

# 1970-72 Chevrolet Chevelle/ Monte Carlo

without Factory Air Gen 5 Evaporator Kit (561285)



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# Important Notice—Please Read

For Maximum System Performance, Vintage Air Recommends the Following:

NOTE: Vintage Air systems are designed to operate with R134a refrigerant only. Use of any other refrigerant could damage your A/C system and/or vehicle, and possibly cause a fire, in addition to potentially voiding the warranties of the A/C system and its components.

#### Refrigerant Capacities:

Vintage Air System: 1.8 lbs. (28.8 oz.) or 816 grams of **R134a**, charged by weight with a quality charging station or scale. **NOTE: Use of the proper type and amount of refrigerant is critical to system operation and performance.** 

Other Systems: Consult manufacturer's guidelines.

#### Lubricant Capacities:

**New Vintage Air-Supplied Sanden Compressor:** No additional oil needed (Compressor is shipped with proper oil charge).

**All Other Compressors:** Consult manufacturer (Some compressors are shipped dry and will need oil added).

#### Safety Switches

Your Vintage Air system is equipped with a binary pressure safety switch. A binary switch disengages the compressor clutch in cases of extreme low pressure conditions (refrigerant loss) or excessively high head pressure (406 PSI) to prevent compressor damage or hose rupture. A trinary switch combines Hi/Lo pressure protection with an electric fan operation signal at 254 PSI, and should be substituted for use with electric fans. Compressor safety switches are extremely important since an A/C system relies on refrigerant to circulate lubricant.

#### Service Info:

**Protect Your Investment:** Prior to assembly, it is critical that the compressor, evaporator, A/C hoses and fittings, hardlines, condenser and receiver/drier remain capped. Removing caps prior to assembly will allow moisture, insects and debris into the components, possibly leading to reduced performance and/or premature failure of your A/C system. This is especially important with the receiver/drier.

Additionally, when caps are removed for assembly, **BE CAREFUL!** Some components are shipped under pressure with dry nitrogen.

**Evacuate the System for 35-45 Minutes:** Ensure that system components (Drier, compressor, evaporator and condenser) are at a temperature of at least 85°F. On a cool day, the components can be heated with a heat gun *or* by running the engine with the heater on before evacuating. Leak check and charge to specifications.

#### Bolts Passing Through Cowl and/or Firewall:

To ensure a watertight seal between the passenger compartment and the vehicle exterior, for all bolts passing through the cowl and/or firewall, Vintage Air recommends coating the threads with silicone prior to installation.

#### Heater Hose (not included with this kit):

Heater hose may be purchased from Vintage Air (Part#31800-VUD) or your local parts retailer. Routing and required length will vary based on installer preference.



#### **Important Wiring Notice—Please Read**

Some vehicles may have had some or all of their radio interference capacitors removed. There should be a capacitor found at each of the following locations:

- 1. On the positive terminal of the ignition coil.
- 2. If there is a generator, on the armature terminal of the generator.
- 3. If there is a generator, on the battery terminal of the voltage regulator.

Most alternators have a capacitor installed internally to eliminate what is called "whining" as the engine is revved. If whining is heard in the radio, or just to be extra cautious, a radio interference capacitor can be added to the battery terminal of the alternator.

It is also important that the battery lead is in good shape and that the ground leads are not compromised. There should be a heavy ground from the battery to the engine block, and additional grounds to the body and chassis.

If these precautions are not observed, it is possible for voltage spikes to be present on the battery leads. These spikes come from ignition systems and charging systems, and from switching some of the vehicle's other systems on and off. Modern computer-operated equipment can be sensitive to voltage spikes on the power leads, which can cause unexpected resets, strange behavior and/or permanent damage.

Vintage Air strives to harden our products against these types of electrical noise, but there is a point where a vehicle's electrical system can be degraded so much that nothing can help.

Radio interference capacitors should be available at most auto and truck parts suppliers. They typically are cylindrical in shape, a little over an inch long and a little over a half-inch in diameter, and they have a single lead coming from one end of the cylinder with a terminal on the end of the wire, as well as a mounting clip which is screwed into a good ground on the vehicle. The specific value of the capacitance is not too significant in comparison to ignition capacitors that are matched with the coil to reduce pitting of the points.

