

VALLEY-DYNAMO FAQ GUIDE TO CUSHION RAILS OCTOBER 2015 UPDATE

So much of our “Frequently Asked Questions about Old Pool Tables” document had to do with Cushion Rails – at least 1/3, and sometimes those questions didn’t apply exclusively to old pool tables.

This document focuses **ONLY** on Cushion Rails.

- *ABOUT VALLEY AND DYNAMO AND VALLEY-DYNAMO*
- *DOES THIS LOGO MAKE IT A “COUGAR” TABLE?*
- *WHAT SIZE IS MY TABLE? WOULD YOU HAVE A CHART? (and about the term “bar sized”)*
- *SHOULD I REPLACE MY CUSHION RAILS?*
- *WILL NEW RAILS REALLY FIT MY OLD TABLE?*
- *WHY DO YOU INCLUDE A BAG OF NYLON INSERTS WITH EACH RAIL SET?*
- *DO YOU SELL “JUST THE RUBBER”?*
- *CAN I GET RAILS WITH K-55 OR U-23 PROFILE RUBBER INSTEAD OF THE K-66?*
- *WHAT IS THE TORQUE SPEC FOR RAILS?*
- *WHY ARE MY RAILS BULGING RIGHT BEHIND THE RAIL BOLTS?*
- *WHAT ABOUT REPLACING CUSHIONS THAT ARE ATTACHED WITH WOOD SCREWS?*
- *I’VE ONLY GOT ONE DEAD RAIL; WHY CAN’T I JUST BUY ONE REPLACEMENT?*
- *WHAT SHOULD I KNOW WHEN ORDERING CUSHION RAILS?*
- *WILL VALLEY’S NEW PANTHER 5-BOLT RAILS REALLY FIT MY 3-BOLT TABLE?*
- *WHAT CUSHION RAILS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE?*
- *WILL YOUR CUSHION RAILS FIT A TABLE BUILT BY _____?*
- *HOW CAN A DISTRIBUTOR OR OPERATOR ACCESS YOUR WEBSTORE?*

This document exists to address the many, many, many inquiries from those customers who found an old table, or bought one, or had it in the family for generations. We have tried to post most of the answers you are looking for because we have a small staff kept busy with the manufacture and shipment of new products, only TWO of whom were with Valley before the company’s move to Texas in the late 1990s.

CAN’T I JUST CALL IN AND ORDER PARTS? We prefer using the WebStore for 8 reasons:

- * In the specific case of cushion rails: **WE LIST THE MEASUREMENTS ON THE PAGE**. This way you actually see the measurements of the cushions you’re ordering, and if those measurements don’t agree with your measurements, you can check to see if maybe you should be ordering a different size. Always, *always* remember: NOT ALL BARS ARE THE SAME SIZE, NOT ALL “BAR BOXES” ARE THE SAME SIZE.
- * Not so relevant for cushion rails but super critical for other parts you might need to purchase: A picture is worth 1000 words. See the part before ordering it and usually see some measurements. Since there are no refunds—only credits—on the Webstore (*note reason #3*), it is often very critical to actually SEE the part before ordering it.
- * There is some “fine print” when it comes to placing an order, returns, credits, shipping, etc. We want to make sure you have a chance to read it so there are no unpleasant surprises later.
- * You know your address better than anyone. No chance we heard something wrong
- * Many people most adamant about “wanting to talk to a human” seem to be on a mobile connection that’s probably worse than two cans connected with a string, and are continually dropping out during the call, or a VOIP phone line with a really bad echo *echo echo echo echo*.
- * Your credit card information stays secure. We never see it and it’s not going to get pulled out of a dumpster someplace
- * or you can pay with PayPal and not have to let us know your PayPal login information.
- * You get instant confirmation the order was placed, when it ships, and what the tracking number is

When someone tries to describe what they are looking for and it ends up being a different part, it turns into a colossal headache for everyone—you included-- returning and shipping additional parts. If you purchase the wrong size of

cushion rails and want to exchange them, you are responsible for the return freight. Is it worth \$35 or so and 10-14 days of your time to confirm the measurements?

Nobody out there really likes incorrect addresses, wayward credit card information, not knowing the return policy in advance, and not seeing photos of what you're ordering.

Next, always keep in mind what we call the "after it leaves our dock" rule. All we know are what these tables looked like, worked, like, etc. when we shipped them. It's anyone's guess how they were repaired or modified once sold.

