

Winches for Forklift

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical piece of equipment which specializes in pulling in or winding up or letting out or winding out the tension of a wire rope, a rope, wire cable or a cable. In its most basic form it is constructed of a spool together with an attached hand crank. More complicated winches are seen at the heart of machinery like tow trucks, elevators and steam shovels. At times the spool can be referred to as the winch drum. Elaborate designs have gear assemblies which can be driven by pneumatic, internal, hydraulic or electric combustion drives. Various winches can comprise a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a pawl and ratchet mechanism in order to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Usually, the rope is stored on the winch. There is similar machinery referred to as 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 to be able to maintain tension on the turns. Several winches have a stripper or cleat to maintain tension. These designs are referred to as "self-tailing" winches.

Quite often, a winch is used in large theatrical productions as a part of the mechanics so as to transfer scenery. Occasionally there are even winches really imbedded in the stage to help transfer the several bigger set pieces off and on the stage.

Lately, winches have been made in specific designs for snow and water sports. This new generation of winches is designed to be able to pull riders rapidly across a body of snow or of water. This could stimulate a riding experience that is normally supplied by a snow mobile, wave runner or a boat.