

The Monza Cloth Interior Registry

For the 1961 and 1962 Corvair Monza with Factory Cloth Upholstery

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Registry Contact: Wade Lanning, 8015 Driftwood Dr, Prince George, VA 23875

Phone: 804-861-5748 Email: WBLanning@Comcast.net

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Monza Cloth Interior Registry. In this newsletter some new and historical information will be covered, as well as a list of the cars currently in the registry. As more information is received, additional newsletters will be issued. This will not be on any particular schedule, but only as more cars are entered in the registry or updates to cars currently listed.

I'd like to thank everyone that has submitted vehicle information for the registry, which currently stands at twelve cars; four 1961's and eight 1962's. Also, I'd like to thank Dave Newell for furnishing GM photographs and technical information, and for being the mentor for this project.

Just to review, only the 1961 Monza 4-door sedans, 1962 Monza 4-door sedans and 1962 Monza station wagons are subject of this registry. In these models, bench seats with a cloth and vinyl upholstery combination were standard equipment. As an option, the 1961 Monza sedans could be ordered with bucket seats with cloth inserts. In the US, the cloth bucket seat option was gradually discontinued from March through June, as supplies of each color ran out. In Canada, they were available through the end of production in July.

Both 1961 and 1962 had their own unique design and cloth weave patterns, although for both years the cloth was used as panel inserts on the bottom and seat back cushions. The 1961 door panels were the same as those used in the all vinyl Monza interiors. However in 1962 the door panels had cloth inserts at the bottom and top, with a matching color vinyl strip in the middle. Also in 1962 the seat back rest cushions and door panels used buttons to give a more plush appearance. Due to the way these seats were constructed, the front seat back rest cushion had a seam along each end that was covered with special, one year only chrome trim pieces. More about the buttons and the trim is included below.

The interior "Trim" codes for the cloth interiors are as follows.

1961 Bench Seats:

816 – Fawn cloth & fawn vinyl
820 – Red cloth & red vinyl
821 – Green Cloth & green vinyl
829 – Blue cloth & blue vinyl
830 – Gray cloth and black vinyl
844 – Gray cloth and ivory vinyl

1961 Bucket Seats:

845 - Fawn cloth & fawn vinyl
846 – Red cloth & red vinyl
847 – Green Cloth & green vinyl
848 – Blue cloth & blue vinyl
870 – Gray cloth and black vinyl
871 – Gray cloth and ivory vinyl

1962 Bench Seats:

735 – Blue cloth & blue vinyl

748 - Aqua cloth & aqua vinyl

759 - Fawn cloth & fawn vinyl

782 - Red cloth & red vinyl

793 - Gold cloth & gold vinyl (Note: The gold vinyl was actually yellow and it was not available in the wagons)

This code is on the Body Plate located in the engine compartment for these cars. In sedans, the plate is located either on the sheet metal to the rear of the battery or on the left side of the rear frame rail, depending on the assembly plant. In the wagons it's on the rear frame rail. Below is a typical Body Plate, which is for a 1962 Monza station wagon (Style 62-0935), interior Trim 759 (Fawn) and exterior Paint 936 (Ermine White).



Below are scans of actual upholstery samples of the 1961 and 1962 Monza cloth bench seat interiors from the Dealer Albums, courtesy of Dave Newell.



Above: 1962 Monza cloth upholstery samples.

