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Review Summaries and Statistics for **113** Bowling Balls

Updated 'Real World' Ratings for **Every Ball** 

# **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 2014 can be found in *BJI's* 31st 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.

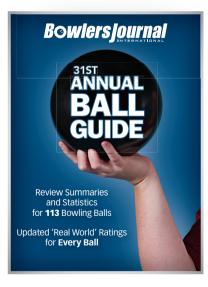
### **LENGTH RATINGS**

**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 speeddominant 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 backend 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.



# ABOUT THE BJI 31ST ANNUAL BOWLING BALL GUIDE

**FOR THREE DECADES**, *Bowlers Journal International* has been reviewing bowling balls, helping readers select the equipment that best matches their game and the lane conditions they normally encounter.

On the pages that follow, you'll find summaries of all balls reviewed by "No Holes Barred" columnist and reviewer Vernon Peterson during 2014. Included is a short "snapshot" of each review. However, we highly recommend reading the full reviews in order to gain a clearer understanding of the balls, their capabilities and their recommended uses. To that end, each capsule review includes the month of the original review.

At the end of this section, you'll find contact information for bowling ball manufacturers. Company websites may provide additional useful information.





BIG BANG-SE 49 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape COVER: Precision P3 Particle

BOX FINISH: 1000 Abralon Polished RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .043

**REVIEW:** Best looks on light-medium and medium oil volumes with reasonably clean backends.

### HAMMER

LANE MASTERS

### MARCH 2014

AUGUST 2014

IANI IARY 2014

BLACK WIDOW ASSASSIN 54 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

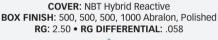
COVER: First Blood NBT Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500, 500, 500, 1000 Abralon RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .058

**REVIEW:** Super clean through the fronts, with slightly smoother motion than original Black Widow.

### HAMMER



BLACK WIDOW LEGEND 56 Hook • 15.5 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape



**REVIEW:** Enables all types of bowlers to match up on most medium to oily lane patterns.

### BRUNSWICK



BLUE RINGER 52 Hook • 15 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: CPT Controlled Reactive Solid BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Siaair RG: 2.534 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .038

**REVIEW:** Reminiscent of the Blue Rhino, this is a great choice for a No. 1 ball on a fresh condition.

JUNE 2014

JUNE 2014

COLUMBIA 300

### **BLUR HYBRID**

46 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Full Tilt 5.0 Hybrid BOX FINISH: 800, 1000, 2000, 4000, Polished RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .045

**REVIEW:** A good choice for slower ball speeds, or high-rev players when the fronts start to burn up.

### COLUMBIA 300

### JULY 2014

47 Hook • 17 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Full Tilt 5.0 Pearl BOX FINISH: 800, 1000, 2000, 4000, Polished RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .045

**REVIEW:** Great choice for the money for bowlers needing easy length with a strong down-lane flip.

JUN

JUINE 2014

# **Bowlers** Journal



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MARCH 2014

JANUARY 2014

DECEMBER 2014

APRIL 2014

FEBRUARY 2014

SEPTEMBER 2014

**CRANK/R** 

**COVER:** Shined Hybrid Composite BOX FINISH: Neat (4000 equivalent)

**CRAZY ANTICS** 

COVER: AR300 Hybrid

RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

CRUX

COVER: ERG Hybrid Reactive

**BOX FINISH: 3000** RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

DARKNESS

COVER: F77 Solid

BOX FINISH: 4000 Abralon

RG: 2.47 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

DEADLY AIM

**COVER:** Primer Hybrid

RG: 2.49 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

there starts to be some carrydown.

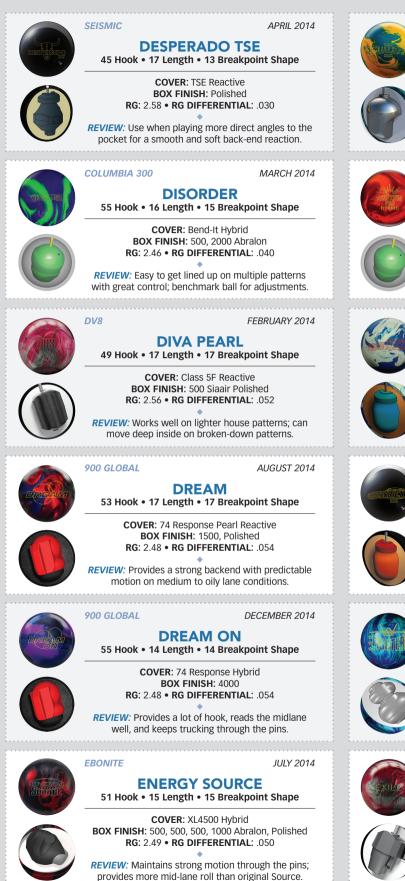
DECIMATE

COVER: F75 Hybrid

BOX FINISH: Neat-T (4000 equivalent)

