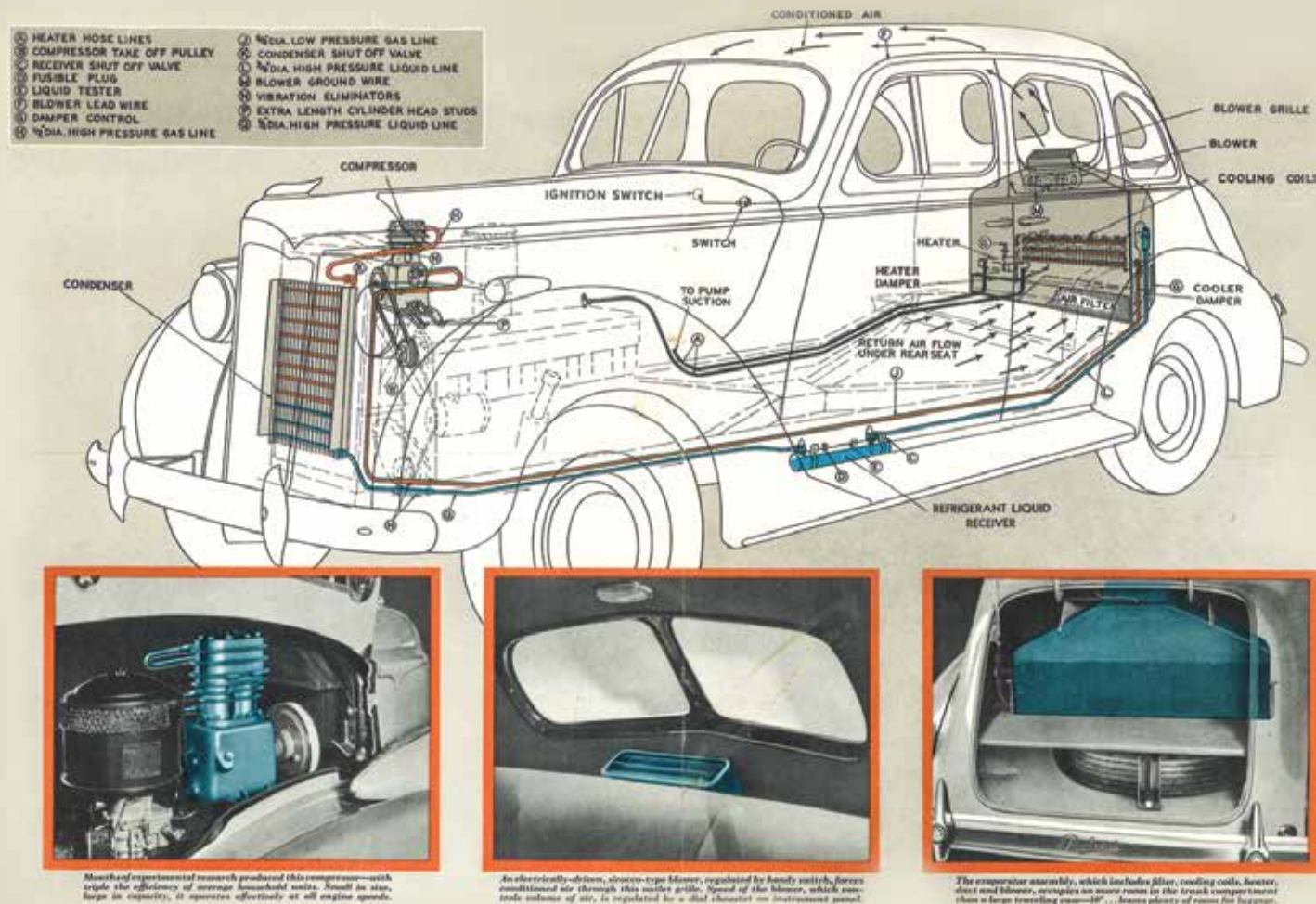


CLASSIC ERA INNOVATIONS

Air Conditioning



While organizing some automotive literature, I came across these items of interest, illustrating a comfort innovation developed during the Classic Era. For the 1940 model year, Packard (and possibly Chrysler) introduced air conditioning in its passenger vehicles. Developed by Bishop and Babcock of Cleveland, Ohio, the trunk-mounted unit delivered cooled air into the passenger compartment via a vent opening in the rear package shelf. Packard called this Weather Conditioning and offered it through 1942. The option was priced at nearly \$300. >

