Review Summaries and Statistics
for 112 Bowling Balls

Updated ‘Real World’ Ratings
for Every Ball
BJI BALL REVIEWER Joe Cerar Jr. provides hook, length and breakpoint ratings for each ball reviewed throughout the year. In BJI’s 29th annual Ball Guide, all of that data can be found in one place. 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 who are 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.

ABOUT THE 29TH ANNUAL BOWLING BALL GUIDE

FOR NEARLY 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.

In 2012, Joe Cerar Jr., who operates a successful pro shop in Milwaukee, Wis., reviewed 112 balls for his “No Holes Barred” column in BJI. What follows are summaries of those reviews, listed in alphabetical order by ball name, including the “Real World Ratings” that are explained on this page.

If you’re in the market for a new ball... or a new arsenal... you’ll want to take the 29th annual BJI Ball Guide with you when you visit your local pro shop.
MOTIV
AUGUST 2012

2CRUEL

55 Hook • 14.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Whiplash Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.053

MOTIV's strongest hybrid, with a hard-arcing, later breakpoint shape.

TRACK
JULY 2012

300A

45.5 Hook • 16.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Gen MA
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k, 4k polished
RG: 2.57 • RG Differential: 0.029

A low-priced pearl with excellent length and strong back-end motion.

FOUR CORNERS
MARCH 2012

508A

46 Hook • 16 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: MP Gen 4 Reactive
Box Finish: 500, 1k, 2k, polish
RG: 2.51 • RG Differential: 0.049

A skid/flip pearl, at a modest price, for most medium oil volumes.

TRACK
AUGUST 2012

706A

50 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Gen XA
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k polish
RG: 2.52 • RG Differential: 0.053

A strong skid/flip reactive with an added angularity asymmetric core.

HAMMER
AUGUST 2012

ARSON PEARL

48 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Max-Corner Pearl
Box Finish: 500, 1k, 2k, polished
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.045

A fast-rolling pearl with a strong arc/flip breakpoint shape.
MOTIV

ASCENT PEARL
46.5 Hook • 16 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: MOTIVator-Z Pearl
Box Finish: 2000, Polish
RG: 2.59 • RG Differential: 0.025
A dry-lane workhorse with excellent length and hitting power.

ASCENT SOLID
48 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: MOTIVator-Z Solid
Box Finish: 1000 Wet Sand
RG: 2.59 • RG Differential: 0.025
A smooth-motion solid with a slow down-lane response for light-medium oil.

BRUNSWICK

AURA
53 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Optimum-Flip Solid
Box Finish: 500, Rough Buff
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.052
A premium, fast-revving pearl with an angular, aggressive breakpoint.

BERSERK
53.5 Hook • 13.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: 65MH Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000
RG: 2.57 • RG Differential: 0.048
An early-rolling hybrid with an arcing finish for firm ball speed players.

900 GLOBAL

BLACK EAGLE
53 Hook • 14 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: 570 Reactive
Box Finish: Neat 4000
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.058
A fast-revving solid, with an angular breakpoint, for medium oil volumes.

AMF

BLACK MAMBA
55.5 Hook • 13 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: F-74 Reactive
Box Finish: Neat 1500 Dull
RG: 2.54 • RG Differential: 0.055
AMF’s earliest rolling, heavy-oil volume reactive ball.

EBONITE

CHALLENGE
58 Hook • 13 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Reaction Control System
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k, 3k
RG: 2.51 • RG Differential: 0.057
Ebonite’s hook monster, with an aggressive finish for heavier oil.

HAMMER

BRICK
53 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Grand Theft Hybrid
Box Finish: 500, 500, 1k, 2k
RG: 2.5 • RG Differential: 0.052
A benchmark-type roll from a hybrid cover for medium amount of oil.

BULL WHIP SE
52 Hook • 15.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: F-73 Reactive Pearl
Box Finish: Polished
RG: 2.53 • RG Differential: 0.051
A premium, fast-revving, even-arcing pearl for most medium oil volumes.

COBALT VIBE
47.5 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Violent Reactive
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k, 4k polish
RG: 2.51 • RG Differential: 0.042
Hammer’s popular mid-priced reactive for light-medium patterns.
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<th>Model</th>
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<th>Length</th>
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<td>ENDURE</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Traxion Reactive Hybrid</td>
<td>1000 Abralon</td>
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</table>

A strong-cover ball with a smooth-rolling, low-flaring core for medium oil patterns.

A very aggressive breakpoint shape for medium and heavier oil patterns.

