



1961 Production Facts

The 1961 Corvette was the first to include aluminum radiators as standard equipment. These radiators featured a new crossflow design. Unfortunately, due to production delays some early 1961 Corvettes were built with the same copper radiators that were used in the 1960 models. The exhaust was moved to exit the car under the rear bumper instead of thru the bumper itself, this was to prevent the bumpers from getting dirty from the exhaust. The rear was completely redesigned to include the four taillights that we now expect on a Corvette, the first year for that. The front of the car was the first that did not have the heavy teeth of previous years. The base engine was still supplied with a stamped valve cover with the Chevrolet script while the optional engines had 7-finned cast alloy valve covers. The 4-speed transmission was provided with an aluminum case this year. The transmission tunnel was also narrowed by 20% to give more interior space. This was the last year that the two-tone paint could be ordered from the factory. Dual carburetor engines were also available for the last time in 1961. This was also the last year for the 283 cu. in. engines. Courtesy lights, windshield washers, temperature-controlled radiator fan, sunvisors and parking brake warning light all became standard this year. This was the only year for the Jewel Blue color. In 1961 17 Corvettes were delivered in non-standard colors or primer. 1961 also introduced us to the first "Shark" concept car.

Production Options and Build Statistics

Total 1961 Corvettes Built - 10,939

Serial Numbers

Convertible	10867S100001 - 10867S110939
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The serial number (Vehicle Identification Number -- VIN) is located on a stainless steel plate welded to the top of the steering column mast under the hood.

Serial Number Decoder

Position	Character	Description
1	1	1961
2-3	08	body series: Corvette
4-5	67	convertible
6	S	Assembled in St. Louis, MO
7-12	100001 to 110939	production sequence

Engine Serial Number Decoder

Position	Value	Description
1 to 7	0001001	sequential production number
8	F or T	Flint, MI or Tonawanda, NY
9 to 10	Carburetion & transmission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CQ = 283-cid 230-hp V-8 with 9.5:1 compression ratio, Three or Four-speed manual transmission, and four-barrel carburetor • CR = 283-cid 275-hp V-8 with 11.0:1 compression ratio, Three or Four-speed manual transmission with fuel injection • CS = 283-cid 315-hp V-8 with 11.0:1 compression ratio, Three or Four-speed manual transmission, high lift camshaft, and fuel injection

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT = 283-cid 245-hp V-8 with 9.5:1 compression ratio, Three or Four-speed manual transmission and dual four-barrel carburetors • CU = 283-cid 270-hp V-8 with 9.5:1 compression ratio, Three or Four-speed manual transmission, high-lift camshaft and dual four-barrel carburetors • DG = 283-cid 230-hp V-8 with 9.5:1 compression ratio, Powerglide automatic transmission and a four-barrel carburetor • DJ = 283-cid 245-hp V-8 with 9.5:1 compression ratio, Powerglide automatic transmission and dual four-barrel carburetors
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Cars with optional four-speed manual transmissions used the same engine code suffixes as cars with three-speed manual transmissions. The body number plate is located on the engine side of the cowl. Fisher Body Style Number 61-0867 identifies a Corvette. The body number is the serial number of the body.

Production Options

RPO	Description	Cost	Total	
			Prod.	%
867	Base Convertible	\$3,934.00	10,939	100.0%
101	Heater	\$102.25	10,761	98.4%
102	AM Radio, Signal Seeking	\$137.75	9,316	85.2%
242	Positive Crankcase Ventilation	\$5.40	N/A	N/A
276	Wheels, 15x5.5	\$0.00	337	3.1%
290	Whitewall Tires, 6.70x15	\$31.55	9,780	89.4%
313	Powerglide Automatic Transmission	\$199.10	1,458	13.3%
353	283ci, 275hp Engine (fuel inj.)	\$484.20	118	1.1%
354	283ci, 315hp Engine (fuel inj.)	\$484.20	1,462	13.4%
419	Auxiliary Hardtop	\$236.75	5,680	51.9%
426	Power Windows	\$59.20	698	6.4%
440	Two-Tone Paint Combination	\$16.15	3,368	30.8%
468	283ci, 270hp Engine (2x4 carbs.)	\$182.95	2,827	25.8%
469	283ci, 245hp Engine (2x4 carbs.)	\$150.65	1,175	10.7%
473	Power Operated Folding Top	\$161.40	442	4.0%
675	Positraction Rear Axle	\$43.05	6,915	63.2%
685	4-Speed Manual Transmission.	\$188.30	5,328	48.7%
686	Metallic Brakes	\$26.90	920	8.4%
687	Heavy Duty Brakes and Susp.	\$333.60	119	1.1%
1408	Blackwall Tires, 6.70x15	\$15.75	N/A	N/A
1625	24 Gallon Fuel Tank	\$161.40	N/A	N/A

