

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1987 Chevrolet Squarebody Restoration Guide

Read these pages exactly as they appear in the full guide.
Nothing here is rewritten or summarised — it is the product itself,
so you can judge the depth before you spend a dollar.

full guide: <https://restoreessentials.com/product/RE-GD-1987-CHEVROLET-SQUAREB>

RestorationEssentials — instant PDF download after checkout.



RESTORATIONESSENTIALS

Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1987 Chevrolet Squarebody Restoration Guide

Model Years 1987

Model year	1987 - renamed R/V; TBI arrives; pickup finale
Engines	4.3 V6; 305, 350, 454 V8 - all TBI; 6.2 diesel
Name	R/V series (R = 2WD, V = 4x4); VIN 5th digit
Control	Powertrain control module introduced
Identifiers	1985 grille carried over; R/V badging

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.

Published by RestorationEssentials



How This Guide Works

This is a **single-year restoration** guide for the 1987 Chevrolet and GMC C/K - one year of the Rounded Line (1973-1987 pickups), covered on its own because that is how these trucks were built and how they must be restored. Specifications were checked against the marque model history and powertrain tables, the Raybuck restoration reference, and period sales literature. Where sources disagree, this guide prints the disagreement instead of guessing.

Scope. Covers 1987 C10/C20/C30 (2WD) and K10/K20/K30 (4WD) pickups and chassis-cabs. Blazer/Jimmy and Suburban share this architecture and have their own RestorationEssentials guides. GMC trucks share the platform but carry their own trim names and badging, noted where they differ.

Where 1987 sits in the run

- **Coming in:** the 1981 facelift truck with a new name and a new fuel system - the bridge between the carburetor era and the GMT400.
- **Leaving:** 1988 belongs to the GMT400 pickups; the R/V body serves on in heavy and SUV roles to 1991.

Platform Snapshot

The Rounded Line (the public's 'Squarebody') ran as the C/K pickup from 1973 to 1987, then as the R/V in heavy and SUV roles to 1991. 1987 trucks are late, facelifted trucks: the hoodline is lowered and sloped, wipers park exposed on the cowl, and side markers are horizontal.

Fact	Detail
Model year	1987
Designation	R = 2WD, V = 4x4; 10/20/30 series
Wheelbases	117.5 in (short bed), 131.5 in (long bed), 164.5 in (crew cab)
Fuel tanks	Outboard of the frame rails (sidesaddle layout)

The 1987 Register - What Makes a 1987 a 1987

- The line is renamed R/V (R = rear-wheel drive, V = 4x4 - the change is in the VIN's 5th digit) so the incoming GMT400 can carry the C/K name. A 1987 pickup is an R10/R20/R30 or V10/V20/V30, whatever the seller calls it.
- Every gasoline engine adopts throttle-body fuel injection: 305 (L03, 170 hp), 350 (L05, 210 hp - back on the half-ton 2WD pickup at last), 454 (L19, 230 hp / 385 lb-ft), and the 4.3 (LB4, TBI). A new powertrain control module runs fuel, spark, and converter lockup.
- The 292 six is dropped from 3/4- and 1-ton trucks; the 4.3 V6 is the sole six-cylinder engine. The 6.2 diesel continues (mechanically injected, as before).
- Final year of the Squarebody PICKUP: from 1988 the regular-cab pickup is GMT400, while this body continues as R/V crew cabs, chassis cabs, Blazer/Jimmy, and Suburban through 1991.
- Catalytic converters are fitted across the fuel-injected line regardless of weight class (a few carbureted 30/35 chassis-cab engines are the documented exception, outside this guide's pickup scope).



VIN Decoding (17-Digit)

1987 trucks use the standardized 17-digit VIN. The 8th digit is the engine code - the single most important character when verifying a truck's original powertrain - and the 10th digit is the model year. The glovebox SPID label remains the final word on factory options.

8th digit	Engine
T	292 inline-6
G	305 V8, 2-bbl
F / H	305 V8, 4-bbl
P	350 V8, 2-bbl
L / M	350 V8, 4-bbl
W	454 V8, 4-bbl
C	6.2L diesel (1982+)

Engines

Four gasoline engines, all TBI, plus the diesel.

Engine	Output (net)	Notes
4.3 V6 (LB4)	155 hp; 230 lb-ft	TBI (new); sole six-cylinder
305 V8 (L03)	170 hp; 260 lb-ft	TBI (new)
350 V8 (L05)	210 hp; 300 lb-ft	TBI (new); back on 2WD half-ton
454 V8 (L19)	230 hp; 385 lb-ft	TBI (new)
6.2 diesel	135-148 hp; 240-246 lb-ft	Mechanical injection; ratings by application [range across LH codes]

Reading Chevrolet casting and date codes

- Block casting number: driver's-side rear bellhousing flange. Assembly stamp: front passenger-side deck pad - month/day plus suffix code.
- Decode casting number, casting date, and suffix together; the casting date should precede the truck's build date by weeks.
- Truck suffix tables differ from passenger-car tables, and the format changed around 1970 - decode truck engines with truck references.