

Jennings Modern Vendor – Part 2

Since my last article was published in the March 2013 issue of COCA, I've been busy (off and on) figuring out how my Modern Vendor works and restoring it.



Before



After

When I first got the machine, I was pretty sure the horse race theme reel strips on it were original. After studying the payout disc and the stepper unit I realized they were NOT original to the machine. They actually belong to the Jennings FAST TIME console slot machine. The Modern Vendor has a traditional 3-5 payout Chief mechanism without the payout slides, but the third reel also has holes at every stop for a cherry payout. If the first reel stops on a cherry, there is a 3-credit payout. If the second reel also stops on a cherry, plus the third reel every stop is a cherry, there is a 5-credit payout. In addition to every stop on the third reel having a cherry payout there are additional holes for other symbols. As you can see in the “after” picture, there is a cherry and a plum symbol on the third reel. Line up three plums and the payout is 13 credits. I had to get those reel strip printed. I don't know if my third reel is unique to my machine or if all Modern Vendors were made this way. I suspect the way the 3 and 5 payout is set up, all Modern Vendors are the same way. You'll notice on the award card there is payout/credit information. That wasn't original, but I thought it made sense since showing it somewhere. The original wording is shown above the payout information. Another safety feature I added was an On/Off switch on the left side of the cabinet.

After getting all of the mechanical problems fixed, I started looking at the electro-mechanical portion of the machine. This machine has been a roller coaster of emotions while trying to get the 1940 electro-mechanical



parts understood and working. All the frustration of figuring things out, then the joy and satisfaction of finally getting it working properly. This is pretty much the first EM machine I've worked on and all those solenoids, relays, and leaf switches were a bit overwhelming at first, especially not having anything to tell me what they did. I've worked on a couple of early 1930's pinball machines, but all they had were leaf switches and a ball kicker or two. At first I tried to figure out the wiring without disturbing the string wrapping holding the wires together. I quickly came to the conclusion that I would have to remove the wrapping to trace each wire. Also, looking at the condition of the insulation around the wires, I thought it a good idea to go ahead and replace all the wiring. I don't want this thing burning down my house.

As I mentioned in the previous article, there is very little information about this machine available. I never could find any technical information such as a wiring diagram or schematic. So, while working on this machine I decided to document everything I could think of. I've created a 36-page owner's/service

manual. It covers a brief history of the machine along with four advertisements from various magazines. This one I got from the International Arcade Museum in the Automatic Age magazine download area. Great web site: <http://www.arcade-museum.com/>

EXTRA!

NEW FREE PLAY MINT VENDER CHIEF

Jennings MODERN VENDOR

D. D. JENNINGS & COMPANY, 4309 W. LAKE ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

It's big news — Great news — It's the news of Jennings new combination free play mint vender — Modern Vendor.

Declared legal by the highest courts of one of our largest states, Modern Vendor opens tremendous new profit opportunities to operators in free play territories.

Modern Vendor has the appearance and great player appeal for which the Chief is so famous — However, it does not have a pay-out mechanism. The game is played strictly for amusement and awards are made only in free plays. With each coin deposited the machine vends one roll of mints.

In our opinion Modern Vendor can be successfully operated in your territory if properly presented, particularly if Free Game amusement machines are now being operated.

Order a sample on 14 days trial and put Modern Vendor in your territory.

This is the opportunity you've hoped for. — Grab it.

Slug Rejection Plus Visibility — Modern Vendor is equipped with both National slug rejector and a special coin detector showing last three coins played.

Famous Chief mechanism — Conceded by operators everywhere as the most dependable, smoothest operating mechanism made.

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<http://www.arcade-museum.com>

My manual also covers each component of the machine; cabinet along with its wiring, slug rejecter, mechanism and its wiring, stepper unit and its wiring, back bonnet and its wiring, theory of operation and four wiring diagrams.

I've only found three other Modern Vendors. There is a collector in Los Angeles and one in Franklin, WI that have one in their collection. Also, one popped up on eBay last February from Pasadena, MD. The listing stayed up for about three days and I believe was removed by eBay (didn't have the disclaimer stating they wouldn't sell to certain states). I also heard of a collector that had one and could never get it to work. Sadly, I heard he gave up and threw it away.



There are a few Modern Vendors out there that have been modified. There was a collector from Milwaukee that bought several Modern Vendors from someone in Canada. Some were complete, some were missing parts. He took parts from Jennings One- and Four-Star machines and modified the Modern Vendors that were missing parts. He also found a very interesting Indian profile to go where the credit dial is located. So, if you see one of these machines, now you know they are NOT original.

If you ever come across one of these machines and would like help getting it going. I will be happy to help.



