1981 FORD

MUSTANG

America's Most Popular Sports Car

1981 Ford

MUSTANG

A SPORTS CAR FOR ALL AMERICA

Mustang for 1981...with a "fun-to-drive" attitude. Exhilarating like the rush of the downhill. Sleek with clean lines that slice through the wind.

Mustang gives you a wide range of models, trim packages and power-teams. And with exciting options like Recaro bucket seats, 5-speed manual overdrive or the rakish new T-Roof, you can go your own way.

Go with the sporty Mustang 2-Door or the versatile 3-Door hatchback.

Go with the elegance of Ghia in 2-door and 3-door models.

Go with the pure performance Cobra that dares speak out with V-8 power.

A sports car for all America... that's Mustang!

In 1981, we want to put you in a car we can both be proud of.

See Mustang Data Center (pages 12 and 13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements and EPA Information. Some items shown are optional; see Options Selector for a complete list (pages 14 and 15).

Front Cover: Mustang 3-Door with new T-Roof in Bright Bittersweet (2G)

Back Cover: Mustang Cobra in Bright Bittersweet (2G)

Mustang Ghia 3-Door with new T-Roof option in Black (1C)

Ford

MUSTANG PERFORMANCE

Here's where Mustang really shines. Mustang performance is backed by proven engineering features like manual or power-assisted rack and pinion steering. Modified MacPherson strut front suspension. Front disc/rear drum braking and P-metric radial tires. All this wrapped in a sleek exterior that was developed and shaped in the wind tunnel.

Mustang gives you a choice of six different engine/transmission combinations. Add to any one of them Mustang's performance characteristics and you have one great car.

Mustang's rack and pinion steering and trim, sporty size ease the job of maneuvering in and out of tight parking spaces. For even more convenience, there's a variable ratio power steering option that gives all the benefits of rack and pinion plus the additional ease of power steering.

Mustang takes the curves with modified MacPherson strut suspension and stabilizer bar up front. A four-bar link coil spring setup in the rear completes the system, all specially tuned for use with radial ply tires. There's also a Handling Suspension option (standard on Cobra) that includes revised shock absorber valving; stiffer front stabilizer bar, stiffer rear springs and a rear stabilizer bar.

Mustang's fun-to-drive attitude is complemented by its standard fuel-efficient 2.3 liter OHC 4-cylinder and 4-speed manual transmission that provides 34 estimated highway* and (28) EPA estimated MPG*. You can also move up in engine size with the 3.3 liter (200 CID) in-line Six or the 4.2 liter (255 CID) V-8.

Mustang's corrosion protection is enhanced through the use of precoated and galvanized steel panels and the increased use of non-corroding high-strength plastics. And Ford backs it up with a 3 year, unlimited mileage corrosion perforation warranty (see page 13 for details).

We could go on and on about Mustang's performance qualities, but you should experience them for yourself with a test drive—see your Ford Dealer today.

See Mustang Data Center (pages 12 and 13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements and EPA Information.* Some items shown are optional; see Options Selector for a complete list (pages 14 and 15).

Ford

MUSTANG 2- AND 3-DOOR

THE BASIC MUSTANG— IT'S EVERYTHING BUT BASIC.

(A) Mustang 3-Door*

(B) Mustang 2-Door

(C) Mustang 2-Door

Mustang, sleek and sure-footed, comes at you like the pinpoint service of the top seed. Mustang with smooth, graceful lines, bred for youthful enthusiasm.

You can capture that enthusiasm in either the 2-door or the 3-door. Both offer you impressive standard features like full instrumentation including tachometer, trip odometer, and gauges (not lights) for temperature, oil pressure and ammeter. Pushbutton AM radio (may be deleted for credit) is also standard, as are dual rectangular halogen headlamps and full, wide wraparound bodyside moldings. The versatile 3-door offers over 32 cu. ft. of carpeted cargo space (rear seat down). And as an option, there's a cargo area cover to keep valuables out of sight.

As we said... everything but basic.

(A) Mustang 3-Door with Flip-Up Open Air Roof, shown in Medium Blue Glow (3H).

(B) Mustang 2-Door with Sport Group, in Medium Pewter Metallic (1T).*

(C) Mustang 2-Door in Bright Yellow (6N).

