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

2014

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2014 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2014 and ending 12/31/2014

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan;
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions); 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; include room or suite number (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
ERNIE BALL, INC.

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

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
95-2378345

2c Plan 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.	09/30/2015	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

Preparer's name (including firm name, if applicable) and address (include room or suite number) (optional)

Preparer's telephone number (optional)

3a	Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b**	Administrator's EIN
		3c	Administrator's telephone number
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:	**4b**	EIN
a	Sponsor's name	**4c**	PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	467
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	389
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	397
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	65
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	462
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	462
g	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	346
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 Characteristics 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 Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)		**9b** Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1)	[X] Insurance	**(1)**	[X] Insurance
(2)	[ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	**(2)**	[ ] Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[ ] Trust	**(3)**	[ ] Trust
(4)	[ ] General assets of the sponsor	**(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)** [ ] **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)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) .....…… ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ……..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2014 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2014 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

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

2014

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2014 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2014 and ending 12/31/2014

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	346	01/01/2014	12/31/2014

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 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	21832

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

HIGHTOWER SECURITIES
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	
	13907	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		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
	7925	THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION	5

(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	

(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**	0
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end	**5**	4469214

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) [X] 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) [X] 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)**			
	(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 lines **7b** and **7c(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 line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			**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 line **9c(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, line 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

2014

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2014 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2014 and ending 12/31/2014

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: JH THRU 2050 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	10436

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2045 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	63583

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2040 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	45604

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2035 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	98121

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2030 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	13920

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2025 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	9829

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2020 ACTIVE STRATEGY

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	67069

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2015 ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	3461
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH THRU 2010 ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	5245
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LS AGG ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	156991
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LS GROWTH ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	1436378
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LS BALANCED ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	1278492
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LS MODERATE ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	818133
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LS CONSERVATIVE ACTIVE STRATEGY			
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)	215703
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH 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)	10419
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH INTERNATIONAL 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)	4540
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: VANGUARD SMALL CAP CROWTH INDEX			
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)	1113

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) 16808
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) 1651
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: EURO PACIFIC 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) 4318
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: T. ROWE PRICE HEALTH SCI		
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) 11414
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) 16865
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: MID VLAUE 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) 5832
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: 500 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) 9791
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) 1971
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLACK ROCK 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) 10627
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) 1833

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) 4596

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: JH 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) 1351

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: US JIGH 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) 4630

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) 1441

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) 1476

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) 12317

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: STABLE 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) 350078

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

2014

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2014 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2014 and ending 12/31/2014

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	0	847
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)	0	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)	215554	259784
(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)	4485462	4696036
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other	1c(15)	0	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	4701016	4956667
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	4701016	4956667

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)	79423	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	410051	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	33519	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)	0	
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		522993
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)	12015	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	0	
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		12015
(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
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)	0	
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	171809	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		171809

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(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)		0
c Other income	2c		3276
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		710093
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	443825	
(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)		443825
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)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	7925	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	2692	
(4) Other	2i(4)	0	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		10617
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		454442
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		255651
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)** ☒ Disclaimer **(4)** ☐ Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? ☒ 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 lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 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	

			Yes	No	Amount
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		500000
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?
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year..... ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **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)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (see ERISA section 4021)? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

Part V Trust Information (optional)

6a Name of trust	**6b** Trust's EIN

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2014 and 2013

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

Report on the Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the accompanying financial statements of **Ernie Ball, Inc. 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan,** which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on conducting the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, however, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion.

Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion

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 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 financial statements. 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 trustee as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and for the year ended December 31, 2014, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the trustee is complete and accurate.

Disclaimer of Opinion

Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we have not been able to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on these financial statements.

Other Matter

The supplemental schedule of Schedule of Assets Held for Investment at Year End for the year ended December 31, 2014 is required by the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and are presented for the purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion paragraph, we do not express an opinion on the supplemental schedule referred to above.

Report on Form and Content in Compliance with DOL Rules and Regulations

The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule, other than that derived from the information certified by the trustee, 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
August 28, 2015

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

December 31, 2014 and 2013

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value (Notes 2, 3 and 4)		
Pooled separate accounts	$ 4,345,958	$ 4,194,168
Common collective investment trust	355,025	293,974
Total Investments	4,700,983	4,488,142
Cash account (Note 1)	847	-
Notes receivable from participants	259,784	215,554
Net Assets Reflecting All Investments	**4,956,667**	**4,703,696**
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investments	(4,947)	(2,680)
LIABILITIES	**-**	**-**
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	**$ 4,956,667**	**$ 4,701,016**

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

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Year Ended December 31, 2014

