

Front winch



Winches (almost all the time front winches) are available in many variations (size, power with/without remote control) and from many suppliers. The most commonly known winch producer (by name and quality) is WARN (<http://www.warn.com>). It's an American product. Apart from this producer, there exist dozens of alternative suppliers, partly cheaply assembled in China (and with respective quality). However, it has not always to be the best (and most expensive) product, particularly a winch is normally not used every day. However, it must function in case of emergency. I have attached a 'Duke DU 350' (<http://www.hoistasia.com>) that has proven reliable over time. Costs for the unit are in the range of 2'000 CHF (mounting by the garagist included). Side remark: Most often the winches work fine only the tow cable is rusted through. I therefore pay attention also to this possibility. Today however, textile towing ropes are in use more and more. (quite expensive though). They are light, flexible and do not rust. However, they have one (big) disadvantage. They are rubbed through quickly if touching some kind of stone or rock while towing. As a protection for steel cables, a lot of 'expertise' is around. Greasing, WD40, to do just nothing and replace the cable every two years and so on. Well, have you used a greased winch already once in the desert? Good luck to you in cleaning the stuff. I decided to apply another protection. First, I spray a plastic lack on the cable when convolved (Kontakt Chemie Schutzlack 70) and then pack it tightly into a protective cover. That protects the cable from sand and moisture. Only disadvantage is that I have to repeat the procedure everytime I used the winch. In addition, the towing cable should have enough length (minimum 30 meters if deflection pulleys are used).

And winches use a lot of power. Depending on their size between 100 and 200 amperes. Therefore, the engine should run if they are in use so that the alternator can compensate at least part of their power consumption. In addition, there should always be a pair of gloves ready for the operator (steel cable can fringe). Also, a rug over the cable when under strain helps to avoid accidents should the cable break (prevents whirring around).