

## 74

Why is the #74 associated with Calypso? And why is it done with masking tape? These are two very frequently asked questions about Calypso. To answer these two questions there are three parts to the story. The first part of the story goes back to the very beginning, the planning of Calypso's purchase. The second took place when I was selecting a vanity registration plate for the new car. The third took place at her first "track days".

I had originally planned on retiring at the age of 75, and as an FYI; that is still the plan, although I'm practically retired now. In a conversation with my friend Bill Stringfellow, we were discussing this particular aspect. That was the conversation where the infamous exchange took place. It started with Bill saying, "Just buy the god-damned thing", talking about the newly announced C7 Corvette. Of course you know I said, "Why?". And the immediate, "You're gonna spend a long time dead." But in the context of the conversation we had been talking about my C4 Corvette and my current C5 Corvette; and how they were right at their 10-year mark, when I had grown "accustomed" to them – note not "tired"- accustomed. They had reached the point of "same-ness", there was nothing "new" or "adventurous" taking place with either. Now then at that mark, the C4 had to be sold as she had suffered a very expensive to repair failure. The wiring harness has chafed to the point where several wires had broken, and the car had become un-drive-able. I sold her for parts and bought the C5, at her age of 5, and she was now 10 years in my possession. Bill and I discussed the fact that I was now 64 and only 10 years remained until my planned retirement. IF, I kept the C5 she would be well into her 20's (24 years), when I reached 75, and well past the time when any car could be considered "adventurous". IF, my target was maintaining "adventurous" with regards to a car – I had to make a move. So we determined car years 0 through 10 easily supported "adventurous", and me being 64 – 2014 was the year to do it. The plans to purchase Calypso began, and my adventure with the new C7 would enter the age of "accustomed", just in time for the year of my planned retirement. By the age of 74, I would hopefully have done everything I wanted to do with a NEW Corvette. So this is the first reason that 74 is significant to me and Calypso.

The second reason 74 is significant is the selection of vanity plates. My original request to the DMV, when trying to find out if the "name" had been selected, was rejected. They sent me notification that what I had selected was considered "Gang" related and not allowed for safety purposes. And note I am not saying what it was here, but when they let me know my frequent trips through Los Angeles made it a good recommendation. So that's when I selected C74PJN. The first two characters were C7 as it was a C7 Corvette and those knowing the Corvette Generation codes would recognize that. Then the number 4; that was the phonetic use to incorporate the word "For"; making the plate read "C7 For". And it was a natural to follow that with "Pete", but that put me over the number of characters allowed, so it became PJN; my initials instead. My registration plate reads C74PJN, and the only "numbers" are 74.

That brings me to "Corvette Track Days" at Spring Mountain Motor Sports Park. As a part of the registration process, I signed up for a transponder to put in Calypso during her two day visit there. Having the transponder in Calypso allowed me to participate in their data collection process. In that "sign-up" process they asked me a lot of information about Calypso, which included the last question, "What is your cars number?" To which I answered, "I don't have one; can one be assigned to me?" She said no – it had to be provided by me, and she handed me a roll of masking tape and told me to pick a number, put it on the car in conspicuous locations and then come back to let her know what I had selected. So I went out to the parking lot and made a quick scan of all the cars that were there, while simultaneously trying to think of a number I would like. That's when I again noticed the registration plate on the back of Calypso. 74! I went quickly up and down the rows of Corvettes parked there and was delighted that 74 was not taken. I busily created the 74 in a couple of places on both sides of the car which were a part of the instructions. I went back in and she put the #74 on the transponder.

So there you have it; all three reasons why 74 is associated with Calypso and why in the videos and pictures the number is done with masking tape – it's HER NUMBER.