

## Decoding Ford Part Numbers

by Tracy Harrell

C9ZZ-6B633-A wouldn't mean much to someone who didn't understand Ford part numbers, but to a Boss 302 enthusiast it reads "1969 Boss 302 Upper Oil Cooler Bracket." Like most other Ford part numbers, this part number breaks down as follows:

**GROUP 1** — The first four alphanumeric characters in the part number show original release date of the part, which Ford car line it was intended for, and where the part is warehoused. The first character is the code for the decade in which the part was first released (B=1950, C=1960, D=1970, etc.). The second character indicates the year within the decade that the part was released. The C9 in the oil cooler bracket part number means the part was released in 1969. The third character represents the Ford Motor Company car line for which the part was originally intended. These codes are:

- A — Full sized Galaxie
- F — Pinto, Maverick, Falcon
- L — Lincoln
- M — Mercury
- O — Fairlane
- R — Capri
- S — Thunderbird
- T — Truck
- V — Lincoln
- Z — Mustang
- 2 — Formula Ford (1.6 and 2.0 Litre Dellorto)

The last character in the group is a code Ford dealers use to indicate where parts are warehoused. An X in this position indicates the part was included in the "Muscle Parts" program, and is no longer available.

**GROUP 2** — This part number group usually consists of four numbers, but can contain both numbers and letters, and may be up to six characters long. Group 2 designates the general type of the part or component, such as an intake manifold, push rod, or oil cooler bracket. In most Ford parts catalogs, the Group 2 code is used to identify the part in diagrams. On parts that are right or left handed the last digit of Group 2

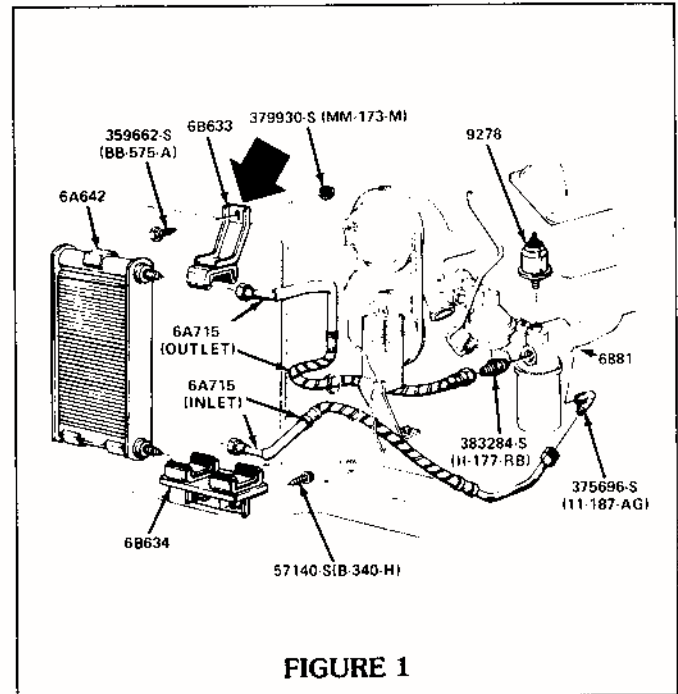


FIGURE 1

## C9ZZ - 6B633 - A

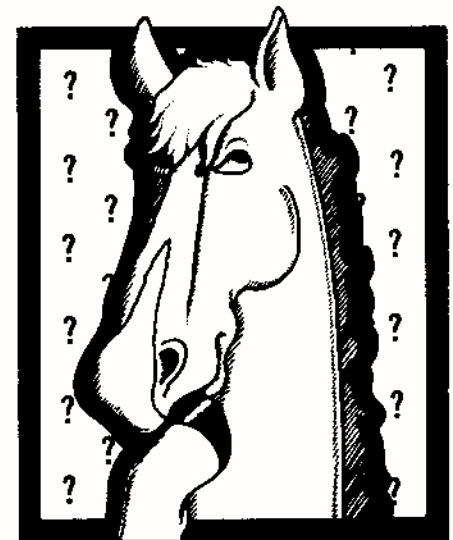
Group 1    Group 2    Suffix

will be even for a right hand part and odd for a left hand part.

**SUFFIX** — This single character code at the end of the part number is an alphabetical character designating the engineering revision of the original design. A suffix B would indicate the second revision, a G would indicate the seventh, etc.

**FIGURE 1** shows the upper oil cooler bracket just decoded. Notice that the Group 1 codes and the Suffix have been deleted in the Ford parts catalog illustration. The part is identified by its Group 2 code number (6B633). The entire part number would be necessary when ordering the part from Ford. Also, in **FIGURE 1** only parts manufactured by Ford are given these parts codes, while common parts such as screws and tubing fittings are numbered differently.

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