# WA Technology

The C8 Stingray Has Only Slight Wheel "Chatter" & No C7 "Hopping" When Cold on Sharp, Slow Turns (Includes APPENDIX A, Why C7 Has Race Car Type Tires & APPENDIX B, Tech Issues)



The C7 Stingray, especially the Z51 with summer only tires, when making very sharp, slow speed turns, has a significant tire "chatter." It was so bad GM also referred to as "hopping," which it did on a full lock turn when cold! Much worse than my C6 Z51 with the same width tires.

The C7 Owner's Manual states, under a heading *Tire Chatter/Hop*:

"When driving at slow speeds and in very tight turns, the vehicle may have tire chatter/hop. This condition is normal, and the vehicle does not require service."

# Why Were the C7 Z51 Tires So Bad?

With the introduction of the C8, Tadge Juechter, the Corvette Chief Engineer provided some perspective as to the reason the C7 was very bad, much worse that my C6 Z51 when below 50 F and especially at 40F. In a 1+ hour interview on Autoline Afterhours he said they knew they pushed the FE Corvette design as far as they could when they were concerned the 2009 C6 ZR1 with it's 638 hp supercharged engine was not able to even match the 0 to 60 time of the Z06 with only 505 hp! He said the added front weight of the ZR1 supercharger and intercooler added more weight on the front wheels and did not provide the needed traction for faster 0 to 60 times. He said the barely squeezed by using very special race car type, sticky tires! (*More info in Appendix A.*)

In a videotaped C8 intro, when asked about "Tire Chatter" Tadge said the C8 does not have the issue. He said they did not have to use race car type tire

construction as used on the C7 to get the best performance! He also said they did not have to compromise the Ackerman steering compensation better to get performance with the C8. Tadge said even the summer, performance oriented Z51 C8 tires did not produce Tire Chatter.



# C8 Has "Some" Chatter

I do feel some modest Chatter even at 60 F with the "full lock turn" must make after backing out of garage. At 41 F, Chatter was worse but NOT objectionable as with the C7 where I was making 'K" turns to avoid using full lock! My Grand Sport was literally *"Hopping,"* as GM called it, with full lock turns on cold mornings! No need for making a "K" turn to go down my driveway!

# What Causes Chatter/Hopping?

With the C7 Stingray high performance, high lateral "g" capability, racecar handling tradeoffs were necessary. The racecar type tire compound/construction and low aspect ratio of the larger diameter front tires makes the slow speed "chatter" worse. Mild chatter can be felt even above 55 F and the GM word "hop" is more descriptive when the tires are below ~50 F. I consider it severe when the tires are below about 40 F. It's partly due to the Tread material, which GM states is, "the near racetrack tire compound heats sufficiently to achieve optimum performance in one lap on a racetrack." I find it heats up quickly (<5 miles) even in cold in road conditions.

# This Unusual C7 "Chatter" Can Be Disconcerting:

Some folks are sufficiently surprised and concerned about the "chatter" and request the dealer, "*do something*." As GM dealers will tell them, "*The condition is normal.*" However, that statement is not very comforting when that "chatter or hop" is felt, especially when the tires are cold. This picture review covers some key causes and why there are some performance benefits.

# Solution, When Cold, Turn Wheel Less and Make "K" Turn:

There is a solution that reduces/eliminates the "chatter." *"Just don't turn as sharply when the tires are cold!"* Very important when below ~50 F if you have a friend in the car or they'll tell everyone what a "piece of junk" you bought! ©

I use that approach and think about the high "g" force I achieve when it's warm as I take the extra time! Excess "chatter" is usually only encountered in cold weather when the tread gets stiffer and turning sharply as when entering or leaving a parking slot. It is not encountered in any normal driving on the road.

## "When the OEM Tires are Cold (<50 F,) Use Less Than a Full Turning Radius, Make "K" Turns! I do to avoid the "hopping," even through it does no harm.

