

9.2.6 How do I document a bowler who is a two-hander (no thumb)?

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FAQ

Two-handed bowlers and no-thumb releases present a fitting workflow that differs from the conventional single-hand approach in a few specific ways. Spectre Cloud accommodates these bowlers fully, but the spec sheet needs to be set up correctly to reflect the absence of a thumb hole and the different span and pitch context that applies. This page explains how to document a two-handed or thumbless bowler accurately so the spec sheet and Arsenal records are meaningful and reproducible.

☐☐ Understanding the Two-Hander Fitting Context

A two-handed bowler or no-thumb bowler does not use a thumb hole — or uses one only as a balance hole rather than as a gripping hole. The implications for the spec sheet are:

- ☐ **No thumb grip measurement** — thumb hole size, knuckle size, and thumb pitch values are not applicable to the primary grip.
- ☐ **Different span reference** — without a thumb hole as the anchor point, span is measured differently. The finger span reference changes to the grip centre or an alternative anchor depending on your shop's measurement approach.
- ☐ **Pitch philosophy differs** — forward pitch values appropriate for a conventional or fingertip release may not apply to a two-handed bowler whose fingers do not exit the ball in the same way.
- ☐ **Auto-suggestions may not apply directly** — IBPSIA-standard suggestions are calibrated for conventional thumb-in grips. Two-handed fits benefit from the fitter's judgement more than from standard formula output.
- ☐ **Add Pitch Thumb should be disabled** — with no meaningful thumb pitch, enabling Add Pitch Thumb introduces noise rather than useful data into the finger oval calculation. Confirm this setting is off before running the Oval Calculator.

☐ Setting Up the Spec Sheet for a Two-Hander

Grip type selection

Select **Fingertip** as the grip type for most two-handed bowlers — the finger insertion depth is typically at or near the first knuckle. If the bowler inserts deeper, Semi-fingertip may be more appropriate. Conventional grip is rarely applicable to two-handed bowlers.

Thumb hole section

For a true no-thumb drilling, the thumb hole section requires careful handling:

- ☐ If Spectre Cloud allows the thumb hole to be marked as **absent or not applicable**, select that option — this is the cleanest way to document a thumbless drilling and prevents the thumb fields from appearing incomplete or triggering validation warnings.
- ☐ If no such option exists and the thumb fields are required, enter a note in the spec sheet Notes field stating explicitly that this is a thumbless drilling — `No thumb hole — two-handed bowler`. This ensures any staff member reading the record understands the thumb fields are intentionally empty.
- ☐ If a balance hole is drilled in the thumb position, document it in the thumb section with a note clarifying it is a balance hole rather than a grip hole — `Balance hole only — not a gripping thumb hole`.

△ **Verify with Spectre team:** Confirm whether Spectre Cloud has a dedicated no-thumb or thumbless option in the spec sheet thumb section, and whether the thumb hole fields can be suppressed or marked as not applicable. Update the guidance above with the exact UI mechanism if such an option exists.

Span measurement and entry

Without a thumb hole as the traditional span anchor, span measurement for a two-handed bowler requires a defined reference point. Common approaches include:

- □ **Measuring from the grip centre** — the centre of the palm grip area serves as the anchor point in place of the thumb hole. This produces a consistent measurement across visits if the reference is clearly documented.
- □ **Using a fitting tape to the first knuckle** — some fitters measure the finger span directly from the knuckle without reference to a thumb hole position, using the ball's grip centre or a defined mark on the ball surface as the anchor.
- □ **Using the same span type as for standard fits but noting the anchor** — if your shop uses Full Span as the default, document the reference point used in the spec sheet Notes field so the measurement is reproducible on a future visit.
- □ Do not leave the span reference undefined and undocumented — a span measurement without a clear anchor cannot be accurately replicated by another driller or on a future visit.

Pitch values

Pitch for two-handed bowlers varies widely and is more dependent on individual release characteristics than for conventional grips. The standard IBPSIA formula-based suggestions are a less reliable starting point here — use them as a loose reference and weight the bowler's comfort and feedback more heavily:

- □ Start with modest forward pitch — 1/8" to 1/4" — and adjust based on the bowler's feedback after a test session.
- □ Lateral pitch is often less critical for two-handed bowlers due to the different axis of release — start at zero and adjust only if the bowler reports lateral discomfort.
- □ Document the reasoning behind any pitch choice that departs significantly from the standard suggestion — this is especially important for two-handed bowlers where the standard is less applicable.

