

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 rope, wire cable, cable or a wire rope. In its most simple form it is constructed of a spool together with an attached hand crank. More complex winches are seen at the heart of machinery like for example steam shovels, tow trucks and elevators. Occasionally the spool could be called the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies that can be driven by hydraulic, electric, pneumatic or internal combustion drives. Some winches can consist of a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a ratchet and pawl mechanism so as to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Normally, the rope is stored on the winch. There is similar piece of equipment called a capstan which does not store the rope. In sailing, when a line is trimmed on a sailboat, the crew member operates the handle of the winch with one hand while tailing the other in order to maintain tension on the turns. Several winches have a cleat or stripper to be able to maintain tension. These designs are referred to as "self-tailing" winches.

Normally, winches are used backstage as part of the mechanism so as to move backdrop in big theatrical productions. Many times the winches are really embedded in the stage floor and used to move big set pieces on and off stage.

The new generation of winches have been created for snow and water sports allowing the riders to be pulled rapidly across a body of water or of snow. This can stimulate a riding experience that is usually supplied by a snow mobile, wave runner or a boat.