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 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

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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.)
- ☒ 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:
- ☒ 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 (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)

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.	10/08/2018	DAN STRITMATTER
	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 [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 or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:
a Sponsor's name
c Plan Name

4b EIN

4d PN

5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	530
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)**	404
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	480
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	119
d Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	599
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	599
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	480
h Number of participants who 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)

(1)	[X]	Insurance
(2)	[ ]	Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	[ ]	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)	[ ]	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)	[X]		**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 2017 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2017 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

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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	363	01/01/2017	12/31/2017

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	21835

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
PKS FINANCIAL SERVICES
74800STATE 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	
	13410	COMMISSIONS	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	
	8425	TPA FEES	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	6908809

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶ 0

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. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

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)			
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)			
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)			
	(5) Other (specify below) ▶	7c(5)			
	(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)			
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)			
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)			
	(4) Other (specify below) ▶	7e(4)			
	(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 C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.**	**2017** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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 Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FORTEM FINANCIAL

44801 VILLAGE COURT
WESTLAKE VILLATE, CA 91361

81-3326710

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	0	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	6931	Yes [ ] No [X]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

JOHN HANCOCK

P.O. BOX 600
BUFFALO, NV 14201

01-0233346

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15	RECORDKEEPER	2664	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

WILSHIRE ASSOCIATES

1299 OCEAN AVENUE
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91361

95-2755361

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26	FINANCIAL ADVISOR	0	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	1979	Yes [ ] No [X]

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

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

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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: RL 2010

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	1350072

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 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	8606

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 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	17869

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 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	16409

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 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	42138

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 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	1809190

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 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	57160

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 2045			
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)	2634943
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 2050			
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)	13843
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: RL 2055			
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)	10373
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LS CONSERVATIVERL 2060			
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)	759
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: DFA INTERNATIONAL 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)	8534
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: OPPENHEIMER INTL 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)	5156
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: 500 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)	442943
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BLUE CHI 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)	23994
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: STBL 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)	396002
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PRUNDENTIAL TOTAL RETURN 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)	70394

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

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

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) 426

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)

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

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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

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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	2010	5885
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	306247	300502
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	5509662	6908809
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

			(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
	(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	5817919	7215196
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g		
h	Operating payables	1h		
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j	Other liabilities	1j		
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	5817919	7215196

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)	101911	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	550140	
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	33428	
	(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		685479
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	16784	
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		16784
	(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		0
	(3) Rents	2b(3)		
	(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
	(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)		
	(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
	(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		945751
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		1648014
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	208812	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		208812
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses: **(1)** Professional fees	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)	26691	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	6811	
(4) Other	2i(4)	8423	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		41925
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		250737
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		1397277
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: HSRDS, AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION **(2)** EIN: 81-3709413

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

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
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year_____. (See instructions.)

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 sections 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

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 line 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 lines (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 line 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2017 and 2016

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

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HSRDS

HOFFMAN • SHORT
RUBIN • DEWINTER • SANDERSON

AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION WWW.HSRDSCPAS.COM

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Ernie Ball, Inc., as Plan Administrator of
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, 2017 and 2016, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017, 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 custodian of the Plan, except for comparing the information with the related information included in financial statements. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the custodian holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The plan administrator has obtained a certification from the custodian as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and for the year ended December 31, 2017, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the custodian 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 – Supplemental Schedule

The supplemental Schedule of Investments and Participant Loans as of or for the year ended December 31, 2017 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 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is 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 custodian, 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.