☐ Documenting the No-Thumb Status in the Bowler Profile

Beyond the spec sheet, the bowler's profile Notes field should capture the two-handed or no-thumb status as a permanent, immediately visible note. Any staff member who opens the profile should know before reaching the spec sheet that this bowler does not use a thumb hole:

- ☐ Add `Two-handed bowler — no thumb hole` as the first line of the bowler's profile Notes field.
- ☐ Include any relevant physical context: `Right-handed release, two-handed delivery` or `No thumb — uses balance hole only`.
- ☐ Note the span reference point used: `Spans measured from grip centre mark — not from thumb hole`.

☐ Arsenal Considerations for Two-Handed Bowlers

The Arsenal entry for a two-handed bowler's ball is created and managed the same way as for any other bowler. A few additional notes are worth capturing:

- ☐ If a balance hole is drilled, note the balance hole size and position in the Arsenal entry's Notes field — this is relevant if the ball is ever re-drilled or the balance hole needs to be plugged.
- ☐ If Arsenal Plus is active, the Suggested Layouts feature uses the bowler's PAP to generate layout recommendations. Two-handed bowlers typically have a different PAP location and track than conventional bowlers — confirm the PAP has been accurately measured and recorded before relying on layout suggestions.
- ☐ Add Pitch Thumb should be confirmed as off in Settings before running the Oval Calculator — as noted above, this is especially important for two-handed bowlers where thumb pitch data is absent or not meaningful.

⚖ Two-Hander vs. No-Thumb One-Hander

Not all thumbless bowlers are two-handed. Some one-handed bowlers also release without the thumb — typically cranker styles or bowlers who have transitioned out of a thumb after an injury. The spec sheet approach is the same, but the fitting conversation and pitch philosophy may differ:

Bowler type	Grip type	Span reference	Pitch starting point
Two-handed, no thumb	Fingertip	Grip centre or defined mark	Conservative forward; zero lateral; adjust from feedback
One-handed, no thumb (cranker)	Fingertip	Same as two-handed — grip centre or defined mark	Similar starting point; lateral pitch may be more relevant depending on release angle
One-handed, thumb used as balance only	Fingertip	Can use thumb hole position as anchor if balance hole exists	Standard fingertip suggestion as reference; adjust based on how actively the thumb is used

□ Tips for Fitting Two-Handed Bowlers

- □ **Watch the bowler's release before measuring** — two-handed deliveries vary significantly in how the fingers exit the ball. A few throws on a spare ball or a house ball before the fitting gives you a picture of the release that informs the pitch decision better than any formula.
- □ **Start conservatively and adjust** — two-handed bowlers who are new to custom equipment often have not yet developed strong preferences about their fit. A conservative first drilling that can be refined on the second ball is more useful than an aggressive first drilling based on limited feedback.
- □ **Re-measure at every visit** — two-handed bowlers, particularly younger ones still developing their game, change their release characteristics more rapidly than established conventional bowlers. Span and pitch preferences can shift significantly between seasons.
- □ **Document everything more thoroughly than you would for a standard fit** — a two-handed bowler's spec sheet is less self-explanatory than a conventional one. Any future driller reading it needs enough context to understand the choices made, because the standard formulas will not guide them the way they would for a conventional fit.

Related Sections

- 6.1.3 — Step 3: Set grip type and enter finger measurements
- 6.1.4 — Step 4: Enter thumb information (round or oval)
- 9.1.4 — Using Auto-Suggestions effectively for faster fitting sessions

- 9.2.4 — How do I switch a bowler from fingertip to conventional mid-session
- 5.5.3 — When NONE mode is preferable (experienced fitters, custom setups)
- 7.1.5 — Suggested Layouts feature — using bowler data to suggest a layout

□ **Tip:** Two-handed bowling has grown significantly over the past decade and is no longer unusual in most pro shops. If your shop does not yet have a defined workflow for thumbless fittings, developing one now — consistent span reference, consistent grip type selection, consistent notes format — means the second two-handed bowler through the door is served as confidently as the twentieth. The spec sheet habits established on the first few two-handed fits become the template every subsequent driller in the shop follows.

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