



Battery Maintenance

by Gary Hatt

Installing Hoses Between Batteries.

Wet cell batteries require maintenance. I have replaced all the batteries in all of my buses at least once and I can tell you that batteries are not cheap. 8D batteries start at \$170 each and I need two for my Eagle. Every time I replace them, I am out \$340 plus tax and the price is not going down.

In the past, I used six 4D deep-cycle batteries for my house batteries in my Eagle. They are also very expensive. If you leave your bus at a shop, with irresponsible people, and they run them down completely as it happened to me, then you are looking at spending a lot of money. I was not having any luck with 4D batteries and they were also very heavy so I changed my all electric bus over this year to eight 6V deep-cycle Trojan batteries. I am much happier with those as they are not only lighter but they also hold a much longer charge.

I would like to have AGM batteries that I don't have to maintain as I had in my Sportsmobile, but the price for these went out of sight a few years ago. Unfortunately, I can no longer afford these. I discovered quickly with lead-acid batteries, that if you do not periodically check the water level, the water level gets low, and that they go bad really quickly.

I always tell everyone to check their water level monthly since you do not want to run your batteries dry. I used to put off checking the water in my batteries as long as I could because they are difficult to get

to, they are hard to fill, and it is difficult to check the water level. Some people even have to disconnect their batteries from their system before checking the water level so they have better access. With a battery

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