

THE DISTINGUISHED 59 FORD

THUNDERBIRD



THE CAR EVERYONE WOULD LOVE TO OWN

Ford proudly presents the 1959 version of

AMERICA'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CAR

Thunderbird! The car all America has taken to its heart.

There are many reasons for Thunderbird's unmatched appeal. Most indicative, perhaps, is the fact that Thunderbird is *unique* among motor cars. Unique in compactness, in spirit, in performance. Whether you select the hardtop, or the convertible, your Thunderbird is a masterpiece of elegance and comfort. It provides luxurious room for four passengers. It is, in fact, America's most wanted, most admired car! Nevertheless, you'll find it is priced *far* below other luxury cars.

And under the hood—there's the stand-

ard 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 whose muted purring belies its power. Or as the superpower option, the all-new 350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8—the biggest, finest power plant in the industry. In short, Thunderbird's performance matches its presence. Thunderbird "Go" matches its glow.

Unrivalled for cornering and handling ease, Thunderbird performs as brilliantly in city traffic as on the open highway. From Newport to the Pacific Palisades, no more exciting automobile travels any road than Thunderbird—the car *everyone* would love to own!

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An exclusive Ford achievement:

THE NEW THUNDERBIRD CONVERTIBLE!

POWER-OPERATED, ITS SOFT TOP
DISAPPEARS LIKE MAGIC!

For glamour and individuality, there is nothing in the world to compare with the new Thunderbird convertible.

Its automatic top accords, flips and disappears—*completely disappears*—into the spacious trunk. The marvelously long, distinctively sculptured rear deck becomes flush with the rear seats, forming one long, uninterrupted sweep of pure Thunderbird beauty. It makes the car look even lower, even more dashing, even more agile, incredible as this may seem.

The effect is in a word, spectacular.

Even the *tops* are extraordinarily luxurious in the new Thunderbird convertible. You have a choice of six vinyl-clad and one rayon top, with lining in complementing or contrasting color. Inside and out, top up or down, the Thunderbird convertible is the car of surpassing beauty!

UNIQUELY THUNDERBIRD- *Sports-car personality combined with luxury-car roominess and comfort!*

Seen on the open road, America's prestige car glows with the vivid personality of the sports car. Inside, there's the unmistakable feel of the grandest custom-built luxury automobile. Extra-wide, glide-through doors open your way to lap-of-luxury comfort. Thunderbird's exclusive side-by-side individual seats, front and back, make every trip a sheer delight. These contoured seats are luxuriously wide, elegantly soft. And this year, you may choose from an even wider selection of Thunderbird interior color combinations—in rich nylon and vinyl upholstery—or genuine leather can be installed at your request.

Even Thunderbird's flooring is the height of automotive fashion. It is a soft carpet of lustrous

looped rayon. And a marvelously spacious luggage compartment gives you more-than-ample room for the cross-country traveling needs of four passengers.

At the wheel, you're only a touch away from the handsome, deeply recessed instrument cluster panel, and the glove box door of ribbed die casting in gleaming satin chrome.

Your first close look at the 1959 Thunderbird will reveal a car of unique beauty and incomparable convenience. Your first ride in America's greatest performer will be an unforgettable experience. Before you've clocked your first mile, you will know why Thunderbird is the car everyone would love to drive . . . and own!

Masterfully designed luggage compartment is 5 feet, 5 inches wide, gives you more than 20 cubic feet of space. That's room enough for all the luggage needed for a cross-country trip! Four big suitcases, golf bags, plenty of other gear . . . all fit in easily—even with the spare tire in place. Note that the spare stays in front of the compartment, to give you maximum room.

Five-car room, comfort and luxury—Here's wide-open, stretch-out kind of spaciousness for four passengers. Thunderbird doors are exceptionally wide (1 foot wide, to be exact). And the back of the front passenger seat folds all the way down. These give gracefully easy, direct access to the rear seats. So, you enter or leave your Thunderbird comfortably with poise intact.

The driver and front passenger have luxurious, individually adjustable seats. Wide, deep, individually contoured seats accommodate the rear passengers. And where but in Thunderbird do you find the plush comfort of formed foam rubber in the cushions and backs of all seats?

"Front row" picture window—You see up, over and around through the visored, chrome-crowned compound windshield. You get an unobstructed view in all forward directions—a safer view, too, because every Thunderbird window is Safety Glass.