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
INVESTMENT INCOME:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments (Note 3)	$ 171,809
Interest on notes receivable from participants	12,015
Other income	3,276
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	**187,100**
CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Employee contributions	410,051
Employer contributions	79,423
Employee rollovers	33,519
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	**522,993**
TOTAL ADDITIONS	**710,093**
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Benefits paid to participants	443,825
Investment and administrative expenses	10,617
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	**454,442**
NET INCREASE	**255,651**
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
BEGINNING OF YEAR	**4,701,016**
AT END OF YEAR	**$ 4,956,667**

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

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the **Ernie Ball Inc.** (the Company) **401(k) Profit Sharing Plan** (the 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 was established on January 1, 2004 as a defined contribution plan under the provision of Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), which includes a qualified cash or deferred arrangement as described in Section 401(k) of the IRC. The Company contracted with John Hancock Life Insurance Company to provide Plan recordkeeping, administrative and investment services, and to serve as custodian of the Plan's assets. Plan compliance and administrative services are performed by a third party administration firm. The trustees of the Plan are officers of the Company. The Plan is subject to the provision of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Loan origination fees and asset charges on contract accounts are paid directly by Plan participants. All other administrative expenses are paid directly by the Company. 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 Statement 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. Eligibility - 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.

C. Contributions - Each pay period the participants may contribute either a dollar amount or percentage of their eligible annual compensation to the Plan subject to the limits allowable under the Internal Revenue Code. 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 currently offers various mutual funds and an investment contract as investment options for the participants, which are 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 year ended December 31, 2014 totaled $79,423. There were no profit sharing contributions for the year ended December 31, 2014.

1. Description of Plan (continued)

D. Participant's Accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the participant's 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.

E. Vesting - Participants are immediately vested in their voluntary contributions and roll over accounts 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. A participant is also 100% vested upon normal retirement age, death or disability.

F. Notes Receivable from Participants - 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 5.25% annually. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

G. 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.

H. Forfeited Accounts – Forfeitures of non-vested employer contributions, if any, shall be used to reduce employer contributions for the plan year in which they occurred or thereafter. As of December 31, 2014 and 2013, there was $871 and $-0-, respectively, in forfeited non-vested accounts.

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 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits presents the fair value of the investment contracts as well as the adjustment of the fully benefit-responsive investment contracts from fair value to contract value. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

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

B. Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. 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 custodian. Investments are reported at fair value, as determined by the Plan's custodian. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 2(F) for discussion of fair value measurements.

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. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

D. Notes Receivable from Participants - Notes receivable from participants are valued at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on accrual basis. Related fees are charged directly to the borrowing participant's account and are included in administrative expenses when incurred. Delinquent loans to participants are recorded as a distribution based upon the terms of the plan documents.

E. Excess Contributions Payable - Amounts payable to participants in excess of the amount allowed by the IRS are recorded as a liability with a corresponding reduction to contributions. There were no excess contributions for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

F. Fair Value Measurement - Accounting Standards Codification ("ASC") 820 provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (level 1 measurements) and lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under ASC 820 are described below:

- Level One - Inputs to valuation methodology are unadjusted prices for identical instruments in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
- Level Two - Inputs to valuation methodology include (a) quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets; (b) quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; (c) inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for identical instrument; and (d) inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.
- Level Three - Inputs to valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies (continued)

F. Fair Value Measurement (continued)

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. Level 2 inputs were available to the Plan, and Level 3 inputs were only used when Level 1 or 2 were not available.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

- **Pooled separate accounts:** Valued daily at the fair value of the underlying investments such as debt and equity mutual funds.
- **Collective investment trust:** Market approach valuation based on the periodic analysis of the underlying debt instruments.

G. Payment of Benefits - Benefits are recorded when paid.

3. Investments Certified by Trustee

All information disclosed in the accompanying financial statements, notes and supplemental schedule related to the Plan's investment assets and notes receivable from participants at December 31, 2014 and 2013, and net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends for the year ended December 31, 2014, was obtained or derived from information supplied to the plan administrator and certified 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 ERISA by the John Hancock Life Insurance Company, the custodian for the Plan.

The fair value of individual investments that represent 5% or more of Net Assets Available for Benefits are as follows:

	2014	2013
JH Lifestyle Moderate	$ 818,133	$ 738,566
JH Lifestyle Balanced	1,278,492	1,459,651
JH Lifestyle Growth	1,436,378	1,285,297
JH Stable Value Fund	355,025	293,974

During 2014, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the period) appreciated in value by $171,809, as follows:

Pooled separate accounts	$ 171,597
Collective investment trust	212
TOTAL	**$ 171,809**

4. Fair Value Measurements

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statements 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*

  Market approach valuation based on periodic analysis of the underlying debt instruments,

The following tables set forth, by level with the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2014 and 2013:

