

Forklift Winch

Forklift Winches - A winch is a mechanical piece of equipment that specializes in winding out or pulling in or winding up or letting out the tension of a wire cable, cable, wire rope or a rope. In its most basic form it is constructed of a spool with an attached hand crank. More complicated winches are found at the heart of machines like for example steam shovels, tow trucks and elevators. Occasionally the spool could be known as the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies that can be powered by internal, hydraulic, electric or pneumatic combustion drives. Various winches may include a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a pawl and ratchet device in order to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

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

Normally, winches are used offstage as part of the mechanism to move scenery in big theatrical productions. Lots of times the winches are actually embedded in the stage floor and used so as to transfer big set pieces on and off stage.

Recently, winches have been made in particular designs for snow and water sports. This new generation of winches is designed in order to pull riders quickly across a body of snow or of water. This could stimulate a riding experience which is usually supplied by a snow mobile, wave runner or a boat.