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# **C8.R & C7 Rear Diffuser** (updated 6/29/2021; w/info F1 Red Bull Ring Austria) Rear Diffuser Increases Downforce With Minimum Extra Drag

Several aerodynamic devices can increase downforce, such as rear spoilers. However, spoilers also significantly increase drag that takes power to overcome.



For example, the Z06 Stage 3 aero, large spoiler, with full width wicker, is the main reason for the 35% higher drag compared to the base Z06 with smaller spoiler.

A diffuser is a shaped section of the car underbody which improves the car's aerodynamic performance by enhancing the

transition between the high-velocity airflow underneath the car and the much slower freestream airflow of the ambient atmosphere. This speeds up the airflow underneath the car, which using Bernoulli's principles creates reduced pressure. A greater difference in pressure between the upper and lower surfaces of the car means more downforce, allowing faster cornering with minimum extra drag.

## **Diffuser Design is Complex**



The fins or "fences" as they are referred to are important to the diffuser's performance. There are two counter-rotating vortices formed along the fence surfaces. The flow is separated, and this has a positive effect on flow quality and downforce performance.

In the graph at right, suffice for our purposes to

note the line in red is the

downforce over a wide range of heights from the bottom of the car over the road. That is the performance when "fences" are present.

The blue line is he downforce without fences and with more chaotic flow than when the counter-rotating vortex flow is present. It has a lower peak downforce over a narrow range and only a low height over the road.



If you want to work for a F1 team there is much theory and math to master!

# Interesting Information About "Fence" Vortices from the F1 Race at the Red Bull Rig Track in Austria on June 27, 2021.

F1 teams spend a lot of wind tunnel time and with Computation Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models (*as allowed by F1 rules*.) In fact, CFD models were getting close to much more expensive wind tunnel time. Some teams were operating their wind tunnels 24/7. As a cost reduction, F1 rules limited that to a number of test runs they can make.

Because of the accuracy of simulated aerodynamics programs, the F1 rules also <u>limit the</u> <u>amount of computer teraflops of solver time</u> they can use to help reduce costs. Can't just limit computer time since teams with big bucks could just buy a Cray Supercomputer!

Mark Hughes and Giorgio Piola describe why Verstappen was much faster than his fellow Red Bull Driver, Perez and Hamilton in at the F1 race in Austria on June 27th!



The latest version of Verstappen's rear diffuser features serrations across its full width. The vortices created help keep the whole flow over the top of the diffuser energized even as the diffuser is rising further away from the ground at low speeds as the downforce reduces with the speed.

Verstappen ran an updated rear diffuser with Perez still running the older spec part.

Linking the airflow coming

through the diffuser from the underfloor with that coming over the top is critical in making the underfloor work harder in sucking the car to the ground. The height at which you can keep those flows attached at low speeds determines how much rake you can realistically run. The more rake you can run, the greater the downforce. (*My Note*: So as shown in the graphic on page 1, vortices created with essentially more "fences" over the center of the diffuser allowed more downforce over a wider range of speeds.)

These shark teeth serrations effectively allowed Red Bull to keep the diffuser airflow attached at higher ride heights than before. The more downforce that can be created from the underfloor, the less rear wing area is needed to give an equivalent total downforce.

Downforce created by the rear wing is very costly in drag. Downforce created by the underfloor costs very little drag. Therefore, if Red Bull have found a way – through these latest diffuser tweaks – to derive a greater proportion of its total downforce from the underfloor, it will be faster down the straights for no penalty in corner speeds.

Perez was forced to run an older spec diffuser in the Austria race so was at a disadvantage.

Which is very much what Mercedes has been observing of the Red Bull in the last two races, with the Silver Arrows losing a reported 0.25s down the straights of the Red Bull Ring.

Because a high-rake car can better link up the flows from the rear brake ducts and the diffuser strakes, tweaking the diffuser in this way will tend to find a greater advantage than from a low-rake car. Especially under the '21 aero restrictions around this area of the car.

Could this be why Mercedes feels its car has effectively run out of development potential at a time when Red Bull is still finding significant gains?