Color Options for 1961 - Acrylic Lacquer or Nitrocellulose Lacquer

RPO	Color	Cost	Ditzler	Dupont	RMNumber	Soft Top Color	Interior Color	Total	
								Prod.	%
N/A	Tuxedo Black	\$0.00	9300	88-L	A-496	White/Black	Red/Black/Blue/Fawn	1,340	12.2%
501A	Fawn Beige	\$0.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	White/Black	Red/Black/Fawn	1,363	12.5%
502A	Jewel Blue	\$0.00	N/A	4143-L	N/A	White/Black	Black/Blue	855	7.8%
506A	Roman Red	\$0.00	70961	2931	1138	White/Black	Black/Red	1,794	16.4%
509A	Sateen Silver	\$0.00	31905	4023-L	A-1203	White/Black	Blue/Black/Red	747	6.8%
510A	Ermine White	\$0.00	825	4024	1199	Black/White	Blue/Black/Red/Fawn	3,178	29.1%

Two-Tone Paint Production

RPO	Color	Production	%
440	Roman Red / White	954	8.7%
440	Honduras Maroon / White	647	5.9%
440	Ermine White / Silver	385	3.5%
440	Fawn Beige / White	358	3.3%
440	Tuxedo Black / Silver	429	3.9%
440	Jewel Blue / White	419	3.8%
440	Sateen Silver / White	159	1.5%

Interior Colors

RPO	Color	Cost	Total	
			Prod.	%
N/A	Black	\$0.00	3,487	31.9%
490B	Blue	\$0.00	1,331	12.2%
N/A	Red	\$0.00	4,459	40.8%
N/A	Fawn	\$0.00	1,662	15.2%

1961 Corvette Specifications

Mechanical Dimensions

Feature	Dimensions
Wheelbase	102 in.
Track Front/Rear	57 in. / 59 in.
Length	177.2 in.
Width	72.8 in.
Height	51.6 in.
Frontal Area	N/A
Ground Clearance	N/A
Curb Weight	3,035 lbs.
Fuel Capacity	16.4 gal.
Coolant Capacity	N/A

Interior Dimensions

Feature	Dimensions
Headroom	34.7 in.
Hip Room	\$\$\$ 21.5 in. per bucket 59.6 in. total
Leg Room	46.5 in.
Shoulder Room	49.4 in.

Engine Specifications

Feature	Base Engine	RPO 469	RPO 468	RPO 353	RPO 354
Type	V-8, Overhead valve	V-8, Overhead valve	V-8, Overhead valve	V-8, Overhead valve	V-8, Overhead valve
Block	Cast iron block	Cast iron block	Cast iron block	Cast iron block	Cast iron block
Displacement	283 cid	283 cid	283 cid	283 cid	283 cid

Bore & Stroke	3.87 x 3.00	3.87 x 3.00	3.87 x 3.00	3.87 x 3.00	3.87 x 3.00
Compression ratio	9.50:1	9.50:1	9.50:1	9.50:1	10.5:1
Brake horsepower	230 @ 4800 rpm	245	270	275	315
Main bearing	Five	Five	Five	Five	Five
Valve lifters	Hydraulic	Hydraulic	Hydraulic	Hydraulic	Solid
Carburetor	Carter four-barrel Type WCFB Model 3779178	Two four-barrel carbs	Two four-barrel carbs	Rochester fuel injection	Rochester fuel injection