

101 Reveiws of...

Collected by Trent Augenstein Edited by ... the Editor

1. The highly anticipated release date of Pinball 101 is finally upon us--September 1, 2009. Even though we have seen glimpses of the project periodically over the last few years, I don't think anyone could predict what a marvelous piece of work the final result is. It is professionally done and the content is truly amazing. Keith and Randy use innovative, never before seen, camera techniques to illustrate the physics affecting a pinball from a pinball's point of view. But this is just icing on the cake. The way Professor Pinball walks us through the basics of pinball skills at every level, step by step is great and the end result is truly amazing--Trent **2.** Ground breaking!--N.S. **3.** Ground shaking!--Mad Dog **4.** Unbelievable!--J.B.

5. I've watched many Pinball videos, and have a fairly extensive collection of titles. I own many movies that cover the history of pinball, how to fix and restore pinball machines, and the various pinball shows around the world. Pinball 101 may be the first DVD that actually teaches you how to become a better pinball player.

That's right; it teaches you how to do things beyond flailing and batting both flipper buttons like a seal at the same time. Most of us have watched an exceptional player play pinball before. It's amazing to watch and try to figure out how they rack up amazing scores. Some of the maneuvers performed by those players are not easily understood by the average pinball player. The ball moves so fast, it's often hard to even determine what is being done in what order. Pinball 101 breaks things down and gives basic instructions on the techniques. It even shows you good ways to practice some of the techniques.

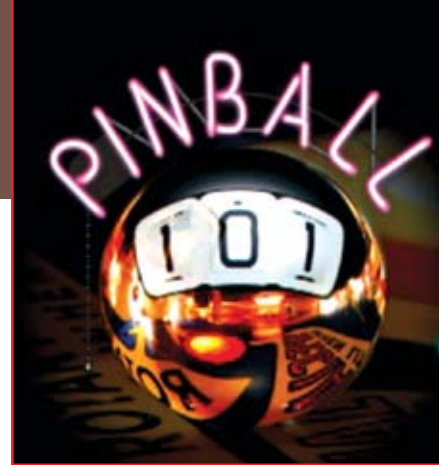
Start at the beginning with the 'basic' skills, such as a cradle, and work your way up to the advanced techniques, like the tap pass. Whether you're a newbie with no skills, or an experienced collector who has thought you just couldn't play like a pro, this DVD will make you a better player. The DVD also includes many hints to get the most out of specific titles.

While you may have owned a game for years, and played it hundreds if not thousands of times, that doesn't mean you know how to get the most points out of your game. Even if you don't own any pins, and just play them on route, this movie is for you - after all, high scores can earn free games! Pinball 101 won't make you a great player overnight. You will have to practice. But, the DVD continually reminds you that pinball is for fun. So, enjoy the practice.--John Wart, Jr. **6.** The DVD has some amazing footage shot from the ball's perspective.--JWJ **7.** Make your quarters go further!--SWJ **8.** I knew a guy who bought a car off the internet once. 10 years later. Bam! Herpes.--P.G. **9.** How to play pinball my butt --Leo Daniels **10.** Who is that sexy voice?-- H.P. **11.** RAD!--I.K. **12.** Dirty Pool. I like it!-- G.A. **13.** If you are going to spend

any money on pinball this year, make sure you spend it on Pinball 101--B.P. **14.** Pinball 101 is wicked good entertainment--C.Q. **15.** Shoot the dog--J.Y. **16.** You'll love the techniques and it will keep you coming back for more.--D.R. **17.**

Thanks again for sending the 101...pretty awesome and I know they must have spent a ton of time on it. I can't stop talking about how good it really was over other flicks.--E.S. **18.** You'll be feelin' lucky you watched this DVD, punk!--DH **19.** As an extreme novice, I was less than thrilled with having to watch another pinball techniques movie. Previous attempts at such movies have only helped me fall asleep. However with Pinball 101, I was surprisingly enthralled. It is artistically put together to keep viewers engaged and entertained. Between lessons there are short takes with unique vantage points of the silver ball.

