



Steve Brown's 427FE for SP 1696

Superformance Mk III Drivetrain Specifications Handbook

A publication of
Second Strike
The Superformance Owners Group

**Superformance® Mk III
Drivetrain Specifications Handbook**

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NOTES



Superformance Mk III Drivetrain Specifications Handbook

Introduction

Drivetrain Specifications Handbook is a comprehensive reference for Superformance Mk III drivetrain components from the time the MK III was introduced to the present. *Drivetrain Specifications Handbook* emphasizes all components historically favored by Superformance Owners.

Drivetrain Specifications Handbook is a valuable reference for all who own, build, sell, work on, or provide technical assistance for the Superformance Mk III. It documents and preserves the historical information about drivetrain components - engines, transmissions, and rear ends – that have been used in the Mk III since its introduction. Much of this information is no longer available and it is essential to pull it together before it is scattered to the winds and lost.

Drivetrain Specifications Handbook will assist Superformance Mk III owners identify and quantify their drivetrain components, answering the one of the most frequent questions from owners, “What kind of engine (or transmission or rear end) do I have in my car?”

Engines can be the most difficult to identify. Many engines are crate engines. Many are custom built. Without builder documentation, crate and custom engines typically must be identified by the components used. *Drivetrain Specifications Handbook* provides a wealth of information on engines and components to allow you to do just that.

To identify an engine, follow these steps.

1. Identify the car number and vintage of your car using [Car Number and Vintage](#) (page 3) as a guide.
2. Identify the engine family using [Engine Family Identification](#) (page 6) as a guide.
3. Identify the valve covers using [Valve Covers](#) (page 65) as a guide.
4. Identify the cylinder heads using [Cylinder Heads](#) (page 48) as a guide.
5. Identify the intake system using [Intake Systems](#) (page 52) as a guide.
6. If your engine is a crate engine, using the identified valve covers, cylinder heads, intake system, and year as a guide, look through [Crate Engines](#) (page 13) to identify your specific engine. For Roush engines, check [Roush Engine Identification by Displacement – Serial Number](#) (page 39).
7. If your engine is custom built, this information will help you describe the engine to the builder for identification.
8. If the block and heads are both cast iron, it may be a production engine. Check the casting numbers on the block and heads to help identify type and year. See [Ford Part number Decoding](#) (page 81) for assistance.

Transmission identification is considerably easier since transmissions are typically stock and have the manufacturer’s identification. See [Transmissions](#) (page 69) and [Estimating Gearing](#) (page 79) for complete information on identifying the make and model of your transmission and the gear ratios.

The rear end is installed by Hi-Tech Automotive at the factory. There have been three (3) types of rear ends used. See [Rear End](#) (page 77) and [Estimating Gearing](#) (page 79) for complete information on identifying the make and model of your rear end and the gear ratio.

The information in *Drivetrain Specifications Handbook* been drawn from many sources.

- Current and archival records including catalogs and marketing materials of the component manufacturers, most of which is no longer available.
- Current and archival website information from the component manufacturers and enthusiasts. Website information is particularly volatile – here today and gone tomorrow. Website information has been scanned periodically and saved, preserving the information contained for future reference.
- The extensive book, document, and photo library of Second Strike.
- The extensive information maintained in SCORE, the Superformance Owners Registry. The registry information was essential in selecting the specific components to include in this handbook.

- The knowledge and experience of many members of the Superformance family, particularly SCOF members, Preston Miller from RDI, and Bob and Dennis Olthoff from Olthoff Racing.

Considerable effort has been made to verify all information contained in this document. Where possible, multiple references have been used to verify the information. In the world of high performance cars where things change constantly, no document will ever be perfect, including this one. If you have changes or suggestions, send them in.

It should be noted that our cars are reflections of our own personalities and desires. Many cars have custom built engines. It is an impossible task to catalog all the various custom engines, or even locate all the engine builders who have built and installed engines in our cars. In this regard, this document confines itself to cataloging engines from the major crate engine suppliers and to identifying the major custom engine builders.



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