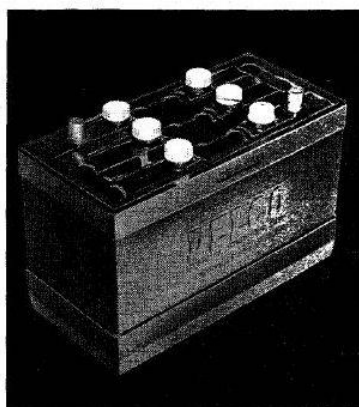


## Original Battery and Battery Cables by Jason Edge

Installing an original type battery and battery cables will go a long way toward restoring the original look of your engine compartment. I have been using a reproduction original style battery for several years but only recently addressed the battery cables and wanted to share my experience.

### Original Battery

According to the 1963 Dealer Data book the original battery was a Delco 3EMR70-W, rated at 70 amp hrs with 11 plates. In 1964 the battery was modified to include 13 plates rated at 73 amp hrs as seen in picture on right.



### NEW Larger Battery

The new Cadillac battery has been increased from 11 to 13 plates for added reliability and to provide higher voltage for cranking the new engine. Battery is thoroughly sealed, has a corrosion-resistant plastic-coated cover and is located for maximum cooling, easy servicing accessibility.

Looking at the 1968 battery cross reference chart below, the Delco replacement battery for 1963 and 1964 was a Delco R63 battery. At some point the replacement became known as the Group 60 battery. I have not been able to determine when this new designation occurred.

Since the Group 60 battery has been out of general production for many years, many other battery types have been used. The Group 27 battery is one I often see used, however it is wider, and considerably shorter than the original battery and makes using the original hold down hardware problematic.

### BATTERY SPECIFICATIONS

Note: Specifications shown apply to original equipment battery only. Specifications for Delco Replacement Battery may vary from original equipment battery.

Series	Delco Replacement Battery Catalog No.	No. of Volts	Amp. Hours At 20 Hour Rate	Capacity Ratings		Length	Width	Height
				No. of Min. 300 Amp @ 0°F	10 Sec. Voltage 300 Amp @ 0°F			
1957 thru 1964	*R63	12	70	5.8	9.4	13 1/16"	6 17/64"	8 13/16"
1965 exc. 75	R71	12	73	2.1	8.5	12"	6 3/4"	8 3/4"
1965-75	R63	12	73	2.1	8.3	13"	6 13/64"	8 3/4"
1966 thru 1967	R71	12	73	2.1	8.5	12"	6 3/4"	8 3/4"
1968 thru 1969	R71S	12	74	2.4	8.8	12"	6 3/4"	8 3/4"

\*Exc. 1957 thru 1958 Eldorado which use Y71.

### Tech Tips Continued

Luckily there are companies that still make reproduction original style batteries that approximate the original size: 13 1/16" x 6 17/64" x 8 13/16". One such company is **Restoration Battery** which I can highly recommend. There is a link to their site in the caption under picture to the right that will point you directly to their Group 60 reproduction battery.



Note Date Stamp 4BT – 1964, February, Detroit



Authentic Style Original Battery Available from Restoration Battery  
[www.restorationbattery.com/g60k.html](http://www.restorationbattery.com/g60k.html)

They stand behind their battery with a 4 year warranty (1<sup>st</sup> year full warranty), and for a small additional charge they will date stamp your battery to give you an exact original look. While these Group 60 Reproduction batteries are roughly twice the price of an over the counter battery, they will greatly enhance the look of your engine compartment.

### Original Battery Cables

If you have an original type battery you need the correct battery cable with correct Spring-Ring type terminals. I recently replaced my later model bolt terminal cables with spring-ring cables purchased from an unlikely source. To start, you need to know the length of cable. **Both 1963 and 1964 list the same negative cable at 28 1/4" long. The positive cable is listed as 49 1/2" and 52 1/2" for 1963 and 1964 respectively.** (The difference in length being the routing of the cable due to difference in right side exhaust manifold.)

### No Luck with Lectric Limited

Lectric Limited was a recommended source for these cables and was told they could custom make them, so on a recent Saturday I called their number and was told by the weekend staff person that they do not carry replacement cables for my 1964 Cadillac, nor could they make a custom length cable. I told the Lectric Limited phone person, that I had looked for a match on their online catalog and came up empty and that I needed a custom length cable. She told me she did not think they carried that type product, and I explained that they listed spring-ring terminal cables, but that I needed a custom length or anything in their stock close to the length that I needed. I finally convinced the person to take my name and number and have a technician call me Monday to further discuss a custom order. At this point I would like to make a personal observation: If you have staff that does not know anything about your merchandise, I believe you would be better off with simple voice mail telling the customer to call back during normal hours. I am also not sure if my message was ever relayed as I never received a call.



Side View of Original Reproduction Battery



### Heartbeat City and 1969 Camaro to the Rescue!

Still determined to replace my cable and knowing that the Chevy and Corvette sites offer just about any replacement part imaginable, I started scanning other sites. I found a site called Heartbeat City ([www.heartbeatcity.com](http://www.heartbeatcity.com)) which specialized in reproduction Camaro parts and came up with very close matches with their reproduction 1969 Camaro Spring-Ring terminal cables.

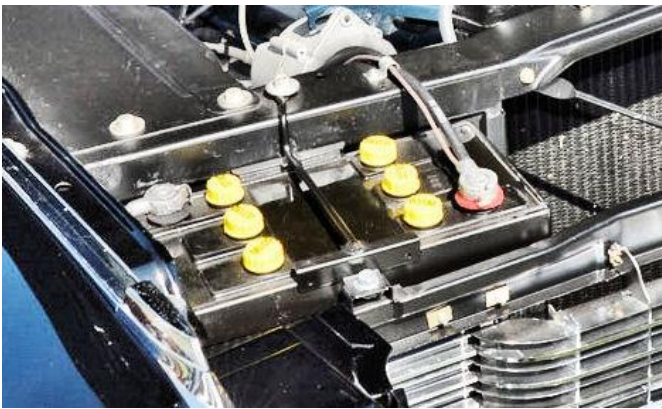
The 1969 Camaro negative cable (part # EGP-1151) was 29" long which is 1/2" longer than what I needed, and 1969 Camaro positive cable (part # EGP-1145) was 52 1/2" which was an exact match. With an online 15% off sale, and adding in tax and shipping my total came to \$93.77 delivered to my house. The only mods I needed to make to the cables were to paint/dye the positive alternator lead wire black (it was brown) and adding the short braided ground strap from bottom of negative cable to the firewall where it mounts to radiator support via a 3/8" hex head bolt. I had to pry the tangs apart at the bottom of the negative cable and attached negative braid strap I had removed from an original cable and cleaned up. It turned out really nice.



1969 Camaro Spring-Ring Cables ordered from Heartbeat City – [www.heartbeatcity.com](http://www.heartbeatcity.com)

### Hold Down Hardware

I purchased my reproduction hold down hardware from McVeys ([www.McVeys.com](http://www.McVeys.com)) several years ago and have been very pleased with the quality.



Picture Above: Note from picture of Jim Verraster's featured Cadillac, that the 1963 has a piece that goes from radiator support across to bracket on upper grill support bar which is unlike the side-to-side hold down on the 1964 Cadillac.

Picture to Upper Right and Right: Final pictures of my Group 60 Battery from Restoration Battery, Spring-Ring battery cables from Heartbeat City, and hold down hardware from McVeys installed.

Total Investment: about \$500

Installation time: 1 to 2 hrs

Improvement in Appearance: Immense!

