

351 Cleveland Specs

351 Cleveland Specs The **351 Cleveland** engine has long been revered among muscle car enthusiasts, restorers, and performance tuners alike. Introduced by Ford in the late 1960s, this engine became a symbol of power, versatility, and engineering innovation. Whether you're restoring a classic Mustang, Falcon, or building a high-performance engine for drag racing or street use, understanding the detailed specifications of the 351 Cleveland is crucial. This comprehensive guide explores the engine's specs, design features, variants, and performance capabilities to help enthusiasts grasp what makes the 351 Cleveland a legendary V8 powerhouse.

Introduction to the 351 Cleveland

The 351 Cleveland was produced by Ford from 1970 to 1974 as part of the Ford small-block V8 engine lineup. It was designed to replace the earlier 351 Windsor and to compete more effectively with Chrysler and GM offerings at that time. The Cleveland series was notable for its unique features, including a large port cylinder head design, higher compression ratios, and an innovative combustion chamber layout that contributed to impressive power output and efficiency. The engine quickly gained popularity for its potential in high-performance applications, especially in muscle cars like the Ford Mustang, Torino, and various Fairlane models. Its distinctive cylinder head design and robust construction made it a favorite among tuners and racers.

Core Specifications of the 351 Cleveland

Understanding the core specifications of the 351 Cleveland provides insight into its performance capabilities and engineering design.

Basic Engine Dimensions and Configuration

- Engine Type: V8, Small Block Ford - Displacement: 351 cubic inches (5.8 liters) - Production Years: 1970–1974 - Block Material: Cast iron - Cylinder Configuration: Inline, 8 cylinders - Valvetrain: Overhead valve (OHV), 2 valves per cylinder - Bore x Stroke: Varies by year and variant - Compression Ratio: Ranges from 8.0:1 to 11.0:1 (depending on the model and application)

Standard Power Output

- Horsepower: Ranges from approximately 250 to 300+ HP - Torque: Ranges from 330 to 380+ lb-ft

Detailed Technical Specifications

Displacement and Bore/Stroke Dimensions

The 351 Cleveland is known for its larger port cylinder heads and specific bore and stroke measurements: - Bore: 4.00 inches (101.6 mm) - Stroke: 3.50 inches (88.9 mm) - Displacement: 351 cubic inches, calculated as:
$$\left[\text{Displacement} \right] = \text{Number of cylinders} \times \text{Bore}^2 \times \frac{\pi}{4} \times \text{Stroke}$$
 The large bore contributes significantly to the engine's airflow capacity, a key factor in its high performance potential.

Compression Ratios

The 351 Cleveland was designed with higher compression ratios compared to its Windsor counterpart: - Standard Compression Ratios: - Early models: 8.0:1 (factory, street-friendly) - High-performance variants: up to 11.0:1 (for racing or premium fuel) Higher compression ratios generally equate to increased power and efficiency, but require high-octane fuel for optimal performance.

Valvetrain and Cylinder Head Design

One of the defining features of the 351 Cleveland is its cylinder head architecture: - Cylinder Heads: Large port design, aluminum or cast iron (depending on the model) - Valves: 2 valves per cylinder - Valve Size: Intake valves up to 2.19 inches, exhaust valves approximately 1.71 inches - Camshaft: Hydraulic or solid lifters, with durations and lift optimized for performance applications This head design improved airflow significantly over earlier engines, allowing more fuel and air into the combustion chamber.

Fuel System and Carburetion

The 351 Cleveland was equipped with various carburetors depending on the specific model and year: - Standard Carburetors: - 2V (two-barrel) versions with around 600 CFM - 4V (four-barrel) versions with up to 750 CFM for high-performance variants Fuel delivery was crucial for maximizing

power output, especially in the high-performance models.

Intake and Exhaust

- Intake Manifold: Dual-plane designs common in street applications; high-rise versions for racing - Exhaust System: Dual exhausts with tuned headers optimized for performance

Performance Variants and Their Specifications

Ford produced several variants of the 351 Cleveland, each tailored for specific applications, with differences in power output, compression, and internal components.

