

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1955 Chrysler 300 Letter Series Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1955 Chrysler 300 Letter Series Restoration Guide

Model Years 1955

Model year	1955
Letter designation	C-300
Engine	331 cu in FirePower Hemi V8
Output	300 hp
Transmission	2-speed PowerFlite automatic
Production	1,725 (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 1955 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 1955 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 1955 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	1955
Engine (standard)	331 cu in FirePower Hemi V8
Output	300 hp
Transmission	2-speed PowerFlite automatic
Chassis	Body-on-frame; coil-spring front suspension
Original list price	\$4,109
Production	1,725 (hardtop only)

The 1955 Register - What Makes a 1955 a 1955

- The first letter car: it carries no letter suffix in period badging - 'C-300' names the C-68 New Yorker series plus the 300-horsepower engine. A car badged '300A' is wearing a retroactive nickname, not factory trim.
- Hardtop only - there is no 1955 C-300 convertible. Any open '1955 300' is a cut car.
- Front clip and grille come from the Imperial parts bin; the midsection is a New Yorker hardtop and the rear quarters are Windsor - the C-300's plain, de-trimmed look is factory, not missing trim. No back-up lamps, no hood ornament, no side spear.
- Three exterior colors only: Platinum White, Tango Red and Black, all with a tan leather interior. Air conditioning was NOT offered in 1955 - a 1955 car with factory-style A/C has later hardware.
- Electrical system is 6-volt (the 12-volt change is a 1956 story - see the 1956 guide).

Engines - the 1955 Specification

Engine	Output	Notes
331 FirePower Hemi V8	300 hp	Dual four-barrel carburetors; solid lifters; race-profile camshaft; low-restriction dual exhaust

The 331 FirePower is a true hemispherical-head engine. On a restoration, verify the dual four-barrel induction and the 300-only camshaft specification against the Chrysler shop manual for 1955 - a New Yorker 331 wears single-carburetor induction and a milder cam and is not a C-300 engine.



Solid valve lifters mean valve lash is a scheduled mechanical adjustment, set cold to the 1955 manual figure - there are no hydraulics to take up slack.

Year-Correct Procedures

Suspension is coil-spring front with a live rear axle - the torsion-bar front end does not arrive until 1957, so do not order Torsion-Aire parts for this car.

Brake and steering specifications follow the 1955 Chrysler shop manual; the C-300's stiffer springs and heavy-duty running gear are 300-specific line items in that manual.

Finishes and Trim - 1955 Only

- Exterior: single-tone Platinum White, Tango Red or Black. Interior: tan leather only.
- The de-trimmed exterior is correct: base Chrysler bumpers, no hood ornament, no back-up lamps, minimal brightwork. Restoring 'missing' chrome onto a C-300 is over-restoration.

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 1955 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 1955 Chrysler 300 Letter Series the way it was built - one year at a time. - RestorationEssentials