

Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN)

Session Materials

Significant Dates in VIN History:

1955 and prior: most vehicles registered by engine number.

1965: First year Chevrolet used rosette rivets to install the VIN plate.

1966: First year Chrysler used rosette rivets to install passenger vehicle VIN plates.

1968: The year American manufactured passenger vehicles began having VINs placed in a location visible through the windshield. First year VIN plate was installed on dash area of US vehicles.

1968: First year all US vehicles had a VIN derivative stamped into engines and transmission.

1968: First and only year Ford put VIN plate on passenger side of dash.

1970: First year of Federal Standard sticker on all vehicles with repeat of VIN.

1970: First year Harley-Davidson stamped M/C frames with VIN, and also stamped the VIN on the right crankcase of the engine.

1970: First year of AMC Gremlin. It was introduced appropriately on April Fool's Day.

1974: First year Chevrolet pickups had VIN derivative on the engines.

1975: First year Chevrolet pickups placed a load sticker and build sheet in the glove box. Both stickers had repeat of the VIN.

1975: First year Chevrolet stamped VIN derivative on right frame rail.

1979: First year Chevrolet pickups placed VIN on dash.

1980: First year Ford pickups placed VIN on dash.

1980: First year Ford stamped engines and transmissions of their pickups with a VIN derivative up through ¾ ton.

1981: First year of mandatory 17-digit VIN

Beginning in the 1981-production year, all American car manufacturers began using a 17-character VIN system. While specific areas of the VIN must contain certain information (eighth digit from the right is usually the year indicator), the manufacturers were free to designate that information as they pleased. For example, GM chose to continue using some of their standard make/model identifier codes.

1983: First year of the Toyota pickup bed number sticker.

1985: First year of the Toyota "gear" shape rivet.

1987: First year of the anti-theft stickers on all high theft priority vehicles.

1989: First year of the bar codes on vehicle.



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Check the VIN

- (1) Look for scratches or other damage on the VIN especially around the rivets (if possible). Check for signs that the VIN has been repaired.
- (2) If reasonable grounds exist that the VIN plate is improperly attached, a slight prying with your fingernail or a pocketknife may reveal it has been glued on or affixed by some other means.
- (3) **Dymo tape** is often used to make a new VIN and then glued over the old VIN. The dymo tape is spray painted to blend in with the attachment area. Look for any paint irregularities in the surface area and the VIN.
- (4) Inspect the rivets. American manufacturers of passenger cars generally use stainless steel.
- (5) Foreign manufacturers do not use aluminum pop rivets, and some VIN plates are even glued on. Newer VW's VIN plates snap on and can be easily replaced. Most foreign vehicles have a repeat of the VIN stamped onto the body or frame under the hood.
- (6) **Federal Safety Standards Sticker** which have a repeat of the VIN are required on all complete vehicles manufactured since 1970. They are usually placed on the end of the driver's door or on the sticker post. The federal sticker VIN should match the VIN plate, however, keep in mind that doors on vehicles are sometime replaced, and you may find a different number there than the VIN plate. If the 1970 or newer vehicle has a sticker that is missing, if there are signs that it has been removed or altered in some way, be suspicious. (Water injected with a hypodermic needle behind the sticker will destroy the printing.)



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CHECK DIGIT

Motor vehicles have a 17 character VIN with a "CHECK DIGIT" included. The first 3 characters identify the nation of origin, manufacturer, make and type of vehicle. The second section consists of 5 characters and identifies the "vehicle attributes" (Model, body, engine type, restraint system). The ninth character is the "CHECK DIGIT" and is intended to verify the accuracy of the VIN as to sequence and format. The third part of the VIN is 8 characters in length and identifies the model year, plant and sequential production number. The following table will enable you to decode the VIN's "CHECK DIGIT".

On line "A" enter the 17 digit VIN. On line "B" enter the assigned value of each character of the VIN, utilizing table "B", shown below. Multiply the numbers in line "B" with the numbers in line "C", for each of the 17 digits in the VIN. Record the product of each of these separate computations in the appropriate boxes in line "D". Add together all of the numbers recorded in line "D" and enter the final sum in the space provided. Divide the final sum by the number "11". The remainder of this division is the "CHECK DIGIT" (the 9th character of the 17 digit VIN). If the remainder of this division is a single digit number, then it should match the "CHECK DIGIT" in the VIN exactly, if the remainder is the number "10" then the "CHECK DIGIT" is the letter "X".

Assign to each number in the VIN its actual value and record that value in the appropriate box in line "B". NOTE: The letters "I", "O", and "Q" are never used in VIN's.



