



# The *Lincoln* / MERCURY Old Parts Store



## Owner Bulletin – Herb Scheffer's "Raise Your Right Hand to God and Push"

### 1958-1960 Continental Convertibles

#### Avoiding Convertible Top Frame Damage

Over the past 20+ years, I have repaired countless convertible top frames and sold thousands of dollars in convertible top parts to owners of these beautiful beasts because of a basic flaw in the 1958-60 frame design. The flaw is the scissor mechanism located above the driver's head that supports the center top bow located about the side rail frame hinge.

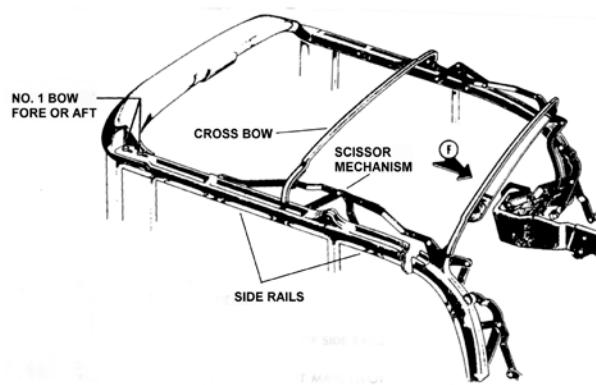
Over time, the parts and bushings wear and the scissor mechanism becomes loose. When the top bow is retracted (put down), the scissor is supposed to fold the center bow up and away as the frame folds down. What happens in many cases is that the scissor will actually fold down toward the top frame rail instead of up and away from the frame. When the scissor folds down toward the frame, what happens can be catastrophic if not detected immediately. If the top continues to retract, it will bend unevenly at the crossbow, wedge itself between the front and rear side rails of the top frame causing it to bend and/or break the crossbow, damage and/or break the scissor mechanism, break the frame pins, damage and/or break the front and rear side rail, shatter the rearmost top frame rail that is the main frame hinge, and possibly bend one or more hydraulic cylinders. UGLY isn't it?!?!

You can avoid this problem quite simply by **ALWAYS** following this procedure:

1. Start the retract cycle by pushing the top switch; this will open the back panel (hatch).
2. When the pack panel has opened, the top windshield locks will unlock.
3. At exactly this point, raise your right hand directly over your shoulder and push up firmly against the convertible top crossbow located directly above you.
4. Keep a steady and firm pressure on the top bow until the top crossbow has hinged up and away from the frame.
5. Put your arm down and continue to complete the top down operation.
6. This is a simple and effective way to save yourself heartache and money.



I follow this procedure on  
ALL 1958 to 1960 Continental  
Convertibles. It doesn't  
matter how perfect they are!  
An ounce of prevention...



Technical Information (727) 445-7551

**The *Lincoln* / MERCURY Old Parts Store**

2040 A Gentry Street, Clearwater FL 33765

(727) 445-1091 • Fax (727) 445-7561 • E-mail [lincoln@lincolnoldparts.com](mailto:lincoln@lincolnoldparts.com)