

9.1.4 Using Auto-Suggestions effectively for faster fitting sessions

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9.1.4 best practice

Spectre Cloud includes an **auto-suggestion system** that generates recommended values for pitch, span, and oval cuts based on the measurements you have entered and IBPSIA-standard fitting guidelines. Used well, auto-suggestions dramatically reduce the time spent on routine fittings — the system does the reference work while you focus on the bowler in front of you. Used poorly, they become a source of unchecked errors that make it into the drill press. This page explains how the suggestion system works, when to follow suggestions, when to override them, and how to build the habit of using them efficiently without becoming dependent on them.

⚡ What Auto-Suggestions Does

As you fill in a spec sheet, Spectre Cloud analyses the values entered so far and populates suggested values for fields that have not yet been completed. Suggestions are generated in real time — as each measurement is entered, the system recalculates and updates its recommendations for the remaining fields.

- **Pitch suggestions** — forward and lateral pitch recommendations for finger and thumb holes, based on grip type, finger measurements, and IBPSIA standard ranges.
- **Span suggestions** — recommended span distances for middle and ring fingers based on finger joint measurements and the selected span type.
- **Oval cut suggestions** — recommended oval sizes based on forward pitch values, track type, and the oval calculation method configured in Settings.
- Suggestions appear as pre-filled or highlighted values in the relevant fields — they are proposals, not locked values. Every suggestion can be overridden by simply typing a different value.

△ **Verify with Spectre team:** Confirm the exact fields for which auto-suggestions are generated in the current version — specifically whether oval cut suggestions are generated automatically or only when the Oval Calculator is explicitly run, and whether thumb pitch suggestions are included alongside finger pitch suggestions.

☐ How Suggestions Are Generated

Spectre Cloud's suggestions are derived from IBPSIA-standard fitting formulas applied to the measurements entered on the spec sheet. The system does not personalise suggestions based on the individual bowler's history — it applies the same standard formulas to the entered measurements regardless of how many times the bowler has been drilled before. Understanding this limitation is important for using suggestions correctly.

- Suggestions reflect **what the IBPSIA standard recommends** for a bowler with these measurements — a reliable starting point for any fit.
- They account for **grip type** — suggestions for a fingertip fit are different from those for a conventional fit with the same measurements.
- They account for **span type** — a Full Span measurement produces different suggestions than a Cut to Cut measurement of the same physical distance.
- They do not account for **the bowler's release style**, physical preferences, or previous fitting history.
- They do not account for **what the bowler has told you** during the fitting conversation — a bowler who says their current ball feels too tight on the thumb needs a human judgement call, not a recalculation of the standard suggestion.

☐ When to Follow Auto-Suggestions

Auto-suggestions are most reliable and most useful in the following situations:

- **□ New bowler with no drilling history** — for a first-time fit with no baseline to work from, the IBPSIA-standard suggestion is the best available starting point. Accept it, fit the bowler, and adjust from there if needed.
- **□ Routine recreational fits** — conventional grip, standard pitch preferences, typical oval sizes. The suggestion covers the vast majority of these fits accurately and fast.
- **□ Confirming your own calculation** — even if you have independently calculated the correct values, checking them against the suggestion provides a quick sanity check. If the suggestion matches your calculation, proceed with confidence. If it differs significantly, understand why before deciding which to use.
- **□ Training new staff members** — auto-suggestions give a new driller an IBPSIA-grounded reference point while they build their own fitting intuition. They should follow suggestions as a default and learn to recognise when and why to deviate.
- **□ High-volume sessions** — in a busy shop where multiple bowlers are being fitted in quick succession, accepting accurate suggestions for straightforward fits frees your attention for the fits that genuinely require more consideration.

When to Override Auto-Suggestions

Suggestions are a starting point, not a verdict. Override them when your fitting knowledge and the bowler in front of you indicate a different value is more appropriate:

- **□ Bowler has a known preference that differs from standard** — a bowler who has always used reverse thumb pitch and bowls comfortably should continue with that value regardless of what the standard formula suggests.
- **□ Physical considerations not captured in the measurement fields** — arthritis, scarring, unusual grip geometry, or a physical condition that affects how the bowler holds the ball may require values outside the standard range.
- **□ Competitive bowler with an established fit** — an experienced competitive bowler whose specs have been refined over years of fitting should be adjusted from their known baseline, not reset to a standard suggestion.
- **□ The suggestion produces a value outside your experience of what works** — if the suggested pitch value is higher or lower than anything you have drilled successfully for a bowler with this profile, trust your experience and investigate before accepting.
- **□ The bowler reports dissatisfaction with their current equipment** — if a bowler's current ball was drilled to standard values and does not feel right, the standard suggestion for the same measurements will produce the same result. The override should reflect what you are trying to change.
- **□ Do not override suggestions without a reason.** An override based on habit or preference rather than fitting knowledge introduces errors the same way an unchecked suggestion does — just in a different direction.