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VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN) ELEMENT CODING INFORMATION

VIN CHECK DIGIT FOR ALL VEHICLES - (VIN POSITION 9)

VIN MODEL YEAR FOR ALL VEHICLES - (VIN POSITION 10)

The model year is designated as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>VIN Code</u>
1980	A
1981	B
1982	C
1983	D
1984	E
1985	F
1986	G
1987	H
1988	J
1989	K
1990	L
1991	M
1992	N
1993	P
1994	R
1995	S
1996	T
1997	V
1998	W
1999	X
2000	Y
2001	1
2002	2
2003	3
2004	4
2005	5
2006	6
2007	7
2008	8
2009	9
2010	A
2011	B
2012	C



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WORLD MANUFACTURING IDENTIFICATION EXAMPLES

FIRST THREE DIGITS OF VIN:

- 1 = NATION OF ORIGIN
- 2 = MANUFACTURER
- 3 = MAKE AND TYPE

NATION CODE:

- 1 USA
- 2 CANADA
- 3 MEXICO
- 4 USA
- 5 USA
- 6 AUSTRALIA
- J JAPAN
- K KOREA
- L TIAWAN
- S ENGLAND
- W GERMANY

MANUFACTURER & MAKE:

- FA –FORD
- C3 –CHRYSLER
- G1 –CHEVROLET
- BA –BMW
- G2 –PONTIAC
- LA –DAEWOO
- G3 –OLDSMOBILE
- MH –HYUNDAI
- G4 –BUICK
- NK –INFINITI
- G6 –CADILLAC
- T6 –LEXUS
- HD –HARLEY DAVIDSON
- LN –LINCOLN
- T2 –TOYOTA
- M1 –MAZDA
- HG –HONDA
- DB –MERZB
- P3 –PLYMOUTH
- ME –MERCURY
- B3 –DODGE
- A3 –MITSUBISHI

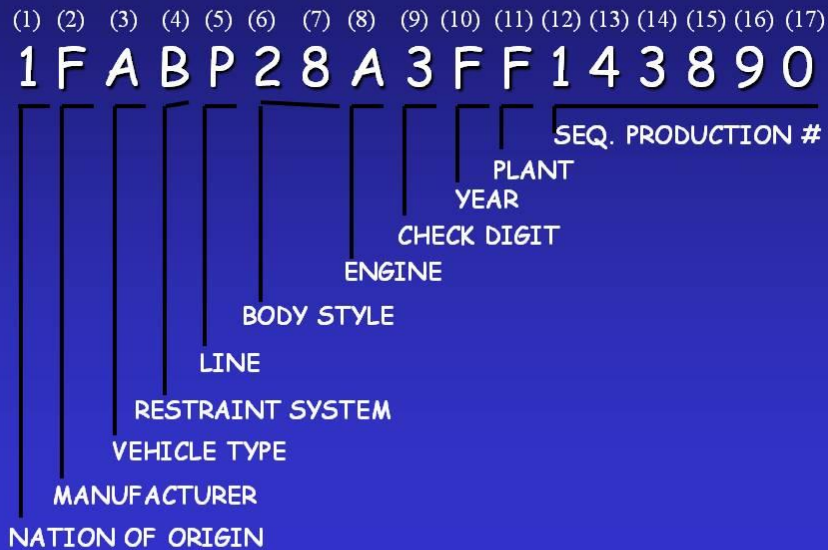


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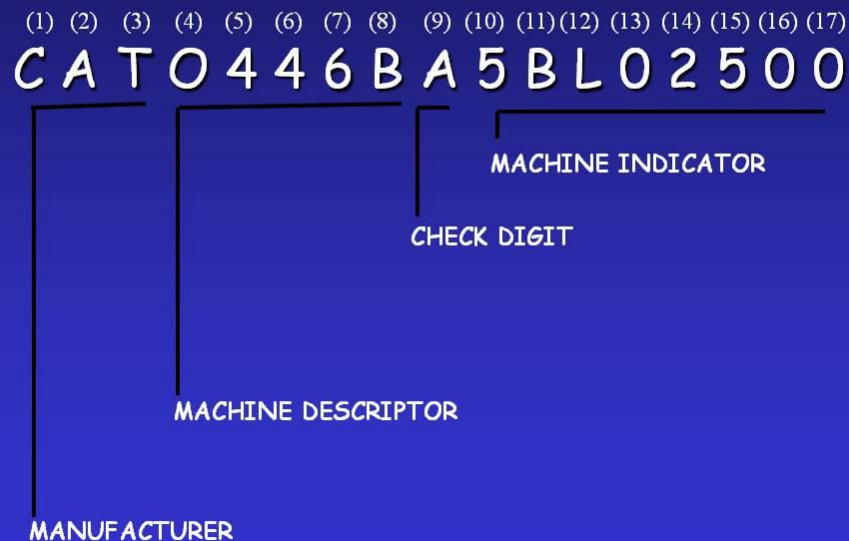
MOTOR VEHICLES

17-Character VIN



EQUIPMENT

17-Character PIN



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