Standard 351 Cleveland (1970–1974)

- Power: Approximately 250–300 HP - Torque: 330–370 lb-ft - Compression Ratio: 8.0–9.0:1 - Application: Base models in Mustangs, Torino, Fairlane

High-Performance 351 Cleveland (1970–1974)

- Power: Up to 300+ HP - Torque: 380+ lb-ft - Compression Ratio: 10.5–11.0:1 - Features: Larger valves, high-rise intake manifolds, better cam profiles

Boss 351 Variant

While the Boss 351 (a special high-performance version) was based on the Cleveland block, it had notable differences: - Displacement: 3.5 inches bore with a 4.00-inch stroke - Power: Approximately 330 HP - Features: Special aluminum cylinder heads, forged internals, and aggressive cam profiles

Performance Capabilities and Tuning Potential

The 351 Cleveland remains a favorite in the hot-rodding community due to its robust construction and high-performance potential.

Horsepower and Torque

- Stock versions produce between 250-300 HP - With aftermarket modifications, such as performance camshafts, larger valves, ported heads, and forced induction, power can be significantly increased, often exceeding 400 HP in custom builds

Common Upgrades and Tuning Tips

1. Cylinder Head Porting: Improves airflow and power 2. Camshaft Selection: High-lift, duration-optimized profiles 3. Intake and Exhaust: Aftermarket manifolds and headers 4. Compression Ratio: Upgrading pistons for higher compression 5. Fuel System: Larger carburetors and fuel pumps 6. Forced Induction: Superchargers or turbochargers for substantial gains

Performance Benchmarks

- Restored and heavily modified Cleveland engines have been known to produce over 500 horsepower - Torque figures exceeding 400 lb-ft are achievable with proper tuning

Legacy and Significance of the 351 Cleveland

The 351 Cleveland's engineering innovations, such as its large port heads and high compression ratios, set the stage for the future of Ford performance engines. Its popularity endures among collectors and racers, thanks to its versatility and robust design. Key Points: - It remains a popular choice for engine swaps and custom builds. - Its parts are widely available, and aftermarket support is extensive. - The engine's distinctive sound and performance characteristics make it a sought-after muscle car icon.

Conclusion

Understanding the **351 Cleveland specs** is essential for enthusiasts looking to restore, modify, or simply appreciate this legendary Ford V8 engine. From its impressive bore and stroke dimensions to its high-performance variants, the Cleveland series embodies Ford's commitment to power, innovation, and engineering excellence during its production era. Whether you're aiming for a nostalgic restoration or building a powerhouse for racing,

knowing the detailed specs ensures your project begins on a solid foundation, unlocking the full potential of this iconic engine. Keywords: 351 Cleveland specs, Ford 351 Cleveland engine, 351 Cleveland horsepower, 351 Cleveland bore and stroke, Cleveland engine variants, Ford V8 performance, muscle car engine specs, high-performance Ford engines

351 Cleveland Specs: An In-Depth Exploration of an Automotive Legend The 351 Cleveland engine stands as one of the most iconic and revered powerplants in American automotive history. Known for its robust performance, distinctive design, and versatility, the 351 Cleveland has earned a dedicated following among car enthusiasts, restorers, and muscle car aficionados alike. In this comprehensive review, we will delve into every facet of the 351 Cleveland, from its technical specifications and design features to its performance characteristics and legacy.

Introduction to the 351 Cleveland

The 351 Cleveland was introduced by Ford Motor Company in 1970 as part of their second-generation "Cleveland" series engines. It was crafted to succeed the earlier 351 Windsor and to compete with other high-performance engines of its era. The Cleveland name refers to the Cleveland Engine Plant where it was manufactured, and it is distinguished by its large-port cylinder heads and high-performance potential. This engine was primarily used in Ford's full-size cars, muscle cars, and trucks during the early to mid-1970s. Its reputation for durability and power has cemented its place in automotive history, making it a sought-after engine for custom builds and restorations.