If living in colder climates buy winter or all-season tires. These tires have more normal "slip angles" and the rubber does not get as stiff as the OEM Michelins, which will reduce or eliminate "Chatter."

# Are OEM C8 Z51 Michelin Pilot Sport 4S ZP Best Performer?

From Tadge's comments about not compromising with Race Car type construction like the C7 OEM Z51 Pilot Sport ZP probably not! There are also reports of better Tracking with Pilot Sport Cup 2 tires. But Michelin Cup 2 tires start with less tread and look warn when new! Not good for wet weather

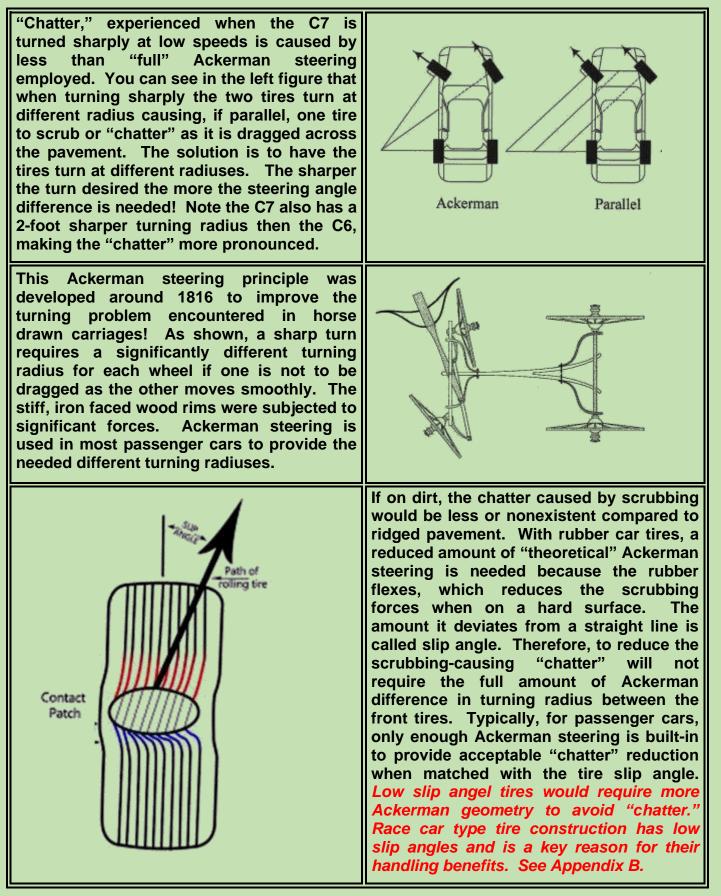


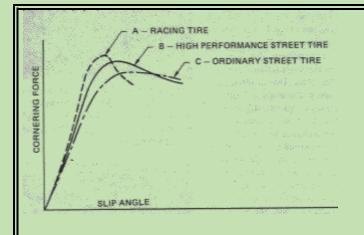
performance!

A Forum Poster said Goodyear Eagle F1 Supercar 3R tires (pic left) do "Chatter" on a C8 even when warm as the C7 tires did when cold. Quoting Goodyear: "Supercar 3R's utilize polymers and resins previously only used for racing slicks. The two-ply Rayon casings and two wide steel belts with a polyamide reinforcement ply provide extreme lateral grip"

The following will show that Chatter is probably also due to race car tire, very low slip angle construction.

# **Photo Sequence**



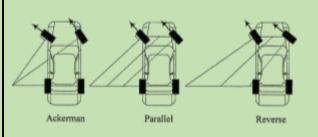


Although Ackerman steering is a correct condition at slow speeds, at high speeds there is significant lateral acceleration and the wheels operate at or near maximum slip angles. Furthermore, the loads on the inner wheels will be much lower than the outer wheels. When increasing the load, less slip angle is required to reach the peak of the lateral force. Under these conditions the inner front wheel of an Ackerman steering vehicle would be at a higher slip angle than required for maximum lateral force. Therefore, less Ackerman is desired.

