



Manufacturing Date Codes on Porsche 356 Parts

.....Jan.....Feb.....Mar.....April.....May.....June.....July.....Aug.....Sept.....Oct.....Nov.....Dec
1948 .....1D.....2D.....3D.....4D.....5D.....6D.....7D.....8D.....9D.....10D.....11D.....12D
1949 .....1E.....2E.....3E.....4E.....5E.....6E.....7E.....8E.....9E.....10E.....11E.....12E
1950 .....1F.....2F.....3F.....4F.....5F.....6F.....7F.....8F.....9F.....10F.....11F.....12F
1951 .....1G.....2G.....3G.....4G.....5G.....6G.....7G.....8G.....9G.....10G.....11G.....12G
1952 .....1H.....2H.....3H.....4H.....5H.....6H.....7H.....8H.....9H.....10H.....11H.....12H
1953 .....1J.....2J.....3J.....4J.....5J.....6J.....7J.....8J.....9J.....10J.....11J.....12J
1954 .....1K.....2K.....3K.....4K.....5K.....6K.....7K.....8K.....9K.....10K.....11K.....12K
1955 .....1L.....2L.....3L.....4L.....5L.....6L.....7L.....8L.....9L.....10L.....11L.....12L
1956 .....1M.....2M.....3M.....4M.....5M.....6M.....7M.....8M.....9M.....10M.....11M.....12M
1957 .....1N.....2N.....3N.....4N.....5N.....6N.....7N.....8N.....9N.....10N.....11N.....12N
1958 .....1P.....2P.....3P.....4P.....5P.....6P.....7P.....8P.....9P.....10P.....11P.....12P
1959 .....1Q.....2Q.....3Q.....4Q.....5Q.....6Q.....7Q.....8Q.....9Q.....10Q.....11Q.....12Q
1960 .....1R.....2R.....3R.....4R.....5R.....6R.....7R.....8R.....9R.....10R.....11R.....12R
1961 .....1S.....2S.....3S.....4S.....5S.....6S.....7S.....8S.....9S.....10S.....11S.....12S
1962 .....1T.....2T.....3T.....4T.....5T.....6T.....7T.....8T.....9T.....10T.....11T.....12T
1963 .....1U.....2U.....3U.....4U.....5U.....6U.....7U.....8U.....9U.....10U.....11U.....12U
1964 .....401.....402.....403.....404.....405.....406.....407.....408.....409.....410.....411.....412
1965 .....501.....502.....503.....504.....505.....506.....507.....508.....509.....510.....511.....512
1966 .....601.....602.....603.....604.....605.....606.....607.....608.....609.....610.....611.....612

This article is written to provide the 356 enthusiast with information on original parts that were stamped with a manufacturing date, or were stamped with a date code and used in the production runs of Porsche 356 models. This is not written to give information on parts that contained the last 3 digits of the vin number, nor to say which parts were used on each model. The one and only focus of this article is those parts that actually contain a date or date code on them. Presented here are the results of my investigation into parts that contained the date or date codes. It is not intended to be the final word on the subject, because surely someone will find a hidden date or code not mentioned here. I am

Bosch

So far as I can determine, all Bosch parts used by Porsche during the 356 manufacturing years contained a date code. Some are very, very hard to see, and many are covered by paint. The early Bosch date codes consist of one or two numeric and one alpha character. The numbers represent the month of the year, 1 through 12 months. The alpha characters represent the year. Note, the letters I and O are not used. The sequence was superseded by a different pattern in 1964. Bosch date codes in the final 356 production years consist of three numeric characters. The first digit represents the last digit of the year. The second two digits represent the month.

simply reporting my findings to share with the 356 community. I'd like to thank those who helped me assemble this information, and a special thanks to those who sent pictures of parts. Hopefully the reader will benefit by seeing where these stamps were on the parts, as many are hard to find. A concerted effort was made to get pictures of parts where the provenance of the part was known. This went a long way towards validation of the date codes. Special thanks to Brad Ripley and Jim Breazeale for their help. Date-code systems are noted by manufacturer. Since there were a handful of 356s shipped in 1966, I will provide date codes through that year where possible.



From top: Bosch coil date code. Yes, they are there under the paint. 1Q date code represents January 1959. Photo by John Hawkins. 7S date code (July '61) on a Bosch distributor. You really have to clean to find these stamps, but they are normally in the location shown in this shot. Photo by Chris Ralston. Steve Proctor provided this shot of a Bosch Generator. Date code 4 Q, from April 1959.



From top: Bosch condenser with date code 2P, (February 1958). Photo by Curt Crowell. Bosch Windshield Wiper motor with a date stamp of 10, indicating Oct. '64 production. Photo by Curt Crowell. 8P date code (August 1958) on Bosch regulator. Photo by John Chatley. Bosch Horn picture below, Julian Hardy. Date is on the flange through which the screws go. The 3Q stamp means production in March, 1959.



Hella

Information below is from Volkswagen owners, and is also shown on the website *The Samba*. Hella date codes are one alpha char-

acter followed by up to two numeric digits. The numeric digits represent the week of the year, 1 – 52. The alpha character is the year. The letters O, Q, R and Y are not used.

