

TORNADO Tornado Foosball Frequently Asked Questions



Before we begin: we've added this document as a way of communicating the 'official manufacturer position' on some things. Reviewing a lot of the information posted by dedicated Tornado fans on the web, you'll find differences in what you "should" do (or not do) and what you "can" do (or not do) with your Tornado table.

HISTORY

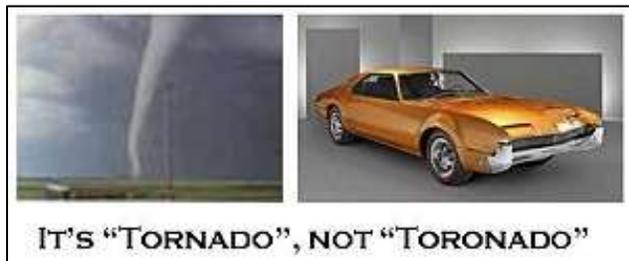
Answer this one once and for all, is it 'Tor-Nay-Do' or 'Tor-o-Nah-do'?

Well, really, you can call it "Tomato" or even "Turbo Honker," just keep buying OUR tables, right?

But since we're asked, quite often: Notice how the company logo shows a soccer ball caught in a cyclonic weather phenomenon common to the plains states. Also, inspiration came from the name of the [Dallas Tornado](#), a local NASL Soccer franchise that played from 1967 to 1981. Say, that's a familiar-looking logo...



The name of any product from Oldsmobile had nothing to do with it – incidentally, their made-up name "Toronado" (note the extra "o") had no prior meaning and had been originally coined by GM for a 1963 Chevrolet show car.



Is there any way to tell how old my table is?

While split-cabinet coin and home tables are serialized, we do not have a comprehensive serial number record to work from. Lower-level models have no serial number. This is a case where you really should check with the experience of people on Internet Foosball Forums. Someone there will know how old their table is and you can work from there.

Where are your tables built?

- Since 2009, all tables are built here in the U.S. in Richland Hills TX
- For about 2 years under Brunswick ownership (2007-2009), coin and T3000 tables were built in Grand Prairie TX and other non-coin models were imported from Asia.
- At various times prior, a few entry-level models like the Hurricane and Zephyr were imported, but more upscale models were U.S. built.

NEW TABLES

Can I buy tables directly from you?

All sales are done through Dealers. [Use this link to locate your nearest Dealer.](#)

What if there's no Dealer in my country?

E-mail our [International Sales Department](#) for assistance.

Can I buy just the top (or bottom) of a split cabinet table?

All split-cabinet tables are built as a single piece and then individually cut. This helps give them their legendarily solid feel – but it also means a random top will not “plug and play” with a random bottom. This method of construction also means we don't have a stack of tops and a stack of bottoms in inventory, or any one-without-the-other. When you make one, you'll end up with the other.

Can I buy a table in a custom color?

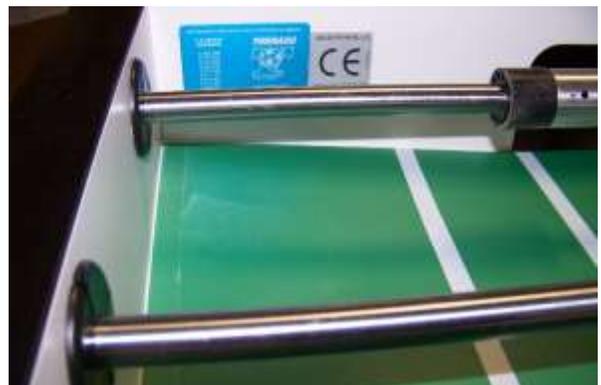
Because ALL Tables are built here in our Richland Hills TX facility, we can and do produce a variety of table in custom laminates, as well as Hand Crafted furniture-grade tables in the customer's choice of stain. See the available options [On our website](#) and talk to your Dealer about further customization.

Can I order a table with a custom playfield logo?

This is one place there's not an option. That means doing a single custom playfield laminate at great expense and considerable lead time. You should be proud of your Tornado table.

Do you sell single-goalie tables?

Coin and T-3000 models are available with single-goalie options. Rather than add stick-on ramps in the corners, our single-goalie tables incline the playfield under the laminate for a seamless look.