RG: 2.55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .055

SEISMIC



great for those needing extra help on longer patterns. **COLUMBIA 300** 

46 Hook • 15 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape COVER: CR 300 Hybrid Reactive BOX FINISH: 500, 500, 500 Abralon, 1500 Abranet, Polished RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .036

**ERUPTION PRO HYBRID** 

EQUALIZER

55 Hook • 11.5 Length • 11.5 Breakpoint Shape

**COVER:** Intensus SR2

BOX FINISH: 2000 Abralon

RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

**REVIEW:** A strong asymmetric ball that needs oil;

NOVEMBER 2014

OCTOBER 2014

APRIL 2014

NOVEMBER 2014

**REVIEW:** Rolls up a little earlier than the original Eruption Pro; for medium and lighter volume patterns.

SEISMIC

**EUPHORIC** 54 Hook • 12 Length • 12 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: LNC Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 4000 Abralon RG: 2 55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: 050

**REVIEW:** Cuts through the oil on heavier volume and longer patterns; great for use on a fresh condition.

### SEISMIC

**EUPHORIC TSE** 50.5 Hook • 16.5 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape



**COVER:** TSE Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: Polished RG: 2.55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .055

**REVIEW:** Helps higher rev rates control back-end reaction; helps slower ball speeds get through the fronts.

JUNE 2014

JULY 2014

FIGHTER 46 Hook • 17.5 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: G4-S Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 1000 RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .049

REVIEW: Good back-end recovery and pin carry on multiple oil patterns; ideal for slower ball speeds.

### BRUNSWICK

JET

**COVER:** Fortify Pearl BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.512 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .050

FORTERA EXILE

52 Hook • 18 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

**REVIEW:** Ideal for slower ball speeds, with easy push through the fronts and strong motion off the breakpoint.

# **Bowlersjournal**



LX 16 55 Hook • 15 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: QR-8 Pearl

BOX FINISH: 800, 1000, 2000, 3000 Abralon

RG: 2.49 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .053

**REVIEW:** Helps one get to the pocket on heavier oil

with forgiveness and hard-hitting power.

**MASTERMIND GENIUS** 

55 Hook • 13 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Honor Roll Hybrid

BOX FINISH: 500 Sigair. Polished

RG: 2.54 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

TRACK

BRUNSWICK

BRUNSWICK



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

**REVIEW:** One of the most angular balls from Brunswick; for slower ball speeds needing back-end kick.

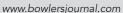
### **COLUMBIA 300**

### DECEMBER 2014

**MELT DOWN** 54 Hook • 13 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Bring-It Max Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 500, 2000 Abralon RG: 2.51 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .053

**REVIEW:** A great choice for a fresh condition, or for bowlers needing a little extra help with hook.





MASTERMIND INTELLECT 55 Hook • 12 Length • 13 Breakpoint Shape



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

**REVIEW:** Fits between the original Intellect and the Genius; provides a smooth back-end reaction.

### BRUNSWICK

**MELEE CROSS** 53 Hook • 14 Length • 12 Breakpoint Shape



**REVIEW:** Much stronger version of the Melee, with

more predictable motion on fresh oil conditions.

DECEMBER 2014

FEBRUARY 2014

FFBRUARY 2014

OCTOBER 2014

JULY 2014

MELEE JAB

50 Hook • 16 Length • 17.5 Breakpoint Shape



COVER: Savvy Hook Pearl



# **Bowlers** Journal



49 Hook • 17 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape **REVIEW:** Provides a clean push through the front part of the lane with a strong motion in the backend. ΜΟΤΙΥ

**COLUMBIA 300** 

BLEND10

OCTANE 53 Hook • 17 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape COVER: Agility SFX

**N'SANE ANTICS** 

53 Hook • 15 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: AR300 Solid

BOX FINISH: 500, 1000, 2000, 4000 Abralon, Polished

RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .042

**REVIEW:** A forgiving ball, especially for lower rev rate

players that need a little help to open up a lane.

