

Forklift Winches

Winch for Forklift - 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 rope, wire cable, cable or a wire rope. In its most simple form it is made of a spool together with an attached hand crank. More complicated winches are found at the heart of machinery such as elevators, steam shovels and tow trucks. At times the spool can be called the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies that could be driven by pneumatic, internal, hydraulic or electric combustion drives. Some winches may consist of a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a pawl and ratchet device to be able to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Most often, the cable or rope is stored on the winch, then again the capstan, a similar machine, does not store the rope. In sailing, when trimming a line on a sailboat, the crew member works the handle of the winch using one hand while tending the other to be able to maintain tension on the turns. Several winches have a stripper or cleat to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Usually, a winch is used in large theatrical shows as a part of the mechanics to transfer setting. Occasionally there are even winches actually imbedded in the stage so as to help transfer the several larger set pieces on and off the stage.

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