- Care must be taken, when installing the compressor lead, not to short it to ground. The compressor lead must not be connected to a condenser fan or to any other auxiliary device. Shorting to ground or connecting to a condenser fan or any other auxiliary device may damage wiring or the compressor relay, and/or cause a malfunction.
- When installing ground leads on Gen IV systems, the blower control ground and ECU ground must be connected directly to the negative battery post.
- For proper system operation, the heater control valve must be connected to the ECU.





#### Passenger Compartment Disassembly

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NOTE: Removal of dashboard is required to install the evaporator. Vintage Air recommends using the factory service manual when disassembling and reassembling the dashboard.

#### Perform the following:

- 1. Remove the dash pad by removing the (6) OEM screws (retain) (See Figure 1, below).
- **2**. Lower the steering column. Protect the steering column with a cloth.
- 3. Disconnect all wires and cables from the instrument panel, speedometer, control panel and radio.
- 4. Remove the lower dash by removing the (8) OEM bolts (retain).
- 5. Remove all hoses and ducting from the OEM louvers and astro vent door (if equipped) (See Figure 1, below).
- 6. Remove the OEM defrost duct assembly by removing (4) screws (See Figure 2, below).
- 7. Remove the OEM heater assembly (discard) (See Figure 2, below).
- 8. Remove the passenger-side kick panel/fresh air door assembly as shown in Figure 1, Page 8.













## **Evaporator Module Preparation**

#### Perform the following on a workbench:

- Install (2) 1/2" plastic plugs, (1) into the front (See Photo 1, below) and (1) into the back of the evaporator module (See Photo 2, below). NOTE: These mounting positions will not be used for this application.
- Install the upper and lower heater hardlines onto the evaporator module using (2) properly lubricated #10 O-rings (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 11 and Photo 3, below).
- 3. Install (2) 1/4-20 well nuts into the back of the evaporator module (See Photo 4, below).
- Install the evaporator front bracket onto the module (See Photo 5, below), and secure it using (4) #10 x 5/8" screws (See Photos 5 and 6, below).
- 5. Install (2) 1/4-20 x 1" serrated flange bolts into the 1/4-20 well nuts (See Photo 7, below).
- 6. Install a 1/4-20 x 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " full-threaded stud halfway into the lower mounting hole on the evaporator front bracket (See Photo 8, below).
- 7. Using (2) spring clips, install the floor plenum onto the back of the evaporator module (See Photo 9, below).











# **Evaporator Installation (Cont.)**

- 4. Using a properly lubricated #10 O-ring (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 11), install the 45° fitting on the #10 compressor/evaporator A/C hose onto the #10 fitting on the block valve adapter on the evaporator module (See Photo 4, below). NOTE: After installing the #10 compressor/evaporator A/C hose, wrap all exposed metal with the supplied press tape (See Photo 5, below).
- **5**. Install a 1/4-20 well nut into the left-front mounting hole on the evaporator module (See Photo 6, below).
- Remove the OEM dash mounting bolt and replace it with a 1/4-20 x 1" serrated flange hex bolt and a 1/4" USS flat washer (See Photo 7, below).
- 7. Install a .25" length nylon spacer onto the other side of the mounting bracket (See Photo 8, below).
- 8. Loosely install the dash bracket onto the evaporator module (See Photo 9, below) using a 1/4-20 x 1" serrated flange hex bolt (See Photo 10, below). Secure the installed dash mounting bolt using a 1/4-20 hex nut with star washer (See Photo 10, below). NOTE: To ensure proper drainage, it is very important that the evaporator module is level, both left-right and fore-aft. Check for level on the flat portions of the case around the drain.





#### **Drain Hose Installation**

1. Locate the evaporator drain on the bottom of the evaporator case.

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- In line with the drain, lightly make a mark on the firewall. Measure 1" down. Drill a 5/8" hole through the firewall (See Figure 1, below).
- **3.** Install the drain hose to the outlet on the bottom of the evaporator module, and route it through the firewall (See Figure 2, below).



