32nd Annual

Statistics and Review Summaries for 104 Bowling Balls

About the Ball Guide...

reviews written by "No Holes Barred" columnist Vernon Peterson during 2015 — 104 reviews in all. Included is a short "snapshot" of each review; however, we highly recommend reading the full reviews that appeared in "No Holes Barred" in order to gain a clearer understanding of the balls, their capabilities and their recommended uses. The original review month is included with each listing. At the end of this section, you'll find contact information for bowling ball manufacturers. Company websites may provide additional useful information to help you make your purchasing decisions.

UNDERSTANDING THE BALL GUIDE RATINGS

BJI BALL REVIEWER Vernon Peterson provides hook, length and breakpoint ratings for each ball reviewed throughout the year. All of that data for balls released during 2015 can be found in *BJI's* 32nd annual Ball Guide. Here is an explanation of numeric ratings:

HOOK RATINGS

35-45: Balls with lower total hook ranges, best suited for lighter oil concentrations. Players with slower speeds or higher rev rates may also prefer balls in this range for medium oil applications.

45-51: Balls with medium hook ability, best suited for the vast majority of "typical house shots" and some lower-volume Sport patterns. This hook range should be represented by the "centerpiece" ball in most arsenals.
51-60+: Balls with greater total hook, designed for heavier oil volumes. Players with higher speeds or lower rev rates, who need added lane traction, may also prefer balls in this range.

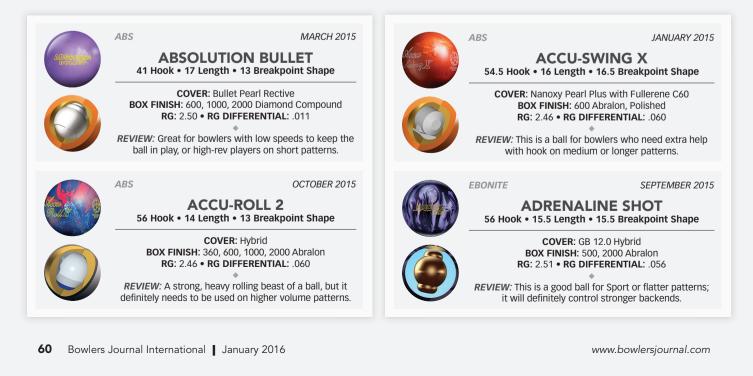
LENGTH RATINGS

8-12: Earlier rolling balls that read the lane sooner. These products generally come factory-sanded with lower grit surfaces, and match up well for speed-dominant styles and those bowling on longer oil patterns. 12-15: Medium-length balls that produce easier length through the midlane. Good for most house shots and medium-volume Sport patterns.
15-19+: Balls offering extra length for those bowling on lighter oil concentrations. Also beneficial for slower speed players, or those with higher rev rates needing added push downlane.

BREAKPOINT RATINGS

10-13: Slower-response balls that read the friction areas more gradually. This range may include balls with a urethane or mild reactive cover, designed for a smooth arc to the pocket. Also can help those with higher rev rates control motion and match up well from outside angles of attack.

13-15: Balls rated for slightly stronger and quicker reactions when encountering friction areas (as when the ball leaves the oil pattern). This range offers a balance of control and back-end angularity. **15-18+:** Balls that respond more quickly and aggressively to friction areas. This range can help those with less hand action create more angularity near the pocket. Also preferred when playing deeper inside angles, which generally require more entry angle for above-average pin carry.







OCTOBER 2015

BAD INTENTIONS HYBRID 57.5 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

> **COVER:** Juiced Extreme Hybrid BOX FINISH: 3000 Abralon RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .048

REVIEW: This ball provides a strong but predictable, smooth and angular shape off the breakpoint.



IUNE 2015

BLACK OPS 54 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: S70 Solid BOX FINISH: 1500, Polished RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .058

REVIEW: A good all-around ball that is deceivingly strong on the backend, yet doesn't push too far.

900 GLOBAL

BOO-YAH! 42 Hook • 10 Length • 12 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: S20 Solid BOX FINISH: 1000 Matte RG: 2.61 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .026

REVIEW: Offers smooth and early roll to control the backend — essentially duplicating old-school urethane.

900 GLOBAL

JULY 2015

JUNE 2015

BOOST RED 44.5 Hook • 18.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: S43 Pearl BOX FINISH: 1500 Polished RG: 2.54 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .043

REVIEW: A versatile ball for medium to lighter volume patterns; makes light house patterns play very easy.

MARCH 2015

BREAKDOWN 52 Hook • 15 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: S70 Solid BOX FINISH: NEAT-T (4000) RG: 2.57 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .030

REVIEW: A great tournament ball for all styles of bowlers. Rev-dominant players will truly love it.

BRUNSWICK

AUGUST 2015

BRUTE STRENGTH 51 Hook • 16 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Savvy Hook Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair RG: 2.491 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .032

REVIEW: This is a benchmark ball for reading patterns or for when the patterns get too ugly.