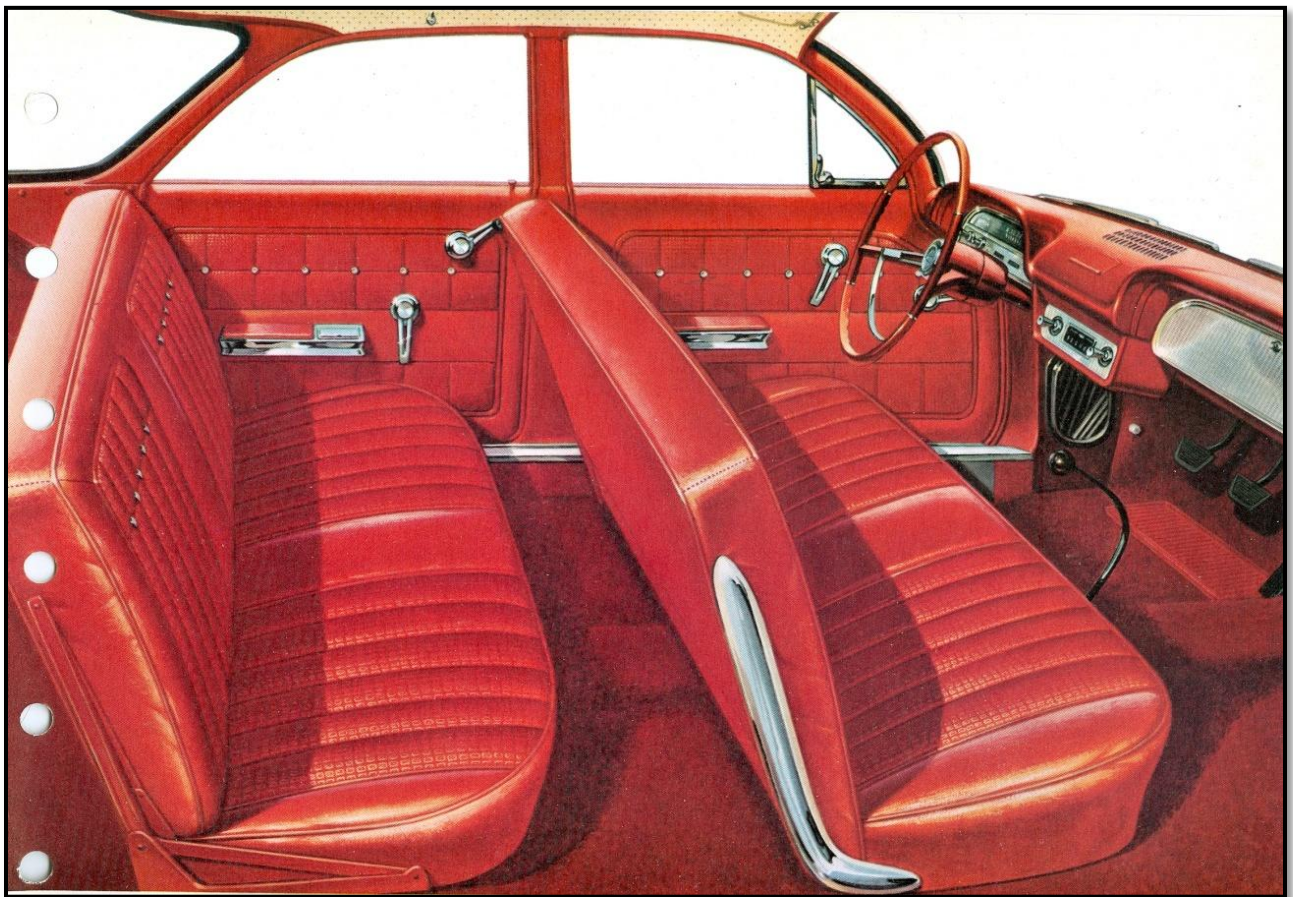


Right: 1961 Monza cloth upholstery samples.

