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Duckpin Bowling is a variation of tenpin bowling. The balls used in duckpin bowling are 4-3/4 in (12 cm) to 5 in (12.7 cm) in diameter (which is slightly larger than a softball), weigh 3 lb 6 oz (1.5 kg) to 3 lb 12 oz (1.7 kg) each, and lack finger holes. They are thus significantly smaller than those used in tenpin bowling but are slightly larger and heavier than those used in candlepin bowling. The pins, while arranged in a triangular fashion identical to that used in tenpin bowling, are shorter, smaller, and lighter than their tenpin equivalents which makes it more difficult to achieve a strike. For this reason (and similar to candlepin bowling), the bowler is allowed three rolls per frame.



History & Origin of the sport is a subject of some debate. Undoubtedly, the English, Dutch and German settlers all imported their own variations of bowling to America. The earliest mention of it in serious American literature is by Washington Irving, when Rip Van Winkle awakens to the sound of “crashing ninepins”.



Skittles or Nine Pins, the forerunner of tenpin bowling, has long been played in the Inns of England. In general, players take turns to throw wooden balls down a lane at the end of which are several wooden skittle pins in an attempt to knock them all over. There are a number of skittle games across England. In Germany, 3rd and 4th century monks played a game with a kegel which was a club carried for self defense. In the game, the kegel represented a sin or temptation the monks would throw stones at it until they knocked it over. The modern German term for skittles is Kegelen.

The game had its ups and downs in America. An 1841 Connecticut law made it illegal to maintain “any ninepin lanes”, probably because bowling was the object of much gambling. Many believe a “tenth” pin was added soon after, circumventing the ban and marking the origin of today’s tenpin game.

Duckpin Bowling had its birth at the turn of the 20th century at the old Diamond Alleys in Baltimore, Maryland with Uncle W. Robinson and JJ McGraw, bowling proprietors and members of the the original Baltimore Orioles baseball team.

Diamond Alleys had on its premises, smaller five-inch balls with which bowlers would amuse themselves by bowling such non-regulation games as “cocked hat” and “five back”.

When Robinson and McGraw, whose other hobby and sport was shooting ducks, saw the little pins fly as the little ball plowed into them, they remarked that the pins looked like a “flock of flying ducks”. Bill Clarke, a sportswriter for the Baltimore Morning Sun, wrote a story on the new, fascinating game and christened them “Duckpins”. The name has stuck ever since.



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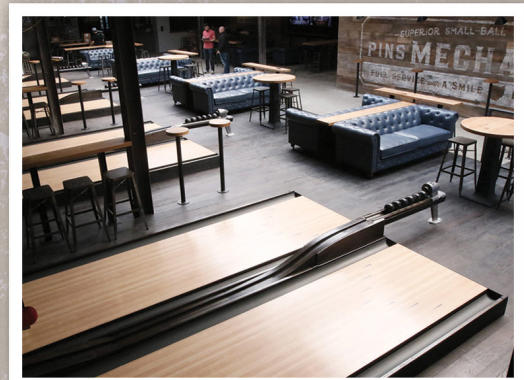
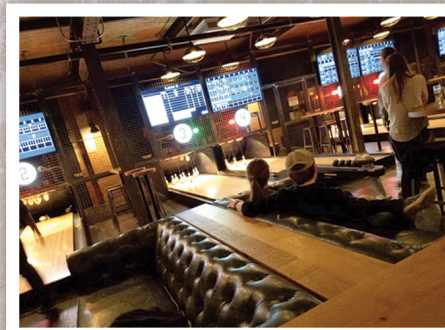
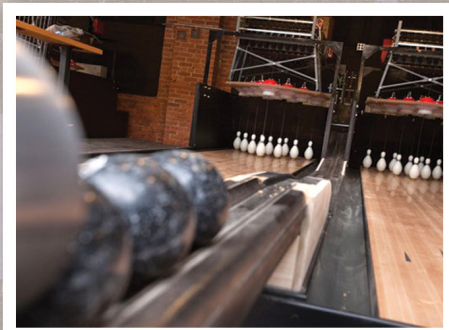
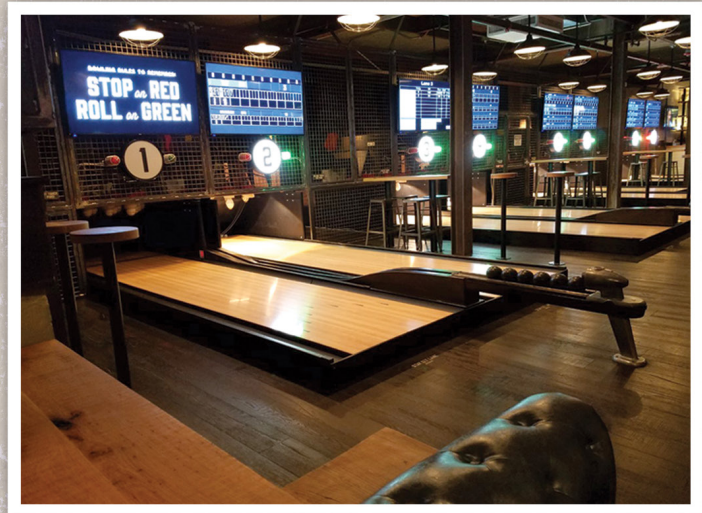
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