

## Why Do Slot Machines Use Fruit, Arkansas Slot Machine Casino Gambling, and Recap

Hello. This is Jon Friedl, and you're listening to episode six of the Professor Slots podcast, where my goal for the show is to guide slot machine enthusiasts to success. I really do appreciate your tuning in for today's episode. Show notes are available at [professorslots.com/e6](http://professorslots.com/e6). In this episode, I have three segments, including 1. Providing a brief look at the history of slot machines, to answer the question of why slot machines use fruit reel symbols. 2. Highlighting Arkansas slot machines casino gambling, and 3. A brief recap of the main points from the last three episodes on how anyone can readily improve their slot machine gambling performance.

Jon Friedl, from the Professor Slots blog, reveals all his slot machine casino gambling strategies, as well as tips and tricks for thriving in the casino environment. Discover how to assess casinos to pick the best near you, choose winning slot machines, and identify your gambling goals: being entertained, earning comps, winning take-home cash, or combine them. Jon has won 90 taxable jackpots and a luxury car in nine months of slot play, and made a profits at slots gambling since 2013.

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](http://professorslots.com/subscribe). Again, that's [professorslots.com/subscribe](http://professorslots.com/subscribe) to get my free report revealing the top seven online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

In my research into slot machine casino gambling, I have learned that there is one question that is most often asked. That number one question is this: Why do slot machines use fruit reel symbols? Well, the immediate answer is straightforward: Because it's traditional. To follow why fruit reel symbols are traditional, we'll have to delve a bit into slot machine history. First of all, these gambling devices weren't always called slot machines. For that matter, nor were they always fruit machines. Slot machines were originally referred to as a "one-armed bandit," as early models were mechanical devices that had to be physically activated by pulling a lever. Eventually in Great Britain, these one-armed bandits became known popularly as "fruit machines." In fact, they still are known as fruit machines there. But that was some 30 years after the invention of slot machines. To dig into history a bit, let's talk about reel symbols.

The original one-armed bandits simulated the game of poker. Each reel symbol was a card from a deck. Given the limited number of reels and positions on each reel, a complete card deck could not be used. These "poker machines" were the original one-armed bandits, and existed before slot machines. Why? Why, indeed. A major theme of my show is the intention of understanding the technology of slot machines. Understanding the technology means we can learn to win. There have been lots of significant technological changes to what we now call slot machines.

The first meaningful technological change, in my opinion, is when one-armed bandits became coin-operated machines. In other words, when they actually became true slot machines. Another episode of this podcast will be entirely about the invention of the slot machine, or I should say the inventions of the slot machine. It'll start with Charles Fey of San Francisco, in 1887, adding coin operating technology to one-armed bandit poker machines. Charles Fey's slot machines didn't use fruit reel symbols, they still simulated winning or losing poker hands. Fruit reel symbols were first used by the Industry Novelty Company, run by Ode D. Jennings. This

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was a time when legal restrictions on slot machines were beginning, due to social pressures from questions of morality of gambling itself. For example, in 1909, San Francisco banned all 3,300 slot machines within the city.

In an attempt to circumvent these new laws on cash paying slot machines, manufacturers began calling their machines "chewing gum dispensers." They could do so, because the manufacturers actually turned gambling slot machines into coin-operated vending machines. Card number and suit reel symbols simulating poker had been replaced by fruit reel symbols. After this change was made, any wins were provided as various flavors of gum, as indicated by the winning reel symbols. Reel symbols from this time are now considered traditional, and are still in use today. Traditional reel symbols included stars, bars, numbers, and various pictured fruits. Fruits originally included cherries, plums, oranges, lemons, and watermelons. Let's delve a little deeper into the history of this technological change.

Prior to 1907, slot machines that paid out in coins had already existed for 20 years. As I mentioned, these coin dispensing slot machines were invented by Charles Fey of San Francisco in April 1887. Prior to 1887, slot machines were called one-armed bandits. The game played was a form of poker. Winning combinations resulted in allowing the player free drinks or cigars. These poker machines usually had five reels with ten cards per reel. This totaled 50 cards from the standard 52 card deck. The two cards excluded were the 10 of spades and the jack of hearts. For those of you who play poker, you will understand that leaving these two cards out of the deck halved the chance of receiving a royal flush, which is a big prize.

Starting in 1907, Bell Fruit Gum slot machines were manufactured by Industry Novelty Company. They were followed closely the Mills Novelty Company in 1910. The reels on these slot machines included cherry, melon, orange, apple, and bar symbols, with non-cash payouts in the form of fruit-flavor gum, allowing machine owners to avoid prosecution under anti-gambling laws of that time. The cherry and bar symbols became traditional for slot machines, and are still commonly used today. The bar symbol was a company logo of the original manufacturer of fruit flavored gum dispensing slot machines.

