

Forklift Winches

Winch for Forklift - A winch is a mechanical device which specializes in pulling in or winding up or letting out or winding out the tension of a wire cable, cable, wire rope or a rope. In its most simple form it is constructed of a spool together with an attached hand crank. More complex winches are found at the heart of machines like elevators, steam shovels and tow trucks. Occasionally the spool can be called the winch drum. Elaborate designs have gear assemblies which could be driven by electric, pneumatic, internal or hydraulic combustion drives. Various winches may consist of a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a pawl and ratchet mechanism so as to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Generally, 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 a line is trimmed on a sailboat, the crew member works the handle of the winch with one hand while tailing the other in order to maintain tension on the turns. Several winches have a stripper or cleat in order to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Frequently, a winch is used in big theatrical productions as a part of the mechanism in order to transfer staging. Sometimes there are likewise winches actually imbedded in the stage so as to help move the many bigger set pieces on and off the stage.

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