

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1968 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1968 Lincoln Continental Restoration Guide

Model Years 1968

Model year	1968 — two bodies left; the 460 phases in
Body styles	4-door sedan; 2-door hardtop coupe
Wheelbase	126 in
Engine	462 MEL early; 460 (385-series) 365 hp phased in during the year
Transmission	3-speed Turbo-Drive automatic
Brakes	Front discs, rear drums
Production	39,134 (published figure)
Lighting	Wraparound fender lamps return (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

Two stories define the 1968 Continental. The convertible is gone, ending the four-door rag-top era, and under the hood the MEL era ends mid-year: early cars carry the 462, later cars the new 460 from Ford's 385 engine family. A 1968 Continental cannot be specified from its year alone — the engine in the car is the specification.

1968 change register

- Four-door convertible discontinued; the line is sedan and coupe.
- Wraparound parking/turn-signal lamps return to the fenders in a new design, answering the federal side-marker requirements — similar in concept to 1965, different in execution.
- New dashboard design and a Continental-exclusive steering wheel.
- Shoulder belts for outboard front passengers join the safety equipment.
- Engine transition: 462 MEL at launch; the 460 (365 hp) phases in later in the year as 462 stocks are used up. Parts ordering for either engine must start from the engine actually in the car.
- April 1968: the Continental Mark III debuts as a 1969 model — context for why the standard coupe's days are numbered.



Factory Specification — 1968

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Engine (early)	462 cu in M EL V8	340 hp / 485 lb-ft
Engine (late)	460 cu in 385-series V8	365 hp; phase during 1968
Wheel base / length	126 in / ~221 in	
Body styles	Sedan; coupe	No convertible from 1968
Seat belts	Shoulder belts, front outboard	New for 1968