

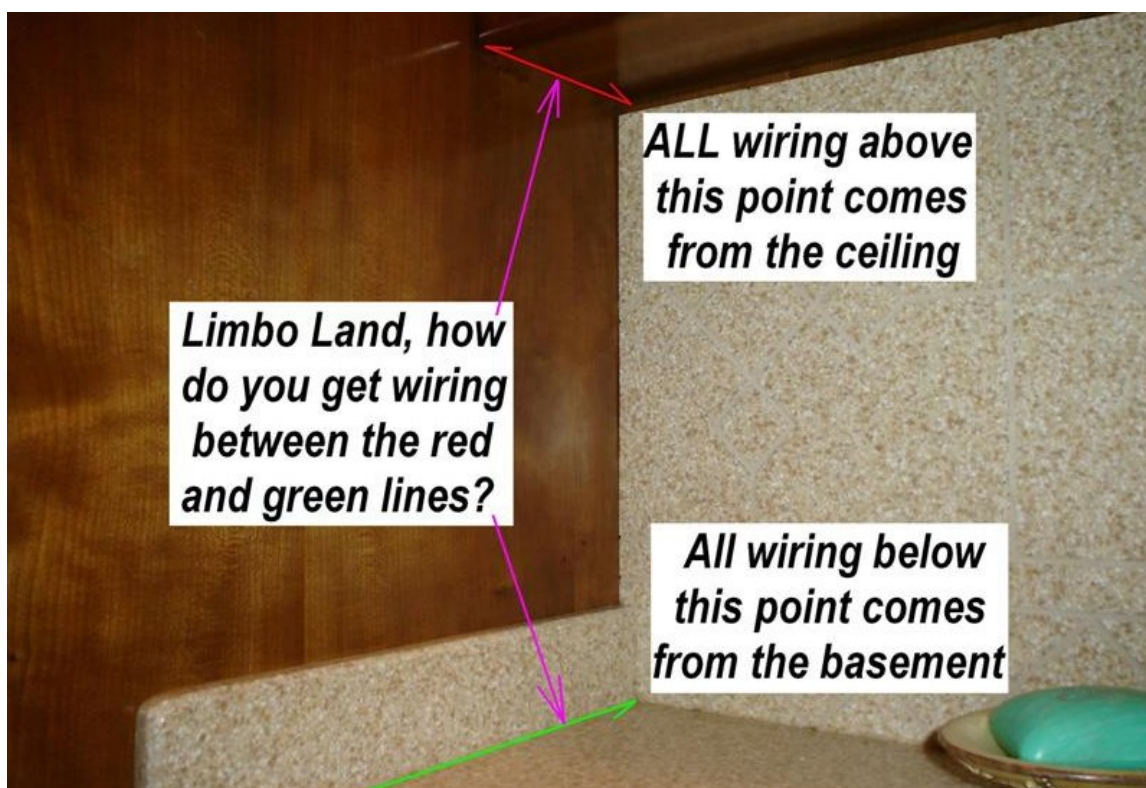


2010 43QGP Allegro Bus

4/22/2011

SIXTEENTH - coach modification THREE WAY SWITCHED LIGHTING FOR THE LIVINGROOM. An item that has driven both my wife and I crazy is the need to walk from the front of the coach to the hallway in order to turn **ON** any living-room overhead lighting. Tiffin has a great design for our Allegro Bus, they did a great job installing more than enough living-room overhead lighting and the three rows of lights are controlled by three separate switches, **BUT**, all three switches are mounted in the hallway none near the front of the coach.

This one item is the only complaint Cathey has made about our coach, that is one reason I will move heaven and earth to make this ONE modification happen. I'll start by stating as with our previous coach (2007 Phaeton) this modification is very labor intensive and it is not worth (IMO) paying labor for someone to make this modification for you. If you cannot perform the work your-self then I suggest you forget all about this modification.



The above picture is the bathroom side of the hallway wall, on our Bus the wall is solid and one inch thick. The thermostat, hallway lighting, three living room light switches and the MCD shade controls are all mounted on that wall but above the **RED** line shown in the picture, all wiring is tucked into the left corner of the medicine cabinet behind a panel. The electrical switches for the water pump and two over head light switches for the bathroom are mounted on the front of the sink cabinet and their wiring is below the **GREEN** line, their wiring is routed up through the floor from the basement.



The worst part of this modification was routing the wire in what I termed "Limbo Land" that area is **ONLY** 14 inches long, I needed to find a way to route a three-conductor cable between the **RED** and **GREEN** lines. It took a while but I finally figured out a way however I did not think the finished product would look **PRETTY**, so I asked an expert **HER** opinion. It did not take Cathey long to agree with my basic design, however with an added option. The option was so well liked it was immediately adopted. The design, drill a 3/8 inch hole upward from the junction of the **RED** line side wall and the back wall into the lower left corner of the medicine cabinet. A second hole was drilled downward through the side Corian tile below the **GREEN** line through the cabinet's Corian cabinet top into the corner of the

cabinet beneath the sink. These two holes allowed the new wiring to be routed from the basement up to the hallway wall into the gang of three switches.

Three way switches were purchased while in Red Bay last month for this modification, each switch cost about \$ 2.50, so \$ 5.00 for this job.



An old drop light cord was lying around and it fit the bill for the required three-conductor wiring needed between the two three way switches. In areas where the cord is well protected the cord's outer jacket was used as its only protection where the cord was exposed to the outside environment a 1/2 inch split wire loom was added to further protect the cord. Installing the cord required drilling a cord sized hole through the forward basement wall, the hole was drilled near the passenger side frame rail. Ty-wraps were used to secure the loom protected cord near the frame forward to the area above the HWH slide motor on the right side of the step-well and behind the right side headlight.

A three way switch was mounted on the right step-well wall, well above the first step, however below the step well slide cover to prevent damage to the switch when the slide cover is closed. The switch is within easy reach when stepping onto the coach's lower step while at the same time holding onto the coach's side wall door handle. The hallway's three way switch replaces the center light switch located in the gang of three switches.

After the modification completion, the center switch in the gang of three turns ON or OFF the center row of living-room lights and the new light switch mounted inside and to the right side of the door also turns ON or OFF the same row of living-room lights.

The option Cathey came up with, install a NEW trim strip on the RIGHT side back corner of the sink, to match my new LEFT side back corner trim strip which was installed to hide the new wiring. Installing the new trim strip required the removal of the Tiffin installed trim strip which had been installed ONLY on the right side corner of the sink. After the clean up the hall bathroom sink has two matching rear corner trim strips, which makes the sink area look better balanced.



This one modification made one woman very happy which in turn makes me very happy.



The center switch is a three way switch it controls the center overhead lights.