An updated, stronger version of the popular Storm Hy-Road hybrid.

A heavier-oil, super-premium ball with a strong mid-lane presence.

A very early-revving, aggressive solid asymmetric ball for heavier oil.

A strong skid/flip pearl with Lane #1's modified diamond core system.

Roto Grip's most aggressive asymmetric pearl for medium-heavy oil.

An aggressive, medium oil volume hybrid with excellent length.

One of Ebonite's most versatile products for many medium-oil patterns.
BallGuide_2013.indd   68 12/13/12   12:56:23 PM
**900 GLOBAL**

**JULY 2012**

**HOOK! BLACK/SILVER PEARL**

- 47 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: S43 Pearl
- Box Finish: Polished
- RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.046

A light oil specialist with excellent length and superb pin carry.

**MORICH**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**HOOKR**

- 52 Hook • 15 Length • 17 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover Type: Super Trac Pearl
- Box: 4000
- RG: 2.49 • RG Differential: 0.057

Mo Pinel's sharpest breakpoint for light to medium oil patterns.

**LANE MASTERS**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

**HS 2.0**

- 50 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Molecular Particle
- Box Finish: Polished
- RG: 2.56 • RG Differential: 0.045

One of the best particle covers, with a skid/flip motion potential.

**EBONITE**

**JUNE 2012**

**INNOVATE**

- 48 Hook • 16 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: HTR 3.0 Pearl Reactive
- Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k Polish
- RG: 2.49 • RG Differential: 0.046

A fast-revving pearl for lighter to medium oil patterns.

**STORM**

**AUGUST 2012**

**IQ**

- 58 Hook • 13.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: PT Solid
- Box Finish: 3000
- RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.050

A fast-revving, early-rolling, arcing solid for heavier oil and firm speeds.

**STORM**

**AUGUST 2012**

**IQ TOUR**

- 54 Hook • 14.5 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: R2S Solid
- Box Finish: 4000
- RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.029

A controllable oil ball with a smooth finish for higher rev types.

**STORM**

**OCTOBER 2012**

**LUCID**

- 57 Hook • 14.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: ERG Pearl Reactive
- Box Finish: 500, 2000, 4000
- RG: 2.52 • RG Differential: 0.050

A strong-arcing 4000 dull aggressive pearl for medium to heavier volumes.

**BRUNSWICK**

**MAY 2012**

**KARMA PURPLE/PINK PEARL**

- 47 Hook • 16 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Activator Plus
- Box Finish: Polished
- RG: 2.53 • RG Differential: 0.040

A danger Zone remake for medium oil or those with higher rev rates.

**BRUNSWICK**

**SEPTEMBER 2012**

**KARMA URETHANE**

- 44 Hook • 13 Length • 13 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Retro Urethane
- Box Finish: 500, 1000
- RG: 2.52 • RG Differential: 0.040

A very conservative-rolling urethane, offering a slow response off dry.

**STORM**

**OCTOBER 2012**

**LUCID**

- 57 Hook • 14.5 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: ERG Pearl Reactive
- Box Finish: 500, 2000, 4000
- RG: 2.52 • RG Differential: 0.050

A strong-arcing 4000 dull aggressive pearl for medium to heavier volumes.
DV8
MARAUDER
49 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Class 4 Hybrid
Box Finish: 500, Rough, High Polish
RG: 2.52 • RG Differential: 0.040
One of DV8’s most versatile hybrid coverstocks for medium-oiled lanes.

DV8
MARAUDER MADNESS
52 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Class 5G Reactive
Box Finish: 500, 4000
RG: 2.52 • RG Differential: 0.050
The strongest Marauder with an even-arcing breakpoint shape.

COLUMBIA 300
MASS ERUPTION
48 Hook • 14.5 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: New Era Hybrid
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k, 4k
RG: 2.46 • RG Differential: 0.040
A very versatile hybrid coverstock for most light to medium volumes.

JET
MAXIMUM ALTITUDE
52 Hook • 15 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Strato NF-20 Pearl
Box Finish: Polished
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.052
Great length with explosive back-end motion potential for medium patterns.

BRUNSWICK
MEANSTREAK
49 Hook • 15.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Addaptive f(P2) Pearl
Box Finish: 500, Rough Buff, Gloss
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.048
A later-rolling, aggressive pearl with a hard arc for medium oil volumes.

BRUNSWICK
NEXXUS F(P+R)
59 Hook • 12.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Addaptive f(P+R) Solid
Box Finish: 500, 1500
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.056
Brunswick’s strongest solid reactive for more heavily oiled lanes.

