

1955-56 Chevrolet Full-Size

without Factory Air Gen 5 Evaporator Kit Center Vent (561550) Center Vent Deluxe (561554)



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Important Notice—Please Read

For Maximum System Performance, Vintage Air Recommends the Following:

NOTE: Vintage Air systems are designed to operate with R134a refrigerant only. Use of any other refrigerant could damage your A/C system and/or vehicle, and possibly cause a fire, in addition to potentially voiding the warranties of the A/C system and its components.

Refrigerant Capacities:

Vintage Air System: 1.8 lbs. (28.8 oz.) or 816 grams of **R134a**, charged by weight with a quality charging station or scale. **NOTE: Use of the proper type and amount of refrigerant is critical to system operation and performance.**

Other Systems: Consult manufacturer's guidelines.

Lubricant Capacities:

New Vintage Air-Supplied Sanden Compressor: No additional oil needed (Compressor is shipped with proper oil charge).

All Other Compressors: Consult manufacturer (Some compressors are shipped dry and will need oil added).

Safety Switches

Your Vintage Air system is equipped with a binary pressure safety switch. A binary switch disengages the compressor clutch in cases of extreme low pressure conditions (refrigerant loss) or excessively high head pressure (406 PSI) to prevent compressor damage or hose rupture. A trinary switch combines Hi/Lo pressure protection with an electric fan operation signal at 254 PSI, and should be substituted for use with electric fans. Compressor safety switches are extremely important since an A/C system relies on refrigerant to circulate lubricant.

Service Info:

Protect Your Investment: Prior to assembly, it is critical that the compressor, evaporator, A/C hoses and fittings, hardlines, condenser and receiver/drier remain capped. Removing caps prior to assembly will allow moisture, insects and debris into the components, possibly leading to reduced performance and/or premature failure of your A/C system. This is especially important with the receiver/drier.

Additionally, when caps are removed for assembly, **BE CAREFUL!** Some components are shipped under pressure with dry nitrogen.

Evacuate the System for 35-45 Minutes: Ensure that system components (Drier, compressor, evaporator and condenser) are at a temperature of at least 85°F. On a cool day, the components can be heated with a heat gun *or* by running the engine with the heater on before evacuating. Leak check and charge to specifications.

Bolts Passing Through Cowl and/or Firewall:

To ensure a watertight seal between the passenger compartment and the vehicle exterior, for all bolts passing through the cowl and/or firewall, Vintage Air recommends coating the threads with silicone prior to installation.

Heater Hose (not included with this kit):

Heater hose may be purchased from Vintage Air (Part#31800-VUD) or your local parts retailer. Routing and required length will vary based on installer preference.



Important Wiring Notice—Please Read

Some vehicles may have had some or all of their radio interference capacitors removed. There should be a capacitor found at each of the following locations:

- 1. On the positive terminal of the ignition coil.
- 2. If there is a generator, on the armature terminal of the generator.
- 3. If there is a generator, on the battery terminal of the voltage regulator.

Most alternators have a capacitor installed internally to eliminate what is called "whining" as the engine is revved. If whining is heard in the radio, or just to be extra cautious, a radio interference capacitor can be added to the battery terminal of the alternator.

It is also important that the battery lead is in good shape and that the ground leads are not compromised. There should be a heavy ground from the battery to the engine block, and additional grounds to the body and chassis.

If these precautions are not observed, it is possible for voltage spikes to be present on the battery leads. These spikes come from ignition systems and charging systems, and from switching some of the vehicle's other systems on and off. Modern computer-operated equipment can be sensitive to voltage spikes on the power leads, which can cause unexpected resets, strange behavior and/or permanent damage.

Vintage Air strives to harden our products against these types of electrical noise, but there is a point where a vehicle's electrical system can be degraded so much that nothing can help.

Radio interference capacitors should be available at most auto and truck parts suppliers. They typically are cylindrical in shape, a little over an inch long and a little over a half-inch in diameter, and they have a single lead coming from one end of the cylinder with a terminal on the end of the wire, as well as a mounting clip which is screwed into a good ground on the vehicle. The specific value of the capacitance is not too significant in comparison to ignition capacitors that are matched with the coil to reduce pitting of the points.

- Care must be taken, when installing the compressor lead, not to short it to ground. The compressor lead must not be connected to a condenser fan or to any other auxiliary device. Shorting to ground or connecting to a condenser fan or any other auxiliary device may damage wiring or the compressor relay, and/or cause a malfunction.
- When installing ground leads on Gen 5 systems, the blower control ground and ECU ground must be connected directly to the negative battery post.
- For proper system operation, the heater control valve must be connected to the ECU.