BEFORE CONTACTING VALLEY-DYNAMO. An e-mail without a title or an unsolicited e-mail with an attachment, or an e-mail copying every available address, **WILL NOT** get through the Spam filter. And if it does, our IT guy recommends we should probably delete the e-mail without opening it. Always title your e-mail, e-mail only the most appropriate party, and contact us first prior to sending large attachments such as photos, or send a link to where you have a photo posted. If you looked here—all the way through-- and still could not find the answer you seek, [click on this link to contact us](#)



"I HAVE A VALLEY-DYNAMO POOL TABLE..." That's like saying you went to the dealership in this photo and bought a Buick-Pontiac-GMC car. Valley and Dynamo tables are separate products. Since Valley and Dynamo merged in the late 1990s we've tried to share some components and hardware like leg levelers or push chute extensions, but the tables were designed separately by competitors. Before you contact ANYONE, or attempt to order ANY parts, confirm if your table is a Valley or Dynamo. It may be very important. (hint: All

Dynamo corner castings say "Dynamo")

WHAT SIZE IS MY TABLE? There are different sizes. People throw around the term "bar box" or "bar sized", but there is **no such thing**. After all, don't bar sizes vary?

This chart will help explain:

What we call it	v101/d48	v93/d38	v88/d28	v85/d18	v78
<i>(because from end-to-end it measures)</i>	101"	93"	88"	85"	78"
<i>(and this wide)</i>	57¼"	52¾"	50"	49"	45"
<i>we also call it</i>	8-foot	7-foot	6½ foot	6½ foot or 6-foot or "New Yorker"	6-foot
playing surface	44" x 88"	40" x 80"	37" x 74½"	36" x 72"	32½" x 65"
slate size	47½" x 91½"	43" x 83"	40¼" x 77½"	39" x 75"	35½" x 68"
slate thickness	7/8"	¾"	¾"	¾"	¾"
Approximate Cushion Rail Width <i>(at widest point)</i>	40"	36"	33½"	32"	28½"
Approximate length of side trim	82¼"	73¾"	68¼"	65¾"	58⅝"
Approximate length of end trim	38¼"	33¾"	31"	29¼"	26⅛"
In the current Valley model number format, the third letter is:	A	B	C	D	E
Valley model number from the 1970s-1980s is formatted as	4#	3#	2#	1#	1#
Currently produced	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

Prior to 1964 there were some really odd dimensions used – 75”, 70”, etc. We don’t cover those here because there are no parts available for those tables and never will be again.

IMPORTANT: avoid inconvenience, returns, restock fees and additional shipments; **be absolutely sure of your table’s size before looking for parts.** Third time we’ve said this in this document: never say “it’s a bar table.” We know this business. Trust us, there are definitely different sizes. Don’t just say “it’s a 7-footer” because you see above our 6 ½ foot table measures 7 feet *ish* from end to end, or our 8 foot table has a 7 feet *ish* playing surface! Measure! Measure! Measure! Please ask if you are not sure.

SHOULD I REPLACE MY CUSHION RAILS? Commercial locations rails can require replacement as often as 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. For the last few years we’ve date stamped the back of our rails, look for it. 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.

[BUY GENUINE VALLEY REPLACEMENT CUSHION RAIL SETS AT THIS LINK](#)

WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT GENUINE VALLEY RAILS? SOMEONE ON THE INTERNET SELLS RAILS THAT FIT YOUR TABLES FOR A LOT LESS MONEY, AND THEY SAY THEY’RE BETTER.

- Valley replacement rails are literally from stock that goes into the production of new tables. There is no “budget line” for replacement parts.
- Valley rails have exclusive use of K-66 Dual Density rubber by D&R Championship. People complain that our rails don’t bounce enough and send links to videos saying “these rails banked a ball ## times, why can’t yours?” What tournament players have demanded and what our rails deliver is consistent action that retains the durability to last in a busy location. We value accuracy over bounciness. The balls in the photo will give you bounciness, but they won’t bounce the same way, every time.
- Valley rails are shaped so your table retains the 2:1 size ratio tournament players prefer.
- Valley Covered rails have the exclusive Valley Teflon Ultra cloth by D&R/Championship. Spills can be wiped right off the cloth before they have a chance to set. Your table will look better, longer.
- Valley Rails use Threaded Inserts instead of T-Nuts. This eliminates the small ‘dead spot’ some players find in the rubber at each bolt position.
- There is a manufacturer of cushion rails who claims that because the backs of their products incorporates a ridge it’s superior, it’s more rigid, it provides a better play experience. We tested them and really didn’t find any improvement in performance.
- The Valley Panther tables use a 5-bolt rail system. These rails are designed to work on both new Panther and existing Valley tables. Tables built between roughly 1969 up to 1999 can be easily modified to use the current rails (see below). So there is no old rail vs. new rail question, and no need to stock multiple sets of rails if you’re an operator with old and new tables on your route.



