

STAY COOL

By Roy Braatz

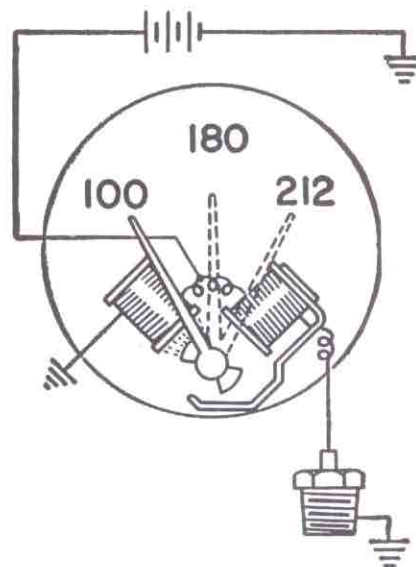
You have or know someone that has his or her '56-'62 Corvette temperature gauge reading around 210-220, but never really boils over or seems to get hot.

Most owners will blame the gauge, radiator or water pump. Most owners I meet that have this problem have all made the same mistake. They replaced the original sender with a new, shiny brass sender that is said to be a replacement for '56 and up because the original one was ugly and dull. Let's discuss one simple fact: '53-'54 used a 4 pound pressure cap because it had, in fact, an overflow or reserve tank to keep the water at a temperature calibrated by "design," and aided by the thermostat. '56-'62 used a 7 pound pressure cap for copper radiators. '60-'62 used a 13 pound pressure cap on aluminum radiators only.


Each rise in cap pressure raises the boiling point of water which, in turn, has a temperature (calibrated sender) to match the boiling point of water which is matched to pounds of the pressure cap that is used. If a 7 pound pressure cap determines 180° is normal, the sender reads the 180° water temperature and sends a resistance reading back to the gauge which will relay a 180° reading. Today's Corvettes use a 14

pound pressure cap which raised the "water boiling point" so that 210 is normal. If you have that sender installed, your gauge will read 210 all the time but your engine is not hot. Remember, each year sender is matched to a particular pound pressure cap or system.


If you had each year sender and placed them in a 180° boiling pan of water, the resistance reading would be different for each sender. Now you'll know why some Corvette owners that know this sell used senders at Vette swaps. It would seem reasonable that cars in the '50's using 7 pound pressure systems would have the sender you need. I used '56-'57 Chevy car senders. Also, the radiator caps are correct. Hope I cooled off someone's problem.



WILKERSON
CHEVROLET, INC.



Don L. Partridge
Parts Manager



2500 E. 11th St.
Tulsa, OK 74104
Phone (918) 592-3324

1-800-67-VETTE
1-800-678-3883

AMSOIL
SYNTHETIC LUBRICANTS

TONY GRECO
AMSOIL DEALER
26 Shelton Court
Commack, NY 11725
516-543-5613

CORVETTE PARTS



Specializing in Corvette and Camaro Interiors, Accessories and Parts New and Used.

NORTHWEST CORVETTE SUPPLY
BRUCE LAMONT

P.O. BOX 8162
COBURG, OREGON 97401 (503) 995-8356

WERNER'S CORVETTES
2987 Prosperity Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
New, Used, Reproduction Parts



Shop Hours:
9-6 Tues-Fri
10-3 Saturday
Closed Sun & Mon

Norman Werner
Mary Werner
(703) 698-9138
We Ship UPS Daily



Vintage Corvette Enthusiast
1953-57

335 ALOHA DR.
SAN LEANDRO, CA. 94576
(415) 352-1846

Martin Ball