

2022 CHEVROLET CORVETTE SERVICE MANUAL

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Starting System Description and Operation

Starter Motor Operation (Without KL9)

The starter motors are non-repairable. They have pole pieces that are arranged around the armature. Both solenoid windings are energized. The pull-in winding circuit is completed to the ground through the starter motor. The windings work together magnetically to pull and hold in the plunger. The plunger moves the shift lever. This action causes the starter drive assembly to rotate on the armature shaft spline as it engages with the flywheel ring gear on the engine. Moving at the same time, the plunger also closes the solenoid switch contacts in the starter solenoid. Full battery voltage is applied directly to the starter motor and it cranks the engine.

As soon as the solenoid switch contacts close, current stops flowing through the pull-in winding because battery voltage is applied to both ends of the windings. The hold-in winding remains energized. Its magnetic field is strong enough to hold the plunger, shift lever, starter drive assembly, and solenoid switch contacts in place to continue cranking the engine. When the engine starts, pinion overrun protects the armature from excessive speed until the switch is opened.

When the crank signal is removed, the starter relay opens and battery voltage is removed from the starter solenoid S terminal. Current flows from the motor contacts through both windings to the ground at the end of the hold-in winding. However, the direction of the current flow through the pull-in winding is now opposite the direction of the current flow when the winding was first energized.

The magnetic fields of the pull-in and hold-in windings now oppose one another. This action of the windings, along with the help of the return spring, causes the starter drive assembly to disengage and the solenoid switch contacts to open simultaneously. As soon as the contacts open, the starter circuit is turned off.

Enhanced Starter Motor Operation (KL9)

The Engine Stop/Start system in GM vehicles automatically turns off the engine when the vehicle comes to a stop under certain driving conditions, and can quickly restart the engine in about 0.3 seconds when commanded to do so.

In order to smoothly restart the engine as quickly as possible while managing the greater number of engine starts, the Stop/Start system uses an enhanced starter motor that operates differently from a conventional starter motor. It has a high performance electric motor and a stronger pinion engagement mechanism than a conventional starter. It also has independent control of the pinion and motor.

The enhanced starter motor continues using the typical pinion engagement mechanism with a starter solenoid that drives the pinion gear to engage or disengage the flywheel of the engine. When engaged, the starter motor can rotate the engine flywheel and, in turn, the crankshaft.

On the enhanced starter of a Stop/Start system the operation is done in two separate functions inside the solenoid, Starter Motor and Pinion Actuator. Each function controlled individually by the ECM. There are two separate relays to control the two separate parts of the enhanced solenoid:

- KR27 Starter Motor Relay
- KR27C Starter Pinion Actuator Relay

The two individually-controlled relays allow for smooth engagement of the pinion gear into the flywheel with minimum noise and wear.

When the vehicle is coming to a stop, just before the engine stops rotating (at approximately 50 RPM) during stop/start operation, the ECM energizes the Starter Pinion Solenoid Actuator Relay to easily push the pinion gear into the flywheel gear without gear clash. (Fig. 8) When the engine stops rotating during Stop/Start operation (Auto Stop mode), the starter pinion gear is fully engaged, ready for the starter motor to become energized to quickly start the engine again.

A secondary need for the starter pinion to be driven into the flywheel gear before the engine stops rotating is to address quickly changing demands on the engine. For example, when a driver is slowing nearly to a stop and the Stop/Start system is preparing for Auto Stop mode but suddenly decides to release the brake and accelerate

In this situation, the engine has already stopped rotating, or nearly so. A conventional starter cannot restart the engine until the engine has completely stopped. However, with the enhanced starter, the starter pinion gear is fully engaged and ready to begin rotating the engine even before it fully stops turning. Otherwise, the engine would actually have to stop rotating before the pinion can engage smoothly to begin a restart.

To prevent a lag in engine operation, the ECM uses predictive speed matching of the flywheel gear speed and the pinion gear speed to engage the pinion gear into the flywheel gear without gear clash before the engine fully stops. By predicting how long it takes the starter motor to spin up using an algorithm, the pinion gear speed can be matched to the flywheel gear speed. The result is an almost instant restart that is possible at extremely low engine speeds.

Circuit Description

Keyless Start

When the Ignition mode switch is placed in the crank position, a discrete signal is supplied to the body control module (BCM) notifying it that the ignition is in the crank position. The BCM then sends a serial data message to the engine control module (ECM) that crank has been requested. The ECM then verifies that the brake pedal is applied and for manual transmission the clutch is fully depressed or for automatic transmission is in Park/Neutral. If it is, the ECM then supplies 12 V to the control circuit of the starter relay. When this occurs, battery positive voltage is supplied through the switch side of the crank relay to the S terminal of the starter solenoid.

Key Start

When the ignition switch is placed in the Start position, a discrete signal is supplied to the body control module (BCM) notifying it that the ignition is in the Start position. The BCM then sends a message to the engine control module (ECM) notifying it that CRANK has been requested. The ECM verifies that the transmission is in Park or Neutral. If it is, the ECM then supplies 12 V to the control circuit of the crank relay. When this occurs, battery positive voltage is supplied through the switch side of the crank relay to the S terminal of the starter solenoid.

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