Ford Falcon and Ranchero

1966 Ford Falcon and Ranchero Owner's Manual

Original Canadian Edition

Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the safe and efficient operation, care, and maintenance of your 1966 Ford Falcon or Ranchero. Familiarizing yourself with its contents will help ensure many years of reliable service from your vehicle. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating your vehicle.



Image: Front cover of the 1966 Ford Falcon and Ranchero Owner's Manual, showing the Ford logo and vehicle models.

Getting Started

Before Driving

- **Check Fluid Levels:** Ensure engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, and windshield washer fluid are at appropriate levels.
- **Tire Pressure:** Verify tire pressures are correct as specified on the tire placard, typically located in the glove compartment or door jamb.
- **Lights and Signals:** Confirm all exterior lights, including headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals, are functioning.
- **Seat Adjustment:** Adjust the driver's seat for comfortable reach to pedals and steering wheel.
- **Mirror Adjustment:** Adjust interior and exterior mirrors for optimal rear visibility.

Starting the Engine

1. Ensure the transmission is in Park (P) for automatic or Neutral (N) for manual.
2. Insert the key into the ignition and turn to the 'ON' position.
3. For cold starts, depress the accelerator pedal once to set the automatic choke, then release.

4. Turn the key to 'START' and hold until the engine fires, then release. Do not crank for more than 15 seconds.

Operating Your Vehicle

Driving Controls

Familiarize yourself with the location and function of all controls, including:

- **Steering Wheel:** Controls direction.
- **Accelerator Pedal:** Controls engine speed and vehicle acceleration.
- **Brake Pedal:** Activates the braking system.
- **Clutch Pedal (Manual Transmission):** Disengages engine from transmission for gear changes.
- **Gear Selector:** For selecting drive, reverse, neutral, or park.
- **Headlight Switch:** Operates headlights and parking lights.
- **Wiper/Washer Control:** Activates windshield wipers and washer fluid.

Safe Driving Practices

- Always wear seat belts.
- Observe all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Maintain a safe following distance.
- Avoid sudden acceleration, braking, or steering maneuvers.
- Do not operate the vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Maintenance

Scheduled Maintenance

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your vehicle. Refer to the maintenance schedule provided in this manual for recommended service intervals.

- **Every 1,000 miles or 1 month:** Check engine oil, coolant, battery fluid, tire pressure.
- **Every 6,000 miles or 6 months:** Change engine oil and filter, lubricate chassis, inspect brakes, rotate tires.
- **Every 12,000 miles or 12 months:** Replace air filter, fuel filter, spark plugs, inspect drive belts, check transmission fluid.

Fluid Specifications

- **Engine Oil:** Refer to the manual for specific API service classification and viscosity (e.g., SAE 10W-30).
- **Coolant:** Ethylene glycol-based antifreeze/coolant.
- **Brake Fluid:** Heavy-duty hydraulic brake fluid, meeting Ford specifications.

Troubleshooting

This section addresses common issues you might encounter and provides basic solutions. For complex problems, consult a qualified service technician.

Engine Will Not Start

- **No Crank:** Check battery terminals for corrosion, ensure battery is charged. Verify transmission is in Park or

Neutral.

- **Crank, No Start:** Check fuel level. Ensure ignition system components (spark plugs, points, condenser) are in good condition.

Overheating

- Check coolant level.
- Inspect radiator and hoses for leaks or obstructions.
- Ensure fan belt is properly tensioned.

Specifications

The following are general specifications for the 1966 Ford Falcon and Ranchero. Specific details may vary by model and options.

- **Engine Options:** Inline 6-cylinder (170 cu. in., 200 cu. in.), V8 (289 cu. in.).
- **Transmission:** 3-speed manual, 4-speed manual, 2-speed automatic (Ford-O-Matic), 3-speed automatic (C4).
- **Fuel Tank Capacity:** Approximately 16 gallons (60 liters).
- **Tire Size:** Varies by model, typically 6.50 x 13 or 6.95 x 14.
- **Electrical System:** 12-volt negative ground.

Warranty Information

At the time of original purchase, your Ford Falcon or Ranchero was covered by a limited warranty. Details regarding the terms, conditions, and duration of this warranty were provided in a separate warranty booklet or within the original purchase agreement. For vehicles of this age, original warranties have long since expired. Any current coverage would be through aftermarket service plans or specific dealer agreements, if applicable.

Customer Support

For service and parts for your 1966 Ford Falcon or Ranchero, it is recommended to consult with a reputable automotive service center specializing in classic Ford vehicles. Original Ford dealerships from 1966 may no longer exist or operate under different names. Resources for classic car owners include:

- Local classic car clubs and enthusiast groups.
- Specialized vintage Ford parts suppliers.
- Independent mechanics with experience in vintage American vehicles.

This manual serves as a primary resource for understanding your vehicle's original design and operational requirements.

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Ask a question about this manual

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question

and use this page's manual context to help answer it.

Name

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question