

VALLEY-DYNAMO FAQ GUIDE TO OLDER POOL TABLES FEBRUARY 2010 UPDATE

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A NOTE TO THE USER – thank you for taking the time to review this page. We have gone to great lengths and gathered the experience and wisdom of many longtime Valley-Dynamo employees through the years to provide this resource. Some folks have a tendency to call or write immediately, without looking, without checking. You are truly a concerned individual who is eager to learn, and we hope the past two years of refining this document in response to additional customer questions (this is the 18th revision) will result in time well spent for you. THANKS.

BEFORE CONTACTING VALLEY-DYNAMO we installed a new Spam/E-mail filter. If you send an e-mail without a title or an unsolicited e-mail with an attachment, or copy a lot of people on your note, it may not get through. Always title your e-mail, e-mail only the most appropriate party, and contact us first prior to sending large attachments such as photos. If you looked here and still could not find the answer you seek, [click on this link to contact us](#)

“I HAVE AN OLD VALLEY-DYNAMO POOL TABLE...” – before going any further, there is no such thing. Valley and Dynamo tables are separate products. Since Valley and Dynamo merged we’ve tried to share some components, but these tables were designed separately by competitors. Before you contact our Technical Support department or your distributor, determine for certain whether your table is a Valley or Dynamo.

HOW OLD IS MY VALLEY TABLE AND CAN I GET PARTS? Inside of the Ball-View Door (with the Plexiglas window) and occasionally stamped underneath the table is the Serial Number.

This rough list of Valley Pool Serial Number formats, should give you an idea of your table’s approximate age.

Numbers only - pre-1959, no build records available

VA-##### - 1959-1963

VA-#####X - 1963-1966

3A-##### - 1966-1970

4B-##### - 1970-1971

5C-##### - 1971-1974

6E-##### - 1973-1977

7E-##### - 1977-1980

9E-##### - 1980-1985

Z##### - 1985-1986

M##### - 1986-1991

S##### - 1991-1996

(five to nine letters)- ##### - 1996-present

(“#####” indicates a three-to-five digit build sequence number)

Just as on the cover page of the [Latest Valley Pool Breakdown](#), this serial number list is color coded. In Green are models dating back from the [Valley ZD-4 \(1986\)](#) to present day. Your biggest issues will be with laminate color availability, corner pieces and coin mechanism parts.

Tables from the [Valley Model 32 \(1982\)](#) to the [Model 510xxx \(1969\)](#) are color coded in Yellow. Their coin mechanisms differ significantly from the current tables and few parts will be available; but the ball trap and separator will still be fairly similar. The current cushion rails should still work with only minor modifications. You'll have more difficulty finding parts, but some current items will still work just fine.

Tables over 40 years old are coded in Red, as they differ greatly from the current tables, even from the 1970's tables. The only parts from current tables compatible with tables of that era may be the unpunched pocket liners. In most cases, parts specific to these tables were discontinued around 1986 and we will definitely not have them, chances are rare that you would find a Distributor with new-old-stock parts available,

The [Latest Valley Pool Breakdown](#) and [Valley Pool Parts Photos](#) links will answer most of your questions. Most items currently available can be found listed there.

E-mail your information to parts@valley-dynamo.com and we might be able to locate when it was built, and possibly the model number, the original price per game, and the original owner. Please give us two or three business days to get back to you. It would be best not to call as this information will need to be researched.

HOW OLD IS MY DYNAMO TABLE? Dynamo Serial numbers were not as well-documented as Valley. As a result, we cannot pinpoint the exact age of a Dynamo table. The good news is that Dynamo Pool tables have changed less over the years, and parts availability will not be a big issue.

HOW BIG OF AN ISSUE IS PARTS AVAILABILITY WITH OLDER DYNAMO TABLES? For older Dynamo tables, the problem areas will be the Weighted Cue Ball Separator and parts for the metal coin door. Otherwise, most current parts should still fit a Dynamo pool table, but they may not be in the same colors.

