

Ready2Talk

Cost Effective Headset Solution for Mini Busses

The Issue:

Many States and Provinces have enacted Distracted Driving Laws (DDL) and with Covid 19 safety guidelines, sharing a hand mic is now generally considered to be a No-No. So with your limited time, you went online looking for a headset that will work with your factory Mini Bus PA system and most likely found it costly and confusing?

95% of the Mini Busses manufactured in the USA will come with a Jensen PA system. These have been great work horses for many years, however they have one major setback... they were designed to use a hand mic and Jensen doesn't make a headset option. But we do.

You would think there would be tons of compatible headsets available online, unfortunately, there two main reasons why it is more difficult that you might think.

1. There are two basic types of microphone platforms, the older Dynamic and Condenser, today's standard. Factory installed Jensen PA systems are designed to use Dynamic only. You'll find many low cost computer or gaming headsets online, but being Condenser they require additional power, making them non-compatible with your factory Mini Bus PA system.
2. The second hurdle is the type of mic plug, the number of pins and which wire is connected to which pin. There are Dynamic headsets online, but these are generally made for the stage industry. They come with a 1/4" or 3 pin XLR plug when you need a 4 Pin Din plug and there's no switch to trigger the PA on and the sound system off.

So how do I add a headset to my Mini Bus? No problem... we have 2 solutions for you.

Solution 1:

Jensen HK <https://ready2talkpa.com/product/jensen-hk/>

The Jensen HK is well valued Dynamic headset mic option. It comes with our HS 10 Dynamic wired headset (with a 6 ft. wire) and an adaptor cable with mounting plate containing a mic socket and rocker switch to mimic the Push to Talk (PTT) switch on your existing hand mic. This is an off the shelf product that you can use out of the bag or for a nicer look, dash mount the mounting plate yourself with little effort.

However, there are always Pro's and Con's

Pro: At \$249 this is a great sounding, well priced solution to simply add a wired headset to any Mini Bus with a Jensen PA. If you only need one headset, these are perfect.

Con: The only issue is, because Dynamic headsets are rare worldwide and HS 10 Dynamic headset is a limited production item, outfitting all your drivers with these special HS 10 headsets can be pricy at \$179, compared to our regular *Ready2Talk* Condenser headsets at \$69 as mentioned below.

Solution 2:

PA 64 <https://ready2talkpa.com/product/pa-64-amplified-pa-system/>

HS 46 Condenser Headset <https://ready2talkpa.com/product/hs-46-right-side-headset-for-pa-64-amplified-pa/>

We at *Ready2Talk* take pride in offering off the shelf PA's and microphones for all vehicles, any size fleet and business type (tourism, shuttle or school bus). Because of the cost and performance benefits, we have adopted the Condenser mic platform for our PA systems, like the amplified PA 64.

The PA 64 offers more power, better sound quality and more user features than any other PA system. Most importantly, it allows the use of all our *Ready2Talk* Condenser microphones, from hand to headset and wired to wireless. Where it really shines is what you can do with it!

You can connect 2 or more microphones with no loss of sound quality, so it can be used as a standard PA system or for a 2 Way talk back intercom. A benefit when using barriers for Covid 19.

Unique to the PA 64, it offers variable solid-state music muting, so you can still have the music playing while talking to enhance your tour experience. And our HS BT3 wireless headset or HM BT3 wireless hand microphones are plug and play. Karaoke anyone?

Pro: Other than the performance and features, there is a long term price advantage to consider. Once you change over to a *Ready2Talk* PA, not only do you get our personal service, you can now use any of our low cost Condenser mics, which has an ongoing cost benefit. E.g. the cost of our standard HS 46 Condenser headset is \$69 vs. our HS 10 Dynamic headset (used in the Jensen HK) is \$179. So if one of your goals is to outfit each driver with their own headset, changing your PA first will set you up for long term cost success, just in the cost of the initial headsets.

Con: The biggest mental obstacle to overcoming is the removal of a perfectly good, working Jensen PA. Granted there is an upfront cost to making the change, but the ongoing savings when you purchase microphones will far outweigh the initial cost concern.

Summing up:

We hoped this information has helped. Obviously there are two ways to look at changing from a hand mic to headset in your Mini Bus and both are very viable options depending on your budget and short or long term needs. We'd be happy to crunch the numbers for you, just give us a call.

As mentioned above, we pride ourselves in being the one key supplier of PA's, microphones and service, no matter your need or fleet size. We're here to help.

What's holding you back?