

REAR AXLE CODES

A three-character code was stamped on the front of the passenger-side axle tube to the left of the carrier case to indicate axle ratio and type.

Gear Ratio	Standard	Safe-T-Track
2.41	2PJ	2PS
2.56	2PH	2PT
3.08	2PC	2PW
3.23	2PD	2PX,2PP
3.42	2PE	2PY,2PO*

* A 3.42 axle is listed in the service manual, but no such option shows up on the option sheets.

WHEELS

New Air Flow wheels debuted on the 10th Anniversary T/A. They were made from cast aluminum and measured 15x8 inches.

Type	Size	Code	Part No.	Application
Steel	15x6	RF	9590205	Base/Esprit
Rally II	15x6	KG	526566	Base/Esprit
Rally II	15x7	HW	525710	Base/Esprit/For/TA
Snowflake/silver	15x7	JR	10005104	All
Snowflake/gold	15x7	KH	547928	All
Snowflake/red	15x7	JA	549360	Red Bird
Snowflake/gold	15x8	JF	10003208	WS6
Snowflake/silver	15x8	JT	10005106	WS6
Air Flow (Turbo)	15x8	HA	10007501	10th Ann.

EXTERIOR COLOR CODES

Trans Am color availabilities were expanded to include most of Pontiac's 1979 palette, with a few exceptions noted below. Dark Charcoal (code 16) was used as the lower body accent color on the Formula when upper body codes 11, 15, 19, 29, 51, 75 and 77 were used. It was also used as the upper body color on the 10th Anniversary T/A. Red Bird red (code 80) is actually the lower body accent color. The upper was Mayan Red.

Color	Fisher Code	Color	Fisher Code
Cameo White	11	Sundance Yellow	51
Platinum	15	Sierra Copper	63 ex. T/A
Dark Charcoal	16	Heritage Brown	69 ex. Formula
Starlight Black	19	Mayan Red	75
Atlantis Blue	24	Carmine	77 ex. T/A
Nocturne Blue	29	Red Bird Red	80
Solar Gold	50 (F-body only)		

INTERIOR COLOR CODES

Pontiac mixed up the availability of the interior layouts to include a color Appointment Mix package, which combined Oyster seats, door panels, rear seat armrests and other trim with a contrasting color for the instrument panel, carpeting, steering column, console and rear package shelf. Interiors were offered in standard Oxen vinyl, custom Doeskin vinyl or Hobnail cloth with Lombardy velour bolsters. Of special mention is the silver leather interior that was standard in the 10th Anniversary T/A (code 1521).

INTERIOR COLORS

Color	Std. Bucket	Custom Bucket	Cloth
Oyster	12R1	12N1	—
Black	19R1	19N1	19B1
Blue	—	24N1	24B1
Camel Tan	62R1	62N1	62B1
Carmine	74R1	74N1	74B1

COLOR APPOINTMENTS

Colors	Standard	Custom
Oyster/Gray	12R1/16X	12N1/16X
Oyster/Black	12R1/19X	12N1/19X
Oyster/Blue	—	12N1/24X
Oyster/Camel Tan	12R1/62X	12N1/62X
Oyster/Carmine	—	12N1/74X

CORDOVA (VINYL) TOP COLORS FOR FIREBIRD CANOPY TOP

Color	Code	Color	Code
White	11T	Blue	22T
Platinum	15T	Beige	61T
Black	19T	Claret	79T

1979 FACTS

- The Firebird's base sticker rose to \$5,076, while the Esprit garnered \$5,454 for its luxury. The Formula charged \$6,380 for its muscular style, the T/A \$6,699 to be king of the hill and, finally, the Anniversary T/A depleted your wallet by \$10,619 to gain its exclusivity.

- The Formula lost its rear spoiler from the standard equipment list, but it did gain a T/A engine-turned dash, Formula wheel and rally gauges with clock in place of tach. The Formula's standard engine became the 301 2-barrel federally, 350 Chevy high altitude or a 305 Chevy in California. The Pontiac 400 and Olds 403 were optional. The W50 appearance package was back and with it came that missing rear spoiler. Oldsmobile's 403 was standard in T/A's, while the 301 and 400 Pontiac engines were optional outside California.

- One of the most notable options available was the code Y89 10th Anniversary Trans Am. This special T/A, besides pacing Daytona, spurred a long line of celebrated T/A's that would mark every future anniversary in five-year increments.

The silver anniversary package consisted of: two-tone silver and dark charcoal paint scheme framed by red, silver and gray striping, hatch roof, specific 10th Anniversary decals. A Super Bird decal was pasted onto the hood; it was a different design than the T/A and large enough to overflow onto the fenders.

Inside, the instrument panel was lit in red and A/C was included. For comfort, silver leather seats and a leather-wrapped Formula wheel were installed. For music lovers, there was an electronically tuned digital display AM/FM 8-track stereo with seek-and-scan and power antenna. Other hedonistic features included: lamp group, dome reading lamp, visor vanity mirror, rear window defroster and controlled cycle wipers. Power locks and windows, soft ray glass all around, custom seat belts, floor mats and added acoustical insulation rounded out the cabin.

Under the floorboards was the WS6 Special Performance Package that consisted of front and rear power disc brakes, P225/70-R15 white lettered tires, 15x8 cast aluminum Turbo wheels, .750-inch rear sway bar and optional axle ratio.

Drivetrain choices were limited to two: the 400 backed by a 4-speed or the L80 185-horse 403 with automatic.

- The low-deck Pontiac 301 returned to the Firebird lineup. This time it was available in two flavors: the familiar 135-horse L27 2-barrel and a hotter 150-horse L37 4-barrel.

- For the first time in its history, Pontiac offered a 4-wheel disc brake option (code J-65), which could be ordered with or without the WS6 suspension.

- The Y84 Blackbird SE T/A was also available, but was overshadowed by the 10th Anniversary T/A model.

Sincere thanks to Jim Mattison of Pontiac Historic Services, Fred Simmonds of Pontiac Motor Division and Bernie Segebade for their assistance in preparing this article.