ball to a bowler's Arsenal is a quick process — but doing it carefully, with accurate details and a consistent naming convention, is what makes the Arsenal useful over the long term. This page covers the full process of adding a ball entry from scratch, including the differences between the core plan and Arsenal Plus, and the specific considerations that come up in common shop scenarios.

Before You Add — Check for an Existing Entry

Before creating a new Arsenal entry, confirm the ball does not already exist in the bowler's Arsenal. A ball that has been in for a re-drill, a surface refinish, or a weight hole adjustment may already have an entry from a previous visit — adding a second entry for the same physical ball fragments its spec sheet history across two records.

1. Open the bowler's profile and scroll to the **Arsenal** section.
2. Scan the existing entries for the ball's brand and model.
3. If the ball is already listed — even with a different status such as Retired — open that entry and create a new spec sheet linked to it rather than starting a fresh Arsenal entry.
4. Only proceed with a new entry if the ball is genuinely new to the bowler's record.

Note: A bowler who owns two identical balls — same brand, model, and weight — should have two separate Arsenal entries, distinguished by serial number or a note in the ball name (e.g., Storm Phaze II 15lb — #1 and Storm Phaze II 15lb — #2). Do not merge two physical balls into one entry.

Adding a Ball on Desktop

1. Open the bowler's profile from the **BOWLERS** list.
2. Scroll to the **Arsenal** section and click **+ Add Ball**.
3. If **Arsenal Plus** is active, choose your entry method — **Scan Barcode**, **Search Database**, or **Enter Manually**. Without Arsenal Plus, proceed directly to manual entry.
4. Complete the entry fields as described below.
5. Set the ball's **status** to **Active** for a new ball going into the bag.
6. Click **Save**. The entry appears in the bowler's Arsenal immediately and syncs across all devices.

Adding a Ball on Mobile or Tablet

1. Navigate to the bowler's profile via the **avatar icon** and tap their name.
2. Scroll to the **Arsenal** section and tap **+ Add Ball**.
3. If Arsenal Plus is active, tap **Scan Barcode** to open the device camera, or tap **Search** to look up the ball by name. Otherwise proceed to manual entry.
4. Complete the entry fields and set status to **Active**.
5. Tap **Save**.

Tip: Barcode scanning on mobile is the fastest entry method when Arsenal Plus is active — keep the ball box nearby during the fitting and scan it at this step. The database lookup pre-fills brand, model, weight, and core specifications in seconds, leaving only serial number, purchase date, and notes to complete manually.

Completing the Entry Fields

Work through the Arsenal entry fields in order. The more completely this is filled in now, the more useful the record is on every future visit.

Ball name

The ball name is the most important field in the entire entry — it is the identifier that links the Arsenal entry to the spec sheet. Use a consistent format: **brand, model, weight**. Whatever you enter here must match the ball name on the associated spec sheet exactly.

- Hammer Black Widow 2.0 15lb — clear, complete, consistent.
- Roto Grip Hustle PBA 14lb — includes full model name and weight.
- Black Widow — missing brand and weight; ambiguous in a large Arsenal.
- New Hammer — not a useful identifier for future reference.

Serial number

Found printed or engraved on the ball surface, typically near the label. Recording the serial number is optional but strongly recommended — it is the only way to distinguish two identical models from the same manufacturer, and it is essential for warranty claims or ball returns.

Purchase date

The date the bowler acquired the ball. Used for tracking equipment age, warranty periods, and understanding how long a ball has been in the bag when reviewing its performance history. Enter the date the ball was purchased or the date it first came into your shop — whichever is known.

Status

Set to **Active** for any ball currently in use. Status options and how to change them are covered in detail in section 7.1.3.

Notes

Free-text field for anything relevant to this specific ball. Good uses for the notes field include:

- Surface finish history: Resurfaced to 2000 abralon — March 2024.
- Weight hole details if not captured elsewhere in the spec sheet.
- Slug brand and model if a thumb slug is installed: Turbo Quad slug, 1" bore.
- Bowler's notes about ball reaction: Bowler prefers this ball on medium-dry conditions.
- Any physical damage or repair history: Small crack repaired near pin — June 2024.

Arsenal Plus Entry Methods

With Arsenal Plus active, two additional entry methods become available that significantly speed up and enrich the Arsenal entry process.

Barcode scanning

Scan the barcode on the ball's box or the barcode label on the ball surface itself. Spectre Cloud queries the bowlingdatabase.com integration and returns the ball's full details — brand, model, weight, colour, and core specifications including RG, differential, and MB differential. These are pre-filled into the entry automatically. You complete only the serial number, purchase date, and notes.

Database search

If the ball box is not available or the barcode is damaged, search by ball name instead. Type the brand or model into the search field and select the correct ball from the results. The same specification data is returned and pre-filled as with a barcode scan.

- Database lookup works for the vast majority of current and recent production balls.
- For limited-edition, pro-shop-exclusive, or older balls not in the database, fall back to manual entry — the Arsenal entry is still created normally, just without the auto-populated specification data.
- Core specification data stored in the Arsenal entry feeds into Arsenal Plus's suggested layout and 3D rendering features — the more completely the ball is identified in the database, the richer those features become.

Common Scenarios

The bowler is buying a new ball from your shop today

Create the Arsenal entry as part of the fitting workflow — before or immediately after the spec sheet is created. The ball box is present, so barcode scanning (if Arsenal Plus is active) is straightforward. Set status to Active.

The bowler brought in a ball purchased elsewhere

Create the Arsenal entry from the ball itself — scan the surface barcode if available, or enter manually. Purchase date may be approximate or unknown; leave it blank rather than guessing. Set status to Active.

The bowler wants to add historical balls to their record

Create Arsenal entries for each ball using whatever information is available — name and status at minimum. For balls that were drilled at your shop in the past, link them to any existing spec sheets by ensuring the ball name matches. For balls drilled elsewhere with no Spectre Cloud record, the Arsenal entry serves as an inventory note without an associated spec sheet.

A second identical ball is being added

Create a separate entry with a distinguishing detail in the ball name or notes field. Use the serial number as the primary distinguisher — enter it prominently in the name or as the first line of the notes field so the two entries are immediately distinguishable in the Arsenal list.

Sync and Availability After Saving

Once saved, the Arsenal entry is immediately available across all devices logged into your Spectre Cloud account. Any staff member who opens the bowler's profile can see the new entry without any additional action.

- Entries sync instantly on an active internet connection.
- The entry is visible to all staff on the same shop account.
- If the account becomes inactive, Arsenal entries remain accessible in read-only mode.

Related Sections

- 7.1.1 — What is the Arsenal section and how it connects to spec sheets
- 7.1.3 — Managing ball status (Active, Retired, Sold)
- 7.1.4 — Viewing a ball's spec sheet history from the Arsenal
- 6.1.6 — Step 6 (First ball workflow): Add ball to the Arsenal section
- 04.x — Spec Sheets: linking spec sheets to Arsenal entries

□ **Tip:** The single best habit for keeping the Arsenal useful is entering the ball at the time of the fitting — not at the end of the day, not at the end of the week. A ball entered while the bowler is standing at the counter takes ninety seconds. A ball reconstructed from memory two days later takes longer and is less accurate. Make it part of the fitting flow and it never becomes a backlog.

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