

Forklift Winch

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical piece of equipment that specializes in letting out, or winding out or pulling in or winding up the tension of a cable, wire rope, rope or a wire cable. In its most simple form it is made of a spool along with an attached hand crank. More complicated winches are found at the heart of machines like steam shovels, tow trucks and elevators. Occasionally the spool can be called the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies which could be driven by electric, pneumatic, internal or hydraulic combustion drives. Several winches could include a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a ratchet and pawl apparatus in order to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

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

Frequently, winches are used backstage as part of the mechanism to be able to arrange scenery in large theatrical shows. Many times the winches are really embedded in the stage floor and used in order to move big set pieces on and off stage.

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