

Ford fits four speeds under the expert's hand

With one quick piece of magic you can conjure up a six-passenger sports car that locks just like a 1962 Galaxie. No spells or charms are needed—just put down on the option list "Four-speed floor-shift transmission." Ford does the rest with a husky full-size gearbox that has synchro even on Low gear, a positive Reverse lockout so you can never mistake that cog, and four close butter-smooth ratios beautifully fitted to the torque curve. For drivers who love to drive, nothing else fits more sweetly under the hand, nothing else gives such a tremendous range of passing gears, such positive engine braking or (let's confess it) such a rewarding way to illustrate driving skill. We could talk about how this transforms mountain roads and so on but the useful thing to do is let your Ford Dealer give you a demonstration. If you're an expert driver, he'll have to pry your hand off that knob!