

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1959 Cadillac Eldorado Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1959 Cadillac Eldorado Restoration Guide

Model Years 1959

Model year	1959
Engine	390 cu in Cadillac V8, triple two-barrel
Output	345 hp
Transmission	4-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
Production	Brougham 99 (Pinin Farina); Seville/Biarritz Series 6400 production

Every specification in this guide was checked against factory literature, marque references, period road tests, and documented survivor vehicles. Where sources disagree or the record is silent, this guide says so rather than guessing.

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How This Guide Works

This is a **single-year restoration** guide for the 1959 Cadillac Eldorado - one model year, given its own guide because the year changes are the restoration: specifications, finishes and procedures that differ from the year before and the year after are called out in the 1959 Register below, and shared platform material is labeled as shared. Cadillac factory shop manuals 1957-1960; Cadillac-LaSalle Club marque references; Hemmings Eldorado Brougham research; Hagerty model histories.

Scope. This guide covers the 1959 Cadillac Eldorado as built. Neighboring years appear only where a change boundary must be drawn - a part or procedure belonging to another year is named as such, never silently applied to this one.

Platform Snapshot

Fact	Detail
Model year	1959
Engine (standard)	390 cu in Cadillac V8, triple two-barrel
Output	345 hp
Transmission	4-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
Chassis	130 in wheelbase, all Eldorados (Brougham becomes Series 6900)
Original list price	Brougham \$13,075
Production	Brougham 99 (Pinin Farina); Seville/Biarritz Series 6400 production

The 1959 Register - What Makes a 1959 a 1959

- The famous year: the tallest fins Cadillac ever built, with dual bullet taillights, a jewel-like grille and matching decklid beauty panel. On the two-door Eldorados this is the maximum-fin specification - nothing else in the span looks like it.
- The Eldorados get their own series numbers: two-doors become Series 6400 and the Brougham becomes Series 6900, all on a new 130-inch wheelbase. Decode a 1959 car by its own series system, not the 1957-58 Series 62/70 scheme.
- The Brougham changes makers: bodies are now built by Pinin Farina in Turin, Italy, on Cadillac chassis shipped from Detroit - and the Brougham pointedly does NOT wear the giant fins. Its low fins with narrow taillights preview the 1960 Cadillac line.
- Only 99 Broughams were built for 1959 - the rarest year of this span.
- Air suspension remains standard Eldorado equipment; the three-deck jeweled rear grille insert appears, shared with the Fleetwood Sixty Special.

Engines - the 1959 Specification

Engine	Output	Notes
390 V8, triple two-barrel (all Eldorados)	345 hp	New 390 replaces the 365; tri-power induction continues



The 390 is a new engine, not a bored 365: 345 hp with the triple two-barrel setup across the Eldorado line. Engine parts orders must be written for the 390.

Brougham mechanical specification matches the other Eldorados (390, 345 hp, Hydra-Matic) - the Italian build is a body and trim story, not a drivetrain story.

Year-Correct Procedures

Air suspension diagnosis carries over, but 1959 system details follow the 1959 manual - and the Brougham's hand-built Italian body means panel and trim service procedures differ from the Detroit-built two-doors.

The Brougham's angular roofline with rear ventiplanes and its lead-fused, seamless front-end panels are Pinin Farina construction - body repair on a Brougham is coachbuilt-body repair, with the labor that implies.

Finishes and Trim - 1959 Only

- Two-door Eldorados: Eldorado lettering behind the front wheel opening and broad full-length sill highlights sweeping over the rear fender profile.
- Brougham: a single thin mid-side molding, a vertical crest medallion with Brougham script on the front fenders, and NO Eldorado fender letters - absence of lettering is correct on this car.

Restoration Sequence Notes

- Photograph and record the car's tags, casting numbers and as-found trim before teardown - on a single-year restoration the as-found evidence is what the finished car is judged against.
- Verify every year-locked item in the 1959 Register before ordering parts; the commonest defect in this model's restorations is a neighboring year's part fitted without malice and without record.
- Keep a build file: sources consulted, measurements taken, and every substitution made, however small.

Recommended for this restoration

Shop exact-fit supplies on Amazon

- Cadillac 365 390 V8 engine rebuild gasket set
- 1957-1960 Cadillac weatherstrip kit
- Cadillac Eldorado air suspension conversion kit

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Sources Consulted

Cadillac factory shop manuals 1957-1960; Cadillac-LaSalle Club marque references; Hemmings Eldorado Brougham research; Hagerty model histories. Where sources disagreed, the disagreement is recorded in this guide's corrections file and the disputed figure is not asserted.

Thank you for restoring a 1959 Cadillac Eldorado the way it was built - one year at a time. - RestorationEssentials