**Slot Card Collecting and the Slot Card Guide**

1. History of slot cards
	1. Check Cashing Privilege cards vs Player Rewards/Slot Cards
		1. Prior to the first slot card there were casino cards issued as identification for check cashing, credit and other uses.
		2. One of the early casino slot club programs was at the Golden Nugget Casinos in Atlantic City and Las Vegas where $1 slot machines dispensed tickets like “skeeball” amusement tickets that were good for cash back or prizes.
		3. The Frontier Hotel Casino in Las Vegas had a computer tracked slot card program in the 1970s with their Gold Rush Club punch card.
		4. First manufactured card for tracking actual gaming action with the intent of giving rewards was in 1982. The idea supposedly came from an executive at the Sands Casino in Atlantic City, NJ.
		5. First on-line slot player tracking system was at the Harrah’s Marina in Atlantic City, NJ in 1985
		6. Really good article on the evolution of casino player’s club cards appeared in the July/August/September 2001 issue of Casino Chip and Token News magazine.
	2. Types of cards
		1. Paper & Laminated Paper Cards
		2. Barcodes, typically on attached stickers
		3. Punched cards
		4. Magnetic stripes
		5. RFID key fobs
		6. Cell phone app with Bluetooth connection to slot machine
		7. VIP and high end engraved metal cards
			1. Railroad Pass
		8. Normal vs Raised printing on plastic cards
			1. You can typically feel the ink layered on the card with raised printing
			2. Raised printing is NOT embossed player info
	3. Casino additions
		1. Player Information: embossed, printed, engraved
		2. Printed Player Photos, typically on higher level cards
		3. Special printing, punched holes, stickers, hot stamping, etc. for seniors
			1. \* after name/player# like Isle of Capri
			2. Heart punch Lady Luck
			3. Silver Circle hot stamping Nevada Palace
			4. Club 55 and a multitude of other senior stickers
		4. Male/female printing (M/F used at Foxwoods)
		5. Other stickers – levels, expiration dates, special events, etc.
			1. Currently not listed in guides as different entries but mentioned where known typically, cards are only listed based on the way they come from the card manufacturer
		6. Attached ribbons
2. Collecting cards and how to store them
	1. Deciding what to collect
		1. Specific areas, casinos, etc. vs everything
		2. Variations like different magnetic stripes, colors, printings, expiration dates, etc.
	2. Deciding how to organize
		1. By casino name
		2. By casino type
		3. Rare vs common, etc.
		4. Or some combination
	3. Three ring binders and storage pages
		1. Make sure storage pages are “archival quality”
		2. Business card pages
			1. 10 cards per page
			2. Cards cannot be in sleeves
		3. Baseball card pages
			1. 9 cards per page
			2. Allows room for cards in sleeves
			3. Allows multiple cards per opening
		4. Odd sized items
	4. Boxes
		1. Business card boxes
		2. Baseball card boxes
			1. Accommodate cards in sleeves
			2. BCW Baseball card Boxes
				1. (800 count – holds ~300 cards)
				2. Good size for most shelves, 15” long
			3. BCW Super Monster Baseball Card Boxes
				1. (5,000 count – holds ~2,500 cards)
				2. Good for bulk storage, doubles
	5. Plastic sleeves for protection
	6. Putting stickers on cards to identify them is highly not recommended
		1. Damage caused by sticker glue over time
		2. Easiest way to remove stickers
			1. Plastic scraper
			2. Goo Gone
			3. Magic Eraser – sheets or blocks
			4. Windex wipes
			5. Micro fiber towels
3. History of the Slot Card Guide
	1. Originally published by Steve Wells & Pat Lamb
		1. Originally titled: The Slot Card Price Guide
		2. 1st edition published in 2001 – 100 pages
		3. 7th edition in 2009 was Pat’s last edition – 10,000+ cards listed
		4. Sold as printed book, also available on CD
		5. Updated every 2 years
	2. I took over in 2010
		1. Still a printed guide with CD available
		2. Rechecked the entire listing and cleaned up the master Word file
		3. Added player# prefix info in Appendix
		4. 8th and 9th Editions released in 2011 and 2013
	3. Guide reorganized and changed to a FREE digital download with 10th issue in 2015
		1. Name was changed to: The Slot Card Guide
		2. New releases now every 3 months vs 2 years for previous printed books/CDs
			1. Free download from the [SlotcardGuide.com](http://www.slotcardguide.com/) website with donations appreciated and split with David Spragg to help support the SlotCardBBS
			2. Available in both Microsoft Word (.DOCX) and Adobe Acrobat Reader (.pdf) formats so should be useable in most environments. Acrobat Reader format has same hot links as Word format.