BUT COULDN'T YOU CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T HAVE A _____ STILL AVAILABLE? In the many years since some of these model and color changes, if we haven't completely combed our stock and plundered every sample table we had, we have also moved—discarding a lot of long-discontinued pieces-- several times through the years (twice since 2005). We don't mean to be brutal about it, but some folks get pretty ticked off that we no longer stock a coin box for a model 750 from 1962. They will argue that you can still buy parts for a Ford Truck from the 1960s, but the total number of Valley pool tables built over the past 50 years is probably close to the total number of trucks Ford builds every year.

DO YOU STILL STOCK THE OLD LOGO PLATES, SO I MAY COMPLETELY RESTORE MY TABLE (SUCH AS THE OLD WINGED LOGO)? Again, it is unlikely, but remotely possible that a distributor may have new old stock but these are no longer available from Valley. Valley tables since the ZD-7 of 1996 no longer have logo plates, since the Valley logo is cast into the corners.

WHAT SIZE IS MY TABLE? There are different sizes. Here is how we sort them out:

What we call an 8 foot table or a 101 (table is 101" long)

The slate measures 47 ½" x 91 ½"

This includes Valley models CPA, 47, 49 and 42, and Dynamo models 47 and 48

What we call a 7 foot table or a 93 (table is 93" long)

The slate measures 43" x 83"

This includes Valley models CPB, 37, 39 and 32, and Dynamo models 37 and 38

What we call a 6 ½ foot table or an 88 (table is 88" long)

The slate measures 40 ¼" x 77 ½"

This includes Valley models CPC, 27, 29 and 22, and Dynamo models 27 and 28

There were also two smaller sizes referred to as "6 footers", frequently found in the Northeastern US as they are a better fit in older, smaller buildings. We do not currently manufacture tables in either size, and few parts are available for these sizes.

What we call an 85 (table is 85" long) or "New Yorker"

The slate measures 39" x 75"

This includes old Valley models CPD and 14, and Dynamo Models 17 and 18

What we call a 78 (table is 78" long)

The slate measures 35½" x 68"

This includes old Valley models CPE, 12, 19 and 17.

IMPORTANT: avoid inconvenience, returns, restock fees and additional shipments; be absolutely sure of your table's size before looking for parts. Don't just say "it's a bar table" as there are definitely different sizes. Ask if you are not sure.

HOW DOES SIZE MATTER WITH REGARD TO PARTS: These items will all be the same size regardless of your table's size:

- Coin Box Housing
- Ball Trap
- Magnetic Separator
- Corners
- Legs and levelers
- Coin Door, Ball View Door, Clean Our Door

These items will differ according to table size:

- Cushion Rails
- Slate and Center Chute
- Top Rail Laminates
- Side and End Trim

HOW MUCH IS MY TABLE WORTH? We cannot and will not appraise tables, and will offer no suggestions for how much to charge or your table's value. It would be much like calling Sony Headquarters to find out how much you should ask for your old big screen.

The best way to determine your table's value would be the supply, demand and condition of used pool tables in your area and/or a personal inspection by a local Distributor or Operator.

COULD MY TABLE BE RARE AND VALUABLE ENOUGH TO RESTORE TO NEW CONDITION? We have sold many thousands of tables over the years. From a collectibles standpoint, a 100% restored vintage Valley or Dynamo pool table is not a “winning lottery ticket.” If you have a table you want to restore, don’t worry about getting it to accurate factory-new condition (and keep in mind, parts availability for older tables may be a problem, a BIG problem on tables more than 40 years old). Have fun with your project and get it into a condition to where you can enjoy looking at it, playing on it, and bragging to your friends how hard you worked on it.

I HAVE AN OLD VALLEY TABLE FROM THE EARLY 1960’S IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE, WOULD YOU WANT TO BUY IT BACK FROM ME FOR DISPLAY IN YOUR SHOWROOM? No thanks, we simply don’t have the space.

