

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass Restoration Guide

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so you can judge the depth before you spend a dollar.

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1971 Oldsmobile Cutlass Restoration Guide

Model Years 1971

Model year	1971 — the low-compression turn
Wheelbase	112 in (2-dr) / 116 in (4-dr) / 121 in (Vista Cruiser)
Volume V8	350 cu in Rocket (low-compression)
Performance	W-30 455: 350 hp gross / 300 hp net; 4-4-2's final year as a model
Fuel	Calibrated for low-lead/unleaded, 91 research octane
Six	250 six — final 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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What This Year Is — and What Changed

The sheet metal says 1970; the engines tell the new story. For 1971 every Oldsmobile engine gets lower compression and hardened valve seats so the cars can run on the low-lead and unleaded fuels already on the horizon. Gross ratings fall, net ratings appear beside them, and the muscle era begins its managed retreat — which makes 1971 cars honest, drivable classics rather than failed 1970s.

1971 change register

- Same basic sheet metal as 1970, with a new hood, grille, headlight assemblies, bumpers and taillights; four new colors (Viking Blue, Lime Green, Bittersweet, Saturn Gold).
- All engines: lowered compression, hardened valve seats, calibrated for regular leaded, low-lead or unleaded fuel at 91 research octane — engine internals and tune specifications differ from 1970 even where displacements match.
- W-30 455 rated 350 hp gross and 300 hp net — both figures are factory-published; quote them as a pair, never mixed.
- Final year of the 250 six in the line, and the final year of the 4-4-2 as its own model line.



Factory Specification — 1971

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Wheel base	112 / 116 / 121 in	By body style
Volumetric V8	350 cu in Rocket	Low-compression, hardened seats
4-4-2/W-30	455 cu in V8	W-30: 350 gross / 300 net hp
Fuel requirement	91 research octane	Lead, low-lead or unleaded
Base six	250 cu in Action-Line 6	Final year