

Ready2Talk

PA 64 / Coach PA REI Replacement

When it comes to older coaches, as you know (or will quickly find out) repairing a defective REI system is really EXPENSIVE and often more complicated than necessary. If you want to upgrade to a headset or wireless microphone, that can often be an even bigger challenge and cost. Ready2Talk gives you another option. It really isn't all that difficult and when you're finished, you'll be surprised at how much better your existing coach speakers will sound with the PA 64!

Installation or changeover is really easy, just make sure you disconnect ALL of the old REI PA system from the speakers and the existing stereo. If you connect the new PA 64 into ANY old parts... it's like adding new milk to old... you just end up with more old milk. Guaranteed!

1. It all starts with finding the speaker wire terminal / plug on each side of the coach at the front of the overhead compartments. Often you'll see a multi pin plug with jumper wires but will have two wires coming out. Generally, the right side will already be run to the left side above the driver's seat so you can find both sides there. The bus wiring diagram will do a good job of identifying the number of the plug and the location.
2. Here is the trick to confirm you have the speaker wires isolated and not feeding through any other electronic components. After locating the speaker plug in the overhead intermittently connect a 1.5V or 9V battery quickly on and off across the two speaker wires. Every time you do, you will hear a firm clicking sound. This will confirm you have the isolated speaker wires and also confirms the wires are not running through any other electronics.
3. From the factory, the speakers are normally connected in a combination of series-parallel and the load / impedance is generally at 6 Ohms which falls perfectly for the PA 64's 4 – 8 Ohm range but always double check with an Ohm meter.
4. Next you need to assess your in dash stereo. If it's working and in good shape, just ensure that it has RCA output sockets, if not, replace it with any basic car stereo that does.
5. **Assuming that the current Video system is working!** If you plan to play video, buy an in dash stereo that also plays video. Some new stereo/ DVD units also include a USB or SD card slot that will play video... it's a good thing for the future.

NOTE: The dash mounted stereo size in busses are is called "Single DIN" the larger stereo / DVD's in today's cars are called "Double DIN". Choose the unit that will fit your dash opening. NESASD 345B is a good quality unit for the price.

6. Since you now have a video player in your stereo, you will no longer need the video player in the overhead compartment. Run a single RCA cable from the "Video Out" on the stereo / DVD to the overhead behind the driver. Connect the new video cable from the stereo to the video input BNC connector on the video splitter for all the TV's in the coach.

NOTE: You will need a FM RCA to FM BNC adaptor to connect the video RCA to the existing TV wiring, this can be purchased from most electronic supply stores.

Normally the video distribution unit that splits all the video signal to all the video monitors in the passenger compartment is located next to the old DVD player location in the overhead. It will often have two power wires going to it. Since it was working before you started the upgrade, we can assume that the main power feed is there, but now that you have disconnected the REI control box in the dash, you'll have to install a wire with a switch from to old REI control box harness to the relay that triggers the video splitter box to turn on the monitors. Check the bus wiring to identify which wire went from the old switching control to the relay. Normally it is 12V.

7. Connect the speakers to the front output channels on the PA 64 (rear channels are not used) also the 12V constant and switched power wires. Connect the RCA audio output from the stereo to the RCA input on the PA 64 and set the input switch to "Low".
8. Connect your microphone to the "Mic 1" on the front of the PA 64 and the optional RME Rear Mic Extension to the rear "Mic 2" on the back for a second remote mic port.
9. Turn on the bus, then the PA 64 power switch (the power light will come on), turn on the microphone and talk in to the mic. Adjust the mic volume with the "Volume" control on the front of the PA 64.
10. Turn off the mic and turn on the radio, adjust the radio volume as normal.
11. Turn back on the mic and the radio will mute. You can adjust the amount of muting by turning the "Audio Mute" control on the front of the PA 64. Full left = no muting, full right = 100% muting. Turn the mic off and the radio will come back up to full volume.
12. You're done! Now go have a coffee and feel like a pro, before you start the next one.

Wrapping up

These instructions might sound difficult, but it's really quite simple to do the upgrade. We certainly don't mind answering ANY questions your mechanics might have before, during or after the installation... If any do come up, please give us a call. 1 888 724-5351.

Upgrade and standardize your fleet to Ready2Talk, even your mini busses and vans as it's always easier for staff training and less stress for management, if all your vehicles work the same way.

Now can use Ready2Talk Condenser mics, which offer better performance, better value and a variety of Wired or Wireless, Hand Mics or Headsets!

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