Firewall Insulation

NOTE: Clean the area of the inner dash to the right of the radio, this is the area the ECU will be mounted. For proper system operation, Vintage Air recommends using Dynaliner (461500-VIP) heatblocking insulation in the area around the evaporator module (firewall, kick panel, inner cowl, firewall covers). Due to tight clearance for the evaporator module between the firewall and dash, Vintage Air recommends an insulation thickness of no more than 1/8".

- 1. Remove the OEM insulation and clean the surface where the new insulation will be installed (See Photo 1, below).
- 2. Install the insulation pieces using spray adhesive and cover the seams using duct tape (See Photo 2, below).



Photo 1



Cover seams using duct tape

Defrost Duct Installation

NOTE: The passenger-side defrost duct has a notch for the OEM wire clip (See Photo 1, below). Refer to Duct Hose Routing, Page 25, as well.

- Locate the driver- and passenger-side defrost ducts. Attach a 12" length of 2 ¹/₂" duct hose to the passenger side-defrost duct and a 26" length of 2 ¹/₂" duct hose to the driver-side defrost duct (See Photo 2, below).
- 2. Install the (2) defrost ducts onto the OEM defrost duct mounting flanges under the dash, then loosely secure them using (2) #8 x 1/2" wide head screws on each duct (See Photos 3, 4 & 5, below). Adjust the defrost duct as needed to capture the defrost opening and to avoid interference with the windshield wiper cables, then tighten the hardware.









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ECU Installation

- 1. Plug the main wiring harness black connector into the ECU module (See Photo 1, below).
- 2. Install the converted/upgrade control panel and trim into the dash using the OEM hardware.
- 3. Plug the control panel connector into the ECU module (See Photo 2, below).
- Apply (2) strips of Velcro and mount the ECU to the right of the radio on the inner dash. NOTE: Make sure the area is clean and free of debris before applying Velcro.



Plug main wiring harness connector into ECU module



Plug control panel wiring connector into ECU module



Defrost Plenum Installation

- 1. Install the driver-side and passenger-side defrost hoses onto the defrost plenum.
- 2. Attach the defrost plenum to the evaporator module using (2) spring clips (See Photos 1 and 2, below).





Spring Clip Installed



Under Dash Louver Installation

 Install the driver and passenger side under dash louvers with the flange facing the dash and kick panel as shown in Figure 1, below. Tuck the kick panel side of the louver flange behind the kick panel windlace retainer, and slide the louver up until the flange is seated against the dash. Secure the louver to the kick panel with (2) #8 x 1/2" pan head screws (See Figure 1, below). NOTE: In most cases, the louvers will fit as described. However, due to dash and kick panel variances, the presence of aftermarket components or modifications, etc., it may be necessary to trim the louver flange and/or slightly move the parking brake lever for proper fit.



NOTE: When installing the heater control valve, make sure the arrow is facing toward the evaporator module (See Figure 1, below). Measurements given for heater hose lengths in the instructions are recommended but may be modified for different applications.

- 1. Cut the upper heater hose at a length of 12" from the firewall. Install the heater control valve using the supplied hose clamp (See Photo 1, below). Take note of the flow direction arrow on the valve.
- 2. Route the other end of the heater control valve heater hose to the intake coolant port and secure it with the supplied hose clamp (See Photo 2, below).





Heater Hose & Heater Control Valve Installation (Cont.)

- **3.** Route the lower heater hardline heater hose on the evaporator module to the water pump coolant port and secure it using the supplied hose clamp (See Photo 3, below).
- **4.** Plug the heater control valve connector into the main wiring harness (See Photo 4, below).



Standard Hose Kit:

- 1. Locate the #6 drier/evaporator A/C hose. Lubricate a #6 O-ring (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 8), and connect the 45° fitting to the drier (See Photo 1, below).
- 2. Locate the #8 condenser/compressor A/C hose. Lubricate (2) #8 O-rings (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 8), and connect the 135° fitting with service port to the #8 discharge port on the compressor (See Photo 2, below). Route and connect the straight fitting to the #8 condenser/compressor hardline (See Photo 3, below). Tighten each fitting connection as shown in Lubricating O-rings, Page 8.
- Locate the #10 compressor/evaporator A/C hose. Lubricate a #10 O-ring (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 8), and connect the 135° fitting with the suction port on the compressor (See Photo 4, below).

Modified Hose Kit:

1. Refer to separate instructions included with modified hose kit.





NOTE: The following connections are critical to the performance of the system. Before making connections, refer to the Quality Crimp Guidelines, Page 26.