Before going on to the next segment of this episode, I wanted to mention the topics I'll be presenting during the next episode of this podcast. In that next episode, I'll discuss details of the various processes by which modern casinos pay out winning jackpots from their slot machines. I'll also be covering slot machine casino gambling in the great US state of California. Show notes for this episode are available on my website, at [professorslots.com/e6](http://professorslots.com/e6), where you'll find subscribe buttons for Apple podcasts, as well as a nifty link for Android users, plus much more. Follow me, Jon Friedl, on Twitter @professorslots. Again, show notes for this episode can be found on my website at [professorslots.com/e6](http://professorslots.com/e6).

Arkansas slot machine casino gambling does not exist. Not exactly. However, there is an interesting variant you might find sufficiently similar to be interesting. By state law, gambling establishments and devices are prohibited. However, while this state is very restrictive towards gambling, it is not entirely so. Lotteries are prohibited. Sports and games betting are also banned.

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With regards to card games, betting can result in small fines, not less than \$10, and not more than \$25. State laws allow for certain electronic games of skill, if approved by local municipalities.

These casino-style games are offered at two locations, along with horse and dog racing. At these two "racinos", pari-mutuel wagering is allowed. The racinos are at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs and Southland Park in West Memphis. Table games at these locations include poker, let it ride, and three card poker. Electronic games offered include video poker, video blackjack, and slot machines requiring skill. These skill slot machines provide two opportunities to spin the reels, where the player's skill is required when determining which, and how many of the multiple reels are to be re-spun.

For those of you listening that have played these slot machines, these electronic games of skill, these skill slot machines, would you please Tweet for the rest of us what it was like to play these skill-based slots? Let's use #ARslots on Twitter, or if you don't happen to use Twitter, use the comments section of the show notes page for this episode located at [professorslots.com/e6](http://professorslots.com/e6). I really would be interested in what it's like to play these games, and if you have a picture, let's see it. In Arkansas, the minimum age for gambling is 21 years of age for gambling via electronic games of skill, but it's 18 years of age for gambling via pari-mutuel wagering. Per state law, all electronic games of skill are required to provide at least a minimum return of 83%. From mid-2015 through mid-2016, the average gaming machines return for both racinos combined was approximately 93%.

The electronic gaming machines were permitted after the state legislature passed the Local Option Horse Racing and Greyhound Racing Electronic Games of Skill Act of 2005. For those interested in Arkansas' bingo and raffles gaming regulations, see this state's Charitable Bingo and Raffles Enabling Act of 2007. All slot machines are legal if privately owned in Arkansas. Now moving on to the Arkansas State Gaming Commission, the state authority for gaming, resides within the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration. Per the state website, the electronic games and skills section is responsible for the overall compliance and regulatory processes involved with the expanded games of skill activity, including development of rules and standards for operation of expanded gaming, employment of personnel to conduct the compliance and regulatory duties, oversight as to the proper operation of gaming devices, audit review of established procedures for daily gaming operations, and review calculation of proper state privilege fee as established by law.

Arkansas' two racinos have more than 2,651 skill slots and gaming machines. These two racinos are on opposite sides of the state from each other, and each has a rich, 100-year plus history. Oaklawn Park Racing & Gaming has a website at [www.oaklawn.com](http://www.oaklawn.com). Its address is 2705 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, Arkansas. It has 1,150 gaming machines. Its focus is on horse racing. Its hours of operation are open until 3:00 a.m. nightly and 4:00 a.m. on weekends. It consists of 35,000 square feet. Southland Park Gaming & Racing has a website of [www.southlandpark.com](http://www.southlandpark.com). Its address is 1550 North Ingram Boulevard, West Memphis, Arkansas. It has 1,501 gaming

machines, six poker tables, its focus is on dog racing, and it is open 24 hours a day. It has 41,000 square feet.