WILL NEW RAILS REALLY FIT MY OLD TABLE? 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.

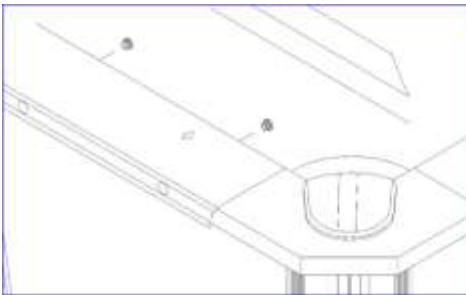


This whole new rails/old table issue is important. Every couple of months someone raises a big stink because current model rails didn't just bolt right on to their 40 year old table, or they attempted to do so and proceeded to install multiple rail sets in the same way they always have and damaged every set.

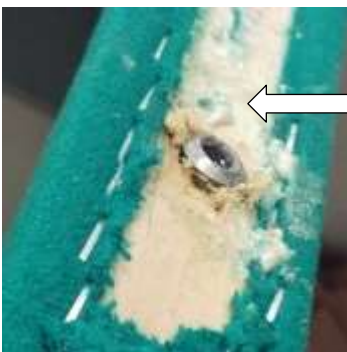
Let's pause here: doesn't it seem reasonable that to fit current parts on any product 20 or more years old, a slight modification might be needed?

As noted on the outside of every cushion rail box, we ask you to just read the [Instructions included in that box](#). If your table is a Valley of 1970-1998 vintage, the directions easily show how to use current model Cushion Rails on older tables (it's a minor fix, but can cause major issues if not done), and correctly mount any cushion rails. Note that it says here that failure to follow the instructions could result in damage to your new set of cushions, and that this damage is not covered under Warranty. 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.

Seriously: we wouldn't pack [an instruction sheet with every cushion rail set](#) if we did not think it was important.



WHY DO YOU INCLUDE A BAG OF NYLON INSERTS WITH EACH RAIL SET? We added a ridge/gap we added to the backside of the wood for strength and cloth attachment. To fill that gap, use one nylon insert with each rail bolt. You risk pulling out the rails' threaded inserts if you don't, and that comes under "improper installation" and is not a covered Warranty issue. [WE EVEN POSTED THIS NIFTY VIDEO ON YOUTUBE IN 2013 TO HELP SHOW HOW TO INSTALL THE INSERTS.](#)



When a customer contacts us and says "My rails were defective" and sends photos like these. We know what happened: *They didn't use the nylon inserts.*

To sum up: we say it on the box, on the instructions, have the video, and dedicated this whole section to the heroic nylon insert. Please: use them.

These aren't the same old cushion rails, and shouldn't be installed in the same old way.



YOUR CUSHION RAILS SAY "5 BOLT" BUT I NEED RAILS WITH ONLY 3 BOLT HOLES – DO YOU STILL HAVE 3-BOLT RAILS? A picture is once again worth 1000 words. The "Three bolt holes that matter to you" have not changed; we only added two attachment points. Telling an operator with hundreds of Valley tables that they need to start stocking a new rail

set for newer tables is a poor selling point for them to buy new tables.



We haven't built a "Three bolt" Valley rail set since 2010. One look at the picture and it should make perfect sense why.

DO YOU SELL JUST THE RUBBER? No. The Dual-density rubber we use is a Valley exclusive. If we sell it separately, someone is liable to put it on "Brand X" table's rail backing or "Brand Z" aftermarket rails and claim it's 'as good as a Valley.'

MY OLDER TABLE'S RAILS USED K-55 OR U-23 RUBBER, CAN I GET RAILS WITH RUBBER WITH THAT PROFILE INSTEAD OF THE K-66? Years of evaluation at tournaments and feedback from players led to the decision to begin using K66 rubber in 1999 (meaning that's been our profile of choice now for close to 20 years). The wood backing on the current rails is shaped to allow proper mounting and preserve your table's 2:1 ratio.

Where you run into problems is putting new rubber on wood backing designed for rubber of a different profile. Meaning, if your table had K-55 rubber and you want the existing rails refreshed with new rubber and recovered: insist on K-55 again. Do not change. However, if you are purchasing a new set of rails with K-66 rubber to bolt onto your existing table, you should be fine.