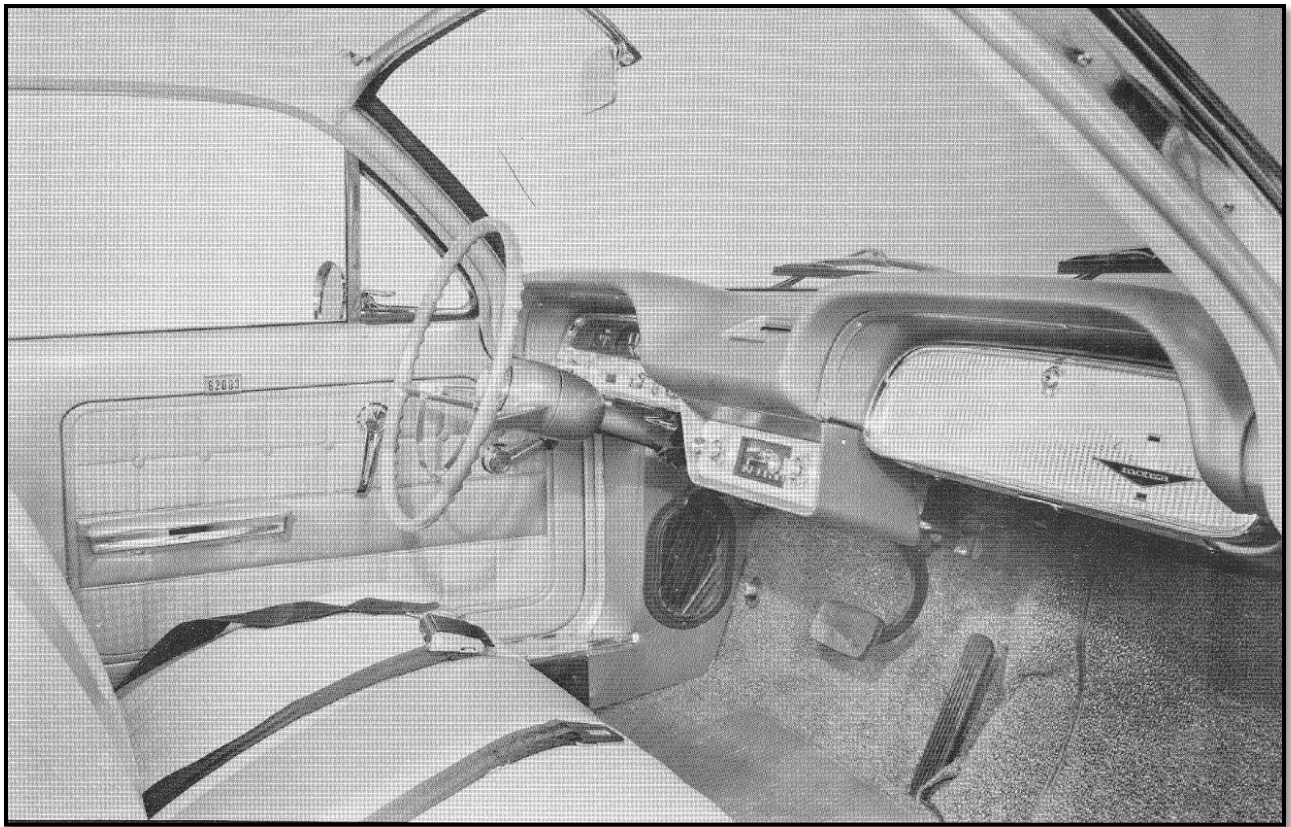
1962 Upholstery Buttons

Regarding the 1962 upholstery buttons, it appears that both flat, color-coordinated vinyl covered buttons and concave stainless steel buttons were used. The stainless buttons were the same as those used on the all vinyl bucket seats for all Monza body styles. In the GM color illustration below the buttons are stainless, whereas in the black and white GM photographs on the next page, which show an actual interior, the buttons appear to be the same color as the upholstery. A close up photograph is also included showing both stainless and vinyl covered buttons.

All the 1962's in the registry have stainless buttons except for one car built in early in October 1961 that has color coordinated vinyl covered buttons. The next car chronologically in the registry was built in early in December 1961 and it has stainless buttons. This could mean that GM changed to stainless buttons at some point during the production run, however more data are needed to confirm this possibility.



Above: GM '62 Monza 4-door sedan illustration showing stainless upholstery buttons.



Above: GM '62 Monza 4-door sedan photograph showing color coordinated upholstery buttons.



'62 Sedan rear seat with colored buttons.



