

Chapter 3

Buildsheet Data by Model Year

Chapter 3 begins with an overview of buildsheet milestones by model year. Milestones are then followed by an analysis of the use of broadcast codes by year and methods used to display code data. Model years are arbitrarily grouped based on similar data sets and other common characteristics. The first year 1973 stands alone as a transition year, the least understood, while 1974-76, 1977-80 and 1981-82 are grouped together. These groupings have little to do with NCRS judging groups or probably anything else you've learned about Corvette judging classes. Groups are based on the similarities of the broadcast data displayed.

Buildsheet Milestones

Milestones were selected based on a study of manifests with some years represented by numerous examples while other model years are represented by only a few. But the numbers do provide some insights into how data display evolved from 1973 through 1982. Milestones represent unique data and/or format features that were introduced into the production process each year as the GMAD manifest was used to install Corvette options. Interestingly enough, not all data or broadcast codes were introduced in 1973 but evolved over several years. For the purpose of this study guide, milestones were determined based on the availability of manifests and the data called out for that particular year. Thus, a review of code usage identifies milestones in terms of either buildsheet format, data display or other unique document characteristics. These milestones include:

- 1973 – GMAD landscape-style manifest replaces Corvette Order Copy on the tank.
- 1973 – Key codes typed on the manifest using a typewriter at the trim tag station

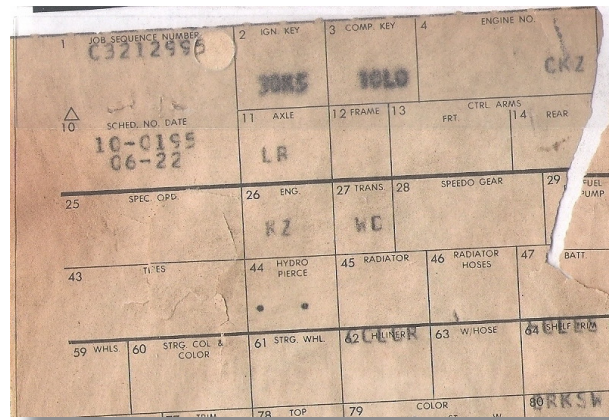


Figure 3a: 1973 key codes & power team codes. Note SCHED NO DATE 10-1095

- 1973 – Last five-digits of the VIN typed on the manifest using a typewriter at the trim tag station
- 1974 – Greater use of chassis broadcast codes
- 1975 – Introduction of interior broadcast codes
- 1977 – Greater use of engine compartment mechanical broadcast codes
- 1977 – Use of broadcast codes for interior trim including options and color
- 1977 – Use of DYMO tape to obscure key codes
- 1978 – Introduction of merchandise option codes with Anniversary and Pace Car
- 1981 – Key codes no longer typed on manifest copies at Bowling Green
- 1981 – Pre-assigned VIN printed on manifest begun at Bowling Green

The 1973 Buildsheet

The most striking feature of the 1973 buildsheet, next to its landscape format, was the prominent display of key codes introduced in Chapter 2 (Figure 3a). Key codes and the VIN's last six digits were typed by a typewriter at the trim tag station as the trim tag and VIN were riveted to the freshly painted body.

The 1973 gas tank was the first to sport a GMAD manifest, customized for Corvette production, but data display was limited. Buildsheets were printed with the RPO data and destination data. The use of printed broadcast codes saw limited application. It is only speculation but 1973 was a year of transition from Chevrolet Car Division management to the GMAD assembly plant management. The manifest was introduced, but the factory, in all likelihood, continued to use the methods that had been used during early C3 production, such as the chassis broadcast copy.

been recovered for a given vehicle. In this guide, power team is defined as the motor, transmission and rear axle installed on a Corvette. The data that appears on the buildsheet were the broadcast codes for the motor (Figure 3b Box 4 & 26), transmission (Figure 3b Box 5 & 27) and axle (Box 11). Also note that the engine suffix in Box 26 uses only the last two letters of the three-letter code. This format continues until 1977 when all three letters were used in both Box 4 and 26. In the next section (1974-76), this will be explored in more depth.