1. Reinstall the battery tray and battery (See Photos 1 and 2, below).

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- Route the blue lead from the main wiring harness along the #6 A/C hose and connect it to the safety switch (See Photo 3, below).
- **3.** Connect the compressor lead bullet connector to compressor lead then route it along the #8 A/C hose and connect it to the safety switch (See Photo 4, below).
- 4. Route power and ground wires toward the battery (See Photo 5, below).
- **5.** Install the supplied heat shrink over the 12 AWG orange standard fuse holder assembly wire and crimp it to the 12 AWG orange wire from the main wiring harness (See Photo 6, below). Slide the heat shrink over the crimp, then apply heat.
- 6. Install the supplied heat shrink over the 16 AWG black mini fuse holder assembly wire and crimp it to the 16 AWG red wire from the main wiring harness (See Photo 7, below). Slide the heat shrink over the crimp, then apply heat.





Engine Compartment Wiring (Cont.)

7. Install the fuses into the holders (See Photos 8 and 9, below).

8. Install the supplied heat shrink over the white ground wires, then crimp on the supplied ring terminals (See Photos 10 and 11, below). Slide the heat shrink over the crimps, then apply heat. NOTE: Both white wires can be crimped to the larger ring terminal. Install the heat shrink, then strip the wires, twist them together and trim to length. Crimp on the ring terminal, then slide the heat shrink over and apply heat (See Photos 12 and 13, below).





Drain Hose Installation

1. Locate the evaporator drain on the bottom of the evaporator sub case.

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- Inline with the drain, lightly scribe a mark on the firewall. Measure down 1" and drill a 5/8" hole through the firewall (See Figure 1, below).
- **3.** Insert the drain hose through the previously drilled 5/8" hole, then attach it to the evaporator drain (See Photo 1, below). **NOTE: If the hole is covered by carpet, a 5/8" hole will need to be cut into the carpet as well.**





Final Steps: Installation Check

		Installation Check
ITE	ITEM TO CHECK	Procedure
	ECU	If no blinking is observed after 1 minute of turning the ignition on, go to the next check. If repetetive blinking is observed, go to the <u>Advanced Diagnostics</u> Section to diagnose.
	Blower speed control	Set the blower speed control to OFF, confirm that the blower is off. Blower speed control Position the blower speed control to LOW then MEDIUM and then HIGH. At each setting confirm that the blower speed increases, do this by feeling for the amount of air coming from the unit and hearing the blower speed increase.
	Mode control	Set the MODE control to the DASH position. <u>Confirm that air is being blown at the dash vents.</u> Set the MODE control to the FLOOR position. <u>Confirm that air is being blown at the floor vents.</u> Set the MODE control to the DEFROST position. <u>Confirm that all air is being blown from the defrost vents</u>
	Temperature control	If heater lines are installed: Set the MODE control to the DASH position. Set the TEMP control to the MAX HEAT position. <u>Confirm that HOT</u> air is coming from the dash vents. If evetem is charged.
		Set the TEMP control to the MAX COOL position. <i>Confirm that <u>COLD</u> air is coming from the dash vents.</i> Also <i>confirm that the compressor "clicks" on</i> when adjusting the TEMP control from the MAX HEAT position to the MAX COOL position.
	AC Indicator (If applicable)	While the MODE control is set to the DASH position, and the TEMP control is set to the MAX COOL/MIN HEAT position, <i>confirm that the blue AC Indicator light is on</i> .
	Backlight (If applicable)	lf your control panel has backlight capabilities and has been wired, turn the dash lamp on and <i>confirm that the AC</i> <i>panel's legend is li</i> t .
	Fittings	Verify AC and Heater fittings are all tight.



^{6.} Charge the system to the capacities stated on Page 4 of this instruction manual.



Duct Hose Routing

Photo 1

NOTE: For the system to function optimally, the duct hoses must be routed as directly as possible, taking care to avoid kinks, sharp bends and unnecessary length. Vintage Air supplies duct hoses in continuous lengths that will need to be cut to size depending on application. Before cutting, familiarize yourself with the installation instructions and verify the routing will work with your application. For custom hose routing, additional hose may be needed and can be purchased from

1. Stretch the duct hose until there is no slack, measure, mark and cut hose to size (See Photo 1, below).

NOTE: ECU must be placed away from water and humidity, and also be accessible for servicing. If relocating, connectors must be positioned towards the bottom.