52 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape COVER: Bend-It Pearl BOX FINISH: 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.46 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .043 REVIEW: A good No. 2 ball once a medium or oily pattern opens up or the fronts start to go. DV8 DEVIANT 54 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape COVER: Composite V Solid BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.562 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .050 REVIEW: An extremely versatile ball that provides enough length through the front with a strong continuation on the backend. **ROTO GRIP** DEVOUR 52 Hook • 15 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape COVER: 54 MH Solid BOX FINISH: 3000 Abralon RG: 2.56 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .034 **REVIEW:** Dependably reads the length and volume of patterns to help develop a game plan for longer format tournaments. LANE #1

COLUMBIA 300



SEPTEMBER 2015

FEBRUARY 2015

DECEMBER 2015

DIFFERENCE 59 Hook • 14 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape

DELIRIUM



COVER: Pure Grip Solid BOX FINISH: NEAT-E (1500) RG: 2.46 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .050

REVIEW: A versatile ball with a lot of hook for bowlers who are rev challenged or speed dominant.

FEBRUARY 2015

DIVA DIVINE 54 Hook • 14 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: 7G Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 500, 4000 Siaair RG: 2.516 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

REVIEW: A great fresh condition ball, or for lower rev rates who need a little hooking help.

900 GLOBAL

DV8

MAY 2015



COVER: 79 Alert BOX FINISH: 4000 RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

DREAM BIG

57 Hook • 14 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

REVIEW: Fits in nicely with the Engineer series, providing more hook, reading the pattern early and hitting hard.





RADICAL

COVER: Pearl Hybrid BOX FINISH: 4000 Siaair RG: 2.501 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .044

GURU MIGHTY

GURU MASTER

62.5 Hook • 13 Length • 13.5 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Solid

BOX FINISH: 500, 1500 Siaair

RG: 2.501 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .044

REVIEW: For those desiring hook, this ball gets through the fronts and provides a good angle to the pocket.

DECEMBER 2015

AUGUST 2015

MARCH 2015

GURU SUPREME 63 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: Solid BOX FINISH: 500, 1500 Siaair RG: 2.501 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .044

REVIEW: This big-hooking ball is ideal for rev-deprived or speeddominant players; needs some volume and longer patterns.

> HAYWIRE 57 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 2000 Abralon RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .043

REVIEW: Provides back-end smoothness for high rev rate players, and easy hook for slower ball speed bowlers.

DECEMBER 2015

SEPTEMBER 2015



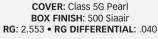
HEAT 50 Hook • 16.5 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape COVER: DR-5 Pearl

BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Sanded, Polished RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .038

REVIEW: A versatile ball that gets through the fronts nicely and creates smooth motion on the backend.

AUGUST 2015





REVIEW: This is a good all-around ball for bowlers with high rev rates who can control the pattern.



TRACK

DV8

Bowlersjournal





APRIL 2015

JAPAN PRIDE MT. FUJI 52 Hook • 15 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: JP65 Pearl BOX FINISH: 1000, Polished RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .042

REVIEW: Flows easily through the front part of the lane, then explodes off the breakpoint through the pins.



NOVEMBER 2015

JOY RIDE 42.5 Hook • 16.5 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Reactor Pearl BOX FINISH: 1500, Polished RG: 2.58 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .021

REVIEW: A good tournament ball for use on older surfaces or longer formats when the lanes burn up.



LEGION 53 Hook • 15.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape



TRACK

AZO

COVER: MR-6 Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .046

REVIEW: A great No. 2 or 3 ball when the backends settle down, providing an aggressive move at the breakpoint.

DECEMBER 2015

AUGUST 2015

LEGION SOLID 54.5 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: MR-6 Solid BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Abralon RG: 2.51 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .047

REVIEW: This ball is good for tournament or house patterns, and for all players on medium to heavier conditions.

SEPTEMBER 2015

LEGIT

49 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Strong Arm Hybrid BOX FINISH: 4000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.49 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .040

REVIEW: Good for slower speed bowlers on lighter volumes, but a nice all-around ball for a variety of conditions.

STORM

NOVEMBER 2015

LOCK 58 Hook • 13 Length • 13 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: GI-15 Hybrid Reactive BOX FINISH: 3000 Abralon RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

REVIEW: Provides strong mid-lane reaction and continuation through the pocket that lower rev rate players will appreciate.

www.bowlersjournal.com





MARCH 2015

MASTERMIND SCHOLAR 55.5 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Honor Roll A+ Pearl BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.488 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

REVIEW: A good ball for when the lanes start to open up; also for bowlers with lower ball speed.

BRUNSWICK

DECEMBER 2015

MELEE HOOK 55 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape **COVER:** Relativity Max Reactive

BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Siaair **RG:** 2.487 • **RG DIFFERENTIAL:** .050

REVIEW: Provides free hook and won't start too early. yet still provides strong continuation through the pins.

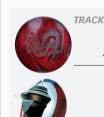


SEPTEMBER 2015

MENACE 58 Hook • 14 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: 74H Solid BOX FINISH: 3000 Abralon RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

REVIEW: A strong ball that performs best when there is some oil in the heads and the pattern is longer.



