

British/Lucas vs American/Buss Fuses

British and American (US) standards for rating electrical fuses are very different. Both provide the amperage rating (AMPS) for very similar looking fuses, but the two ratings mean very different things. The US system rates the fuse based on the continuous load it can handle for a specified period of time without blowing the fuse, while the British rating expresses the load at which the fuse will immediately blow.

That's a significant difference! For example, the 35 Amp fuse used in many vintage (LBC) Little British Cars (MG, Triumphs, Minis, and others), is basically the equivalent to a US 17.5 Amp fuse (A BUSS AGC 20 Amp would be the closest matching fuse). Installing a US BUSS AGC 35 Amp fuse into your LBC fuse box will cause the wiring harness to melt down if shorted, well before the fuse ever blows.

Warning: Never use an American (US) rated 35 Amp fuse in your vintage British car!

If you find yourself in a situation where you must use an American/Buss fuses in your British car, I would personally error on the side of caution and **use roughly 50% or less then the British/Lucas** specified amperage. If you find that they continue to blow out for no apparent reason, then I would use the Buss catalog conversion.

Buss Fuse Catalog

Below is a conversion chart, taken from a long-ago Buss fuse catalog:

ENGLISH TYPE vs	BUSS REPLACEMENT
50 AMP	AGC 30
35 AMP	AGC 25
30 AMP	AGC 20
25 AMP	AGC 15
20 AMP	AGC 10
10 AMP	AGC 7
5 AMP	AGC 3

Also, if you continue to blow fuses, please find the source of your short and repair it as soon as possible. Ultimately, fuses that continue to blow do so for a reason - to prevent damage to your car's electrical system and keep you safe.

Finally: In my British cars, I would still rather only use the British/Lucas style fuses. Most of the major vendors have them in stock. Plan ahead now and keep a few in your car for ill-timed visits from the Prince of Darkness.

The information here was derived from multiple sources. Use this information at your own risk and please seek help if you do not feel competent working on your vehicle's electrical system. www.farrellsgarage.com v01.06



