

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1956 Chrysler 300 Letter Series Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1956 Chrysler 300 Letter Series Restoration Guide

Model Years 1956

Model year	1956
Letter designation	300B
Engine	354 cu in FirePower Hemi V8
Output	340 hp (355 hp with the 10:1 option)
Transmission	3-speed TorqueFlite automatic (pushbutton); rare 3-speed manual
Production	1,102 (hardtop only)

Every specification in this guide was checked against factory literature, marque references, period road tests, and documented survivor vehicles. Where sources disagree or the record is silent, this guide says so rather than guessing.

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How This Guide Works

This is a **single-year restoration** guide for the 1956 Chrysler 300 Letter Series - one model year, given its own guide because the year changes are the restoration: specifications, finishes and procedures that differ from the year before and the year after are called out in the 1956 Register below, and shared platform material is labeled as shared. Chrysler 300 Club International letter-car specification table; Chrysler factory shop manuals 1955-1961; Hagerty marque model histories; period road-test references (Motor Trend).

Scope. This guide covers the 1956 Chrysler 300 Letter Series as built. Neighboring years appear only where a change boundary must be drawn - a part or procedure belonging to another year is named as such, never silently applied to this one.

Platform Snapshot

Fact	Detail
Model year	1956
Engine (standard)	354 cu in FirePower Hemi V8
Output	340 hp (355 hp with the 10:1 option)
Transmission	3-speed TorqueFlite automatic (pushbutton); rare 3-speed manual
Chassis	Body-on-frame; coil-spring front suspension (last year)
Original list price	\$4,242
Production	1,102 (hardtop only)

The 1956 Register - What Makes a 1956 a 1956

- First year to carry a letter: 300B. The letter is the year's identity - it advances every model year from here.
- New tailfin treatment distinguishes the 300B from the C-300 at a glance; the rest of the shell is closely related, which is exactly why the engine and electrical changes below matter more than the sheet metal.
- 12-volt electrics arrive for 1956 (the C-300 was 6-volt). A 300B still running 6-volt hardware has been back-dated or mis-assembled.
- Pushbutton TorqueFlite controls sit to the LEFT of the steering wheel. The Highway Hi-Fi under-dash record player was a factory option this year.
- Last year of the coil-spring front suspension - the torsion-bar Torsion-Aire front end is a 1957 change.

Engines - the 1956 Specification

Engine	Output	Notes
354 FirePower Hemi V8	340 hp	Standard tune; dual four-barrel carburetors
354 FirePower Hemi V8 (10:1)	355 hp	Optional high-compression heads - the first American production engine rated at one horsepower per cubic inch

Two factory ratings exist for 1956 and they are not interchangeable on a build sheet: 340 hp standard, 355 hp with the optional 10:1 compression heads. Decode the engine and heads fitted before claiming either figure.



A 6.17:1 rear-axle ratio was on the option list for competition use - check the axle fitted before judging a car's gearing 'wrong'.

Year-Correct Procedures

TorqueFlite pushbutton adjustment and band service follow the 1956 manual; the pushbutton cable and its adjustment are 1956-59 service items shared across the letter run.

Front suspension remains coil-spring for this one year - alignment and spring specifications differ from every 1957-up letter car.

Finishes and Trim - 1956 Only

- Exterior colors: Regimental Red, Cloud White and Black. Interior: tan leather.
- The 300B keeps the letter series' restrained trim: identify the year by the fin treatment and the 300B badging, not by added brightwork.

Restoration Sequence Notes

- Photograph and record the car's tags, casting numbers and as-found trim before teardown - on a single-year restoration the as-found evidence is what the finished car is judged against.
- Verify every year-locked item in the 1956 Register before ordering parts; the commonest defect in this model's restorations is a neighboring year's part fitted without malice and without record.
- Keep a build file: sources consulted, measurements taken, and every substitution made, however small.

Recommended for this restoration

Shop exact-fit supplies on Amazon

- Chrysler 300 letter series hemi engine rebuild gasket set
- 1955-1961 Chrysler 300 weatherstrip kit
- Chrysler cross ram intake gasket set

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Sources Consulted

Chrysler 300 Club International letter-car specification table; Chrysler factory shop manuals 1955-1961; Hagerty marque model histories; period road-test references (Motor Trend). Where sources disagreed, the disagreement is recorded in this guide's corrections file and the disputed figure is not asserted.

Thank you for restoring a 1956 Chrysler 300 Letter Series the way it was built - one year at a time. - RestorationEssentials