

A Free eBook Presented by: Big "M" Casino Myrtle Beach

What would a casino be without slot machines? The flashing lights, the dinging sounds of the spins, the consistent wins, and the excitement of hearing tokens pour down when you hit a jackpot are quintessential to the excitement and fun of a casino atmosphere! Sure, some people may love the opportunities to win big at Craps, Roulette, or BlackJack. But, when it comes right down to it, many people that go to a casino will end up finding themselves in front of a slot machine at some point.

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1: History of Slots

Although the technology of today's slot machines are quite impressive, slots have actually been around for over a century. It all began in the 1890's...when a man named Charles Fey from San Francisco, CA conceived of a poker machine with an automatic payout mechanism. However, poker was very complex. With so many ways to <u>win in a game of poker</u>, it was nearly impossible to make a machine capable of creating an automatic payout for all the winning combinations.

Instead, Fey devised a machine with three spinning reels. They contained a total of five symbols, including horseshoes, diamonds, spades, hearts, and a Liberty Bell (which also gave the machine its name).

By replacing ten cards with five symbols and using three reels instead of five drums, the complexity of reading a win was considerably reduced, allowing Fey to devise an effective automatic payout mechanism. Three bells in a row produced the biggest payoff, which was ten nickels.

The Liberty Bell was a huge success and gave birth to a thriving mechanical gaming industry. The machine was so popular, that it was copied by many other slot machine manufacturers. Herbert Mills from Chicago produced a slot machine called *The Operator Bell* in 1907. Within a year, these "bell" machines were in most cigar stores, saloons, bowling alleys, brothels and barber shops. You can still see the original Liberty Bell slot machine at the Liberty Belle Saloon & Restaurant in Reno, Nevada.

In 1891, two men named Sittman and Pitt, of Brooklyn, New York, developed a gambling machine which was a precursor to our



Charles Fey's Liberty Bell Slot Machine



modern slot machines. This machine was accurately based on poker. It actually contained five drums, holding a total of 50 card faces. Players would insert a nickel and pull a lever, which would spin the drums and the cards they held, the player hoping for a good poker hand.

However, with this machine, there was no direct payout mechanism. So, a pair of kings might get you a free beer, whereas a royal flush may pay out cigars or drinks. The prizes depended on whatever the local establishment was offering. This machine proved extremely popular. Soon, many bars in the city had one or more of the machines.

Another early machine gave out winnings in the form of fruit flavored chewing gum, with symbols of the flavors on the reels. The popular cherry and melon symbols came from this machine, as well as the BAR symbol, which was derived from an early logo of the Bell-Fruit Gum Company.



The payment of food prizes for slot machines was a commonly used technique to avoid gambling laws in a number of states. For this reason, a number of gumball and other vending machines were regarded with mistrust by the courts.

In 1963, Bally developed the first fully electromechanical slot machine called "Money Honey". Earlier machines had the basics of electromechanical construction as early as 1940. However, the electromechanical

approach of the 1960s allowed this to be the first slot machine with a bottomless hopper and automatic payout, of up to 500 coins, without the help of an attendant. The popularity of this machine led to the increasing predominance of electronic games. The side lever on slot machines soon became merely a decoration.

The first true, video slot machine was developed in 1976 by a group of developers under the direction of Fortune Coin Co., Las Vegas, NV. After some "cheat-proofing" modifications, the video slot machine was approved by the Nevada State Gaming Commission and eventually became one of the more popular <u>casino games</u> on the Las Vegas Strip and downtown casinos.

In 1978, Fortune Coin Co. and their video slot machine technology were purchased by IGT (International Gaming Technology), one of the largest producers of slot machines today.

2: Slots 101

You basically purchase the right to play a slot machine, by inserting coins, cash, or a paper ticket with a barcode (in Ticket-In, Ticket-Out machines). The money or ticket is placed into a designated slot on the machine. You activate the machine and begin the game by pulling a lever, pressing a button, or (on most modern machines) by pressing a touchscreen on its face.

