8.2.3 Using Spectre Cloud on a tablet at the drill press

Using Spectre Cloud on a tablet at the drill press

8.2.3 hardware

A tablet at the drill press is one of the most practical ways to use Spectre Cloud in a pro shop workflow — the spec sheet is visible exactly where the drilling happens, measurements can be checked without walking back to the counter, and any last-minute adjustments are a tap away rather than a trip across the shop. This page covers how to set up and use Spectre Cloud effectively on a tablet at the drill press, including the practical habits that make the workflow smooth and the pitfalls that catch operators out.

□□ Why a Tablet at the Press Makes Sense

The traditional alternative to a tablet at the press is a printed spec sheet — functional, but static. A printed sheet cannot be updated if a last-minute adjustment is needed, cannot display the 3D Layout view for a final visual check, and does not record any changes made at the press back into the bowler's history. A tablet running Spectre Cloud gives you all of that while keeping the drilling record live and editable up to the moment the first hole is cut.

- □ The spec sheet is always the current version — any update made at the counter syncs to the press tablet instantly.

- Last-minute adjustments can be made directly on the tablet and saved to the bowler's record without needing to return to the counter.
- The 3D Layout view is available for a final visual check of pin and MB placement before drilling begins.
- The Oval Calculator output — V/H values, angle, cut size — is displayed clearly without relying on handwritten transcription from a counter screen to a paper sheet.
- After drilling, notes about the session can be added to the spec sheet or Arsenal entry directly from the press.

Recommended Tablet Specifications for Press Use

Any tablet that meets Spectre Cloud's minimum requirements (8" screen, supported browser, internet connection) works at the press. The following specifications make the experience noticeably more practical in a workshop environment:

Specification	Recommended	Why it matters at the press
Screen size	10"–12" in landscape orientation	Large enough to display the full spec sheet without excessive scrolling; small enough to mount without obstructing the work area
Screen type	Matte finish or anti-glare	Workshop lighting creates significant glare on glossy screens; matte finish maintains readability without brightness adjustments
Case	Rugged or workshop-rated case	Drill dust, coverstock particles, and occasional knocks are unavoidable in a working press environment
Screen protector	Matte tempered glass	Protects against abrasion from fine particles; matte finish reduces glare simultaneously
Battery	Full charge at start of day; charging cable nearby	A tablet that dies mid-drilling session forces a return to paper; keep a charger within reach of the mount
Connectivity	Wi-Fi with strong signal at press location	Spectre Cloud requires an active connection; confirm signal strength at the press before relying on it

□□ Setting Up the Tablet at the Press

1. **Mount the tablet** using an adjustable arm or bench clamp — see section 8.2.2 for mounting guidance specific to the press environment.
2. **Position the screen** at shoulder height or slightly below, angled toward your eye level at normal operating posture. The screen should be readable without moving toward it or tilting your head significantly.
3. **Confirm Wi-Fi connectivity** at the mount position before relying on it in a live session. If the signal is weak at the press, consider a Wi-Fi extender or a wired ethernet adapter for the tablet if the device supports it.
4. **Log into Spectre Cloud** on the tablet and keep the session active — most browsers will maintain the session across a working day without requiring re-login, but confirm this on your specific device and browser combination.
5. **Set the browser to full screen** (F11 on most desktop browsers; the full-screen option in the browser menu on tablets) to maximise the working area on the spec sheet display.
6. **Confirm brightness** is set for the workshop light level — higher than you would use at home, typically 70–100% in a well-lit workshop.

□□ Drill Press Workflow With a Tablet

With the tablet mounted and Spectre Cloud open, the drilling workflow using a live spec sheet runs as follows:

1. At the counter, complete the spec sheet fully and run the Oval Calculator. Confirm all values before moving to the press.
2. At the press, open the bowler's spec sheet on the tablet — it syncs automatically from the counter session. Confirm the displayed values match what was finalised at the counter.
3. Read the full spec sheet from top to bottom before picking up a drill bit — the same pre-drill review discipline applies regardless of whether you are working from a printed sheet or a live display.
4. Work through the holes in your preferred order, checking each measurement field on the tablet before setting the corresponding value on the press.
5. If a last-minute adjustment is needed — a pitch value, a hole size, an oval cut — update it on the tablet first, save the spec sheet, then proceed. Do not make undocumented adjustments at the press.