Stainless button (left) and colored button (right)

1962 Seat Trim

As mentioned above and shown in the color illustration of the 1962 red interior, that year only a special seat side trim was used. The reason this trim was used appears to be of the way the seat was constructed and how the buttons were installed as follows. The seat padding was installed first on the seat back rest frame and anchored with hog rings. Next, the seat cover was slid over the back rest and then the buttons were installed by pushing the blades on the back of the buttons through the seat cover and padding. Then the button retainers were installed over the blades and the blades were folded over. In order to do this, the back part of the seat cover had to be lifted up to gain access to the blades. This required a split in the sides of the seat. Once the buttons were secured, the back part of the seat cover was pulled down, hog ringed to the seat frame and the side trim was installed.

This trim is similar to that used on bucket seats, except that since the bench seats don't fold forward, the trim did not need a big hole for the seat pivot or to cover a hinge at the bottom. So the bottom of the bench seat trim was shaped differently than the bucket seat trim. In addition, the top of the bench seat trim was shaped differently. This trim was held in place by three typical chrome upholstery screws, which attached into three special clips that were screwed to each end of the seat frame. Pictures showing this '62 Monza bench seat side trim are shown below and on the next page, along with a bucket seat side trim for comparison.



Above: Top trim is for buckets seats. Lower trim is for bench seats.



Lower end of trim. Bucket seat on left and bench seat on right



Upper end of trim. Bucket seat on top and bench seat on bottom.

Reproduction Upholstery

Some people that have been in contact regarding this registry have inquired about reproduction upholstery. Clark's Corvair Parts has the upholstery available with the correct cloth materials, with the caveat that it will be available as long as the cloth can be obtained from their suppliers. I recently ordered a complete set of seat covers and door panels for a 1962. I have not installed these yet, but the pictures on the next page show some of the covers and a door panel. Note that the buttons have not been installed on these covers or the door panel. You need to save your buttons for installation on new upholstery.

Whether you buy cloth upholstery for a 1961 or 1962, you should contact Clark's first to review your needs and make sure they have enough cloth to make your upholstery. Note also that the rear seat back rest on the 1962 Monza wagon is different than the 4-door sedan, so you need to make sure they know if your application is for a sedan or wagon. This is because of the latch mechanism on the side of the wagon rear seat required a different the seat back rest cushion design. The front seat is the same for both body styles.

Several people have indicated that the original and reproduction cloth for 1962 will fade when exposed to sunlight. So if you buy new upholstery you may want to protect it from sunlight to extend its life.



Internet Information

I still intend to put this information on a website to include the photographs and technical information above, and the registry list below. If you have a suggestion where to put it or, better yet, if you can help do that, I would be very grateful. It might end up on the new CORSA website under construction if that website includes that feature.

There is a '62 Monza station wagon with a cloth interior on You Tube. The video is at this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyGjTbc_jM0. It is titled "60-64 Corvair Sedans and Wagons", which was done by "FitchSprint". The wagon with the cloth interior starts at 2:38 into the video. The wagon appears to have had an Aqua interior, Trim Code748, but the original cloth has been replaced with a modern light gray cloth. I cannot tell if the car has the vinyl covered seat buttons or if they are stainless buttons that are reflecting the interior color. If anyone knows how to contact the owner of this car or how to get in touch with the video's author, please let me know. Even if the seats have been reupholstered, I'd still like to get the VIN and Body Plate information on this car. There are other sedans and wagons in this video that might have cloth interiors, but I could not tell for sure.

Registry List

Starting on the next page are the cars currently in the registry listed by VIN number. You'll see that many of these cars have the original upholstery, so most are worn. However you can imagine what they looked like when new.

There are several more people that have indicated they have information to submit. When their information is received, the list below will be updated and re-issued. Also, a Registry Form is at the end of this newsletter for your use or to circulate to others.

1961 Monza Sedan

VIN: 10969K116384

Owner: Darrin Hartzler

Interior: 844 - Gray cloth & Ivory vinyl (Bench Seat)

Paint: 923C C - Roman Red

Build Date: 03B (2nd week of March 1961)

Body Sequence: KC 1678

According to Darrin: "This is a Texas car with an 80HP motor and a four speed. It is a bare bones Monza with tinted glass, but no outside mirrors or any other apparent options. The car came to Maryland about 11 years ago and sat for eight years and got moldy and some surface rust, but was sheltered for the most part. I bought the car with a 95HP LM motor installed but got the original engine on a pallet. I have since refurbished and installed the original motor. I did a ring job and replaced one piston and cylinder and installed NOS 80HP heads, new valves and springs and three angle valve job. She runs great, but has the light knock discussed in the literature for the early cars. I should have taken the engine all the way down but it seemed the crank was fine and it was fairly low miles according to the previous owner (he said the 95 had been in for 20 to 30k miles) and the car has a bit over 75k on the odometer."