Note: Pic of C8.R Rear Diffuser on Last Page of Appendix







Although it is not easy to get the hole marks identified on all three holes it is possible to mark a line on the masking tape placed on the OEM diffuser surface.

The outer, Top hole mark is also easy to reach and accurately placed on the masking tape for the proper hole location.

As noted in the "Suggested Best Method" below, properly marking these top hole locations is all that is necessary. The other two holes can be located on a fence centerline with a simple paper template!



All of the upper most or top marks were relatively easy and accurate to mark on the OEM diffuser masking tape. However, the center and particularly the marks farthest into the "tunnel" could not be reached to accurately mark them.

A template was made from paper that accurately marked all of the holes. It followed the contour of the fence on the surface of the OEM diffuser. Using the center location between the lines made on the masking tape along the edges of each fence allowed a more accurate location to mark for drilling.



The lines placed were wider than the 7/8inch-wide fence but by using the midpoint they defined the centerline.

This would have worked better if I had used a sharp very short pencil as the marks placed further inside the "tunnels" between fences did not show well and were not accurate. In addition, only the first hole locations were accurate as ones further down the "tunnel" were difficult to reach and proved not to be in the exact locations needed.

However, I only drilled 1/8-inch pilot holes, so no harm done. The method used to locate the proper position was easy to mark with a few properly located top holes.



A few holes lined-up with 1/8 pilot holes. The 0.281 drill was sufficient for the 1/4 X 20 bolts and threaded holes.

Note: It's critical the end holes aline. I used a nut and bolt to align before making any adjustments.

Where the drilled 1/8-inch pilot hole did not fall directly over the predrilled <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch threaded holes but was close, I used a 9/32 drill and then enlarged the hole where needed with a Carbide Burr to get alignment.

Checked to see if the 1/8-inch hole was over the ¼ inch hole by inserting the drill bit. With the two parts bolted together with the 6 bolts on the ends, used the 1/8-inch drill through the original pilot holes to just make a mark on the inner fence surface. As shown in pic right this one was off about 1/4 inch. Then drilled a 9/32 hole in the OEM diffuser in that location. It wasn't always in perfect alignment BUT a Carbide Burr quickly enlarged the hole to the side where needed. <u>Better than using a very</u> <u>large drilled hole!</u>



SUGGESTED MARKING APPROACH: Just mark the sides of each fence on masking tape placed on OEM diffuser. Mark the Top hole position on a center line between side lines. Then using a paper template mark the other two hole locations on each fence. Use a 1/8inch pilot drill then check position.

All pilot holes along the top edge, as were in good alignment. This positioned the new diffuser system properly. Note the 6 end holes that attach the diffuser to the body must align perfectly. I used a bolt and nut on each side and two screws in those holes to assure proper alignment before final drilling.

Note, I only used a 9/32 drill (0.281") for the 0.250 threaded holes while the fence is 7/8 inches wide. Could have used a larger drill but some holes were off sufficiently, that would not have worked!



If the 9/32 (0.281) hole was close to correct for the 0.250 threaded hole, enlarged the edge needing adjustment with a Carbide Burr.

Pic shows the finished assembly with the supplied, thick 1.9-inch OD hard plastic washers that spread the load over the back of the OEM diffuser.

This approach suggested (left text) was much easier than trying to get the original holes perfectly aligned. With the shape, even a full template would not have achieved perfect alignment. Once the 6 end holes are aligned using nuts and bolts, using the 1/8-inch pilot holes and drilling just the fence surface to mark the exact location needed, was relatively easy. Six OEM body bolts hold the diffuser to the body and screw into metal extruded U nuts. They are a fine thread 4.2 mm X 25 mm long automotive body bolts with a captive washer.