In summary, for Arkansas slot machine casino gambling, casino establishments and devices are prohibited, along with lotteries, as well as sports and games betting. However, some forms of gambling are permitted, including limited table games, electronic games of skill, and pari-mutuel wagering of dog and horse races. Table games include poker, let it ride, and three card poker. Electronic games offered include video poker, video blackjack, and slot machines requiring skill. The state's two racinos are located on opposite sides of the state. Oaklawn Park is in Hot Springs, while Southland Park in West Memphis. And that is what I have for you as far as Arkansas slot machine casino gambling. Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](http://professorslots.com/subscribe). Again, that's [professorslots.com/subscribe](http://professorslots.com/subscribe) to get my free report revealing the top seven online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

In this final segment I will recap the last three episodes. I felt that it was important to recap the first segment of the last three episodes, specifically, 1. Assessing casinos for success, 2. Choosing candidate slot machines, and 3. Identifying gambling goals. Next, I'll very briefly go over some of the key points presented in each of those segments. However, I encourage you to listen to the last three episodes if you have not already done so. These three topics truly are the easiest way to readily improve your overall baseline gambling performance. A good metaphor here is baking a cake. If you want to bake a great cake, you need to have the best possible ingredients. Otherwise, you're limiting yourself unnecessarily. Don't limit yourself by not knowing which casino near you is the best available, and also, which slot machines there are the best they have available.

1. Assessing casinos for success. Understand the different kinds of casinos, resorts, parlors, racinos, and more. Find out what slot machine venues are near you. Understand your state's gaming commission. It's your best source of honest information. Personal preferences only matter for those of you within the entertainment goal, because you want venues that matter. Perform a scouting trip, physical assessment when you'd normally gamble. A one-page audit checklist is available at [professorslots.com/cpalist](http://professorslots.com/cpalist) to help you with this. Take notes shortly after the visit for a comparison to the next casino. Use your online resources. Again, the state gaming commission can be your best online resource. What you are looking for online are payout percentages, or state-required limits.

2. Choosing candidate slot machines. Each slot machine has a limited number of settings for the odds of winning. There are two odds of winning. If you win, and then how much you win. Winning small jackpots is still winning, if there are enough of them. You are looking for slot machines that cycle bankrolls. Match your bankroll amount, whatever it is, with a slot machine denomination credit. You want to be able to make 100-120 bets with your available bankroll, so figure out which slot machine denomination and credit combination achieves that. Review the pay table for the top jackpot amount, and the number of credits required to win it. Divide that jackpot by those credits. If a jackpot is in currency and not credits, also divide it by the

denomination of the machine. This is your goodness ratio. Compare the goodness ratio for all slot machines that match your bankroll. It is okay to play slot machines with the highest ratios, but definitely avoid those with the lower ratios.

3. Identifying gambling goals. A player's style is based on their gambling goals. Casino assessment and choosing matched slot machines is the best way to begin to achieve these goals. The most common goals are entertainment, comps, that is to say complimentary gifts, and take home money. Pure and simple entertainment is the most common goal. A comps-focused goal means always using your player's club card. All you need to do for every possible comp, and move up in the player's club tier system to earn more expensive comps, is to cycle bankrolls endlessly. Maximizing take home cash means cycling bankrolls endlessly on slot machines that regularly give back more than what was bet. Any goal can end up winning a taxable jackpot, but remember that your gambling records with gaming deductions may not apply to local tax returns. If you'd like my personal attention to help understand and apply these three steps to readily improving your gambling performance, I offer a limited number of 50 minute one-on-one coaching sessions at [professorslots.com/coaching](http://professorslots.com/coaching).

Now that I've gone over these first steps with you, there are quite a few slot machine gambling topics to discuss. I'll work through them one by one in the coming episodes. These topics include both the history of slots, of which you've gotten a taste today in the first segment, but there's more to come. Other than history, we also need to talk about the primary slot machine manufacturers. There are few left after so many recent company mergers. I'll talk about topics for thriving in the casino environment, like casino safety. I'll be providing definitions for all the common slots terms, then there will be episodes on state gambling regulations, legal gaming classifications, and a lengthy segment on getting the most from player's club reward programs.

So that's my brief recap on the last three episodes on assessing casinos for success, choosing candidate slot machines, and identifying gambling goals. The first segment of the next episode will be entitled, "How do slot machines pay out?" I'll have an introduction, I'll talk about the slot machine gambling process, what happens when you win a jackpot, what happens after you win a jackpot, what's the jackpot payout process, and a summary. The second segment of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is, "California slot machine casino gambling." As usual, I'll have an introduction, relevant legal statutes on gambling, slot machine private ownership, state gaming commission, gambling establishments, and a summary.

This is the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening. Show notes for this episode can be found at [professorslots.com/e6](http://professorslots.com/e6). That's [professorslots.com/e6](http://professorslots.com/e6). I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show. Please subscribe to and review the show. That would help so much. Here's how to subscribe. If you're an Apple user, simply visit [professorslots.com/ap](http://professorslots.com/ap) to be directed right to my show on the Apple podcast website. If you happen to be an Android user, simply visit [professorslots.com/android](http://professorslots.com/android). Until the next episode, have fun, be safe, and make good choices. Bye.