**NST** 

COVER: B10A16 Pearl

BOX FINISH: 1500

RG: 2.480 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .048

BOX FINISH: 5000 LSP (Laser Scan Polished) RG: 2.55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .043

**REVIEW:** Produces strongest back-end reaction to date from Motiv; great for bowlers needing back-end help.

> JULY 2014 **OPTIMUS**

54 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: R2X Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 1500 RG: 2.47 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .048

**REVIEW:** Great for an arsenal in need of a strong pearl ball; more back-end kick than the Zero Gravity.

JULY 2014

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ILIIY 2014

JULY 2014

OSW 46 Hook • 16 Length • 12 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: B10A6 Solid BOX FINISH: 1500 RG: 2.503 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .035

**REVIEW:** Provides true "old school" motion, but with harder drive through the pins than you'd expect.

OUTCAST 46 Hook • 17 Length • 13 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Class 1 Reactive BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.54 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .030

**REVIEW:** Great for new bowlers seeking hook and value; performed well on all three test patterns.

DECEMBER 2014



**BLEND10** 

DV8

# STORM





**REAX 2 PEARL** 

53 Hook • 16 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Pearl

BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished

RG: 2.508 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .048

**REVIEW:** Stronger in the midlane than the Grease

Monkey, providing predictable motion downlane.

**REAX GUSTO** 

53.5 Hook • 16.5 Length • 17.5 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Pearl

BOX FINISH: 500 Sigair. Polished RG: 2.536 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .038

**REVIEW:** Provides the most aggressive motion off the

breakpoint in the Radical line to date.

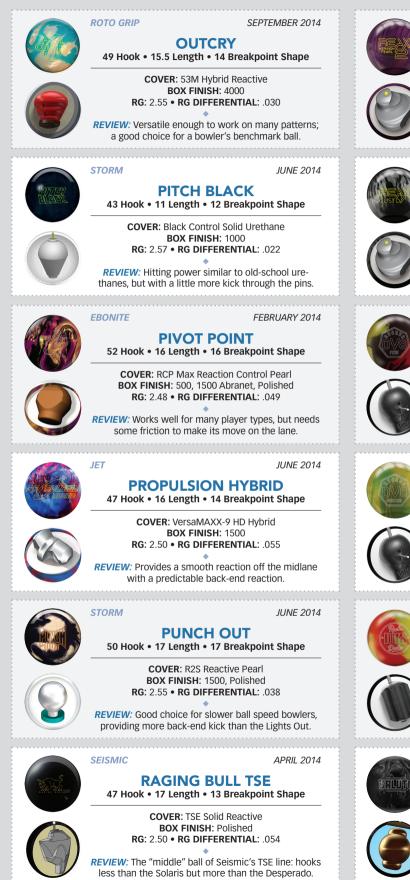
**RUCKUS FEUD** 

60 Hook • 13 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

RADICAL

RADICAL

DV8





### COVER: Class 12 Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 500, 1500 Siaair RG: 2.59 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

REVIEW: Reads midlane strongly and allows one to open up a longer, high-volume pattern.

AUGUST 2014

FEBRUARY 2014

FERRIJARY 2014

JULY 2014

### **RUCKUS SCHIZO** 54 Hook • 16 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Class 12F Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.54 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

**REVIEW:** Most aggressive ball seen from DV8; stands out with its big hook and strong back-end reaction.

AUGUST 2014



## **RUDE DUDE**

53 Hook • 14 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Class 7G Reactive BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.557 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .040

**REVIEW:** Makes a strong arcing move off the breakpoint; provides welcome help on medium to oily patterns.

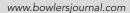
### **EBONITE**

### NOVEMBER 2014

SALUTE 52 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

**COVER:** Big Time Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.50 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .056

**REVIEW:** Should fit a lot of different bowler styles; clean motion through the fronts with a strong midlane.





# **Bowlers** Journal



### SEPTEMBER 2014 **THROW DOWN**

49 Hook • 17 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Bring-It Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 500, 500, 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.51 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .053

**REVIEW:** Higher rev and higher speed players will love this ball when lanes are hooking or broken down.

DV8

NOVEMBER 2014

THUG 54.5 Hook • 16 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: Class 13F Reactive Hybrid BOX FINISH: 500 Siaair, Polished RG: 2.505 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .052

**REVIEW:** A ball with a lot of hook that saves energy down the lane and really pushes the pins around.



### TORCH

SEPTEMBER 2014

51 Hook • 16 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: F69 Pearl Reactive BOX FINISH: Polished RG: 2.52 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .038

**REVIEW:** A ball with an asymmetrical core at a mid-level price is rare, and this is a good one.

pick when needing to open up the lane.





