

ICT's American
Roads Model A96M.

get

CUSTOM SLEEPERS FOR BUDGETS
LARGE AND SMALL **BY TODD DILLS**

BIG-BUNKED

Think a big bunk's only for a high-end team plugged into an expensive-freight niche? Think again. Whether you're looking just beyond factory lengths of up to 80 inches or have a more elaborate dream in mind, each one of northern Indiana's custom sleeper shops can do just about anything. Start saving on expenses, and you could be within range of big-bunking your rig in no time.

Investment in such a unit can be a money-saver itself. Having a func-

tional shower, toilet, kitchen and auxiliary HVAC system with generator can nix truck-stop idling as well as those trips to the truck-stop showers or lunch counters. A return-on-investment example at ARI's website even shows a net gain when resale value and tax savings are taken into account.

Following are examples of what you can get at various price points from four of the leading custom-sleeper makers.



The Legacy II is available in six sizes.

6.3-cubic-foot Norcold DE0061 fridge/freezer, microwave, surround-sound system, DC inverter

CONTACT: www.legacysleepers.com, (260) 768-4704

ARI's Legacy II series is available not only from ARI's Shipshewana, Ind., headquarters but also from 18 truck dealers between Tennessee and California. The Legacy II is "our little niche in the marketplace," says John Miller, ARI sales manager. The pre-engineered floor plans account for 85 percent of the company's sales. "They're high-end," Miller says, "but since the floor plans are similar, it allows us to make them much more efficiently, so they're much cheaper to buy."

The company also has chassis available – "day cabs they can put their own dream sleeper on," Miller says, "or we have them fully mounted, turn-key, ready to go."

The 156-inch model is the newest of the floor plans, and in April the first unit went on team furniture movers Mike and Jennifer Cerra's new Peterbilt 386. The Cerras upgraded to the 156-inch because, Mike says, lack of space became an issue in their 132-inch, on a long-nosed Pete 379. The desk area just toward the rear from the kitchenette allows Mike to maintain a permanent work station for his online courses instead of the temporary setup he had in the 132-inch.

The Cerras thought about going with a fully customized sleeper, but Mike says ARI's pre-engineered floor plan models are great for the reduced cost. "A fully custom sleeper is an extra \$8,000 at least," he says.

The Legacy II is available in five smaller sizes, down to 97-inch.

\$71,000 LEGACY II CUSTOM SERIES MODEL RDFS BY ARI

LENGTH: 156 inches

WEIGHT: 4,100 pounds

LAYOUT: Front shower/rear entry

SHOWER/TOILET: 40-inch front shower with cassette toilet, hardwood door

WATER SYSTEM: Hot water system with insulated tank

BUNK: Fold-out bed dinette, driver's side middle

KITCHENETTE: Passenger side, with 20-by-17-inch sink and desk area

AC/HEAT: Coleman roof AC/heat with wall-mount thermostat

GENERATOR: Yes

SHORE POWER: Yes

STORAGE: Under-sink cabinet and six drawers and six overhead cabinets, toolbox

WINDOWS: 24-by-16-inch above sink and on driver's side, 14-by-14 inch shower, roof vent

APPLIANCES: 20-inch LCD mounted TV with antenna (26-inch optional),