

## Nina or Nyner

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The well-known game of Pinball developed from coin operated pin bagatelle boards or 'pin tables' during the 1930's and *Nina* or *Nyner* can best be described as an early form of Pinball but using flat discs rather than balls.

The discs are propelled up the playing field by a tensioned cord, the objective being to score points by landing them in any of the 9 holes from which the game takes its name. The holes are protected by buffers or bumpers from which the disc would bounce in a new direction.

The Nina patent application (by W. A. Rich of London) is dated 1930 and it is interesting to note that it includes the following features:

- Use of electricity for light and sound effects (introduced to pinball in 1933).
- A mechanism for releasing the discs from the holes (introduced to pinball in 1934)
- The use of buffers or bumpers (replaced pins on pinball tables from the mid 30's)

The patent specification suggests the use of 7 discs and an object disc to be struck by the remaining playing discs.

### The Discs (all uniface)



1. NINA PAT 30369/30,  
Silvered brass 31mm

2. OFFICIAL DISC OF NINA PAT No 30369/30  
Steel 31mm





### 3. REGISTERED TRADE MARK NYNER Steel 32mm

The last disc was one of a group of 6 found together in a fitted wooden box capable of holding 8 discs. Note that the Patent Application number was 30369/30 and the Patent Publication number was 358723 (dated October 1931).



4. A Nyner Board (Photo courtesy of James Masters)

A version of a Nyner board was produced in the 1930's by the Kum-Bak Sports, Toys & Games Mfg. Co. Ltd. This used 6 discs marked NYNER, the object disc with the letters in-filled with red paint, the remaining 5 uncoloured.

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