

Forklift Winch

Forklift Winch - 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 rope, a rope, wire cable or a cable. In its most basic form it is made of a spool together with a connected hand crank. More complex winches are found at the heart of machines like for example tow trucks, elevators and steam shovels. Occasionally the spool could be called the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies that could be powered by pneumatic, internal, hydraulic or electric combustion drives. Several winches can consist of a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a pawl and ratchet apparatus in order to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Usually, the rope is stored on the winch. There is similar piece of equipment known as a capstan which does not store the rope. In sailing, when trimming a line on a sailboat, the crew member works the winch handle utilizing one hand while tending the other to be able to maintain tension on the turns. Various winches have a stripper or cleat so as to maintain tension. These designs are known as "self-tailing" winches.

Frequently, winches are utilized backstage as part of the mechanism so as to arrange staging in big theatrical shows. Many times the winches are actually embedded in the stage floor and used to move large set pieces off and on stage.

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