Complete, Year-Around WEATHER-CONDITIONING
Pioneered by Packard

QUICK FACTS:

- YEAR-AROUND COMFORT**—The Packard Weather-Conditioner provides either heating or cooling, according to the season. Air is cooled by a mechanical refrigeration process.
- COOLING PRINCIPLE**—the same as in household refrigerators. Practical, trouble-free, simple.
- COOLING EFFECTIVENESS**—Cooling plants of this type are rated in accordance with the equivalent cooling effect of a quantity of ice used for the same purpose in twenty-four hours. The Packard system has a cooling capacity at higher car speeds equivalent to the cooling effect of placing one and one-half to two tons of ice in the car body to be melted in twenty-four hours, which indicates its ability to cool at lower car speeds.
- DEHUMIDIFICATION**—Air is dehumidified as it is cooled—for comfort on humid days, rain or shine.
- HEATING PRINCIPLE**—Air is heated by passing through a core in which hot water is circulated. Heating core is in different part of same housing as cooling coils.
- FILTERING**—Air is filtered as it passes through the unit which keeps it clean, and low in pollen content. Filter operates with either heating or cooling.
- SIMPLE ADJUSTMENT**—To change from heating to cooling, or cooling to heating, it is necessary only to adjust damper control levers in the trunk compartment. This adjustment takes only a few seconds. During the winter season the compressor may be disconnected.
- INSULATION**—Every Packard equipped with Weather-Conditioning has additional special body insulation to help maintain desired interior temperatures.
- FACTORY INSTALLATION**—Weather-Conditioning is installed at the factory, while the car is in process, as a standard, extra-cost accessory. It is available on enclosed models of the sedan body type.
- AN EXCLUSIVE SYSTEM**—Weather-Conditioning is not to be confused with common types of heating, "conditioned air" or ventilating systems. It is the only system now available as a standard accessory which provides refrigerated cooling as well as heating.

PACKARD MOTOR CAR COMPANY · DETROIT, MICHIGAN
ASK THE MAN WHO OWNS ONE



An Air-Cooled Car! For years America has been asking, "When will automobile interiors be cooled for summer driving?" The answer is NOW! . . . in the 1940 Packard — the first motor car to offer complete, year-around Weather-Conditioning as a standard, extra-cost accessory installed at the factory.

Quick Cooling! Packard Weather-Conditioner, when regulated for cooling, functions immediately when the car engine is started. It is useful and enjoyable for short trips as well as for long—and operates effectively at all car speeds.

Heat for Winter! Giving year-around comfort, the Packard Weather-Conditioner circulates an abundance of clean, heated air throughout the car for winter driving. A simple adjustment of damper controls located in the trunk compartment converts the Weather-Conditioner from a cooling system to a heating system. As with cooled air, the heated air is directed through the same grille, to follow the contours of the car roof and is distributed throughout the interior of the car.

Closed Window Comfort! In summer, as well as in winter, passengers may ride in comfort with all windows closed. Dirt, dust and insects need no longer be a nuisance in summer. Air is effectively filtered as it passes through the Weather-Conditioner and pollen, as well as dust, is removed—a priceless boon for hay fever victims.

Simple to Operate! No mechanical knowledge is needed to operate the Packard Weather-Conditioner. A handy switch on the dash regulates the speed of the blower to supply the desired volume of warm air in winter or cool air in summer. The damper controls in the trunk compartment, which govern the operation of the system for cooling or heating, are clearly marked and easily adjusted.

