

Everything you wanted to know about pool tables but didn't think to ask.

Chapter 4

Buying: Used or new?

Looking for a good deal on a nice used pool table? Are you sure that's the most practical thing for you to do? Many thrifty and studious buyers soon realize that buying new can be the best way to go. Though not always.

Consider the pros and cons of used vs new when it comes to slate pool tables.

Price: This is of course the number one consideration when it comes to buying a used pool table. Fair market value for a used slate pool table is about half of what the table cost new. (Not the MSRP but the price actually paid. Ask to see an invoice) That may sound like a good deal at first but, . . . there are other factors and expenses to consider when buying used.

Moving: A used pool table needs to be moved professionally. That cost needs to be added to the price paid. If you are someone who thinks a pool table can be moved by a bunch of your beer drinkin buddies without taking it apart, or just "taking the legs off" - stop reading right here and get the video camera ready. Be sure to record the process and send me a copy. It's always a good laugh. You **MUST** hire a professional to completely disassemble, move and reinstall the table.

Expect to pay a few hundred dollars for a pool table move, a little more if there are stairs to negotiate at either location. Add that to the cost of the used table. Traveling a far distance can also add to the cost.

Felt: The felt needs to be removed to properly transport a 3 piece slate pool table. When correctly removed it can be placed right back on the table in its new home without a problem. However, it is often a good idea to change the felt when moving the table as the cost is about half what it will be later. Felt change when moving will add another couple hundred dollars to the final price of a used table.

In order for a used pool table purchase to make sense the priced paid BEFORE the subsidiary cost will need to be substantially below 50% of the price of a similar new one.

When adding the cost of moving and often times refelting to the price of a used table it frequently comes close to the price of a brand new pool table.

With that in mind consider that with a new pool table a brand new felt will be included. Whatever color you choose. You won't have to settle for a color that's not your first choice. Wear, stains, small holes, cigarette smoke, pet hair and dander are all non issues with a brand new felt on a brand new table.

Shopping: Traveling around from town to town and visiting lots of strangers in their homes can use up a lot of your valuable time and fuel only to yield many disappointments. This too should be added to the cost of a used purchase.

Other things to consider when buying used:

- Accessories: Used are not always the best. Most of the time the cue sticks are in horrible shape, many without tips.
- Leather pockets: Often have a lot of staples by the previous installer that must be removed and this can cause a good bit of damage to the leather tabs.
- Cushions: About 25% of the time the cushions will need to be replaced. This cost another couple hundred dollars.
- Unseen deficiencies: Worn out screw holes, missing hardware, cracked slate, and prior installation mistakes are just a few.

So consider: Often for just a few hundred dollars more you can get a brand new table with a lifetime warrantee (more on that in the next Chapter), the felt color you want, the stain you want the leg style you want. You can avoid the private home visitations and the task of finding a competent technician. The table will be delivered right to your home and set up for you, ready to play.

After all this it may seem as though buying used is not the way to go. Not at all. Its just that there are many drawbacks to buying used that are often overlooked. Many buyers think the best deals are in used and fail to seriously consider new.

As mentioned in the beginning of this chapter, price is the number one consideration. Just remember to add all the incidentals to the asking priced to determine the true cost. So the assumption is easy: In order for a used pool table purchase to make sense the priced paid BEFORE the subsidiary cost will need to be substantially below 50% of the price of a similar new one.

Is such a deal possible? Yes! If you know what to look for. How to get a great deal on a used pool table in the next Chapter.

Now with these thoughts in mind onto the next chapters: