Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6047(e), 6057(b), and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2011

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2011 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2011 and ending 12/31/2011

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan;
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan; or
- [X] a single-employer plan;
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report;
- [ ] the final return/report;
- [ ] an amended return/report;
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months).

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558;
- [ ] automatic extension;
- [ ] the DFVC program;
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2004

2a Plan sponsor's name and address, including room or suite number (Employer, if for single-employer plan)

ERNIE BALL, INC.

53-973 POLK ST.
COACHELLA, CA 92236-3816

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 95-2378345

2c Sponsor's telephone number 760-775-4222

2d Business code (see instructions) 811210

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/15/2012	JEFF WHITMORE
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address (if same as plan sponsor, enter "Same")
ERNIE BALL, INC.

53-973 POLK ST.
COACHELLA, CA 92236-3816

3b Administrator's EIN
95-2378345

3c Administrator's telephone number
760-775-4222

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

4b EIN

4c PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	400
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year (welfare plans complete only lines **6a, 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a	Active participants	**6a**	379
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	0
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	379
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	379
g	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	379
h	Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	0
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	X	Insurance
(2)		Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	X	Trust
(4)		General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)	X	Insurance
(2)		Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	X	Trust
(4)		General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

(1)	X	**R** (Retirement Plan Information)
(2)		**MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
(3)		**SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

(1)	X		**H** (Financial Information)
(2)			**I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3)	X	1	**A** (Insurance Information)
(4)			**C** (Service Provider Information)
(5)	X		**D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
(6)			**G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

SCHEDULE A (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Insurance Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).

OMB No. 1210-0110

2011

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2011 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2011 and ending 12/31/2011

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I **Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions** Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
01-0233346	65838	56587	345	01/01/2011	12/31/2011

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in item 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
0	20205

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid
MERRILL LYNCH LIFE AGENCY
74800 STATE HIGHWAY 111
INDIAN WELLS, CA 92260

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	(e) Organization code
	3978	COMMISSION	3

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid
RIFFKIND SCOTT, INC.
78678 SUNRISE CANYON AVE.
PALM DESERT, CA 92211

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	(e) Organization code
	10400	THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION	5

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

HIGHTOWER SECURITIES LLC
74800 STATE HIGHWAY 111
INDIAN WELLS, CA 92260

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	
	5827	BROKER COMMISSION	3

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	10788
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end	5	3020384

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount.	6d	

Specify nature of costs ▶

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity

(3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan check here ▶ ☐

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee

(3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ GROUP ANNUITY CONTRACT

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	0
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	0		
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	0		
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	0		
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	0		
	▶				
	(6) Total additions			7c(6)	0
d	Total of balance and additions (add **b** and **c(6)**).			7d	0
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	0		
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	0		
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	0		
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	0		
	▶				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	0
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract **e(5)** from **d**)			7f	0

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

a ☐ Health (other than dental or vision) **b** ☐ Dental **c** ☐ Vision **d** ☐ Life insurance
e ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness) **f** ☐ Long-term disability **g** ☐ Supplemental unemployment **h** ☐ Prescription drug
i ☐ Stop loss (large deductible) **j** ☐ HMO contract **k** ☐ PPO contract **l** ☐ Indemnity contract
m ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:				
a Premiums: (1) Amount received	**9a(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	**9a(2)**			
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	**9a(3)**			
(4) Earned (**(1)** + **(2)** - **(3)**)			**9a(4)**	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	**9b(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	**9b(2)**			
(3) Incurred claims (add **(1)** and **(2)**)			**9b(3)**	0
(4) Claims charged			**9b(4)**	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --				
(A) Commissions	**9c(1)(A)**			
(B) Administrative service or other fees	**9c(1)(B)**			
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	**9c(1)(C)**			
(D) Other expenses	**9c(1)(D)**			
(E) Taxes	**9c(1)(E)**			
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	**9c(1)(F)**			
(G) Other retention charges	**9c(1)(G)**			
(H) Total retention			**9c(1)(H)**	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)			**9c(2)**	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement			**9d(1)**	
(2) Claim reserves			**9d(2)**	
(3) Other reserves			**9d(3)**	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in **c(2)**.)			**9e**	
10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:				
a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier			**10a**	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, item 2 above, report amount.			**10b**	

