

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass Restoration Guide

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

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RESTORATIONESSENTIALS

Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1972 Oldsmobile Cutlass Restoration Guide

Model Years 1972

Model year	1972 — 4-4-2 becomes an option again; the VIN learns the engine
Wheelbase	112 in (2-dr) / 116 in (4-dr) / 121 in (Vista Cruiser)
Volume V8	350 cu in Rocket (VIN-coded)
Performance	4-4-2 = W-29 option; W-30 455 still offered, 300 hp net
VIN	Fifth character = engine code (new)
Six	Dropped from the line

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 last year of the 1968 body brings the era to a tidy close: the 4-4-2 goes back to being an option package, the six disappears, ratings go fully net — and, in the restorer's favor, the VIN finally starts telling the truth about the engine. A Hurst/Olds from this line paced the Indianapolis 500, a fitting farewell tour.

1972 change register

- Minor styling changes: grilles and taillights.
- The 4-4-2 reverts to an option package (W-29) on Cutlass, Cutlass S and Cutlass Supreme V8 cars; reported orders total 772 cars.
- The W-30 remains available with the 455, rated 300 hp net.
- The straight-six is dropped from the line.
- The VIN's fifth character now codes the engine — the year's great authentication gift (see the VIN section).
- A Hurst/Olds Cutlass (Supreme notchback and convertible) paced the Indianapolis 500; about 630 replicas were built.



Factory Specification — 1972

Item	Factory specification	Notes
Wheel base	112 / 116 / 121 in	By body style
Volume V 8	350 cu in Rocket	VIN codes H/J (2-bbl), K/M (4-bbl)
Big V 8	455 cu in	VIN codes U/V/X; W-30 at 300 hp net
4-4-2 form	W-29 option package	772 reported orders
Rating basis	Net (SAE)	Gross figures end with 1971