

Road to Reading Lanes

Adjustments through transition on a house shot or strong blend.

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Once you have figured out the best place to play on a lane condition that has a strong blend or a house shot you have to start thinking about how you are going to adjust as the lanes change.

Starting out on the outside edge of the area that has the most oil on the lane initially changes two ways. First the oil starts to get pushed down the lane. This happens because your strike ball picked up oil in the heads and mid lane and moves it down the lane to where there is less oil and deposits some of it past where the oil ends.

Also during a match, the spare balls going across lane also move a lot of oil to the back end. So for the right handers every time a right hander rolls their spare ball at the right corner they carry oil down the lane toward the right corner. The spare balls create more carry down than the strike balls do ball for ball, but combined they change the reaction of the ball down the lane.

Initially, the lane actually tightens up, which can give you the feeling that the pattern is getting longer. At the same time your strike ball is removing oil from the heads and mid lane. The reaction you start to get is the ball starts losing rotation a little earlier because of oil depletion in the front, yet at the same time the ball has a tendency to finish less because of the oil moving down past the end of the pattern. Your carry changes and it gets a little harder to control the pocket.

This is where adjustments get tricky. Remember we are talking about a strong blend or house condition, not a flat US Open pattern.

The natural reaction to your ball losing rotation early because the oil is being depleted in the heads and mid lane is to move left. The type of move you make is important. On the more blended conditions we want to initially make parallel moves like one and one, two and two to keep your arc of the ball the same. Initially you don't want to make angle changes such as one and zero, two and one, or three and one, etc.

The idea on blends is to initially follow the oil line in without making an angle change. You are getting closer to the pocket by using parallel moves which requires less hook and you

are using the heavier oil you are moving into and the carry down to keep the ball from hooking too much. This is the first method of adjustment to make on your typical strong blend and house shot.

The second method of adjustment to keep your angle/ trajectory of the ball the same is to increase your speed to hold the ball on line to play the same place on the lane. If you are not the type of bowler that can comfortably increase your speed you need to use different adjustments after the parallel moves don't work.

The third adjustment to play the lane the same is a ball change. For those that can't increase speed going to a weaker ball to play the same angle is a good option.

The fourth adjustment is to change your release by either using more loft, reducing your rev rate or rolling the ball more end over end. These types of moves are more complicated.

All of these moves are for your typical house shot to keep you playing on top of the oil line and playing the same angle.