Standard equipment on America's most advanced prestige car: thick-padded Lifeguard safety instrument panel, fully-cushioned Lifeguard sun visors and deep-center Lifeguard steering wheel. Self-regulating electric clock. Handsome Thunderbird front fender ornaments. Individually adjustable driver's seat and front passenger seat.



INVITATION TO PLEASURE UN LIMITED-THUNDERBIRD STYLE!



Sophistication and originality characterize the 4-passenger Thunderbird hardtop—a truly wonderful *family car!* At the wheel of a Thunderbird, you have the very satisfying knowledge that you are driving the car that is *unique* among all cars in spirit and personality. And you drive this modestly priced beauty protected by all the exclusive, Ford-pioneered safety features that add so much to carefree going . . . Thunderbird style!

NEW THUNDERBIRD COLORS-TASTEFUL AS THE CAR ITSELF!

18 rich Single Colors to choose from

Now you have a wider choice than ever before of tasteful Thunderbird colors! There are 41 Two Tone combinations for the hardtop—fourteen of them being reversible—thirty-four of them brilliantly new. There are 18 distinctive Single Colors for the hardtop and convertible—six more than ever before. You'll find five new colors that are *exclusively* Thunderbird: Starlight Blue, Tamarack Green, Brandywine Red, Baltic Blue and Cordovan.

And every Thunderbird color is in new Diamond Lustre Finish—the highest gloss, hardest finish ever developed for any automobile. It's so durable you won't have to wax it—*ever!* Truly, here are colors of such beauty and subtle appeal that they could belong only to the jewel of a car that's Thunderbird for '59!

Top—Colonial White
Body—Raven Black

Top—Raven Black
Body—Colonial White

Top—Colonial White
Body—Platinum

Top—Raven Black
Body—Platinum

Top—Colonial White
Body—Brandywine Red

Top—Brandywine Red
Body—Colonial White

Top—Raven Black
Body—Brandywine Red

Top—Colonial White
Body—Indian Turquoise

Top—Indian Turquoise
Body—Colonial White

Top—Colonial White
Body—Flamingo

Top—Raven Black
Body—Flamingo

Top—Colonial White
Body—Sandstone

Top—Colonial White
Body—Cashel Cream

Top—Cashel Cream
Body—Colonial White

Top—Raven Black
Body—Diamond Blue

Top—Baltic Blue
Body—Diamond Blue

Top—Colonial White
Body—Gato Blue

Top—Baltic Blue
Body—Colonial White

Top—Starlight Blue
Body—Baltic Blue

Top—Baltic Blue
Body—Starlight Blue

Top—Colonial White
Body—Steel Blue

Top—Diamond Blue
Body—Steel Blue

Top—Steel Blue
Body—Diamond Blue

Top—Colonial White
Body—Starlight Blue

Top—Starlight Blue
Body—Colonial White

Top—Diamond Blue
Body—Starlight Blue

Top—Starlight Blue
Body—Diamond Blue

Top—Colonial White
Body—Glacier Green

Top—Glacier Green
Body—Colonial White

Top—Colonial White
Body—Sea Foot Green

Top—Colonial White
Body—Tamarack Green

Top—Tamarack Green
Body—Colonial White

Top—Glacier Green
Body—Tamarack Green

Top—Tamarack Green
Body—Glacier Green

Top—Colonial White
Body—Cordovan

Top—Cordovan
Body—Colonial White

Top—Ocean Beige
Body—Cordovan

Top—Colonial White
Body—Hickory Tan

Top—Hickory Tan
Body—Colonial White

Top—Ocean Beige
Body—Hickory Tan

Top—Hickory Tan
Body—Ocean Beige

Raven Black

Platinum

Colonial White

Brandywine Red

Indian Turquoise

Flamingo

Sandstone

Cashel Cream

Diamond Blue

Baltic Blue

Steel Blue

Starlight Blue

Glacier Green

Sea Foot Green

Tamarack Green

Cordovan

Hickory Tan

Ocean Beige

14 Luxury Lounge Interiors!

The new Thunderbird offers you an almost limitless choice! And each one, of course, is in harmony with Thunderbird's beautiful exterior finish. The top portion (see identifying circles) shows the color of the bolsters—now available in 2 genuine leathers and 6 rich Soft-Textured vinyls. The lower portion shows the deep-pleated back and cushion inserts—available in 4 leathers, 4 Nylon Check fabrics with Silver Strand, and 6 Soft-Textured vinyls. The Thunderbird convertible offers you a choice of 6 vinyl-clad, and one rayon three-ply soft tops. Black top and Black lining (Rayon) White top and Black lining White top and Blue lining Light Blue top and Blue lining White top and Turquoise-green lining Turquoise top and Turquoise-green lining White top and Tan lining

