



Game Info

- [Game Listing](#)
- [Game Feature Glossary](#)
- [History](#)
- [Paper Archive](#)
- [Glossary of Bingo Terms](#)

Techno

- [How They Work](#)
- [Common Problems](#)
- [Parts Specs](#)
- [Overhaul](#)

Marketplace

- [Buying Tips](#)
- [Auction Prices](#)
- [Resources](#)

Inside Your Bingo

Bingo Functions

Before describing the actual components that make up a bingo Pinball, a description of the major functions that are implemented in one of these games seems to be in order. I have divided these functions into five categories; feature (and odds) selection, ball control, winner detection, payout, and extra ball feature.

Feature selection

Feature selection is the operation that occurs before the first ball is shot, during the depositing of one or more coins. For each coin deposited, or replay played off, various actions can occur. Odds may be increased, free numbers may be spotted, features such as four corners scoring or turning corners may be enabled, etc. These events occur in a pseudo-random fashion (described by the manufacturers as mystery Intervals) and it is entirely possible that nothing at all will occur (except for internal mechanism noise) with the deposit of any given coin. In many cases arrows on the backglass may advance to indicate to the player that certain features are getting closer to occurring.

Ball Control

Ball control includes raising the first, and subsequent, balls to the playfield, keeping track of which ball is being played, and allowing balls to be re-raised if one falls into the ball return hole at the bottom of the playfield.

Winner Detection

Winner detection is searching the position in playfield holes of all balls played to determine if a winning in-line (or four corners if enabled) combination has been achieved.

Payout

Payout is the scoring of replays, on the replay register on the backboard in accordance with the type of win (3-in-line 4-in-line, 5-in-line, or four corners) and the odds indicated on the backglass.

Extra Balls

Finally, the extra ball feature allows a player the chance to play up to three extra balls, in addition to the normal five balls per game. These awards are achieved by depositing additional coins, or playing replays, after the normal five balls have been played. The awarding of extra balls also occurs in a pseudo-random manner as extra coins are played.

[Previous](#)[Next](#)

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THE KING OF PINBALL



[[Previous](#) | [List](#) | [Home](#) | [Random](#) |
[Next](#)]