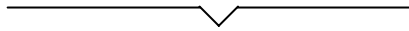# REPAIRING A PAINT CHIP

By Brad Bean

From time to time even the most careful Corvette enthusiast experiences an occasional paint chip. Usually caused by a flying stone (or even a big bug!) they normally occur on the hood, front fender or rocker panel. If you want to fix this and your car's finish is not clear-coat, you have a do-it-yourself alternative to a paint & body shop.

Materials

- ✓ Touch-up paint (lacquer)
- ✓ Touch-up paint brush
- ✓ 1500 to 2000 grit wet-dry sand paper
- ✓ Rubbing compound
- ✓ "3-M Finesse-it II" finishing glaze
- ✓ Cotton buffing cloth
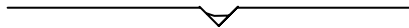- ✓ Small bucket or bowl of clean water

Remove wax from the chip area using diluted rubbing compound and cotton cloth. Wash away excess compound with clean water. (Fig. #1)

Figure # 1

Shake the touch-up paint bottle until well mixed. Using the touch-up brush place a small dab of paint in the chip. Allow 20 to 30 minutes to dry. (Fig. #2)
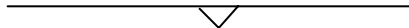
Figure # 2

Repeat paint dabbing process until a hard paint bubble covers the entire chip. (Fig. #3)

Figure # 3

Once the bubble is hard enough to sand, use wet sandpaper to remove excess touch-up paint by sanding until the surface is level (Fig. #4), rinsing the sandpaper occasionally. Use caution to sand evenly so a valley does not develop and not to sand below the original surface into the chip. Wipe away residue with cloth and clean water.

Figure # 4

Use rubbing compound to remove sanding scratches. Finish with "3-M Finesse-it II" (or other) finishing glaze. Apply your regular wax to area and buff to a shine.

It is now ready to drive away, and unless you point it out no one will notice your handy work.