Hoffman, Short, Rubin, DeWinter, Sanderson

HOFFMAN, SHORT, RUBIN, DEWINTER, SANDERSON
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

Covina, California
August 8, 2018

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSESTS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value (Notes 2, 3 and 4)	$ 6,908,809	$ 5,509,662
Cash Account (Note 1)	5,885	2,010
Notes receivable from participants	300,502	306,247
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	**$ 7,215,196**	**$ 5,817,919**

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements
are an integral part of these statements

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVALIABLE FOR BENEFITS

Year Ended December 31, 2017

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments (Note 4)	$	945,751
Interest on notes receivable from participants		16,784
Total Investment Income		**962,535**
CONTRIBUTIONS:		
Employee contributions		550,140
Employer contributions		101,911
Employee roll-over contributions		33,428
Total Contributions		**685,479**
Total Additions		**1,648,014**
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Benefits paid to participants		208,812
Investment and administrative expenses		41,925
Total Deductions		**250,737**
NET INCREASE		**1,397,277**
NET ASSETS AVALIABLE FOR BENEFITS:		
Beginning of Year		5,817,919
END OF YEAR	**$**	**7,215,196**

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements
are an integral part of these statements

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(k) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

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 Plan has been amended from time to time, including the most recent amendment adopted and effective January 1, 2015. 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. Eligibility to participate in the plan is as follows (as amended January 1, 2015):

- Employee salary deferral contributions – each employee shall be eligible to participate in the Plan on the 1st of January, April, July or October following or coinciding with the completion of three months of service.
- Employer matching contributions – each employee shall be eligible to receive matching contributions from the employer on the 1st of January or July following or coinciding with the completion of six months of service.
- All other employer contributions – each employee shall be eligible to receive other employer contributions from the employer on the 1st of January or July following or coinciding with the completion of twelve months of service, provided the employee has completed one-thousand hours of service during the eligibility computation period.

C. Contributions - 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. Contributions to the plan can be made as follows:

- Employee salary deferral 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.

1. Description of Plan (continued)

C. Contributions (continued)

- Employee rollover contributions - participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans.
- Employer matching contributions - at the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Company may make matching contributions, which are also participant directed. 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, 2017 totaled $101,911.
- Employer profit sharing contributions - at the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Company may make profit sharing contributions, which are also participant directed. There were no profit sharing contributions for the year ended December 31, 2017.

D. Participant's Accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of the Company's contributions and plan earnings and are 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. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

G. Payment of Benefits - Upon termination, death, disability, or retirement, a participant's account will be distributed in accordance with the provisions in the Plan Document. 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 greater than $1,000, the participant must consent to the distribution and may choose from a number of different payment of benefit options (some of which may require a spousal consent), such a distribution in cash or Direct Rollover. 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, 2017 and 2016, there was $5,885 and $2,010, 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 (GAAP) and the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

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.

Investments held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. Contract value is the relevant measure 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 normally would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the plan.

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 is 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. If a participant does not make loan repayments and the plan administrator considers the participant loan to be in default, the loan balance is reduced, and the delinquent participant loan receivable is recorded as a benefit payment based on the terms of the Plan document.

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, 2017 and 2016.

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

G. Expenses - Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Company and are therefore excluded from these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments. Fees for the administration of notes receivable from participants are included in administrative expenses and are charged directly to the participant's account.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies (continued)

H. Fair Value Measurement / Net Asset Value - In 2016, the Plan retroactively adopted the requirements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2015-07, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent).* The ASU removes certain disclosures and the requirements to categorize within the fair value hierarchy of all investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value (NAV) per share practical expedient.

In accordance with Topic 820, certain investments that were measured at NAV per share (or its equivalent) should not be calorized in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amount presented in the table shown in Note 4 is intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

3. Investments Certified By Custodian

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, 2017 and 2016, and net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest and dividends for the year ended December 31, 2017, 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 custodian held the Plan's investments and executed all investment transactions.

4. Fair Value Measurements

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 meaurements.

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.

4. Fair Value Measurements (continued)

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2017 and 2016:

- **Pooled separate accounts:** These funds are valued at the net asset value (NAV) or equivalent based on units of the pooled separate accounts. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as the practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is generally based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the pooled separate account less liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the pooled separate accounts will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV.

