7.1.5 Suggested Layouts feature — using bowler data to suggest a layout

Suggested Layouts feature — using bowler data to suggest a layout

> `7.1.5` arsenal

The **Suggested Layouts** feature is part of the **Arsenal Plus plugin** (`$5 USD/month`) and uses a combination of the bowler's recorded data and the ball's core specifications to surface layout recommendations directly within Spectre Cloud. Rather than consulting an external chart or performing manual calculations, the fitter can see a set of data-driven layout options for the specific ball and bowler in front of them — generated from information already in the system.

□□ What Suggested Layouts Does

When viewing a ball's Arsenal entry with Arsenal Plus active, the Suggested Layouts panel analyses two sources of data already stored in Spectre Cloud and returns a set of layout options ranked by their likely effect on ball motion:

- □ **Bowler data** — PAP location, axis tilt, axis rotation, and rev rate drawn from the bowler's spec sheet history.

- **Ball specifications** — RG, total differential, MB differential, and core type from the bowlingdatabase.com integration.
- Suggested layouts are expressed in the layout system set as your shop default (VLS, 2LS, or PAL) so the output is immediately usable without conversion.
- Each suggestion includes a brief description of the expected ball motion profile — earlier or later breakpoint, stronger or weaker flare potential, angular or arcing backend — so the recommendation can be discussed with the bowler in plain language.

Note: Suggested Layouts requires both the ball to be identified in the bowlingdatabase.com integration and the bowler's PAP to be recorded on at least one spec sheet. If either piece of data is missing, the feature will prompt you to add it before suggestions can be generated.

The Data Behind the Suggestions

Understanding what Suggested Layouts draws on helps you evaluate the quality of its recommendations and know when the suggestions are most reliable.

PAP location

The bowler's positive axis point is the single most important input. A precisely measured and recently confirmed PAP produces the most accurate layout suggestions. A PAP that was estimated, is several years old, or was recorded from a different ball style may produce suggestions that are technically valid but less precisely tailored to how the bowler currently throws.

- Re-measure the PAP periodically — especially after a significant change in the bowler's release, ball weight, or physical conditioning.
- Spectre Cloud uses the PAP from the bowler's **most recent spec sheet** as the default input. If the most recent sheet has an unusually different PAP from previous sheets, verify the measurement before running suggestions.

Axis tilt and rotation

Tilt and rotation data refine the suggestion further — they describe how the ball rolls through the heads and midlane and how much angular change occurs at the breakpoint. Bowlers with higher tilt produce a different set of optimal layouts than bowlers with lower tilt on the same ball. These values are recorded on the spec sheet alongside the PAP.

Ball core specifications

The RG, differential, and MB differential values from bowlingdatabase.com determine how strongly a given core responds to different pin and MB placements. A high-differential asymmetric core responds very differently to layout changes than a low-differential symmetric one. The Suggested Layouts algorithm accounts for this so a layout that would be aggressive on a benchmark ball is not suggested in the same form for a mild symmetric.

□□ Accessing Suggested Layouts on Desktop

1. Open the bowler's profile and navigate to the **Arsenal** section.
2. Click the ball's entry to open the detail view.
3. Locate the **Suggested Layouts** panel — visible when Arsenal Plus is active and the ball has been identified in the bowlingdatabase.com integration.
4. If the bowler's PAP is on file from a previous spec sheet, suggestions generate automatically. If PAP is missing, the panel prompts you to enter it.
5. Review the suggested layouts listed. Each shows the layout values in your shop's default system alongside a motion profile description.
6. To use a suggestion, click **Apply to Spec Sheet** (or equivalent) — the layout values are transferred to the open or new spec sheet without manual re-entry.

□□ Accessing Suggested Layouts on Mobile or Tablet

1. Open the bowler's profile and tap the ball's Arsenal entry.
2. Scroll to the **Suggested Layouts** panel.
3. Review the suggestions and tap **Apply to Spec Sheet** to use one.

□□ **Tip:** On a tablet at the counter, walking a bowler through the Suggested Layouts panel is an effective way to involve them in the layout decision — each suggestion's motion profile description gives them a plain-language picture of what the ball will do before any drilling decisions are made.

