



2010 43QGP Allegro Bus

11/26/2013

ONE-HUNDREND-NINETH - coach modification – **INSTALLATION OF A FIREPLACE**. After several years of seeing other coaches with the fireplace installation and speaking with owners with fireplaces we decided to install a fireplace in our coach. Our 43QGP floorplan allows for ONE location for installation of a fireplace, that location is by giving up the mid-coach pantry and shelf under the TV.



First order of business after finding a location for the fireplace was to locate a fireplace small enough to fit inside the **RED** outlined dimensions of the above cabinet. After several days of searching Cathey was able to locate a fireplace on Overstock.com. After placing the fireplace in her shopping cart, over the next few days Overstock added a few incentives making the fireplace purchase to attractive to pass up, so we bit the bullet and ordered the unit.

After four years of coach ownership I pretty well know what the coach is capable of being modified to do. Hence I knew the electrical wiring, 120 VAC outlet for the fireplace could be added to the pantry cabinet and a circuit breaker could be added to the main electrical panel. I had previously added a 20 Amp circuit breaker for a Jenn Air Cooktop, so it was easy to

replace that circuit breaker with a tandem 20 Amp circuit breaker to feed the cooktop and the new fireplace.

After running 30 feet of 12/2 w/ground enclosed in split loom from the electrical panel down and under the rear bath floor, across the coach, thru a chase under the bed then under the washer/dryer compartment thru a hole bored thru the back of the pantry cabinet an outlet was installed. Next it was time to work on the cabinet to make it esthetically compatible for the fireplace.

The two pantry cabinet doors and hardware were removed providing an opening 25 7/8" wide, almost 8" deep and 25" tall.



Shelf brackets installed on both sides of the cabinet were moved up to the top of each side wall, thus allowing the shelf to be repositioned near the top of the cabinet as shown above. Two pieces of wood were cut $\frac{3}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x 20" and installed with three wood screws on each side of the cabinets opening they will serve as a secure mounting location for the fireplace.



A $\frac{1}{4}$ " piece of plywood was cut and inserted to provide support and mounting for the four sides of the fireplace cabinet. The $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood was attached to the two wood pieces in the previous photo using exterior grade $1\frac{1}{4}$ " deck screws. The fireplace outlet can be seen peeking out on the right lower corner of the cabinet.

Next the six wood screws shown in the second photo were removed allowing the $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood and two vertical supports to be removed. Two pieces of 2" x 4" pine 24" long were ripped down to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " tall and screwed to the floor of the cabinet, they provide support for the fireplace while the $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood provides the frame for the fireplace. We seriously thought about adding ceramic tile around the frame of the fireplace, after a lot of thought we finally opted to use the peel and stick vinyl tile squares

seen below. After several failed attempts to cut the vinyl we settled on using my 10" table saw and 12" compound miter saw to make the fireplace surround cuts. A piece of reflective foil with bubble wrap between the two layers of foil was laid over the two supports this provides a sound deadening layer under the fireplace. The two ends of the shelf were cut to allow the OEM pantry shelf to slide forward against the 1/4" plywood of the fireplace surround this provides a 1" opening between the back of the shelf and the wall for the washer/dryer cabinet, this 1" x 30" opening allowing plenty of intake air for the fireplace.



After the fireplace surround was completed a piece of dental key wood trim was attached above the fireplace surround to the face of the open shelf adding in our opinion to how the fireplace looks.

The fireplace is secured by four black screws installed thru the black fireplace trim, two screws equally spaced in the top and one screw centered on each side.

After completion of the fireplace installation, we LIT the fire and enjoyed watching the flames and feeling a little heat.



The fireplace has four flame speeds and two heat settings a low setting of 750 watts and a high setting of 1,500 watts.

Total cost of the materials and fireplace came to about \$ 200.00.