POWER STEERING IDENTIFICATION

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When executing an original restoration on a 1955, 1956 or 1957 Chevy passenger car, many owners like to add various RPO's (regular production options) to suit their tastes. One popular choice is factory original power steering. If the car being restored already has power steering, then that task is fairly easy, and this article can be used to insure that all items are correct for that particular car. For those Bowties without power steering, the search for a complete, rebuildable set-up can sometimes involve quite a bit of detective work, not to mention money and time spent on letters, phone calls, restoration of the components, etc. Incorrect and/or incomplete parts, as well as incorrect and/or incomplete information, can lead to costly mistakes for those interested in acquiring an absolutely complete, genuinely correct original system. Running changes made during the course of the model years can also add to the confusion about what is supposed to be proper for a particular assembly date, especially since not all changes were recorded as they were made.

There are two very good sources for information on power steering. The *Shop Manual* has a good overview of the repair procedures used by Chevrolet Service Centers (Dealerships), and the *Assembly Manual*, used on the assembly line at every Chevrolet plant, contains outstanding diagrams and exploded views of many parts, as well as information on where and how they were installed.

The purpose of this tech article is two-fold. First, to identify what comprises a complete power steering set-up for all three years of passenger cars. Second, to show all the differences between the three years, as well as any mid-year changes. In another tech article, I will help distinguish a rebuildable system from one that is not by examining problem areas in the various parts and components.

Identification

The power steering option as installed on the assembly line is virtually the same for 1955, 1956 and 1957. In fact, most parts and components are interchangeable and will function equally well no matter the year model on which it is installed. The main differences can be found in the generator design and the cylinder shaft mounting hardware.

A complete power steering system and its related parts is shown in Photo #1. Keep in mind that **all** of these parts are peculiar to power steering and are different in design in one way or another from its standard steering counterpart. Those parts that are in reproduction are noted with an asterisk. (*)

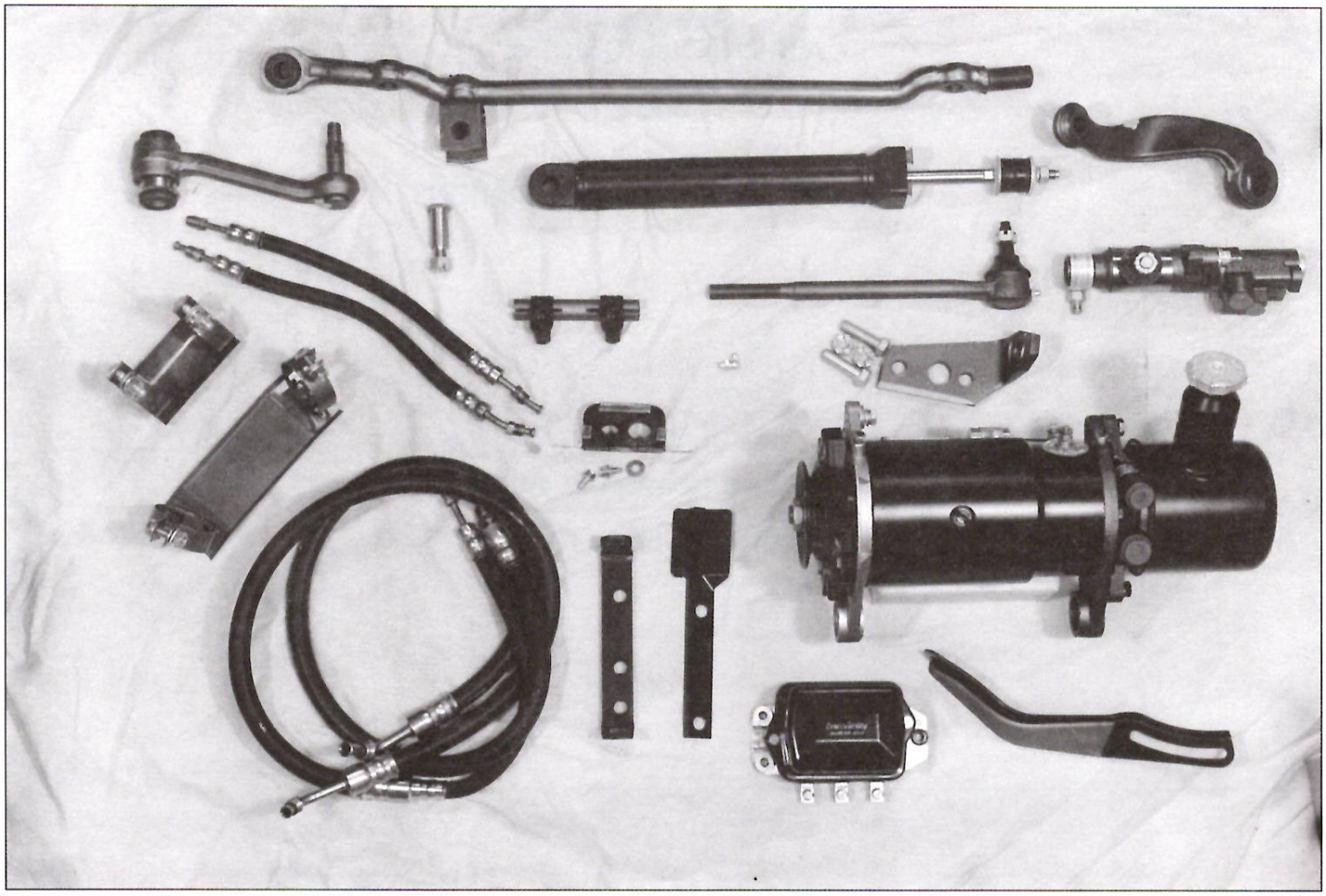

Photo #1