

1961-62 Chevrolet Impala without Factory Air

without Factory Air Gen 5 Evaporator Kit (561355)



18865 Goll St. San Antonio, TX 78266 Phone: 800-862-6658 Sales: sales@vintageair.com Tech Support: tech@vintageair.com www.vintageair.com



Table of Contents

| Cover |
|---|
| Table of Contents 2 |
| Packing List/Parts Disclaimer |
| Information Page4 |
| Wiring Notice5 |
| Engine Compartment Disassembly, Condenser Assembly and Installation, Compressor and Brackets, Pulleys |
| Passenger Compartment |
| Firewall Cover Preparation & Modification, Firewall Cover Installation & Insulation |
| Defrost Duct Installation |
| Speaker Mounting, Kick Panel Modification 10 |
| Kick Panel Modification (Cont.), Fresh Air & Kick Panel Cover Preparation 11 |
| Lubricating O-rings, Properly Seated O-ring Land, Evaporator Module Preparation |
| Evaporator Module Preparation (Cont.) 13 |
| Wiring Installation 14 |
| Kick Panel & Fresh Air Cover Installation 15 |
| Passenger Compartment Wiring, Evaporator Installation16 |
| Evaporator Installation (Cont.) |
| Drain Hose Installation, Driver-Side Under Dash Louver Mounting Holes |
| Passenger-Side Under Dash Louver Mounting Holes, Driver-Side Under Dash Louver Installation, |
| Center/Passenger-Side Under Dash Louver Installation19 |
| Heater Hose & Heater Control Valve Installation, A/C and Heater Hose Routing |
| Inner Fender Installation, Engine Compartment Wiring 21-22 |
| Final Steps: Installation Check |
| Final Steps: Completing the Install |
| Duct Hose Routing |
| Quality Crimp Guideline |
| Gen 5 Wiring Diagram27 |
| Gen 5 Wiring Connection Instruction |
| Operation of Controls |
| Troubleshooting Guide |
| Troubleshooting Guide (Cont.), Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide |
| Templates: Driver-Side Under Dash Louver Bezel & Defrost Duct Mounting |
| Packing List |





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 5 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.



Condenser Assembly and Installation

1. Refer to separate instructions included with the condenser kit to install the condenser.

2. Binary switch installation (Refer to condenser instructions).

Compressor and Brackets

1. Refer to separate instructions included with the bracket kit to install the compressor bracket.

Pulleys

1. In most instances, the belt lengths will remain the same.



Passenger Compartment Disassembly

Perform the following:

- 1. Remove the OEM control panel assembly (retain) (See Figure 1, below).
- 2. Remove the OEM heater assembly (discard) (See Figure 1, below).
- 3. Remove the glove box (discard) and the glove box door (retain) (See Figure 1, below).
- 4. Remove the radio and speaker (retain) (See Figure 1, below).
- 5. Remove the OEM defrost duct assembly (discard) (See Figures 1 & 2, below).
- 6. Remove the (3) spot welds on the defrost duct with a chisel or die grinder (See Figure 2, below).





Firewall Cover Preparation & Firewall Modification

www.vintageair.com

NOTE: For proper system operation, Vintage Air recommends using Dynaliner (461500-VIP) heatblocking insulation in the area around the evaporator module (firewall, kick panel, inner cowl and firewall covers). Due to tight clearance for the evaporator module, between the firewall and dash, Vintage Air recommends an insulation thickness of no more than 1/8". Firewall modification is required for firewall cover and drain hose installation.

- 1. Flatten the edges of the firewall opening (See Photo 1, below).
- Install (5) 1/4-20 x 3/4" serrated flange black bolts with (5) 1/4" pushnut bolt retainers onto the firewall cover (See Photo 2, below).



Firewall Cover Installation and Insulation

- **1**. Apply silicone to the mating surface of the firewall cover.
- Install the firewall cover onto the firewall, then secure it using (5) 1/4" USS flat washers and (5) 1/4-20 nuts with star washers (See Photo 1, below).
- 3. Install (3) #14 sheet metal screws in the top three mounting holes (See Photo 2, below).
- 4. Clean the firewall and necessary areas, then apply heat-blocking insulation (See Photo 3, below).



















www.vintageair.com

Passenger Compartment Wiring

- **1**. Select a suitable ground location for the white ground wire eyelet from the heater control valve harness and secure it using a $#12 \times 1/2''$ self-tapping 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**. Select a suitable mounting location for the main relay and secure using a $\#10 \times 1/2''$ sheet metal screw.
- 5. Connect the BSC plug to the main wiring harness (See Photo 2, below).



Photo 1



Evaporator Installation

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

- 1. With the evaporator module on the passenger-side floorboard, install the upper and lower heater hoses with hose clamps onto the upper and lower heater hardlines on the evaporator module (See Photo 1, below).
- 2. Using a properly lubricated #6 O-ring (See Lubricating O-rings, Page 12), install the 45° fitting on the #6 drier/evaporator A/C hose onto the #6 fitting on the block valve adapter on the evaporator module (See Photo 2, below). NOTE: Provide enough A/C hose when connecting the 45° fitting to the module. Once the connection is made, pull excess hose into the engine compartment, being sure not to kink it.

Install upper and lower heater hoses with hose clamps onto the upper and lower heater hardlines on evaporator module



Photo 1



907872 REV A 09/10/24, PG 16 OF 33



Drain Hose Installation

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

www.vintageair.com

- In line with the drain, lightly make a mark on the firewall. Measure 2" down and 2 ½" to the left, then drill a 5/8" hole through the firewall (See Figure 1, below).
- **3.** Install the drain hose onto the outlet on the bottom of the evaporator module, then route it through the firewall (See Figure 1, below).



