

## 1959 Chrysler 300 “E” Convertible

Known at the time of introduction as the “E” for EAGER, the 1959 Chrysler 300 introduced many refinements including a new engine, a big red fierce-looking factory grill and air-scoops, and an updated “*engine turned*” design in the dash department. Interiors on the 300E were finished in natural tan “*living leather*” (which died rapidly!). The 300E was fitted with the now famous 150 mph speedometer (a tachometer would not become standard until 1960). Although accused of being a slow brother to its previous Hemi equipped relations, actual tests indicate that it is in fact a very fast car! Its 413 cubic inch, 380-hp. wedge engine had an additional 21 cu. in. of displacement (the new power plant is also 101 lbs. lighter), and jumps away from the line with a slight increase in torque and a shade more speed at the top end because of these changes.



This example included EVERY option offered in 1959 and came in at a total price tag of \$7248.15! As usual, this topped out the 1959 Chrysler price lineup for all models. Interesting options include “front” air conditioning (a \$510.40 extra), “auto-pilot” (\$86.10 extra), “mirror-matic” (\$21.60 extra), “push button heater” (\$101.90 extra) power windows, seats, antenna, “electro touch toner radio” (an AM only station seeking \$124.10 extra), and a somewhat poorly engineered item called the “automatic beam changer” (a \$50.30 option) new on all Chrysler cars in 1959.

Considered to be the rarest Chrysler 300 letter fin car, the total production of the 1959 E convertible was a mere 140 examples. Today only twenty-one “E” convertibles are thought to still exist (including nine parts cars). This is the only original documented factory black 300E convertible known.





**The original owner (above photos) purchased this car on June 3, 1959 and drove it on a daily basis until her death in 1990! The car was bequeathed to the “300 Club” 1959 expert consultant Robert Young (shown below). In 2001 we became the third owner. It had 104,000 actual miles at the time of a complete body off restoration.**