Basic Specifications of the 351 Cleveland

A clear understanding of the 351 Cleveland begins with its core specifications: - Engine Type: V8, OHV (Overhead Valve) pushrod design - Displacement: 351 cubic inches (5.8 liters) - Configuration: Tall-deck engine with a 90-degree V-block - Bore x Stroke: 4.00 inches x 3.50 inches - Compression Ratio: Ranged typically from 8.0:1 to 10.7:1, depending on the application and year - Fuel System: Carbureted, with variations including 4-barrel versions - Fuel Type: Gasoline - Power Output: Ranged from approximately 250 to 300 horsepower, with some high-performance versions exceeding 330 hp - Torque: Between 350 to 370 lb-ft, depending on configuration - Cooling System: Water-cooled - Block Material: Cast iron - Head Material: Cast iron, with large-port design - Intake Manifold: Dual-plane or single-plane configurations, depending on application

Design and Engineering Features

Block and Deck Construction

The 351 Cleveland features a tall-deck design, which provides increased deck height compared to the Windsor series. This design allows for longer connecting rods and improved piston stroke, contributing to better torque characteristics. The cast iron block is renowned for its durability and ability to withstand high performance and abusive driving conditions. The engine's bore spacing is approximately 4.38 inches, which is standard for big-block Ford engines, allowing for sturdy cylinder walls and efficient cooling.

Cylinder Heads

One of the defining characteristics of the 351 Cleveland is its large-port cylinder heads. These heads are designed with:

- Large Intake Ports: Facilitating higher airflow and increased horsepower potential
- High-Flow Exhaust Ports: Contributing to improved exhaust scavenging and performance
- Cast Iron Construction: Ensuring durability
- Valve Sizes: Typically 2.06 inches intake and 1.60 inches exhaust valves, enabling substantial airflow
- Valve Timing and Port Design: Optimized for performance applications, especially in high-rpm ranges

The large ports and efficient combustion chamber design make the Cleveland heads a favorite among engine builders aiming for high airflow and power.

Camshaft and Valvetrain

The stock camshaft varied across models but generally included:

- Duration: Ranging from 270° to 290° at 0.050-inch lift
- Lift: 0.450 to 0.500 inches
- Lobe Separation: Around 112° to 114°

Performance-oriented builds often upgrade the cam to increase duration and lift, enhancing high-rpm horsepower. The valvetrain employs hydraulic lifters, rockers, and pushrods, with the Ford small-block design being widely compatible with aftermarket components.

Intake and Exhaust

The intake manifold is typically a dual-plane design for street applications, balancing airflow and torque. High-performance builds might opt for single-plane manifolds for maximum high-rpm power. Exhaust headers or manifolds are designed to complement the large-port heads, with aftermarket

options providing better flow and performance.

Performance Characteristics

Horsepower and Torque

The 351 Cleveland's output varies based on year, modifications, and configuration: - Stock configurations: Around 250-285 hp and 350-370 lb-ft of torque - High-performance builds: Over 330 hp, with some racing setups exceeding 400 hp The engine excels in torque delivery, especially in the mid-range rpm, making it ideal for muscle cars, street rods, and trucks.

Powerband and RPM Range

Designed for performance, the Cleveland's powerband typically peaks between 4,000 and 6,000 rpm. This makes it suitable for aggressive driving and high-speed applications. The tall deck and large ports enable sustained high-rpm operation, which is why it is favored in racing and high-performance street builds.

Applications and Vehicle Compatibility

The 351 Cleveland was used in various Ford vehicles, including: - Ford Mustang: Especially in the Boss 351 and early Mach 1 models - Ford Torino and Cyclone: Popular in muscle car variants - Ford Fairlane and LTD: In full-size models - Ford trucks: For increased towing and hauling capacity - Special Editions: Such as the 1970 Boss 351 Its versatility meant that it was a favorite among enthusiasts looking for a reliable yet high-performance engine.

Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

- High-performance potential: Especially when paired with aftermarket heads and cams - Durability: Cast iron construction ensures longevity - Torque-rich output: Excellent for street performance and towing - Large-port heads: Favorable for high airflow and power - Aftermarket support: Extensive parts availability for rebuilding and customizing

Weaknesses

- Weight: Heavier than small-block counterparts, affecting handling and fuel economy - Complexity in maintenance: Tall-deck design can complicate certain repairs - Limited OEM upgrades: As emissions regulations and fuel economy took precedence, factory support declined - Potential for overheating: Large ports and high-performance builds require efficient cooling solutions

Performance Upgrades and Modifications

Many enthusiasts maximize the 351 Cleveland's potential through: - Cylinder head porting and polishing - Installing larger valves and aftermarket heads - Upgrading camshafts for higher lift and duration - Implementing high-flow intake manifolds - Installing performance carburetors (600-750 CFM) - Upgrading ignition systems for more reliable spark - Using high-performance pistons and connecting rods for higher compression These modifications can push the engine well beyond its stock output, making it a formidable choice for street and racing applications.

Legacy and Collectibility

The 351 Cleveland holds a special place in muscle car history. Its distinctive large-port heads and high-performance potential have made it a sought-after engine for restorations and custom builds. Vehicles equipped with the Cleveland engine are often considered more desirable than their Windsor counterparts due to the head design and performance capabilities. Collectors value original and well-maintained 351 Cleveland engines, especially those found in iconic models like the Boss 351 Mustang. Its legacy continues through aftermarket support, racing history, and the passion of the automotive community.

Conclusion

The 351 Cleveland is more than just an engine; it is a symbol of American muscle and performance engineering. Its robust design, large-port cylinder heads, and impressive power output make it a standout choice for enthusiasts seeking a blend of durability and high-performance potential. While it may require careful maintenance and upgrades to reach its full potential, the 351 Cleveland remains a testament to Ford's engineering prowess during the muscle car era. Whether you're restoring an original muscle car, building a high-performance street rod, or simply appreciating automotive history, understanding the specifications and intricacies of the 351 Cleveland is essential. Its legacy endures as one of Ford's most revered V8 engines, promising power, reliability, and a deep connection to the golden age of American muscle cars.

Questions & Answers About 351 cleveland specs

No	Question	Answer
1	What are the key specifications of the 351 Cleveland engine?	The 351 Cleveland features a 4V head design, a displacement of 351 cubic inches, a bore of 4.000 inches, and a stroke of 3.5 inches. It typically produces between 300 to 340 horsepower depending on the setup.
2	What are the differences between the 351 Cleveland and other 351 Ford engines?	The 351 Cleveland is distinguished by its 4V (four-barrel) intake ports, larger combustion chambers, and unique head design compared to the 351 Windsor and other variants, offering higher performance potential.
3	What years was the 351 Cleveland engine produced?	The 351 Cleveland was produced from 1970 to 1974, primarily used in Ford Mustang, Torino, and other Ford models during that period.
4	What are common performance upgrades for the 351 Cleveland?	Popular upgrades include installing high-performance camshafts, porting and polishing the cylinder heads, upgrading intake manifolds, and improving carburetion to increase horsepower and torque.
5	What is the maximum horsepower output of the stock 351 Cleveland?	Stock 351 Cleveland engines typically produced around 285 to 330 horsepower, depending on the specific model and year.
6	Are parts for the 351 Cleveland still readily available?	Yes, aftermarket parts and rebuild kits for the 351 Cleveland are available through specialty suppliers, and many enthusiasts source parts from the Ford muscle car community.

7	What vehicles originally came with the 351 Cleveland engine?	The 351 Cleveland was originally installed in models such as the Ford Mustang, Mercury Montego, Torino, and Cyclone from 1970 to 1974.
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