			3. Historical releases available from the website along with a copy of the “Mississippi Casino Slot Cards, An Illustrated Guide” from Jim Munding and Bob Gable published in 2004
		3. Cards no longer separated by casino type and now listed by location
			1. Previous organization was confusing to new collectors
				1. Nevada small towns were lumped together with larger towns listed separately
				2. Riverboat, Racetrack and Indian Casinos had separate sections
				3. Canadian cards were listed with other foreign cards
			2. All casinos now listed alphabetically under State, Province, Country
				1. Indicators added for certain casino types:

[Indian], [Riverboat], [Card Room], [Cruise Ship] & [Racetrack]

* + - * 1. Canadian casinos moved from Foreign to separate Canadian section, with casinos listed by Province
			1. Table of Contents expanded to list all states, provinces & countries
			2. Issue Edition number now incremented each year with incremental releases each quarter getting sub numbers. So the first release in 2021 was the 16th Edition and then the April 2021 release was the 16.1
				1. Changes and additions are color coded with different colors for each quarter – red, blue, green purple
				2. Color coding remains throughout the year for cumulative change history before being restarted with April release
	1. Started integration with ChipGuide in 2015 when the guide was being reorganized
		1. CG#s and hot links added for all cards in the Slot Card Guide as they were added to the ChipGuide
		2. Hot links added for all casino names, states/provinces and countries
		3. Originally worked closely with a few different ChipGuide admins who were doing all the online postings while I was gathering the info and card scans
		4. Special thanks to Albert Scalzo for his help in developing the current scheme for listing slot cards and all his hard work during the early integration.
		5. Plus special thanks to Charles Kaplan for his guidance and ChipGuide enhancements that were made to handle several issues encountered during the integration.
		6. In April of 2016 I became a CG Admin myself to handle all slot card information and complete the integration
	2. Completed integration with ChipGuide in 2017
		1. New additions are now posted on the [SlotCardBBS](http://www.slotcardbbs.com/) when added to both guides
		2. Or info would be included in the daily email from the CG
	3. Latest Slot Card Guide release was the 16.1 Edition on April 1st
		+ 1. Now 23,600+ cards listed
			2. Over 520 pages
			3. Seem to average around 1,000 new cards per year
1. What’s included in the Slot Card Guide for each casino
	1. Casino name and location
		1. Casino name is a hot link that will yield the ChipGuide information for that casino when clicked
	2. Year the casino opened and closed (used to be years slot program started)
	3. Notes on casino name/ownership changes, or additional information on the casino
	4. Indicators for casino type, i.e. Indian, Riverboat, Card Room, etc.
	5. Then the actual slot cards, special issue or paper items issued by that casino
2. What’s included in the Slot Card Guide for each slot card
	1. Issue#
		1. Cards listed in issue order as best can be determined
		2. Attempt to maintain existing issue numbers and order as possible when adding new found cards. Only renumber when absolutely necessary.