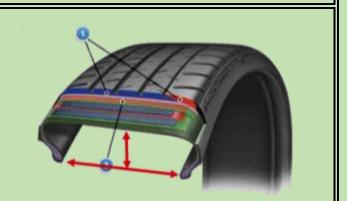
The Michelin, very low profile, stiff, run flat, high performance tires have low slip angles. Quoting info from Michelin, the C7 Pilot Super Sport ZP tire features the nextracetrack-born tread generation of compounds found in the record-setting Pilot Sport Cup ZP of the C6 ZR1 and Z06. The Michelin tire features a custom dual-tread compound and pattern that achieves nearracing-slick grip and handling levels. When cold, the tires are even stiffer, and the compound causes more chatter. It's NOT "sticky tires" as some say it the problem! GM also states the "chatter" is worse when it is wet. On wet pavement the forces increasing slip angle are reduced so the tire will "drag" more. I've validated that issue.

Numerous Forum Members have posted C7 "chatter problems" go away with winter/all-season tires. These have higher, more normal slip angles! The rubber also does not get as stiff when below ~50 F!

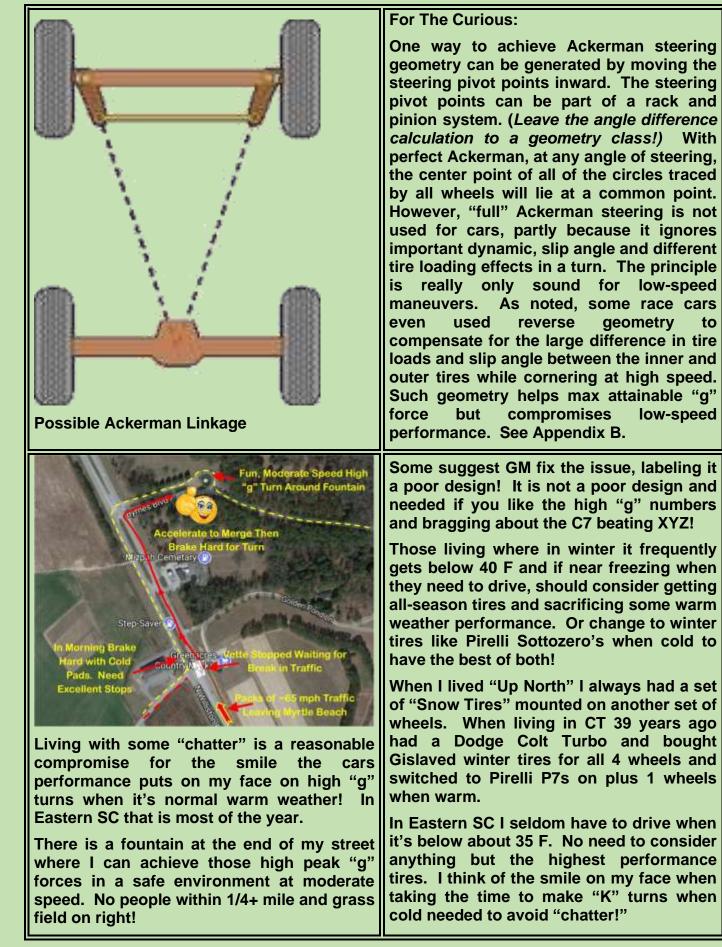
A tire's slip angle has a significant effect the maximum cornering force. on Maximum cornering force is achieved with tires having a low slip angle. The Michelin tires used in the C7 (especially Z51, Grand Sport and Z06) are closer to racing tires than even high-performance street tires. Therefore, the reduced slip angles mean the Ackerman steering angle would have to be increased to completely avoid slow speed "chatter" in sharp turns. What would be the downside?



For optimum lateral g force performance, unfortunately less Ackerman steering is desirable, so low speed sharp turn performance is sacrificed!



