

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1960 Cadillac Eldorado Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1960 Cadillac Eldorado Restoration Guide

Model Years 1960

Model year	1960
Engine	390 cu in Cadillac V8
Output	325 hp (Brougham tri-power 345 hp)
Transmission	4-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
Production	Brougham 101 (Pinin Farina); last Seville year

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 1960 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 1960 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 1960 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	1960
Engine (standard)	390 cu in Cadillac V8
Output	325 hp (Brougham tri-power 345 hp)
Transmission	4-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
Chassis	130 in wheelbase; tubular X-frame; finned rear drums
Original list price	Brougham \$13,075 class (flagship pricing carried)
Production	Brougham 101 (Pinin Farina); last Seville year

The 1960 Register - What Makes a 1960 a 1960

- The fins come DOWN: 1960 styling is a deliberate restraint pass - lower fins without the twin bullet taillamps, oval taillight nacelles, a full-width grille and pointed bumper guards eliminated. A 1960 car wearing 1959 fins has the wrong rear clip.
- Last year of the Eldorado Seville hardtop and last year of the hand-built Brougham (101 built). After 1960 the Eldorado is a convertible only.
- Last year for factory air suspension - coil springs replace the trouble-prone system for 1961, and GM's factory coil conversion is the documented fix many cars received.
- Two-door engine specification changes: the Seville and Biarritz run a single four-barrel 390 at 325 hp, while the Brougham keeps the triple two-barrel 345-hp setup - the same model year carries two different Eldorado engines, split by body.
- Finned rear brake drums and the tubular X-frame are the year's technical highlights under the skin.

Engines - the 1960 Specification

Engine	Output	Notes
390 V8, single four-barrel (Seville/Biarritz)	325 hp	Tri-power leaves the two-door Eldorados for 1960
390 V8, triple two-barrel (Brougham)	345 hp	Brougham retains the 345-hp tri-power specification

Check the body before the build sheet: a 345-hp tri-power claim belongs to a Brougham; a two-door 1960 Eldorado is a 325-hp single-four-barrel car from the factory.

This is the same 390 family as 1959 - the change is induction and rating, not displacement.



Year-Correct Procedures

Air suspension is in its final year: service it to the 1960 manual, and record any coil conversion with the factory kit documentation - a converted car is a documented period fix, not a defect to hide.

Finned rear drums are a 1960 service item - verify drum specification at brake service rather than substituting the smooth drum.

Finishes and Trim - 1960 Only

- Bright sill highlights extend across the lower edge of the fender skirts on the two-doors, with Eldorado block lettering on the front fenders behind the headlamps.
- Brougham: new standard-model bumpers and a fin-like lower-bodyside skag with crest medallions moved to the trailing edge of the rear fenders - 1960 Brougham trim placement differs from 1959.
- Interiors in Chadwick cloth or optional Chambray cloth-and-leather combinations.

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 1960 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 1960 Cadillac Eldorado the way it was built - one year at a time. - RestorationEssentials