		3. Special Issue (XX), table cards (TC), paper cards (PC) & special paper cards (PCX)
		4. ID Cards (ID) primarily used as room keys but also used as slot cards (Ex: Wynn)
		5. Cruise Ship Cards (CS) – primarily cruise ID cards used as room keys and boarding, potentially used in the onboard casino
	2. Predominant card color(s)
	3. Description
		1. Brief text to help identify the card
		2. Try to pick dominate feature on the front of the card
		3. Added comments for a particular card or a group of cards
			1. Descriptions & comments usually apply in the order the cards are listed i.e. one description may indicate what changed from the previous issue
	4. Manufacturer
		1. Common abbreviations (ABL, ACC, PPC, Plicards, etc.)
		2. Common formats, with and without logos, etc.
			1. Different text or layout, i.e. 2 vs 3 lines of text
			2. Different size logos
			3. Additional lot order numbers, sequence numbers, etc.
	5. Rarity
		1. Ex Rare – only very few known
		2. V Rare – less than 25 cards known or suspected
		3. Rare – very hard to find, less than 100 cards known or suspected
		4. V Scarce – hard to fine or obtain, few hundred cards known
		5. Scarce – fairly easy to obtain but limited quantities
		6. Common – widely and easily available
	6. Price
		1. Best guess at time of entry
		2. Current market values vs guide values
	7. Checkbox
	8. CG# and links to the ChipGuide
		1. ChipGuide number assigned to the card when added
		2. CG# entries are manually entered so let me know if any problems or errors
		3. CG# is a hot link that will yield the ChipGuide images when clicked
3. **[ SHOW A FEW PAGES FROM THE GUIDE ]**
4. Everyday guide use – tricks and tips
	1. Introductory information
	2. Important Notes for This Edition
	3. Table of Contents page numbers are clickable links
	4. ChipGuide hot links
		1. CG# = Display a card image, front and back
		2. Casino Name = Display an entire casino listing
		3. Display state, province or country listing by clicking on corresponding heading
	5. How to navigate and search the Slot Card Guide
	6. Using the Word Navigation Pane
5. ChipGuide Slot Card Listings
	1. Slot card listings on ChipGuide are in issue order and not randomly added like chips
		1. Primary reason why I’m currently handling all slot card submissions
		2. Some special issue cards may be in slightly different order
		3. Parking cards will be listed under OTHER ITEMS on the ChipGuide
	2. Cards only used at a small number of casinos will normally be listed under each of those casinos like normal but with the **same** CG# for all listings
		1. (ex: Beside the Pt/Gnats Landing)
		2. Click SHOW CASINOS to see other locations/listings
	3. Casino Management listings used for generic cards used at multiple properties
	4. Yellow Bank Links
		1. Used when a casino changes name to direct users to the new listings
			1. See Tropicana/TropWorld AC
		2. Used under multiple casinos to direct users to casino management listings
			1. See Harrah’s AC
			2. In Casino Management listing, click Members Of… to see list of members
		3. Used without a link to insert comments or notes
	5. For Plicards and similar with lot or order number along with manufacturer name/web we are now listing the lot/order# in the Catalog# field on the CG. Originally some were under Mftr but I’m working on changing them.
6. General ChipGuide features useful for slot card collectors
	1. Valuable information about each casino
		1. Link to previous (was) or new (became) casino name
		2. Open and close dates (where known)
		3. Link to the casino website
			1. Click on this to go to the casino website
		4. Member of….. typically when a member of a casino management group
			1. Click on this to see a list of the member casinos
		5. Comments & notes
	2. ChipGuide user Profile
		1. Automatically open the categories you want most
	3. Casino Search
		1. Use quotes where needed
	4. ChipGuide Query Facility
		1. Finding/identifying Russian Cards
			1. “Casino Name” -vs- “Name Casino”
			2. Use ChipGuide Query Facility
				1. Region = Europe
				2. State = Russian Federation
				3. Collectible Type = Players Club (Slot) cards
			3. Browse query results so you can match a card’s image
	5. ChipGuide MC/WL/TL/TT buttons and Trade Maker Feature
7. **[ SHOW ChipGuide FEATURES ]**
8. Other Resources
	1. Google translate for identifying foreign cards
		1. Online Google web app
		2. Android phone add
	2. [SlotCardExchange.com](http://www.SlotCardExchange.com/) – online slot card collecting portal
	3. SlotCardBBS
		1. New and info on new card releases
		2. Newly discovered older cards not previously listed in the guides
	4. ChipBoard
		1. Mostly chip related info but occasionally other casino related info as well
	5. Colnect
		1. All things collectible, has “Casino Card” area but not well maintained
		2. Has facilities for trading as well as buying and selling