



## **Corsa Pace Car Edition Exhaust System Review**

The C5 Corvette is built with an exhaust system designed to meet a number of conflicting criteria. It must flow well enough not to unduly limit the engine's performance and it must sound strong without being too loud or aggressive. In short, it must appeal to the widest possible audience, pleasing most and offending a few.

The end result is an exhaust note that is polite and politically correct. If you're looking for better sound and greater performance, an aftermarket exhaust system is the way to go. The single greatest gain will be in the way your Corvette sounds.

There are performance gains to be had but due to the excellent design of the stock exhaust system, performance gains are limited to less than ten horsepower under ideal intake/exhaust conditions.



Of the many systems available, we tested one of the most popular. The Corsa Power-Pulse Indy 500 Pace Car exhaust system is the same one used by Chevrolet on all of its Corvette based pace cars (Indy 500, Rolex 24 hours, and Le Mans). As a supplier to Chevrolet, one expects OEM quality construction, design and materials and the Corsa Power-Pulse does not disappoint.

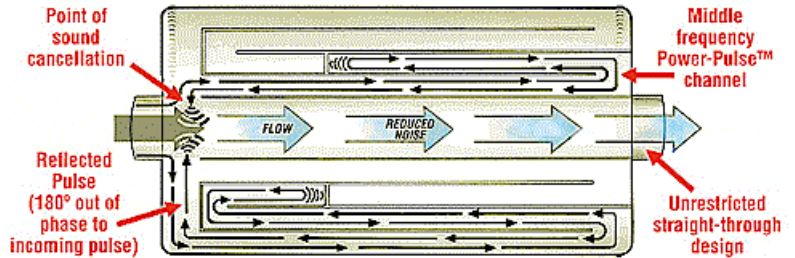


Corsa offers two Power-Pulse systems for the C5, the Pace Car Edition and Touring Edition. The Touring Edition delivers better sound and an exotic note while still remaining tame by aftermarket standards. On the other hand, the Pace Car Edition reviewed here delivers a more aggressive sound without becoming obnoxious. The Pace Car Edition sounds like a motorboat at idle, a smooth and sweet big block at speed, an all out aggressive roar at wide open throttle, and a racing snap-crackle-pop burble under backpressure. Both systems eliminate the annoying 1500-2200 rpm interior resonance found with many aftermarket systems. In addition, both systems feature 2.5" mandrel bent pipes, 100% stainless steel construction, and a lifetime warranty, good until you sell you Corvette. All Corsa Power-Pulse systems are fifty state legal for smog and noise. The systems are offered with a number of different finishes and exhaust tip choices. Corsa claims a 45% improvement in flow over the factory system but as we mentioned before, don't expect a miracle.





What sets the Power-Pulse systems apart from the competition is Corsa's patented RSC (Reflective Sound Cancellation) technology. You may have heard of active noise cancellation or used Bose noise canceling headsets on an aircraft. RSC uses a similar concept except the system is passive. The internal design of the muffler creates sound waves 180 degrees out of phase with the exhaust noise. This design cancels unwanted frequency's and let's through the desirable exhaust notes. In addition, the gas path through the muffler is straight through (like a glass pack) with no restrictive baffles.



Our Pace Car Edition exhaust was purchased anonymously from a performance vendor and can be considered a random sample of this product. It arrived via UPS, professionally wrapped and packed. Corsa's packing looks specifically designed to survive a trip with UPS. The exterior cardboard is very thick. The pipes and mufflers were wrapped in plastic with form fitting cushions and special protectors for the exhaust tips. Judging from our unit, your's has an excellent chance of arriving in tip top condition.

The first thing we noticed (after getting over the great packing job) was the apparent quality of the product. Our exhaust was standard silver with polished mufflers and standard tips. The fit and finish on all items was excellent. The bends are all mandrel bent and smooth. The mufflers are perfectly welded and finished with no rough edges or visible defects. Corsa includes everything needed for installation (well, except tools) including clamps, gaskets and anti-seize compound. The instructions are well written and complete.

Whether you have the system installed or do it yourself, once it's in you'll notice immediately how much better the back of the car looks. The factory black tips just don't do anything for the looks of the car. The Corsa tips are polished, big and just look great. This is the way the car should have come from the factory. Turn the key and you might think you have a different car. As we mentioned before, the character of the exhaust note is completely different than stock. At idle, it sounds like a big block motorboat. At mild acceleration and cruising, it sounds just like a V8 sports car should, powerful and deep. While you're cruising, you'll find that Corsa isn't lying about the lack of interior resonance. The inside noise level is similar to stock except you can now hear the pleasant note of the exhaust coming through the windows. Interior resonance is a serious problem on many aftermarket systems (for the Corvette and other cars) and Corsa's achievement in eliminating it is no small feat. For many people, it can mean the difference between loving and hating their new exhaust system.





You might be wondering, is that all? Not by a long shot. Put your foot down and you'll discover what Corsa means by "Aggressive sound"! The Pace Car Edition sounds like a wild animal at wide open throttle. It's a combination of drag racer thunder, stock car power and C5-R gusto. But wait, it's not over yet. Let off the throttle in gear (and to a lesser extent in neutral) and the Corsa Pace Car system presents it's last surprise. In addition to a satisfying burble, the system produces an exotic snap-crackle-pop which sounds like a thunderstorm in progress. If you've ever heard un-muffled cars come of the throttle, you'll have some idea what we mean.



As you might have guessed by now, we were very impressed by the Corsa Pace Car Edition exhaust system. It's quiet enough while cruising to appease even the most sensitive spouse, yet loud and aggressive under heavy acceleration. Build quality, material and design are excellent and the whole package is presented in a thought out and practical way.

We highly recommend either of the Corsa systems to the Corvette owner who is looking for the very best.

**Corsa Pace Car Edition Exhaust System (Standard Tips)**

*Approximate Street Price: \$895.00*

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