

Forklift Winches

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical piece of equipment which specializes in winding up or letting out or winding out or pulling in 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 complex winches are found at the heart of machines like elevators, steam shovels and tow trucks. Occasionally the spool can be known as the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies which could be powered by pneumatic, internal, hydraulic or electric combustion drives. Some winches can consist of a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a ratchet and pawl device so as to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Generally, the rope is stored on the winch. There is similar machinery referred to as a capstan which does not store the rope. In sailing, when trimming a line on a sailboat, the crew member works the handle of the winch making use of one hand while tailing the other in order to maintain tension on the turns. Some winches have a cleat or stripper in order to maintain tension. These designs are referred to as "self-tailing" winches.

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

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