

Forklift Winch

Forklift Winches - A winch is a mechanical tool that specializes in pulling in or winding up or letting out or winding out the tension of a wire cable, cable, wire rope or a rope. In its most simple form it is made of a spool along with a connected hand crank. More complicated winches are found at the heart of machinery such as tow trucks, elevators and steam shovels. Sometimes the spool can be called the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies which can be driven by hydraulic, electric, pneumatic or internal combustion drives. Various winches can comprise a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a pawl and ratchet apparatus so as to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Usually, the rope is stored on the winch. There is a similar machine referred to as a capstan that does not store the rope. In sailing, when a line is trimmed on a sailboat, the crew member operates the handle of the winch using one hand while tending the other so as to maintain tension on the turns. Some winches have a cleat or stripper so as to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Frequently, a winch is used in large theatrical productions as a part of the mechanism to be able to transfer setting. Every so often there are even winches actually imbedded in the stage to be able to help transfer the various bigger set pieces off and on the stage.

The new generation of winches have been made for water and snow sports enabling the riders to be pulled quickly across a body of water or of snow. This could stimulate a riding experience that is normally supplied by a boat, snow mobile or a wave runner.