(D) Standard reclining high-back buckets in Medium Wedgewood Blue pebble-grain vinyl (AB).

(E) Interior Accent Group option includes fully-reclining low-back buckets shown in Black pebble-grain vinyl (CA).

See Mustang Data Center (pages 12 and 13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements and EPA Information. Some items shown are optional; see Options Selector for a complete list (pages 14 and 15).

* Models shown are equipped with 14" wheels. Early production models were equipped with 13" wheels, black spoke hub covers and trim rings.

(D)

(E)

Ford

MUSTANG GHIA

THE MUSTANG WITH ALL THE LUXURY TOUCHES.

(B) Mustang Ghia 3-Door

Mustang Ghia. Refreshing, like a sea breeze in full sails. Ghia will lift your spirits and carry you with distinctive pride and elegance.

Ghia, in 2- or 3-door models, includes refined exterior touches like dual black remote control mirrors, body-side pinstripes and turbine wheel covers. Inside there are Ghia's low-back reclining buckets with adjustable headrests, deluxe seat belts with tension eliminators, and luxury level cut-pile carpeting. Ghia also includes a dual beam map/dome light and lights for ashtray, glove box, engine compartment, and trunk (2-door) or third door courtesy light switch (3-door). Plus a lot more (pages 12-13).

(A) Mustang Ghia 2-Door with Black Carriage Roof, in Tu-Tone Light Pewter Metallic (1T) over Black (1C).

(C)

(D)

(B) Mustang Ghia 3-Door with Flip-Up Open Air Roof, in Red (24).

(C) Low-back buckets in Medium Red optional fine-ribbed cloth (FD).

(D) Low-back buckets in Pewter with optional ultra-soft leather seating surfaces (EP).

See Mustang Data Center (pages 12 and 13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements and EPA Information. Some items shown are optional; see Options Selector for a complete list (pages 14 and 15).

(A) Mustang Ghia 2-Door

Ford

MUSTANG COBRA

THE MUSTANG THAT SPEAKS PERFORMANCE.

Mustang Cobra. The free-spirited, bold, daring Mustang. Cobra is for those special people who appreciate and seek out performance excellence.

From its front end treatment with air dam, fog lights and rear opening (non-functional) hood scoop to the integral rear spoiler, Cobra speaks performance. Cobra backs up its bold stance with the 4.2 liter (255 CID) V-8 engine. And, of course, every Cobra is equipped with the Handling Suspension System which includes adjusted shock absorber valving, stiffer front stabilizer bar, stiffer rear springs and rear stabilizer bar. Michelin's ultra-low profile TRX steel-belted radials, mounted on forged aluminum metric wheels with anti-theft locking lug nuts, round out one beautiful system.

Fully reclining high-back bucket seats are standard. But if you want the ultimate, you can wrap yourself in the reclining Recaro buckets (an option) with their special orthopedic design.

(B) *Mustang Cobra*

(A) Mustang Cobra in Polar White (9D).

(B) The bold Cobra at left is shown in Bright Bittersweet (2G) and sports the optional eye-catching tricolored hood graphics in Red.

(C) Recaro seats in Black cloth (1A) feature a stationary headrest design, excellent shoulder, side, and thigh support with an insertable wedge for additional lower back support.

See Mustang Data Center (pages 12 and 13) for Notable Standard Features, Measurements and EPA information. Some items shown are optional; see Options Selector for a complete list (pages 14 and 15).

Ford

MUSTANG DATA CENTER

An inside look at Ford Mustang, where Better Ideas mean added value as they contribute to your driving pleasure.

Notable Standard Features

The standard equipment of any car is often a reliable yardstick of its value. Read over this list. Then compare Mustang for standard features with any other car in its class.