Driver-Side Under Dash Louver Mounting Holes

- Cut out the template provided on Page 32. Place the template under the dash on the driver side by aligning the left side of the template against the edge of the dash as shown in Figure 1, below. Make sure the OEM holes line up with the holes on the template as shown in Figure 1, below.
- Once the template is aligned correctly and taped into place, mark the mounting holes on the dash. Once the holes are marked in the correct location, drill (2) 3/16" holes into the dash for the driver-side louver bezel (See Figure 1, below).







Connect #8 135° fitting to

discharge port of compressor

Photo 1

Connect #6 45° fitting to #6 condenser hardline Photo 2

907872 REV A 09/10/24, PG 20 OF 33



Photo 6

907872 REV A 09/10/24, PG 21 OF 33





Final Steps: Installation Check

| | | Installation Check |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| ITE | ITEM TO CHECK | Procedure |
| | ECU | If no blinking is observed after 1 minute of turning the ignition on, go to the next check. If repetetive blinking is observed, go to the <u>Advanced Diagnostics</u> Section to diagnose. |
| | Blower speed control | Set the blower speed control to OFF, confirm that the blower is off. Blower speed control Position the blower speed control to LOW then MEDIUM and then HIGH. At each setting confirm that the blower speed increases, 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. <u>Confirm that air is being blown at the dash vents.</u> Set the MODE control to the FLOOR position. <u>Confirm that air is being blown at the floor vents.</u> Set the MODE control to the DEFROST position. <u>Confirm that all air is being blown from the defrost vents</u> |
| | Temperature control | If heater lines are installed: Set the MODE control to the DASH position. Set the TEMP control to the MAX HEAT position. <u>Confirm that HOT</u> air is coming from the dash vents. If evetem is charged. |
| | | 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 TEMP control from the MAX HEAT position to the MAX COOL position. |
| | AC Indicator (If applicable) | While the MODE control is set to the DASH position, and the TEMP control is set to the MAX COOL/MIN HEAT position, <i>confirm that the blue AC Indicator light is on</i> . |
| | Backlight (If applicable) | lf your control panel has backlight capabilities and has been wired, turn the dash lamp on and <i>confirm that the AC</i> <i>panel's legend is li</i> t . |
| | Fittings | Verify AC and Heater fittings are all tight. |
| | | |



Final Steps: Completing the Install

- **1**. Install duct hoses according to Duct Hose Routing, Page 25.
- 2. Install control panel assembly. Refer to control panel instructions.
- Install supplied glove box, and secure using (3) OEM screws through the OEM holes as shown in Figure 1, below.
- 4. Reinstall glove box door using OEM hardware.
- 5. Reinstall all previously removed items.
- 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 29.









Gen 5 Wiring Diagram



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





speed.

Mode Control Adjust to desired mode position (FLOOR position recommended).

For maximum heating, adjust to hottest position (Adjust between HOT and COLD to reach desired temperature).





Blower Speed Adjust to desired speed.

Temperature Control Adjust to desired temperature.

Mode Control Adjust to DEFROST position for maximum defrost, or between FLOOR and DEFROST positions for a bi-level blend (Compressor is automatically engaged).



Temperature

Control

\ DEF

AIR'

0

DEF

Mode

Control

www.vintageair.com

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.

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

| www.vintageair.com | air.com | | Troubleshooting Guide (Cont.) | ide (Cont.) |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Symptom | Condition | Checks | Actions | Notes |
| 4. | Works when engine is not running; shuts off when 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 viring away from ECU and ECU wiring. Check for burned or loose plug wires. | Ignition noise (radiated or conducted) will cause the system to shut down due to high voltage spikes. If this is suspected, check with a |
| System will not turn on, or runs intermittently. | | Verify connections on power lead, ignition lead, and both white ground wires. | Check for power at ECU, and confirm ignition is being applied to ECU properly. | quality oscilloscope. Spikes greater than 16V will shut down the ECU. Install a radio capacitor at the positive post of the ignition |
| | Will not turn on under any conditions. | Verify battery voltage is greater than 10 volts and less than 16 while engine is running. | Verify proper meter function by checking the condition of a known good battery. | coll (see radio capacitor installation bulletin). A faulty alternator or worn out battery can also result in this condition. |
| 5. Loss of mode door function. | No mode change at all. | Check for damaged mode switch or potentiometer and associated wiring. | | |
| 6. Blower turns on and off rapidly. | Battery voltage is at least 12V. Battery voltage is less than 12V. | Check for at least 12V at circuit breaker. Check for faulty battery or alternator. | Ensure all system grounds and power connections are clean and tight. Charge battery. | System shuts off blower at 10V. Poor connections or weak battery can cause shutdown at up to 11V. |
| Frratic functions of blower, mode, temp, etc. | of | Check for damaged switch or pot and associated wiring. | r → Repair or replace. | |
| | A | Advanced Diag | Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide | ting Guide |
| If after refere resolved, mo Guide that co | If after referencing the Troubleshooting Guide, the issue is not resolved, move to The Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshoot Guide that covers the following: | If after referencing the Troubleshooting Guide, the issue is not resolved, move to The Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide that covers the following: | Access the latest version of the Advanced Diagnostics and Troubleshooting Guide by scanning the following QR code on your mobile device: | nostics and g QR code on your |
| ECU Dia 1.ECU BI | ECU Diagnostics Codes 1. ECU Blink Sequence | | | |
| 2. Firmw 3. ECU M 4. ECU St | 2. Firmware Version Number 3. ECU Model Number 4. ECU Start-Up Blink Sequence 5. Discussific Codes | | | |
| Complet | complete Advanced Troubleshooting Guideli | ooting Guidelines | You can also access the guide by typing the following address into your web browser: https://www.vintageair.com/instructions_ndf/905000_ndf | owing address into |



32

