

The Truth Behind the Machine

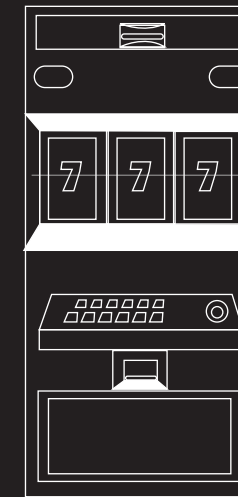
The “Reel” Story About Slot Machines In Missouri Casinos

Fact Check TRUE OR FALSE ?

1. A slot machine that hasn't hit in a long time is “due” to hit.
2. A player hit a jackpot on the machine you were just playing. If you had been there, you would have hit the jackpot.
3. The slot machine you were playing just hit. It will not hit again for a long time.
4. You can tell the odds of winning by counting the symbols on each reel.
5. If you had hit the spin button instead of pulling the handle, you would have hit a winning combination.
6. If you put \$100 in a slot machine that advertises a 94% payback, you should get back at least \$94.
7. Casinos can flip a switch to loosen or tighten the slot machines.
8. You'll be able to determine a pattern if you pay close enough attention to the machine.
9. If you put your player's card in, you'll win less.
10. If someone leaves credits on a machine, you can play them.
11. You can have a spouse or a friend claim a jackpot that you have won.
12. If a machine malfunctions when you play it, you should win whatever is displayed.

(Click number to see answer)

Types of Slot Machines

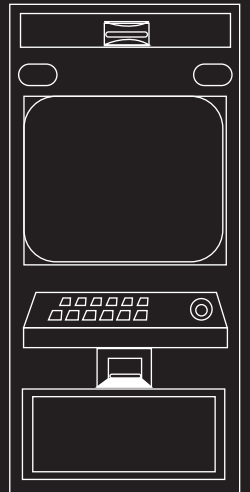


Mechanical Reel

These machines have actual physical reels that spin when the machine is played. Mechanical reels are still the favored machines of many patrons.

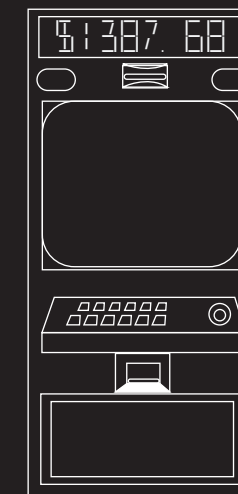
Video

Video machines use virtual reels that are displayed with a monitor. Manufacturers are able to display detailed graphics on video machines.



Progressive Machines

Progressive machines can be video or reel. They are usually recognizable by a large jackpot amount that is displayed above the machine. A percentage of money wagered is added to the jackpot amount that is available.



The Truth About Slot Machines

1 *A slot machine that hasn't bit in a long time is "due" to bit.* **FALSE.** All slot machines (electronic gaming devices) authorized for use in Missouri operate purely from a computerized random number generator (RNG) that is triggered at the instant the player commits a wager (pulls the handle, or pushes the "spin/bet" button). RNGs generate millions of RANDOM combinations a minute.

The RNG continues to generate combinations regardless of whether a player is at the machine. There is no special programming that prevents or requires a slot machine to "hit" at any time. The RNG makes every spin completely random, with the outcome determined at the particular millisecond the wager is committed by the player.

2 *A player hit a jackpot on the machine you were just playing. If you had been there, you would have hit the jackpot.* **FALSE.** The RNG is continuously cycling through combinations of numbers, regardless of whether the machine is being played. As soon as the spin/bet button is pressed, the RNG determines whether the player has won or lost, based on the combination that was generated by the RNG at the millisecond the wager was made. Committing the wager a split second earlier or later would result in a different outcome. Therefore, for you to have hit that jackpot, you would have had to commit the wager at exactly the same millisecond as the other player.

3 *The slot machine I was playing has just bit. It will not bit again for a long time.* **FALSE.** Each handle pull or reel spin has the same statistical odds of winning – or losing – as any other handle pull or reel spin. The fact that a jackpot just occurred has no impact on

the outcome of the next play.

4 *You can tell the odds of winning by counting the symbols on each reel.* **FALSE.** There can be hundreds of virtual stops (such as a stop in the area between two symbols, or only partially on a symbol) on each reel even though you only see a few symbols. For example, you may only see 20 symbols per reel of a 3 reel machine; you figure $20 \times 20 \times 20 = 8,000$ combinations and your chance of hitting the jackpot is 1 in 8,000. In reality, the game program may have 256 stops for each reel, which makes the odds $256 \times 256 \times 256 = 16,777,216$ combinations, and the chance of winning the jackpot is actually 1 in 16,777,216.

5 *If you had bit the spin button instead of pulling the handle, you would have bit a winning combination.* **FALSE.** Whether you press the spin button or pull the handle has no bearing on the outcome of the game. Both are merely connections to the same switch and impact the RNG cycle in the same manner.

6 *If you put \$100 in a slot machine that advertises a 94% payback, you should get back at least \$94.* **FALSE.** All credits paid out are considered "winnings" and the overall payout percentages are typically based on 10 million plays. A return of at least \$94 of every \$100 wagered is an oversimplification. The one absolute mathematical fact that can be stated about slot machines is that as long as the payout rate is less than 100%, if a person keeps playing long enough, the person will lose everything. The only variable is how long the process may take to complete.

7 *Casinos flip a switch to loosen or tighten the slot ma-*

chines. **FALSE.** In Missouri, casinos must notify the Gaming Commission prior to any changes, and all changes must be approved and supervised by Gaming Agents to ensure all activities comply with the various gaming regulations and laws. The game software that controls the outcome of each play is contained in an approved electronic storage media that has been tested and verified through an independent testing lab. Gaming Agents must be present when the tested and verified storage media is installed into the slot machine. The Gaming Agent then seals the storage media with a MGC security seal. In Missouri, only Gaming Agents may break the seals, and any changes to the storage media that contains the game software (and therefore, how "tight" or "loose" it is) must be with the knowledge and approval of the Gaming Commission. Any new programming or storage media is then subject to verification, sealing, and testing processes.

The only variation to this process is Server Supported Gaming (SSG). With SSG the software that controls outcome can be changed via server, with MGC approval. Verification and security processes are still in place.

8 *You'll be able to determine a pattern if you pay close enough attention to the machine.* **FALSE.** Again, slot machines are controlled by RNGs. Each play is independent of previous plays. There is no pattern to determine.

9 *If you put your player's card in, you'll win less.* **FALSE.** The use of your player's card has no impact on the outcome of the game, only on your ability to earn rewards from the casino.

10 *If someone leaves credits on a machine, you can play them.* **FALSE.** Playing credits that belong to someone else is theft – if you find credits remaining on a machine, report it to the casino so that they can place the credits in safekeeping for the patron to claim when they return.

11 *You can have a spouse or a friend claim a jackpot that you have won.* **FALSE.** Only the wagering patron can lawfully claim a jackpot.

12 *If a machine malfunctions when you play it, you should win whatever is displayed.* **FALSE.** Unfortunately, slot machines occasionally malfunction. It is important to understand that the outcome of a slot wager is determined by the RNG/game program in the machine, not by the reels. As a result, if there is a discrepancy between the display and what the computer told the reels to display, the outcome is determined by what the computer says. In a patron dispute, Gaming Agents can access the computer's play history to determine the results of the last few games played on the machine. If you believe a slot machine has not paid out according to the payout display on the machine, **YOU SHOULD STOP PLAYING IMMEDIATELY** and ask the casino and/or the MGC to review the results. You have the right to request a MGC agent as soon as you feel there may be an issue.

The Missouri Gaming Commission Working For You

The Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) is the state agency responsible for the regulation and enforcement of Missouri's gaming industry relating to riverboat gambling and charitable bingo.

The MGC ensures integrity and reinforces public confidence in gaming by holding licensees accountable for compliance with gaming regulations.

Accountability encourages casinos and their employees to operate within all applicable gaming laws and regulations.

The MGC strives to promote a positive impact on the state while ensuring the integrity of charitable and commercial gaming. The MGC employs investigators, auditors, accountants, electronic gaming device specialists, administrators, and support personnel.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol's (MSHP) Gaming Division conducts criminal and regulatory investigations for the MGC, including comprehensive background investigations of individuals, companies, and suppliers applying for licensure in Missouri.

The MSHP currently has at least one plain-clothed Gaming Agent on duty at each casino when gaming is taking place to respond to patron complaints and to look for possible violations of gaming laws, rules, and regulations.

Specific concerns about slot machines, or any gaming issue, are best handled by immediately contacting the Gaming Agent (MGC/MSHP) on duty at the casino at the time of the problem. MGC Agents are neutral enforcers who work for the public, not for the casinos.



The Truth Behind
the Machine



Have a gambling problem? Call 1-888-BETS-OFF

Missouri Gaming Commission 3417 Knipp Drive PO Box 1847 Jefferson City, MO 65102 Phone: 573-526-4080 Fax: 573-526-1999 Website: www.mgc.dps.mo.gov