Mustang 2-Door/3-Door

- 2.3 liter 4-cylinder engine with Dura-Spark Electronic Ignition
- Electronic voltage regulator
- Maintenance-free battery with 2.3L (except California)
- 4-speed fully synchronized manual transmission with self-adjusting clutch, floor-mounted shift
- Modified MacPherson strut front suspension with stabilizer bar, 4-bar link coil spring rear system
- Front disc brakes with lining wear indicators/rear drum brakes
- P-metric 14 in. 185W steel-belted radial ply tires†, mini spare tire
- Rack and pinion steering
- Bumpers with black rub strips and dual argent stripe inserts
- Dual rectangular halogen headlamps
- Fluidic windshield washer system
- Fold-down rear seat/liftgate (3-Door)
- Steering column-mounted controls—Front lever: Turn signal/horn/headlamp dimmer
  Rear lever: Windshield washer/wipers
- DirectAire ventilation
- Inside hood release
- Day/night inside mirror
- AM radio (may be deleted for credit or upgraded at extra cost)

†Early production models are equipped with P-metric 13 in. 165W steel-belted radials, mini spare tire.

- Full instrumentation, tachometer, trip odometer, fuel/temperature/oil pressure/alternator gauges
- Antitheft door lock buttons
- Lockable glove box
- Passenger door courtesy light switch
- Cigarette lighter
- Ford's Limited Corrosion Perforation Warranty
- Fully reclining high-back bucket seats in all-vinyl with inertia seat back releases
- Color-keyed cut-pile carpeting
- Fold-down rear seat (3-Door)
- Color-keyed carpeting on rear seat back and load floor (3-Door)
- Full wrapover, soft color-keyed door trim panels
- Full-width woodtone instrument panel applique
- Deluxe steering wheel (2-Door), sports steering wheel (3-Door)
- Flat luggage floor, full mat (2-Door)
- Rear pillar louvers, color-keyed (2-Door), black (3-Door)
- Color-keyed door and window frames with bright moldings (2-Door)
- Black LH rearview mirror
- Black cowl molding, windshield wipers, grille and lower back panel
- Black rocker panel moldings (3-Door)
- Black-painted door and window frames with bright moldings (3-Door)
- Bright windshield, drip, side and rear window moldings
- Full wraparound wide black bodyside molding with dual argent stripe inserts and rub strip extensions
- Black headlamp doors
- Wraparound taillamps
- Full wheel covers, 2-Door (4)
- Sport wheels, 3-Door (4)

Mustang Ghia

Most standard Mustang 2-Door/3-Door features, plus these additions or variations:

- Fully reclining low-back bucket seats with inertia seat back releases
- Luxury color-keyed cut-pile carpeting
- Full wrapover, soft luxury door trim panels with carpeted lower portions and a map pocket on lower portion of driver's side
- Luxury 4-spoke steering wheel
- Dual beam map and dome light, ashtray and glove box lights, engine compartment light, trunk light (2-Door) or third door courtesy light switch (3-Door)
- RH visor vanity mirror
- Color-keyed deluxe belts with tension eliminators
- Ghia Sound Insulation Package
- Carpeted luggage compartment (3-Door)
- Color-keyed window frames, rear pillar louvers (3-Door)
- Dual black remote control mirrors
- Bright rocker panel moldings
- Finishtapes
- Ghia insignia on decklid/third door
- Bumpers with dual color-coordinated accent stripe inserts
- Turbine wheel covers (4)

Mustang Cobra

Most standard Mustang 3-Door features, plus these additions or variations:

- 4.2 liter (255 CID) V-8 engine
- Sport-tuned exhaust with bright tailpipe extension
- Handling Suspension System with heavy-duty front and rear stabilizer bars, special shock valving
- Michelin 190/65R 390 TRX (185W) tires
- Forged metric aluminum wheels (4), 15.3 in., with antitheft locking lug nuts
- 6,000 rpm tachometer
- Black engine-turned design appliques and Cobra Medallion on instrument panel
- Front end integral spoiler and dual fog lamps, rear end spoiler
- Rear-opening hood scoop (non-functional)
- Dual black remote control mirrors
- Black lower Tu-Tone paint treatment
- Tape stripe treatment (may be deleted for credit)
- Black window frames, rear window, windshield and drip rail moldings, door handles and locks
- Full wraparound black bodyside molding and bumpers with dual color-coordinated accent stripe inserts

Measurements

	2-Door/3-Door
Wheelbase	100.4"
Length	179.1"
Height	51.5"
Width	67.4"
Tread Front/Rear	56.6"/57.0"
Trunk or Cargo Volume	10.0 cu. ft./32.7 cu. ft.*
Fuel Capacity	12.5 gal.
Curb Weight	2619 lb./2656 lb.
Passenger Capacity	4

*With rear seat down.

