

FLOWMASTER™

AMERICAN THUNDER™

SYSTEM #17358

1998-02 CHEVROLET CAMARO/PONTIAC FIREBIRD

3.8L V-6 ENGINE

March 25, 2002

Removal:

- 1) Raise the rear of the vehicle and support with jack stands.
- 2) Using a hacksaw or sawzall, cut the inlet pipe off where it enters the muffler case. Then separate the hanger rod on the left tailpipe from its rubber hanger mount. This will allow you to remove the entire muffler tailpipe assembly.
- 3) The rear panhard bar must rotated down to allow the over axle pipe to be removed. The bar runs above and parallel to the rear end housing. There are three bolts that secure it to the unibody which must be removed. There are also two small sheet metal screws which fasten the bar to a heat shield that need to be removed. Once these are removed, pull the bar down as far as you can. (Keep all of the bolts because you will need to put them back)
- 3) Using a prybar, separate the metal hanger rod from the rubber mount at the rear of the over axle pipe.
- 4) Loosen the band clamp on the front pipe to cat connection. There is a square hole in the cross brace that allows you to reach it with a 15mm deep socket and extension. Once loose, the pipe can be slid back off of the cat pipe. If you are working on a rack, you will be able to now swing the whole pipe down and negotiate it out from over the axle. If you are working on the ground you will need to cut the pipe off before it goes over the axle in order to get it out.

Installation:

- 1) Place the 2-1/4" ring clamp over the end of the resonator pipe, then install the resonator assembly #15128 in position behind the catalytic converter. Tighten the clamp just enough to hold in place but still allow for adjustment.
- 2) Negotiate the over axle pipe #16384 up over the rear end. Install one of the 2-1/2" clamps over the front of the pipe, then slip the pipe over the resonator outlet. Connect the hanger rod at the back end of the pipe with the rubber mount on the vehicle.

17358 installation (cont.)

- 3) The rear panhard bar should now be pushed back up and bolted back into place. The heat shield should also be fastened back onto the bar.
- 4) Place the three remaining 2-1/2" ring clamps onto the muffler necks, and tighten them down just enough to hold them in place.
- 5) Lift the muffler into position, and slide the neck marked "INLET" onto the over axle pipe. Use a stand of some sort to temporarily support the muffler.
- 6) Install the left tailpipe #16386 by sliding the hanger into the factory rubber mount, then insert the pipe into the muffler outlet.
- 7) Install the right tailpipe # 16385 by sliding the pipe into the muffler outlet.
- 8) Adjust the position of the pipes and the muffler to provide a satisfactory fit. Now all the clamps can be tightened down securely. Try to keep at least 3/4" clearance around all parts of the system to avoid any rattles. Also keep suspension travel in mind.

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 (3.8L V-6 ENGINES)*

PACKING LIST

QTY.	PART#	DESCRIPTION
1	15128	RESONATOR
1	16384	OVER AXLE PIPE
1	52583	MUFFLER
1	16385	RIGHT TAILPIPE
1	16386	LEFT TAILPIPE
1	PK396	PARTS KIT
1	MC214R	2-1/4" RING CLAMP
4	MC250R	2-1/2" RING CLAMP

