

## ***Exhaust System 101***

Since I was so bored yesterday, I thought I would finally get my new cat back exhaust system installed before the touring season starts. I so love these little Vette projects which you think are going to be simple and bring joy to your day. I mean by that, that you would think hanging a new exhaust system, cat back, on an 84 would be a rather simple 1-2 hour task. Right? Wrong!

A friend of mine has a workshop/barn down in Eaton Rapids. 40 miles away from home sweet home here in Laingsburg. He has a lift, compressor, torch, etc., which makes working there a real pleasure. It took just a couple of hours to get the old one off. Only because the heat shields surrounding the cat were a pain.

I spent an hour getting the old muffler hanger off. It would have been a lot easier if the last shop/people that worked on it, hadn't welded the bolt to the hanger bracket. I was going to install the new hangers I purchased but the new design just didn't set well with me. So after close to an hour I finally managed to salvage the old one. It's amazing what an air chisel, hack saw and file can do. Had I found the Milwaukee SeeSaw sooner it probably would have taken 10 minutes. Thankfully the other hanger was perfectly fine.

When removing the old cat, I snapped the bolts off, but no big deal since I was replacing it. Or so I thought. You know how helpless it is to get your exhaust system off after two hours only to discover that the new cat has flanges that are not perpendicular to each other? Also, it turned out it was a half inch shorter which would have created problems trying to get the heat shields back on.



Corvette America asked me to send them some photos (see above), so I attached them such that you can see how far off the flanges are. This is the last time I'm ordering anything exhaust related from them. I had a problem

last fall with the front y pipe which was a Walker made pipe as well. I had to send that back because of very poor parts positioning prior to welding. Since I ordered the cat last fall it'll be interesting to see what they are going to do about it.

So there I was, wondering how mad Kathy would be to have to drive down and pick me up. The only way to keep that from happening was to reuse the old cat with the new pipes and muffler. I had to wait for Rob to get home from work and eye appointment and see if any of his automotive expertise would come in handy. He said we could torch them out of there. So he gave me a refresher on using a torch. I mean it's only been since high school since I took my welding/torch class. Of course his eyes were still dilated and he couldn't see. But he showed me how to get one of the old bolts out of the old cat and I was then able to get the last three out so I could reuse it temporary. Finally got it done about six hours later so I could drive home.

I keep thinking about the comment a friend made at the zoo last year about why would I want to put a new cat back in. He said to take it out completely and just shoot it straight back. Still don't know why I'm obsessed with trying to keep it original. But it sure would have been easier had I taken his advice.

*(Shared by David Pursel)*

---