

WINCHES

There are a number of winch types available to 4WD drivers. All do the same thing but in a different way, some are more suitable to different applications.

VEHICLE MOUNTED WINCH

Vehicle mounted winches can be either PTO, electric or hydraulic. The disadvantage of this type of winch is that you can only generally pull from the front of the vehicle, very difficult to pull backwards or sideways.

HAND WINCH

The advantages of a hand winch is that they can be used anywhere and can pull in any direction.

A Tirfor has a long cable that goes through the body and by moving the handle back and forth the cable is pulled through the winch.

There are also smaller hand winches that are good for light duty short distance use, can also be used for many other purposes like removing motors from vehicles.

A High lift jack can also be used as a winch.

OTHER THINGS THAT YOU WILL NEED IF YOU HAVE A WINCH:

SNATCH BLOCKS effectively double the capacity of the winch by reducing the load on the winch by half. They are also useful in recovery situations where the winch anchor point is not in a direct line of the vehicle.

TREE PROTECTOR to protect the tree from damage by the winch cable.

AIR BLANKET (winch cable damper) to slow down the recoil effect if something breaks.

TRUCKIES KNOT

A Truckies Knot can also be used as winch. First, create an overhand loop in the line. Pull a loop through the overhand loop, and tighten the formed knot. This creates the loop that the standing part of the rope can be passed through after going around a secure object to pull tension. When pulled tight, the end of this rope can be secured with two half hitches and a quick release around the loop of the truckies knot. The unique aspect of this knot is that it gives you a 2-1 mechanical advantage when tightening the rope. By forming multiple loops, enough torque can be provided by pulling on the end of the rope to use as a winch.

SPANISH WINDLASS

If all else fails, you can build yourself a Spanish Windlass out a length of rope and a strong stick (handle of your shovel) It is a technique for drawing two objects together. It's especially useful when the objects are some distance apart. As shown in the drawing, this simple technique requires only a rope and a stick. The knot isn't important -- even a granny knot will do.

Begin by making a loop of rope that is just tight enough to take up the tension. Now slip a stick through the loop somewhere near the midpoint and start twisting. As the two sides of the loop twist together, the span of the rope's loop shortens and draw the ends together.

When the tension is sufficient, slide the stick almost all the way through the loop and let its long end catch on the something. Note of caution: If you plan to put a lot of tension on the loop, use a beefy stick and don't let go of that stick accidentally. It'll spin around like a propeller, and it takes no prisoners.