



# Paul's Product Review

## The Fiero Store GT Trunk Weatherstrip (Gasket)

by: Paul Vargyas



As you may know, there have been several attempts to reproduce the discontinued GM trunk weatherstrip for the '86-'88GT. The original weatherstrip was GM part# 20564860. Near the end of parts availability it listed for over \$160.00 and was generally available "wholesale" for about \$125.00. The Fiero Store ran out of the original GM weatherstrips in early 2008. Back in 2007 when it was apparent that GM would not be reproducing this part, The Fiero Store began sourcing a new weatherstrip. At that time the cost was excessive and they dropped the search. In 2008, the original tooling was located in a GM storage warehouse but the condition of the tooling was unknown and the warehouse was not staffed with people who had the technical knowledge in the use of the tools. They were told that the tooling was in rough shape and weighed several thousand pounds. So, they called their original manufacturer back and asked if the original tooling would help reduce the cost of producing the seal. They were informed that the OE tooling could be a bit antiquated and could require quite a bit of work in order to be used with their current equipment. The manufacturer was now confident that they could produce an OEM quality product with completely new tooling. New quotes were drawn up and due to the downturn in the economy; they were able to get slightly better pricing than they received in 2007. In most cases, the corners of the weatherstrip are the most difficult issue to overcome to properly reproduce this piece.

Attached are 3 photos of the corners:

1. OE used seal from GM's first design
2. One of the last production units with GM's corner design change
3. The Fiero Store's reproduction

The Fiero Store seals are made from EPDM rubber with the intention of reproducing GM's latest design as closely as possible. Multiple tools were created so that the corners could be made just like GM's most recent units and all original specs were adhered to as closely as possible. There are a couple of improvements over the original. The inner metal locking channel has a bit more pinch to it and the outer decorative lip that extends over the body gap is just slightly larger. The larger lip was to help cover the gap between the trunk

and the upper quarter. Unfortunately, this gap will vary from car to car depending on the amount of body twist/movement that has occurred during the car's lifetime. They tried to account for this with the larger lip, but I am sure there are some cars out there with a gap that is too large due to accidents, mileage and panel warpage.

The Fiero Store GT Trunk Weatherstrip is Part#50154, and lists at \$114.95. As usual, NIFE members can use their 5% club discount when ordering.