☐☐ Building an Efficient Suggestion-Based Workflow

The most effective use of auto-suggestions integrates them into the fitting flow without making them a bottleneck or an afterthought. The following workflow sequence makes suggestions work for you rather than around you:

1. **Enter measurements first, completely.** Suggestions improve in accuracy as more fields are completed — enter all measurements before evaluating any suggestion. A suggestion based on partial data is less reliable than one based on a complete set.
2. **Review suggestions as a group, not field by field.** Once measurements are in, scan all suggested values together. Individually they are data points; together they form a picture of the proposed fit. An unusual combination — very high forward pitch combined with a very small oval, for example — is easier to notice when reviewing the full suggestion set than when checking each field in sequence.
3. **Accept or override with intention.** For each suggested value, make a deliberate decision: accept because it is appropriate, or override because you have a specific reason. Do not accept passively — a suggestion accepted without evaluation is the same risk as a value entered without checking.
4. **Discuss departures from standard with the bowler.** If you are overriding a suggestion significantly — particularly on pitch — explaining why to the bowler builds their confidence and creates a shared understanding of the fitting rationale. A bowler who understands why their thumb pitch is different from standard is better equipped to give useful feedback after their first session with the ball.
5. **Save and re-run the Oval Calculator.** If any pitch or span values were overridden, confirm the Oval Calculator reflects the final values before printing or drilling.

☐☐ Suggestions vs. Bowler History — Knowing Which to Trust

For a returning bowler with multiple spec sheets in Spectre Cloud, you have access to two reference points: the system's suggestion based on current measurements, and the bowler's own drilling history. When they differ, the history usually wins:

Scenario	Which to trust	Reason
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Suggestion matches history	Either — they agree	The standard formula and the bowler's experience point to the same value — high confidence
Suggestion differs slightly from history	History, with investigation	Check whether measurements have changed — a different measurement may legitimately produce a different suggestion
Suggestion differs significantly from history	History, unless there is a specific reason to change	The bowler has been fitted and has bowled with the historical values — they are proven for this bowler
Bowler reports the historical values have not been working	Suggestion as a starting point for adjustment	The history is a baseline to move away from — the suggestion provides a reference direction
New bowler, no history	Suggestion	No alternative baseline exists — the standard formula is the best available starting point

☐ Auto-Suggestions and Arsenal Plus

With **Arsenal Plus** active, the suggestion system is supplemented by layout recommendations based on the bowler's PAP and the ball's core specifications — see section 7.1.5 for full guidance on the Suggested Layouts feature. The two systems are complementary: auto-suggestions handle the grip fit, while Arsenal Plus handles the layout. Both are starting points that benefit from the fitter's evaluation and override where appropriate.

☐ Teaching New Staff to Use Suggestions Well

- ☐ **Follow suggestions by default for the first ten fittings** — building familiarity with what standard suggestions look like makes deviations recognisable later.
- ☐ **After each fitting, compare the accepted suggestions to the finished spec sheet** — if overrides were made, discuss why. If suggestions were followed without evaluation, discuss what the fitter would have changed and why.
- ☐ **Make the comparison visible** — show new staff the IBPSIA reference behind a suggestion so the formula is understood, not just the output.

- **□ Graduation point** — a driller who consistently knows before looking what the suggestion will be for a given measurement set has internalised the standard. At that point, the suggestion has done its job as a teaching tool and becomes a confirmation rather than a guide.

Related Sections

- 9.1.1 — Recommended Settings configuration for a new pro shop
- 9.1.2 — When to clone a spec sheet vs. create a new one
- 5.6.5 — Choosing EDGE vs. CENTER: which method fits which bowler
- 7.1.5 — Suggested Layouts feature — using bowler data to suggest a layout
- 6.1.3 — Step 3: Set grip type and enter finger measurements
- 6.1.4 — Step 4: Enter thumb information (round or oval)

□ **Tip:** The most reliable sign that you are using auto-suggestions well is that you rarely need to think about them. A suggestion you glance at, confirm is reasonable, and accept in under a second is the system working as intended. A suggestion that surprises you — one you would not have arrived at yourself — is the system doing its most valuable work: catching a measurement entry error or flagging a combination outside your usual experience. Pay attention to those surprises. They are either corrections or learning moments, and both are worth the two seconds it takes to investigate.

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