The game itself may involve skill or knowledge of the game on your part. But, most often, it creates the illusion of involving skill, but is actually just a game of chance.

The slots game usually involves matching symbols, either on mechanical reels that spin and stop to reveal one or several symbols, or on simulated reels shown on a video screen. The symbols are usually brightly colored and easily recognizable, such as images of fruits, numbers, or letters, and simple shapes such as bells, diamonds, or hearts. Most video slot machines have a themed game, some of which feature graphics and music based on popular entertainers, movies, TV programs, popular places, or historical figures.

Some of the most popular slots are <u>video poker machines</u> (sometimes given the nickname "pokies"). On these, you try to obtain a set of symbols corresponding to a winning poker hand. Depending on the machine, you can play one, 100, or more hands at one time.

Multi-line slot machines have also become increasingly popular since the 1990s. These games have more than one pay-line. This means that visible symbols which are not aligned on the main horizontal, may still be considered for winning combinations. Reel slot machines commonly have three or five pay-lines, while video slot machines may have 9, 15, 25, or as many as 100 different pay-lines.

You will find a variety of types of slot machines in casinos, which can be played with denominations ranging from penny and nickel slots, up to \$100 or more per credit. Most allow players to accept their winnings as credits, which may be "spent" on additional spins, or may be cashed out (by pressing a "cash out" button). The slot will either give you tokens, or will print out a ticket with your winning amount, which you can take to the cashier in exchange for your winnings.

Large denomination slot machines are usually separate from the rest of the casino in a High Limit area, with a separate team of attendants to cater to the needs of those who play there.

One type of slot machine in particular, known as *nickel slots*, has become very popular around the world. Coming up next are some of the most popular nickel slot machines that you will find on the <u>Big "M" Casino</u>, a brief description of the game, and what to expect when you sit down to play.

3: Wolf Run Slots

"Wolf Run" has been around now for a number of years, and has become a firm favorite in Vegas casinos. Sometimes the reason why some slots become massive hits and others don't is just a crapshoot. However, with Wolf Run, it's easy to see the draw, and understand why it's gained such popularity. This game was completely new and innovative when it was released. It is a 5 reel slot, with bonus features and impressive sounds and explosions associated with a 'Big Win'.

This game has a very unique history. The original concept came from the only female lead designer of one of the best known casino gaming companies in the United States, called IGT. The designer named this slot after moving into her residential apartment block called *Wolf Run*. She thought the wolf theme would be a nice idea for a slots game...and her idea hit the jackpot! Wolf Run has been a massive hit and is still high on people's lists of *must play* games when they go to Vegas, even many years later.

The philosophy of the <u>Wolf Run slot machine</u> is simple. It incorporates beautiful graphics, consistent sounds for wins, the potential to win major jackpots through 'stacked' or 'chained' wild symbols on all five pay lines and a big jackpot. If all your pay-lines line up with the full stack of wild symbols, a huge prize is won!

The game has 5 reels and 40 pay-lines! There are 4 images on each reel instead of the usual 3 found on most slot machines.

Wolf Run also has a "stacked wilds" feature. This means each reel contains a "stack" of 4 or more Wild symbols. For example, you might see an entire reel covered with 4 wild wolf symbols. When several stacks line up properly on the reels, winnings can be huge!

The Bonus game for Wolf Run is in the form of Free Spins. If you land 3 Bonus symbols on reels 2, 3, and 4, you win 5 free spins! During the Wolf Run free spins bonus, there are extra Stacked Wilds and extra Bonus symbols on the reels. This makes it easier to trigger even more free spins (up to 255 if you're lucky!)

However, unlike many games with 'free spins', in Wolf Run the really big money is not from the bonus. It is in "stacked wilds". When columns of stacked wild symbols in the reels line up in a row, this can be massive.

