

**Corvette
Fever**

EASE THE SQUEEZE

Simple remote window-valet install

by Andy Bolig

Here's the scenario: You drive up in your C5 convertible, top is down, and you're stylin'. You pull into the garage and you slither out of the car. You spin around and put up the top, then turn the key back on to put up the windows—but that's where the problem starts. Because of the curvature of the side glass windows, standing inside the doorjamb of a C5 while in tight quarters and putting up the windows can squeeze the life out of you. But there is a solution.

Top Down Technologies has designed the Window Valet to remedy this situation by allowing the C5 owner to open or close the windows in their C5 by using their factory key fob. You can raise or lower the windows entirely by simply pressing lock or unlock three times. But the best part is that in the time it took you to read this much of the story, you could have had it installed! The Window Valet simply plugs into your Corvette's existing wiring and allows you to custom-design several options to suit your needs. Here's what it takes to install your own convenience package in your '97-'04 Corvette.





The Window Valet stays plugged into the ALDL connector but can be removed in seconds. It does not affect the operation of the vehicle and is easily transferable to another C5 if you trade in your car.

Your Corvette has an ALDL connector under the dash located centrally on the driver side. This is where GM technicians plug in their diagnostic equipment if such services are needed. Before servicing, you can simply pull out the Window Valet to prevent it from being misplaced. Then, when you get the car back, you can simply plug the Window Valet back into the connector. The Window Valet's settings are retained so additional reprogramming is not necessary.



Features that are accessible through the DIC are remote power windows, initiation of Retained Accessory Power, Passenger Power-Lock Assist, and a High-Speed Report. The high-speed report shows the highest speed experienced with the vehicle. It can be reset at any time so you can keep tabs on your Corvette if it's in the hands of a valet or a high-school senior on prom night.



The Window Valet is a great addition to any C5, allowing the convenience package to go one step further than GM designed it to. It doesn't change the system at all, it merely allows it to do more. Speaking of doing more: Top Down Technologies is currently working on a Valet that will allow the key fob to operate the fuel door as well. Makes us wonder, though, how much convenience can they squeeze out of the C5's electronics?

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With the Window Valet installed, you'll start the initial setup by choosing from several options, such as retaining accessory power so you can listen to your radio even with the doors open and the key out of the ignition. Also, have you ever had a passenger try to open the door before you pull the key out of the ignition? The Window Valet can change the settings so the doors will unlock when the car is put in Park or when the emergency brake is set. This helps keep things running smoothly when you're dropping someone off and don't need to shut off the engine. All of these options are custom-buildable through the Driver's Information Center.

SOURCE

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