

Forklift Winch

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

Most often, the cable or rope is stored on the winch, however the capspan, a similar piece of equipment, 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 tailing the other so as to maintain tension on the turns. Several winches have a stripper or cleat to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Frequently, a winch is utilized in large theatrical shows as a part of the mechanism so as to transfer scenery. Sometimes there are even winches actually imbedded in the stage so as to help transfer the many bigger set pieces off and on the stage.

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