

Winch for Forklift

Forklift Winches - A winch is a mechanical tool that specializes in winding out or pulling in or winding up or letting out the tension of a cable, wire rope, rope or a wire cable. In its most basic form it is constructed of a spool along with an attached hand crank. More complex winches are found at the heart of machines like steam shovels, tow trucks and elevators. At times the spool could be known as the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies that can be powered by internal, hydraulic, electric or pneumatic combustion drives. Some winches could include a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a pawl and ratchet mechanism to be able to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Generally, the rope is stored on the winch. There is similar machinery known 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 utilizing one hand while tailing the other to be able 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 offstage as part of the mechanics so as to move background in large theatrical shows. Many times the winches are really embedded in the stage floor and used to transfer large set pieces on and off stage.

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