Specify nature of costs ▶

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2011

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2011 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2011 and ending 12/31/2011

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2045

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	26703

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2040

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	15277

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DRETIREMENT LIVING AT 2035

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103- 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	65160

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2030

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103- 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	5058

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2025

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103- 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	2144

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2020

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103- 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	40536

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2015

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103- 12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
01-0233346-000	P	1193

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RETIREMENT LIVING AT 2010

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3632

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LIFESTYLE AGGRESSIVE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 111759

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LIFESTYLE GROWTH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 794414

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LIFESTYLE BALANCED

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 902125

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LIFESTYLE MODERATE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 507167

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LIFESTYLE CONSRVATIVE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 135948

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: NATURAL RESOURCES FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 20304

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INTL SMALL CAP FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2158

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2570

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: EUROPACIFIC GROWTH FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2662

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLUE CHIP GROWTH FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3134
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FUNDAMENTAL ALL CAP CORE		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 12844
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID CAP INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 10
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID VALUE FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1932
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: CAPITAL APPRECIATION FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 5
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TEMPLETON WORLD		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 959
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: ALL CAP CORE FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 4
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FUNDAMENTAL INVESTORS		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 15258
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TOTAL STOCK MARKET INDEX FUND		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 4
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: THE GROWTH FUND OF AMERICA		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO		
c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 23941

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INVESTMENT COMPANY OF AMERICA

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1011

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN BALANCED FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1070

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACKROCK GLOBAL ALLOCATION

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 33396

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: HIGH YIELD FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3161

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: U.S. HIGH YIELD BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3293

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: GLOBAL BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 30842

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: STRATEGIC INCOME OPP FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 26537

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: ACTIVE BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1112

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: INVESTMENT QUAL BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1137

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: CORE BOND FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 6672

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JOHN HANCOCK STABLE VALUE

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 214250

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FUNDAMENTAL ALL CAP CORE FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE CO

c EIN-PN 01-0233346-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 12844

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN
a Plan name	
b Name of plan sponsor	**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2011

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2011 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2011 and ending 12/31/2011

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	10649	10926
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	117941	0
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	0	0
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	0	0
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	129869	166276
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	0	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	2235238	3020384
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	170045	0

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	0	0
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)	0	0
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e	0	0
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	2663742	3197586
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g	0	0
h Operating payables	1h	0	0
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i	0	0
j Other liabilities	1j	0	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	2663742	3197586

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	78776	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	421636	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	242139	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		742551
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	0	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)	0	
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)	0	
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)	0	
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	6501	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		6501
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)	0	
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)	0	
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	0	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		0
(3) Rents	2b(3)		0
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	0	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)	0	
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
2b **(5)** Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	0	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		0
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		-86676
c Other income	2c		0
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		662376
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	108758	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		108758
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		0
h Interest expense	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: **(1)** Professional fees	2i(1)	10400	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	0	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	9374	
(4) Other	2i(4)	0	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		19774
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		128532
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		533844
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [ ] Unqualified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [X] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? [X] Yes [ ] No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: FORMAN, RICHTER & RUBIN, ACP **(2)** EIN: 95-3254558

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete 4l.

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a	Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	4a		X	
b	Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	4b		X	
c	Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	4c		X	
d	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	4d		X	
e	Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	X		300000
f	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	4f		X	
g	Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4g		X	
h	Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4h		X	
i	Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4i		X	
j	Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4j		X	
k	Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	4k		X	
l	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		X	
n	If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	4n			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year **Amount:**

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2011

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2011 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2011 and ending 12/31/2011

A Name of plan
ERNIE BALL, INC. 401K PROFIT SHARING PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
ERNIE BALL, INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions **1** 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 01-0233346

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year. **3**

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section of 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 **a** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under Section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 **a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a The current year	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If item 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete items (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate item 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

ERNIE BALL INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2011 and 2010

ERNIE BALL INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

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Forman
Richter
&Rubin

An Accountancy Corporation
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustees
Ernie Ball Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule of **Ernie Ball Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan** as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years then ended as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Plan's management.

