

HOW TO MOVE AND SETUP A POOL TABLE

Typical story, Jack gets dad's table. Let us assume for a start, that dad just gave you (JACK) the table in his basement and that you have the whole football team ready to help you move it; all it costs is a keg of beer, and a little gas. NO BIG PROBLEM....one guy on each leg. Two in the middle and lets go. UP SHE COMES.....CRACK.....DOWN SHE GOES! Let's run damage control.....oh no!..... the slate broke, and the dang thing landed on Joe's toe, and he's out for the season..... TYPICAL.

Well JACK, let's fix this thing. The team looks at what's left, and half a keg later, someone notices that the table seems to be bolted together.....and it has to move today, so why not? Out come the wrenches and screwdrivers, and its surprising how many parts are all over the place fairly quickly..... big split in the slate but that is another problem. Fortunately all the screws and bolts went in a box, and nothing else broke. Now the team moves the table to the trucks..... up the stairs, out the door, down the back steps, across the yard, and down the street. Now we have a new problem.....that tackle, who presses 350 pounds, just pulled every muscle he ever had in his back picking up that 120 pound slate like a hero.....TWO out for the season!

IT GOT HERE.....LET'S SET IT UP.....HOW LARGE IS THE PLAY AREA NEEDED? Now JACK, you can do anything, quarterback, Internet genius, pool whiz, grew up working in a garage and playing in dad's carpentry shop.....never seen anything you can't fix.....let's go!

MOVE THE TABLE PARTS TO THE AREA TO BE USED. JACK and the team finally get the remnants into the bonus room. First we have to figure out where to put it. The room is huge, but the center column and wall slopes could be a problem.....and the bar, those couches to pass out on, and the poker table for Wednesday night when we are not playing pool, have to go somewhere.

FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHERE THE TABLE WILL LIVE. JACK to the Internet.....we have a 9 foot table.....a link on the H.E.A.D.S. INC. homepage says we need a 14 foot by 18 foot space.....that column is going to be a problem, but we will get a short cue from H.E.A.D.S. INC. to fix that little problem.....and we will need that custom made light H.E.A.D.S. INC. can have made, with the team's name and colors. Two problems down, and after a little work on that old drafting program, we finally got a FLOOR PLAN on how to place this table within an inch, along with all the other stuff in the room. That old sofa is a little too close to the table on one side.....but Jack plans to shoot over it and Joe better duck if he doesn't want his head to hurt like his toe!

ALL THE PARTS ARE HERE.....WE KNOW WHERE IT GOES.....SET-UP THE BASE FRAME. Dad's table is a real neat antique. Does anybody remember where all the parts go? It's a good thing JACK had the whole team, because they were able to bring the base frame out in one piece, and it was heavy! Better check it though.....it might have twisted somehow. JACK directs the team to lug the base frame to the exact place that is shown on his floor plan. The electrician down the block will have to come over to do the wiring for the light, exactly over the table, later.

ROUGH LEVEL THE TABLE.....THEN BE SURE THE BASE FRAME IS SQUARE AND FLAT. The floor under the rug isn't real level, or the base frame is warped or something.....it rocks a little. Jack looks at it.....no big deal, its nothing but an engineering marvel to hold that heavy slate. To kill the rocking we need something the weight won't compress to hold it up. Jack has a piece of scrap steel just a

little smaller than the bottom of the leg.....a quick fix! Now it does not rock anymore..... but is the base frame square and straight? George, the team center, is the math genius.....*IDEA*... measure **DIAGONALLY** from inside the corner pocket holes to see if the measurements match, sort of like he and his Uncle Mike did when they built the carpentry shop out back.....luck is getting better, the measurements match, the base frame is square! Now Jack is worried about how flat and straight the top is. JACK figures the old eyeball is going to have to do it on straight, but his dad's old level might find any high or low spots. Jack's luck holds, no high or low spots, so the **BLOCK PLANE** it took 2 hours to find, will not be needed.

IT'S PLACED.....IT'S FLAT.....ITS SQUARE.....WE THINK ITS STRAIGHT.....TIME TO LEVEL IT. JACK pulls out his dad's old 4 foot **BRICKMASON'S LEVEL**.....it has always worked before.....its time to level the base frame. The guys at the pool room are always complaining about the tables that the amusement company worked on not being level.....what could they be doing wrong? Back to the internet to ask! **H.E.A.D.S. INC.** responds that table leveling is super critical, they suggest using non-compressible **PLAYING CARDS** under the legs to level the base frame, and cautions that a single playing card's thickness can throw the roll of a ball.....no problem, playing cards are cheap! What is now a problem is that the beer ran out, and looking at the level is tough. Putting the playing cards under the table legs to level the base frame is easy, but getting it perfect takes longer than Jack expected.....time to call it a day.

DAY 2..... LIFTING THE SLATE.....SAFETY FIRST. Jack is up early today, but the rest of the team is a little hung over.....After the problems encountered with the move earlier; Jack decides to give a little safety and lifting talk to the team before they start work today. Jack also gets the weight lifting belts out before his first job.....lifting the slate and placing it on the base frame.

PLACE THE SLATE ON THE BASE FRAME SLIGHTLY APART.....FIX ANY PROBLEMS. The three pieces are placed on the base frame just slightly apart. This is an antique table and has brass pins that allow the slate to fit together and stay flat.....but we have a problem. The slate cracked when the team lifted it yesterday.

