



Rear Spring Assemble Hangers

By Roy Braatz, Jr.

I've had many people ask why one car sits higher or lower in the rear than another. I've always felt that it had to do with the amount of wear on the rear springs. Although I've noticed individual cars with one side higher or lower than the other. Why?

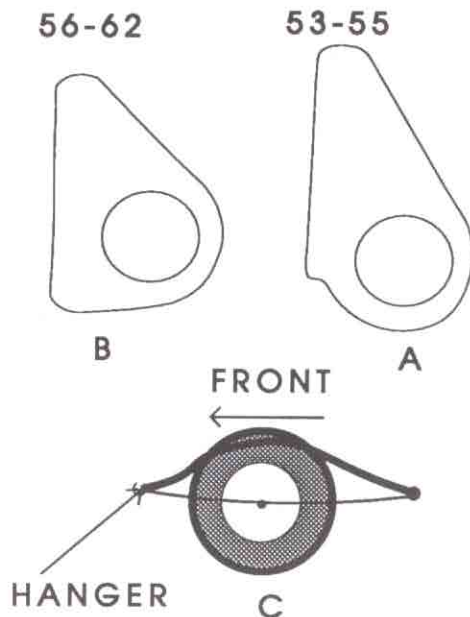
Let's take a look at the hangers. 1953-'55 Corvettes have one design (diagram A), while 1956-'62 Corvettes have another (diagram B). There's a definite difference. Looking at Diagram C we can get an idea of what is going to happen. As the front of the spring is raised or lowered, depending on which hanger is installed, the body of the car will be moved up and down.

So, why did GM change their design? Maybe the body style change required it or the springs have different arches. A '53-'55 might even weigh more in the rear than a '56-'62. Your guess is as good as mine.

If you have a '53-'55 and the springs are good, but the car still sits low, it might have the later spring hangers. Or a '56-'62 that sits a little too high might have early hangers. Either way, car owners should check to see if their car is correct.

I hope this article can help someone in the Corvette world.

Roy Braatz, Jr.
Photographer



PAINT CODE UPDATE

A running update on the 1958 to 1962 body color name. Reminder: in 1958 to 1960 it's hidden under the paint in the trunk; 1961 to 1962 it's written under paint behind the passenger side's seat back.

At the 1989 convention we had a chance to scrape off paint inside the trunk of a 1959 Corvette. I spread the word as the owner removed the trunk cardboard. Among a gathering crowd, I looked inside to see: the power top operating solenoids, which completely covered the area we were to scrape!

Undaunted, I attacked the paint with the edge of a quarter. And there it was, a small patch of green. I continued until the solenoid was in the way, then I used a borrowed screwdriver to remove the rest of the paint covering the color name. Finally, with a couple of other scrapers assisting, we uncovered "SILVER". This may be a historic Corvette of a previous owner. The color silver is important because their Corvette was silver, so the search for authenticity goes on. If this turns out to be an important car, he'll write an article for SACE later.

1962 owners: We need to know the color names on fawn beige and almond beige cars. One almond car reported "AL BEIGE". Please check your '62s and let me know; we want to know if there are any variations.

Thanks, Noland

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