



Why a Bus Conversion?

Post by: Gary Hatt - Publisher BCM

Why did you choose a bus conversion over a conventional motorhome or trailer? What advantages are important to you?

Post by: richard5933

Safety and road worthiness. My hypothesis was proven correct when we walked away from a head-on collision against a car a few years ago. Next in line was the cool factor - love vintage cars and buses, especially those with a unique look like our current bus, the GM 4108.

Post by: dtcerrato

Ditto what Richard said. We were able to walk away from a class C motorhome crash much better than the motorhome did. It was either buy a home in SoCal or rent an apartment & get into another motorhome which we did. Got a bus then we got out of Dodge!

Post by: Nova Eona

The above, as well as reliability and longevity. I used to have an 80's era Class A which was constantly doing its best to fall apart, and I knew that no matter how much work I put into it, without going full Ship of Theseus that asks, is an object that has had all of its components replaced still the same object? It would forever be a battle just to keep the thing in one piece, all the while risking a major engine malfunction which would simply not be worth repairing. Switching to a bus chassis meant bigger and often more expensive repair/maintenance tasks, but also that I could

reasonably expect many more years of reliable service and a platform that would be worth repairing from all but the most extreme issues that might turn up.

Post by: Jim Blackwood

The whole S&S (Sticks-N-Staples) thing really. Having owned a trailer and a "bread truck" (an unfair characterization to the bread truck I think) and also having had to repair or replace essentially every major component except the drive axle on the RV including some of the framing, well let's just say I didn't really care for the construction. Then of course there was the one that I saw in S. Carolina that got zippered by a tree. That sort of gets your attention. Buses aren't generally known for roof leaks. That's a major improvement. But it wasn't until the roofs lifted, the mileage improved, and the cost dropped that it became practical to consider.

Post by: richard5933

Aside from the safety, the road worthiness still shines as a key reason for choosing a bus. To me, most traditional S&S (Sticks-N-Staples) are designed around being great once they get to the campground. On the road they are acceptable, usually. You have to pay quite a bit to get a S&S with good road manners.

The design priority of a bus conversion is different. Just starting out with a bus will result in a vehicle which is designed to be on the road all the time and to have good road manners. Comfort in a campground might not be as high as a S&S, but road manners will (IMO) always be better.

Post by: benherman1

In my price range any "stick & staple" I could buy would have been a trash heap. For less money I bought a badly converted bus instead. Even if the bus broke in half down the middle today, I could get my money back parting it out. I also enjoy antique vehicles which ruled out me wanting to spend any amount of time traveling behind the wheel of anything modern. Now that I am tearing the old conversion out and redoing the interior

