

GENERAL INFORMATION

ALL SERIES

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MAINTENANCE AND ADJUSTMENTS

KEYS AND LOCKS

For 1973, all Buicks will have two types of lock cylinders with the "E" type and "H" type keyway, the same as used on the 1969 model Buicks.

All ignition and door lock cylinders will have the "E" type keyway. All glove compartment and rear compartment lock cylinders will have the "H" type keyway.

The ignition and door lock key will have a rectangular head (same as heads used in 1969). The markings on the head of the key will be the same as 1969. The key identification "E" will be located on the shank just below the coining on the head. In addition, a code number will be stamped on the knockout portion of the key head and will have indicia from any one of the series 00J0 to 99J9 and 00K0 to 99K9. These numbers identify the locks combination and are used when ordering or making new keys by code.

The rear compartment and glove compartment lock keys will have oval heads. The markings on the head will be similar to the 1973 square key. The capital letter "H" will be stamped on the shank just below the coining on the head. In addition, a code number will be stamped on the knockout portion of the key head and will have indicia from any one of the series 00L0 to 99L9 and 00M0 to 99M9. These numbers

identify the locks combination and are used when ordering or making new keys by code.

Keys used for Buick locks in 1970, 1971 and 1972 will not enter either of the "E" or "H" keyways, nor will the 1973 keys enter keyways meeting Buick specifications used in the above listed years.

The 1973 lock series codes will have 2000 different key combinations with new code numbers. Five bitting depths, as used for 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 locks, will be continued.

1. The door lock cylinders **WILL NOT BE MARKED** with the key code number. The ignition lock cylinder housing will be marked with the key code number for the door lock cylinders and the ignition lock cylinder.

2. The rear compartment lock cylinder **WILL NOT BE MARKED** with the key code number. The glove compartment lock cylinder will have the key code number (marked on the tumbler carrying plug) for the rear compartment lock cylinder and the glove compartment lock cylinder.

3. The station wagon tailgate lock cylinder **WILL NOT BE MARKED** with the key code number. The station wagon ignition lock cylinder will be marked with the key code number for the tailgate lock cylinder, the door lock cylinders and ignition lock cylinder. The station wagon door lock cylinders **WILL NOT BE MARKED**.

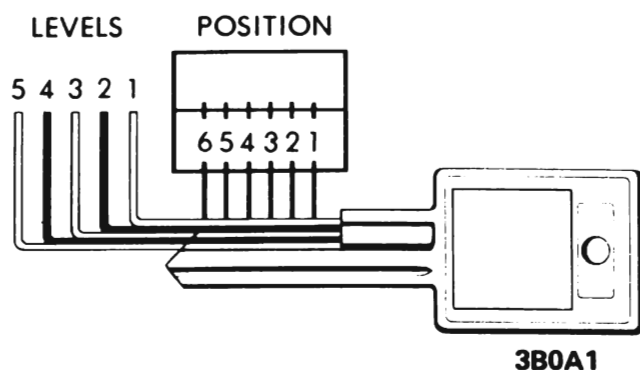


Figure OA-1 - Key Code Diagram

Cutting Keys

After the special code has been determined, either from the code list or the Key Code Diagram, cut a blank key to the proper level for each of the six tumbler positions, and check the key in the lock cylinder. The new key should agree with the combination opposite the code number in the code list.

Removal and Installation of the Ignition Lock

Remove and install the ignition lock assembly from the steering column following the procedures outlined in Group 3.

Selecting Lock Cylinder Tumblers

The 1973 factory-installed ignition lock is not serviceable. Should failure require service, a new ignition lock package is available from the Parts Department less tumblers. Tumblers are also available and must be installed into the ignition lock cylinder according to the following special code.

When it is necessary to code a new lock cylinder to agree with a key code number, install the proper tumblers into their respective slots, as indicated by Key Code Diagram or Briggs and Stratton Code List.

Tumblers for all locks except the glove and console compartments are shaped exactly alike, with the exception of the position of a notch on one side. Tumblers for glove and console lock cylinders are different and will not interchange with any other lock tumblers. As the key is inserted in the lock cylinder, the tumblers are raised to the correct height so that the notches on each tumbler are on the same level. When the notches on all six tumblers line up, the locking bar is pushed into the notches by two small springs, allowing the cylinder to turn in its bore. Five types of tumblers are used to make all the various lock tumbler combinations and each is coded according to a number, 1 through 5, stamped on its side.