# LORD FIELD

TALENT 50 Hook • 18 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

**SPIKE PEARL** 

49 Hook • 17 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: GTR III Pearl

BOX FINISH: 500, 500, 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished

RG: 2.56 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

**REVIEW:** Cleaner than the original Spike, with more

kick in the backend for a nice pop through the pins.

**TAKEDOWN** 

51 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: Bring-It Pearl Reactive

BOX FINISH: 500, 3000 Abralon

RG: 2.51 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .053

**REVIEW:** Good looks on a variety of shots: cleaner

through front/midlane than Smack Down.

**COVER:** Proton Reactive BOX FINISH: 2000, Polished **RG:** 2.515 • **RG DIFFERENTIAL:** .044

REVIEW: Quite versatile, it's smooth through the burn without overreacting when it hits its breakpoint.

II INF 2014

IANUARY 2014

MAY 2014



**COLUMBIA 300** 

HAMMER



ROTO GRIP

SEISMIC

HAMMER

**STORM** 





COVER: SF-8/8 Pearl BOX FINISH: 4000 RG: 2.485 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .054

**VENATOR PEARL** 

UPROAR

46 Hook • 17.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape

COVER: 51 ML Pearlized Reactive

BOX FINISH: 1500 Polished RG: 2.55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .030

**REVIEW:** Gets through the heads easily with great

recovery on shorter and lighter patterns.

**REVIEW:** Most explosive ball from Seismic to date: provides lots of hook and bang for the buck.

APRIL 2014

NOVEMBER 2014

ILIIY 2014

FEBRUARY 2014

### VENOM SHOCK 51 Hook • 17 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

**COVER:** Purple Turmoil MFS Reactive BOX FINISH: 4000 RG: 2.48 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .034

REVIEW: An unusually strong ball for its price point, but not too strong for its core; versatile.

VIRAL

46 Hook • 18 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape

**COVER:** Violent Flip Reactive BOX FINISH: 500, 1000 Abralon, Polished RG: 2.51 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .042

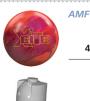
**REVIEW:** Provides the greatest length and most angular motion of any Hammer ball seen to date.

JUNE 2014

WIPE OUT 52 Hook • 16 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: R2S Solid Reactive BOX FINISH: 3000 Abralon RG: 2.55 • RG DIFFERENTIAL: .038