#### A/C Hose Installation

#### Standard Hose Kit:

- Locate the #8 compressor A/C hose. Lubricate (2) #8 O-rings (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 11) and connect the 135° female fitting with service port to the #8 discharge port on the compressor. Then, route the straight female fitting to the #8 condenser hardline coming through the core support (See Figure 1, Page 19). Tighten each fitting connection as shown in Lubricating O-rings, Page 11.
- 2. Lubricate a #10 O-ring (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 11) and connect the #10 135° female fitting with service port to the #10 suction port on the compressor.
- **3.** Lubricate a #6 O-ring (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 11) and connect the straight female fitting to the #6 hardline coming through the core support from the drier.
- 4. Using a 1" ID Adel clamp, a 10-32 x 1/2" pan head screw and a 10-32 nut with star washer, secure the #10 A/C hose to the alternator bracket as shown in Figure 1, Page 19.

#### **Modified Hose Kit:**

1. Refer to separate instructions included with modified hose kit.





# Wiring Final

- **1.** Select a suitable ground location for the white ground wire eyelet from the heater control valve harness and secure it using a  $#10 \times 1/2''$  sheet metal screw.
- 2. Route the violet power wire to a switched 12v power source on the fuse panel (See Photo 1, below). NOTE: This requires a male fuse extension (not supplied).
- 3. Connect the tan wire to the factory dash lights to enable control panel backlighting (if applicable).
- 4. Connect the main harness to the ECU (See Photo 2, below).







1. Route power and ground wires toward the battery.

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- **2**. Install the supplied heat shrink over the 12 AWG orange fuse holder assembly wire, and crimp it to the 12 AWG orange wire from the main wiring harness (See Photo 1, below and Quality Crimp Guidelines, Page 25).
- **3.** Install the supplied heat shrink over the 16 AWG black fuse holder assembly wire, and crimp it to the 16 AWG red wire from the main wiring harness (See Photo 2, below and Quality Crimp Guidelines, Page 25).
- 4. Install fuses into the holders (See Photo 3, below).
- Install the supplied heat shrink over the white ground wires, then crimp on the supplied eyelets (See Photos 4 and 5, below and Quality Crimp Guidelines, Page 25)
- 6. Connect the ground wiring eyelets to the negative battery terminal connector (See Photo 6, below).
- 7. Connect the positive wiring eyelets to the positive battery terminal connector (See Photo 7, below). NOTE: Do not connect power until installation is completed.

Install supplied heat shrink over 16 AWG black fuse holder assembly wire and crimp to 16 AWG red wire from main wiring harness Install supplied heat shrink over 12 AWG orange fuse holder assembly and crimp to 12 AWG orange wire from main wiring harness Photo 1 Photo 2 Install fuses Install supplied heat into holders shrink over white ground wires and crimp on supplied eyelets Photo 4 Photo 5 Photo 3 NOTE: Do not connect power until installation is completed. Connect positive wiring eyelets to Connect ground positive battery wiring eyelets to terminal connector negative battery terminal connector Photo 6 Photo 7



# Final Steps: Installation Check

|     |                                 | Installation Check  |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| IΤΙ | ITEM TO CHECK                   | Procedure   |
|     | ECU                             | If no blinking is observed after 1 minute of turning the ignition on, go to the next check.<br>If repetetive blinking is observed, go to the <b>Advanced Diagnostics</b> Section to diagnose.   |
|     |                                 |   |
|     |                                 | Set the blower speed control to ${\sf OFF}$ , confirm that the blower is off.   |
|     | Blower speed control            | Blower speed control Position the blower speed control to LOW then MEDIUM and then HIGH. <u>At each setting confirm that the blower speed increases</u> , do this by feeling for the amount of air coming from the unit and hearing the blower speed increase.  |
|     | Mode control                    | Set the MODE control to the DASH position. <i>Confirm that air is being blown at the dash vents.</i><br>Set the MODE control to the FLOOR position. <i>Confirm that air is being blown at the floor vents.</i><br>Set the MODE control to the DEFROST position. <i>Confirm that all air is being blown from the defrost vents</i> |
|     |                                 | <b>If heater lines are installed:</b><br>Set the <b>MODE</b> control to the <b>DASH</b> position. Set the <b>TEMP</b> control to the <b>MAX HEAT</b> position. <u>Confirm that HOT</u><br>air is coming from the dash vents.  |
|     | Temperature control             | <u>If system is charged:</u><br>Set the TEMP control to the MAX COOL position. <i>Confirm that <u>COLD</u> air is coming from the dash vents.</i>   |
|     |                                 | Also <i>confirm that the compressor "clicks" on</i> when adjusting the <b>TEMP</b> control from the <b>MAX HEAT</b> position to the <b>MAX COOL</b> position.   |
|     | AC Indicator<br>(If applicable) | While the <b>MODE</b> control is set to the <b>DASH</b> position, and the <b>TEMP</b> control is set to the <b>MAX COOL/MIN HEAT</b> position, <i>confirm that the blue AC Indicator light is on</i> .  |
|     | Backlight<br>(If applicable)    | lf your control panel has backlight capabilities and has been wired, turn the dash lamp on and <u>confirm that the AC</u><br>panel's legend is lit <u></u> .  |
|     | Fittings                        | Verify AC and Heater fittings are all tight.  |
|     |                                 |   |