6. After drilling, add any relevant notes to the spec sheet or Arsenal entry directly on the tablet while the details are fresh.

□□ **Note:** If you make changes to the spec sheet at the press, those changes sync back to the counter and any other logged-in devices immediately. A colleague at the counter will see the updated spec sheet in real time — useful in multi-staff shops where the counter and press are operated by different people.

□ Keeping the Tablet Clean and Functional at the Press

A tablet at the drill press accumulates workshop debris faster than any other device in the shop. A few practical habits keep it functional and legible across a full working day:

- □ **Wipe the screen** with a dry microfibre cloth between bowlers — a light film of drill dust builds up quickly and reduces readability before it becomes visibly dirty.
- □ **Keep the charging port covered** when not charging — a port protector on the case prevents drill dust from accumulating in the connector.
- □ **Do not touch the screen with hands that have coverstock residue or cutting compound on them** — these substances are harder to clean from a screen than drill dust and can leave a permanent haze on unprotected glass.
- □ **Position the tablet to the side** of the drilling zone rather than directly above it — this is the single most effective way to reduce debris accumulation on the screen.
- □ Do not use liquid cleaners directly on the screen — spray onto the cloth first, not onto the tablet.

⚠ When Connectivity Drops at the Press

If the tablet loses its internet connection mid-session, Spectre Cloud's behaviour depends on what you are doing at the moment the connection drops:

- □ **A spec sheet already open and loaded** remains visible and readable — you can continue drilling from the displayed values even without a connection.
- □ **Changes made while offline** may not save immediately — confirm connectivity is restored and the spec sheet has saved before navigating away.
- □ **Loading a new spec sheet or navigating to a different bowler** requires a connection — if the connection drops before you have opened the spec sheet at the press,

you will need to restore connectivity or fall back to a printed copy.
- **As a contingency**, print the spec sheet at the counter before moving to the press on any session where connectivity at the press is unreliable — the printed copy serves as a backup if the tablet loses connection at a critical moment.

⚠ **Verify with Spectre team:** Confirm whether Spectre Cloud has any offline caching behaviour that allows recently viewed spec sheets to remain accessible without an active connection, and update the connectivity drop guidance above if so.

Multi-Staff Shops — Counter and Press on Separate Devices

In shops where one staff member handles the fitting at the counter and another does the drilling at the press, a tablet at the press running on a separate login allows both to work simultaneously from the same live spec sheet:

- The counter operator creates and finalises the spec sheet on the counter device.
- The driller opens the same spec sheet on the press tablet — the latest saved version is always available.
- If the counter operator makes a last-minute change, it appears on the press tablet as soon as the change is saved — no need to walk a paper update to the press.
- Each staff member logs in with their own user credentials — the press tablet does not need to share the counter login.
- Do not leave the press tablet logged into the account owner's credentials — use an individual staff user account for the press device so the account owner's credentials are not exposed in the workshop environment.

Related Sections

- 8.2.1 — Recommended monitor setup for the pro shop counter
- 8.2.2 — Monitor arm installation overview
- 8.1.5 — Managing staff access and user accounts
- 01.3 — Minimum requirements and supported devices
- 01.4 — Supported browsers and operating systems
- 09.x — Troubleshooting: connectivity and device issues

Tip: The first time you use a tablet at the press in a live session, run through a complete drilling using a practice ball rather than a customer's equipment. The workflow of checking the tablet, setting the press, checking again, and drilling becomes second nature quickly — but the first session always surfaces a positioning or brightness adjustment that is much less stressful to discover on a scrap ball than on a customer's new equipment.

Revision #2
Created 11 May 2026 16:05:09 by Admin
Updated 2 June 2026 17:36:26 by Art