Position connectors towards bottom

Figure 1





Gen 5 Wiring Diagram



*** Install fuse assemblies at or as near to the battery as possible.





Operation of Controls (Standard Control)

On Gen IV or Gen 5 systems with three lever/knob controls, the temperature control toggles between heat and A/C operations. To activate A/C, move the temperature lever/knob all the way to cold and then back it off to the desired vent temperature. For heat operation, move the temperature lever/knob all the way to hot and then adjust to the desired vent temperature. The blower will momentarily change speed, each time you toggle in and out of heat and A/C operations, to indicate the change. **NOTE: For proper control panel function, refer to Control Panel Kit instructions.**





Operation of Controls (Deluxe Control)

On Gen IV and Gen 5 systems with three lever/knob controls, the temperature control toggles between heat and A/C operations. To activate A/C, move the temperature lever/knob all the way to cold and then back it off to the desired vent temperature. For heat operation, move the temperature lever/knob all the way to hot and then adjust to the desired vent temperature. The blower will momentarily change speed, each time you toggle in and out of heat and A/C operations, to indicate the change. **NOTE: For proper control panel function, refer to Control Panel kit instruction for calibration procedure.**



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Troubleshooting Guide

This printed troubleshooting guide is our basic guide that covers common installation problems. To see our advanced diagnostics and troubleshooting guide, please refer to the following page for instructions on how to download the complete guide.

Symptom	Condition	Checks	Actions	Notes
	No other functions work.	Check for damaged pins or Wires in the control panel wire assembly and mating header	If found damaged, replace wire assembly or ECU.	
Blower stays on high speed with innition on				
	All other functions work.	or damaged pins or the control panel wire of and mating header	If found damaged, replace wire assembly or ECU.	If fuse continues to blow,
	, /	The current of the cu	→ Replace fuse.	there is a serious problem in the wiring. Check all wiring and ensure the wire is not
		for a bad ECU GND.	→ Repair connection.	damaged and shorting out along its route.
6	System is not charged.	System must be charged for compressor to engage.	→ Charge system.	Danger: Never bypass safety switch with engine running. Serious injury can result.
Compressor will not turn on (All other functions work).	σ	Check for faulty A/C potentiometer or associated wiring (not applicable to 3-pot controls).	Check continuity to ground on white control head wire.	To check for proper pot function, check voltage at white/red wire. Voltage should be between 0V and 5V, and will varv with por
	System is charged.	Check for disconnected or faulty thermistor.	→ Check 2-pin connector at ECU housing.	Elever position. Disconnected or faulty thermistor will cause compressor to be disabled.
3. Compressor will not turn off (All other functions		 Check for faulty A/C ▶ potentiometer or associated wiring. 	▲ Repair or replace pot/control wiring.	Red wire at A/C pot should have approximately 5V with ignition on. White wire will have continuity to chassis ground. White/
work).		→ Check for faulty A/C relay.	→ Replace relav.	between OV and 5V when

www.vintageair.com Symptom C	air.com Condition	Checks	Actions Actions Notes	
4	Works when engine is not running; shuts off when engine is started	Noise interference from either ignition or alternator.	Install capacitors on ignition coil and alternator. Ensure good ground at all points. Relocate coil and associated wiring away from ECU and ECU wiring. Check for burned or loose plug wires.	Ignition noise (radiated or conducted) will cause the system to shut down due to high voltage spikes. If this is suspected, check with a
System will not turn on, or runs intermittently.		Verify connections on power lead, ignition lead, and both white ground wires.	Check for power at ECU, and confirm ignition is being applied to ECU properly.	quality oscilloscope. Spikes greater than 16V will shut down the ECU. Install a radio capacitor at the positive post of the ignition
	Will not turn on under any conditions.	Verify battery voltage is greater than 10 volts and less than 16 while engine is running.	✓ Verify proper meter function by checking the condition of a known good battery.	installation bulletin). A faulty alternator or worn out battery can also result in this condition.
5. Loss of mode door function.	→No mode change at all.	Check for damaged mode switch or potentiometer and associated wiring.		
6. Blower turns on and off rapidly.	Battery voltage is at least 12V. Battery voltage is less than 12V.	Check for at least 12V at circuit breaker. Check for faulty battery or alternator.	Ensure all system grounds and power connections are clean and tight.	System shuts off blower at 10V. Poor connections or weak battery can cause shutdown at up to 11V.
7. Erratic functions of blower, mode, temp, etc.	s of	Check for damaged switch or pot and associated wiring.	r → Repair or replace.	
	Ac	Advanced Diag	Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide	ting Guide
If after refere resolved, mo Guide that cc	If after referencing the Troubleshooting Guide, the issue is not resolved, move to The Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide that covers the following:	Guide, the issue is not ostics and Troubleshooting	Access the latest version of the Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide by scanning the following OR code on your mobile device:	gnostics and ng QR code on your
ECU Dia 1. ECU BI 2. Firmw 3. ECU M 4. ECU St	ECU Diagnostics Codes 1. ECU Blink Sequence 2. Firmware Version Number 3. ECU Model Number 4. ECU Start-Up Blink Sequence			
5. DiagnuComplet	5. Diagnostic Codes Complete Advanced Troubleshooting Guideli	oting Guidelines	You can also access the guide by typing the following address into your web browser: https://www.vintagaair.com/instructions_pdf/905000.pdf	llowing address into

