Welcome to the PBA Experience, a USBC Sport Bowling program. Here’s your chance to face the exact lane oil patterns used on the Lumber Liquidators Professional Bowlers Association Tour. Put yourself in the shoes of your favorite PBA pro and compare your game to the world’s greatest bowlers.

This inside information straight from the pros will help you break down the oil pattern, choose the right equipment to match up with your bowling style and give you tips and insight to help you tame the Chameleon.

Chameleons change color to outsmart their enemies. To excel on this pattern, bowlers must be versatile in many styles of play.

Many PBA exempt players like the Chameleon pattern because it can be attacked from multiple angles. This pattern has been particularly popular among left-handed bowlers.

What Wes Malott says...

“Have an open mind and be willing to try something new (additional angles), and be confident with whatever that change may be.”

– Wes Malott

Past champions on Chameleon include:

• Michael Machuga
• Michael Haugen Jr.
• Danny Wiseman and Michael Fagan
• Rhino Page
How the pros play the Chameleon:

How PBA straight players (less than 250 revolution rate) attack Chameleon:

Where to play: Straighter players start between the channel and first arrow if the surface will allow. If that does not work, they usually end up in the track area (boards 8–12) of the lane.

Adjusting to carry down: Most players change to more aggressive balls and stay in the same area, use more aggressive equipment and move slightly deeper or change to weaker equipment and move further outside.

Adjusting to lane break down: Because this pattern allows bowlers to play many different angles, adjusting to breakdown often is determined by the lane surface and the other bowlers on the pair. Bowlers playing the track area or deeper should consider moving to the outside portion of the lane. Bowlers already playing out should switch to a weaker ball and/or move deeper.

How PBA tweeener players (250–350 rev rate) attack Chameleon:

Where to play: Most right-handers begin somewhere between the fifth and 12th boards and move deeper once the lanes break down. Left-handers all start close to the first arrow (boards four to six).

Adjusting to carry down: Most players either change to more aggressive balls and stay in the same area, use more aggressive equipment and move slightly deeper or change to weaker equipment and move further outside.

Adjusting to lane break down: Some tweener stay in the same area, but most move deeper on the lane. A majority of the bowlers change to weaker balls, but some stay with the same equipment or even switch to more aggressive balls to achieve better pin carry.

How PBA power players (350 rev rate or more) attack Chameleon:

Where to play: Most power players start in the track area or deeper; however, this pattern does allow for many different angles. Several bowlers recommend being open-minded when looking for the best place to play.

Adjusting to carry down: Due to the nature of this pattern, there is no consistent adjustment among the high-rev professionals. Responses vary dramatically. The lane surface and how other bowlers on the pair are playing the pattern will dictate how to adjust. Don’t be afraid to try different lines and watch successful bowlers with similar styles.

Adjusting to lane break down: A majority of the players move deeper on the lane and/or change to weaker balls.

For more information on how to match up your style and equipment with the Chameleon, visit the Sport Bowling section of bowl.com or PBA.com.

Length: 39 feet

Description: The Chameleon utilizes a “retro” approach to pattern design. Instead of smoothing out the oil on the lane, increased volumes are placed in zones, so players are encouraged to play a specific area of the lane. Bowlers can get to that area from multiple angles depending on their individual styles. The scoring pace is medium to low because bowlers often are required to make large adjustments – often more than five boards at a time – as they move from zone to zone. The ability to make those moves effectively is crucial for any bowler who hopes to stay out of trouble and conquer the Chameleon.

Ball types: All styles of players agree that medium balls (mild covers with strong drill patterns or strong covers with weak drill patterns) work best to start on the Chameleon pattern.