1968-1972 Bucket Seat Installation
by James Hinshaw and Mark Meekins

Last month we covered the installation of a floor console in a 1971 El Camino. In addition to the console the El Camino's bench seat was replaced with a pair of bucket seats.

Bucket seats were standard equipment on 1964 and 1965 Malibu Super Sports. On all 1966-up models the bench seat was standard cockpit equipment. Bucket seats were an extra-cost factory option available on 1966-up Super Sport and Malibu models. Chevelles without these sporty seats can be easily remedied. All that's needed is a pair of seats, the necessary floor mounting brackets and about 3 hours of spare time.

This operation was performed by James Hinshaw, owner of Hinshaw's Chevelle Parts, 100 Bell Street, Burlington, NC 27215, phone 910-226-8242 M-F. James manufacturers the bucket seat floor brackets and carries the carpet underlay, carpet and other items to complete this operation. Besides selling Chevelle and El Camino parts he also offers restoration services.

For bucket seat installation the interior will have to be gutted. Essentially, the upgrade consists of removing the bench seat and carpet, welding the seat mounting brackets into place, replacing all or part of the carpet underlay (sound deadener and insulation), repositioning the carpet, cutting the carpet for the seat and seat belt installation and bolting the components into place.

Arrows show location of seat belt mounting location (beside door sill) and seat mounting location for rear seat runner.

Factory-installed bucket seats used an outer front bracket (arrow) with stud in addition to bracket closest to transmission tunnel. We didn't install this mount, but it can be done with extra set of brackets.

Unfortunately photo doesn't clearly show front and rear bench seat floor mounting holes (arrows) for attaching bolts. This LH view shows flat floor pan.

Bucket seat runner has single hole on front and two mounting holes on rear seat foot of runner. Outer hole of rear seat foot runner is used for installation.
Hinshaw's bucket seat mounting bracket kit includes left and right section with serrated lock nuts for front and rear studs. This kit is for floor pan closest to transmission hump.

Front runner mounts atop raised section of bracket. Tighten securing nut to stud to 12-18 foot pounds.

Rear seat foot of runner is mounted to flat portion of bracket. Outer hole of two-hole pattern (closest to transmission hump) is used. This is passenger side view.

Using bench seat floor holes as guides, bucket seat is positioned. Besides stability, floor bracket raises height of bucket seat to correct stature.
Seat frame runners slide over studs of seat bracket.

Either "eyeball" seat bracket's location or use framing square to align seat bracket with mounting holes nearest to door.

Front and back measurements were made with framing square to insure seat bracket location on floor pan.

Bracket location is marked front and rear. Seat and bracket are then removed.

Grind floor pan for better weld. Position old carpet over opening or cut new carpet for seat belt installation.

James fitted the LH seat bracket same as passenger seat.

Floor pan doesn't have to be extensively ground. Just grind front, rear and side sections for weld on bare metal.

James positioned bracket over grind marks. Small area on floor pan didn't allow bracket to sit flush on floor. Ball peen hammer rectified this minor problem. Notice inner seat belt hole on transmission hump (arrow).
Seats were installed one last time to assure bracket location. Seats were removed after bracket locations were marked.

Around ends ("U" shape) of front and rear of bracket (arrows) were welded to floor pan. Sides were spot welded.

Carpet underlay segments are positioned on floor pan. Once in place, each piece is lifted and coated with spray adhesive. Arrows point out two seat belt holes and four seat mounting areas.

Install rear section of carpet and position it equally from side-to-side. Cut carpet for mounting bracket studs. Front carpet will lay atop back half of carpet. Place seat over studs and holes for pattern to cut flap of carpet to cover feet of runners.

Position bucket seat over bracket studs and over bench seat holes nearest door. Move seat forward for access to rear mounting bolts and nuts. Move seat backward for access to front mounting bolts and nuts. Fisher Body suggested mounting torque for nuts and bolts is 12-18 foot pounds.

Both seats installed and tightened. Bolt down seat belts, reinstall door sill plates and enjoy the results.
Approximate measurements of 70 Malibu with T-350 trans.
console/shifter mounting holes

- Console mounting brackets
- Screws
- Piece of ball point pen in screw hole