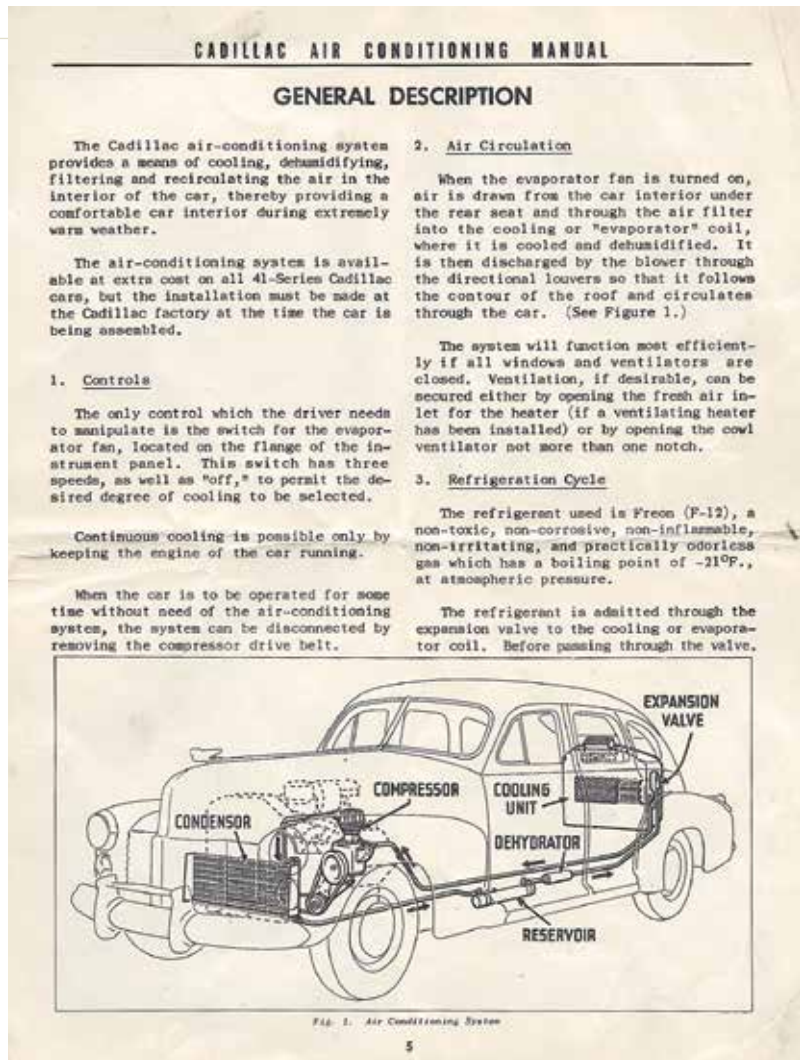
For 1940
PACKARD LEADS AGAIN IN PROVIDING PASSENGER COMFORT



Clockwise from top left:
1940 Packard Air Conditioning spread from catalog; 1940 Packard Air Conditioning quick facts page from catalog; 1941 Cadillac rear window blinds; 1940 Packard leads again in providing passenger comfort!

Cadillac offered a similar unit in 1941 and an estimated 300 cars were equipped with this option. Rear window “Venetian Blinds” were fitted to direct air away from the hot rear glass and toward the passengers. Cadillac would not offer air conditioning again until 1953, also as a trunk-mounted unit.

Allen B. Simons is authoring a book about the history of automotive air conditioning, scheduled for publication within the next year. Has anyone seen a Classic-era Chrysler with air-conditioning? ●



Clockwise from top right:
 1941 Cadillac air conditioning manual and diagram;
 1941 Cadillac compressor; 1941 Cadillac 60 Special rear window blinds; 1941 Cadillac trunk-mounted air conditioning.

