

Provenance Summary

Brunswick 5' × 10' Art Deco Billiard Table – Likely prototype for the 1937 *Exposition* model, reportedly exhibited at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair



Table shown with included accessories – spectator bench, overhead lamp, cues, and ball rack.



Detail view showing gully-return system and three-pedestal Art Deco base (Brunswick design, c. 1930s).

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Description:

- 5' × 10' playing surface, three-piece slate bed
- Triple-pedestal base with vertical chrome ribs and concealed stretcher
- Rosewood/walnut veneer with aluminum accents
- Tubular gully system (fiber/cardboard tubes to concealed trough)
- Leather drop pockets believed original
- Spectator bench (repurposed church pew), 1970s overhead lamp, cues, balls, rack, and accessories
- Professionally crated, stored indoors in Colorado

Historical Context:

Brunswick exhibited “modernistic billiard and bar equipment” at the 1933–34 Chicago World's Fair. The table's triple-pedestal base and chrome trim anticipate Donald Deskey's 1937 *Exposition* model. Factory literature confirms that 5' × 10' *Exposition* tables used three pedestals “for utmost rigidity” and could include a gully-return system. This example aligns closely with those specifications, suggesting it may have been an early prototype or Fair-era exhibit later sold or reproduced commercially.

Ownership History:

Purchased by the current owner's father at a Philadelphia pool-hall auction in the early 1970s. The auctioneer stated it had come from Brunswick's 1933–1934 World's Fair display. Though not formally verified, the style, construction, and period details support that provenance.

Valuation Overview:

Comparable Brunswick Art Deco models (*Centennial*, *Exposition*) typically range from \$9,000–\$12,000 unrestored and up to \$18,000–\$20,000 restored. Given the rare triple-pedestal design, intact gully-return, and likely 1933 Chicago World's Fair connection, this table is offered at \$14,500.

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References & Sources

1. *Official Guide to the 1933 Century of Progress Exposition* (Chicago: Century of Progress, 1933), University of Illinois scan: <https://libsysdigi.library.illinois.edu/oca/Books2008-08/officialguideboo331cent/officialguideboo331cent.pdf>
2. Brunswick Corporation Library (PastPerfect) — 1937 catalog entries and 1933 pamphlet *Brunswick Highlights 1893–1933*: <https://brunswick.pastperfectonline.com/library/92B3F84D-64C9-424F-9EB0-448379492570>; <https://brunswick.pastperfectonline.com/library/779B795C-E8A3-4DDA-A0BA-631782326857>; <https://brunswick.pastperfectonline.com/library/229BDB5D-F088-4642-90B0-117878239787>
3. Hanks, David A., and Jennifer Toher. *Donald Deskey: Decorative Designs and Interiors*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1987.
4. *Donald Deskey Papers*, Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum (finding aid): <https://sova.si.edu/record/sil-ch.1975-11-77>