Could not locate a longer hex head body bolt but was able to fine one with a T20 Torx head bolt (screw.) By using a small fender washer, they worked as good replacements. As shown in the pic, after going through the C7 Carbon diffuser they protruded the same as the OEM screw without it. Purchased six 4.2 X 40 mm screws since OEM screws are not long enough to easily attach the "fence assembly." Note below, the longer screws extend the same as the OEM



A long new screw held the assembly tight to the body as it will be in the finished assembly



Bolting the assembled OEM diffuser with the added 4 fences and bottom assembly is straight forward. Slip the top tabs into the matting slots and a modest hit with the side of your hand is all that is needed. Put in the bolts you removed, and the 6 longer body bolts described above on the underside.

The side vents are a bit more of a pain. Putting the three tabs on one side, it's hard to get the side in! Used a plastic trim tool to leverage the tabs into the matting slots. Was concerned the OEM screws were not catching enough of the extruded nut threads. These six screws (only two in a narrow body C7) bolt the OEM and new C7 Carbon diffuser to the other body parts.

The C7 Carbon part is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick, so the longer screw grabs all the extruded threads.

Note, a #8 sheet metal screw is slightly larger and also has a coarser thread. It would probably work OK by cutting new threads in the extruded nut.





Up to this point there was no need to jack up the car. This next task is to install the Undertray and that requires raising the rear about 6 inches.

The first task that can be completed with the car raised is installing the two OEM screws that attach the OEM diffuser to a tubular brace. Those could not be reached without lifting the car and accessing from the rear. The new lower diffuser section prevents easy access, but the screw can be started by hand.

You can move the tubular brace with one hand while aligning the hole to start the screw.

After screwing in as much as possible by hand a 7 mm open end wrench is needed to tighten the screw. Can only get about a 90 degree turn so it takes patience!

There is another screw to the outside of the two on either side connecting to the brace. It is only attaching a piece of fiber type material with an extruded U nut. It does not appear to be needed and hopefully it is not as it was difficult to get the screw started. Left it out!





Installing the Undertray is straight forward following the simple instructions. A T25 Torx bit is needed.

Used a long  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 20 bolt in the rear center hole to hold the end up before installing the very short screws supplied.

The front supports float and I wondered about possible vibration when at speed.

This is the finished Undertrav install. However, the front edge is the lowest point in the rear underside! Lower than the diffuser. New Fasteners The TEE does not hold the undertray it floats in the hollow C7 rear crossmember. One of plastic TEEs broke and while I waited for C7 to ship a "new design" (which they did-see pic insert, its metal, much better IMO. I had an idea for a fix! I could thread the center of an aluminum bar the same size as the top of the Then use a bolt with supplied TEE. washer to pull and hold the Undertray tightly to the hollow C7 crossmember. Finger Access Holes The bar would be inserted like the TEE with it parallel to the crossmember and slipped into the crossmember hole. Then it would be rotated 90 degrees to hold in Threaded the Undertray. The only question-HOW Aluminum TO HOLD THE BAR SO IT DID NOT TURN AS THE BOLT WAS TIGHTENED? Undertrav An answer is to make two finger-hold holes in the Undertray near the bar! Not a solution C7 Carbon would use but good enough for me! Drilled two finger-hold holes next to each bolt, using a  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch hole saw. The Undertray is made of fiberglass and drills easily. The holes are to the outside of the bolts as that is where the C7 hollow crossmember Finger Holes to holes are located. Stop Al Bar from As the plastic TEE is used, the bolt is placed Rotate to Install **Rotating While** through the Undertray (with a washer and **Bolt is Tightened** SS Bolt & Washer lock washer) into the aluminum bar on the top side. Before tightening the bolt, the bar is positioned parallel to the crossmember and inserted in holes in the hollow crossmember. Threaded Aluminum 1 3/4 x 3/4 x 3/8 inches Then the bar is rotated 90 degrees to clamp the front of the Undertray.



#### **Interesting Observation:**

Viewing the pic right, shows why C7 Diffuser can fit the narrow fender Base/Z51 as well as the wider fender Grand Sport/Z06.

Pic shows that is possible because the three inner screws are in the same location for both narrow and fat fenders! In my Z51 the inner screw held the splash guards.

### **Undertray Installed:**

Treaded the bolts and washers through the Undertray and turned both bars parallel to the C7 hollow crossmember to insert. Then turned both 90 degrees and held the bar with my finger as the bolt was tightened. Once it contacts the inside of the crossmember, friction also helps stop it from turning.