1961 Monza Sedan

Owner: Not Available (eBay car)

Interior: 816 - Fawn (Bench Seat)

Build Date: Not Available

VIN: 10969W179402

Paint: 920 - Fawn

Body Sequence: Not Available

This car was offered on eBay, ending with no sale on May 29, 2010. It had 34,514 miles when on eBay, so this could very well be the original interior. As you can see from the pictures below, the portions of the seats and door panels that were visible rear seat look very good, as well as the rest of the car. Although the build date for this car is not available, it would have been built prior to the 4th week of April 1961, which is when the next Willow Run sedan in the list was built.



1961 Monza Sedan

Owner: Terry Kalp

Interior: 848- Blue cloth & vinyl (Bucket Seats)

Build Date: 03E (5th week of March 1961)

VIN: To be provided at a later date

Paint: 912D C - Jewel Blue

Body Sequence: KC 2234

This is the only car with factory cloth bucket seats in the registry so far. According to Terry, it is a manual transmission car with the straight gear shift lever used with bucket seat at that time. Pictures and more information are expected when the car can be accessed in its storage location.

1961 Monza Sedan

Owner: Craig Scott

Interior: 816 - Fawn (Bench Seat)

Build Date: 04D (4th week of April 1961)

VIN: 10969W226036

Paint: 920-4 Fawn

Body Sequence: WR 10112

Per Craig: "We own a 1961 Monza 4-door with bench cloth seats. This is an all original car with 35,000 miles. We have had it for 27 years and it has been to several conventions. The upholstery and paint are original, both fawn colored. Right now the front seat upholstery is split, which we plan to have repaired."



1962 Monza Wagon**Owner:** Wade Lanning**Interior:** 759 - Fawn**Build Date:** 10A (1st week of October 1961)**VIN:** 20935W121127**Paint:** 936 - Ermine White**Body Sequence:** WR 95

This car has the low horsepower engine, PG transmission, radio, one-speed wipers, tinted glass & tinted windshield. It was the 95th Monza wagon off the Willow Run line for the '62 model year and was built the last week of October 1961. The original door panels were missing, but the original seats were still in the car, covered with aftermarket vinyl seat covers. The seats have flat seat buttons covered with matching fawn vinyl. The car is currently undergoing a restoration as shown below. It came to Virginia after being bought by the previous owner in the early 1970's in Oklahoma.



1962 Monza Sedan**Owner:** Ed Lindsay**Interior:** 735 - Blue**Build Date:** 12A (1st week December 1961)**VIN:** 20969W157513**Paint:** 912 - Silver Blue**Body Sequence:** WR 1169

Ed related: "The car was completely submerged in salt water during Hurricane Ivan. I got it for parts with no drivetrain. The seats have stainless buttons"

1962 Monza Sedan**VIN:** 209690157878**Owner:** Dan Terry (previous owner)**Interior:** 782 - Red**Paint:** 936 - Ermine White**Build Date:** NA**Body Sequence:** NA

Dan said: "I use to own a 1962 4 door Monza with the cloth bench seat. I owned it twice. The first time was from 1974-1977. I sold it and later bought it back in 1983. We drove it until 1994 when we sold it again. I haven't found the name of the last person who bought it from me. Here is what I can tell you about it. VIN: 209690157878, Ermine White with red interior. The only options on it were Powerglide, ww tires, 2 speed wiper/washers, tinted windshield. It was pretty plain. There was no radio and only the standard 84 hp Monza pg engine. When I first acquired it in 1974, there was only 72000 miles on it."

