

What Is It & What's It Worth?

Classic / Muscle Car Identification & Value Report

SAMPLE REPORT · NOT A CERTIFIED APPRAISAL

Subject vehicle (as claimed)	1969 Chevrolet Chevelle SS 396, 2-door sport coupe
VIN examined	136379A307416 (example VIN published at chevellestuff.net; used for illustration only)
Cowl tag text (sample)	ST 69-13637 ATL BDY
Report date	October 15, 2026
Decode confidence	HIGH (1.00) - VIN structure
SS 396 status	CONSISTENT BUT UNVERIFIED - the VIN cannot prove SS 396 for 1969 (see 2.2)

1. Summary

The VIN decodes cleanly to a 1969 Chevrolet Chevelle Malibu V8 two-door sport coupe built at Atlanta, GA, with no structural errors, and the sample cowl tag agrees with it on year, division, series and body. For 1969, Chevrolet sold the SS 396 as an option package (RPO Z25) on 136-series cars, so the VIN alone cannot confirm SS 396. Before treating the car as a real SS, it needs the documents and stamped numbers listed in Section 3.

2. VIN decode

Position	Value	Meaning	Source
1	1	Chevrolet	S1/S6
2-3	36	Chevelle Malibu	S1/S2/S5
4-5	37	2-door sport coupe (hardtop)	S1/S6
6	9	1969	S1/S5
7	A	Atlanta (Lakewood), GA	S1/S5
8-13	307416	plant sequential production number	S1

Field	Result
Year	1969
Make	Chevrolet
Model / series	Chevelle Malibu
Body style	2-door sport coupe (hardtop)
Engine (from VIN)	V8 (displacement NOT encoded in 1965-71 Chevrolet VIN)
Assembly plant	Atlanta (Lakewood), GA
Sequence no.	307416

2.1 Flags

Severity	Message
OK	No VIN/tag inconsistencies detected.

2.2 Notes

- 1969 SS 396 cars carry 136-series VINs (Malibu V8). Verify SS via build sheet, cowl tag, engine suffix code and documentation.

3. Matching numbers: what it means and what to check

A car is called *numbers-matching* when its major drivetrain parts are the ones it left the factory with, or are period-correct and stamped to match. For a 1969 Chevelle, Chevrolet stamped a VIN derivative (usually the year, plant and sequence, e.g. **9A307416** here) on the engine block pad and on some transmissions, plus an assembly-plant code, build date and a suffix code for the engine and transmission application. Casting numbers and date codes on the block, heads, intake, carburetor, rear axle and transmission should come shortly before the car's build date. Restamped pads and reproduction tags are known problems, so the report grades each item and never certifies authenticity.

Item	Expected for this VIN	Status (sample)
Engine pad VIN derivative	Should read 9A307416 (year / plant / sequence)	UNVERIFIABLE - photo needed
Engine suffix code	Must be a 396 suffix appropriate to an SS 396 application	UNVERIFIABLE - photo needed
Block casting no. & date	396 block casting dated before the car's build date	UNVERIFIABLE
Cowl tag	Style 69-13637; tag year/series/body agree with the VIN	MATCH (sample tag text)
Transmission stamp	VIN derivative and code consistent with factory unit	UNVERIFIABLE
Rear axle code / date	Code consistent with SS ratio and date	UNVERIFIABLE
Build sheet / Protect-O-Plate	Shows Z25 SS 396 option and original engine/trans	NOT PROVIDED

Recommendation: send clear photos of the engine stamp pad, the cowl tag and the axle code. Any original build sheet, Protect-O-Plate or dealer invoice is the strongest evidence. A real SS 396 commonly sells for much more than a Malibu clone, so this is the item that changes the value most.

4. Value range

EXAMPLE DATA - comps source pending license

The figures below are placeholders that show the report layout. They are **NOT** real sales, **NOT** market data, and **NOT** an opinion of value for any car. Live reports will use only licensed comp data (e.g., a licensed aggregator API) or comps the customer supplies.

Scenario (EXAMPLE DATA)	Low	Mid	High
Verified SS 396, driver condition	\$XX,000 (example)	\$XX,000 (example)	\$XX,000 (example)
SS 396 unverified / Malibu V8	\$XX,000 (example)	\$XX,000 (example)	\$XX,000 (example)

Comp # (EXAMPLE DATA)	Description	Sale	Source
Example 1	1969 Chevelle SS 396 coupe - placeholder	-- pending --	comps source pending license
Example 2	1969 Chevelle SS 396 coupe - placeholder	-- pending --	comps source pending license
Example 3	1969 Chevelle SS 396 coupe - placeholder	-- pending --	comps source pending license

Value confidence: **NOT RATED**. No licensed comps are loaded, so no range is given.

5. Next steps

- Provide engine pad, cowl tag and axle photos to grade the matching-numbers table.
- Look for the build sheet (often found under the rear seat or on top of the fuel tank) or the Protect-O-Plate.
- For an insurance, estate or tax value, hire a certified (USPAP) appraiser.

Disclaimer

This report is an informational market estimate based on publicly reported sales and the information and photos you provided. It is not a certified or USPAP-compliant appraisal, an inspection, or a guarantee of authenticity, originality, or value, and must not be relied on for insurance, tax, legal, estate, or lending purposes. Verify with a qualified appraiser and factory documentation (e.g., Marti, PHS). Liability is limited to the price paid.

Decoding rules come from the public sources listed in the decoder README (chevellestuff.net, macswebs.com ChevelleWorld). The prototype was generated automatically and has not been reviewed by a person.