

Exhaust Manifolds

Early '56 Corvettes used identical exhaust manifolds on both sides of the engine. The casting number is 3725563. This manifold has two studs on each exhaust outlet. It was used until approximately serial number E565001658 known as "ram horn." Also used in conjunction with the ram horn manifold was the spark plug wire support assembly 3730324 R/S, 3730323 L/S (fig. 1). The four chrome spark plug shield assemblies were included to reflect heat from the manifolds, they were 3728961 L/H, 3728962 R/H, rear, and 3730323 L/H, and 3728960 R/H. This last shield had the dip stick oil tube assembly 3718206 coming through it (fig. 1A). In more than half of the '55 cars I've seen, and in talking to many other members, this same support assembly was used on many late '55 cars. It worked excellently and the plug wire length is correct. The wire ground wrapping is grounded at that end to the assembly (fig. 1B). '55 owners that have this support assembly on their cars are asked to please write us. No '55 car used the four chrome shield though.

Beginning around serial number E56001663, Corvettes used different exhaust manifolds in each side with three studs on the outlet flange. The left-hand manifold had the casting number 3731557, right-hand casting number 3731558. To spot these manifolds easily, the casting number is in the center of the manifold (Figure 2). This second design manifold also included changes in the plug wire shield. Added now was support shield 3733124 R/H, 3733123 L/H known as the "bommer rang" which held the lengthened plug wires against the side of the engine block. Another change was the spark plug shield assembly. The first design was held in place by a manifold bolt; all four were interchangeable. Part No. not known at this time, but soon after second design shield assembly 3736304 L/F & R/R, and 37366303 assembly R/F and L/R were used. They were held in place by a 7/16 hex bolt on the side of the engine block. These manifolds also used a heat shield mounted under two exhaust manifold mounting bolts (Fig. 3). Note oil dip stick tube now relocated on L/S of engine in block. So now chrome shields 3736236 RH & 3736235 LH are used.

The '57 Corvette exhaust manifold casting numbers now moved nearer the ends of the side of the manifolds. This casting number change continued through '62.



Figure 1A

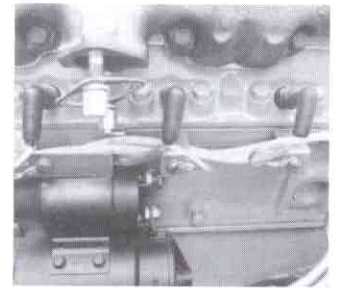


Figure 1B

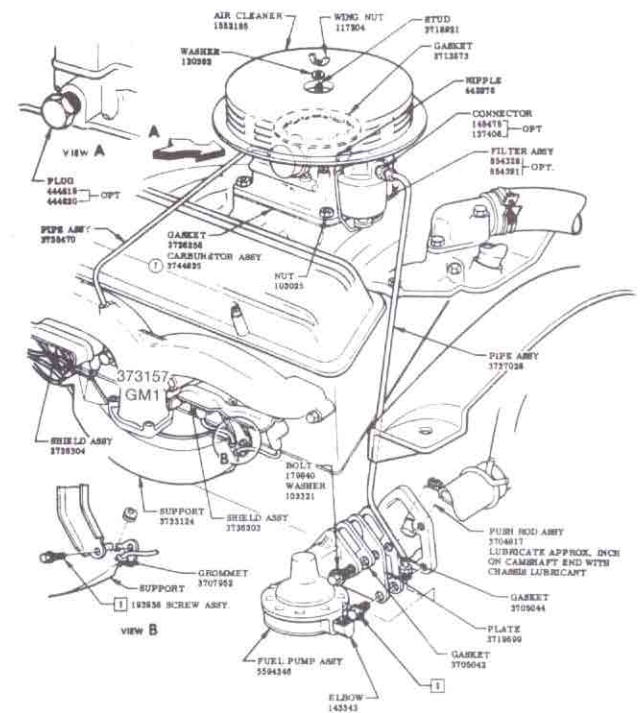


Figure 2



Figure 3