Cold tire performance differences are also a factor for normal driving. There is significantly less traction until the tires are warm. With cold (<45/50 F) the OEM Michelin tires, when pulling onto a 4-lane highway near my home, the traction control will engage at less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  throttle. When the tires are warm even  $\frac{1}{2}$  throttle can be used without it engaging! I find in ~5 miles of driving, they heat sufficiently with traction improved significantly.



geometry

to

low-speed

Appendix A (Why the C7 Has "Race Car Type Tires")

In a I+ hour interview in Autoline After Hours, Tadge Juechter, the Corvette Chief Engineer, provided the insight on why race car type tires were being used on the C7. It started with his background when he joined the Corvette team in 2009:

Juechter said when he started working on Corvettes in 2009 Bob Lutz was the "Top Dog.".

Lutz rejoined GM in 2001 as VP Product development, was a strong headed executive who had worked directly under Lee lacocca when he was CEO at Chrysler.

According to Tadge, at that time Lutz said he would fire anyone working on a *Mid Engine* Corvette. Lutz said MEs were cool and exotic BUT not needed for a Corvette!



Tadge said they had Pratt and Miller (*The Corvette Race Team Company*) work on developing the best car design for max performance. They defined there is a sweet spot at 60% rear weight for traction, low moment of inertia and performance! They have been in racing for 30 years and have extensive modeling software tools.

He said armed with that technical info and research from consumers on car shape, he made a presentation to upper management so they could work on a ME without being fired!

That was how the C8 ME Vette got approved. He said they hoped that the C7 would be an ME but the GM bankruptcy put it on hold!



Tadge said he was working on the C6 Corvette ZR1 with it's 638 hp supercharged 6.2 liter engine. They were concerned they would not be able to get the 3400 lb car to match the 0 to 60 times of the 505 hp Z06 because of limited traction of that 52 front/ 48 rear weight distribution due to Turbo and Aftercooler weight! He said they barely squeezed by using very sticky special race car type tires! They saw the handwriting on the wall for the need for an ME.



## APPENDIX B (Technical Issues re Ackerman, Anti-Akerman and Parallel Steering)

**Kinematics**: *"The branch of mechanics concerned with the motion of objects without reference to the forces which cause the motion,"* is not new.

Understanding kinematic principles goes back to the Greeks. But after Greek science came to a halt, it was taught late in Medieval times, in the schools of Oxford and Paris. Kinematics was revived by Leonardo DaVinci when he developed his own body of knowledge with striking resemblance in some areas with the kinematics of centuries after him rather than to that before him.

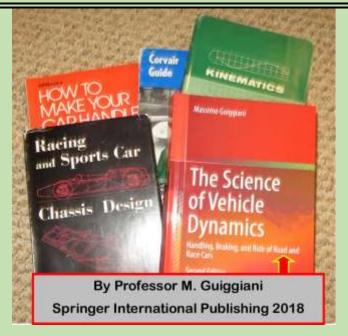
Lots written on the subject including one of my old Kinematics text used in college! Kept this book used in ~1963 because although the science related to cars is better understood today, the basics are the same. Looking through, it is filled with math equations, my favorite subject!

When reading how the C8 with 60% rear weight has "significant" Understeer could not understand as my modified '67 Corvair had significant Oversteer inherent with its 60% rear weight (similar to Porsche's of-the-day!) It wasn't power induced Oversteer; we didn't have much power! This was reinforced by Tadge Juechter's C8 comment that *"he came from a Porsche family* and was pleased they were able to overcome the *inherent Oversteer of the early Porsche's!"* Got out my old books, a few of which are shown here. Also, found a modern 2018 book by Professor Guiggiani that car manufacturer handling experts said was "the handling bible!" This ~\$100, obvious textbook has, as expected, lots of mathematical equations but they are used to generate graphs and figures that make the results very easy to understand.

#### This is one review of the book:

"There is nothing different or special about the study of the motions of a vehicle under applied forces and moments, and it seems much of the lack of understanding comes from the fact that tires are highly non-linear force-producing devices. Fortunately, Professor Guiggiani addresses even this topic with ease and great clarity.

