

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1965 Oldsmobile Cutlass Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1965 Oldsmobile Cutlass Restoration Guide

Model Years 1965

Model year	1965 — the 400 answers the GTO
Wheelbase	115 in
Volume V8	330 cu in Jetfire Rocket (up to 315 hp 4-bbl)
Performance	4-4-2 gains the 400 V8, 345 hp / 440 lb-ft
Styling	Facelift; length 204.3 in; dumbbell grille
Line sales	187,097
Emblem	First year of the 'Rocket' logo

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

A modest facelift hides the year's real story: GM lifted its 330-cubic-inch ceiling for intermediates, and the 4-4-2 immediately grew a 400-cubic-inch V8 of its own. The name itself was redefined to match. Volume Cutlasses got the new face, a little more length, and an up-rated 330.

1965 change register

- Facelift: 'dumbbell' grille echoing the full-size Oldsmobiles; overall length to 204.3 in.
- 4-4-2: exclusive 400 V8 rated 345 hp / 440 lb-ft; the name now means 400 cubic inches, 4-barrel carburetor, 2 exhausts.
- Two-speed Jetaway automatic becomes available on the 4-4-2; the Hurst shifter arrives in the 4-4-2 — period equipment, and a dating clue on survivors.
- 330 carried over with increased ratings; the high-compression four-barrel is rated 315 hp in Hagerty's data.
- First year of Oldsmobile's 'Rocket' emblem, which lasts, with variations, into the 1990s.



Factory Specification — 1965

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Wheelbase / length	115 in / 204.3 in	
Volume V8	330 cu in Jetfire Rocket	Head-stamp prefix T; 4-bbl high-comp 315 hp
4-4-2 engine	400 cu in V8	345 hp / 440 lb-ft; new for 1965
4-4-2 automatic	Jetaway 2-speed (optional)	New availability this year