

ThunderEnlightening^{T.M.}

Classic Auto Supply Co., Inc.



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CLASSIC THUNDERBIRD OWNER AND RESTORER

ISSUE NUMBER FOUR • DECEMBER 1991

CASCO Restorations

Automotive restoration is expensive!

That's why when you choose a shop to restore your automobile you should be comfortable with the professionalism, honesty, and competence of that shop and its employees.

At CASCO Restorations our approach to automotive restoration is to provide the customer with the best overall restoration value. Our caring, experienced craftsmen are allowed the latitude to do the job correctly while always keeping in mind the finished product and financial objectives of the customer.

CASCO Restorations, like CASCO Parts, is operated as a business not as a hobby. To our customers this means such things as insured, well protected cars in clean and organized buildings that are fully alarmed, the correct special tools to do the work efficiently and properly, frequent photographs of the restoration in progress, and easy to read computer billing invoices.

We do not work as cheaply as the back yard mechanic or after hours bodyman - we don't even try.

Many people know CASCO for our specialty; Classic Thunderbird restorations, however we have also restored other Marque's including Chevrolet, Corvette, Mustang, Lincoln, early and other 50's Fords, Mercedes, Triumph, plus some street rods.

Yes, automotive restoration is expensive but we feel that our customers justify that expense through the pride of owning an automobile that they know was done correctly.

As craftsmen, at CASCO Restorations, we are proud to put our reputation on the line with each job.

If our approach to automotive restoration appeals to you and you are considering a restoration please call, write, or better yet visit our facility.

CTCI Regionals

We were fortunate to be able to attend 4 of the 6 Classic Thunderbird Club regional meets this last summer.

Wow! What a great time - and the T-Birds...

It's always a thrill to see so many beautiful T-Birds all in one spot. Particularly nice is to see so many owners participating in the show by putting their cars in the Touring class.

The host clubs work very hard to make sure that everyone has a great time. We've said it before - we'll say it again - if you want to have a great time with your T-Bird plan to attend a CTCI or local chapter event.

1992 CTCI National

During the even numbered years CTCI has one big blowout national meet. In 1992 it's going to be in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

If enthusiasm counts (and it does) the folks from Tulsa will be putting together a convention that will be unforgettable.

The dates are June 29th - July 4th. For Registration information contact Ken Thomas, 14923 East 92nd St. North, Owasso, OK 74055 or phone (918) 272-2838.

Remember, if you don't belong to CTCI and want information just ask or put the part number "CTCI" on your parts order and we'll send along a free brochure and application form.

Readers Questions

Customers have asked us about using radial tires on their Birds. If you have any experience that you would like to share, good or not-so-good, we'd like to hear from you. Was the ride and/or handling really improved? Did you experience clearance problems? Have you found a wide white radial? What size did you use? We'd appreciate your comments.

Also in the tire line we've had some questions about a space-saver spare that will work on our Birds. Are you aware of any? What car make/model/year?

Product News

BATTERY CABLES

We are often asked what size cable we use to manufacture the 6 volt battery cables. We use heavy-duty 0 gauge cable. This is a full size heavier than the original and we feel is essential for good starting.

The original 12 volt cables had brass battery ends. For years we have manufactured them with brass ends but now in order to make them even more authentic looking we are supplying the brass ends without the plating - in the natural brass finish.

DASH EMBLEMS

Really good news for 1955 & 1956 owners! We have reproduced the small T-Bird dash emblem and can now supply this part with considerably improved quality, including correct color and a very clean casting, at a significantly reduced price. Part #04460 is now only \$19.95.

We have also redone the glove box V-8 emblem. It too has been improved as we now offer this part with a threaded mounting stud and nut. Part #04407 - same price \$9.50.

CONTINENTAL KIT DONUTS

Part #1406 is now available in steel with the rubber bead around the outside edge - just like the original. \$74.95

HARDTOP BACK GLASS

We can now supply the hardtop back glass in either clear or tinted glass with the proper logo. Price is only \$220.00 for either.

POWER SEAT DOOR TRIM PANEL

If you've ever struggled with putting the power seat switch hole into the drivers side door trim panel you'll appreciate knowing that we are now able to offer this first quality panel with the hole in place.

