

## VALLEY-DYNAMO FAQ GUIDE TO OLDER POOL TABLES JULY 2008 UPDATE

HOW OLD IS MY VALLEY TABLE? Inside of the Ball-View Door (with the Plexiglas window) and occasionally stamped underneath the table is the Serial Number. E-mail your information to [parts@valley-dynamo.com](mailto:parts@valley-dynamo.com) and we can probably let you know 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 is not readily at hand, and will need to be searched.

Here is a rough list of Valley Pool Serial Number formats, to 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##### - 1986-1992

S##### - 1992-1996

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

"#####" indicates a three-to-five digit build sequence number

HOW OLD IS MY DYNAMO TABLE? Dynamo Serial numbers records were, unfortunately, not as well-documented. As a result, pinpointing the exact age of a Dynamo table is far more difficult. 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 VALLEY TABLES?

The current model tables share many parts with models dating back to the ZD-4 (1986). Your biggest issues will be with laminate color availability, coin mechanism and corner pieces.

Tables more than 40 years old (prior to the 510889/510939/510019 of 1969-1972) will have very little in common with current model tables. You may find a Distributor with new-old-stock parts available, but about the only part from a current table compatible with tables of that era are the unpunched pocket liners.

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

**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", almost always 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 returns, restock fees and additional shipments; be absolutely sure of your table's size before looking for parts. Ask if you are not sure.

**ALSO IMPORTANT:** most of the internal workings of the tables will be the same regardless of size. For example: The same Ball View Door is used on all different sizes of table.

**HOW MUCH IS MY TABLE WORTH?** We can not 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 Ford Headquarters to find out how much you should ask for your old Maverick.

The supply and demand for used pool tables in your area is the best way for you to determine your table's value.

**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.

I HAVE A VALLEY LEOPARD FROM THE LATE 1980'S OR DYNAMO DBA TABLE FROM THE EARLY 1990'S. CAN I USE PARTS FROM THE CURRENT VALLEY GREAT 8 OR DYNAMO PRO PLUS TO USE THE BILL-ACCEPTOR AND PROGRAMMING FUNCTIONS?

No, only parts shared with current production, non-DBA tables will still be available.

I HAVE A VALLEY LEOPARD OR LYNX WITH THE UNITIZED SERVICE DRAWER. CAN I GET PARTS? 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.

DO YOU STILL STOCK LOGO PLATES LIKE WERE ON THE OLDER TABLES? You may find a distributor with new old stock but these are no longer available from Valley.

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 slate is very heavy 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 (typically green dot or green "S") cue ball. Valley tables have used a magnetic cue ball since [the 1785/1875/1935 tables of 1965-1966](#); though an oversized 2¾ 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.

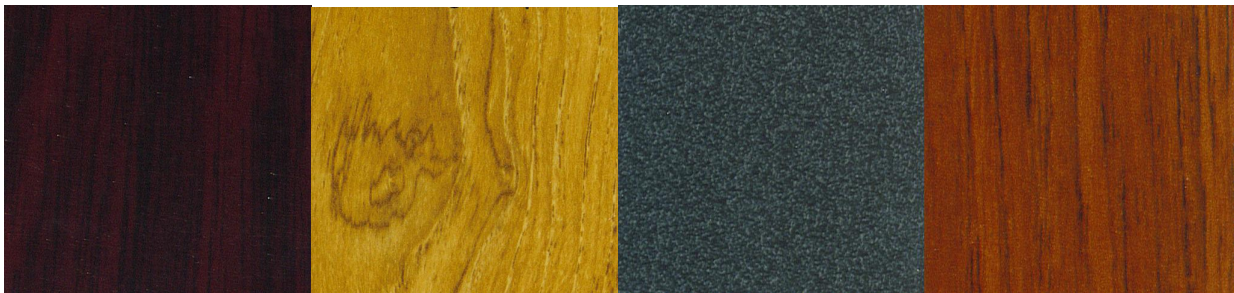
We use the [Valley® Cougar® Cue Ball](#) by Aramith in new tables. It is a 2¼-inch balanced magnetic cue ball.

COULD YOU SEND A PARTS BREAKDOWN SPECIFICCLLY FOR MY MODEL \_\_\_ TABLE? Actually, the best parts breakdowns and tech documentation currently available have been posted here on the Parts page. The [Valley Pool Breakdown](#) and [Dynamo Pool Breakdown](#) were both updated in 2007. We do not have a parts breakdown that includes tables pre-dating the 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. They 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.

DO YOU HAVE THE SAME COLOR LAMINATE? Probably not. Our tables have come in a very wide variety of wood shades over the years but we only currently stock parts in these laminate colors.



Valley laminate colors currently available, from left to right  
“JEWEL MAHOGANY” Valley ZD-8 and Great 8® 2002-2007  
“TAJ TEAK” Valley ZD-7  
“GRAPHITE” Valley Black Cat (replaces discontinued Charcoal Chromatic finish)  
“BILTMORE CHERRY” Valley Cougar and Great 8® 2007- present



Dynamo laminate colors currently available, from left to right  
“HEARTH OAK” Dynamo Pro and Pro Plus, 2002-2006

“PEAR” Dynamo Pro and Pro Plus, 2006-Present

“BLACK” Dynamo Top Brass and Blacklight, and pretty much “goes with anything”

(Colors are for comparison only and your graphics card and monitor settings may affect the display quality. Always a good idea to see the color in person before placing an expensive order!)

Ball View Doors, Clean Out Doors, Valley laminates, Valley top rail laminates and Dynamo top rails are generally available in these colors. Part numbers are listed in the Valley and Dynamo Parts breakdowns linked from the main parts page. To find your local parts distributor, contact [parts@valley-dynamo.com](mailto:parts@valley-dynamo.com) or [Click here to access our distributor Locator](#). 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.

**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. Unfortunately, prior-model coin doors of size 8 7/8”x 7” and 9 3/4”x 7” are now more than 20 years old, were discontinued around the year 2000 and **ARE NO LONGER BEING MADE BY US**, along with many of the older coin mechanism parts.

**COULD I GET A KEY FOR MY OLD COIN DOOR?** Not from Valley-Dynamo. Coin doors are individually keyed and there is no “universal” key. To replace the lock, almost any 7/8” 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 and “old look” coin chute, called Model 444. You don’t have the flexibility of a modern push chute, but you get the old-style look



the

**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 occasionally 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*). The approximate age of your table will help determine the 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

Keys for tables prior to 1976 are unlikely to be available; you may need to replace the locks. Locks and keys can be purchased from your parts distributor. If you need more information on your table, part numbers or the location of your local parts distributor, contact [parts@valley-dynamo.com](mailto:parts@valley-dynamo.com).

**SHOULD I REPLACE MY CUSHION RAILS?** Rails used on a home table will last much longer than rails used in a location. 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 using 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**, but for consistent quality play it is more important that rails are properly aligned as noted in the guide to [Valley Cushion Rail Mounting Standards](#).

**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.
- Even 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.

We only sell rails in sets of six for the same reason a shoe store only sells 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 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.

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

**DON'T YOU SELL PARTS ONLINE?** Hopefully someday, but still not yet.