The following tables set forth, by level with the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

As of December 31, 2017

	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	TOTAL
Pooled separate accounts at NAV*	-	-	-	$ 6,908,809
TOTALS	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 6,908,809**

As of December 31, 2016

	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	TOTAL
Pooled separate accounts at NAV*	-	-	-	$ 5,509,662
TOTALS	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 5,509,662**

* See Note 2H

Gains and losses included in changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017 are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

5. Related-Party Transactions

The Plan has investments in participation units held in pooled separate accounts through sub-accounts of John Hancock Life Insurance Company. John Hancock provides services to the Plan as the custodian and record keeper; 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 been amended from time to time, including an amendment adopted and effective January 1, 2015.

The Plan has received an opinion letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated September 30, 2014, 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.

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, 2017, 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 2014.

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 benefit.

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, 2017 for items that should potentially be recognized or disclosed in these financial statements. The evaluation was conducted through August 8, 2018 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 PARTICIPANT LOANS

December 31, 2017

SCHEDULE OF ASSESTS 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
*	American Funds 2060	59 shares	$ 759
*	American Funds 2055	517 shares	10,373
*	American Funds 2050	854 shares	13,842
*	American Funds 2045	159,202 shares	2,634,942
*	American Funds 2040	3,503 shares	57,160
*	American Funds 2035	113,681 shares	1,809,190
*	American Funds 2030	2,725 shares	42,138
*	American Funds 2025	1,142 shares	16,409
*	American Funds 2020	1,331 shares	17,869
*	American Funds 2015	693 shares	8,606
*	American Funds 2010	116,230 shares	1,350,072
*	DFA International Value	375 shares	8,534
*	Oppenheimer International Growth Fund	112 shares	5,156
*	500 Index Fund	12,476 shares	442,943
*	Blue Chip Growth Fund	421 shares	23,994
*	Federated High Yield Bond	36 shares	426
*	Prudential Total Return Bond	4,605 shares	70,394
*	JH Stable Value Fund	374,379 shares	396,002
	Total Investments		**6,908,809**
	Participant Loans	Interest rates 4.25% to 5.50%, various maturities	300,502
	Cash Account		5,885
	Total		**$ 7,215,196**

* Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan

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

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements
are an integral part of these statements

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 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

2017

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2017 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2017 and ending 12/31/2017

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.)
- ☒ 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:
- ☒ 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 (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)

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	[signature]	10/8/2018	DAN STRITMATTER
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	[signature]	10/8/2018	DAN STRITMATTER
	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

ERNIE BALL, INC. 401(K) PROFIT SHARING PLAN
EIN 95-2378345, Plan 001
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE - INVESTMENTS AND PARTICIPANT LOANS

December 31, 2017

SCHEDULE OF ASSESTS 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**
*		American Funds 2060	59 shares	$ 759
*		American Funds 2055	517 shares	10,373
*		American Funds 2050	854 shares	13,842
*		American Funds 2045	159,202 shares	2,634,942
*		American Funds 2040	3,503 shares	57,160
*		American Funds 2035	113,681 shares	1,809,190
*		American Funds 2030	2,725 shares	42,138
*		American Funds 2025	1,142 shares	16,409
*		American Funds 2020	1,331 shares	17,869
*		American Funds 2015	693 shares	8,606
*		American Funds 2010	116,230 shares	1,350,072
*		DFA International Value	375 shares	8,534
*		Oppenheimer International Growth Fund	112 shares	5,156
*		500 Index Fund	12,476 shares	442,943
*		Blue Chip Growth Fund	421 shares	23,994
*		Federated High Yield Bond	36 shares	426
*		Prudential Total Return Bond	4,605 shares	70,394
*		JH Stable Value Fund	374,379 shares	396,002
		Total Investments		**6,908,809**
		Participant Loans	Interest rates 4.25% to 5.50%, various maturities	300,502
		Cash Account		5,885
		Total		**$ 7,215,196**

* Investment with party-in-interest to the Plan

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

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements
are an integral part of these statements