

# How to Install a Synthetic Winch Line



This guide explains how to properly install a synthetic winch line on a winch. Proper installation ensures that your winch line will perform at its best and will keep the winch line from getting damaged.

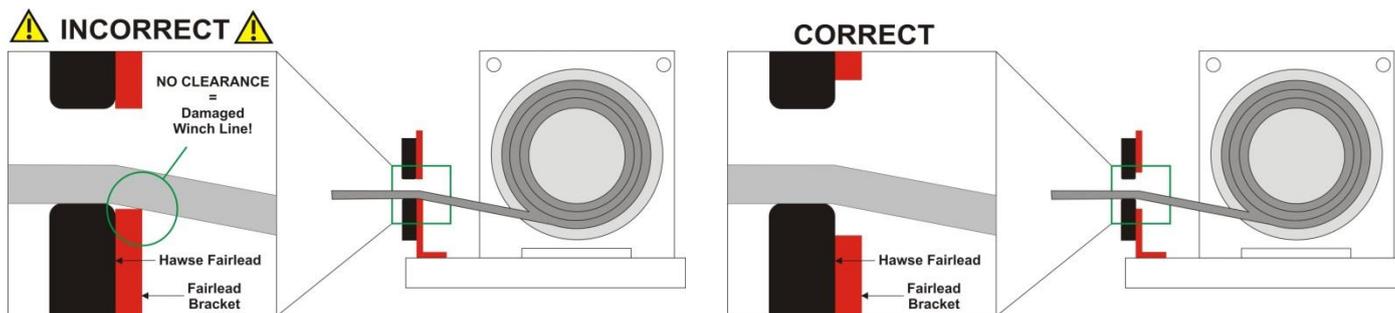
## Step 1: Winch Inspection

After you have removed the steel cable and roller fairlead from your winch, it is a good idea to inspect the drum to make sure there is nothing sharp that can damage the rope after it gets put on. Make sure the drum does not have any sharp burrs or gouges as steel wire rope has been known to damage the drum. If so, file/sand down any sharp edges until the drum is relatively smooth.

## Step 2: Inspect Fairlead

Installing a new fairlead needs to be completed before spooling the rope on. Aluminium hawse fairleads work very well with synthetic winch lines as they provide a smooth surface that will not damage the rope.

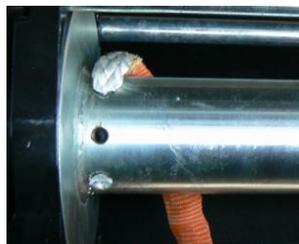
You want to assure that there is enough clearance between the opening of the fairlead and the edges of the mounting plate. As shown in the diagrams above. Without this, the winch line can get cut on the sharp edge of the fairlead plate.



## Step 3: Check Attachment Type



There are two main ways that winch lines attach to the drum, either with a screw on the side of the drum or through a hole in the centre of the drum itself. Here you can see the button head screw that holds a terminal onto the winch. If you have this setup then you just need to simply bolt the connector link on the end of the winch line to your winch with the provided screw.



This is the second way that rope can be attached to the drum. Some winches come with a hole through the drum that has a tiny set screw that holds the rope in place. If this is the type of connector that you have then you need to cut the connector link off the end of the winch line so you can insert the end of the rope through the hole in the drum. If the rope does not fit, wrapping a thin layer of electrical tape tightly around the rope can help. Once the rope is through the drum, tighten down on the set screw and cut off any excess rope sticking out the hole.

## 4: Lay Out Winch Line

Before you begin to spool the winch line onto the winch it is a good idea to uncoil it and lay it out on the ground. This makes it easier to spool the line on.



## 5: Attach Winch Line to Winch Drum

Insert the terminal end of the winch line through the fairlead and feed the winch line underneath the drum and over the top to the mounting point.



You can see in this picture how the rope is spooled on underneath the drum and attaches using the drum link and button head screw.

## **Winch rope Retainer Installation Instructions**



**Step 1:** Insert the terminal end of the winch rope through the aluminium Hawse fairlead on the front of the winch and through one loop of the winch rope retainer.



**Step 2:** Pull about 800mm of the winch rope through and wrap 4 to 5 times over the winch rope retainer. Make sure to wrap in the correct direction (winch line typically comes off the lower side of the winch drum). Then put the winch rope through the other loop in the winch rope retainer and pull it through.



**Step 3:** Loop the winch rope around the drum once or twice more and then attach the terminal end of the winch rope to the winch drum. Pull the winch rope arranging the loops side-by-side at the attachment side of the winch drum. Now you are ready to spool in the rest of the winch rope under load.

### **6: Start Spooling Winch Line on Drum**

Keeping your hands clear of the winch, guide the rope in making sure the wraps are neat and tight. It is helpful to have two people at this point, one to guide the rope in and one to work the winch controls.

The orange heat covering should go all the way across the drum and it is very important to always have a full layer of rope on the winch drum while winching to assure the winch line stays attached to the winch. The friction from the wraps are what keep the rope attached to the winch.



### **7: Keep Spooling...**

This photo shows the layers of rope stacking up on the drum. A neat set of wraps will function better and allow you to put more rope on the winch.



As stated before, it is best to have two people to install a winch line. It can be difficult to simultaneously guide the winch line in correctly and handle the winch controller.



### **Finished!**

Here you can see the finished product. It is a good practice to unspool the entire winch line after every use and respool it properly.