Black Leather or

Red Leather or

Black Vinyl or

Black Vinyl or

Red Vinyl or

Dark Blue Vinyl or

Dark Blue Vinyl or

Dark Green Vinyl or

Dark Green Vinyl or

Tan Vinyl or

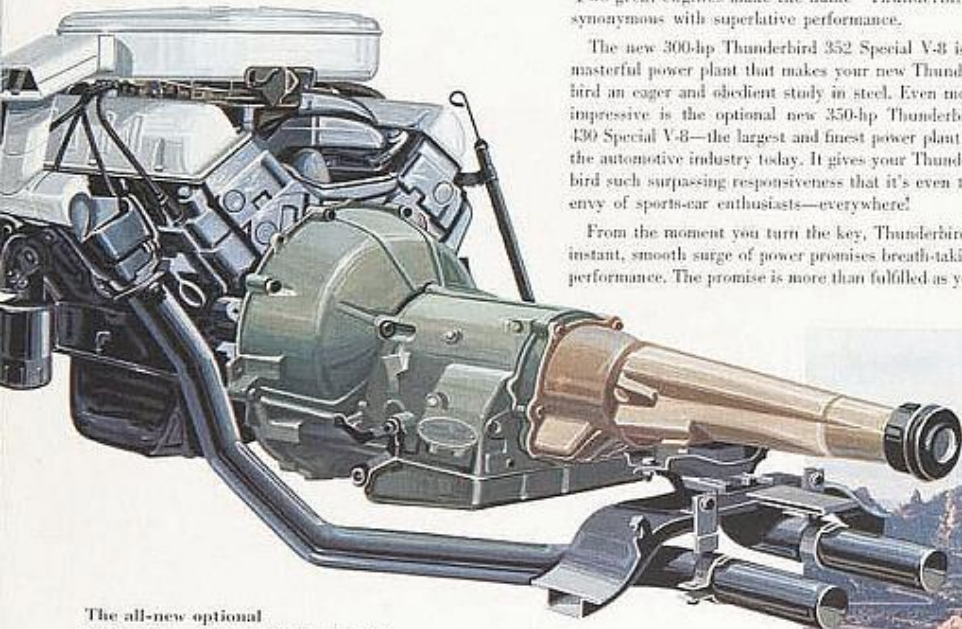
Turquoise Vinyl or

Turquoise Vinyl or

Tan Leather or

Turquoise Leather or

New 430 Special V-8 Engine makes Thunderbird the greatest performer on any road, *anywhere!*



The all-new optional 350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8

This is the mighty heart of the 1959 Thunderbird. This sensational power plant in a car of Thunderbird's compactness and poise results in performance and agility unmatched on the American road today. There's a revolutionary new in-block combustion chamber. It provides closer tolerances, better

control of the compression ratio. Coupled with this for greater economy and smoother, swifter acceleration, the 430 engine boasts a water-jacketed intake manifold, 3-stage cooling, and a temperature-controlled air intake. Engineering advances like these put Thunderbird in a class by itself.

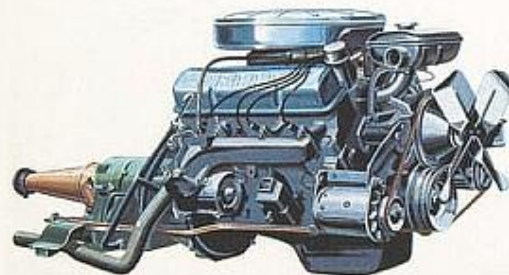
Two great engines make the name "Thunderbird" synonymous with superlative performance.

The new 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 is a masterful power plant that makes your new Thunderbird an eager and obedient study in steel. Even more impressive is the optional new 350-hp Thunderbird 430 Special V-8—the largest and finest power plant in the automotive industry today. It gives your Thunderbird such surpassing responsiveness that it's even the envy of sports-car enthusiasts—everywhere!

From the moment you turn the key, Thunderbird's instant, smooth surge of power promises breath-taking performance. The promise is more than fulfilled as you

put your TBird through its paces. In case of handling, cornering, climbing, parking—in every aspect of driving—Thunderbird performance is nothing short of incredible. No other car performs like Thunderbird because no other car combines Thunderbird's unique compactness with Thunderbird's mighty power.

