

Forklift Winch

Forklift Winches - A winch is a mechanical tool which specializes in winding up or letting out or winding out or pulling in 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 an attached hand crank. More complex winches are found at the heart of machines like steam shovels, tow trucks and elevators. Sometimes the spool can be called the winch drum. Elaborate designs have gear assemblies which could be powered by electric, pneumatic, internal or hydraulic combustion drives. Various winches can comprise a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a ratchet and pawl device so as to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Normally, the rope is stored on the winch. There is a similar machine called 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 tending the other so as to maintain tension on the turns. Various winches have a cleat or stripper in order to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Often, winches are used offstage as part of the mechanics in order to transfer scenery in big theatrical shows. Lots of times the winches are actually embedded in the stage floor and used so as to transfer large set pieces off and on stage.

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