This is the only text I have seen which addresses the kinematics of vehicle cornering using the concept of the inflection circle, and other concepts borrowed from planar analysis. I feel very strongly that this approach will lead to a much greater understanding of the kinematics of both road and race cars then is currently applied in the respective industries.



#### Another book review; All were 5 Star:

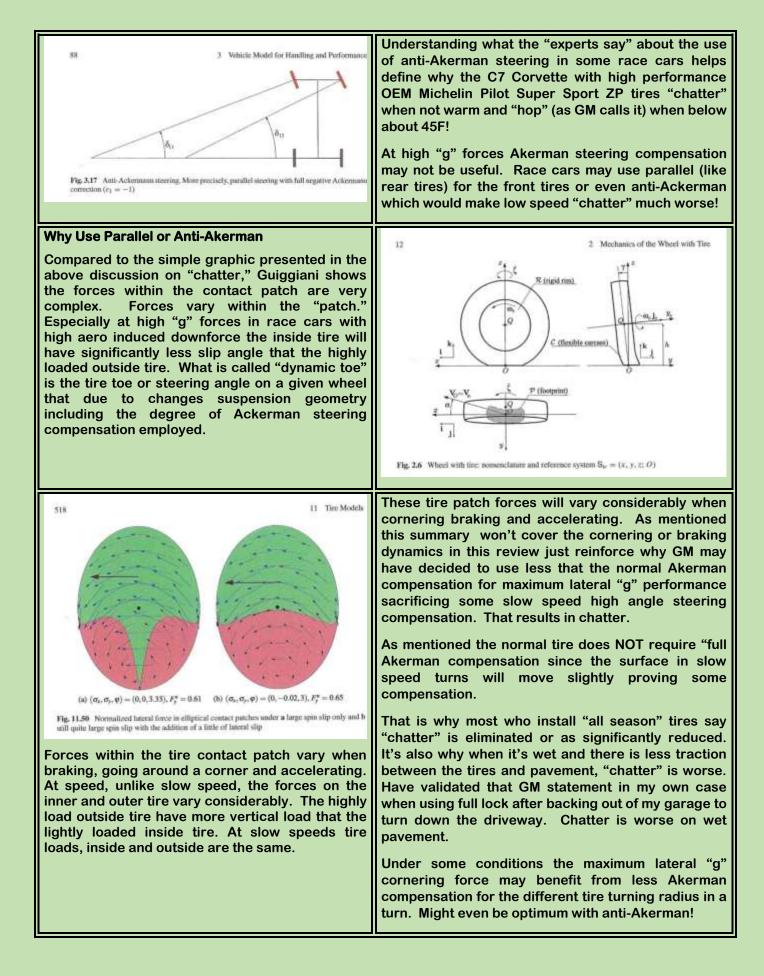
"I'm currently writing my Master's Thesis on a Fully Autonomous Vehicle Cruise Control System and this book has given me a greater understanding of Vehicle Dynamics, all I know in that area I owe it to the author. My focus is Control Systems Engineering and had never taken a class on Vehicle Dynamics. If you have previously studied Kinematics and Dynamics, then this book should be extremely easy to follow and understand. I have read many books on Vehicle Dynamics, and this book excels in its area"

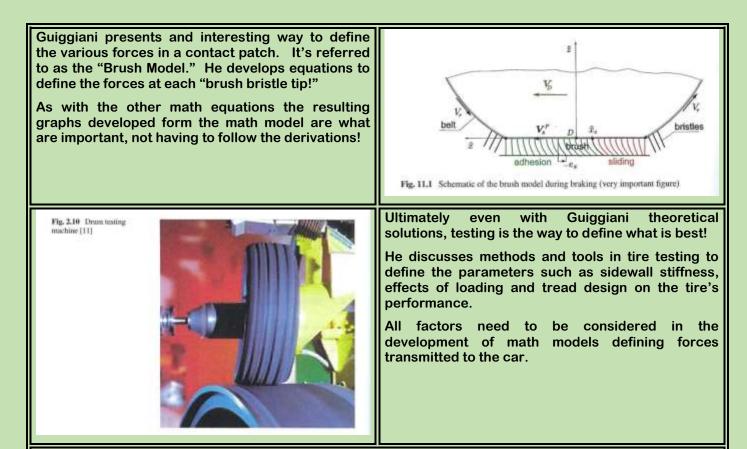
#### **Quoting a Juechter Super Chevy C8 Interview:**