CAN I ADAPT PARTS FROM THE CURRENT VALLEY GREAT 8 OR DYNAMO PRO PLUS TO USE THE BILL-ACCEPTOR TO WORK ON MY VALLEY LEOPARD FROM THE LATE 1980’S OR DYNAMO DBA TABLE FROM THE EARLY 1990’S? No, only parts shared with current production, non-DBA tables will still be available, although we have posted a guide to the [Valley Leopard DIP Switch Settings](#).

CAN I GET PARTS FOR A VALLEY LEOPARD OR LYNX WITH THE UNITIZED SERVICE DRAWER? The Service Drawer was discontinued in 1989, no parts are available and it was so different from the standard Valley ball trap, parts cannot be adapted to work. Only parts shared with current production Valley tables such as the Cushion Rails, pocket liners, gully boots and so forth will be available. [Click Here](#) for a link to drawings of unique Leopard assemblies, but again we stress these parts are absolutely no longer available.

I HAVE AN OLDER MODEL VALLEY BUMPER POOL TABLE, CAN I GET PARTS? Only parts for the current model [Valley Tiger Cat Bumper Pool Table](#) are available. These may not work on older tables. Bumper pool tables were built in smaller batches, and changed more frequently, so documentation and spare parts for the older tables are no longer available.

WILL CUSHION RAILS FOR CURRENT BUMPER POOL TABLES FIT MY TABLE? Many customers have asked so here are the details:

- *All Current Bumper Pool rails are mounted with rail bolts and T-nuts, not wood screws*
- *SIDE rails are 48 1/16” at the widest point, with four bolts spaced 14 1/16” inch apart*
- *END rails are 32 1/16” at the widest point, with three bolts spaced 13 1/8” apart*

Measure carefully to avoid returns. If you are not completely sure these are the correct rails for your bumper pool table, e-mail Techhelp@valley-dynamo.com with your questions. As with all tables, Bumper Pool cushion rails can be removed, freshened with new rubber and recovered by nearly any pool table service professional.

I WANT TO MOVE MY TABLE, HOW DO I TAKE IT APART? Be careful: **POOL TABLES ARE VERY HEAVY**. Always overestimate how many people you will need to move your table. Many of our distributors can offer assistance in moving tables. They may

provide the service, or be able to refer you to an experienced and capable mover. Check out our Distributor Locator function at [this link](#).

The legs on our tables are removable, and should be removed during the process. Also, the one-piece slate alone is close to half your table's weight and very likely to be damaged if it comes loose during the move. You should remove it and move it separately. (first remove the metal trim around the sides of the table, then the bolts holding the cushion rails and the slate should lift out relatively easily, more detailed instructions can be found [here](#)). Disassembling a coin operated table any further is very risky, and your table is unlikely to ever be the same—if you can reassemble it afterwards at all.

WHAT KIND OF CUE BALL DO I NEED? Current-model Valley and Dynamo tables both use and work best with a standard size 2¼" magnetic cue ball. Valley tables have used a magnetic cue ball since [the 1785/1875/1935 tables of 1965-1966](#); though an oversized 2⅜ cue ball should also work in the Valley separator. The Valley Separator will not separate a weighted cue ball.

Dynamo tables built prior to 1993 will use a weighted (typically orange dot) cue ball. Some cue balls will have marker dots on them to help with shot practice but *may not be weighted*, always check with your distributor to make sure you are ordering the ball with your desired characteristics. Dynamo tables built since 1995 will use a magnetic cue ball. Dynamo tables built between 1993 and 1995 could use either; check the [Dynamo Pool Parts Breakdown](#) to compare. Though [Valley-Dynamo Tech support](#) can offer some assistance on adjusting the weighted separator, no parts are available as we've not built tables with this separator in over 15 years.

We use the [Valley® Cougar® Cue Ball](#) by Aramith in new tables. It is a 2¼ -inch perfectly balanced magnetic cue ball.