The rear 5 bolts were tightened then the front two. The Undertray bent slightly to the shape of the crossmember and is held tightly to it.





# **Appendix: Aerodynamics**











#### This video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7hVMwK JQ0wE shows the Sauber F1 team using their expensive wind tunnel for a full week. Note, their wind tunnel employs a moving steel floor!

It states the teams were operating their wind tunnels 24/7 then as a cost reduction, F1 rules limited that to a number of test runs they can make.

Because of the accuracy of simulated aerodynamics programs, the F1 rules also limit the amount of computer teraflops of solver time they can use to help reduce costs.



A step increase in the boundary layer thickness creates a turbulent boundary layer and flow separation. Flow separation in a wing, for example, will decrease downforce. (See Coanda Effect below.) Pic left from Reference 1 shows this effect occurring on a flat plate.

This turbulent area creates even more drag. However, where separation is inevitable, as in the rear of the car, it is usually better to have a turbulent area with some drag penalty than flow separation that reduces downforce!

There are ways to induce turbulence where desirable such as small vortex generators or even sandpaper!

## **Coanda Effect**

Aerodynamics pioneer Henri Coanda made a very important contribution to how the aircraft wings produce lift when he discovered what is now called the *Coanda Effect*.

A natural question is "how does the wing divert the air down?" When a moving fluid, such as air or water, comes into contact with a curved surface it will try to follow that surface.

Coanda Graphic: The pressure difference across the air jet causes the jet to deviate towards the nearby surface, and then to adhere to it. If the surface is not too sharply curved, the jet can, under the riaht circumstances, adhere to the surface even after flowing 180° round a cylindrically curved surface, and therefore be traveling in a direction opposite to its initial direction. The forces that cause these changes in the direction of flow of the jet cause an equal and opposite force on the surface along which the jet flows. These Coandă effect induced forces can be harnessed to cause lift and other forms of motion, depending on the orientation of the jet and the surface to which the jet adheres





This phenomenon explains why a wing (airplane or inverted race car) stops being effective it the angle of attack is too steep.

To get around air stream separation problem in Formula 1, and increase the Coanda effect on wings, dual or more element or slot-gap wings are used, these allow for some of the highpressure flow from the upper surface of the wing to bleed to the lower surface of the next flap energizing the flow. This increases the speed of the flow under the wing, increasing downforce and reducing the boundary flow separation.

# **Blown Diffuser**

An interesting approach was use in F1 as rules reduced that allowable configuration of diffusers. A blown diffuser is basically a way of using the exhaust gases to add to the diffuser airflow. There are two main purposes for this:

1. To try to move the wake from the rear wheels outwards where it will cause less disturbance

2. To re-energize the low-pressure air at the back of the diffuser to create more rear downforce.





Does the C7 exhaust position add to the diffuser rear downforce? Don't know how much but appears it should!





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## "54" C8, 2017 Grand Sport & 2014 Z51 Stingray Mods, Info Available As PDFs:



54 PDFs discuss improvements or info about a C8, 2017 Grand Sport, 2014 Z51 Stingray function and/or esthetics. Some are minor and others, like the installing "Low Dust Brake Pads" on C8 & C7s, have detailed information.

Below are the PDF's available. Click on picture or Blue PDF link or copy and paste the PDF link (Blue type) into your browser. Or email me at <u>GUttrachi@aol.com</u> and state the title desired, shown in Yellow:

C8 Install High Wing How To Remove Rear Bumper- Install Wing http://netwelding.com/C8_High_Wing.pdf C8 FWD Hybrid WFWD Hybrid Provides More Power & MPG	
http://netwelding.com/C8_FWD_Hybrid.pdf	
C8 Edge Red Engine Cover Engine Cover Matches Valve Covers http://netwelding.com/Engine_Cover.pdf	
C8 Engine Compartment Lights Multicolor Lights Remote operated http://netwelding.com/Engine_Lights.pdf	
C8 Side Skirts & Splitter Install C7 Carbon side skirts & splitter on C8 http://netwelding.com/Side_Skirts.pdf	8
C8 Z51, GS/C7 Z51Ceramic Brake Pads Performance Vettes have dusty brakes. These help! http://netwelding.com/Ceramic_Pads.pdf	
C8 Low Restriction Air Intake	
Low Restriction Air Filter Why & How To http://netwelding.com/C8_Air_Intake.pdf	
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C8 & C7 Splitter & C8 Condenser Mesh Mesh Protects AC Condenser & Splitter Install http://netwelding.com/CF\_Splitter.pdf

**C8/GS/C7 Splash Guards** GM splash guards. ACS Best Front Guards for GS. http://netwelding.com/Splash\_Guard.pdf

**Jacking a C8/GS/C7 Vette** Safely jacking either front only or back & front

http://netwelding.com/Jacking\_A\_C7.pdf

C8 & C7 Plates & Frame; Must Meet South Carolina Law http://netwelding.com/License\_Plate\_Frame.pdf

Change GS/C7 Oil WHY change your own oil and C7 Lifting Methods http://netwelding.com/Changing\_Oil.pdf

**C8/GS/C7 Mirror Proximity Alarm** Limit switch alarm warns when close to door frame http://netwelding.com/Mirror\_Proximity\_Alarm.pdf

Jacking Pads for C8/GS/C7 Manual says Jacking Pads 2 1/2-inch max OD.. http://netwelding.com/Jacking\_pads.pdf

C8/GS/C7 Radar Power For C7 tapped rear fuse panel. For GS tapped mirror http://netwelding.com/Radar\_Detector\_Power.pdf

**C8 & C7 Wheel Chatter/Hop** Why sharp, low speed turns with cold tires causes the front tires to chatter/hop. http://netwelding.com/Wheel\_Chatter.pdf

C8/GS/C7 Wheel Locks Wheel locks, help protect your expensive wheels. http://netwelding.com/Wheel\_Locks.pdf

Deer Whistle Installed on C8/GS/C7 Do they work? Plus Install Info http://netwelding.com/Deer\_Whistle.pdf C8 & C7 Splitter Protector

Scrape Armor Protection for Splitter http://netwelding.com/Splitter\_Protectors.pdf

C8 & C7 Cargo Area Rear cargo area storage device and rear protector http://netwelding.com/Rear\_Cargo\_Area.pdf

C8 Coilover Tower Covers Prevent water from filling Cast aluminum cavities http://netwelding.com/Tower\_Covers.pdf























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#### **GS/C7 Belt Rattle**

Passenger seat belt rattles against the seat back. http://netwelding.com/Eliminate\_Rattle.pdf

Aluminum C7 Chassis and Weld Repair The C7 aluminum chassis. Includes weld repair info. http://netwelding.com/Aluminum\_Chassis.pdf

Manage GS/C7 Spilled Gas & Door Lock Protect when filling gas. Preventing door lock failure. http://netwelding.com/Manage\_Spilled\_Gas.pdf

GS/C7 License Plate & Cargo Lights LED license plate light & cargo area bulbs http://netwelding.com/License\_Plate\_Light.pdf

**GS Rear Diffuser (Fits Any C7)** Rear Carbon Flash Composite Diffuser http://netwelding.com/Rear\_Diffuser.pdf

**GS/C7 Door Panel Protector** Black plastic protector prevents scuffing of door http://netwelding.com/Door\_Panel\_Protector.pdf

GS/C7 Improved Cup Holder A solution to the cup holder spilling http://netwelding.com/Improved\_cup\_Holder.pdf

**C7 Carbon Fiber Grille Bar** Install genuine carbon fiber grille bar overlay http://netwelding.com/CF\_Grille\_Bar.pdf

**Replacing C7 Battery** *Tricks for installing battery!* http://netwelding.com/Battery\_Issues.pdf

GS/C7 Window Valet Lower Windows With FOB Helps Latch Hatch http://netwelding.com/Hatch\_Latch.pdf

