

Forklift Winch

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical device which specializes in winding up or letting out or winding out or pulling in the tension of a rope, wire cable, cable or a wire rope. In its most simple form it is constructed of a spool with a connected hand crank. More complicated winches are seen at the heart of machinery such as elevators, steam shovels and tow trucks. Every so often the spool can be called the winch drum. Elaborate designs have gear assemblies that can be driven by internal, hydraulic, electric or pneumatic combustion drives. Some winches may comprise a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a ratchet and pawl mechanism so as to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Normally, 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 using one hand while tailing the other so as to maintain tension on the turns. Some winches have a cleat or stripper to be able to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Frequently, winches are used backstage as part of the mechanism to arrange background in big theatrical productions. A lot of times the winches are actually embedded in the stage floor and utilized so as to move big 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 so as to pull riders rapidly across a body of water or of snow. This could stimulate a riding experience which is usually supplied by a wave runner, boat or a snow mobile.