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520. 103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the investment information summarized in Note 3, which was certified by **John Hancock Life Insurance Company**, the trustee of the Plan, except for comparing such information with the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The plan administrator has obtained a certification from the trustees as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years then ended, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the trustees is complete and accurate.

Because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were unable to, and do not, express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements and schedule taken as a whole. The supplemental schedules on page 10 - 11, together referred to as "additional information," are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security act of 1974. The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedules, other than that derived from the investment information certified by the trustees, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

Forman, Richter & Rubin

FORMAN, RICHTER & RUBIN
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Covina, California
October 4, 2012

ERNIE BALL INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

December 31, 2011 and 2010

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value (Notes 2 & 3)	$ 3,020,384	$ 2,523,224
Cash Account	10,926	10,649
Loans to Participants	166,276	129,869
TOTAL ASSETS	**3,197,586**	**2,663,742**
LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	**$ 3,197,586**	**$ 2,663,742**

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements
are an integral part of this statement.

See Independent Auditors' Report

ERNIE BALL INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Year Ended December 31, 2011

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
INVESTMENT INCOME:	
Net realized and unrealized (depreciation) in fair value of investments	$ (86,676)
Interest and dividends	6,501
TOTAL INVESTMENT (LOSS)	(80,175)
Less: Investment and administrative expenses	(19,774)
Employee contributions	421,636
Employer contributions	78,776
Employee rollovers	242,139
TOTAL ADDITIONS	**642,602**
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Benefits paid to participants	**108,758**
NET INCREASE	**533,844**
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	
Beginning of Year	2,663,742
AT END OF YEAR	**$ 3,197,586**

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements
are an integral part of this statement.

See Independent Auditors' Report

ERNIE BALL INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Years Ended December 31, 2011 and 2010

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the **Ernie Ball Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan** provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

A. General - The plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of the Company who are age 21 or older and have completed one year of service in which at least 1,000 hours are worked. Upon meeting the eligibility requirements, employees are eligible to enter the Plan on January 1 or July 1. It is subject to the provision of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

The Company pays most administrative expenses of the Plan. Certain investment management fees and other charges paid to the custodian are offset against fund performance in the net appreciation in fair value of investments or against benefits paid to participants in the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits and are not, therefore, separately reflected as administrative expenses.

The Plan is exposed to credit risk in the event of default by the issuers of the investments to the extent of amounts recorded on the statements of net assets available for benefits.

B. Contributions - Each pay period the participants may contribute between 1 - 100% of their eligible compensation to the Plan subject to the limits of the Internal Revenue Service. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan offered a group of mutual funds as administered by John Hancock Life Insurance Company.

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Company can make matching and profit sharing contributions, which are also participant directed. Participants must complete at least 1,000 hours of service during the Plan year, and be employed as of the last day of the Plan year, to be eligible to receive any profit sharing contributions. The Company matches 25% of employee contributions, up to 6% of eligible compensation deferred to the plan. The matching contributions made to the Plan for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 totaled $78,776 and $74,827, repectively. There were no profit sharing contributions for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010.

C. Participant's Accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the participants' contribution and allocations of the Company's contribution, Plan earnings, and charged with an allocation of plan fund administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

D. Vesting - Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company contributions portion of their accounts plus earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100% vested after six years of credited service. Employer contributions, if any, vest equally over a six-year period. A participant is also 100% vested upon normal retirement age, death or disability.

1. **Description of Plan – (continued)**

E. Participant Loan - Participants can borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $500 up to a maximum of $50,000 reduced by the highest outstanding loan balance during the prior twelve months or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from 1 - 5 years at a reasonable interest rate determined by the administrator and are secured by their account balance. Interest rates range from 4.25% to 9.25% annually. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

F. Payment of Benefits - Upon termination, death, disability, or retirement, a participant's account is distributed in a single lump-sum payment if the balance is less than $1,000. If the account balance is more than $1,000, the participant may choose from a number of different benefit options (some of which may require a spousal consent). In the case of death, the distribution shall be made to the participant's beneficiary.