The prominent data sets that are displayed include the RPOs, power team and destination data. Generally, an owner can confirm the power team (motor, transmission and rear axle gear) installed on the Corvette when the manifest has

This technical article is adapted from Chapter 3 of the *Corvette Buildsheet Book: A Study Guide for 1973-82 Build Records*. The Study Guide chronicles the history and use of 1973-82 Corvette buildsheets.

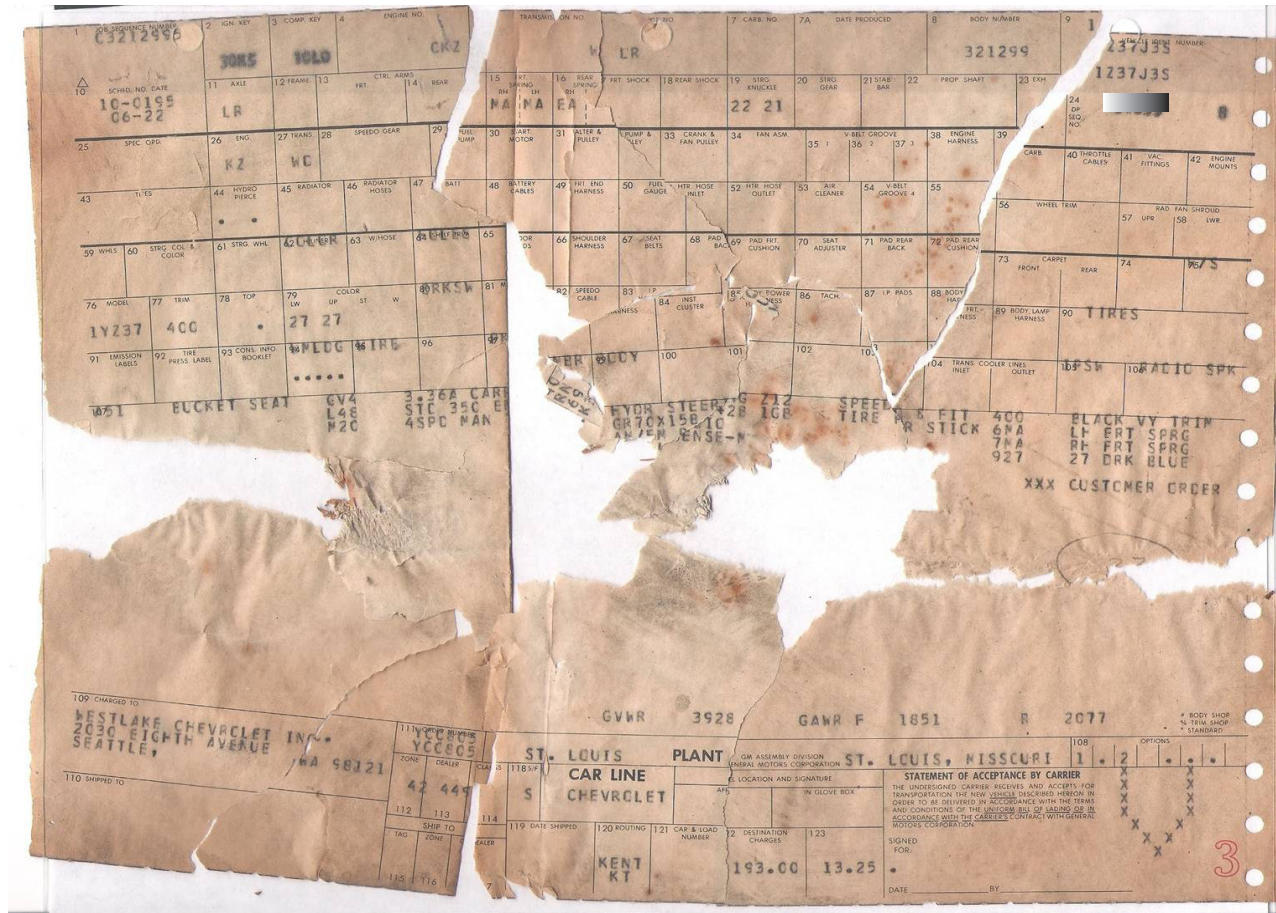


Figure 3b: A typical 1973 Manifest: Note darkened, typed key codes and VIN sequence number Document courtesy Kevin Nelson