SLATE REPAIR. JACK to the Internet to find out what to do.....**H.E.A.D.S. INC.** says a new slate is a very expensive alternative for an antique table.....so how badly is it cracked?.....Jack replies that the crack looks like a scallop shell, broken out right over a dowel pin.....**H.E.A.D.S. INC.** then asks if the dowel pins are bent, and will the slate join properly when the slates slide together..... Jack determines after testing, that the pins are OK, and that the slate slides together alright..... **H.E.A.D.S. INC.** suggestion for the scallop crack.....for a small area, fill with **PLASTER OF PARIS**, for a larger area, the cracked area can be filled with **AUTOMOTIVE BODY FILLER** and then **SANDED** level.....Jack did not work in a garage for nothing. Out comes the automotive body filler, and the problem is fixed.....it only takes about 3 hours. Luck holds and the patch is perfectly flat with the rest of the slate after sanding, and none of the filler stuck to the other slate because of the **RELEASE AGENT** that Jack thought to use.

SCREW DOWN THE SLATE.....AND CORRECT TO BE SURE IT IS FLAT. Jack and the team get out the huge wood screws and the **BIG SCREWDRIVER**. The first thing is to slide the three pieces together, which has to be done very carefully with the dowel pins. The next problem shows up when Andy does not get his finger out of the way fast enough.....Jack was on one end, and Joe was on the other, and when the slates started moving it worked faster than expected...nothing but a smashed finger, Andy will be o.k. in a day or two. The old screw holes don't line up either, but that is what you have a team for. It takes a little moving but finally the holes line up also. The screws go in the holes and screw

down, but the table top is not flat.....back to the Internet for a fix. H.E.A.D.S. INC. says that SLATE SHIMS that look like small wood wedges are used to get the slate flat. To put them in Jack needs to back off the screws about a turn, put the shims between the slate and the base frame and then tighten up the screws.....all to be done very carefully.

TIGHTEN THE SCREWS AND RE-LEVEL THE TABLE. Jack is in luck, the SLATE SHIMS that were used before are still in good shape. He and the team very carefully tap in the shims, and re-tighten the screws. Jack does not have a STRAIGHT EDGE that H.E.A.D.S. INC. suggested, but using some very tight string and the level set at an angle has done the best he can do. The dowel pins were supposed to do this job, and with just a little adjustment it seems to be real flat now. Jack now wonder's whether to fill the cracks or level the slate.....he decides to level the slate first so that all the moves are completed before filling the cracks, which could break out. Jack gets out the PLAYING CARDS again, and only needs two to get the table perfectly level according to his old BRICKMASON'S LEVEL.

FILL IN THE CRACKS BETWEEN THE SLATES. Jack is in a real quandary, what to fill the cracks with. The old guy down at the pool room.....you know the one that sits in the back, and gets his drinks out of the pint he keeps in the bag in his pocket.....keeps saying that BEESWAX is the only thing to use.....but somebody tried it last year, and they got something that looked like a grease stain right over the joints showing through the cloth.....Jack decides to stick with PLASTER OF PARIS. Jack watched the process done earlier. Jack mixes the plaster of Paris in a DIXIE CUP about half full. Jack gets the plaster mixed real well with no lumps and about the consistency of buttermilk. Jack pours the liquid plaster of Paris down the crack very carefully, not putting on any more than he has to. The plaster of Paris takes about 10 minutes to dry. Jack then takes some 120 GRIT SAND PAPER and sands off the excess without putting any more pressure/sanding on the slate than he can help.....Jack knows the sand paper will also cut the slate if this job is done improperly.

DO YOU FILL THE SCREW HOLES OR NOT? Joe wants to fill the screw holes, but Jack reminds him that the holes were not filled before, because they were under the rails, and the balls could not get near them. Joe then mentions a table he saw with holes out in the center of the slate. Well, that is not a problem with this table, and we don't want any holes out in the middle of the table anyway..... Jack decides it is time to cover the table. Jack pulls out his book ("MINNESOTA FATS" ON POOL) and reads the section on attaching the cloth.

COVER THE TABLE. Jack is really sharp today. There is a lot of dust on the table that has to be cleaned up first. Out comes a HAND VAC that gets up most of the dust, then Jack gets the team to wipe the whole top with an old TOWEL to get up anything remaining. The old cloth is checked real well, and then it is shaken real well, to get off any dust or dirt it may have picked up during the move. Minnesota Fats says to use TACKS to attach the cloth, but Jack just got a new ELECTRIC STAPLE GUN.....this looks like an ideal time to try it out. Jack gets all of the team to help with this job.....it is really tough to reattach the cloth that came on the table because it was trimmed so closely when it was put on the first time. Jack is just glad the guys did not rip the cloth when it was removed, and he had a pair of PLIERS to help pull the cloth when he needed them.

REPLACE THE RAILS AND THE POCKETS. Jack gets the team to set the rails on the table where they go. Very carefully the team fits the pockets into the holes and somehow gets the rails back into position to bolt back to the slate. This is an antique table which bolts into the narrow edge of the slate. Jack is real glad his dad had what he called a T-BOLT WRENCH. The screws are very unusual with two holes on the top. Without that special wrench this job would be real tough. Joe is still talking about how much easier it is to put together a newer table that just bolts through the slate from the bottom, but the

job gets done after awhile. Jack then sees a bunch of extra screws that he forgot to put in to hold the pockets.....loosen the rails, put in the screws, and retighten the rails.

PUT ON THE APRONS. Jack then screws on the apron covers. The job is done for now, except to attach the pocket leather to the bottom of the pocket holes. Jack uses TACKS to attach the leather to the area under the pocket holes.

THE JOB IS DONE!

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