



Added Micro Bird Options

Tech Tip #18-1009



ADDED ELECTRICAL FEATURES-THE CORRECT WAY TO INSTALL

Electrical options today are a major part of the school bus industry with not only 2-way radios but camera systems, child detection systems, GPS and many others.

These all require power and ground, but where is the proper place to gain the power and the ground to operate these items?

The chassis with technical advances and the use of multiplex may not be a good source unless a technician or installer is well versed in the particular operation. Trying to run these various options through a low voltage power source might not only make the added option not operate correctly or cause damage to that equipment but it might damage expensive modules or equipment on the chassis.

We recommend getting your power and ground through the body electrical system, but that too needs to be done correctly.

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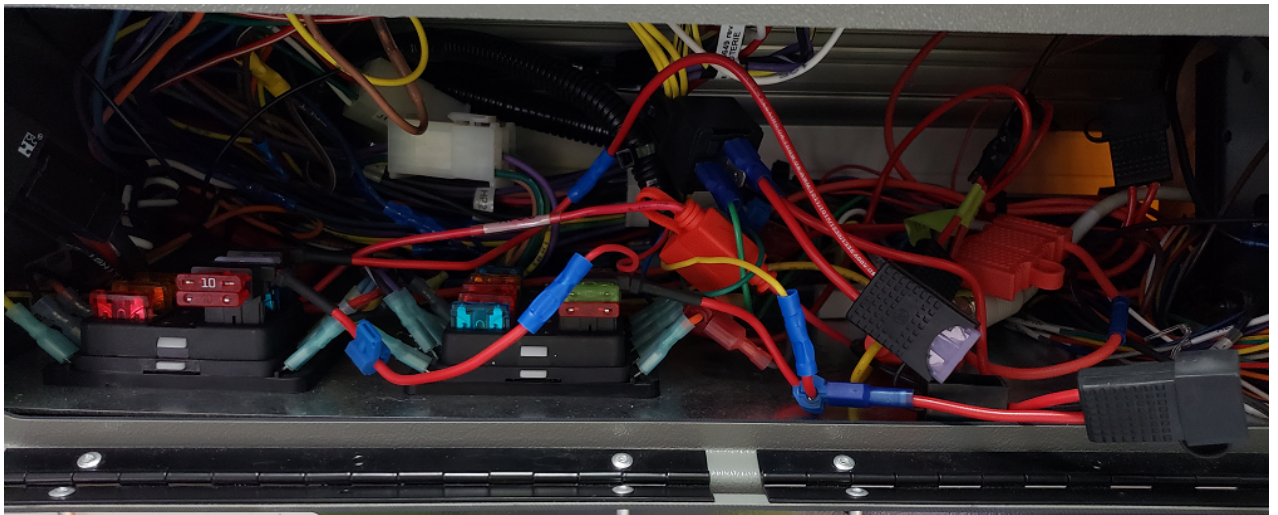


Figure #1

Following circuits and schematics can be difficult when items are installed and wires run all over with no apparent rhyme nor reason as to what was trying to be done as in Figure #1.

- Here we see that at least the installer used fuses, but can you tell what fuses goes to what option?
- “Butt” connectors are a satisfactory way to connect wires and seeing this is inside the unit the shrink wrap version may not be needed, but wire “color” we have found to be an important part of the equation when troubleshooting issues.....can you see the yellow wire going into the top of the butt connector just right of center and red on the other side....
- Tracing an issue in wiring like this can be a challenge and we recommend inspecting the work of installers of various options to eliminate further issues.

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Figure #2

Once the extra wire was removed and the electrical compartment “neatened” up it was found that the installer along with all the fusible links had used “add-a-circuits” as in Figure #2. We do NOT recommend their use as it is like 2 piggy-backed fuses and often times difficult to diagnose certain electrical issues.