Only one type of tumbler is used to make the various lock tumbler combinations for glove and console compartment locks. Tumblers for these two lock cylinders are of a different design than the tumblers used in all other lock cylinders.

As the key is inserted in the lock cylinder, each tumbler is depressed so that no part of any tumbler is exposed above the level of the lock cylinder allowing the cylinder to turn in its bores. Refer to subparagraph f, to assemble glove and console compartment lock cylinders.

To determine which tumblers should be installed in what position for a given key, when a code list is not available, proceed as follows:

1. Lay the key on the Key Code Diagram, Figure OA-1, with the key outlined by the diagram as accurately as possible.
2. Starting at the base of the key blade, determine the lowest level that is visible in position No. 1.
3. Determine the lowest visible level for the remaining five positions. As each tumbler level is determined, write that number in the blank space provided above the position numbers.
4. Cuts that fall in the first white section, mark Level No. 1 on top of appropriate position number.
5. Cuts that fall in the first black section, mark No. 2 on top of appropriate position number.
6. Cuts that fall in the second white section, mark No. 3 on top of appropriate position number.
7. Cuts that fall in the second black section, mark No. 4 on top of appropriate position number.
8. Cuts that fall in the third white section, mark No. 5 on top of appropriate position number.

Installing Lock Cylinder Tumblers (Except Glove and Console Compartments)

After the tumbler arrangement has been determined as shown, ignition and door lock cylinders should be assembled as follows:

1. Hold cylinder with head of cylinder away and starting at the head of the cylinder, insert the tumblers in their proper slots in the order called for by the code, ribbed side toward you and long point down. See Figure OA-2.
2. Insert one tumbler spring in the space provided above each tumbler. If the springs become tangled, do not pull them apart - unscrew them.
3. Reverse the lock cylinder so that the head of

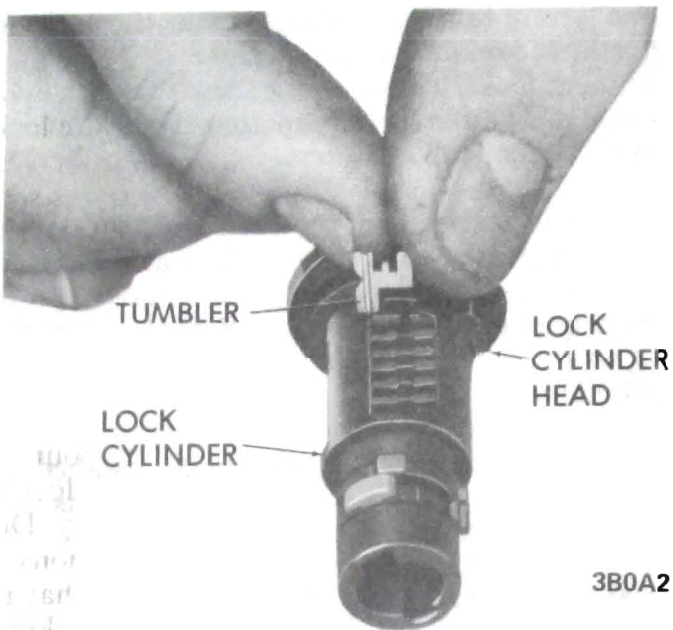


Figure 0A-2 - Installing Tumblers

cylinder is now toward you. Insert the spring retainer so that the two end prongs slide into the slots at either end of the cylinder. Press the retainer down. See Figure 0A-3.

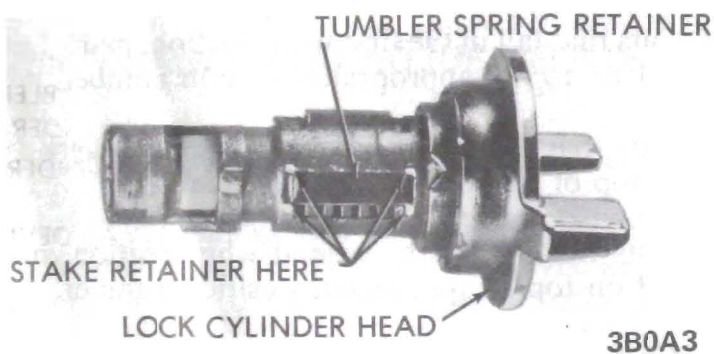


Figure 0A-3 - Installing Spring Retainer

4. To check, insert proper key and if tumblers are installed properly the side bar will be allowed to drop down. If bar does not drop down, remove the key, spring retainer, springs and tumblers and reassemble correctly.