Most important of all, perhaps, is that the 1959 Thunderbird delivers power where it counts. Power for extra-safe passing in the normal speed ranges. Moreover, you get the gentlest ride ever—because Thunderbird's automatic ride control smooths out even the roughest country roads in a way you must experience to believe.



The standard 300-hp Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 . . .

with 4-barrel carburetor, is the triumphant achievement of Ford—the world's most experienced builders of V-8's. It features Precision Fuel Induction—a remarkable *direct* fuel-feeding, gas-saving system. Like the 430 V-8, it features Full-Flow oil filtration . . . zero-lash hydraulic valve lifters . . . an engine electronically balanced under its own power for optimum smoothness. All these add significance to famous Thunderbird GO!

Thunderbird 352 Special V-8 Engine Features



New Wedge-Shape Combustion Chambers are redesigned for more efficient performance, to extract the full power potential from every molecule of fuel. Smooth, more complete combustion is the result . . . with uniformly controlled high-compression ratios.



Precision Fuel Induction brings you more instantaneous power, more responsive power. Fuel-air mixture flows directly through it, bypassing four carburetor jet combustion chambers. Free breathing means more efficient power, smoother performance.



Hydraulic Valve Lifters are self-adjusting for zero lash. This gives you the smoothest and quietest of engines . . . and longer valve life. And because the valve lifters adjust automatically, there's no need to set upper clearances during engine tune-up.

Thunderbird 430 Special V-8 Engine Features



New in-block combustion chamber carries direct contact of compression ratio in each cylinder for uniform power output, smoother idling. Less heat generated in the head means better valve cooling, and using aluminum alloy valves with zero-lash hydraulic lifters results in longer valve life, better intake and exhaust action, smooth even combustion.



New 3-stage cooling is a completely controlled pressure system. Coolant circulates in three stages: (1) to intake manifold and cylinder heads; (2) to block; (3) to radiator. This gives fast starting warm-up and then proper temperature progression by three thermostat for more uniform control of internal expansion. Result: smoother, better performance and longer life.



New fuel system advances mean more "psi" in less gas. Direct flow manifold passages from carburetor to combustion chamber give free breathing for exceptional performance and fuel economy. Exclusive water-jacketed carburetor air system and water-jacketed intake manifold keep the fuel-air mixture at proper temperature level for maximum combustion efficiency.

CHOOSE FROM 3 GREAT TRANSMISSIONS



New Cruise-O-Matic Drive (standard with 350-hp engine, optional with 300-hp engine) gives you the right G.O. for every driving range! "In" position lets you start in low for lively, full-power getaways—then move smoothly, automatically right up to superhighway speeds. A "B" setting lets you start in intermediate for sure-footed acceleration on ice or gravel. With a gas-saving rear axle, you get "built-in" overdrive economy.



Overdrive (for 300-hp engine only) saves gas, especially on long trips. It is a combination of standard 3-speed transmission and an automatic fourth gear, allowing the engine to feel while the car is traveling at higher touring speeds.



3-Speed Conventional Drive (for 300-hp engine only) gives you the easiest, smoothest, quietest and most responsive "stick shifting" ever developed. Shift lever shaft is enclosed in steering column. Gear ratios are tailored to 300-hp engine for smooth performance and economy.

Options and accessories worthy of your '59 Thunderbird

You join one of the happiest and most select groups in the world when you become a Thunderbird owner. Yours is a car beyond compare in beauty, in spirit, in performance. To add an extra measure of pleasure and comfort, we picture here optional Thunderbird power assists and accessories. You will note that not one is designed for "show" or mere trim. Rather, each accessory is beautifully functional and eminently practical. Each one adds a brilliant personal touch to your Thunderbird—the car everyone would love to own!



Thunderbird Central Console Radio has dual-antenna radio power output for outstanding tonal quality; superior type of speaker, with an excellent magnet, is located in console for best reception by all passengers.



Swift Sure Power Brakes. Not even a Thunderbird can be on the wing all the time. Easy, safe way to stop is with Swift Sure power brakes. They take scarcely half the effort—make your driving that much more relaxing!



Sport Spare Wheel Carrier gives your Thunderbird that elegant continental look. It has the Thunderbird's own custom and same, adds about 10" to the car's overall length. Makes extra trunk space, too.