COULD YOU SEND A PARTS BREAKDOWN SPECIFICALLY FOR MY MODEL ___ TABLE? Actually, we've posted our best parts breakdowns and tech documentation here on the Parts page. The [Valley Pool Breakdown](#) and [Dynamo Pool Breakdown](#) were both updated for 2009. We do not have a parts breakdown that includes tables pre-dating the Valley Model 27/37/47.

BUT WHERE ARE THE PRICES? Your distributor has pricing. Contact your local parts distributor or [Click here to access our distributor Locator](#).

BUT WHY CAN'T I JUST ORDER THESE PARTS DIRECTLY FROM YOU? Our distributor network is there for your convenience. For the most part they are closer to you and able to offer more personalized service for your specific need. Some also deal day-to-day in the care of older pool tables, there are a lot of tips and hints they may know that even we may not.

At the same time though, our Distributors also deal in a wide assortment of products and may not necessarily be "experts" in the quirks of ours. More so on tables that may

have been built before they were even in business! It is extremely helpful for you to first use the Breakdowns and Parts Photos resources on this site to determine which parts you need, or think you need. Don't just print them out, take the time to study them and compare them to your table.

For better and faster results when looking for parts, provide your distributor a "shopping list" (what you need) and not a "recipe" (what you want to do) and demand they come up with a list of parts. To paraphrase the film "Jerry McGuire": Help your distributor help you.

WHAT LAMINATE COLORS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE? Our tables have come in a very wide variety of wood shades over the years but we only currently stock parts in the laminate colors [found at this link](#).

If you want to restore a table in a different color, or get a laminate made to match what is currently on your table, we suggest contacting a cabinet refinisher. They normally have a vast selection of possible laminates to choose from.

The colors shown next are discontinued and no longer available at all, but here for your reference. Seriously, except for the little swatches we scanned here we have NOTHING in the building in these shades, and no plans to get any. Your Distributor may have old stock available, but if they don't they cannot call us to order more. Tell them so, that you saw it plain and clear on the FAQ page of the Valley-Dynamo website.



Some **DISCONTINUED** Valley laminate colors no longer available, from left to right

“SUMMIT ASH” Valley ZD-6 1994-1996 (close to the ZD-7 “Taj Teak” still available)

“SABLE MAPLE” Valley ZD-5 1991-1993

“CLASSIC MAHOGANY” Valley ZD-4 1986-1991 (close to the ZD-8 “Jewel Mahogany” still available)

“CHEYENNE LEATHER” Valley Cougar model 42/32/22/12 – 1982-1985

(Cheyenne Leather was a custom laminate made for us and not available anywhere else)

“BIRDSEYE MAPLE” Valley Cougar model 49/39/29/19 – 1979-1982

And don't forget [the Museum of Discontinued Products](#) for photos of old tables.

HOW DO I REPLACE THE WOOD LAMINATES? If you are not sure, best to consult with someone experienced with woodworking or search the web for woodworking tips to find a method that works for you. What we do at the factory for a new table is quite different from the steps needed to remove and replace the laminate on a fully-assembled table.

CAN I GET A REPLACEMENT VALLEY COIN DOOR OR PARTS FOR THE COIN MECHANISM? Few areas of our tables have seen as much change as the Coin Door

area. On Valley tables since the ZD-4 (1986 to present), the coin door is 10 3/16" wide by 8 1/4" tall and replacements are available—with and without holes for a Push Chute. The 9 3/4" x 7" coin door from the Model 22/32/42 was recently brought back into production.

Model 19/29/39/49 coin doors size 8 7/8" x 7" were discontinued around the year 2000 along with many of the older coin mechanism housing parts. We may bring it back as well but must confess... we no longer have the drawings. If you have a model 19/29/39/49 table and are willing to provide a few good scans, photos and measurements, or even allow us to borrow your coin door for a week or two, drop a line to parts@valley-dynamo.com referencing the subject MODEL 39 COIN DOOR. There may be a little reward in it for you.