If the tumblers have not been assembled correctly, they can be removed from the cylinder by holding it with the tumbler slots down, pulling the locking bar out with the fingers and jarring the cylinder to shake the tumblers out. This procedure is necessary because once the tumblers have been pressed down into the cylinder they are held in their slots by the side bar.

5. If after checking, it is found that the lock is assembled properly, remove key and secure cylinder in a vise with spring retainer exposed. Use leather or wood at each vise jaw to prevent damage to the cylinder.

6. Stake the retainer securely in place by staking the cylinder metal over both edges at each retainer end using a suitable staking tool at right angles to the top of the retainer.

Assembling Service Ignition Locks

1. Place the key part way into the lock cylinder assembly. Place the wave washer and anti-theft ring onto the lower end of the lock cylinder.

If the key is installed all the way into the lock cylinder, the plastic keeper in the lock cylinder protrudes and prevents installation of the sleeve assembly.

2. Make sure that the plastic keeper in the sleeve assembly protrudes from the sleeve.

3. Align the lock bolt on the lock cylinder and the tab on the anti-theft washer with the slot in the sleeve assembly. Push the sleeve all the way onto the lock cylinder assembly, push the ignition key the rest of the way in and rotate the lock cylinder clockwise. See Figure 0A-5.

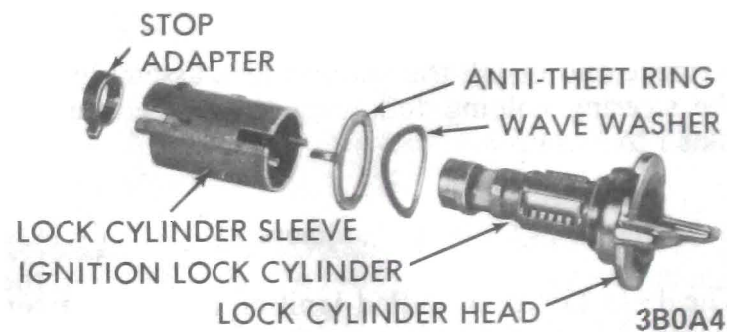


Figure 0A-4 Ignition Lock Assembly - Exploded View

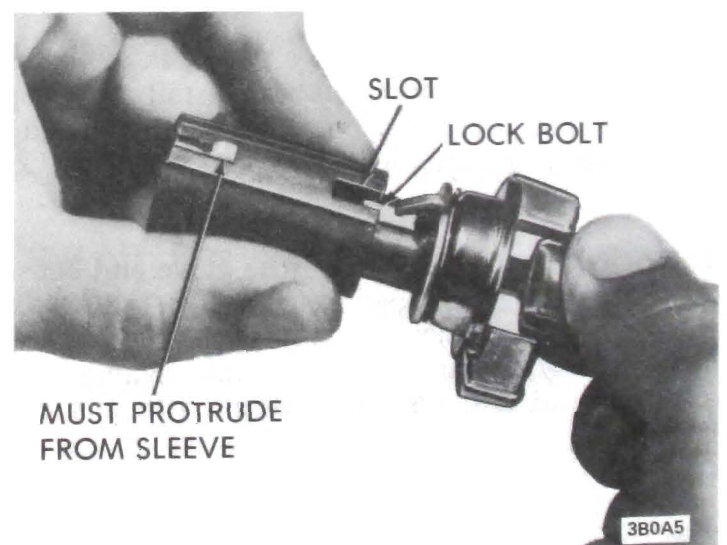


Figure 0A-5 Ignition Lock - Assembly

4. Place assembled ignition lock assembly into vise with wood blocks to protect finish. Place stop

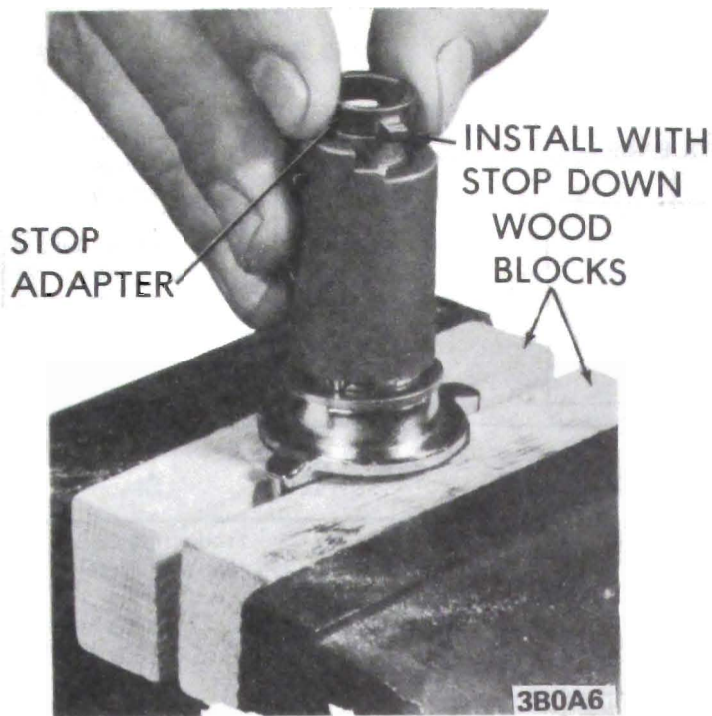


Figure 0A-6 Installing Stop Adapter on Lock Cylinder

adapter on lock cylinder with stop positioned down. See Figure 0A-6.

5. Using a hammer and a small pin punch, stake lock cylinder at four (4) places to retain stop adapter. Do not use force when striking cylinder, as metal is soft and only a light tap with a hammer is necessary. See Figure 0A-7.

Assembling Glove and Console Compartment Lock Cylinders

These two lock assemblies are equipped with four or five tumblers rather than six required in other locks. Tumblers for positions 3-4-5-6 or 2-3-4-5-6 only. Do not install tumblers which correspond to positions 1 and 2 on the key. The non-brass "tumbler" that is closest to the head of the lock cylinder is a locking device and must not be removed unless damaged. See Figure 0A-8.

