

# 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 intnded 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 The sequence was superceded by a different pattern in 1964.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.All dash gauges including

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 condensor with date code 2P, (February 1958). Photo by Curt Crowell. Bosch Windshield Wiper motor with a date stamp of 410, 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 character 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.

- Clock
- Door latches
- Window regulators
- Oil cooler
- Cylinder heads
- Engine case
- ZF Steering Box
- Zenith Carb bodies
- Zenith air filter cans
- Master Cylinder
- One dated tie rod found on a Convert. D
- Wheels
- Some hubcaps, at least the flat ones for disc brake cars
- C fuel pumps
- Porsche-Phoenix fan belts
- Gas tanks, A, B and C
- Fuel level sender, at least on C cars
- Carrera Oil filter housings
- Carrera fuel pumps



Above: Engine case date casting. On this engine note 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. Rick Woltz Photo.



Top: Pre-A window regulator with 4/53 date. Photo by John Hawkins. Middle: Door latch mechanism with June 1958 stamp. Photo by John Chatley. Above: 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. Middle: 356 C fuel pump with date stamp for July of 1963. Above: NOS Blaupunkt radio. The V code is correct for 1964 manufacture. Paul Hatfield photo.

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