1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
L	M	N	P	S	T	U	V	W	X	Z	A	B	C



SWF

Date codes for SWF use Alphabetical characters only. First is the month, A-M (the letter I is not used). This letter is then followed by an alphabetical character representing the year. For SWF years, the letter I and O were not used.

Left: SWF "Blinkgeber" for the turn signals. EM date code represents May of 1960. Below: AJ date code (January, 1957) on SWF wiper gearbox. Photo by Curt Crowell from his 1957 coupe.



SWF	.....Jan	.....Feb	.....Mar	.....April	.....May	.....June	.....July	.....Aug	.....Sept	.....Oct	.....Nov	.....Dec
1949	.....AA	.....BA	.....CA	.....DA	.....EA	.....FA	.....GA	.....HA	.....JA	.....KA	.....LA	.....MA
1950	.....AB	.....BB	.....CB	.....DB	.....EB	.....FB	.....GB	.....HB	.....JB	.....KB	.....LB	.....MB
1951	.....AC	.....BC	.....CC	.....DC	.....EC	.....FC	.....GC	.....HC	.....JC	.....KC	.....LC	.....MC
1952	.....AD	.....BD	.....CB	.....DD	.....ED	.....FD	.....GD	.....HD	.....JD	.....KD	.....LD	.....MD
1953	.....AE	.....BE	.....CE	.....DE	.....EE	.....FE	.....GE	.....HE	.....JE	.....KE	.....LE	.....ME
1954	.....AF	.....BF	.....CF	.....DF	.....EF	.....FF	.....GF	.....HF	.....JF	.....KF	.....LF	.....MF
1955	.....AG	.....BG	.....CG	.....DG	.....EG	.....FG	.....GG	.....HG	.....JG	.....KG	.....LG	.....MG
1956	.....AH	.....BH	.....CH	.....DH	.....EH	.....FH	.....GH	.....HH	.....JH	.....KH	.....LH	.....MH
1957	.....AJ	.....BJ	.....CJ	.....DJ	.....EJ	.....FJ	.....GJ	.....HJ	.....JJ	.....KJ	.....LJ	.....MJ
1958	.....AK	.....BK	.....CK	.....DK	.....EK	.....FK	.....GK	.....HK	.....JK	.....KK	.....LK	.....MK
1959	.....AL	.....BL	.....CL	.....DL	.....EL	.....FL	.....GL	.....HL	.....JL	.....KL	.....LL	.....ML
1960	.....AM	.....BM	.....CM	.....DM	.....EM	.....FM	.....GM	.....HM	.....JM	.....KM	.....LM	.....MM
1961	.....AN	.....BN	.....CN	.....DN	.....EN	.....FN	.....GN	.....HN	.....JN	.....KN	.....LN	.....MN
1962	.....AP	.....BP	.....CP	.....DP	.....EP	.....FP	.....GP	.....HP	.....JP	.....KP	.....LP	.....MP
1963	.....AQ	.....BQ	.....CQ	.....DQ	.....EQ	.....FQ	.....GQ	.....HQ	.....JQ	.....KQ	.....LQ	.....MQ
1964	.....AR	.....BR	.....CR	.....DR	.....ER	.....FR	.....GR	.....HR	.....JR	.....KR	.....LR	.....MR
1965	.....AS	.....BS	.....CS	.....DS	.....ES	.....FS	.....GS	.....HS	.....JS	.....KS	.....LS	.....MS
1966	.....AT	.....BT	.....CT	.....DT	.....ET	.....FT	.....GT	.....HT	.....JT	.....KT	.....LT	.....MT

Blaupunkt Dates prior to 1956 are somewhat complicated, and are best described on Der White's Website. 1956 and on are listed below. Again, to clarify, the Alpha code determines when the part was made at the factory, not which model year or production year car it

went into. Therefore, for example, a Series "V" Blaupunkt radio, made in the year 1964, could have been installed in a car built in 1964 or in a 65 production or model year car. This follows throughout the series, and applies to other manufacturers as well.

1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
K	S	G	Q	D	E	T	U	V	W

Continued

Date codes stamped, cast into or printed on parts

Besides the date coded parts which were made by the manufacturers listed above, there are parts on the car that had dates stamped or cast into the parts, or sometimes ink printed onto the part. The list of parts known to the author at the time of this writing include the items below. As with all things Porsche, nothing is absolute, and there are bound to be parts out there without dates on them.



Top: Pre-A window regulator with 4/53 date. Photo by John Hawkins.

Above: Door latch mechanism with June 1958 stamp. Photo by John Chatley.

Below: Zenith carb body with 10/61 date stamp. Photo by John Hawkins.



Top: Photo of seat hinge with 04-59 date stamp. Photo by John Chatley

Above: Engine case date casting. On this engine note that the two halves were cast on different weeks at the foundry. These are not stamps, but casting marks representing the week of the year over the year of manufacture at the foundry, not at Porsche. Photo by Rich Woltz.