The wins on stacked wilds really start to happen when you have both the maximum 40lines being played and you get four stacks in a row. When this happens, you can see bonus wins into the many thousands!

Wolf Run also has a Gamble feature. If you win less than 3,000 credits, you can gamble your win by taking a "double or nothing" option. Choose red or black to guess the color of the ace that will appear. If you are wrong, you lose the gambled amount, but if you're correct, your bet is doubled!

4: DaVinci Diamonds Slots

This is a 20-pay-line slots game that will transport you the sophistication and culture of Renaissance Italy, with beautiful diamonds, pearls and portraits falling from the top of the screen.

The Inspiration

The inspiration for the <u>DaVinci Diamonds</u> is around the life of great Italian artist, Leonardo Da Vinci. You will see his most famous artistic works fall into play from the top of the screen, along with icons of diamonds, rubies and pearls also appearing on the reels.

Winning!

Da Vinci Diamonds slots can potentially pay out a range of generous winnings, including a number of huge jackpots.

A maximum of 5,000 credits can be won on one reel spin, which is claimed if players obtain five logo symbols on a pay-line. Further winnings are awarded for reel symbols of Da Vinci's paintings and up to 1,000 credits are given if you obtain five icons of the Mona Lisa portrait.

If you have five symbols of the remaining two DaVinci masterpieces, you can be awarded 500 or 300 credits. The Da Vinci Diamonds logo can also award you massive cash payouts.

Tumbling Reels

The "Tumbling Reels" feature is a slightly new concept. It means that, when a win is lined up, it pays out, explodes, and the reels drop down potentially revealing another win, with the potential to go on infinitely. This allows you to win repeatedly with just one spin.



Can't wait to get your hands on DaVinci's Diamonds or any of the other slot machines? Then try your luck on the Big "M" Casino's <u>virtual</u> <u>slot machine</u> and enter to win a free cruise for two with a buffet included!

5: Money Storm Video Slots

Now here's a twister you may not mind being swept away by! This game is designed to look like a scene out of the movie "Twister". It includes a farmhouse and farmer under attack by a twister. But, this is not your run of the mill tornado...this is a money twister! Yes, cows are flying through the air, but so is the cash! In this game, you have a shot at winning some substantial money. The top prize available to win on Money Storm is 200,000 coins!

About the Game

Money Storm video slot is a 5 reel, 20 pay-line slot. Symbols in the game are characteristic of farm animals and various belongings you would find on a farm. It also includes a "weather beacon", which is something called a "scatter symbol". This symbol triggers a money making bonus round. Here, you will be showered with cash while listening to the song "its raining men"!

If you land the weather beacon icons on reels 3, 4 and 5 in the same spin, you will trigger the slot machine to start "raining" credits down on you. Once you've weathered the storm, any credits you have accumulated will be multiplied by the coin denomination in which you are wagering in.

Bonus Round

The Money Storm game has a featured bonus round called, well, "The Money Storm" bonus. When you hit three or more of these symbols consecutively you will begin the makings of a twister or money storm that awards you with free spins!

During the twister and money storm you will be entertained by the animated characters and their humorous reactions.

Once the free spins start, you will see credits [or coins] thrown about across the screen. Once



this has completed, it is added up to be your cash bonus. But, there's more! If you hit three weather beacons or three money storm symbols during the free spins, you will get to play even more extra bonus rounds or free spins!

6: Rembrandt Riches Slots

With a delicate stroke, Rembrandt, one of the greatest painters in history, could transform ordinary into extraordinary. He was famous for his ability to capture the human condition like few ever had before. The <u>Rembrandt Riches slots game</u> was inspired by Rembrandt's most famous paintings.

This game honors Rembrandt's life and legacy and the richness he brought to all that laid eyes on his work. You can immerse yourself into the opulence and beauty of the Renaissance time period, and see the eloquence of the royalty that is shown on the screen.