I want to manufacture tables; can you offer a wholesale account to buy your parts?

We avoid this because use of Tornado parts on any table implies we endorse or support the table and can provide service for it. You can certainly buy parts as needed from us, but not at Wholesale pricing.

CARE AND SERVICE OF EXISTING TABLES

I think I locked the keys inside my table, how I can open it and hopefully get them out?

The [push locks](#) in split cabinet tables cannot be drilled out. You could remove the pins in the [hinges](#), saw through (and replace) the [lock tongues](#), or buy a new cabinet key. We are only stock the [90094 Key used in current tables](#).

Can I adapt a table with 1.5” sidewalls and press-in bearings to use the patented Tornado split bearing/bearing nut combo? This would require precisely enlarging and maintaining alignment on each of the 16 bearing openings on your table. At the factory, the sidewall is drilled by precision CNC equipment before the table is assembled. Any functional gains from the bearing change are outweighed by the risk of doing permanent and irreversible damage do your table – you won’t be able to make the holes smaller again or realign them. We advise against trying this.

Can I purchase new laminate for my table? How do I relaminate it?

As noted above, we first laminate a complete sidewall, drill most of the openings, assemble the table, and then cut the cabinet and add openings for locks and the coin mech (in cases of coin and T-3000 models). While we sell Platinum exterior laminates for the current models, they are full sheets that will need cut, routed and drilled. It’s a good option if you have one side with damage you want to match the other 3, and a pricey and labor intensive option for a complete reskin.

Find someone locally who does cabinet refinishing and remodeling. They can sell an entire sheet of the laminate in the color and texture of your choice from their available selections. They may be able to match existing colors if that’s your preference (Helpful tip: the marble tables are a Formica® brand laminate)

As far as how to relaminate the table, start by asking the folks you’re buying the laminate from, and maybe consult some websites for

information on furniture refinishing. Remember: what we do laminating new wood and then cutting out all the openings is useless to apply to redoing a fully assembled table.

Can I purchase a new playfield laminate?

We only sell playfields mounted on the wood so all the markers and lines maintain their precise locations. For any split cabinet table, playfield replacement is fairly straightforward due to the easy access from the bottom. Things get more complicated with the current-model Elite and Classic (and older Storm and Cyclone) and the ball-return-hardware attached beneath - you may want to [contact our Tech Support department](#) for more in-depth assistance. On the current-model Sport (and older Whirlwind and Twister) you'd basically need to destroy the cabinet to access the playfield for replacement. Maybe that playfield-replacement budget is better-used toward a newer upgraded table?

I got an incredible deal on a cabinet and just need all the game-play parts. Can you provide a quote for these items?

We get asked this quite a lot. Unfortunately, you are looking at about \$350 alone just for the rods. The rods and all other game-play parts are listed on our site for you to make your determination. Often times these deals happen because someone learned how much all the "other parts" would cost and simply upgraded to a new table and discarded the old cabinet. Be wary if you get offered a great deal on a cabinet that just needs the game-play parts. It's not the bargain you think it is.

Do you sell tips, protectors or guards for foosball rods?

Tip protectors are actually not practical, there's no clearance once the rod is pulled in all the way - so they'll just pop off. While we do not sell guards, there are a number of aftermarket options available, you might try [this product from Protecto Flex](#).

Do you sell other Foosball accessories?

As a manufacturer our focus is on building the tables, leaving things like covers, handle-wraps, rod clamps, etc. to the aftermarket. For those type

of accessory items, we'd simply be buying items from an outside supplier, stocking them and marking up the price.

What parts are available for the Import Tables built from 2007-2009?

Play parts including rods, men, bearings, bumpers, etc. are fully compatible with current model tables; but cabinet and internal parts will no longer be available.

Are the Tornado men available in other colors besides Black and Yellow?

The problem is that it means ordering a LOT, we're talking "by the hundreds" to economically produce men in an "alternate" color. While the topic comes up periodically, it usually dies down. Someone remembers the last time we produced an "alternate" color and just how long we were stuck with the boxes and boxes and boxes of men in that particular color. So "Not at the moment, but wave around some money and commit to buying a several hundred and we might get a little more open-minded."