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## **C6 Power Top Trunk Partition Retainer Failure**

About 10 of us Corvette owners recently complete a road trip out to San Diego to attend the 37th Annual Plastic Fantastic all Corvette car show. This is a premier Corvette event (their 40th year) located on the grass at Embarcadero Marina Park North, right next to Seaport Village. It turned out to be a record year for Corvettes at the show, ~373 I was told as we were leaving, almost reaching 400 total registered cars. The weather started out overcast but quickly cleared up and turned into a beautiful day.

Now driving around San Diego this time a year is clearly convertible-top down weather, and given temperatures were hitting 100+ here in the valley I was certainly looking forward to that opportunity in the '08. But wouldn't you know it – now would be the time the trunk partition retainer button decides to fail and will no longer stay in place to close the micro-switch that allows the power-top to operate. I managed to get it to stay in place long enough to get the top up and down a couple of times, but it needed a more permanent fix which I would look into when I got home.

I certainly didn't want to buy a complete partition, and it wasn't clear from any web searches if you could fix/buy new retainers. As it turns out, the retainers on these partitions are used in many other GM vehicles (floor mats, carpet, etc). You can buy a set (four) of them, the GM part number 19167704. Cost is reasonable at around \$12. I look to purchase a set to have on hand just in case.

But if you don't want to buy anything just yet, there are four retainers on the partition, and they come off by carefully prying them apart (I used a small pry bar, but a large flat-head screwdriver works just as well). You can swap the left and right sides (like I did), or you can swap with one of the retainers along the bottom of the partition (the right side only – left side is a different type). In doing this, you ensure the retainer on the right side (where the micro switch is) fits well and won't cause a problem when you raise and lower the top).

You can also somewhat repair the retainer. I say somewhat as it doesn't quite fit as snugly as it did originally. The failure of the retainer is caused by the plastic center ring cracking, and it will start to separate when you push it on the male clip and it won't stay on. If you have some 16-gauge solid wire handy, strip off ~2in of it and wrap it in the groove around the retainer.



This helps keep the center plastic ring from spreading, and thus helps the retainer stay put. It won't be as tight as a non-cracked retainer, but it is much better than a cracked one.

Cheers!  
Garry