BRUNSWICK
NEXXXUS F(P+S)
55 Hook • 14.5 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Addaptive F Pearl
Box Finish: 500 Rough Buff
RG: 2.49 • RG Differential: 0.056
One of Brunswick’s strongest pearls for medium-heavy oil.

DV8
NIGHTMARE
55 Hook • 14 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Class 8 Reactive
Box Finish: 500, 1000, 4000
RG: 2.5 • RG Differential: 0.052
DV8’s most aggressive skid/hard arc reactive for medium-heavy oil.

STORM
MANIC
52.5 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: R25 Solid Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.53 • RG Differential: 0.045
A controllable solid reactive with a slow and smooth down-lane motion.

STORM
MODERN MARVEL
58 Hook • 12.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: R2X Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000 Dull
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.050
An early-rolling, low-RG, arcing hybrid for most medium to heavy patterns.

HAMMER
NAIL, SMOKE AND FIRE
45 Hook • 16.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Shredder Pearl Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Polished
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.042
Provides excellent length with power for light to light-medium oil patterns.

LORD FIELD
NASTY
51 Hook • 14 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Proton Pearl Particle
Box Finish: 2000 Abralon
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.047
A slow-response pearl particle for a smooth breakpoint shape on medium oil.

STORM
MANIC
52.5 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: R25 Solid Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.53 • RG Differential: 0.045
A controllable solid reactive with a slow and smooth down-lane motion.

STORM
MODERN MARVEL
58 Hook • 12.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: R2X Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000 Dull
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.050
An early-rolling, low-RG, arcing hybrid for most medium to heavy patterns.

HAMMER
NAIL, SMOKE AND FIRE
45 Hook • 16.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Shredder Pearl Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Polished
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.042
Provides excellent length with power for light to light-medium oil patterns.

LORD FIELD
NASTY
51 Hook • 14 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Proton Pearl Particle
Box Finish: 2000 Abralon
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.047
A slow-response pearl particle for a smooth breakpoint shape on medium oil.

STORM
MANIC
52.5 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: R25 Solid Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.53 • RG Differential: 0.045
A controllable solid reactive with a slow and smooth down-lane motion.

STORM
MODERN MARVEL
58 Hook • 12.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: R2X Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000 Dull
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.050
An early-rolling, low-RG, arcing hybrid for most medium to heavy patterns.

HAMMER
NAIL, SMOKE AND FIRE
45 Hook • 16.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Shredder Pearl Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Polished
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.042
Provides excellent length with power for light to light-medium oil patterns.

LORD FIELD
NASTY
51 Hook • 14 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Proton Pearl Particle
Box Finish: 2000 Abralon
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.047
A slow-response pearl particle for a smooth breakpoint shape on medium oil.
### COLUMBIA 300

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<td><strong>OMEN</strong></td>
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### EBONITE

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### MOTIV

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<td><strong>Ripsaw</strong></td>
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**ROTO GRIP**

**SCREAM**
- **SEPTEMBER 2012**
- 44 Hook • 17 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: 42L Pearl
- Box Finish: 1500 Polish
- RG: 2.57 • RG Differential: 0.042
- An extremely versatile, low-flaring pearl for rev-dominant types.

**SHATTER**
- **SEPTEMBER 2012**
- 48 Hook • 16 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: 51 ML Pearl
- Box Finish: 1500 Polish
- RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.042
- A later, hard-arcing pearl for many light to medium oil volumes.

**SHOUT**
- **SEPTEMBER 2012**
- 45 Hook • 16.5 Length • 13.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: 45L Solid
- Box Finish: 1500 Polish
- RG: 2.57 • RG Differential: 0.022
- Roto Grip’s least-hooking solid reactive for a controllable, smooth ball motion.

**SIGMA HYBRID**
- **MAY 2012**
- 52 Hook • 13 Length • 13.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Atomix Hybrid
- Box Finish: 1000 Wet Sand
- RG: 2.47 • RG Differential: 0.047
- A true benchmark hybrid for bowlers looking for a smooth breakpoint shape.

**SLANT HD**
- **AUGUST 2012**
- 53 Hook • 15 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Pearl HD Reactive
- Box Finish: 1500 Polished
- RG: 2.47 • RG Differential: 0.054
- Radical’s latest breaking and most skid/flip pearl for medium oil.

**SLANT HYBRID**
- **JANUARY 2012**
- 53 Hook • 16 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Hybrid Soaker Reactive
- Box Finish: 1500 Polish
- RG: 2.47 • RG Differential: 0.045
- A true skid/flip hybrid for medium-heavier oil patterns.

