

Winch 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 rope, wire cable, cable or a wire rope. In its most simple form it is constructed of a spool along with a connected hand crank. More complicated winches are seen at the heart of machines such as tow trucks, elevators and steam shovels. At times the spool can be called the winch drum. Elaborate designs have gear assemblies that could be powered by internal, hydraulic, electric or pneumatic combustion drives. Several winches may include a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a ratchet and pawl mechanism to be able to prevent it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Normally, the rope is stored on the winch. There is similar machinery called a capstan which does not store the rope. In sailing, when trimming a line on a sailboat, the crew member works the winch handle with one hand while tending the other in order to maintain tension on the turns. Some winches have a stripper or cleat to maintain tension. These designs are referred to as "self-tailing" winches.

Often, winches are used backstage as part of the mechanism so as to arrange scenery in big theatrical shows. A lot of times the winches are actually embedded in the stage floor and used in order to transfer huge set pieces off and on stage.

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