EPA Gas Mileage Estimates

Of course, gas mileage is one of your top concerns these days. It's one of ours, too. Here are the EPA gas mileage estimates for the 1981 Ford Mustang.

49 STATES		CALIFORNIA	
Est Highway	34	Est Highway	33
Est Highway Range	425	Est Highway Range	412.5
EPA Est MPG	23	EPA Est MPG	22
Est Range	287.5	Est Range	287.5

For comparison with other cars. Figures are for standard 2.3 liter 4-cylinder engine and 4-speed manual transmission. Your mileage and range may differ depending on speed, trip length, and weather. Actual highway mileage and range will probably be lower than estimates. Range based on estimated MPG of 23 and Mustang's standard 12.5-gallon fuel tank.

Ford Limited Corrosion Perforation Warranty

Ford Motor Company provides a 3-year, unlimited mileage corrosion perforation warranty on all new model cars sold in the 50 United States. The warranty states that any part which, in normal use, rusts through from corrosion within three years of retail delivery or first use will be repaired free of charge by the selling dealer after inspection by a Ford representative. Of course, exhaust system components or parts which develop corrosion perforation caused by accidents or other damage are not covered.

Ford Mustang Maintenance Schedule—Another Better Idea.

Ford wants to reduce both the frequency and cost of scheduled maintenance on its cars to an absolute minimum. And, compared to just a few years ago, we're making strides in that direction. For example, in 1973 an engine oil change was called for each 4,000 miles. In 1981, Mustang oil changes are recommended at 10,000-mile (7,500 miles on V-8's) intervals. Other recommended intervals are now 30,000 miles between spark plug changes, 30,000 miles between air filter replacements, 50,000 miles or 3 years between engine coolant replacements. We think this kind of maintenance schedule rates as a Ford Better Idea—and we're working constantly to make it even better!

Colors and Trims

As you've probably already noted, '81 Mustang car colors and interior trims are referred to by their order codes. Example: Polar White (9D). On the printed page, of course, colors are at best only representative of the original. For this reason, we've included the codes wherever possible so that you can more easily check out a particular color or trim. With the code as a guide, your Ford Dealer can show you actual samples of Mustang paint colors and trim materials.

"Ask Your Ford Dealer"

Every effort has been made in preparing this catalog to provide you—in one convenient place—the most complete and current information on the new Ford Mustang. Following publication, however, certain changes in standard equipment, options, model availability, prices, and the like, may have occurred which would not be included in these pages. In such cases, it's good to remember that your best source is also closest to you. It is your local Ford Dealer, who has the most up-to-date information first and who is always ready to answer your questions about the fine Ford products he sells.

Audio
- AM Radio with Dual Rear Seat Speakers
- AM/FM Monaural Radio
- AM/FM Monaural Radio with Dual Rear Seat Speakers

(A) **AM/FM Stereo Radio***

(B) **AM/FM Stereo Radio* with Cassette Tape Player.** Uses space-saving 60-minute compact cassette tapes.
- AM/FM Stereo Radio* with 8-Track Tape Player
- Premium Sound System. For all stereo radio/tape systems. Includes premium rear speakers and extra-power amplifier.

*Dual speakers front and rear, included.

Appearance
- Cobra Option (see pages 10-11). Note: Tape treatment may be deleted for an individualized Cobra.
- Cobra Hood Graphics.

(C) **Flip-Up Open Air Roof.** Opens part way for ventilation or can be removed to bring in fresh air and sunshine.
- T-Roof. New for '81. Remove one or both sections depending on how much of the great outdoors you want to bring indoors. Shown on cover, pages 2-3, 4-5. Both open air roof and T-Roof include storage bags for carrying roof panels.