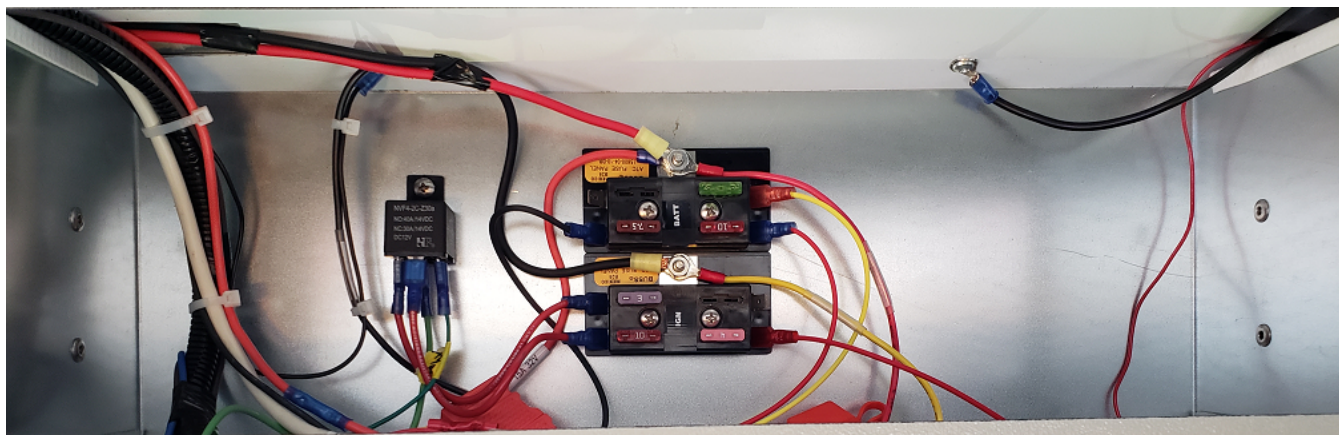


Figure #3

Seeing as there is somewhat limited space for added circuits in the electrical compartment, we installed 2 of the 4 position fuse blocks and placed them in the compartment above the electrical panel (Figure #3). This will make diagnosing any possible future electrical issues much easier to trace with less in the electrical compartment (Figure #4).

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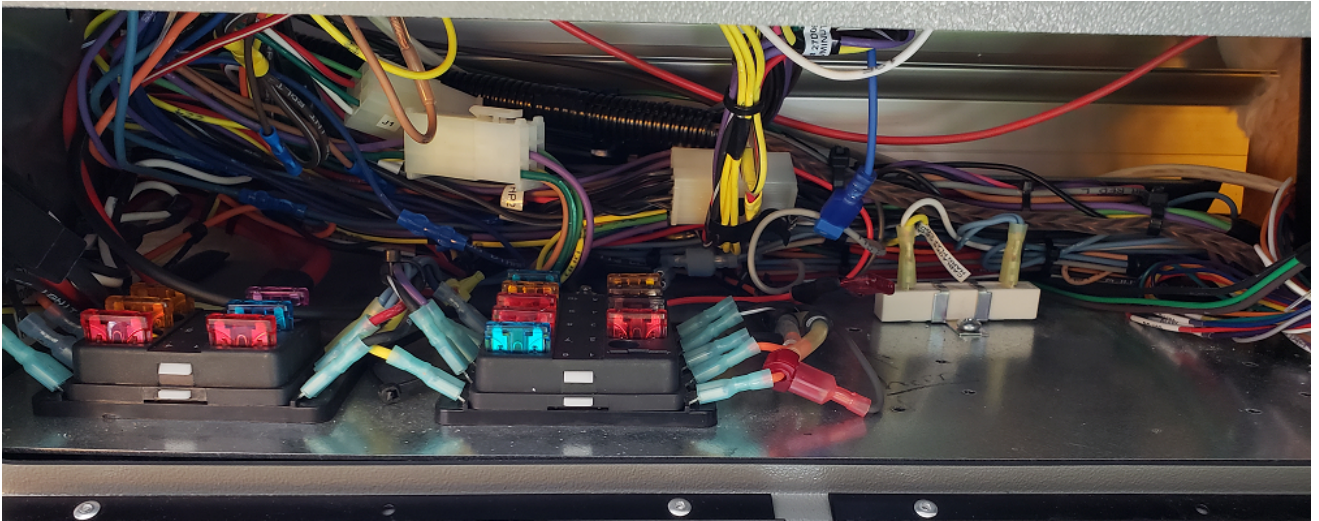


Figure #4



Figure #5

To help further we labeled the upper compartment “Option Electric” and lower compartment “Factory Electrical” (Figure #5)

**4 POSITION FUSE BLOCK AVAILABLE
THROUGH OUR PARTS DEPARTMENT
PART #10002102**

PLEASE NOTE: Micro Bird recommends a maximum of 20 Amp fuse and a maximum of 100 Amps per fuse block!

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