"We knew all of the bugaboos that other brands had to discover and correct over a period of many generations. ... We were always sensitive to the car's rear mass with the mid-engine placement. We had to do it right the first time. There were many little details we had to design into this chassis to correct that, but the driving experience is amazing. " (Note: "bugaboos" obviously is referring to Porsche)

## **Bottom Line**

If not purchasing the 550-page text, this short review re Akerman, anti-Akerman etc. uses info from this text and others providing a short summary! Plan another PDF on handing when my C8 arrives and I "digest" more of the text covering those areas.





## Another Document Presented Research on What is Optimum for a Race Car

Dale Thompson from Race Car Technology has an interesting summary of Akerman, Anti-Ackerman or Parallel Steering in an Internet document. This is a short summary of parts of the 10-page discussion.

#### What Guru's Say:

*Race & Sports Car Design* (1961) "...a small amount of anti-Akerman is recommended." (*Funny, I have the 1967 publication of that book- see book pics at the Appendix B start!*)

*Tune to Win* (1978) "..race car steering angles are too small for Ackerman to build and in mid corner the inside tire is not sufficiently loaded to have much effect. For corner entry he preferred a small amount of static toe out."

*Performance Handling* (1991) "Anti-Akerman was used in early years but in -90's Akerman has returned...Akerman is a design element not a tuning tool.

*Race Car Engineering & Mechanics* (1992) "the lighter the tire loading the higher the slip angle required for peak cornering power."

*Competition Car Suspension* (1999) "any single thing that can help the contact patch... has to be worth the trouble to achieve. In another article he was keen on Akerman and did some testing on a hill climb car.

*Race Car Engineering Magazine* (2001) "one of the easiest ways to take advantage of yawing power is to use dynamic toe changes (is the inside tire drag is a bit more than the outside it will help turn the car in a corner.)

**Optimum G Race Car Seminars** "...static toe out or in creates an artificial slip angle. Toe out can help the inside tire grip. Negative camber can be optimized for the outside tire but works against the inside tire. The steering geometry preferred will be a function of the tire force vs slip angle curve. If the tire curve shows max force at reduced slip angle, anti-Akerman would be useful (*IMO, this is the Best Explanation*)

#### Need To Test

Dale discusses using a skid pad, perhaps at various radius. He suggests that anti-Akerman could help reduce the unwanted dynamic toe out. It suggests to me that GM has tested the C7 Corvette with the OEM tires and defined the amount of Akerman that optimized the skid pad numbers and whatever ill effect it has on slow speed full lock turns was "acceptable!" They have no doubt done the same with the C8 and its OEM tires.)

He Summarizes When To Possibly Use Ackerman, Anti-Akerman or Parallel in a Race Car

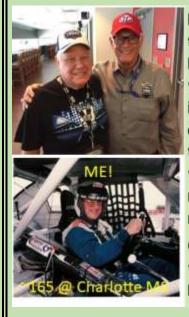
- Toe out helps compensate negative camber on inside tire so more Akerman might be useful if large camber is used.
- To rotate the car in a corner, more inside tire drag is useful. More Akerman could be useful. However, if we started to lose outside tire grip, more lock would be applied, and the effect would be lost! *The oversteer torque desired would be overcome by the larger understeer torque*
- If the car is faster with toe in anti-Akerman could be useful.
- Initial toe out would help turn in. The other setting to help initial turn in is a stiffer front shock.
- It is assumed that the outside wheel will always have the ideal trajectory (assume he means camber is set for the outside wheel) BUT if the car has a lot of caster it might have the effect of splitting some of the toe to the outside wheel. If the outside Toe does take on some of the toe out this will decrease slip angle and the outside wheel will lose grip.