		Fair Value Measurement Using:	
	Fair Value	**Level One**	**Level Three**
December 31, 2014:			
Mutual Funds			
Asset allocation - lifecycle	$ 317,267	$ 317,267	$ -
Asset allocation - lifestyle	3,905,698	3,905,698	-
Aggressive growth	50,263	50,263	-
Growth	22,698	22,698	-
Growth and income	24,221	24,221	-
Income	25,811	25,811	-
Total Mutual Funds	4,345,958	4,345,958	-
Stable value	355,025	-	355,025
TOTALS	**$ 4,700,983**	**$ 4,345,958**	**$ 355,025**

		Fair Value Measurement Using:	
	Fair Value	**Level One**	**Level Three**
December 31, 2013:			
Mutual Funds			
Asset allocation - lifecycle	$ 272,951	$ 272,951	$ -
Asset allocation - lifestyle	3,812,331	3,812,331	-
Aggressive growth	45,753	45,753	-
Growth	19,941	19,941	-
Growth and income	20,968	20,968	-
Income	22,224	22,224	-
Total Mutual Funds	4,194,168	4,194,168	-
Stable value	293,974	-	293,974
TOTALS	**$ 4,488,142**	**$ 4,194,168**	**$ 293,974**

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

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

	2014	2013
Beginning balance	$ 293,974	$ 270,574
Realized gain/(loss)	212	(1,081)
Unrealized gain/(loss) relating to instruments still held at the reporting date*	2,267	(6,994)
Purchases, sales, issuance, settlements, (net)	58,572	31,475
TOTALS	**$ 355,025**	**$ 293,974**

* Included in the adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contract on the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

Except for the Plan's collective investment trust contract, gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the year ended December 31, 2014 are reported in net appreciation in fair value of the investments.

5. 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 and therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

6. 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.

7. 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 prototype 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.

7. 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, 2014, 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 2011.

8 . 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 Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

9. Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated events and transactions occurring subsequent to the statement of net assets available for benefits date of December 31, 2014 for items that should potentially be recognized or disclosed in these financial statements. The evaluation was conducted through August 28, 2015 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

Supplemental Schedule – Investments and Participants Loans

December 31, 2014

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT – AT YEAR END

Form 5500 Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue	(c) Description of Investment		(e) Current Value
*	JH Retirement Living 2050	798	shares	$ 10,436
*	JH Retirement Living 2045	4,238	shares	63,583
*	JH Retirement Living 2040	3,037	shares	45,604
*	JH Retirement Living 2035	6,546	shares	98,121
*	JH Retirement Living 2030	947	shares	13,920
*	JH Retirement Living 2025	672	shares	9,829
*	JH Retirement Living 2020	4,602	shares	67,069
*	JH Retirement Living 2015	240	shares	3,461
*	JH Retirement Living 2010	365	shares	5,245
*	JH Lifestyle Aggressive	3,670	shares	156,991
*	JH Lifestyle Growth	31,292	shares	1,436,378
*	JH Lifestyle Balanced	27,480	shares	1,278,492
*	JH Lifestyle Moderate	17,367	shares	818,133
*	JH Lifestyle Conservative	4,567	shares	215,703
	Natural Resources Fund	345	shares	10,419
	International Small Cap Fund	128	shares	4,540
	Vanguard Small Cap Growth Index	32	shares	1,113
	Science and Technology Fund	533	shares	16,808
	Templeton World Fund	33	shares	1,651
	EuroPacific Growth Fund	67	shares	4,318
	T. Rowe Price Health Science	112	shares	11,414
	Blue Chip Growth Fund	383	shares	16,865
	Mid Value Fund	217	shares	5,832
*	JH 500 Index Fund	8	Shares	9,791
	The Investment Company of America	32	shares	1,971
	Black Rock Global Allocation	420	shares	10,627
	American Balanced Fund	52	shares	1,833
	High Yield Fund	143	shares	4,596
	Global Bond Fund	54	shares	1,351
	U.S. High Yield Bond Fund	197	shares	4,630
	Investment Qual Bond Fund	57	shares	1,441
*	JH Active Bond Fund	61	shares	1,476

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

Supplemental Schedule – Investments and Participants Loans

December 31, 2014

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

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

	Core Bond Fund	630	shares	12,317
*	JH Stable Value Fund	27,814	shares	350,078
	Total Investments			**4,696,036**
	Participant Loans	Interest rates at 4.25% to 5.25%, various maturities		259,784
	Cash Account			847
	Total			**$ 4,956,667**

*Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan

MEMO: Cost omitted for above investments since not applicable for participant directed investments.

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

Supplemental Schedule – Investments and Participants Loans

December 31, 2014

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT – AT YEAR END

Form 5500 Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i

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	American Balanced Fund	52 shares	1,833
	High Yield Fund	143 shares	4,596
	Global Bond Fund	54 shares	1,351
	U.S. High Yield Bond Fund	197 shares	4,630
	Investment Qual Bond Fund	57 shares	1,441
*	JH Active Bond Fund	61 shares	1,476

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

Supplemental Schedule – Investments and Participants Loans

December 31, 2014

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

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

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