Perfect setting for Thunderbird accessories

The smart, exclusive Thunderbird Panel Console is an extension of the instrument panel. It runs fore and aft between the seats. And it's as useful as it is attractive. It houses the Magic-Aire or Select-Aire Conditioner control and radio speaker. It positions ash trays and power window controls for the convenience of all four passengers.

Select-Aire Conditioner brings you June in January and vice versa. It easily deflates in summer, heats comfortably in winter—with just a flick of the dual lever control. The complete unit is located entirely out of sight, out of the way, ahead of the passenger compartment.

Radio Speaker is ingeniously positioned in panel console. The passengers in rear seats hear the sound without straining, without your having to turn up the volume to peak pitch.

Power-Lift Windows are all controlled from Thunderbird's exclusive central console. Here a master window control within easy reach of everyone in the car!



Thunderbird Power Seat lets you sit way back! Close to the wheel? Higher or lower? Tuck a button and Thunderbird's infinite-position power driver's seat with continuous tilting lock goes up, down, back or forward, as you like it.



Magic-Aire System combines fresh air heating, scrubbing and defogging into one remarkably efficient unit. The defogger nozzles are specially designed to give even distribution for effective windshield-wide defogging.



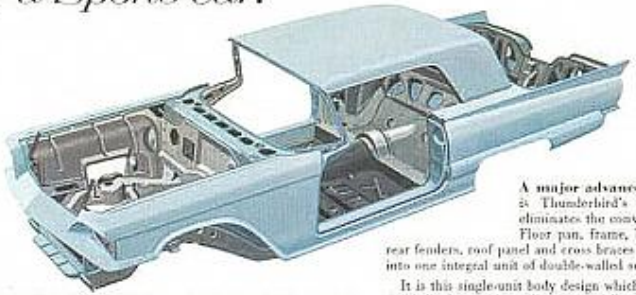
New Master-Guide Power Steering does 85% of the work for you! Master-Guide is a pleasure in stress, to park, and a snap to handle.

OTHER EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE—

- ADAPTIVE WINDSHIELD WIPER-WIPER ADJUSTING FULL-FLY WIPER
- EXPLOD FULL-FLY WIPER
- FULL-VIEW WIPER • FENDER SHIELDS
- SUN-RAY WHEEL COVERS
- LOCKING GAS CAP • FORD SEAT BELTS
- FRONT FENDER ANTENNA
- REAR FENDER ANTENNA
- 65 AND 70 AMP-HR BATTERIES
- INSIDE NON-GLARE MIRROR
- HAREST TINTED SAFETY GLASS
- WISORED SPOTLIGHT WITH SKRORR

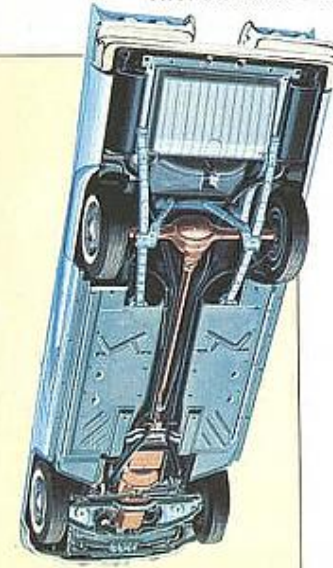


UNIQUELY THUNDERBIRD—
all the solid satisfaction of a luxury car—the fantastic handling ease of a Sports car!



THUNDERBIRD'S SINGLE-UNIT BODY

A major advance in automobile design is Thunderbird's Single-Unit Body. It eliminates the conventional chassis frame. Floor pan, frame, body panels, front and rear fenders, roof panel and cross braces are all welded together into one integral unit of double-walled sculptured steel. It is this single-unit body design which makes possible Thunderbird's famous low silhouette, while providing a luxuriously roomy interior. Single-unit body construction gives you greater strength, greater safety and greater durability . . . for the most solid body and the quietest ride you have ever known!



THUNDERBIRD'S AUTOMATIC RIDE CONTROL

Dependable, rugged Swept-Back, Angle-Poised Ball-Joint front suspension . . . plus double-acting shock absorbers . . . plus a sports-car type of stabilizer bar give you the finest cornering and handling stability ever built into a car. Coil springs level out even the roughest bumps, so that you don't even know they're there!

