



## Replacing a REI System in an Older Highway Coach

### **The Issue: The older REI System replacement cost is out of range**

I'm sure you have come across this issue before, you have an older MCI or Prevost and the REI PA system is not functioning. You contact REI and it's hard to justify the cost of the replacement parts and you might not be completely sure which parts need to be replaced?

This has been an ever growing question that doesn't really need to be a problem. Without trying to insult anyone that has a passion for busses... please just think of your coach as a REALLY BIG van with lots of speakers. If you break it down it really isn't a big deal.

### **The Solution:**

In 2017 we introduced our PA 64 amplified PA system. It was designed to meet the commercial needs of the Bus Manufacturers, their Dealers and Large Fleets that use both Cutaway busses and older Highway Coaches. The PA 64 has 4 x 50Watts, two mic inputs an AUX input socket, a simple to use mic volume knob and a variable music mute adjustment knob. Unlike the old REI system, The PA 64 will allow you to use hand mics to headsets, wired to wireless microphones, even a gooseneck mic.

### **The General Process:**

There is a tech sheet with the instructions on [www.ready2talkpa.com](http://www.ready2talkpa.com) at the top, click on our "FAQ" page, scroll to the bottom with all the PDF manuals open "PA 64 Coach REI Replacement", it will give you a step by step process.

**The first and most important point to make is; you need to disconnect everything from your old REI system!** If you try to cheat and tap into part of the old system... the PA 64 may not function AND it would be like adding old milk to new milk, you end up with a lot more old milk! Just don't do it.

### **Basically are is three aspects to the procedure:**

1. Connect the PA 64 to 12V. Almost all busses have a 12V circuit that can be used to power the in dash Stereo / DVD player and the PA 64
2. Connect the RCA output of the existing stereo (or new stereo) to the RCA input on the PA 64 through RCA cables. If you require the ability to still play video, you must buy a new in dash stereo/video player and then run a single RCA cable and a trigger wire with a switch from the new stereo to the video distribution hub located in the overhead behind the driver.

There are many stereo makes that will offer a Single DIN sized stereo/DVD player that will fit the existing opening in the dashboard like the NESA NSD345B or JVC / Kenwood makes units that will play video from an iPad. Once you make your choice, the PA 64 will connect to any make of stereo. We can help if you have ANY questions.

3. Connect the output of the PA 64 to the left and right bank of speakers. Since all the speakers installed in MCI and Prevost coaches are wired in a combination of series / parallel the PA 64 internal amplification of the PA 64 will power the speakers with no problem.

There will be a two wire plug (+ wire - wire) or terminal block for all the speakers at the front of the overheads on each side. In most cases, you can find the right side speaker wires with the left side in a compartment above the driver's seat. From there, extend the wires down to the mounting location for the PA 64.

The operation is very simple and intuitive, want the mic volume louder... turn the mic volume knob on the front of the PA 64, want the stereo louder... turn up the stereo volume control.

## **Last Words:**

I hope this Fleet Management Best Practices sheet has helped to give you an option to an old REI system in a coach? From now on you no longer have to be married to them. You have updated your entertainment system, replaced the old overhead DVD or VHS player and now the driver has complete control. From this point on, you can service everything in house.

The first changeover will take longer than the rest but if your technicians have ANY questions, don't hesitate to ask!

Why not use the PA 64 in all your mini busses and your vans so all your vehicles work the same way? Now you only have to train your guides for one system instead of many!

If you have any comments or questions about this topic or have another solution that we haven't talked about, please give us a call. 1 888 724-5351

**Please see the info sheet below.**

Cheers,

The Ready2Talk Team

# Ready2Talk

Now you can standardize your fleet no matter what type of vehicles you use!

A modern PA option for Every Vehicle Application

## PA 64



- Connects to ANY Stereo - OEM / Aftermarket or use it as a standalone PA
- Use a Hand Mic or Headset – Wired or Wireless even a Gooseneck
- One PA for ALL Applications... Shuttle – Transit – School – Sightseeing – Coach
- Standardizing your fleet cuts training cost and operational headaches
- It's a great replacement for old coach PA systems

# Ready2Talk

## Benefits

- The PA 64 is compatible with any stereo, including with video DVD, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto... built for today and the future
- Dual audio input either RCA (aftermarket) or speaker level (OEM)
- 4 x 50 Watt internal amp
- Front and Rear mic inputs
- Front panel mounted mic volume control
- Solid state variable stereo muting with front mounted muting adjustment control
- Separate AUX input socket for connection of an MP3/ iPhone or automated announcement system
- Includes a reversed printing front label to allow vertical or inverted mounting

## Microphone options

- PHM 6C Push2Talk hand mic
- HS 30M / HS 40 Condenser Wired Headset Mic (with inline on/off switch)
- HS 20M Condenser Wired Headset Mic (without switch)
- HS BT2 Digital Wireless Headset
- HM BT2 Digital Wireless Hand Mic
- GN 17 Slim Line Condenser Gooseneck Mic

## Cable options

- RMK (Remote Mounting Kit) for a custom look
- RME (Rear Mic Extension) for a second mic port away from the installed PA 64

Designed for Sightseeing, Shuttle, Transit, School, Church,  
Assisted Living Busses and Specialty Vehicles ...

## ONE PA SYSTEM FOR ALL APPLICATIONS