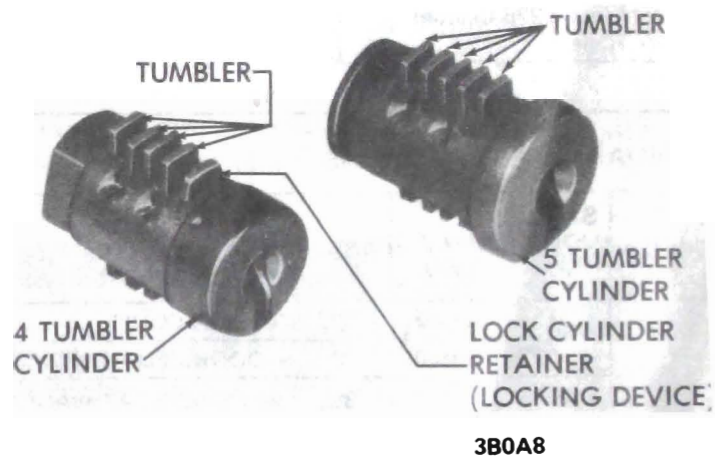


Figure 0A-8 - Glove Compartment Lock Cylinder

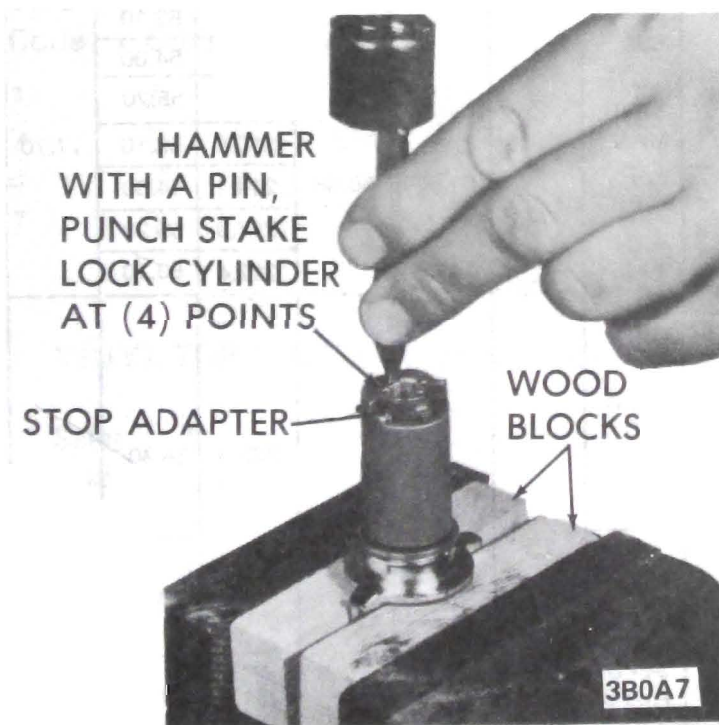
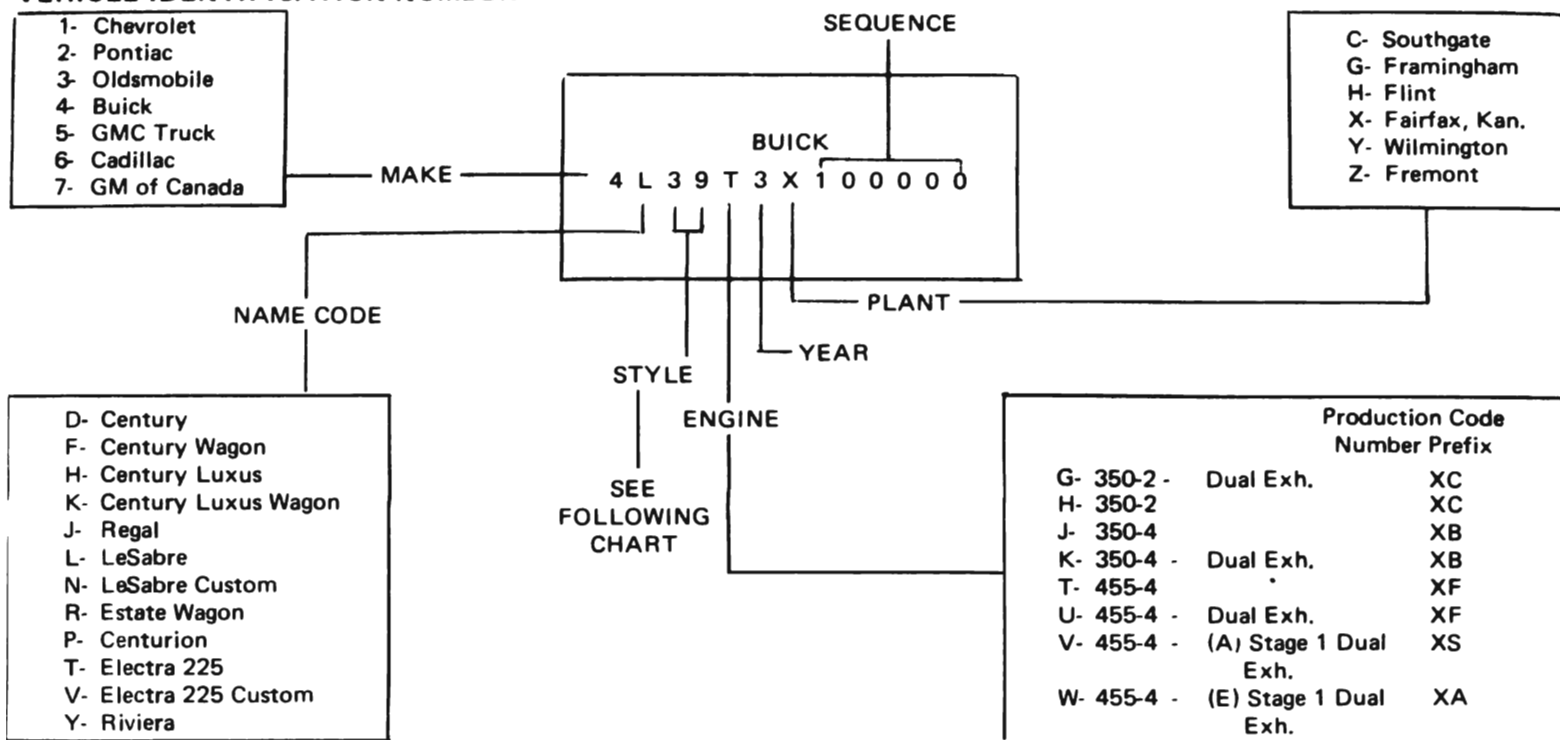


Figure 0A-7 Staking Lock Cylinder to Retain Lock Adapter

1. Insert properly coded key in position.
2. Place cylinder in a vise using leather or wood at each vise jaw to prevent damage to the cylinder.
3. File tumblers down so that no part of any tumbler extends above the lock cylinder. A standard 5/8" double cut bastard file is recommended for this operation. To finish the job, use a flat 5-1/2" No. 2 cut needle equaling file. Do not file any part of black "tumbler" in position No. 2. This is a locking bar and should not be altered.
4. Reverse lock cylinder position in vise and repeat Step 5 for bottom of tumblers. See Figure 0A-7.

