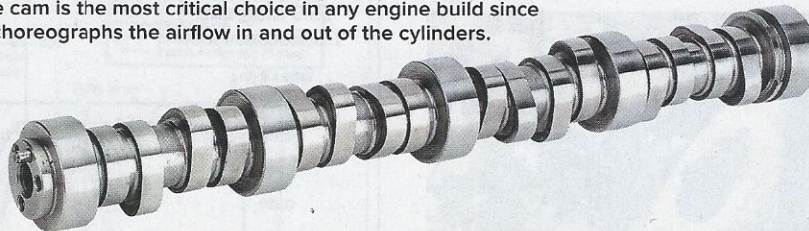
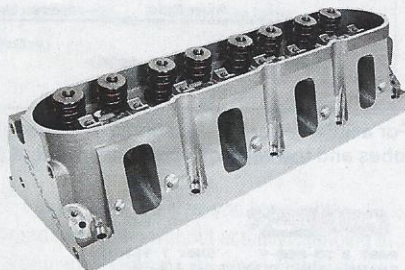


The camshaft is perhaps the least understood piece of any engine; specifying the cam is the most critical choice in any engine build since it choreographs the airflow in and out of the cylinders.



There's a significant difference between building a race engine and building an engine that can be raced occasionally. Make sure you're realistic about what you'll be doing with your car.

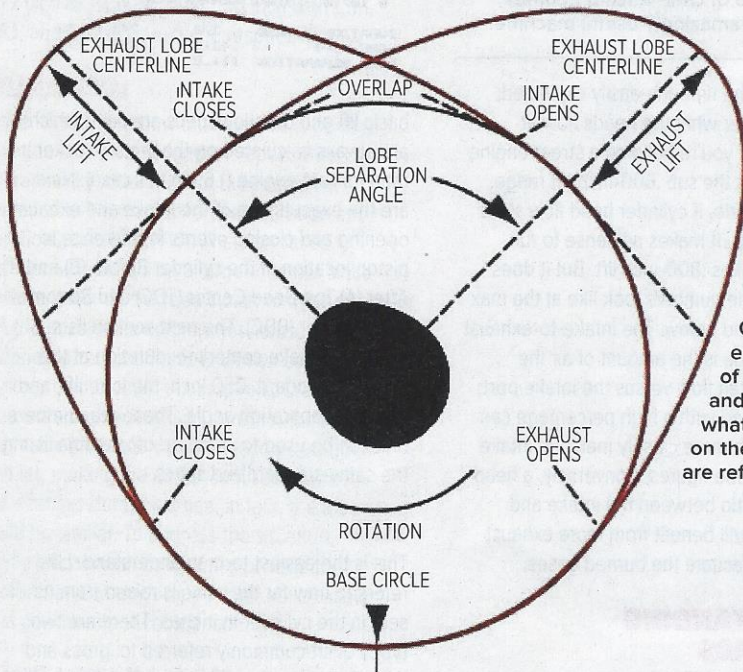


The heads are the part that truly dictate what the potential of the engine's airflow will be, but they must be paired with a cam with specs that complement their flow numbers and the intended operating range of the engine.

Although a cam can always be installed straight-up per the manufacturer's specs, sometimes horsepower can be found through minor adjustments to the installed position. In any situation, you should always check your cam event timing (with a degree wheel like this)



against the cam card to ensure your cam is delivering the advertised motion.



This diagram from COMP Cams is an end-on view of a camshaft and shows what the specs on the cam card are referring to.

“Being honest with yourself begins with forgetting about specific horsepower numbers you want, and focusing only on what exactly you’ll be doing with the car...”