In this beautiful game, it takes only 20 credits to cover all of the pay-lines. It has a *Tumbling Reels* feature, which gives you more chances to win.

A unique feature is that, when a winning combination is revealed, either on the pay-line or a scatter pay, you are awarded the credits won. Then, instead of spending more credits to play again, the winning combination symbols disappear. The remaining symbols above the disappearing symbols then fall down to the empty space, and new symbols fall from the top. The slot player could still win more credits and the process is repeated. This feature stops when no more winning combination are revealed.

The bonus free spin round is initiated when 3 or more Rembrandt Riches symbols are shown on any of the 5 reels. Depending on the number or Rembrandt Riches symbols that are shown on the 5 reels determines the number of free spins. This bonus round changes to another screen and basically the same symbols do more tumbling down and again, with the winning combination vanishing from the screen, the credits are awarded to the player, the remaining symbols fall down in sequence to fill the empty spaces to enable more possible winning combination.

7: Wild Wolf Slots

There's certainly no need to fear the Big Bad Wolf in this game! In fact, you will be very happy to see him!

Although wolves may have had a bad rap over the years, they have recently gained the respect they deserve. Recently, they have been re-introduced into Yellowstone National Park. With this in mind, a brand new slot game called *Wild Wolf* was created, and is a tribute to these fascinating animals.

Wild Wolf, manufactured by IGT, is a 5-reel, 40-payline bonus slot. Wild Wolf has a jackpot of 1000 coins and a second jackpot worth 400 coins. Although the stakes can be high, the costs are commensurate with the bonus features. You may feel like "howling at the moon" after each spin of the reels!

Stacked Symbols

A *stacked symbol* means that the symbol covers the entire reel. In Wild Wolf, there are 4 or more Wild symbols that will stack the reels, and give you huge payouts! The symbols include:

- The Pack Leader
- The White Wolf
- Warrior Wolf Statue
- Wolf Statue
- Colored cards Ace through Nine

These symbols are important in activating bonus features. The Howling Wolf is a wild symbol and substitutes for all other symbols to form winning combinations. It does not substitute for the scatter symbol, which is the Wolf Spirit Bonus symbol. This symbol, when appearing on reels 2, 3, and 4, will trigger the Free Spins Bonus Game. If you get all five Howling Wolf symbols, you win the jackpot!



How would you like to earn points redeemable for cash just for playing slots on the Big "M" Casino? <u>Learn more</u>!

8: Coyote Moon Slots

<u>Coyote Moon</u> is another slot machine game manufactured by IGT. It is themed with southwest coyote/Indian art, and has proven to be one of the most successful **penny games** of any of the slot machine manufactures. Here are some of the key features: It has 40 pay lines (So, on the penny version, the minimum bet to cover all the lines is \$0.40)

- It has "Clumped" wilds. This means that the wild symbols are next to each other on each reel. Clumped wilds make for bigger wins when the wilds hit.
- It has 5 reels, which are four rows high. This type of set up helps the wild hits pay off so well.
- The math of the game (related to the clumped wilds) is highly volatile. This means that you can win a lot when you win, but you also may go longer between wins.

The free spin bonuses give you 5 free spins. This means that often your biggest wins are related to the wilds rather than to the free spins. However, when you do get the free spins re-triggered a number of times, it can mean a big pay off! Coyote Moon plays fast, and it is very random. This has made it a very popular game, because you do have a good chance of winning big on the game. Also, there are not complicated bonus rounds on the game. You can easily see right where the reels end up and gauge how your luck is fairing.

9: Lotus Flower Slots

The Golden Lotus gives luck, joy and wealth to whoever holds it. Somewhere amongst the beautiful Chinese images and Oriental characters lies this mystical flower, that will not only bring you luck but amazing prizes as well. This is a 5 reel, 25 line slot game. The Golden Lotus acts as the wild card while the White Lotus acts as scatter symbol. Choose how many lines you want to play with, wager your amount and click, *Spin* to begin your search for this mysterious flower.