Order Part #21167PS \$89.95

STRIKER PLATE SHIMS

The original striker plate shims had a grit surface and that's exactly how we now supply them. Same price as before \$.75 ea.

SPARK PLUG WIRES

Finally! CASCO is now able to supply an exact reproduction of the original spark plug wires.

These new wire sets come complete with the FoMoCo oval on the spark plug boot, the correct connectors at the distributor cap and coil, and the rubber sleeves.

Even the brown coil wire has been detailed with the correct "RADIO RESISTANCE" markings. Part #12259A for 55, 56, and early 57; part #12259B for late 57. Price for either is \$42.95 for the set.

Questions? Shop Tips

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in "TE" Drop us a line and ask. If we can answer the question and if it's of sufficient general interest we'll include it in some future issue.

Have a good T-Bird oriented shop tip that you'd be willing to share? We'd love to pass it along. Each one used will get you a \$20.00 CASCO gift certificate.

Tech Tips

STARTING PROBLEMS If you are having starting problems because your engine doesn't always crank over properly when you hit the starter, the problem may be due to a poor ground connection between the engine block and the firewall or battery ground cable.

It's nice to have lots of shiny paint on the engine block and firewall but remember paint won't conduct electricity and the bolt itself isn't enough surface contact to do the job.

Be sure to scrape away the paint on the engine block where the engine ground strap attaches and also for 55 and 56's where the battery ground cable is bolted. Do the same at the firewall and you will be assured of a good electrical connection.

ENGINE STARTS BUT WON'T RUN. If your 12 volt T-Bird starts OK but then dies as soon as you release the key from the start position, your problem is a defective coil resistor.

If this happens you can verify that the coil resistor is defective by removing the two wires from the resistor and shorting them together. The engine should then run.

Be sure to replace the defective coil resistor ASAP or you will be putting too much voltage to the ignition circuit. Point life will definitely be reduced and coil damage may occur when you run without the resistor.

Parts Problem

The reproduction visors have a problem of being too loose on the visor shaft. In our shop we get around this problem by simply putting a couple of slight bends along the length of the visor arm.

T-Bird Specifications

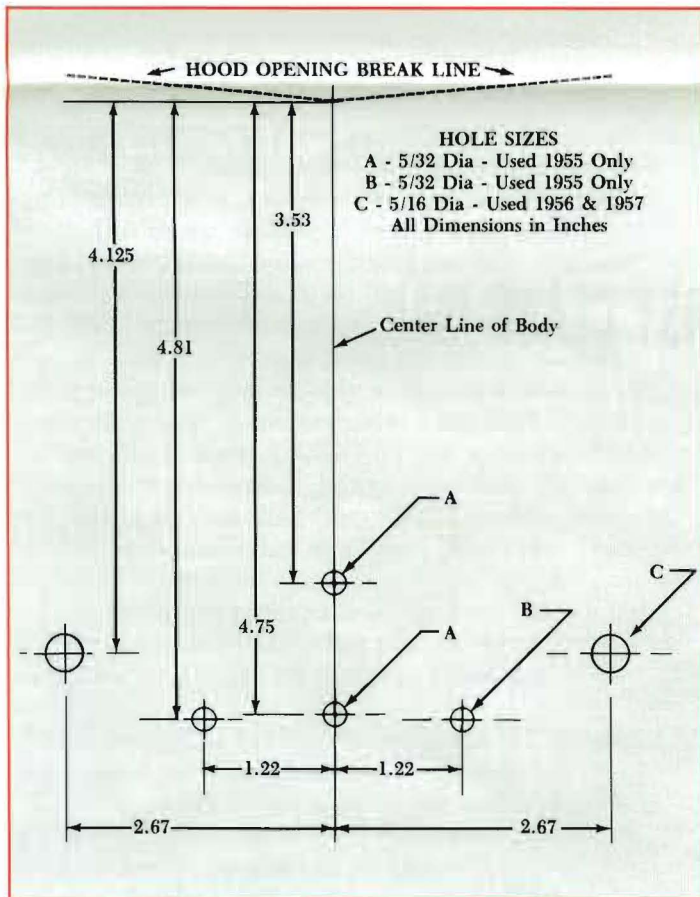
□ **IGNITION TUNE-UP SPECS** Here are a few basic specifications one may find useful before one starts working on the ignition circuit.

