

TABLE CONSTRUCTION

A pool / billiards / snooker table is a three piece construction. The pieces are divisible easily in order that regular service work on the various components can be performed as needed. The various parts bolt together, to allow fairly easy disassembly. The three basic parts are the base frame, the slate play surface, and the rail assembly. With normal construction there is no contact between all three parts at any point. The base frame functions as support for the slate. The slate is attached, or more exactly located onto the base frame by some number of slate screws. The rail and apron assembly sits on the top of the slate playing field and is attached very firmly to the slate with rail bolts. The pockets are attached to the rail and apron assembly, and often serve to hold the rails together at the corners and the side pockets. In tables currently being constructed, the rail bolts come up from the bottom of the slate through drilled holes in the slate, to attach the rails. There are a number of ways that the rail bolts are designed to bolt into the rails. The drawing below shows the floating nut plate design used by Brunswick.

Modern table construction:

parts and simplified aspects of rail construction

Antique table construction / Rails:

In older constructions the rails were attached to the slate with bolts entering the side of the slate. These bolts thread into lead lugs that were created by pouring hot lead into holes drilled into the slate for this purpose. In an antique table, problems occasionally arise when these lugs get loose or fall out. Our current repair technique is to replace these lugs with a new epoxy lug, or to glue the old lugs back in place with epoxy.

Antique table construction / Dowel Pins:

When dealing with any slightly older table, you must be very careful to deal properly with any dowel pins that you may encounter. These pins are a primary cause of a lot of broken slate. The real problem is that they no longer make dowel pinned slate, and replacing a broken slate of this type is very difficult and expensive. Before lifting any slate you should remove all slate screws, and then carefully slide the slates apart. By always following this procedure, on any table, should you encounter a dowel pin, you will be aware of its presence. The dowel pins served a purpose in keeping the surface of the slate flat. This can be a big problem in any slate without these dowel pins. Should you bend a pin in transit, it is not a good idea to attempt to straighten it, and absolutely a terrible idea to try to put the table together with a bent pin. We tell our crew to just cut a damaged pin off, and then to use the straight edge as usual, to be sure the slate is flat as it should be. Old installers do not like this solution, but they will retire soon. To service tables with any possibility of having dowel pins, remove all screws, then slide the two end slates away from the center slate by only pulling towards the ends of the table. This must be done carefully or you will have a broken slate that cannot be easily replaced.

STORE: 336-584-0835

FAX: 336-584-5483

TOLL FREE: 1-800-275-4520

EMAIL: heads@heads4pool.net

STORE HOURS: M-F 10-5 SAT 10-12:30 Sales and Service

ADDRESS: 945 Haggard Ave. Elon, NC 27244