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CORVETTE TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

1953-1962 CORVETTE TURN SIGNAL HOUSING RETAINER SCREWDRIVER

If you drive an early Corvette, and I mean a Corvette between the years 1953 through 1962, sooner or later you will have to work on the turn signal switch, which is located in the housing just below the steering wheel hub at the top of the steering column.

In removing or replacing this housing you will find it is held to the steering column by a single Phillips head screw which pulls on a metal wedge as you tighten it, therefore holding it tightly to the column (see illustration). This arrangement allows you to slide the housing up or down the column and select the correct height for placement of the housing because the wedge will hold the housing wherever you choose.

The problem I found was that a screwdriver won't fit the screw head because the (1958-62) tachometer enclosure is in the way. Even an offset screwdriver is too large to fit into the limited space, which is left open when the parts are assembled properly.

I solved this problem by making my own offset Phillips screwdriver as shown in the photos. The Phillips bit can be cut from an ordinary screwdriver or from a bit used with a power driver. I used a special hack saw blade to cut the hardened screwdriver. It is made of a wire with carbide particles cemented to it, and it's intended to be used when cutting hardened materials. This type of wire hacksaw blade is available from most hardware stores. I used a piece of 1/8-inch-thick bar stock for the handle, with a width of 1/2-inch and an overall length of 4-1/2 inches. I simply brazed the screwdriver bit to the steel handle and finished the job by covered the steel handle with a piece of shrink-fit tubing to provide a sure grip.

This little screwdriver easily fits into the small space between the two housings because it has an overall height of approximately 7/16-inch at the tip. It can be used in other limited space applications as well.

An additional note, the 1953-62 Corvette turn signal housing is interchangeable with the housing used on 1953-54 Chevrolet passenger cars.