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Cylinder Firing Order | 1-5-4-8-6-3-7-2 |
| Rotor Rotation | Counterclockwise |
| Distributor Point Gap | 0.014 - 0.016 inch |
| Distributor Dwell Angle | 26° - 28.5° |
| Breaker Arm Spring Tension | 17 - 20 ounces |
| Ignition Timing (Marks on Crankshaft Pulley) | |
| Standard & Overdrive | 3° B. T. D. C. |
| Fordomatic Transmission | 6° B. T. D. C. |
| Spark plug gap | 0.032 - 0.036 inch |

□ POSITION OF NOSE PANEL MOUNTING HOLES

Since the radiator grille upper panel, or nose panel, is the same for all three years the service part (when it was available from Ford) came with no holes for the emblems. A template was supplied with each panel for emblem replacement.

The drawing below gives the specifications for locating and drilling the emblem mounting holes.



Drawing of 55-57 T-Bird nose panel showing size and location of holes to mount the front emblem(s). Note that 55 is different from 56 & 57. All Dimensions in inches.

Restoration Tip

POSITION OF DECALS

Tire Pressure - Glove box door.

Folding Top - Glove box door.

Automatic Transmission - Glove box door.

Lifeguard Door Lock - Used 56 only - on body below striker plate on drivers side. Not used with the Lifeguard Design

Lifeguard Design - Used 56/57 - on drivers door below the door latch star wheel. 56 do not use with the lifeguard door lock decal.

Jacking Instructions

- 55 - on the trunk divider board - centered

- 56/57 - center on the trunk lid

Heater Instructions - On the top surface of the heater plenum in the engine compartment. Reads when viewer is facing the rear of the car.

Air Cleaner

- 55/56 - on the LH (drivers) side of the air cleaner base. Start the decal about 1" back from the hood seal retainer.

- 57 - on flat surface of the air cleaner top

Air Scoop Plate - On the inside of the plate such that it can be read when plate is installed.

Oil Filter Can - Used with non spin-on filters.

Position midway on canister - decal goes around canister not lengthwise.

Data Plate - On the data plate on the firewall.

Voltage Regulator - On top of the cover.

Coil - Used 56/57 - wraps around coil close to the bottom (metal end) - top of the decal is toward the top of the coil (wire end).

Starter - Lengthwise on starter - would be easily seen if car had no heater. 56 & 57 used a decal - 55 used a metal plate attached with rivets

Generator - Lengthwise and centered so it can be easily seen. 56 & 57 used a decal - 55 used a metal plate attached with rivets

CASCO Questionnaire

CASCO is always striving to serve you better. You can help. Your opinion is very important to us.

Included with this issue of ThunderEnlightening is a customer opinion questionnaire. Return the questionnaire by 1/31/92 and you will be eligible for one of eight prizes including the grand prize of a \$250.00 CASCO gift certificate.

Please see the questionnaire for a complete listing of prizes. Winners will be notified by mail. A complete listing of winners will be in the next issue of TE.

We at Classic Auto are very interested in our customers opinions and hope that you take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. Thank you and good luck.



**Best Wishes
for The Holiday Season
from all of us at
CASCO**

Bill Keith
Nancy
Jose Alvin Rex
Jim Mark Shawn
Jerry Dan



Unadvertised Special

MIDWINTER SPECIALS

IGNITION TUNE-UP Tune-up your ignition system with our ignition tune-up kit consisting of points, condenser, rotor, distributor cap and spark plugs.

Save \$12.00 over ordering these parts separately. 55/56 order #ITK556 at \$28.85, 57 order #ITK57 at \$31.50.

SHOCK ABSORBERS Good handling requires good shock absorbers. Here's your opportunity to get new Heavy Duty Motorcraft shocks at \$20.00 off for the set of four.

Order #18124-5K for only \$70.00.

These sale prices will be good through 2/14/92. Normal shipping policy and large order discounts apply.

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This publication is prepared and published by Classic Auto Supply Co. Inc. for the owners of 1955, 1956, & 1957 Ford Thunderbird automobiles. It is provided without cost to its current active customers.

Readers are encouraged to submit shop tips and articles for publication. Each submission printed will earn for its author the gratitude of Classic T-Bird owners around the world and a \$20.00 gift certificate from Classic Auto Supply Co. We reserve the right to edit any submission.

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