

# The "FixIt" Manual

**GAS GRILL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE**

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## **Chapter 12 - Table Top Grills, Knobs, Handles, Warming Racks, Post Mounted Grills, Old Grills and Other Attachments**

***"Those who persevere are sometimes rewarded but woe the prat falls! Advance with care!" -Unknown author***

### **Table Top Grills**

Table top grills are the cheapest grills out there. I still see some for less than \$25. You won't get many repair parts for less than \$25, so always include that fact in your thinking.

The burners and valves are the two issues that stop these grills from working. Always check the warranty first as you might get the factory to replace the broken part. There are few "aftermarket" parts for table top grills, and I don't recommend trying.

Many customers order our one table top valve-regulator for disposable LP tanks. That part fits old Sunbeam table top grills and our supplier only sells them because he still has them in his warehouse. Making an "aftermarket" valve fit your table top will likely result in failure unless you are a great technician and have some machine skills as well as the right tools.

If you have a higher quality, expensive table top grill (they are out there), start with the factory customer service for replacements parts. You can use the procedures for diagnosis and repair, but be forewarned that factories have a tendency to drop these parts from their inventories quickly. The valves are usually part of the LP regulator which usually accepts only the 2 pound disposable LP bottles. The orifice in the valve is made to attach to the burner and the grill in a particular way. There are hundreds of different table tops and they rarely use common valve regulators. Be prepared to either adapt the grill to charcoal or scrap it.

### **Knobs**

Knobs (universal type) can usually be found locally (at Home Depot, Lowe's or other hardware stores) in the grill section with various parts. It might be just a temporary fix. But with this replacement for the cheaper grills, the universal is as good as the factory part. The valve stems that the knobs sit on can be in several sizes. And the orientation of the OFF-ON settings is important. My first choice is to get the OEM factory knobs, but if the factory doesn't have them, do an Internet search through the aftermarket dealers like [www.clagrills.com](http://www.clagrills.com). Just try the search phrase "gas grill parts" and look through the sites. See Chapter 3 - Before Buying a Gas Grill.

### **Handles**

Handles are a part of the grill I really prefer to keep original. The lid, usually, has formed molded pieces to hold the handle and they are usually only available from the factory or an OEM dealer. Otherwise, you'll have to adapt a universal handle to the grill lid requiring a drill and it will not look very good.

### **Warming Racks**

Warming racks are almost always only available from the factory and among the first parts discontinued. I wouldn't try using other warming racks thinking you can somehow make them work. They won't work. Especially with the "hide-away" type that folds back as you raise the lid. You might find some universal racks that will work or a factory warming rack that just sits

on the main grids that will fit under the hood. Keep the original rack clean and well oiled, or put it in the garage where you can find it as the chrome plated carbon steels will simply rust away over a few years. People don't use warming racks much anyway.

### **Post Mounted Grills**

Post mounted grills are still being sold and are usually hooked up to the house Natural Gas supply or a house LP system. It is simple to replace the burners, grates and grids. But the valves are harder to work on, as they are rarely found anywhere except OEM-factory dealers. Changing a rusted post is a tedious, labor intensive struggle. You have to turn off the gas supply, dig up the old post, break the old gas line and install the new post making sure to reconnect the gas line securely. I've done several hundred of those and it's not fun. It really needs to be a solid old grill. Do a total worst case estimate on time, parts and prices. This is not for anyone except the experienced, trained technician (as far as I know). You might want to abandon the entire grill and have it dug up (gas line capped at the source) and thrown out.

### **Pedestal Grills**

There are still many old grills on patio pedestals out there. And they are much like the ground post grills, except no digging. Again, these are not for those untrained or mechanically challenged. Be ready to replace almost everything, even the valve. If the grill is hooked up to the house gas supply, you might be able to find a new Natural Gas grill to replace it. Some homes have a LP house supply. Of course you need to know which one before you try. You need knowledge and lots of time. Study well, work carefully and recheck all work for leaks and function.

### **Casters, Leg Pads and Big Wheels**

Big wheels can sometimes be found at local lawn mower shops or old hardware stores. Of course try the factory. They always mounted over an axle. Casters are usually just made for a particular model and you'll have to get the factory's help or improvise with something from the hardware store. Occasionally a heavy caster might match a standard one from Lowe's, but don't count on it. Be sure to take the old one with you to avoid wasting time. I have used angle L type steel pieces and either bolted or welded them on the legs. Be sure to check the level on the grill before bolting