#### **GS/C7 Blind Spot Mirror**

Smaller rear and side windows cause C7 blind spots. Small "blind spot mirrors" help

http://netwelding.com/Blind\_Spot.pdf

**GS/C7 Skid Pad Protector** After the air dam, the aluminum "skid pad" hits http://netwelding.com/Skid\_Pad\_Protector.pdf

























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#### GS/C7 OnStar Lights

Rear view mirror OnStar LED's, at a quick glance, look like a police car flashing light! This is a fix. http://netwelding.com/OnStar\_Lights.pdf

**GS/C7 Skip Shift Eliminator** Skip Shift Eliminator install with suggestions on jacking a C7.

http://netwelding.com/Skip\_shift\_Eliminator.pdf

GS/C7 Catch Can & Clean Oil Separator What is Coking and how to reduce the potential http://netwelding.com/Catch\_Can.pdf

GS MGW Flat Stick Shifter The MGW shifter shortens throw and is more precise http://netwelding.com/MGW\_Shifter.pdf

GS/C7 Round Shift Knob A round shift knob shortens throw on OEM shifter http://netwelding.com/Shift\_Knob.pdf

> **GS/C7 Stingray Sill Plate** *Stingray sill plate replaces original.* http://netwelding.com/Sill\_Plate.pdf

GS/C7 Nylon Bra Nylon Bra Stops Bugs. Fits with Stage 3 Winglets http://netwelding.com/Nylon\_Bra.pdf

#### **GS/C7 Clutch Fluid Change** *Clutch fluid after 3000 miles gets dirty*

http://netwelding.com/Clutch\_Fluid.pdf

**C7 Carbon Fiber Hood Vent** *Replaces Plastic Hood Vent* http://netwelding.com/Hood\_Vent.pdf

#### **GS/C7 Cold Air Intake**

Low Restriction Air Filter & Duct

http://netwelding.com/Cold\_Air\_Intake.pdf

**GS/C7 Soler Modified Throttle Body** 

For Improved Throttle Response http://netwelding.com/Soler\_Mod\_TB.pdf

Garmin GPS for GS Cubby

Garmin Mounts in GS Cubby & Apple CARPLAY http://netwelding.com/GPS\_In\_Cubby.pdf









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#### GS Splitter Stage 3 Winglet Stage 3 Winglets Integrate with Spats http://netwelding.com/Stage\_3\_Winglets.pdf

**C7 Removing GM Plastic Film** *How To Remove The Rocker Panel Film* <u>http://netwelding.com/Rocker\_Panel\_Film.pdf</u>

#### GS 2LT to 2.5 LT

Red Upper Dash Pad Like 3LT

http://netwelding.com/Red\_Dash\_Pad.pdf

Jake Emblem/Decals for GS

Jake Symbols Support GS Racing Image http://netwelding.com/Jake\_Emblems.pdf

Rusty GS/C7 Muffler Why the C7 muffler rusts way to turn matte black. http://netwelding.com/Muffler\_Rust.pdf

#### **GS Engine Compartment Mods**

Cosmetic Additions in Engine Compartment http://netwelding.com/Engine\_Compartment.pdf

**GS Vitesse Throttle Controller: Fits All C7s** 

Adjustable Throttle-by-Wire Control http://netwelding.com/Throttle\_Control.pdf

### **Boomy Bass Solution**

Use Presets to Adjust Bass etc. Tone/Balance http://netwelding.com/Boomy\_Bass

### **GS/C7** Air Dam, Functions

Why Missing from Z51, Some GS & Z06 http://netwelding.com/Air\_Dam.pdf

Rusty GS/C7 Muffler Why the C7 muffler rusts way to turn matte black. http://netwelding.com/Muffler\_Rust.pdf

### **Engineering a ProStreet Rod**

How Our '34 ProStreet Rod Was Designed and Built http://netwelding.com/Engineering%20Street%20R od%203-08.pdf

### **Motorsports Welding Article**

Wrote a 5 Page Article for AWS March 2018 Journal Covers NHRA and NASCAR Chassis Design http://netwelding.com/Motorsports\_Welding\_2018.pdf

























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