

1956-57 SEAT BELT SURVEY

I have learned from various sources that seat belts were a dealer installed accessory in both 1956 and 1957 Corvettes and passenger cars. They are listed in the General Motors parts book as part number 987690 and the price is \$10.95 for each. The following are various quotes from original General Motors literature:

The two-inch wide, silver-gray straps are tightly woven nylon-rayon cord; their hardware is chrome-plated heavy-gauge steel. Each strap is anchored to a bracket bolted through the floor and a steel reinforcement under the floor. (Comment: These were installed in 1956 and 1957 Corvettes.) The strap is secured by looping it through the bracket and threading it through a three-bar slide.

The metal end of one of the two straps snap-locks in a buckle on the other. A finger-tip pull on its leverlike cover unlocks the buckle. Strap length adjustment is provided by a spring-locked adjuster in the buckle.

Another source of information states the following:

SEAT BELTS are available on the Corvette as a dealer installed accessory. The gray nylon belt, chrome-plated quick release buckle and length adjuster slides are similar to those used in the conventional passenger car. Brackets and fasteners, provided in a separate kit, easily adapt the seat belts for Corvette installation. All Corvettes have a body reinforcement for belt attachment.

The above information and observation of seat belts over the past few years has lead me to the following preliminary conclusions:

1. All belts were silver-gray in color.
2. The buckles were a snap-in type as illustrated below with Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) tags attached to the belts.
3. There were various manufacturers and insignias on these belts.

My question is that if anyone has additional information regarding correct seat belts for 56-57 Corvette that adds to my research or is of different character, would they please write to me.

Larry Richter
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AIR FILTERS F.I.

Greg sent me two elements. 58-61 pleated paper and 62 foam, fig 1. I found them to be correct in every way. He also makes the F.I. gasket for 57 that is 1/8 inch thick, Issue 3 #3 I wrote about. Fig. 2 shows a A.C. filter that was brought to my attention that is so close to the original A.C. 176 filter for the 57 F.I. that most people would think it was original. Ask your part man for #A.C. 176-C or number 6419309, this filter was used on RAMBLER, STUDEBAKER, and AVANTI cars. You will be pleased with the price, because you would need \$300 to \$500 for the original, but about \$6.00 will get you a 80% original one.

—Roy

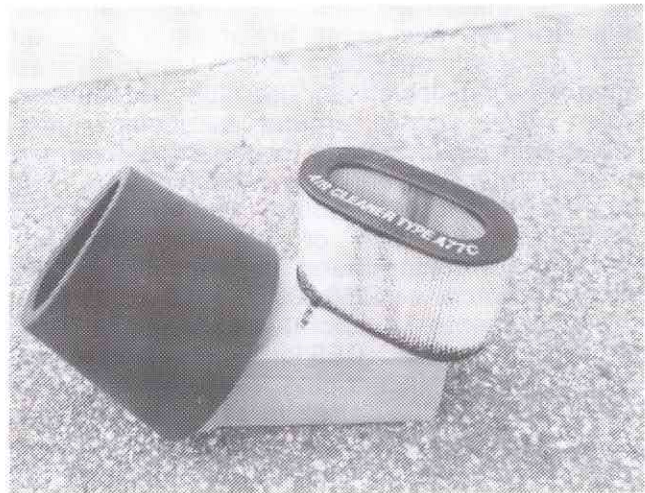


Figure 1 '58-'61 paper, '62 foam.

To order filters call Gary Hodges,
(503) 393-5632.

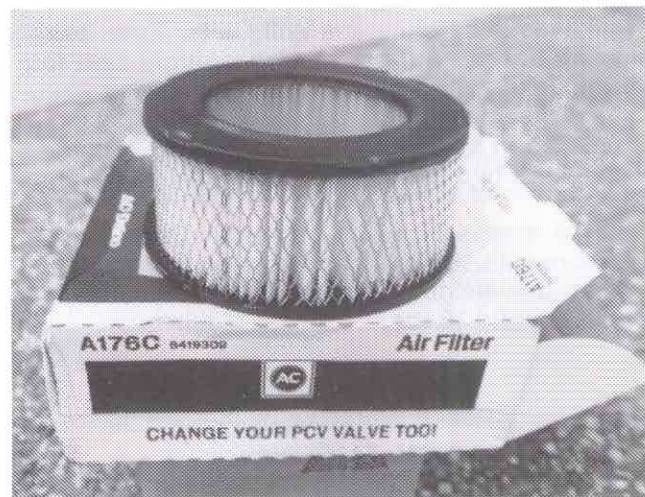


Figure 2 '57 F.I. AC A176C.