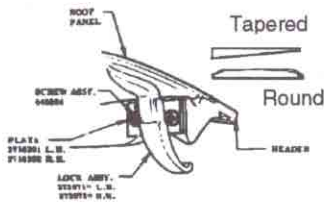


Soft Top and Hard Top Latches 56-62

Original latches are of the short handle type for Early vetts and the longe handle type for Mid-year vetts. This is something I beleave most owners of early vetts know, BUT most owners don't know the difference between a soft top and a hard top Latch.



Because of the configuration of the hard and soft top header being different where the latches are installed,each one is a unique design The back side is either tapered or round.

This is a consideration when you latch the top to the windshield, other wise the guide pins have a tennessee to bind while you draw down on the latches,(this can be a reason for broken pins,latches,and a poor seal, keeping rain out). If some one, some day, does repro. a latch, check to see if it is tapered or round.

Are you starting to see the rationality for paying attention to a real original part??? Again, this would be the time to look for original latches because you know the judges after reading about this well know what you know now, and well have this added to the next judging manual. And you the SACE members, now have a jump on those people that are not SACE members.in locating them first.

Fig. 1 shows the round back side which is used on a soft top, also the tapered back side which is used on a hard top. Looking in Clymer handbook page 205, and looking at the photo, they show the wrong tapered latch on a soft top, remember, that is a drawing. But you are looking at a correct 56-early 59 top frame, (A) is were you would lengthen the frame header to fit the windshield, the gap between the frame side plates, illustrates the year as being 56-59. and notice rubber, weatherstripping starting from the middle of the side windows, that is NOT reproduced by any one.

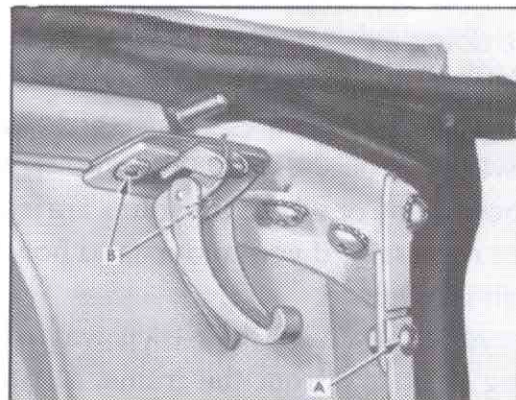


Figure 1 - 1956 to 1959

Also while your in the smaller yellow book, check page #219 Fig 2, and you well see the mid-year 59-62 soft top frame assy. illustration, that doesn't have a gap at the plates, and also the (ONE) piece header weatherstripping that only goes the distance of the header, and had corner blocks and the metal strip using screws to hold it on. This is

the one you get today, some suppliers say is the right one for all years. I can only find part numbers for (I believe the soft top), #3729720 R/H and #3729719 L/H. If someone in the great corvette world, has the other numbers, or prints, for the hard top, please let me know. Again; this is something most owners may not know, but remember! you read it here first. Note; for those that also own a mid-year 1963-67, the same applies. The soft top latch is round, while the hard top is tapered, same back area as the early corvettes. EDITOR ROY

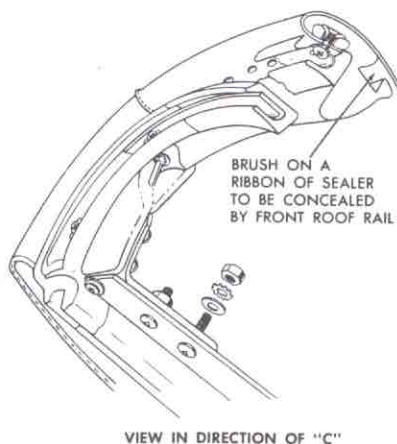


Figure 2 - 1959 to 1960