

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1963 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1963 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

Model Years 1963

Model year	1963 — legroom and the alternator
Body styles	4-door sedan; 4-door convertible
Wheelbase	123 in
Engine	430 cu in MEL V8 — 300 hp (see note)
Transmission	3-speed Turbo-Drive automatic
Brakes	Four-wheel drums
Production	31,233 (published figure)
Electrical	Alternator replaces the generator

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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What This Year Is — and What Changed

For 1963 Lincoln answered the two complaints the 1961-62 car had earned — rear legroom and trunk space — without touching the styling formula. The dash and seats were reworked, the decklid grew, and the electrical system modernized with an alternator. It is the last year of the 123-inch wheelbase and of curved side glass.

1963 change register

- Front seat and dashboard redesigned to win legroom; rear seat repositioned for the same reason.
- Rear decklid raised to add trunk capacity; a Lincoln emblem appears on the decklid.
- Grille insert becomes a simple matrix of squares.
- Alternator replaces the generator — the charging-system service procedures change completely from 1961-62.
- AM/FM radio becomes optional; power front vent windows are introduced; the radio antenna moves to the right front fender.
- Horsepower: sources conflict. House range research rates the 430 at 300 hp through 1963 and 320 hp from 1964; Hagerty's buyer's guide dates a four-barrel/compression change (10.0:1 to 10.1:1) and the 320-hp rating to 1963. This guide prints both readings — judge a specific car by its carburetor and build date.



Factory Specification — 1963

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Engine	430 cu in MEL V8	300 hp horse use figure; 320 hp per Hager ty from 1963 — conflict printed
Wheel base / length	123 in / ~213 in	Final year of 123-in wheel base
Charging	Alternator	New for 1963