

North Harbour



Hello Stephen,

Congratulations on the purchase of your Ford Mustang Bullitt.

Given that you mentioned your new Ford Mustang Bullitt build number is 302 I would like to share with you some facts about the original 1969 Ford Mustang Bullitt that you may find interesting.

The Ford V8 302 cubic inch displacement engine was one of the most popular American power plants of the late 60's and early 70's era.

The 1969-70 302 engine was created in 1968 for the SCCA's 1969 Trans-Am road racing series. Fitted to the factory-made Boss 302 Mustangs of 1969-70, it is a unique Ford small-block featuring a thin-wall high nickel content casting. It differed substantially from regular 302s, featuring 4-bolt mains, screw-in freeze plugs, higher nickel content, and cylinder heads using a canted valve design which made its debut in late 1969 Mustangs.

The engine also came with an engine RPM limiter (to protect the owner's warranty options but was often one of the first things removed). The Boss 302 has an eight bolt valve cover; in 1969 they were chrome and in 1970 they were cast aluminium, while the standard 302 has six valve cover bolts. The connecting rods are the same as used in the 289 HIPO, and have an engineering number of C3AE-D on them. They are capable of higher RPMs than standard 302 rods (up to ~8k RPM), aided by a spot face for 3/8 inch bolts with a unique football-shaped head (vs 5/16 for standard small blocks), and beefier cap. The crankshaft is cross drilled (this was changed in 1970 for better reliability) high strength steel forging.

The power output on this engine was a conservative 290 bhp at 5,800 RPM with matching torque of 290 foot pounds at 4,300 RPM. The Boss 302 engine competes well with other high performance 'small blocks', such as the Chevy 302, the Chrysler 340, and AMC 360.

The "Boss" in the Boss 302's name came from original designer Larry Shimoda's reference to Bunkie Knudsen, the CEO at Ford and an outspoken proponent of the car's development, who told his designers, "I want to design a car that's the coolest Mustang out there. I don't want somebody else's name on it, like a Shelby. Something not many realize, Boss 302 is the name of the car. The engine is a 302 but it became popular to call this specific engine, a Boss 302.

I hope this is of interest to you given the significant build number on your Ford Mustang Bullitt.

Best regards,

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