**STEALTH BOMBER**
- **AUGUST 2012**
- 59 Hook • 12 Length • 16 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: High Friction Hybrid
- Box Finish: Neat-E
- RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.050
- A fast-revving super-hooker for higher ball speeds and heavier oil.

**STEALTH BOMBER PEARL**
- **DECEMBER 2012**
- 52 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Bleeder 9.7 Reactive
- Box Finish: Neat 5000
- RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.050
- One of the most versatile pearls, with a strong-arcing or flip breakpoint.

**SURE THING**
- **JULY 2012**
- 54 Hook • 13.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: S57 Hybrid
- Box Finish: 2000 Abralon
- RG: 2.49 • RG Differential: 0.043
- An aggressive hybrid for medium-heavier oil patterns.

**TABOO DEEP PURPLE**
- **SEPTEMBER 2012**
- 52 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Grand Theft IV Pearl
- Box Finish: 500, 1k, 2k, 2k
- RG: 2.5 • RG Differential: 0.060
- Hammer’s premium pearl asymmetric for medium-to heavier oil.

**TABOO JET BLACK**
- **FEBRUARY 2012**
- 48.5 Hook • 16 Length • 16.5 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: GTR III Solid Reactive
- Box Finish: 2000, Polish
- RG: 2.5 • RG Differential: 0.060
- One of Hammer’s best and most popular medium-oil asymmetrics.

**THE CLASSIC**
- **DECEMBER 2012**
- 50 Hook • 15 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
- Cover: Hybrid React Tack
- Box Finish: 1500 Polish
- RG: 2.51 • RG Differential: 0.052
- Provides a very controllable and consistent ball motion shape for many medium oil patterns.
900 GLOBAL

THE LOOK
56 Hook • 14 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Grand Theft Reactive
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k, 2k Abranet
RG: 2.51 • RG Differential: 0.050
A strong mid-lane motion hybrid with a controlled breakpoint shape.

TRAIN
55 Hook • 12.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: S76 Reactive
Box Finish: E Grit 1500, Dull
RG: 2.5 • RG Differential: 0.054
An early-rolling, smooth-arcing hybrid for most heavier oil patterns.

MOTIV

THRASH
51.5 Hook • 13 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Z-Max Solid
Box Finish: 1000 Sanded
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.043
A slow-response solid for bowlers who want to play more up the lane.

STORM

TROPICAL BREEZE BLACK/CHERRY
45.5 Hook • 16 Length • 14 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Reactor Hybrid
Box Finish: 1500 Polish
RG: 2.57 • RG Differential: 0.009
A dry-lane ball for those wanting resin hitting power with urethane control.

MOTIV

VENOM STRIKE
53 Hook • 14 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Atomix Arc Solid
Box Finish: 3000
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.034
A slower-response solid for most light to medium oil volumes.

COLUMBIA 300

THE CLASSIC U2
44 Hook • 14 Length • 12.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Classic Urethane
Box Finish: 500, 1k, 2k
RG: 2.46 • RG Differential: 0.040
Columbia 300’s solid urethane remake, featuring the popular U2 core.

TORRID
46 Hook • 16 Length • 15.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Reactive Pearl With Mica
Box Finish: 1500, Polished
RG: 2.46 • RG Differential: 0.048
A strong pearl with mica for those who love the original Red Heat.

RADICAL

TIME’S UP SOLID
50 Hook • 13 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Solid Reactive
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.53 • RG Differential: 0.041
A controllable solid with a smooth downlane motion for most medium patterns.

TROPICAL HEAT HYBRID 4K
50 Hook • 14.5 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Reactor Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.038
A very versatile hybrid, with a modified light-bulb core, for many medium patterns.

HAMILTON

TNBA RHYTHM
50.5 Hook • 14 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Grand Theft Reactive
Box Finish: 800, 1k, 2k, 2k Abranet
RG: 2.48 • RG Differential: 0.045
An aggressive solid reactive for medium-heavy oil volumes.

STORM

TROPICAL HEAT HYBRID
50 Hook • 14 Length • 15 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Reactor Hybrid
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.55 • RG Differential: 0.040
Provides a low-RG skid/flip ball reaction on light to medium oil volumes.

LORD FIELD

TORMENT
47 Hook • 14.5 Length • 14.5 Breakpoint Shape
Cover: Micro Burst
Box Finish: 4000 Abralon
RG: 2.51 • RG Differential: 0.044
A light- to medium-oil workhorse with a smooth-arcing breakpoint shape.
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