



Buying your 1st Electro mechanical pinball machine

Don't let the fact that you may have limited knowledge when it comes to mechanics or electrics deter you from purchasing your first EM pinball machine. It is best to start your collection with a single /one player model which are simpler in operation. These machines are more basic than those with 2 or 4 players. Whether the machine has faults when purchased or develop later on, it will be easier to fault find and fix. Repair tips and help are available on line through numerous web site forums to get your first machine up and running.

Tips:

- Always try to inspect a machine before purchasing to ensure that the machine is complete. Look inside the machine, making certain there are no flying/cut wires where parts were originally connected and later removed.
- If metal parts inside the machine are overly rusty and don't move freely there is the possibility of moisture damage over time. It would be best to look at another machine, however if priced right the machine may be good for parts in the future.
- Inspect the rear of the back glass, making certain that it has no major artwork paint flaking. Small areas can be repaired, however large areas of flaking are very difficult to rectify.
- The playfield may show signs of dirt, swirl marks, planking and wear, this can be more common than not and can be cleaned and repaired. Playfield plastics may be chipped, cracked or missing. Reproduction plastic sets for a number of machines are available. This may be worth checking before a purchase.
- It is also common for cabinets / woodwork to have scratches, dents and faded artwork paint which can be repaired later if you wish. Check to see whether there has been any cabinet water damage and satisfy yourself that you can repair it, if this is the case.
- Rusting legs, doors and coin entrances can be easily repaired or replaced, so don't be too concerned about this.

Purchase price will vary from one machine to another; this will depend on the title / theme, age, number of machines made and the overall condition.

See the Help & Tips 'Electrical' link before plugging in your purchased machine.

Happy hunting !