1962 Monza Wagon**VIN:** 20935W165541**Owner:** Ron Butera**Interior:** 735 - Blue**Paint:** 912 - Silver Blue**Build Date:** 12C (3rd week of December 1961)**Body Sequence:** WR 1180

According to Ron: "The car was built the 3rd week of December '61 and was the 1180th wagon on the line. It was delivered to Boo Chevrolet in Louisville, KY. It's Silver Blue metallic with matching interior. Cloth door panels and windlace to match. It has the following options: tinted glass (windshield), 4-speed transmission, radio, heater, 80-hp engine. I have done a complete title search back in the 1990's on this car. I have copies of all titles and all owners since it was delivered to BOO Chevrolet in 1962 to present. I have not been able to contact the original owner of the car to ask if he ordered the car or if it was on the showroom floor. "

1962 Monza Wagon

Owner: Richard McIntosh

Interior: 748 - Aqua

Build Date: 12C (3rd week of December 1961)

VIN: 20935W191071

Paint: 918-3 Twilight Turquoise

Body Sequence: WR 1180

According to Richard, this station wagon has clear glass, 2 speed wipers, radio, the original engine 102hp and a Powerglide transmission. He thinks it was a California car, which he bought it in 1989. He still has the California black plates for it and it's still registered in CA. The restoration is going slow. The paint is done but that's about it. He is currently trying to get the engine put back together.



1962 Monza Wagon**VIN:** 20935W219684**Owner:** NA**Interior:** 782 - Red**Paint:** 923 - 5 Roman Red**Build Date:** NA**Body Sequence:** NA

This car was recently found by Ray Hatchell in North Carolina, however the owner does not want his name given out. Per Ray: "The wagon still had its original paint and upholstery, I believe it was Roman Red. The front bench seat had been recovered and still had the original cover under it which was beautiful. It was red and gray cloth with some vinyl trim, with little red squares about 3/4 inch in size in the cloth part. Same for the door panels; they had cloth at the top, vinyl in the middle and cloth at the bottom. Across the top in the cloth were seven stainless buttons. The arm rests were mounted in the middle vinyl section. At the ends of the front bench seat were the chrome side trim which were almost perfect. "

1962 Monza Sedan**VIN:** 20969W277057**Owner:** NA**Interior:** 735 - Blue**Paint:** 914 - Nassau Blue**Build Date:** NA**Body Sequence:** NA

This car was offered on eBay, ending with no sale on June 7, 2010. The door panels were still in place, however aftermarket vinyl seat covers have been installed. The original cloth seats might be under the vinyl seat covers. Although not discernable in the pictures, according to the owner the door panels have stainless buttons.



1962 Monza Sedan

Owner: Jeff Shreve

Interior: 782- Red

Build Date: 08B (2nd week of August 1962)

VIN: 20969W321549

Paint: 900 - 5 Black

Body Sequence: WR 37011

Per Jeff: "The car was owned by Clark Hartzel from 1998 to 2000. Car was located in New York State. I purchased car from Clark in June of 2000 with 75,000 miles. Replaced rear seat upholstery and door panels in early 2002. Car has been daily driver since purchased – not garaged and used year round. Currently still in daily use with 160,000 miles. Car does have a 1967 95hp engine (I think installed by Clark) and is a PG car."



Monza Cloth Interior Registry Form

Date	
Owner's Name	
Street Address	
State, City & Zip Code	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
Keep Owner Information Confidential?	
Car Year	
Body Style (4-door or wagon)	
VIN (from plate on driver's door jamb)	
Body Plate data as follows (see note):	
1. Build code (upper left corner):	
2. Body code:	
3. Trim code:	
4. Paint code:	
5. ACC code:	
Is the interior original or restored?	
If 1962, does it have bright (stainless steel) or vinyl covered color buttons? Does it have cloth covered windlace?	
Provide car history or other information about this car. Use additional sheets if needed.	

Note: If preferred, send picture of the Body Plate. Send or email completed form and pictures to:

Wade Lanning
 8015 Driftwood Dr
 Prince George, VA 23875
 Email: WBLanning@comcast.net Phone: 804-861-5748