



Long, short, oval or square, the right exhaust tip is a nice detail to your truck's appearance and overall sound.

# TIP OF THE DAY

## The right exhaust tip can bring out the details on your truck

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Photography: Dan Sanchez

**T**he attention to detail is what sets one truck apart from another. Many small details can make a big difference in the custom appearance of your vehicle. Items such as license plate frames, removing body molding and painting mirrors and bumpers can add a look that is more pleasing to the eye. One small detail that can also set your truck apart is the exhaust tip.

Think about it. You spent a bundle on your truck's exhaust system and no one can see it. The only portion of your truck's exhaust system is the tip. Obviously, any chrome or polished stainless steel tip will look much better than a rusted factory tailpipe. However, the type, size and style of

the tip will also add some distinction to your vehicle and improve the look of your truck as well.

So what kind of exhaust tip is best for your truck? It all depends on the style you have chosen. There are a wide variety of tips that can match and accentuate your truck's look. Most tips are round, but others are oval, square and cut into different styles. You can choose between a straight cut or slashed cut tip. Slashed cut tips have a 45° opening which gives a sporty look to your truck. Straight cut tips are more typical of exhaust that exit straight out from the rear of your vehicle and are also popular with big diesel trucks. Some tips even have a rolled edge that gives a more finished look that one that is cut straight from the tubing.

Oval or square tips are often used because they resemble racing exhaust systems that use similar exhaust tips. Oval or square tips can also be used with a specialized body molding or rear roll pan that has a cut-out for an exhaust tip. Many exhaust systems that exit out from the side of the vehicle often like to use a square or oval tip. It fools the eye and makes the exhaust system seem larger than it really is, while adding a racing look to it.

Aside from the various styles of exhaust tips available, tips can be made from a variety of materials. Some custom tips are actually cast from aluminum and are made for specialized exhaust systems to add a bit of distinction to the truck. Steel tips are the most common and are usually chrome



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1



Dual tips offer a different appearance than most truck enthusiasts are used to. It is a great way to add some distinction to your truck and make it stand out from the rest.

2



Rectangular slash tips add a bit of nostalgia to any truck or sport utility vehicle. This style was very common on old hot rods and street machines and make a great addition to any vehicle.

3



The most popular kind of exhaust tip is the straight cut round tip. This one features a rolled edge that gives it more of a finished appearance.

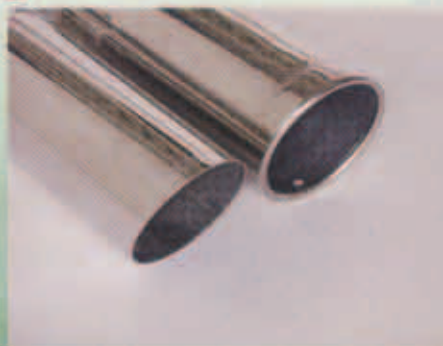
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Some tips feature designs that can add greater detail to your truck's appearance. These stainless steel tips are bead blasted with stars or flames to match your truck's looks.



5



Here you can see the difference between a straight cut tip and one with a rolled edge. The straight cut is more popular but the rolled edge looks more custom. They also are slightly more expensive as well.

plated to make it stand out from under your vehicle. Most steel exhaust tips do not undergo an extensive chroming process. Thus, after several years, the chrome tends to wear away and the tip can eventually rust.

Stainless steel tips are a great choice for longevity and good looks. Many stainless steel tips come highly polished and once they begin to dull from heat and road grime, they can be easily polished with a little elbow grease to look almost as good as new.

Appearance aside, the diameter, size, length and construction of your exhaust tip will also have an effect on your exhaust system's sound. Large square or oval tips act like a megaphone and can give a "raspier," more racing style sound that many people love. Straight tube tips can also change the sound of your exhaust, depending on the size of tubing. Some tips have a 2.5-inch or 3-inch inlet and a four-inch outlet. This also tends to magnify the exhaust sound from your truck and is a great way to let others know you're coming down the street. Some tips are actually small mufflers, and feature baffles or a porous inner tube that absorbs sound waves to absorb some exhaust sound while not limiting the flow.

In an effort to keep stainless steel tips from yellowing and requiring frequent polishing, some exhaust manufacturers have come up with intercooled tips. These tips feature a double wall of steel, one that directs the exhaust out from the vehicle, the other remains highly polished. The inner tube absorbs most of the exhaust heat, keeping the outer tube highly polished and unaffected by the heat.

No matter what style of exhaust tip you choose, make sure that it is properly clamped to your exhaust system. Most tips require a C-clamp to hold it in place. Others have a built-in clamp and some must simply be welded in place. For the most part,

6



Some tips can actually help the sound of your exhaust system by absorbing some sound waves and improve the deep tone of your exhaust, without making it sound louder.

many truck enthusiasts prefer the clamp on style, as they can easily change the appearance and sound of their exhaust system with a simple tip swap. **FTW**

6



This exhaust tip from Magnaflow, may seem small but it is made from stainless steel and features a sound absorbing center that eliminates the typical raspy sound and leaves a deep tone.

6



Old hot rods used to use a round tip with a flare at the end. Gibson recreates this as their rectangular tip, which is available in a straight or angled cut.

7



If you want your truck to really be distinctive, this Mechem Design oval exhaust tip should do the trick. It is cast aluminum and features a chromed finish.

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10



There were plenty of Mopars that used this square exhaust tip and Gibson makes them available for your truck. It is a chromed steel unit that is most popularly used on Gibson's side exit systems.

11



One of the more popular styles of exhaust tips is this Magnaflow angled cut tip. This one is made from polished stainless steel and features a rolled edge.

12



One of the latest creations from Gibson is their intercooled, stainless steel tip. This tip features a inner tube that retains the heat and keeps the polished outer tube from yellowing.

13



Designer tips feature a bead blasted design on the polished stainless steel. This tip from Gibson features flames and makes a perfect match to your custom ride. It also features a clampless design, allowing the tip to be easily removed for cleaning.

14



This steel tip from AMG Industries comes with a rolled edge and a chrome plated finish. It fits current model Dodge Dakotas.

15



This short, angled tip from AMG is a great way to add a small detail to the end of your S-10 or Ford Sport-Trac factory exhaust.

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