WHAT IS THE TORQUE SPEC FOR RAILS? We tighten rails to **65 inch-pounds** (as we print on the box), but for consistent quality play it is far more important that rails are properly aligned, also noted in the [Valley Cushion Rail Service Bulletin](#). Rails do not need to be super tight, just snug (and tightening them super-tight risks breaking loose the threaded inserts, which is not a covered Warranty Issue because—AS SHOWN ABOVE-- we even print on the boxes "Do not overtighten – Torque spec is 65 inch pounds") – [AND DON'T FORGET TO USE THE NYLON INSERTS WE INCLUDE WITH THE RAIL SETS. \(yes, we said it again\)](#)

Notice that's two times we referred to the [Valley Cushion Rail Service Bulletin](#), and it won't be the last. It contains some seriously important information.

WHY ARE MY RAILS BULGING RIGHT BEHIND THE RAIL BOLTS? We suspect this is not a brand new table and is a few decades old. Over time, as Operators replace the cushion rails, the wood in the side rail gradually gets compressed by the rail bolts, allowing them to dig further and further into the wood. Shorter rail bolts would fix this, but we found shorter rail bolts may not fully attach the cushions to newer tables.

You can add washers in the outside rail bolt holes to compensate for the compressed wood, and this will provide just enough clearance without affecting the fit and attachment of your cushion rails.

I'VE GOT ONE OF THOSE TABLES WHERE THE RAILS ARE ATTACHED WITH WOOD SCREWS. AM I SCREWED TOO? Any 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. Unlike some specialty suppliers, we do not offer a "Rail recovering" service.

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Some creative customers have attempted (important note: 'attempted', not 'succeeded') to modify Valley cushion rail sets to fit pre-1970 tables, or modify the tables themselves. We advise against this, you will void all warranties if you attempt it, and we will not issue refunds or credits for the cushion rails when (not "if") this plan fails. We say don't even try it, so do this only at your own risk.

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. Now that one "bad" rail is the one "brand new" rail.
- Rails come in different profiles and rubber configurations which will have different play characteristics even if they are the same age.
- Our wood is sized to maintain a 2:1 table ratio. Someone else's wood might not be.
- Replace just one, and expect to have a different dead rail a few months later and have to go through the whole process again, and again, and again. Those of you who own a printer with a bunch of different color cartridges will understand this.
- The dye lot of a single rail may be just enough from the others to be obvious.

This is not a conspiracy to force you to buy rails by the set, no more than that evil conspiracy making 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 undeniably sure about...

- The size and age of the table – *not all bars are the same size, not all bar tables are the same size*.
- 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 or Burgundy.

The [Valley Pool parts breakdown](#) and the [Quick Guide to Rail sets](#) on site will list part numbers for all available rail sets. Rail sets are not available for 78" and 85" Valley tables.

BUT I WANT 3-BOLT RAILS, I DON'T WANT 5-BOLT RAILS. WILL VALLEY PANTHER 5-BOLT RAILS FIT MY 3-BOLT TABLE? REALLY? YOU'RE NOT JERKING ME AROUND HERE?

YES THEY WILL FIT

WE PLANNED IT THIS WAY

All sorts of helpful Cushion Rail information can be found—guess where?: On our [CUSHION RAIL SERVICE BULLETIN](#) link but the short version is the location of the three bolts that matter to you has not been changed on the five-bolt cushion rails. We simply added inserts in what was empty space.

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

☠ 4-Bolt Rails for the Brunswick Metro Coin

WILL YOUR CUSHION RAILS FIT A TABLE MADE BY MY -----?

We receive a lot of questions from customers who have located an old coin-operated table by a manufacturer they cannot locate, or has long since shut down. Irving Kaye tables generate a few requests. As the manufacturer of Valley and Dynamo tables, we only stock parts known to work in Valley or Dynamo products. Some other manufacturers have gone to great effort to make their tables different, others knew a good design when they saw it and tried to copy it. Someone may cleverly be able to adapt our parts for use elsewhere, but we make no guarantees.

There was a recent incident where a customer bought one of our cushion rail sets thinking he could adapt it to a “no longer in business third party” table—against our advice. He damaged the cushions in the process, and then wanted us to exchange them for good cushion rails.

We have no service information, documentation, advice or parts for competing products. It's like asking that Mustang fanatic to come work on your Yamaha ATV or propane fork lift because they both have 4 wheels and a motor.

Google, Yahoo and Bing are your friends...

I AM A DEALER OR OPERATOR WHO ALREADY HAS A VALLEY-DYNAMO ACCOUNT; CAN I USE YOUR WEBSTORE? Contact the [Parts department](#) to obtain a password to order online using your account.