G. Forfeited Accounts - At December 31, 2011 and 2010, forfeited accounts totaled $10,926 and $10,649, respectively. These accounts will be used to reduce future employer contributions or pay for administrative expenses.

2. **Summary of Accounting Policies**

The following are the significant accounting policies followed by the Plan:

A. Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting.

B. Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

C. Investment Valuation and Income Recognition – The Plan's investments were held by John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the trustee. Amounts invested in the investment funds are stated at fair market value, as determined by the trustee, generally based on quoted market prices. Participant loans are valued at cost, which approximates fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest is recorded on accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Capital gains distributions and realized and unrealized gain or losses on investments are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

2. **Summary of Accounting Policies – (continued)**

D. Fair Value Measurement – The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits. The methods used to measure fair value may produce an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine fair value of certain financial instruments could result in different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The fair value measurement accounting literature established a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the input to valuation techniques used to measure fair value which classifies these inputs into the following hierarchy:

- Level One Inputs – Quoted prices for identical instruments in active market.
- Level Two Inputs – Quoted prices for identical instruments in active market; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model derived valuations whose inputs are observable or whose significant value drivers are observable.
- Level Three Inputs – Instruments with primarily unobservable value drivers.

The Plan uses appropriate valuation techniques based on the available inputs to measure the fair value of its investments. When available the Plan measures fair value using Level 1 inputs because they generally provide the most reliable evidence of fair value. No Level 2 inputs were available to the Plan, and Level 3 inputs were only used when level 1 or 2 were not available.

E. Payment of Benefits – Benefits are recorded when paid.

3. **Information Prepared and Certified by the Trustees (Unaudited)**

The following information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedules was obtained from data that has been prepared and certified to as complete and accurate in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 by John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the trustee for the Plan, respectively.

	2011	2010
Investments, at fair value:		
Mutual Funds	$ 3,020,384	$ 2,523,224
Participant Loans	166,276	129,869
Investment Income	6,501	5,813
Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair market value	(86,676)	260,126

4. Investments

John Hancock Life Insurance Company, custodian and record keeper for the Plan, held the Plan's investments and executed all investment transactions. The fair value of individual investments that represent 5% or more of Net Assets Available for Benefits are as follows:

	2011	2010
JH Lifestyle Moderate	$ 507,167	$ 345,368
JH Lifestyle Balanced	902,125	938,057
JH Lifestyle Growth	794,414	652,696
JH Stable Value Fund	214,250	170,045

During 2011 and 2010, the Plan's Mutual Fund investments (including gains and losses on investment bought and sold, as well as held during the period) (depreciated)/appreciated in value by ($86,676) and $260,126, respectively.

Investments made during 2011 and 2010 consists of contributions made by the employees to various mutual funds and are administered by the John Hancock Life Insurance Company.

5. Fair Value Measurements

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits. The following methods are used to measure fair value that produces an amount that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values.

Level 1 Fair Value Measurements
The fair value of mutual funds is based on quoted net asset values of the shares held by the Plan at year-end.

Level 3 Fair Value Measurements
The participant loans are not actively traded and significant other observable inputs are not available. Thus the fair value of the participant loans is measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued interest.

The following tables set forth, by level with the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2011 and 2010:

		Fair Value Measurement Using:	
	Fair Value	Level One	Level Three
December 31, 2011:			
Mutual Funds	$ 3,020,384	$ 3,020,384	$ -
Cash Account	10,926	10,926	-
Participant loans	166,276	-	166,276
TOTALS	**$ 3,197,586**	**$ 3,031,310**	**$ 166,276**

5. Fair Value Measurements – (continued)

		Fair Value Measurement Using:	
	Fair Value	Level One	Level Three
December 31, 2010:			
Mutual Funds	$ 2,523,224	$ 2,523,224	$ -
Cash Account	10,649	10,649	-
Participant loans	129,869	-	129,869
TOTALS	**$ 2,663,742**	**$ 2,533,873**	**$ 129,869**

Fair Value Measurements Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level Three):

	2011	2010
Beginning balance	$ 129,869	$ 106,797
Purchases, sales, issuance, settlements, (net)	36,407	23,072
TOTALS	**$ 166,276**	**$ 129,869**

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 are reported in net appreciation in fair value of the investments.