□□ Reading a Layout Suggestion

Each suggestion in the Suggested Layouts panel contains several pieces of information. Here is how to read them:

Element	What it tells you
Layout values	Pin distance, VAL angle, MB distance (or equivalent in your chosen system) — ready to transfer directly to the spec sheet
Motion profile label	A brief descriptor of the expected ball motion — e.g., *Strong early read, angular backend* or *Skid-flip, late breakpoint*
Flare potential	Low, medium, or high — indicates how much the ball will track across its surface over the course of a game
Breakpoint shape	Whether the ball motion is expected to be smooth and arcing or sharp and angular at the breakpoint
Recommended lane condition	The oil pattern type this layout is best suited to — heavy oil, medium, sport pattern, or dry — based on the ball's coverstock and the layout's motion profile

⚠ **Verify with Spectre team:** Confirm the exact fields and labels shown in the Suggested Layouts panel — specifically whether Recommended Lane Condition and Breakpoint Shape are displayed as described, or whether the panel uses different terminology or a different set of output fields.

When Suggested Layouts Is Most Valuable

- **New ball purchases** where the bowler has not used this ball or core type before — suggestions give a starting point grounded in their actual PAP rather than a generic manufacturer recommendation.
- **Bowlers seeking a specific ball motion** they cannot articulate technically — the motion profile descriptions let them point to what they want without needing to understand pin distances and VAL angles.
- **Shops building out a bowler's multi-ball arsenal** — Suggested Layouts can surface complementary layouts across several balls to ensure the bag covers different lane conditions without redundancy.
- **Less experienced staff members** handling a fitting that would normally require the head driller's layout knowledge — suggestions provide a reliable framework while the driller develops their own layout intuition.
- **Confirming an experienced fitter's layout instinct** — even for veteran drillers, checking a planned layout against the system's suggestion takes thirty seconds and sometimes surfaces a refinement worth considering.

⚠ Understanding the Limitations

- Suggested Layouts is a **starting point**, not a prescription. The algorithm works from stored data — it cannot account for how a bowler feels about their current equipment, recent changes to their release, or lane conditions at their specific bowling centre.
- Suggestions are only as good as the **input data quality**. An outdated PAP, an estimated axis tilt, or a ball not found in the bowlingdatabase.com integration all reduce the reliability of the output.
- The feature does not replace fitting experience — it augments it. A layout suggestion that contradicts a strong fitting instinct backed by years of experience with a specific bowler deserves scrutiny, not automatic override.
- Suggested Layouts does not account for **equipment the bowler already has in their bag** unless the fitter manually considers that context alongside the suggestions. A layout that is ideal in isolation may duplicate motion already covered by an existing ball.

Using a Suggestion as a Starting Point for Adjustment

The most effective way to use Suggested Layouts is to treat the output as an informed first draft rather than a final answer. Review the top suggestion, apply it to the spec sheet, and then evaluate it against your own knowledge of the bowler:

1. Apply the suggested layout values to the spec sheet using the **Apply to Spec Sheet** function.
2. Review the applied values in the context of the bowler's full spec — do they align with the intended ball motion discussion?
3. Adjust individual values if your fitting judgement calls for it — the suggestion is a starting point, and the spec sheet fields are fully editable after application.
4. Record the final layout on the spec sheet. If you deviated from the suggestion, note why in the spec sheet's notes field — this creates a useful reference for future visits.

Related Sections

- 7.1.1 — What is the Arsenal section and how it connects to spec sheets
- 7.1.2 — Adding a ball to the Arsenal
- 7.1.4 — Viewing and editing ball details in the Arsenal
- 7.2.1 — Arsenal Plus: setting up the bowlingdatabase.com integration
- 7.2.2 — Arsenal Plus: 3D layout rendering
- 6.1.5 — Step 5: Select layout (VLS, 2LS, PAL, or manual)

 Tip: Before a bowler's visit to discuss a new ball purchase, open their Arsenal and run Suggested Layouts on the ball they are considering while they are still on their way in. By the time they arrive, you have a layout direction ready to discuss — the conversation moves from "what should we do?" to "here is what the data suggests, and here is what I think" in the first sixty seconds of the visit.

Revision #2
Created 11 May 2026 16:05:01 by Admin
Updated 2 June 2026 16:43:05 by Art