# Final Steps: Completing the Install

**1**. Install duct hoses as shown in Figure 1, Page 24.

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- 2. Install the control panel assembly. Refer to the control panel instructions.
- 3. Modify the glove box as shown in Figure 1, below.
- **4**. Install (4) S-clips onto the glove box cap, and install it onto the glove box as shown in Figure 2, below.
- 5. Reinstall all previously removed items (battery tray, battery, and inner fender).
- 6. Fill radiator with at least a 50/50 mixture of approved antifreeze and distilled water. It is the owner's responsibility to keep the freeze protection at the proper level for the climate in which the vehicle is operated. Failure to follow antifreeze recommendations will cause heater core to corrode prematurely and possibly burst in A/C mode and/or freezing weather, voiding your warranty.
- 7. Double check all fittings, brackets and belts for tightness.
- 8. Vintage Air recommends that all A/C systems be serviced by a licensed automotive A/C technician.
- **9.** Evacuate the system for a minimum of 45 minutes prior to charging, and perform a leak check prior to servicing.
- **10**. Charge the system to the capacities stated on Page 4 of this instruction manual.
- 11. See Operation of Controls procedures on Page 28.







# Duct Hose Routing

NOTE: For the system to function optimally, the duct hoses must be routed as directly as possible, taking care to avoid kinks, sharp bends and unnecessary length. Vintage Air supplies duct hoses in continuous lengths that will need to be cut to size depending on application. Before cutting, familiarize yourself with the installation instructions and verify the routing will work with your application. For custom hose routing, additional hose may be needed and can be purchased from Vintage Air.

1. Stretch the duct hose until there is no slack, measure, mark and cut hose to size (See Photo 1, below).





# **Quality Crimp Guideline**





\*\*\* Install fuse assemblies at or as near to the battery as possible.





# **Operation of Controls**

On Gen IV or Gen 5 systems with three lever/knob controls, the temperature control toggles between heat and A/C operations. To activate A/C, move the temperature lever/knob all the way to cold and then back it off to the desired vent temperature. For heat operation, move the temperature lever/knob all the way to hot and then adjust to the desired vent temperature. The blower will momentarily change speed, each time you toggle in and out of heat and A/C operations, to indicate the change.



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# **Troubleshooting Guide**

This printed troubleshooting guide is our basic guide that covers common installation problems. To see our advanced diagnostics and troubleshooting guide, please refer to the following page for instructions on how to download the complete guide.

WARNING: While troubleshooting the system, never probe connector terminals from the front mating side, only back probe.

| Symptom  | Condition                 | Checks   | Actions  | Notes   |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1.<br>Blower stavs on  | No other functions work.  | Check for damaged pins or<br>wires in the control panel wire<br>assembly and mating header<br>at FCU | If found damaged, replace wire assembly or ECU.        |   |
| high speed with ignition on.                                     |                           | Check for a bad ECU GND.   | Lifforind damaged replace wire assembly or FCII        |   |
|  | All other functions work. | wires in the control panel wire<br>assembly and mating header<br>at ECU.                             |  | If fuse continues to blow,<br>there is a serious problem in   |
|  |                           | Check if Blower power fuse is blown.   | → Replace fuse.  | the wiring. Check all wiring<br>and ensure the wire is not  |
|  |                           | Check for a bad ECU GND.   | → Repair connection.                                   | ◄ along its route.  |
| 5  | System is not charged.    | System must be charged for compressor to engage.   | → Charge system.                                       | Danger: Never bypass<br>safety switch with<br>engine running. Serious<br>injury can result.   |
| Compressor will<br>not turn on<br>(All other functions<br>work). |                           | Check for faulty A/C<br>potentiometer or associated<br>wiring (not applicable to 3-pot<br>controls). | Check continuity to ground on white control head wire. | To check for proper pot<br>function, check voltage at<br>white/red wire. Voltage<br>should be between OV and  |
|  | System is charged.        | Check for disconnected or<br>faulty thermistor.  | → Check 2-pin connector at ECU housing.                | <ul> <li>by, and will vary with pot<br/>lever position.</li> <li>➡ Disconnected or faulty<br/>thermistor will cause<br/>compressor to be</li> </ul> |
| 3.<br>Compressor will<br>not turn off                            |                           | Check for faulty A/C<br>potentiometer or associated<br>wiring.                                       | ★ Repair or replace pot/control wiring.                | disabled.<br>Red wire at A/C pot should<br>have approximately 5V<br>with ignition on. White<br>wire will have continuity to                         |
| (All other functions work).                                      |                           | <ul> <li>Check for faulty A/C relay.</li> </ul>  | ★ Replace relay.                                       | chassis ground. White/<br>Red wire should vary<br>between 0V and 5V when  |