6. Related-Party Transactions

The Plan invests in shares of mutual funds managed by John Hancock Life Insurance Company, custodian and record keeper for the Plan.

7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

8. Tax Status

The Plan was established effective January 1, 2004.

The Plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated April 10, 2009 stating that the written form of the underlying volume submitter plan document is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), and that any employer adopting this form of the Plan will be considered to have a plan qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code. Therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualifications. The plan administrator is not aware of any course of action or series of events that it believes would adversely affect the Plan's qualified status.

8. Tax Status – (continued)

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the plan and recognize any tax liability (asset) if the plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2011, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of liability (asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The plan is subject to routine audits by taxing authorities; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2008.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

10. Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated events and transactions occurring subsequent to the statement of net assets available for benefits date of December 31, 2011 for items that should potentially be recognized or disclosed in these financial statements. The evaluation was conducted through October 4, 2012, the date these financial statements were available to be issued. No such material events or transactions were noted to have occurred.

ERNIE BALL INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
EIN 95-2378345, Plan 001

Additional Information – Investments and Participants Loans

December 31, 2011

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT – AT YEAR END

Form 5500 Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i

(a)	(b)	(c)		(e)
	Identity of Issue	**Description of Investment**		**Current Value**
*	JH Retirement Living 2045	2,655	shares	$ 26,702
*	JH Retirement Living 2040	1,517	shares	15,277
*	JH Retirement Living 2035	6,469	shares	65,160
*	JH Retirement Living 2030	504	shares	5,058
*	JH Retirement Living 2025	210	shares	2,144
*	JH Retirement Living 2020	3,832	shares	40,536
*	JH Retirement Living 2015	110	shares	1,193
*	JH Retirement Living 2010	326	shares	3,632
*	JH Lifestyle Aggressive	3,964	shares	111,759
*	JH Lifestyle Growth	25,626	shares	794,414
*	JH Lifestyle Balanced	26,440	shares	902,125
*	JH Lifestyle Moderate	13,721	shares	507,167
*	JH Lifestyle Conservative	3,422	shares	135,948
*	JH Natural Resources Fund	527	shares	20,304
*	JH International Small Cap Fund	85	shares	2,157
*	JH Mid Cap Stock Fund	1	shares	4
*	JH Science and Technology Fund	144	shares	2,570
	EuroPacific Growth Fund	56	shares	2,661
*	JH Blue Chip Growth Fund	128	shares	3,134
*	JH Mid Cap Index Fund	1	shares	10
*	JH Optimized All Cap Fund	647	shares	12,844
*	JH Mid Cap Value Fund	188	shares	2,932
*	JH Capital Appreciation Fund	1	shares	5
	Templeton World Fund	29	shares	959
*	JH All Cap Core Fund	1	shares	4
	Fundamental Investors	412	shares	15,259
*	JH Total Stock Market Index Fund	1	shares	4
	The Growth Fund of America	750	shares	23,941
	The Investment Company of America	28	shares	1,011
	American Balanced Fund	45	shares	1,070
	Black Rock Global Allocation	1,672	shares	33,396
*	JH High Yield Fund	124	shares	3,161
*	JH U.S. High Yield Bond Fund	170	shares	3,293

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Additional Information – Investments and Participants Loans

December 31, 2011

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT – AT YEAR END – (CONTINUED)

Form 5500 Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i – (continued)

*	JH Global Bond Fund	1,257	shares		30,842
*	JH Strategic Income Opp Fund	1,301	shares		26,537
*	JH Active Bond Fund	53	shares		1,112
*	JH Investment Qual Bond Fund	49	shares		1,137
*	JH Core Bond Fund	372	shares		6,672
*	JH Stable Value Fund	173,043	shares		214,250
	Total Mutual Funds			**$**	**3,020,384**
	Participant Loans	Interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.25%, various maturities			166,276
	Cash Account				10,926
	Total			**$**	**3,197,586**

* Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan