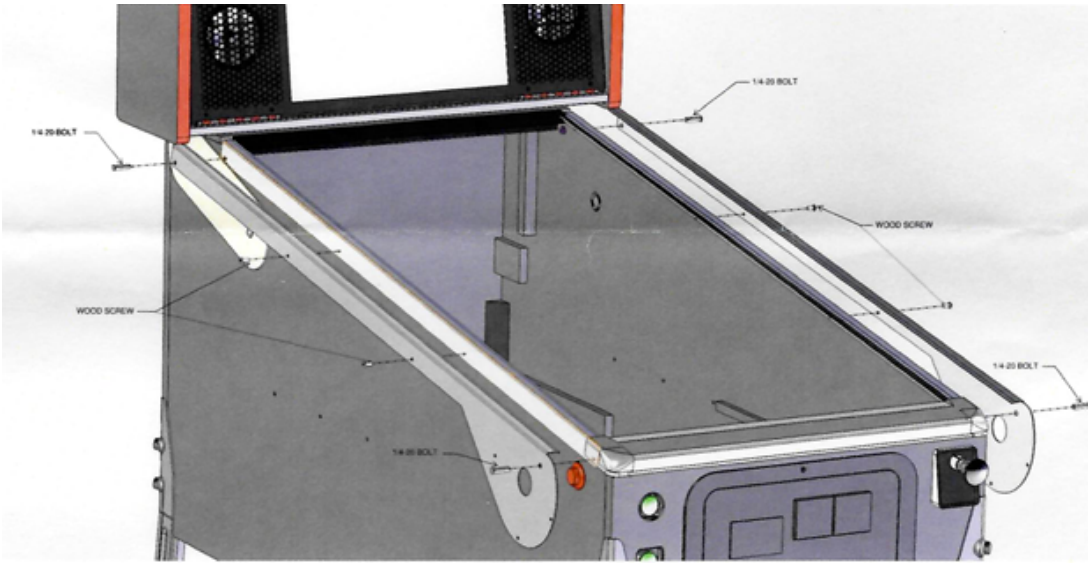
Replacing Side Armor on a Pinball Machine

There are multiple ways to remove the side armor and fasteners. The process involves removing two Phillips wood screws and two headless ¼-20 bolts. The headless ¼-20 bolts may need to be gently tapped out of the game for the side armor to be removed.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. **Retain all hardware** – Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws, as they will be needed to install the new rails.
2. **Remove bolts first** – This will make it easier to hold the rail while removing the screws last.
3. **Remove the lockdown bar and glass.**
4. **Prepare the backbox bolt** – The bolt near the backbox hinge cannot be removed while the backbox is raised. First, remove the nut from this bolt and ensure it moves freely. It will not fully come out due to the hinge.
5. **Lower the backbox** – Place a towel over the existing rails to protect them, then gently lower the backbox. Push out the top bolt, then raise the backbox back to its original position.
6. **Raise the playfield** – If the machine has rails or pegs under the playfield, raise it to that level (approximately six inches).
7. **Remove the front bolt** – Remove the nut on the front bolt. If necessary, use a hammer to lightly tap it out. Since this bolt has ribs, it may be difficult to push out by hand. A gentle tap will help dislodge it.
8. **Remove the screws** – Loosen both screws on the side rail. Remove one screw first while holding the rail in place, then remove the second screw.
9. **Install the new rails** – Position the new rails and partially install the screws, tightening them to about 90% if any minor adjustments are needed. Reinstall the bolts as described above, then fully tighten the screws.



10. **Secure the backbox** – Ensure the backbox is properly secured once the installation is complete.