

# Older Bus vs. Newer Bus Which Costs Less?



By Wulf Ward

**Editor's Note:** This is a story about what it can cost to ready a bus for converting. Another cost which may be just as important is time. If you have to spend a year to fix rust and replace broken or worn parts on a bus to bring it up to being safe, legal, and roadworthy before you convert it, then that is one year less that you will have to enjoy your conversion and to make memories. What is that worth to you?

I have converted and owned several buses in my lifetime. Here is a story about my findings of whether to buy an older bus for less money that may need quite a bit of work vs. buying a newer bus that costs more but will almost be ready to roll once the interior is completed. I hope you can learn from my experiences.

**My first bus was a 1982 Model 10Eagle.** My second bus was a 1979 RTS, and my third bus was also an RTS. That third bus was a 35' Avis Blitz. The Avis was re-manufactured originally in 1979 and now was a 1984 TMC. It was not really a bus conversion, because I built it into a Limo for picking up friends and family from the airport to impress them, mostly coming from Germany.

I had the bus painted red, black, and gold, the German colors. That did not take much with Avis, because these colors were already there. I had two flags attached to it on the side, German and

U.S.A. I never had a problem parking, because they thought I was from the German Consulate so they let me park practically anywhere. LOL

I bought it off a used car lot for \$5,000. It had a 6V92 engine and was a really clean bus. It had fair tires on Alcoa wheels. It had Perimeter cloth seating and full gauges. I did not do much to convert it. I added a little bar with a small fridge, some music and it was ready to go!

I loved that bus and took it everywhere. It had less than 7,000 miles on it, and when I got a good offer, I sold it. This bus and my GMC motorhome are what I should have kept, but I had the bus-bug and kept looking, buying, and converting more buses.

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