

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1965 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1965 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

Model Years 1965

Model year	1965 — front disc brakes arrive
Body styles	4-door sedan; 4-door convertible
Wheelbase	126 in
Engine	430 cu in MEL V8, 320 hp / 465 lb-ft
Transmission	3-speed Turbo-Drive automatic
Brakes	Front discs (Kelsey-Hayes), rear drums
Production	37,824 built (published) — see corrections
Lighting	Wraparound fender lamps (new design)

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

The 1965 Continental keeps the 1964 body and fixes its two weakest points: the face and the brakes. The convex grille gives way to a flat, squared design, the lamps move out to the fenders, and Kelsey-Hayes front disc brakes finally give the two-and-a-half-ton car stopping power to match its go. It is the last year of the 430 and of the first body.

1965 change register

- Flat, squared-off grille replaces the 1961-64 convex 'electric shaver' fascia; a hint of the later power-dome hood appears.
- Front disc brakes (Kelsey-Hayes) — the brake service procedures, pads, calipers and proportioning are all new versus 1961-64.
- Parking lamps and front turn signals move from the bumper into wraparound front-fender lenses; matching lamps at the rear.
- Taillights gain ribbed chrome grilles; an oil-pressure gauge is added to the instrument panel.
- Front seat belts with retractors become standard equipment.
- Final year of the 430 MEL (320 hp); the 462 arrives with the 1966 redesign.



Factory Specification — 1965

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Engine	430 cu in MEL V8	320 hp / 465 lb-ft ; final year of the 430
Wheel base / length	126 in / ~216 in	
Brakes	Front discs, rear drums	New for 1965 — Kelsey-Hayes
Grille	Flat, squared	New for 1965; run to 1969 in evolved form