

Important - Please read.

Over the last 50+ years the brakes drums on our 356 have been through a lot. It's doubtful that most of our cars still have the original drums in service.

So how much do we really know about the drums on our cars?

Well, it's very important to know the specs of the brake drums. So when you order brake shoes, your favorite machine shop (if still allowed) can properly arc the shoes to your drums.

Here are the basic specs for the brake drum on the 356. Additional information is referenced in the Factory Service Manual 1956 Edition, Section T, pg T20.

Maximum wear limit for use of "normal" lined brake shoes = 280-282mm or 11.010

Oversized brake shoes are required if the drum exceeds 282mm or 11.063

One often overlooked spec, the drums on each axle (opposite each other, front or rear) should NOT differ more than .008 or 2mm!

If your drums are within 280-281mm, then you would use the 7,5mm brake shoe.

If your drums exceeded 282mm, then you would use the 8mm brake shoe.

These thicknesses allow you to have plenty of material to properly arc the shoe, so that the majority of the lining makes contact with the drum lining.

Now for the "pre-arc'd" shoe myth, the term "pre-arc'd" shoes meant that the shoe was pre-arc to a brand new drum! Not pre-arc to your drum, newly turned or not. The "pre-arc'd" shoe is only reliable to the drum it's arc'd too!

The shoe must be arc'd to the drum it's being installed in!

With properly arc'd shoes to the drum in which they are installed provides the greatest stopping power and a longer lining life!