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While replacing your fuel tank, you might want to consider replacing your fuel sending unit.

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Ripley By Request

Do you have a Porsche 356 related question? Ask the father of 356 parts availability himself! Brad Ripley has over 40 years of experience working with and developing replacement parts for your 356.

Every month, questions asked by the public will be chosen and answered by Brad Ripley in our bi-weekly email. Get some insights into the history of these cars or try to stump him with a technical question you've been wondering about.

SUBMIT A QUESTION

Question:

"I am doing some re-wiring on my 356. Some of the wires were cut and USA wires were spliced in. There are several different colors which don't match the originals. I know all original brown wires go to ground. What do all the other colors mean?"

Ripley's Answer:

All German cars conform to a common specification, dictated by the engineering association known as Deutsches Institut fur Normung, or DIN for short. DIN standards go all the way back to 1917 to include the colors of wiring in automobiles. Every color or color combination stands for an electrical function, brown being the most well-known. So, if the wire harness has been stripped out of your 356 years ago and you are wondering where all the wires connect, you can get a head start with the basic color and then the trace color. You might ask, is there a wire diagram in color? Problem is, the only color diagram ever available was a universal version which doesn't apply to most 356 models. However, you will find black and white wire diagrams for Pre-A thru 356C in Workshop Manuals and Drivers Manuals. You're supposed to know which color wire goes to which switch, light, horn, etc. !

For instance:

- GREEN:** Leads from ignition coils to contact breakers (ignition points)
- RED:** Leads from batteries to generators and to light and ignition switches
- BLACK:** Leads from batteries to starters, from light and ignition switches to ignition coil
- BROWN:** Is all ground wires
- LIGHT BLUE:** Leads to generator, oil pressure, etc
- WHITE:** Leads to headlights
- WHITE WITH YELLOW TRACE:** Leads to fog lights
- YELLOW:** Leads to low beam headlight
- GREY:** Leads to tail lights, lic. plate light, etc.

The stripe or trace color over the main color further delineates the function. See [Joe Leoni's Book](#) for specific colors relating to exact function. Search for DIN 47002 and [click here](#) for the terminal numbers.

Sincerely,
Brad Ripley

Brad Ripley
 NLA Porsche Parts