



MTI High Flow Air Intake Review

The C5 Corvette, like most cars, is fitted with an air intake system which is designed to meet a number of often conflicting criteria. In particular, the air filter and inlet assembly is designed to provide good performance while being quiet and protected from debris and water. This typically results in a rather constrictive arrangement which leaves much room for improvement. On the C5, the air filter box is virtually sealed with just small openings for all of the air to pass through. This causes the engine to work hard for the air it needs, which reduces power.



The MTI High Flow Air Intake is a replacement air filter and inlet assembly which provides more air with less restrictions than the stock part. The MTI High Flow Air Intake is a bottom feeder type unit. This means it draws air from beneath the car (and outside of the engine compartment) via a hole in the radiator shroud. Other units which draw air from the engine compartment (like the stock assembly) draw hot, stagnant air into the engine, which limits performance. By drawing air from underneath the car, the MTI, and similar units, benefit from cool air which is partially pressurized at speed.

From their advertising, the MTI High Flow Air Intake looks like one of the best products in it's class. It uses a standard and reliable K&N filter element, comes with it's own pre-cut radiator shroud and appears to have excellent fit and finish.

The MTI High Flow Air Intake reviewed here was ordered directly from MTI and can be considered a random sample of this product. It arrived via UPS after a two month wait. Upon opening the package we were immediately struck by the lack of quality fit and finish. Almost every part supplied by MTI was a reworked GM OEM part. The radiator shroud was expected but the rest was an unpleasant surprise. The hole in the shroud was poorly cut and irregular. The air filter element mounts in a modified version of the stock filter housing frame. The part supplied by MTI was poorly riveted to the shroud leaving numerous gaps where air can enter from the engine compartment. In addition, the portion of the stock part where the original air box cover would mount was crudely hacked off and left in an unfinished condition. MTI's own component, the new air filter lid, is a basic piece of plastic which is similar to the stock bottom lid which contains the air filter.





The MTI part has the outlet pipe at a new angle to allow it to mate with the hose leading to the mass airflow sensor. The MTI part would never be mistaken for an OEM item. It is molded out of shiny plastic which is very hard and brittle. The cover fits over the modified stock air filter holder and is held on by two spring clamps. The cover fits poorly leaving gaps where air enter can the engine without passing through the filter. The air outlet on the MTI cover is tapered along it's entire length. This means the hose leading to the mass airflow sensor will try and slip off no matter how much you tighten the clamp. In addition, the whole assembly is a bit too long which prevents the stock air tube from snapping down into it's mounts. The cover must be forced past the front of the frame to fit, which causes the shroud to bow, creating more air gaps.



To top it all off, the instructions provided are poor. They neglect to mention several fasteners and an electrical connector.

Needless to say, we were less than impressed. The MTI High Flow Air Intake did provide a noticeable seat of the pants improvement in acceleration, but this can be achieved by using a similar product without all the downsides associated with the MTI.

While the concept is excellent, the execution is poor. We would not recommend the MTI High Flow Air Intake for use on the C5 Corvette.

MTI High Flow Air Intake

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Motorsport Technologies, Inc.
12500 Oxford Park Drive
Houston, TX 77082

281-870-8787

<http://www.motorsporttech.com>