(D) **Black Liftgate Louvers** (3-Door)
- Deluxe Luggage Rack (roof-mounted)
- Dual Remote Control Mirrors
- LH Remote Control Mirror
- Metallic Glow Paint. Available in Medium Blue Glow (3R) and Bittersweet Glow (8D).
- Special Tu-Tone Paint Treatment. Available in Dark Cordovan Metallic/Bittersweet Glow, Medium Pewter Metallic/Light Pewter Metallic, Red/Polar White, Midnight Blue Metallic/Medium Blue Glow.
- Lower Tu-Tone Paint Treatment. Black lower bodyside. (Standard on Cobra.)
- Carriage Roof. The look of a classic convertible. Offered on 2-Door in White grained vinyl or Black, Blue or Brown cloth. Shown on page 9.
- Full Vinyl Roof (2-Door). Available in White, Black, Medium Red, Light Pewter, Midnight Blue, Dark Brown, Bittersweet.
- Sport Option (2-Door). Includes sport wheel treatment(1), black window frames, and rocker panel moldings, sport steering wheel.
- Accent Tape Stripes. Bodysides and decklid/liftgate.
- Pinstripes. On the bodysides and decklid/liftgate.
- Hood Scoop. Front opening (non-functional).

Comfort

(E) **SelectAire Conditioner.** With manual controls to regulate cooling, heating, fresh air, defrosting and defogging for year-round comfort. Tinted glass recommended.
- Interior Accent Group. Includes deluxe sound package, fully reclining low-back bucket seats in higher level vinyl, inertia seat back releases, full wrapover soft luxury door trim panels, deluxe seat belts with tension eliminators, passenger visor vanity mirror, and carpeted luggage compartment (2-Door).
- Tinted Glass—Complete
- Recaro Seats. (See page 11 for details.)

(1)only production models are equipped with 13" wheels, black sport hub covers and trim rings.

Convenience
- Color Keyed Deluxe Belts with Tension Eliminators
- Electric Rear Window Defroster. Quickly removes snow, ice, frost or condensation from rear window.
- Fingertip Speed Control. Allows you to cruise the highway more relaxed with your foot off the accelerator. All controls mounted in steering wheel spokes. Includes Luxury Steering Wheel. Not available with Sport Steering Wheel.

(F) **Leather-Wrapped Sport Steering Wheel** (shown). Leather-Wrapped Luxury Steering Wheel also available.
- Tilt Steering Wheel
- Light Group. Dual beam map/dome light, ashtray and glove box lights, plus engine and luggage compartment (2-Door) lights. Includes a third door courtesy light switch on 3-Door models.

(G) **Console.** Conveniently arranged system, featuring electronic digital clock with elapsed time and date, graphic display warning module that indicates low fuel/low washer fluid level and warns you if headlamp low beam/rear running lamps/brake lamps are out. Also includes built-in cigarette lighter, ashtray and map/glove box.
- SelectShift Automatic Transmission
- 5-Speed Manual Overdrive Transmission. Overdrive gear reduces engine RPM, helps improve fuel economy.
- Interval Windshield Wipers
- Cargo Area Cover (3-Door models)

Interiors (for seats and trims, see model pages).

Performance
- 3.3 Liter (200 CID) "I" 6-Cyl. Engine. Includes 4-speed manual transmission.
- 4.2 Liter (255 CID) V-8 Engine. Includes SelectShift Automatic transmission. Variable venturi carburetor in California.
- Higher axle ratios. 3.08 and 3.45 (only with 2.3L and 4.2L engines with auto. trans.)
- Traction-Lok Axle. Automatically transfers power to the wheel with the most traction.
- Heavy-Duty Maintenance-Free Battery (optional with 3.3L, 4.2L and California Emission System).
- California Emission System. Required in California. Includes variable venturi carburetor on 4.2 liter (255 CID) V-8 engine.
- Handling Suspension. Includes larger front stabilizer bar, rear stabilizer bar (except with 2.3 liter engine), adjusted spring and bushing rates and shock valving.
- Michelin TRX Tires. Low-profile Michelin 390/65R 390 TRX tires are mounted on matched optional 390 mm (15.3-in.) forged metric aluminum wheels with antitheft locking lug nuts.

Ford Mustang

OPTIONS SELECTOR

Selecting options for your new Mustang can be doubly rewarding. With your selection, you can personalize your Mustang. And by adding to the actual dollar value in the beginning, options can contribute to your trade-in value when it's time for another new Mustang. The '81 Mustang options list is as varied as it is long. See for yourself.

