



# The Mini Page

Issue 53, 2022

Founded by Betty Debnam

**Next Week:**  
A 2023  
calendar  
for kids

## Marvelous Pinball Machines



photo by Trontnort

With flashing lights, loud dinging sounds and often a flurry of activity around them, pinball machines have been a form of entertainment for many years. Still celebrated through festivals, museums and even a world championship, pinball brings lots of people together in the name of fun.

The Mini Page takes a look at pinball machines this week.

### What is pinball?

Pinball is an arcade game where players try to maneuver a metal ball to a specific target in a glass-covered case of a machine. Players try to score as many points as possible by getting bonuses and keeping their ball “live,” or on the playing field, as long as possible.



photo by Debbie R.

Pinball became quite popular during the Great Depression (1929-1939) for people looking for inexpensive entertainment.

However, playing pinball was not allowed in parts of the U.S. in the 1940s through the 1970s because it was considered a form of gambling, or a game of chance. People who agreed with the ban said that pinball didn't require any skill. A famous pinball player named Roger

Sharpe disagreed with that and showed the New York City Council that pinball was a game of skill. They agreed with him after he demonstrated his skills in front of them. The ban was lifted in New York City in 1976.

### How it works

To play pinball, a player presses a button that engages a flipper to hit a ball in the machine. The ball rolls around the glass-encased surface, hitting bumpers, targets, lights and even ramps, which all add to or subtract from the player's score. The goal is to get the highest score possible.

### Today

Many large pinball manufacturers closed in the 1990s, so smaller independent manufacturers began popping up in the 2000s in an effort to keep pinball machines in restaurants and arcades.

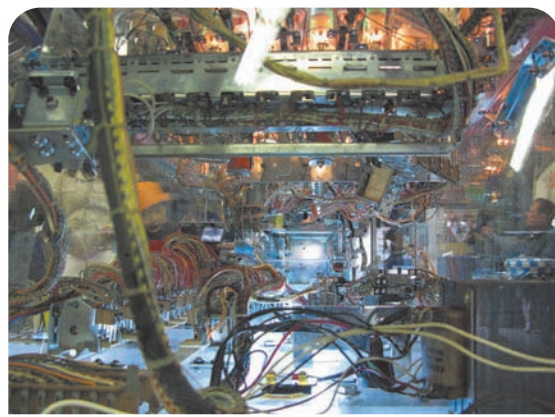


photo by Steve Jurvetson

This photo offers a look at the inside of a pinball machine, which includes a lot of wiring.

### Mini Fact:

The first modern coin-operated pinball machine was invented in the 1930s.

### Pinball Hall of Fame

In Las Vegas, a 25,000-square-foot building called the Pinball Hall of Fame (PHoF) is home to lots of pinball machines, both new and old. This place also serves as a pinball museum. People are allowed to play pinball machines that have been restored. Older pinball machines have a cost of 25 cents to play, and newer ones sometimes cost 50 cents.



photo by Hollie Westring

The Pinball Hall of Fame is dedicated to restoration and sharing the love of the games with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Many people believe that pinball brings families and generations closer because they enjoy the game together.

“Fun is mandatory at the Pinball Hall of Fame, and it's something you'll leave with,” the museum's website says. “Look at people playing at the PHoF; they're cheering, jumping up and down, laughing. They're having fun.”

## Resources



### On the Web:

- [bit.ly/MPpinball](http://bit.ly/MPpinball)
- [pinballmuseum.org](http://pinballmuseum.org)

### At the library:

- “The Complete Pinball Book: Collecting the Game and Its History” by Marco Rossignoli

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of pinball machines are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- BUMPER, FAMILY,
- FLIPPER, FUN,
- GAMBLING, GAME,
- HALL OF FAME,
- HISTORY, LAS VEGAS,
- LIGHTS, MACHINE,
- MUSEUM, PINBALL,
- RAMP, SCORE, SKILL,
- SOUNDS, TARGET.

E N I H C A M M U E S U M U F  
P L G J L L Q B T E G R A T L  
L I L N T S A G E V S A L S I  
E I N E I Q H I S T O R Y D P  
R F G B X L F F N Z E P L N P  
O U M H A Q B U A M X M L U E  
C N E R T L F M A M N A I O R  
S Y V Y V S L G A P I R K S R  
D A R E P M U B P G Z L S L G  
E M A F F O L L A H J J Y T M

## Cook's Corner

### Energy Snack Mix

#### You'll need:

- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1 cup dried apricots, chopped
- 1 cup dark chocolate yogurt raisins
- 1 cup sunflower seeds

- 1 cup walnuts, chopped



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

#### What to do:

1. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Transfer to plastic bag or covered bowl for storage. Makes 5 cups.

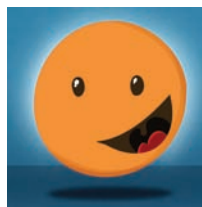
## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. what a cat chases (4) \_\_\_\_\_
2. you eat them with spaghetti (9) \_\_\_\_\_
3. the day after today (8) \_\_\_\_\_
4. grass around the house (4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. what you type on (8) \_\_\_\_\_
6. having little money (4) \_\_\_\_\_
7. bulb used in cooking (6) \_\_\_\_\_

BA	LIC	MOR	OR
MEAT	KEYB	CE	MI
ROW	LLS	TO	LA
PO	OARD	WN	GAR

Answers: mice, meatballs, tomorrow, lawn, keyboard, poor, garlic.



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## Mini Jokes



- Paul:** What do you say when you see someone on New Year's Day?  
**Peggy:** I haven't seen you since last year!

## Eco Note



Increased activity at Ecuador's Cotopaxi volcano prompted officials to issue a yellow alert and suspend access to the conical, snowcapped mountain's slopes. Scientists say steam clouds rising above the summit have been the result of moisture from recent precipitation seeping into the hot interior of the mountain. The last major eruption of the volcano occurred on June 26, 1877. In 2015, Cotopaxi showed signs of renewed activity but did not erupt.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about games.

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