MX05 49 Hook • 17 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: MR-4 Pearl BOX FINISH: 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.49 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .038

REVIEW: A skid/flip ball providing length and strong backend; great for getting inside to open up a lane.

OCTOBER 2015

FEBRUARY 2015

NIRVANA 61 Hook • 14 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: ECS Solid BOX FINISH: 500, 1500 Siaair RG: 2.477 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

REVIEW: The most hooking ball that we've ever seen from Brunswick. Great on longer and heavier patterns.

JULY 2015

STORM

BRUNSWICK

OPTIMUS SOLID 57 Hook • 14 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: R2X Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 2000 Abralon RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .048

REVIEW: A good addition to one's arsenal for longer tournament patterns or heavier conditions; hooks out of the box.







IUNE 2015

AUGUST 2015

RACK ATTACK PEARL 48 Hook • 16.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape

> **COVER:** Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.542 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .024

REVIEW: Gets down the lane with no problem, then makes a left turn. Great for when lanes break down.



RADICAL



RACK ATTACK SOLID 52.5 Hook • 14 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 500/4000 Siaair Matte RG: 2.542 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .024

REVIEW: A great value for entry-level bowlers facing some volume on the lanes, or for anyone on Sport patterns.



50.5 Hook • 16 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape COVER: Pearl BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair

RAVE

RG: 2.522 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .049

REVIEW: A good all-around ball - and a good benchmark ball - for multiple patterns and bowler styles.



DECEMBER 2015

RAW URGE 56 Hook • 14 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: AR350 Solid BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Abralon RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .055

REVIEW: Comes out of the box ready to grab the lane and cut through longer patterns and heavier oil conditions.

JUNE 2015

REBEL TANK 41 Hook • 14 Length • 13 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Pearl DMX Urethane BOX FINISH: 4000 LSP

RG: 2.55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .037

REVIEW: For high-rev players to handle over-reacting or shorter oil conditions that call for a smooth-rolling ball.

HAMMER

ΜΟΤΙΥ

MARCH 2015

RED LEGEND 53 Hook • 16 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: NBT Pearl BOX FINISH: 500, 1000, Polished RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .058

REVIEW: For lower rev rates on medium lanes, and lower speed players when the fronts have some friction.

RIDE

43 Hook • 16 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape





STORM

AUGUST 2015

JULY 2015

JUNE 2015

APRII 2015

DECEMBER 2015

MARCH 2015

SKY ROCKET 53 Hook • 17 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape

> **COVER:** R2S Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 1500 Polished RG: 2.54 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .046

REVIEW: This angular ball will help bowlers with slower speeds and who need help getting kick on the back.

BRUNSWICK



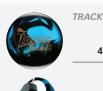
52 Hook • 16 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape COVER: CPTv2 Control Solid BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair

SOUL

RG: 2.542 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .041

REVIEW: Will help slower-speed bowlers get through the front part of the lane with a strong back-end motion.







TOUR X SOLID 48 Hook • 16 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: DR-4 Solid BOX FINISH: 500, 3000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.58 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .055

REVIEW: Versatile enough for all, but especially for high-rev players who will love its predictability off the breakpoint.



FEBRUARY 2015

UNHINGED 51 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: 60M Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 1500 Polished RG: 2.58 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .049

REVIEW: Offers greater predictability than many other pearl balls; clean and strong in the backend.



UNREAL 59 Hook • 12 Length • 13 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: F64 Solid

BOX FINISH: NEAT "A" (2500) RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .041

REVIEW: An excellent choice for longer, heavier house patterns, as well as flatter, flooded Sport patterns.

JULY 2015

JULY 2015

URGE 53 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: AR350 Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .056

REVIEW: For those needing extra length through the fronts and kick on the backend; also great for lower ball speeds.

AUGUST 2015

MARCH 2015

VANDAL 52.5 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Composite Pearl

BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair RG: 2.499 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .055

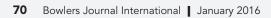
REVIEW: Provides length and backend to those with lower ball speeds, and predictable hook for high-rev players.

MOTIV

VENOM PANIC 51 Hook • 17 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Turmoil MFP Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 5000 LSP RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .034

REVIEW: Good for slower speed bowlers who need that kick in the backend with easy distance down the lane.



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DV8





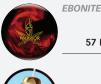


COLUMBIA 300



COVER: Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: Factory Sheen RG: 2.57 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .047

REVIEW: A great benchmark ball for tournament bowlers because it reads the pattern volume and length so well.



AUGUST 2015

57 Hook • 16 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape COVER: GB 13.3 Pearl

WARRIOR

BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.47 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .057

REVIEW: Provides smooth motion through the fronts, a strong mid-lane move, and strong, continuous roll through the pins.

EBONITE

DECEMBER 2015

WARRIOR ELITE 58.5 Hook • 14 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: GB 13.3 Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Abralon RG: 2.47 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .057

REVIEW: One of the stronger balls from Ebonite to date, it cuts through longer patterns and heavier conditions.

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