Power Assists
- Power Front Disc Brakes
- Power Side Windows, new for 1981
- Power Lock Group. Includes power door locks, power decklid release (2-Door), power liftgate release (3-Door only in later production).
- Variable Ratio Power Steering

Protection
- Rear Window Washer/Wiper (3-Door)
- Rocker Panel Moldings
- Appearance Protection Group. Includes front deluxe carpet floor mats, door edge guards, and front and rear license plate frames (if needed).
- Mud/Stone Deflectors.
- Lower Bodyside Protection. Provides an application of vinyl under the paint along the lower sides of the body. Important on gravel and heavily salted roads.

Tires
- List of available tires ranges from 13-and 14-in. metric-sized radial ply tires to metric 390 mm/15.3-in. low-profile TRX tires. Select black or white sidewall (BSW/WSW) or raised white letters (RWL). Except TRX.

(H) **Wheel Covers/Wheels**
From top: Turbine Wheel Covers (4), Wire Wheel Covers (4), Cast Aluminum Wheels (4), Styled Steel Wheels with Trim Rings (4), Forged Metric Aluminum Wheels (4) with anti-theft locking lug nuts.

Options Availability
1981 Mustang options are not confined to these pages but are shown throughout the catalog. Options, whether or not they are identified, are offered at extra cost. Some options are offered only in combination with other options. Availability of some models and features described here and elsewhere may be subject to delay. Again, consult your Ford Dealer for the latest information.

Ford
MUSTANG CHOICES

See your Ford Dealer for actual Mustang paint colors.

Mustang 3-Door, Medium Blue Glow (3H)

Mustang 2-Door, Pastel Chamois (86)

Mustang 2-Door with Sport Option, Bittersweet Glow (8D)

Mustang Ghia 2-Door, Dark Cordovan Metallic (8N)

Mustang Ghia 3-Door, Light Pewter Metallic (IT)

Mustang Cobra 3-Door, Bright Red (27)

Ford-paid repair programs after the warranty period

Sometimes Ford offers adjustment programs to pay all or part of the cost of certain repairs. These programs are intended to assist owners and are in addition to the warranty or to required recalls. Ask Ford or your dealer about such programs relating to your Ford or Lincoln-Mercury vehicle.

To get copies of any adjustment program for your vehicle or the vehicle of interest to you:

Call Ford toll-free at 1-800-241-3673
Alaska and Hawaii call 1-800-243-3711
and in Georgia call 1-800-282-0959

Or write Ford at:

Ford Customer Information System
Post Office Box 95427
Atlanta, Georgia 30347

We'll need your name and address, year, make, and model vehicle, as well as engine size, and whether you have a manual or automatic transmission.

Technical service bulletins

All vehicles need repairs during their lifetime. Sometimes Ford issues Technical Service Bulletins (TSBs) and easy-to-read explanations describing unusual engine or transmission conditions which may lead to costly repairs, the recommended repairs, and new repair procedures. Often a repair now can prevent a more serious repair later. Ask Ford or your dealer for any such TSBs and explanations relating to your Ford or Lincoln-Mercury vehicle.

To get copies of these Technical Service Bulletins and explanations for your vehicle or the vehicle of interest to you:

Call Ford toll-free at 1-800-241-3673
Alaska and Hawaii call 1-800-243-3711
and in Georgia call 1-800-282-0959

Or write Ford at:

Ford Customer Information System
Post Office Box 95427
Atlanta, Georgia 30347

We'll need your name and address, year, make, and model vehicle, as well as engine size, and whether you have a manual or automatic transmission.

EXTENDED SERVICE PLAN

Ford Motor Company's optional Extended Service Plan covers certain selected components on new Ford cars and light trucks for longer than the vehicle's basic warranty. The cost is so moderate for the protection you get that it could pay for itself the first time you need it. Your Ford Dealer will be happy to give you complete details of the Plan, which is available on cars and light trucks sold and normally operated in all 50 United States and Canada.

PRODUCT CHANGES. Ford Division reserves the right to change product specifications at any time without incurring obligations.

Buy or lease a Ford Mustang from your Ford Dealer—a great choice either way!

A World of Better Ideas

FORD MUSTANG

FORD DIVISION

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