**REVIEW:** A ball for bowlers who are looking for hook, but don't want to pay a top-shelf price.



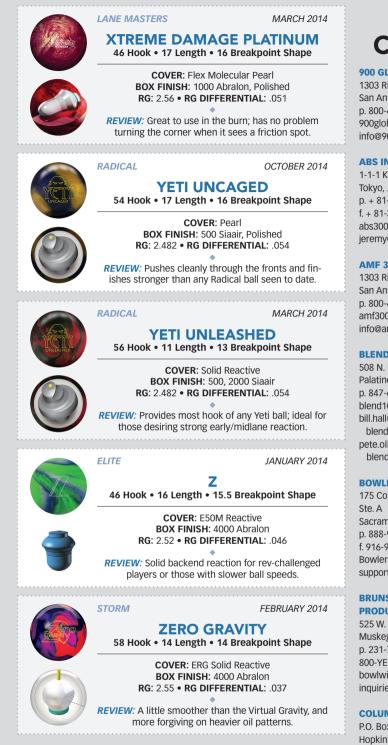
DECEMBER 2014

XCITE 43 Hook • 18 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape

> COVER: F43 Pearl BOX FINISH: Polished RG: 2.55• RG DIFFERENTIAL: .046

**REVIEW:** A go-to ball for tournament bowlers when the lanes are broken down; strong hitting power.

# **Bowlersjournal**



# **BALL COMPANY** CONTACT INFORMATION

Hopkinsville, KY 42241

bkelly@ebibowling.com

FRONITE

P.O. Box 746

p.270-881-1200

f. 270-881-1201

**ELITE BOWLING** 

**INTERNATIONAL** 

p. 916-643-4663

f. 916-921-8352 elitebowling.com

P.O. Box 746

p. 270-881-1200

800-626-8350

f. 270-881-1201

JET BOWLING

Salt Lake City, UT

jetbowling.com

LANE #1

175 Commerce Circle,

Sacramento, CA 95815

sales@elitebowling.com

**HAMMER BOWLING** 

Hopkinsville, KY 42241

hammerbowling.com

bkelly@ebibowling.com

sales@jetbowling.com

6739 Pickard Drive

Syracuse, NY 13211

p. 315-475-1000

lane1bowling.com

LANE MASTERS

LANE MASTERS

Ste. B

Ste. B

AND LEGENDS BY

2135 Stagecoach Rd.

Stockton, CA 95215

p. 916-476-9542

f. 916-647-0504

lane-masters.com

staff@lane-masters.com

LORD FIELD, CO. LTD.

2135 Stagecoach Rd.

Stockton, CA 95215

staff@lfbowling.com

**MOTIV BOWLING** 18570 Trimble Court

p. 616-850-9868

f. 616-846-1473

motivbowling.com

service@motivbowling.com

800-235-8324

Spring Lake, MI 49456

p. 916-476-9542

f. 916-647-0504

lordfield com

info@lane1bowling.com

800-526-3661

800-626-8350

ebonite.com

Ste. A

### 900 GLOBAL

1303 Rilling Road San Antonio, TX 78214 p. 800-424-2695 900global.com info@900global.com

### **ABS INTERNATIONAL**

1-1-1 Kitamagome Ota-ku Tokyo, Japan p. + 81-3-5718-7121 f. + 81-3-5718-7122 abs300.com jeremy@absbowling.co.jp

### **AMF 300**

1303 Rilling Road San Antonio, TX 78214 p. 800-424-2695 amf300.com info@amf300.com

### **BLEND10 BOWLING**

508 N. Plumb Grove Road Palatine, IL 60067 p. 847-606-0177 blend10bowling.com bill hall@ blend10bowling.com pete.oliva@ blend10bowling.com

### **BOWLERS PARADISE**

175 Commerce Circle Sacramento, CA 95815 p. 888-969-2695 f. 916-921-8352 BowlersParadise.com support@bowlercare.com

### **BRUNSWICK BOWLING** PRODUCTS

525 W. Laketon Avenue Muskegon, MI 49441 p. 231-725-4966 800-YES-BOWI bowlwithbrunswick.com inquiries@brunbowl.com

### **COLUMBIA 300**

P.O. Box 746 Hopkinsville, KY 42241 p. 270-881-1200 800-626-8350 f. 270-881-1201 columbia300.com bkelly@ebibowling.com

### **DV8 BOWLING**

525 W. Laketon Avenue Muskegon, MI 49441 p. 231-725-4966 damngoodbowling.com info@dv8bowling.com

### RADICAL BOWLING

### **TECHNOLOGIES**

5005 West Avenue San Antonio, TX 78213 p. 866-828-7702 f. 210-343-3501 radicalbowling.com info@radicalbowling.com

### **ROTO GRIP**

165 South 8th West Brigham City, UT 84302 p. 888-450-6920 f. 435-723-9375 rotogrip.com info@rotogrip.com

### SEISMIC

### **BOWLING LTD.**

11 Holland Drive Belfast, Northern Ireland BT5 6EH seismicbowling.com enquiries@ seismicbowling.com

### **STORM BOWLING**

165 South 8th West Brigham City, UT 84302 p. 435-723-0403 800-369-4402 f. 435-734-0338 stormbowling.com info@stormbowling.com

### **TRACK BOWLING**

P.O. Box 746 Hopkinsville, KY 42241 p.270-881-1200 800-837-1106 f. 270-881-1201 trackbowling.com bkelly@ebibowling.com

### VISIONARY **BOWLING** PRODUCTS

8709 X-Ograph Avenue Jennings, MO 63136 p. 314-388-3446 f. 314-388-0109 visionarybowling.com visionarybowling@ hotmail.com