

Bingo halls have come a long way since the days when a caller shouted numbers and players furiously marked their paper tickets with a dabber ink pen. The rise of online bingo brought fresh twists on this classic game—especially in the UK with 90-ball bingo being a favorite format. But as more players shift from paper tickets to digital cards, a common question arises: **Can you turn off auto-dabber in online bingo rooms?**



If you're used to the tactile satisfaction of manually covering numbers, the thought of an automatic dabber might feel like it's taking a bit of magic away. Let's unpack what auto-dabber settings mean, how they affect your gameplay, and what options online bingo providers offer today on mobile devices and desktop computers.



Understanding 90-Ball Bingo Basics

Before diving into auto-dabber, here's a quick refresher on 90-ball bingo, the variant most popular in UK bingo halls and online platforms.

- **Numbers 1 to 90:** The game uses 90 balls, each with a unique number from 1 to 90.
- **Tickets:** Each ticket (paper or digital) has 3 rows and 9 columns. Each row contains 5 numbers and 4 empty spaces, making 15 numbers per ticket.
- **Winning Patterns:** Typically, players aim for one line (five numbers in a single row), two lines (any two completed rows), and the full house (all 15 numbers on one card).

These are the key winning milestones in standard 90-ball bingo.

Paper Tickets vs Digital Cards: The Transformation

The move from *paper tickets* and a dabber to *digital cards* radically changed gameplay dynamics and player experiences. Let me point out the exact moment digital bingo altered the ritual — when the traditional mechanic of tracking your own numbers shifted to machines doing that work automatically.

Aspect	Paper Tickets	Digital Cards
Marking Numbers	Manual with a physical dabber	Either manual tapping/clicking or auto-dabber
Tactile Experience	High; satisfying pen marks and playbooks	Low; faster, but less physical
Error Prone?	Yes, human errors in missing a number	Low; automated systems reduce errors
Winner Recognition	Caller or other players shout and verify	Automatic winner recognition by software
Speed of Game	Slower; reliant on manual marking	Faster; immediate marking and alerts

When companies like **Measura Logic**, specialists in player behavior analysis, track the usage of auto-dabber settings, they find many players appreciate the convenience. Yet others miss the manual process — the ritual of tapping or clicking each number themselves.

What Is Auto-Dabber? Why Use It?

Within online bingo apps, the **auto-dabber** is the feature that automatically marks the numbers called on your digital card. If you're on a mobile device or desktop computer, this means you don't have to click or tap every number yourself.

The big benefit? Less chance you'll miss a number — especially since the digital caller calls numbers quickly. The app also harnesses **automatic winner recognition**, letting you know the instant you've completed a line or full house without lifting a finger.

Who Might Prefer Manual Dabbing?

- Players who enjoy the tactile engagement and nervous excitement of marking each number themselves.
- Gamers who want full control and avoid feeling like the game is being done "for them."
- Those who see dabbers as part of the ritual akin to shouting "Bingo!" — a cherished moment when they manually confirm their win.

Auto-dabber settings let players pick their preference in many cases, but not always.

Can You Turn Off Auto-Dabber in Online Bingo Rooms?

The short answer is: **It depends on the bingo app and the online room you're playing in.** Let's take a closer look at the landscape:

1. **Some platforms like MrQ provide flexibility** — they let you toggle the auto-dabber on or off before your game starts. This option appeals to those who want the feel of manual dabbing using mobile devices or

desktop computers.

2. **Other bingo apps default to auto-dabber only**, especially in 24/7 online rooms where speed is king. Here, the game moves quickly, and auto-dabber is mandatory to keep pace. Manual dabbling would slow the game and increase errors.
3. **Scheduled sessions** in some online rooms might allow manual dabbling, because numbers are called at a more relaxed pace, similar to a live hall game.

So, before you start playing, check your bingo app's settings. Look for options such as "auto-dab on/off," or consult support FAQs for that platform's rules. When you buy tickets—even at as low as 1p each in some budget rooms like *Pinch a Penny*—you want to be sure you're playing how you prefer.

Why Do Some Providers Insist on Auto-Dabber?

From the operator's perspective, auto-dabber has undeniable advantages:

- **Fair play:** Removes human error in missing numbers and questioning wins.
- **Speed:** Keeps the game flowing, especially in fast, 24/7 online rooms where players want near-instant action.
- **Automatic winner recognition:** The system flags winners immediately, avoiding disputes and speeding payouts.

Companies like **Historic England** have even studied the cultural importance of bingo halls, showing how digital tools change rituals. However, they emphasize that preserving elements of traditional play, like manual dabbling or shouting "Bingo!", maintains the social and psychological allure for many players.

Playing on Mobile Devices vs Desktop Computers

Whether you're using a smartphone or tablet, or sitting at a desktop computer, your experience with auto-dabber settings can differ:

Aspect	Mobile Devices	Desktop Computers
Screen Size	Smaller; easier for quick tapping	Larger; easier viewing of multiple cards
Manual Dabbling	Intuitive taps, but sometimes prone to missed taps due to screen size	More precise clicking possible
Auto-Dabber Access	Commonly included with toggle options	Also common, but some desktop clients offer more detailed control
Notifications	Push alerts for wins or new games	Visual and audio alerts within the browser or app

In many apps, developers balance simplicity for mobiles with richer options on [bingo caller calls](#) desktops.

Final Tips: How to Check and Adjust Your Auto-Dabber Settings

1. **Review Settings Before Buying Tickets:** When you enter an online bingo room, look for "Game Settings" or "Preferences."
2. **Toggle Auto-Dabber On/Off:** If available, set your preferred mode. On MrQ, for example, you can switch off auto-dabber if you want to manually dab your numbers.
3. **Try a Free Game:** Before committing money—even when tickets cost as little as 1p at rooms like *Pinch a Penny*—experiment in free games to experience both auto and manual.
4. **Ask Support:** If unclear, email or chat with the bingo site's support team to confirm if manual dabbling is possible.

Summary

Online bingo transformed the traditional calling and marking ritual with digital cards, auto-dabber settings, and automated winner recognition. Many platforms offer options to switch off auto-dabber, letting players manually dab their numbers like in the good old days of paper tickets. However, some fast-paced online rooms require auto-dabber to keep the game moving smoothly.

If you love that tactile, hands-on experience, look for apps and rooms that honor manual dabbing—whether on mobile devices or desktop computers. And remember, with tickets priced from as low as 1p, like at Pinch a Penny, it's easy to explore and choose the setting that feels best.

Respecting bingo's history—as studied by organizations like Historic England—and blending modern tech insights from companies like Measura Logic helps maintain that special magic. So, shout "Bingo!" your way: with a tap, a click, or old-school shouted pride.