

Winch for Forklift

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical tool which specializes in letting out, or winding out or pulling in or winding up the tension of a cable, wire rope, rope or a wire cable. In its most basic form it is made of a spool with an attached hand crank. More complex winches are seen at the heart of machinery like for instance elevators, steam shovels and tow trucks. Every now and then the spool can be referred to as the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies which can be driven by hydraulic, electric, pneumatic or internal 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 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 winch handle utilizing one hand while tailing the other in order to maintain tension on the turns. Some winches have a cleat or stripper in order to maintain tension. These designs are known as "self-tailing" winches.

Quite often, a winch is used in huge theatrical productions as a part of the mechanics to transfer backdrop. Sometimes there are even winches actually imbedded in the stage in order to help transfer the several bigger set pieces off and on 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 which is normally supplied by a snow mobile, wave runner or a boat.