SPECIFICATIONS

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER



STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

SERIES	SALES MODEL NO.	WHEEL-BASE	BODY STYLE	STANDARD			FRONT TREAD	REAR TREAD	OVERALL		
				ENG	TRANS	AXLE			LENGTH	HEIGHT	WIDTH
"A"	4AD37	112.0	37 2-DOOR COUPE	350 2	3-SPD. MAN.	3.08	61.50	60.68	210.1	53.10	77.70
	29	116.0	29 4-DOOR SEDAN 6W						214.1	54.00	
	4AF35	116.0	35 4-DOOR 2-SEAT WAGON						217.9	55.20	
	4AH57	112.0	57 2-DOOR COUPE						210.0	53.10	
	29	116.0	29 4-DOOR SEDAN 6W						214.1	54.00	
	4AK35	116.0	35 4-DOOR 2-SEAT WAGON						217.9	55.20	
4AJ57	112.0	57 2-DOOR FORMAL COUPE	212.4	53.10							
"B"	4BL57	124.0	57 2-DOOR COUPE HARDTOP	350 2	3-SPD. AUTO.	63.64	64.00	225.3	54.30	80.00	
	39		39 4-DOOR HARDTOP								
	69		69 4-DOOR SEDAN T/P								
	4BN57	57 2-DOOR COUPE HARDTOP									
39	39 4-DOOR HARDTOP										
69	69 4-DOOR SEDAL T/P										
4BP57	124.0	57 2-DOOR COUPE HARDTOP	350 4	3-SPD. AUTO.	2.93	63.64	64.00	231.0	57.10		
67	67 2-DOOR CONVERTIBLE										
39	39 4-DOOR HARDTOP										
4BR35	45	35 4-DOOR 2-SEAT WAGON	455 4	3-SPD. AUTO.	2.73	63.64	64.00	231.5	54.10		
45	45 4-DOOR 3-SEAT WAGON	54.60									
"C"	4CT37	127.0	37 2-DOOR COUPE HARDTOP	455 4	3-SPD. AUTO.	2.73	63.64	64.00	231.5	54.10	
	39		39 4-DOOR HARDTOP							54.60	
4CV37	39	37 2-DOOR COUPE HARDTOP	455 4	3-SPD. AUTO.	2.73	63.64	64.00	231.5	54.10		
39	39 4-DOOR HARDTOP	54.60									
"E"	4EY87	122.0	87 2-DOOR COUPE HARDTOP	455 4	3-SPD. AUTO.	2.93	63.64	64.00	224.4	53.80	

PAINT COLOR CODE CHART

Sales Code	Service Code	Series	Color Name
A	19	A-B-C	Regal Black
C	11	A-B-C-E	Arctic White
D	24	A-B-C-E	Medium Blue Metallic
E	26	A-B-C	Mediterranean Blue
F	29	A-B-C-E	Midnight Blue
G	42	A-B-C	Jade Green
H	44	A-B-C-E	Willow Green
I	46	A-B-C-E	Green-Gold Metallic
J	48	A-B-C-E	Midnight Green
K	54	E	Autumn Gold
L	56	A-B-C-E	Colonial Yellow
M	60	A-B-C-E	Harvest Gold
N	64	A-B-C-E	Silver Cloud
P	65	E	Burnt Coral
Q	66	A-B-C-E	Taupe Metallic
R	67	E	Midnight Gray
S	68	A-B-C-E	Brown Metallic
T	74	A-B-C-E	Burgandy
U	81	A-B-C-E	Bamboo Cream

3B0A10

CONVERTIBLE TOP COLOR CODE CHART

Sales Code	Service Code	Color Name
1	A	White
2	B	Black
4	G	Green
7	T	Sandalwood

3B0A11

VINYL TOP COLOR CODE CHART

Sales Code	Service Code	Color Name
1	A	White
2	B	Black
3	D	Blue
4	G	Green
5	H	Burgandy
6	R	Dark Brown
7	T	Sandalwood

3B0A12

MAJOR COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION

Body Number Plate

Body identification is provided by the Body Number Plate.

