

FREE SAMPLE

The opening pages of

1957 Cadillac Eldorado Restoration Guide

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Factory-Correct Restoration Reference

1957 Cadillac Eldorado Restoration Guide

Model Years 1957

Model year	1957
Engine	365 cu in Cadillac V8, dual four-barrel
Output	325 hp
Transmission	4-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
Production	Seville 2,100; Biarritz 1,800; Brougham 400

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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How This Guide Works

This is a **single-year restoration** guide for the 1957 Cadillac Eldorado - one model year, given its own guide because the year changes are the restoration: specifications, finishes and procedures that differ from the year before and the year after are called out in the 1957 Register below, and shared platform material is labeled as shared. Cadillac factory shop manuals 1957-1960; Cadillac-LaSalle Club marque references; Hemmings Eldorado Brougham research; Hagerty model histories.



Scope. This guide covers the 1957 Cadillac Eldorado as built. Neighboring years appear only where a change boundary must be drawn - a part or procedure belonging to another year is named as such, never silently applied to this one.

Platform Snapshot

Fact	Detail
Model year	1957
Engine (standard)	365 cu in Cadillac V8, dual four-barrel
Output	325 hp
Transmission	4-speed Hydra-Matic automatic
Chassis	Series 62 cars: 129.5 in wheelbase; Brougham (Series 70): 126 in
Original list price	Seville/Biarritz \$7,286; Brougham \$13,074
Production	Seville 2,100; Biarritz 1,800; Brougham 400

The 1957 Register - What Makes a 1957 a 1957

- New third-generation styling: a low, downswept rear fenderline capped by pointed inboard fins, with broad sculptured stainless panels on the lower rear quarters blending into split wraparound bumpers - a rear-end treatment used by no other Cadillac.
- The Eldorado Brougham debuts as a separate hand-built car: Series 70, four-door pillarless hardtop with rear-hinged rear doors, a brushed stainless-steel roof, self-leveling air suspension, forged aluminum wheels and Cadillac's first memory power seat. 400 built.
- The Brougham was also Cadillac's first quad-headlight car - fitted while quad lamps were still not legal in every state, which is part of the car's rollout story.
- Four one-off-style four-door hardtop Eldorado Seviles were also built in 1957 - documented specials, not a production body style.
- The Brougham's all-transistor signal-seeking radio (13 transistors, Delco) was a first for a production car and standard Brougham equipment.

Engines - the 1957 Specification

Engine	Output	Notes
365 V8, dual four-barrel (all Eldorados)	325 hp	25 hp above the standard Cadillac 365 single-carburetor tune; gold batwing air cleaner

Every 1957 Eldorado - Seville, Biarritz and Brougham - runs the dual four-barrel 365 at 325 hp. A single-carburetor 365 at the standard 300-hp rating is a lesser Cadillac engine in the wrong car.

Brougham engines were sound-tested and selected for quiet running - a marque-documented build practice worth recording on a Brougham build sheet.



Year-Correct Procedures

Brougham air suspension is a service system, not a fit-and-forget option: four air springs fed by an engine-driven compressor with leveling valves. Diagnose height complaints at the valves and lines before condemning the springs - and know that period owners often converted to coils, so document what the car actually has.

Brougham vanity equipment (notebook and pencil, mirror, perfume atomizer, magnetic tumblers, cigarette case) is part of the car's factory specification - inventory it like trim, not like litter.

Finishes and Trim - 1957 Only

- Seville and Biarritz: Eldorado script and V-deck ornament placement are 1957-specific; the stainless rear-quarter panels are polished stainless, not chrome plate.
- Brougham: brushed stainless roof finish, 44 full-leather interior/trim combinations, and carpet choices that included Mouton, Karakul and lambskin - record the fitted combination from the car's data, not from a color chart alone.

Restoration Sequence Notes

- Photograph and record the car's tags, casting numbers and as-found trim before teardown - on a single-year restoration the as-found evidence is what the finished car is judged against.
- Verify every year-locked item in the 1957 Register before ordering parts; the commonest defect in this model's restorations is a neighboring year's part fitted without malice and without record.
- Keep a build file: sources consulted, measurements taken, and every substitution made, however small.

Recommended for this restoration

Shop exact-fit supplies on Amazon

- Cadillac 365 390 V8 engine rebuild gasket set
- 1957-1960 Cadillac weatherstrip kit
- Cadillac Eldorado air suspension conversion kit

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Sources Consulted

Cadillac factory shop manuals 1957-1960; Cadillac-LaSalle Club marque references; Hemmings Eldorado Brougham research; Hagerty model histories. Where sources disagreed, the disagreement is recorded in this guide's corrections file and the disputed figure is not asserted.

Thank you for restoring a 1957 Cadillac Eldorado the way it was built - one year at a time. - RestorationEssentials