COULD I GET A KEY FOR MY OLD COIN DOOR? Not from Valley-Dynamo. For the owners' security, coin doors are randomly keyed and there is no "universal" key. To replace the lock, almost any 1 1/8" (Valley) or 7/8" (Dynamo) barrel lock ought to work on your coin door, almost all parts suppliers in the vending/game industry have them readily available for sale.

SOME REALLY OLD COIN MECHANISMS LOOK LIKE THIS PHOTO, CAN I STILL GET SOMETHING LIKE IT?

Monarch Coin produces an "old look" coin chute, called the Model 444. You don't have the price flexibility of a modern push chute, but you get the old-style look.



HOW CAN I CHANGE MY COIN-OP TABLE TO FREE PLAY? On more recent tables with vertical coin slots, there is a fairly simple process to change out the coin slots with "blanks" so you simply use the existing coin chute. [Click here for the instructions.](#)

Another option on any table may be to disable the Push Chute Trap by removing it entirely, or rigging it to stay in the up position. This way, the balls will simply roll through the trap without stopping and into the collection box. It is no more difficult than putting blanks into the push chute, but [E-mail Valley Dynamo Tech Support](#) for the procedure, to make sure it is done correctly.

It is tempting to jerry-rig the table so you can simply reach in and trip the trap to release the ball without using the push chute. Remember: many older coin mechanism parts are no longer available, so if those parts are modified, damaged, lost, stolen, eaten, misplaced, removed or discarded, it may be impossible to ever restore the coin mechanism. If you remove any pieces, try to save them. There should be plenty of storage space available in the cavity of the table.

COULD I GET A KEY FOR MY BALL VIEW DOOR OR CLEAN OUT DOOR? These keys are more readily available—**SO LONG AS NO PRIOR OPERATOR CHANGED THE LOCKS** (*Operators frequently change the locks to keep shady characters from buying factory-issue keys for the factory-issue locks and playing unlimited free games on their*

tables). Please try not to get too irritated with us for not knowing exactly what lock is on your table or not carrying a key for the lock. We have no control over what lock an owner, operator, or location chooses to install in their table at some point between when it left our facility and when you got it.

The approximate age of your table will help determine the factory locks used on your table.

- Tables from 1997 to present MAY use a “#54” or “2255” lock, but “2255” keys are no longer available.
- Tables from 1976 – 1997 MAY use a “C512” lock
- Dynamo tables MAY use a #106, 2255 or 1155 lock – only the #106 key is still available

Keys for tables prior to 1976 are unlikely to be available; you will probably need to replace the locks. Locks and keys can be purchased from your parts distributor, and they are not that expensive. They will almost certainly cost less than calling a Locksmith to make a key for your table. If you need more information on your table, part numbers or the location of your local parts distributor, contact parts@valley-dynamo.com.

SHOULD I REPLACE MY CUSHION RAILS? For commercial locations we recommend replacing rails every other year. Rails used on a home table see less usage—unless you keep that table seriously busy-- but the rubber will begin to dry out and crack after 10 years. Unless the previous owner knows for sure, assume the rails on a newly-acquired old table probably need replacement, and then you will know exactly how old they are.

WILL NEW RAILS REALLY FIT MY OLD TABLE? Dynamo rails should fit older tables, no problem. The current Valley rails will only fit tables that use rail bolts to attach the rails (beginning with the model 510 series: from late 1969-present). If the rails are attached with wood screws, the best option will be to have the rubber replaced on the current rails, and have them covered in new felt. If your table is a Valley of 1970-1995 vintage, check this [Valley Cushion Rail Service Bulletin](#) for how to use current model Cushion Rails on older tables, and correctly mount any cushion rails. Regardless of your table's age, it's a good idea to review that guide, because improper cushion rail height can have a huge effect on your table's playability.

