

# 56-57 RADIOS

By Roy Braatz



At many Corvette swap meets I find a larger number of radios for 56 to 57 vettes than any other year. Ever wonder why? And why most don't have the power pack with it? Because most came out of a 55 to a 56 car. Some people have realized that the radio looks like a vette, and we all know that a Corvette owner has more money to spend than a chevy car owner, right? Other people found out that the Studebaker power pack looks like a Corvette power pack too, and again, there are more vette buyers than Studebakers.

So, let's all learn how to identify a Corvette radio.

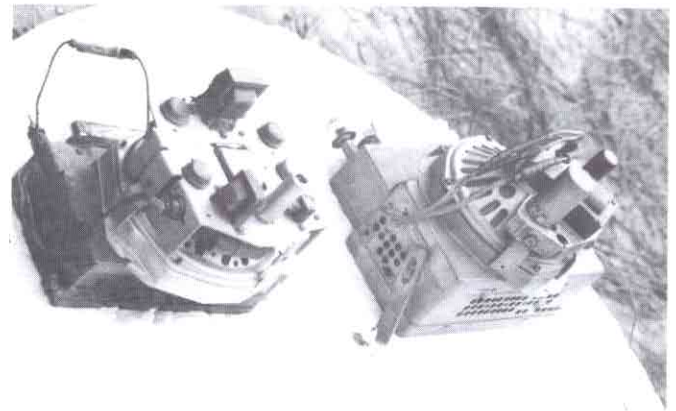
- The 55 car radio face plate has no conelrad marker or the engraved word 'Wonderbar' sold as a 56 vette.
- The 56 car radio face plate has conelrad marker and the engraved word 'Wonderbar', sold as a 57 vette.
- Studebaker power pack is round, but is bolted in with four holes also is missing the glass tube and shield, but sold as 55 to 57.
- The tuning knob on the car is flat at the back where as the vette is tapered to clear the chrome wing knobs in back. This is why knobs are always missing. Fig. 1

Looking at the radio from the front, the 57 corvette radio power pack shielded harness comes out on the right side (a somewhat short cable). Also, on the left side at the rear, there are two prongs where the dash harness PLUGS in.

Looking at the radio from the front, the car radio power pack shielded harness comes out on the left side above the face plate to the right side (a somewhat long cable). Also, on the left side at the rear, there are two long wires coming from the radio were it plugs into the harness of the dash. Knowing the two differences mentioned, you can now determine one from the other.

The power pack of a 56 or 57 has no difference from each other. It is bolted to the dash area by three bolts. Also has one glass radio tube that is protected by a metal shield. Fig 2

**NOTE:** Corvette and car radios inner parts are interchangeable so are face plates, but power packs are not. Hope I've helped someone!



56-57

53-55



FIG. 2