He ends with asking for folks who do make tests, report their findings.

#### **MY BOTTOM LINE**

As expected, this is a very complex Kinematic issue! Nothing short of testing with the specific tires and tire temp will define what is optimum including Oversteer or Understeer tendency in a specific radius corner! From my little NASCAR knowledge working as a sponsor with the Petty Team, it is also driver dependent! Some driving styles prefer the car Loose (the NASCAR Oversteering word) and some Tight (Understeer.) Recall some driver's, like Richard Petty who are technically very knowledgeable about what affects the car's performance, would say "One turn tighter on the right rear" at the upcoming pit stop (meaning that spring seat setting (which is on a lead screw) could be turned one turn clockwise.) However, for some drivers where the crew chief knew it was a tire pressure issue or just the driver's perception they might say OK and have the pit crew just go through the motions! Sure enough, after a lap or so the driver would say- yep that did it! LOL

Would seem logical that a car might be set-up differently for the slowest speed turn in a particular track to gain a few tenths lap time without it slowing in other turns. But Akerman, Toe, Camber, Caster, Shock setting (for a given suspension, springs and sway bars) are all variables to be considered.



My cousin (left) took this pic in 2018 at the Bristol NASCAR Track with Dale Inman Richard Petty's Chew Chief for many years. Dale (83 yrs old.) remembered an incident when we changed welding machine colors (*and brand name*) and I asked to get the sheet metal from the ~25 welding machines we provided and repaint. He convinced me to provide new machines! Dale & Richard are great folks! Great experience working for ~15 years with the Petty Team in Level Cross. Me left after going ~165 mph at Charlotte MS!



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



52 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 Rusty GS/C7 Muffler Why the C7 muffler rusts way to turn matte black. http://netwelding.com/Muffler\_Rust.pdf Change GS/C7 Oil WHY change your own oil and C7 Lifting Methods http://netwelding.com/Changing\_Oil.pdf C8 Side Skirts & Splitter Install C7 Carbon side skirts & splitter on C8 http://netwelding.com/Side\_Skirts.pdf C7 Carbon Fiber Splitter w/End Plates How to install Splitter & Nylon bra fit http://netwelding.com/CF\_Splitter.pdf C7 Removing GM Plastic Film How To Remove The Rocker Panel Film http://netwelding.com/Rocker\_Panel\_Film.pdf

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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

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

C8 Z51, GS/C7 Z51Ceramic Brake Pads Performance Vettes have dusty brakes. These US made pads help! http://netwelding.com/Ceramic\_Pads.pdf

C8/GS/C7 Z51 License Plate Frame; Must Meet South Carolina Law http://netwelding.com/License\_Plate\_Frame.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/C7 Rear Cargo Area Rear cargo area storage device and rear protector http://netwelding.com/Rear\_Cargo\_Area.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

C8/GS/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

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

Jacking a C8/GS/C7 Vette Safely jacking either front only or back & front http://netwelding.com/Jacking\_A\_C7.pdf

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

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

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

# **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





















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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

**GS Splitter Stage 3 Winglet** 

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

GS 2LT to 2.5 LT

Red Upper Dash Pad Like 3LT http://netwelding.com/Red\_Dash\_Pad.pdf

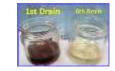
Jake Emblem/Decals for GS

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























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## **C8/GS Splitter Protector**

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

# **C8 Engine Compartment Lights**

Multicolor Lights Remote operated http://netwelding.com/Engine\_Lights.pdf

# **C8 Edge Red Engine Cover**

Engine Cover Matches Valve Covers http://netwelding.com/Engine\_Cover.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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