WHAT IS THE TORQUE SPEC FOR RAILS? We tighten rails to **65 inch-pounds (this is down from 70-inch pounds)**. Seriously, it is not necessary to use Herculean Strength or an Impact Wrench for maximum tightness. For consistent quality play it is far more important that rails are properly aligned, also noted in the [Valley Cushion Rail Service Bulletin](#).

I'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE TABLES WHERE THE RAILS ARE ATTACHED WITH WOOD SCREWS. AM I SCREWED TOO? Not necessarily, a pool table service professional in your area can probably use the existing backing and replace the rubber and felt. It's not as convenient as simply buying and bolting on a new set, but it's a lot more convenient than replacing the table.

I'VE ONLY GOT ONE DEAD RAIL; WHY CAN'T I JUST BUY ONE REPLACEMENT? For several reasons, all good:

- Mixing old and new rails on a table is almost certain to result in inconsistent play.
- Rails come in different profiles and rubber configurations which will have different play characteristics even if they are the same age.
- Replace just one, and you are likely to have a different dead rail a few months later and have to go through the whole process again.
- The dye lot of a single rail may be just enough from the others to be obvious.
- Left side, right side, and end rails are all different. Practically every time someone tries to get “just one”, it ends up being wrong.

This is not a conspiracy to force you to buy rails by the set, not more than why shoe stores only sell shoes in pairs. They will match, they'll look like they match, and you'll know the age of all six rails on your table.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW WHEN ORDERING CUSHION RAILS? Be sure you can tell your distributor the part number you are looking for, or...

- The size of the table
- If your table is a Valley or Dynamo (the rails are not interchangeable)
- If you want them uncovered, or pre-covered in Tournament Green Valley Teflon® Ultra (Teflon Mercury Ultra for Dynamo) felt.

The parts breakdowns located under Valley Pool and Dynamo Pool will list part numbers for all available rail sets as will [this Quick Guide to Rail Sets](#). Rail sets are not available for 78" and 85" Valley tables. Covered rail sets are available for all Dynamo table sizes except 9-foot, but uncovered Dynamo rails are only available for 6½-foot, 7-foot and 8-foot tables.

JUST TO BE CLEAR, WHAT CUSHION RAILS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE?

- ◆ Rails for any 9-foot tables, Valley or Dynamo
- ◆ Rails for Valley tables prior to the 1970's that are attached with wood screws
- ◆ Rails for 78" or 85" Valley tables
- ◆ Uncovered rails for Dynamo Model 17/18 tables

CAN I PUT MY POOL TABLE ON CASTERS? While we do not recommend this and do not stock casters to accommodate this, for some owners this is the only way they can live with a pool table. Be advised that leveling a table on casters is next to impossible unless you are willing to do it after every move or repositioning. Our current leg levelers use a ½"-16 thread. An industrial-strength caster (preferably locking, for safety's sake) that can support at least 400lbs and has ½" – 16 threading should do the job.

ABOUT BRUNSWICK POOL TABLES: Valley Dynamo was a division of Brunswick and has marketed a Bill Acceptor-operated pool table called the Brunswick Metro Coin. Brunswick commercial tables (other than the Metro Coin) and home model tables are engineered, designed and built separately from Valley-Dynamo products and the parts

were never designed to be interchangeable. For service on your Brunswick Pool table, contact **800-336-8764** to find a Brunswick dealer.

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION OR PARTS FOR AN OLD POOL TABLE MADE BY ----- ?
We receive a lot of questions from customers who have located an old coin-operated table by a manufacturer they cannot locate, or has been out of business for some time. Sometimes full-line parts dealers refer those customers to us. We only stock parts known to work in Valley or Dynamo products and though someone may cleverly be able to adapt our parts for use elsewhere, we make no guarantees. We have no service information, documentation or parts for competing products.

WHO IS MY LOCAL DISTRIBUTOR? [Click here to access our distributor Locator.](#)