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How Slot Machines Got Developed Over The Years

By Stephen Crawford

Anyone who visited a casino twenty years ago knows that the biggest change brought about by

modern technology has been to the slot machine. Earlier it was a very simple device. You put a coin in the slot and pulled the handle to activate the three reels. The pay table was on the front glass and if you lined up three winning symbols you won. The modern video slot machine is highly developed than used in those days.

The new slot machines are truly modern day wonders and they have many technical advantages than the machines used in the past. The new machines are run by microprocessors that make it possible to have virtual reels and many stops making it possible to offer life changing jackpots. Unlike the old ones, the new video slot machines have five, nine or even more playlines. You can also bet multiple coins on each line that you select. The winning paylines can be vertical, horizontal, diagonal or zigzag. There can be scatter pay or bonus pay symbols on the reels

Although the new slots don't come with a manual, there is a help screen to explain you how the game is played. If you are playing a game you never played before, you must spend a minute looking at the help screen and understand the game. The first screen of the help menu shows the pay lines for the game. This screen also explains how the symbols must line up for a winning spin. Many of the new video slots require that the winning symbols must start on the left reel and go to the right. The screen will also tell you how many coins you can bet on each payline.

Importance of pay table in the slot machine

The next screen you want to look at is the pay table that shows how much each symbol pays. Slot makers try to make the hierarchy of winning symbols easy to understand. Some of the games have themes that make the value of the symbols easy to understand. But there are some which are confusing and so it is always best to check the pay table, before the start.

Each machine has a table that lists the number of credits the player will receive if the symbols listed on the pay table line up on the pay line of the machine. Some symbols are wild and will pay if they are visible in any position, even if they are not on the pay line. On the older machines, it was found that the

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pay table is listed on the face of the machine, usually above and below the area containing the wheels. Most video machines display the pay table when the player presses a "pay table" button or touches "pay table" on the screen. Some of the machines have the pay table listed on the cabinet as well.

It is up to you to determine if you want to play a machine that affords you many smaller wins or are you the type that wants to go for a big one? By looking at the pay table you can get a general idea. Although payback percentages are set to return a set amount over the long run, anything can happen in the short run.

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History Of The Slot Machine

By Eric Madsen

Charles Fay invented the slot machine in his workshop in San Francisco in 1887 and he named it the "Liberty Bell". The Liberty Bell contained 3 reels with 20 symbols per reel and operated pretty much in the same way as today's slot machines except it was completely mechanical, while today's slot machines are mostly computers with very few moving parts. Fay rented the slot machines to gambling establishments and refused to sell the manufacturing and distribution rights to his slot machines. He had a very lucrative business and charged a 50% commission of all money played. Within a relatively short period of time, Fay's invention was so successful that he began to work overtime in his workshop to meet the demand for his slot machines.

Herbert Mills, in 1907, a Chicago manufacturer created a slot machine very similar to Fay's 'Liberty Bell' and named it the 'Operator Bell'. Mills produced and distributed his slot machine at a higher rate than Fay's 'Liberty Bell', and experienced even greater success by 1910. The 'Operator Bell' slot machines were very common in the United States of America. The slot machine reached a peak in popularity in the 1920's and 30's and became common place throughout the US. With this new popularity, new laws were introduced and passed to outlaw slot machines in many states. In spite of this, slot machines continued to be popular throughout America during the 1920s and 1930s. During the late 1940's, Bugsy Moran a well known Chicago mobster, added slot machines to his Flamingo Hilton hotel in Las Vegas. Within a short period of time the profit from slot machines exceeded that of table games.

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The slot machines were nicknamed "one arm bandits" by many, because the pulling of a handle on right side of the machine actuated the reels. The slot machine remained a mechanical device until the 1980's when most of the mechanical guts were replaced by circuit boards and computer chips. The modern slot machine is a computer! The computer chip is programmed to pay out a certain percentage of the money taken in. The program uses a random number generator (RNG) to calculate which symbols will come up on the pay line. This random number generator creates new numbers all the time, 100 of thousands of numbers per minute. Depending on the numbers that are generated and the instant you push the spin button, those numbers will indicate the placement of the symbols on the pay line. Now that you have a general idea of how the modern slot machine works, have fun and good luck.

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