Take time to stop and smell the flowers! <u>Lotus Flower</u> is a newer game, so it's literally "fresh". The gameplay is very fluid, and contains a great balance in all the categories. Symbols include face card letters and numbers from playing cards, as well as other mystic symbols such as fish, babies, and lotus flower wilds.

All the symbols are stacked, and you can get a bonus by getting three of more lily pad symbols scattered on any reels. Three bonus symbols get you 10 spins, four will get you 15, and five will get you 20 spins.

In the bonus, all of the non-playing card symbols count as wilds. Stack them all together and win a megaton. This game offers great odds and the best chance of walking away with some good money.

10: Bombay Slots



Bombay Slots is another one of the more popular video slot machines produced by IGT. If you have ever played the video slot game called "Stinkin' Rich", you will find Bombay Slots to be very familiar. The Bombay slot is actually the exact same game as Stinkin' Rich, it just uses a different theme and symbols.

> Bombay features a base game with 100 pay-lines and stacked wilds, along with a Jewel Box Bonus and a free spin feature. With this, you can win up to 35 free spins plus retriggers.

Bonus Feature

Play 100 LINES in the FREE SPINS Bonus!

Whenever you see three symbols with a picture of a Woman appear on one or more active pay-lines, you will begin the free spins bonus feature on Bombay slots. The game awards 5 free spins for each active pay-line with three bonus symbols.

Most bonuses will give you 15, 20, or 25 free games, but occasionally you'll land the Bombay slot's bonus symbols on a line that overlaps six or seven pay-lines. This will grant you 30 or 35 free spins! The free spins feature can also be retriggered during the bonus.

Jewel Box Bonus Feature

Whenever you see three Jewel Boxes land on reels 3, 4 and 5, a second screen bonus feature is activated. Under each of the three Jewel Boxes there is a credit prize. Before the prizes are revealed, you will pick one of the boxes to replace with a random multiplier. The prizes are then revealed and the multiplier replaces the credit value on the chosen can. The multiplier is then applied to the sum of the other two prizes to total up your bonus round win.

Bring 10 or more friends to play Bombay Slots & get a group discount!

11: Frog Princess Slots

No need to look for Prince Charming if you have good luck at this game! The Frog Princess slot is a 5-reel, 15-line, 75-coin video slot game with two bonus feature rounds. It is also also produced by IGT, and is often referred to as the 'kiss the frog slots' or the 'Prince Charming frog slots'. This is still one of the most popular old-style games in the Vegas casino.

Like a princess, <u>the Frog Princess slot machine</u> can be volatile. The regular spins pay out only small amounts, and the free spins feature may not pay much if you do not earn extra spins. *However*, when you do get 30 or 40 free spins on the Frog Princess slot machine game, your multiplier may be quite high by the end. This means you are likely to end up with a very large win!

In many ways, this game is said to be similar in style to Enchanted Unicorn, Texas Tina, and Fortune Cookie slots.

It's one of the generation of video slot games that came out before Cleopatra and Wolf Run. However, it *does* contain free spins bonuses, as well as the bonus games.

The game itself is a play on the classic children's fairytale book, "The Frog Prince", where a prince is trapped in the body of a frog and in order to escape from this imprisonment, he must be kissed by a princess.

In the bonus round of Frog Princess Slots, you are presented with three frogs to choose from, by touching the screen. The number that appears is the number of 'kisses' you will get in the next stage of the bonus round.

Once you have your kisses (chances) you then touch a frog to get a multiplier and you bet from 4 to 100 times. You can then accept the offer or reject it and try again. You keep going until you either accept one of the offers or run out of chances, in which case you will get the final offer.

Magic Wish Bonus

The Magic Wish is a free spin bonus that starts when you get any combination of five Frog Prince and Magic Wish symbols on a played line. You receive up to six of them at a multiplier of up to 5 times your initial wager.