The witty pinball etiquette lesson is a must watch for any pinballer - novice or pro. The novice player will benefit greatly from the expert advice given when demonstrating techniques. Not only do you get the perfect scenario drawing, there is also real footage of the techniques being performed on various games. In the end, I found myself using terms like loop pass, cradle and live stop. With the help of Pinball 101 this Novice Nancy just might graduate to Intermediate Ingrid! Upper level players would be wise not to scoff at this movie. There are numerous game specific skills identified that one will find handy to know. Guidance is given on how to quickly achieve Attack From Mars' 5 Way Combo and Dirty Pool, Theatre of Magic's 100 Million multiball shot, the Lawlor Ramp Trick from Monopoly and many more! This creatively put together movie will leave pinballers all over yearning to practice on their favorite 'Fanman' game.--Melissa Rees **20.** From EM to DMD, no pin is left unturned.--J.P. **21.** You obviously have no fear--N.F. **22.** The Magician gives away all the secrets!--L.R. **23.** Must... have...more.--Tish **24.** Camera tricks! Nothing but Camera Tricks!--Leo Daniels **25.** I think Hank suffered from Cradle Separation.--A.P. **26.** Whoa Horses--The Mav **27.** Super 101! Ooooh Baby--BGN **28.** Do the Bumper Bash!--T.G. **29.** How'd they do that?--G.G. **30.** Nice Organ--Elvira **31.** Heh. She said Organ.--Igor **32.** As the opening introduction rolled across the screen, I thought. "Cool, good sound and trick copyrights." The introduction alone broke what the preconceived notions I had for what I initially thought would be another shaky camcorder production and set the tempo for the rest of the video. I quickly found myself so engrossed in the quality of the production, I had lost focus on what I was supposed to be learning. At one point it became a game of shouting out the names of the games as soon as we could recognize them. I was captivated with the inventive ball level camera and video, giving perspectives rarely seen of places not visited by human eye once the playfield is fully populated. Fresh views and techniques are shown as the ball passes by the camera, and is followed on its path into the arena of the Silverball. The second

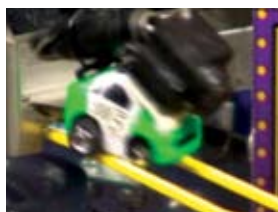


time we watched the video, we found ourselves zooming in on the shot to see what was in the reflections, again having lost focus on technique, traded for the excitement and energy captured. Pinball 101 blurs the boundaries of "How to" and pure entertainment. The sheer number of angles, games, footage, cool editing, and instruction leaves me with the feeling that I too can win the Mold E Cheese trophy! The clever effects and transitions are nothing short of well thought out and supported by an excellent sound track. The intermissions from the How Tos are nothing short of crafty and entertaining. I found myself asking, "How'd he do that?" and wanting for more. Pinball 101, breaks new ground combining the actual demonstrations and perspectives not found previously in this type of production. Future videos will have to work even harder to favorably compare...and no video collection will be complete without it. I'd consider Pinball 101 the number one of all time and sets the gold standard for others. I want more.--Ben Patrick **33**. This ain't your grandma's 8-track and Hi-8 video mix of yester-year.--Z.N. **34**. Previous instructional videos pale in comparison.--H.W. **35**. More Please.--O.T. **36**. We got a Wicked Shimmy up here.--A.T. **37**. One Word. WOW!--P.R. **38**. Hey! I thought this was History of the Solenoid Part III--K.S. **39**. Inconceivable!--J.T. **40**. Unheralded in pinball media--KKA **41**. Lock is lit and so am I.--Bart **42**. I loved watching Pinball 101. I thought the way they took the toy car and



camera and showed you the ball's point of view was so cool. You don't get to see that on a plain game and just normal sight so that was a brilliant new experience. But I

