

## Forklift Winches

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical piece of equipment that 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 basic form it is constructed of a spool along with a connected hand crank. More complex winches are found at the heart of machinery like steam shovels, tow trucks and elevators. Every now and then the spool could be referred to as the winch drum. Complex designs have gear assemblies that can be driven by internal, hydraulic, electric or pneumatic combustion drives. Several winches can consist of a solenoid brake or a mechanical brake or a ratchet and pawl device in order to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

Normally, the rope is stored on the winch. There is a similar piece of equipment 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 utilizing one hand while tailing the other so as to maintain tension on the turns. Various winches have a stripper or cleat to be able to maintain tension. These designs are called "self-tailing" winches.

Frequently, a winch is used in big theatrical productions as a part of the mechanics to move scenery. At times there are even winches actually imbedded in the stage to help move the many larger set pieces off and on the stage.

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