12: Game King/Video Poker Slot Machines

Video poker became popular in the casinos in the 1970's, and today is one of the most popular forms of gambling. This game is perfect for the player who likes:

- A game of skill
- A low house edge
- Possibility of large wins
- The anonymity of playing alone

For these attributes, there is really nothing else that can compare to <u>video poker</u>.

Video Poker vs. Slots

The main difference between video poker and slots is the fact that video poker players have to make decisions for themselves that affect the outcome of the game. In slots, players really have no input that affects the outcome of the game.

Players in video poker have to decide what machine to play, how many credits to play, and most importantly, what cards to hold during the game. These decisions all affect the outcome of your session.

The rules of video poker are fairly simple.

- 1. You play 1 to 5 coins
- 2. The machine will deal you five cards
- 3. You choose which to hold and which to discard
- The machine replaces your discards and pays you off according to the value of your hand

You may have heard that, in Poker, the "house always has the advantage." However,

Video poker may be an exception to that rule. If you look for the most liberal pay tables, and play them properly, you can actually have a thin advantage. Some pay tables, which are slightly in the machine's favor, can return over 100% if you factor in incentives such as cash back, free play, mailers, and other comps.

Try out Game King Video Poker on the Myrtle Beach Big "M" Casino!

13: Wheel of Fortune Slot Machines

The Wheel of Fortune Slot Machines are based on...you guessed it...the popular TV game show, "Wheel of Fortune"!

The game is developed and manufactured by International Game Technology (IGT), and is one of the most played slot machine games in casinos from Las Vegas to Atlantic City.

Wheel of Fortune games are available in a wide range of "base games". Depending on where you are playing, Wheel of Fortune slot machines can be found in 3 reel, 5 reel and video variations. A few of the most popular base games include:

- Red White and Blue
- Double Diamond
- Five Times Pay

The base game doesn't really have anything to do with the Wheel of Fortune bonus spin, other than the requirement to hit the correct combination to activate the bonus spin. So, if you enjoy a particular IGT game, you may be able to find it attached to a Wheel of Fortune bonus.

Once you activate the bonus spin, a "Wheel of Fortune" on top of the machine is activated. The games have a button to push that starts the wheel spinning. Depending on where the wheel stops, it awards you, anywhere from 25 coins up to the current progressive jackpot.

(Not all Wheel of Fortune slot machines are tied to a progressive jackpot. Some of them have a top payout of only 1,000 coins.)

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- 2) Make reservations online
- 3) Brush up on your knowledge of casino games
- 4) Hop on the boat and WIN BIG!!!

14: Pot O' Gold Slots

The popular <u>Pot O' Gold machines</u> contain many games for the player to choose from. Here are the games featured on the Big M Casino's Pot O' Gold Slots.

3 Reel Games

- Gold Row Bonus
- Respin Gold Row

5 Reel Games

- Bushbucks
- · Goofy Gophers
- Piggies Wild
- Race Master

9 Reel Games

- Dragons Lair
- · King of the Ring
- Respin 777
- Roaming Suites
- Spinball Bonus
- Triple Sevens

Bingo

 SuperGold Bingo

Lotto

- Touch 6 Lotto
- SuperPick Lotto



Poker

- Aces High
- 8 Ball Poker
- Bayou Magic
- Bountiful Bonus
- Deuces Wild
- Hi Roller Jacks
- · Jacks or Better
- Shamrock 7
- Tens or Better
- The Talisman

Keno

- Double-Up Keno
- Super Double-Up
- Lightening Keno
- Superball Keno
- Toucheasy Keno

Blackjack

- Black Gold 21
- Super Gold 21
- Spin Jack 21

There are "lotsa slots" to try your hand at on the Big "M" Casino! <u>Book</u> <u>your cruise</u> TODAY and see how fun and easy winning big can be!

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