| www.vintageair.com                                     | ∋air.com  |  | Troubleshooting Gu  | Guide (Cont.)  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Symptom  | Condition   | Checks   | Actions   | Notes  |
| 4.   | Works when engine is not<br>running; shuts off when<br>engine is started  | Noise interference from either ignition or alternator.   | Install capacitors on ignition coil and alternator. Ensure good ground at all points. Relocate coil and associated wiring away from ECU and ECU wiring. Check for burned or loose plug wires. | Ignition noise (radiated or<br>conducted) will cause the<br>system to shut down due to<br>high voltage spikes. If this<br>is suspected, check with a |
| System will not<br>turn on, or runs<br>intermittently. |   | Verify connections on power<br>lead, ignition lead, and both<br>white ground wires.  | Check for power at ECU, and confirm ignition is being applied to ECU properly.  | quality oscilloscope. Spikes<br>greater than 16V will shut<br>down the ECU. Install a<br>radio capacitor at the<br>positive post of the ignition     |
|  | Will not turn on under<br>any conditions.   | Verify battery voltage is<br>Strater than 10 volts and less<br>than 16 while engine is<br>running.   | Verify proper meter function by checking the condition of a known good battery.   | coil (see radio capacitor<br>installation bulletin). A<br>faulty alternator or worn<br>out battery can also result<br>in this condition.             |
| 5.<br>Loss of mode door<br>function.                   | ·No mode change at all.   | Check for damaged mode<br>switch or potentiometer and<br>associated wiring.  |   |  |
| <b>6</b> .<br>Blower turns on<br>and off rapidly.      | Battery voltage is at least<br>12V.<br>Battery voltage is less<br>[than 12V.  | Check for at least 12V at<br>circuit breaker.<br>Check for faulty battery or<br>alternator.  | <ul> <li>Ensure all system grounds and power connections are clean and tight.</li> <li>Charge battery.</li> </ul>   | System shuts off blower at 10V. Poor connections or weak battery can cause shutdown at up to 11V.  |
| 7. Erratic functions of<br>blower, mode,<br>temp, etc. | is of   | Check for damaged switch or pot and associated wiring.   | Repair or replace.  |  |
|  | A   | Advanced Diag  | <b>Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide</b>  | oting Guide  |
| If after refei<br>resolved, m<br>Guide that c          | If after referencing the Troubleshooting Guide, the issue is not<br>resolved, move to The Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshoot<br>Guide that covers the following: | If after referencing the Troubleshooting Guide, the issue is not<br>resolved, move to The Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshooting<br>Guide that covers the following: | Access the latest version of the Advanced Diagnostics and<br>Troubleshooting Guide by scanning the following QR code on your<br>mobile device:  | agnostics and<br>ing QR code on your   |
| ECU Di     1. ECU E                                    | ECU Diagnostics Codes<br>1. ECU Blink Sequence  |  |   |  |
| 2. Firmv<br>3. ECU N<br>4. ECU S                       | 2. Firmware Version Number<br>3. ECU Model Number<br>4. ECU Start-Up Blink Sequence   |  |   |  |
| • Comple   | complete Advanced Troubleshooting Guidel  | ooting Guidelines  | You can also access the guide by typing the following address into your web browser:  | ollowing address into  |