was wondering how you would record the ball moving and going through the game without breaking your camera or messing up your footage. Wouldn't the ball be stopped by the camera? My thoughts were that it was very cool because it was a brand new experience that no one else has seen yet. Anyway, the tips I got from that movie are really going to help me in the next tournament once I learn how to do them and I get good at doing the tricks. On certain games it showed me skill-shots and how you can improve your score is really helpful. I thought it was so good I've watched it twice and will watch it again and again, as I practice the next skill. I took notes on everything the movie says, on paper. I guess what I'm trying to say is ... Greatest Pinball Movie EVER!!!! Now I'm off to practice every day, eat my vegetables and play my version of FanMan! -- Mallori Patrick (Age 9) check out Mallori's 2nd. place finish at the Ohio show on page 26 of this issue!--ed **43**. That's pretty neat--J.S. **44**. This festival was pretty boring till the Goblin showed up.--S.M. **45**. Can't wait to try it--KMC **46**. I <3 the opera--A.T. **47**. It has to warm up. So it can kill you!--G.A. **48**. Sweet--D.D. **49**. You fools! Don't disappoint me again.--KOP **50**. Awesome!--E.S. **51**. Amazing camera work--C.G. **52**. Tips are great!--L.L. **53**. The object of the game is to score points.--Leo **54**. Not another shaky camcorder production.--A.O. **55**. The T is not a jackpot!--Bowen **56**. You rule the universe!--AFM **57**. Informative and interesting--O.W.



58. Visuals for each tip perfect and helpful--KKB **59**. Loved Camera on Car--P.L. **60**. Game specific stuff is fabulous--RAC **61**. Reminds me of Bill Nye!--F.R. **62**. Great variety of games--W.W. **63**. Narratives easy to understand, follow and apply.--R.W. **64**. Still think you can control the game with brute force?--T.S. **65**. Intriguing.--Q.T. **66**. A big hand to everybody involved in making this a great experience! - MCR **67**. We will never surrender! Unless you pay us enough. - J.L.P.S.E. **68**. First rate event! - B.B. **69**. Hats off to Randy & Keith for a job well done. N.B. **70** Very cool, I never knew the ball moved so fast! - P.Y. **71**. Made me want to go play. G.F. **72**. Watched three times! - H.G. **73**. Got me fired up. - I.H. **74**. Very Cool - F.G. **75**. Wait'll they get a load of me --TJ. **76**. Demos were excellent. Being able to watch the moves we were just taught in actually gameplay was very helpful. There's no substitute for seeing the techniques used in actual gameplay. - Greg Free **77**. I loved the game-specific tips, very informative. - P.A. **78**. Everybody underground now! - COWS **79**. Impossible to watch without using the rewind to see 'how it's done' again. - G.F. **80**. V high production values - H.G. **81**. "He's scoring more" EJ **82**. Shoot the transporter! - S.T.D.E. **83**. I tried it and it works. - I.H. **84**. All characters in this video, even those based on real people, are entirely fictional. -J.S. **85**. Wow, this is FAN-TAS-TIC!! - H.T. **86**. Camera work with the little toy car is amazing - I.U. **87**. You Go Girl - K.E. **88**. I loved the video!!! In my opinion it provided a lot of very good instruction

covering a lot from the basics to more advanced shots. The video also provided a lot of good tips for specific games. It held my attention well and was comical but to the point. Loved the part on pinball etiquette!! It was funny and so true of the personas they were portraying. Overall it was a very good video and enjoyable and most of all informative.--Renee Akers **89**. They left out those annoying people who always hog the machine because they are so GOOD! - J.S.S. **90**. This video makes it all look so easy ... what do those buttons on the side of

the cabinet do again??? - P.J. **91**. Bubba mess pants.--C.C. **92**. This video is as American as hot dogs and baseball!--K.B. **93**. It's great, I can't wait to get home to try some of this stuff out!--M.O. **94**. Shows how complicated and difficult pinball can be but gives the player some tools to help overcome. J.L. **95**. Cool Beans!--T.A. **96**. Play Pinball Man! B.S. **97**. You missed everything.--Red **98**. Harry Williams was right, the ball IS wild and he never even saw this video!!! **99**. A lot of videos just show a game in action but here they break stuff down and really instruct people on how to play.--D. T. **100**. This video contains coarse language and due to it's content it should not be viewed by anyone!--U.L. **101**. What a pleasant surprise! When I talked to Randy Elwin two years ago about this video he and his brother Keith were doing, it sounded interesting but, hey, it was just another video. But I've been watching Pinball 101 and am very impressed. The production level is higher than any pinball video I've seen to date and the professional level scene changes, graphics, animations and the variety of segments avoid any chance of monotony. This video is a joy to watch and it instructs while it entertains. Heck, I didn't even know there was a "dirty pool" shot in AFM let alone how to complete it! This is a "must get" video for most any pinball enthusiast. You'll be a better pinball player just for watching ... and imagine what would happen if you actually practice!--The Editor **PGJ**