



BUS CHAT



What Would You Do Different?

Post by: Gary Hatt - Publisher BCM

If you were to convert another bus from scratch, what would you do differently based on what you learned from your last bus conversion?

This is very helpful to people converting their first bus of course. Let's hear your ideas.

Post by: Utahclaimjumper

I would start with something that DID NOT HAVE A TWO STROKE!!!

Post by: oltrunt

I'd give myself a head start by beginning the build when I was 60 rather than 70 so I'd have more time to enjoy all my work.

Post by: Bustle

Ask me in about a year. At this rate, I regret not purchasing one already done and re-doing the things I don't like.

Post by: dtcerrato

We did our one & only current bus 43 years ago and would do it all over again. I could say it would have been nice to have an 8V with an automatic transmission, but I won't because our antique keeps us on our game as we do lots of mountain diving.

Post by: Utahclaimjumper

My first bus was a 62 GMC 4106 with a 4-speed. The first trip out across the state of Utah and Idaho and return produced a huge

blister on my shifting hand. Within 30 days it had an automatic installed. Start using the coach ASAP while doing the conversion, the attention you get will boost your confidence in what you are doing.

Post by: richard5933

Start 20 years earlier. Or more. My biggest regret was not doing the bus thing early enough before my back went on strike so I could get more years of enjoyment out of it.

Post by: lvmci

I had looked for a 102C3 from MCI. With either a 4-stroke or 2-stroke. The 4-stroke had a single big radiator and intercooler, which was my preference. Found two 4-strokes. But both had rust issues. I would, in hindsight, have spent the \$4 to \$5 K more for the 4-strokes that were in good shape rather than the 2-stroke that I bought.

Post by: windtrader

I would never advise anyone today to do a full conversion from scratch unless you have a bus conversion already and want unique features and know what's involved time and money. If it is a new person, buy an already converted bus!

This topic has been discussed so often that if you want to enjoy bus conversion life just get one done, in solid shape, then decide later if you want to DIY or maybe just modify/upgrade what you have. There are so many sad stories of conversions starting with the best intentions then life just has a way to throw off the plans. Never finished the conversion, never experienced the dream.

Post by: silversport

I need to say that in the 20-plus years of being in this crazy game I have no regrets about my four 4106s. Now if I were starting from square one, I would not be looking for a GM with a transverse engine, your options for engine replacement are limited. Only 2-cycles are available (yes there is one 4-cycle