Wiring SAG Van Suggestions

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Wiring your SAG Van can be simple if you have the right wiring harness made up in advance. You can use the 12 volt power outlet, if you aren't running high power, but if you blow the fuse, you might be hosed for the trip unless you figure out where the van's fuse box is hidden.

I bought about 15' of #12 zipwire (the red/black pair wire) from Kcomm Ham Store at a cost of about $1/foot (2008 pricing). Then I went to Radio Shack and bought a package of their "30 amp battery cable clamps" for $2.99. plus a pair of their in-line fuses ($2.99 more).

I installed in-line fuses on BOTH POSITVE AND NEGATIVE cables, attached the battery clamps to the fused ends of the cable, and then installed Anderson Powerpole connectors to the other end because I use the ARES standard connector for all my radios.

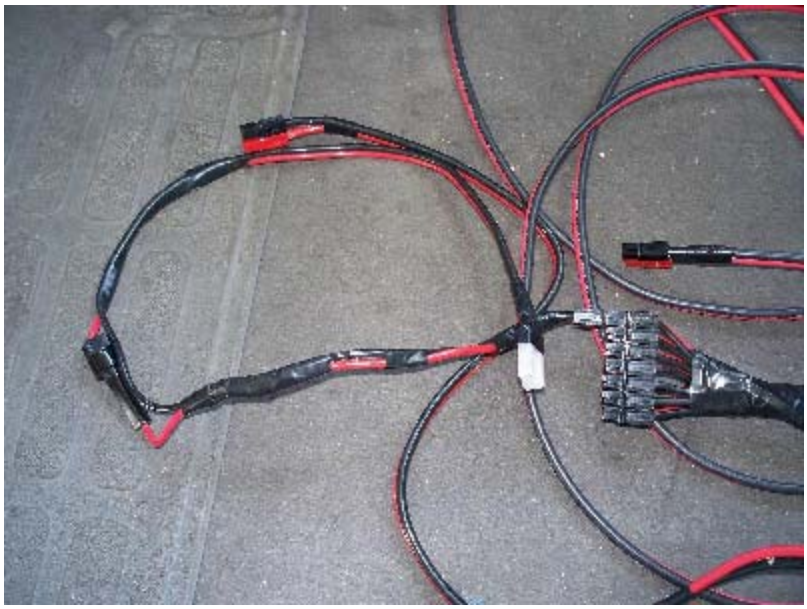
Pop open the hood, and run the cable (powerpole end) from inside the battery compartment thru the gap in the body so that the wire comes out between the door and the body.

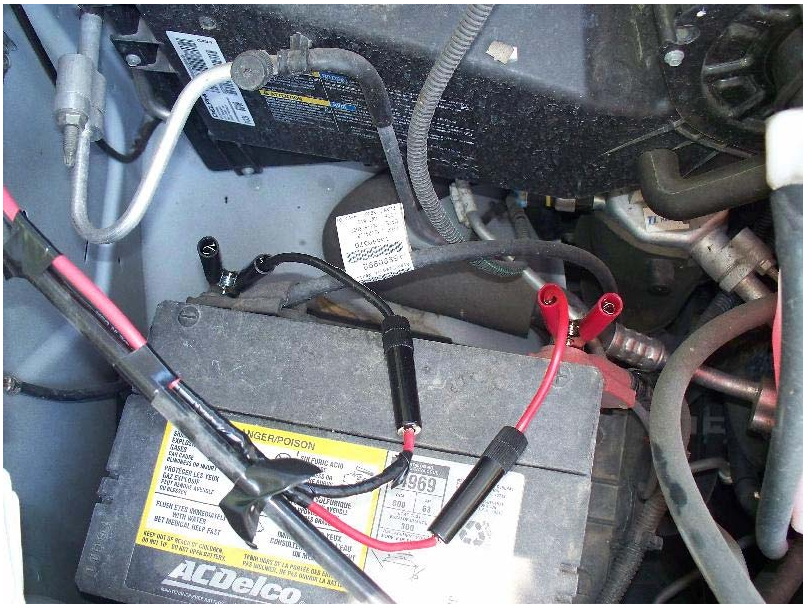
This example was done using a GMC van, not a FORD, so your battery may vary from side posts or top post connectors.

Inside the van, run the cable up under the dash, looking for existing wiring harnesses or other items that you can run the power cable behind to secure. I've used nylon wire ties before to secure instead, but that makes it harder to uninstall when the event is over.

Route the power cable into the area where you plan to mount or lay your radios, bearing in mind you might have a cooler, or other containers with liquids, in the same area during the trip.

Connect your Anderson powerpole connector to hook up your radios. I've made a series of cables that allows me to connect multiple radios or gadgets (like my amber light bars) to this same power source.





When done, don't forget to actually connect the battery under the hood using the cable clamps, then secure the cable from vibration using electrical tape or nylon wire-ties.