Forklift Winches

Forklift Winch - A winch is a mechanical piece of equipment that 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. It its most basic form it is constructed of a spool together with a connected hand crank. More complex winches are found at the heart of machines like for instance elevators, steam shovels and tow trucks. Occasionally the spool can be called the winch drum. Elaborate designs have gear assemblies that can be powered by hydraulic, electric, pneumatic or internal combustion drives. Several winches could consist of a mechanical brake or a solenoid brake or a pawl and ratchet mechanism to be able to stop it from unwinding unless the pawl is retracted.

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

Frequently, a winch is used in huge theatrical productions as a part of the mechanism to be able to transfer scenery. Sometimes there are likewise winches actually imbedded in the stage to be able to help transfer 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 snow or of water. This could stimulate a riding experience which is usually supplied by a snow mobile, wave runner or a boat.