

Tech Talk: Hard Top Differences

By Martin Bierman

Over the last several months some questions have come up regarding the differences in the hard top for the three years '55-'57. Below is a table I found in the 9-10/76 issue of the *Early Bird* and I have added several comments to it from recent sources.

	Early 1955	Late 1955	Early 1956 (before 5/1/56)	Late '56 & '57 (after 5/1/56)
A	Very early '55: one piece type weatherstrip; hard rubber (not avail.; use late '55)	Separate section ; cloth covered sides w/strip; dog-leg on w/s header and rear deck	No change	New type w/strip at front header and side window; no cloth on sides; dog-leg on rear deck only
B	Straight side window drip rail	Side window strip rail turned up at rear end (about Spring, '55)	No change	Add small drip molding at front corners of late '57 tops
C	Non-porthole tops Only	No change	Porthole or non-porthole tops available	Porthole or non-porthole tops available
D	Small Ford crest on side	No change	No emblems or crests on side of non-porthole '56 top	Small round T-Bird emblem on sides of non- porthole '57 top
E	Top color same as body color	No change	Top may be different than body color; see data plate	Top may be different than body color; see data plate
F	Small handle front and side clamp (fin- ger style)	No change	No change	"T" handle front & side clamps
G	Small pin, 90 degree turn, bayonet type rear clamps with angle handles	No change	Large pin, 90 degree turn, bayonet type rear clamps with angle handles	Large single pin, 180 degree turn rear clamps with straight handles
H	5 bow headliner, white; yellow with goldenrod	No change	4 bow headliner, white	4 bow headliner; white '56; bone white '57

A: weatherstrip; B: molding; C: top style; D: top emblems; E: top color; F: clamp style; G: rear pin/clamp style; H: headliner bows/color