The Thunderbird's new Even-Keel rear suspension provides a marvelously stable, fully-cushioned ride. The system is extremely simple and sturdy in design. It consists of long 6-leaf, soft-action springs with outboard rubber-cushioned front supports for maximum stability. Rubber pads insulate springs at axle. Deflection-moanitors on frame (over front section of springs) make contact with top leaf to shorten effective spring length under load. This, combined with the rubber-cushioned tension-type rear shackles provide exclusive "variable-rate" spring action. Double-acting shock absorbers are angle-mounted for lateral stability and to dampen ride motion.

This Even-Keel rear suspension, combined with the Angle-Poised front suspension, gives you automatic ride control—a luxurious, cloud-soft ride that is distinctly Thunderbird.

Engines: 300 cu. in. dual carburetor 312 Special V-8 (standard)—112 cu. in. dual carburetor 312 Special V-8 (optional)—400 cu. in. 4-cyl. 270-hp. V-8 (optional)—400 cu. in. 4-cyl. 270-hp. V-8 (optional)—400 cu. in. 4-cyl. 270-hp. V-8 (optional)

Chassis: Welded integral body and frame, for greater durability and strength with high strength-steel rails.

Suspension: Swept-back Swept-Back, Angle-Poised Ball-Joint front with coil springs and shock absorbers to control roll on bars. Even-Keel outboard-mounted rear leaf springs provide soft action, variable rate with tension-type shock absorbers and coil-over shock absorbers over springs. Double-acting shock absorbers.

Brakes: Double-acting self-energizing hydraulic design, with independent front and rear master/slave cylinder, 11" disc drum, 10 1/2" air lining drum.

Transmission: 3 speed Conventional Drive or optional Overdrive with automatic shift gear (with 312 Special V-8) or Cruise-O-Matic Drive with two selective drive ranges (with 312 Special V-8 or 400 Special V-8).

Interior and Exterior: Existing new body styles of aluminum, double Diamond grille finish are available in 41 sparkling Two Tone combinations for body or in 16 Single Colors for hood and convert top. Choice of a vinyl cloth and 1 rayon, 2 ply soft top for convertible interior are available. Upholstered with 100% feathered vinyl fabric and 40-40-20 rayon-cotton with 50-50 strand fabric seats, at 40-40-20 rayon-cotton vinyl fabric seat covers. 40-40-20 rayon-cotton vinyl fabric seat covers. 40-40-20 rayon-cotton vinyl fabric seat covers. 40-40-20 rayon-cotton vinyl fabric seat covers.

Exterior: 300 cu. in. dual carburetor 312 Special V-8 (standard)—112 cu. in. dual carburetor 312 Special V-8 (optional)—400 cu. in. 4-cyl. 270-hp. V-8 (optional)—400 cu. in. 4-cyl. 270-hp. V-8 (optional)

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Dimensions: 112" wh., 69" front, 37" rear, hood 20 1/2" overall length, height, with design load 52 1/2" (hooded), 53 1/2" (open-top). Curb weight, 3771 lb. (hooded), 4011 lb. (open-top).

Standard Equipment: 14-gauge painted instrument panel, color-coded sun stars, Double-Car door locks, safety-lamp inside rearview mirror and defogger steering wheel with horn ring. Master/slave cylinder, independent front and rear, double-acting shock absorbers at front and rear, coil-over shock absorbers, separate lights, coil boxes in rear compartment, Thunderbird front fender ornaments, dual horns, horn signals, mirror, locator fuel pump for positive windshield wiper action, 11" disc drum, 10 1/2" air lining drum.

Options and Accessories: Power driver's seat, power windows, power brakes, power steering, 3-spoke wheels, Magic-Aire heater, Select-Aire conditioner, Tinted lens, 3-leaf wiper drive, Atomic windshield wiper wiper, Outside mirrors, inside spotlights, fender skirts, brake lights, Sun-key wheel covers, Locking gas cap.

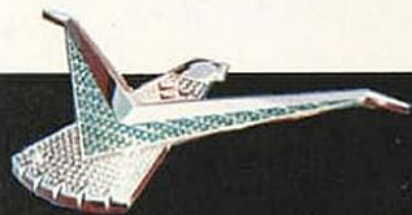
Notes: Some items illustrated or referred to are not extra cost. For the price of the Thunderbird with the equipment you desire, see your Ford Dealer.

The specifications were in effect at the time this folder was approved for printing. The Ford Division of Ford Motor Company reserves the right to discontinue models or any items of design, construction or design, without notice and without incurring obligation.



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