Information such as style and body numbers, trim numbers, and paint color code is contained on this plate. Refer to the 1973 Body Service Manual for detailed information about this plate.

Engine Numbers

1973 Buick engines are stamped with two different identification codes. *One is an engine production code number.* This identifies the engine and its approximate production date. Refer to Group 6 for Engine Usage.

The other code is the *engine serial number* and is the same number found on the vehicle identification plate mentioned previously in Paragraph a. This is the legal engine number and is used on registrations, titles, and other legal documents, while the production code number is used to identify the engine on product reports and other factory correspondence.

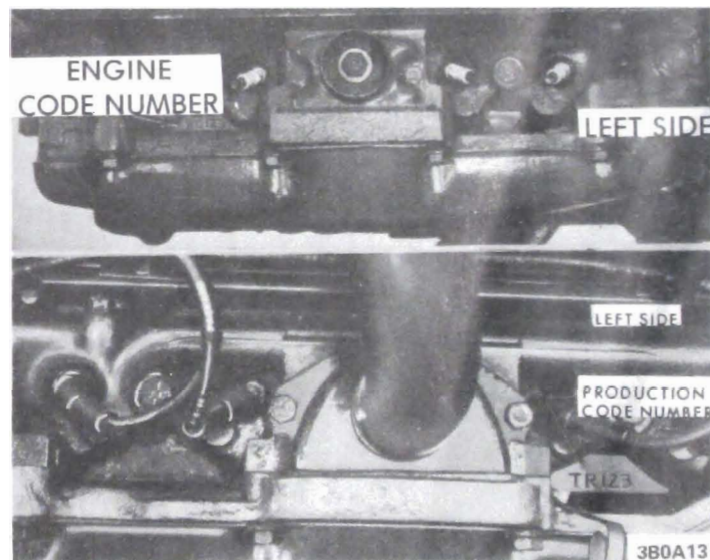
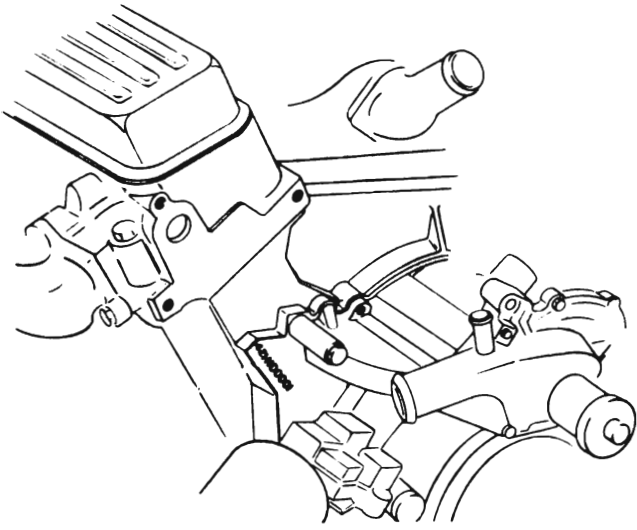
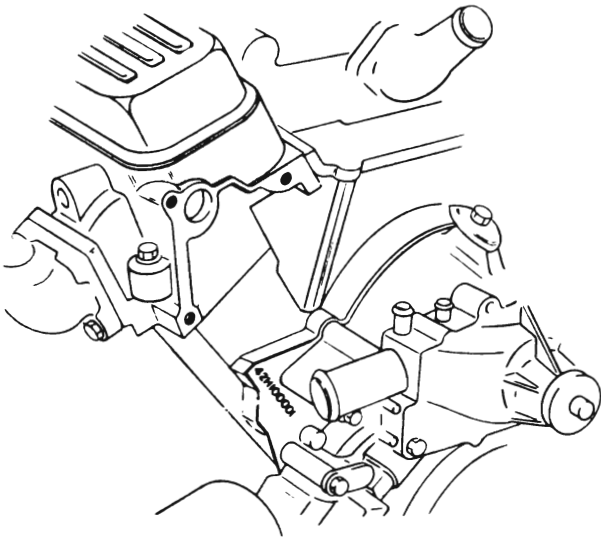


Figure OA-13 - Engine Production Code Location - 350 Cu.In. (Top) - 455 Cu.In. (Bottom)



350 CU. IN. ENGINE



455 CU. IN. ENGINE

3B0A14

Figure 0A-14 - Engine Serial Number Location
(350-455 Cu.In.)