

## **Introduction**

Portable Winch Co. wishes to thank you for purchasing a PCW5000 *Portable Capstan Winch*<sup>TM</sup>. This manual was written to help you make the best use of your new winch and to use it in the most secure way. **Read it carefully before using the winch.** For any problems or questions please refer to an authorized Portable Winch Co. dealer or contact us directly.

### **1.0 Safety guidelines**

The PCW5000 *Portable Capstan Winch*<sup>TM</sup> is designed to pull **non-rolling objects**, usually at a plus or minus 45 degree angle from the horizontal.

The use of a pulling device implies serious risks of injuries, property damage or even death. **Do not underestimate its potential danger.**

#### **1.1 Safety messages**

Your safety and the safety of others are very important. You will find important safety messages in this manual. **Read them carefully.**

These security messages are warning you of potential injuries to either you or others. Every safety message is preceded by a warning symbol  and one of the following terms: DANGER, ATTENTION or PRECAUTION.

**These indicator words mean:**

 **DANGER** You WILL be MORTALLY or SEVERELY INJURED if you do not follow these instructions.

 **WARNING** You COULD be MORTALLY or SEVERELY INJURED if you do not follow these instructions.

 **CAUTION** You COULD be INJURED if you do not follow these instructions.

### 3.0 Winch usage

**⚠ WARNING** MOST WINCHING SITUATIONS PRESENT **POTENTIAL DANGERS!**

#### 3.1 Rope

**⚠ WARNING** STAY OUT OF THE WINCH LINE'S PATH.

##### 3.1.1 Rope type

Use only **low stretch** rope. We recommend using double-braided polyester rope with a minimum diameter of 10 mm (3/8"). Maximum rope diameter is 16 mm (5/8"). For most situations, we recommend using 12 or 13 mm (1/2") double braid polyester rope. Please contact us for other rope types suitability.

**⚠ WARNING** **DO NOT USE 3-STRAND POLYPROPYLENE YELLOW ROPE!**

**⚠** Polypropylene and polyethylene ropes are dangerous for winching because of their great elasticity and low melt point.

**⚠** Make sure the rope is not damaged and that it offers an adequate resistance to pull the load.

**⚠ WARNING** **STRETCH EQUALS DANGER!**

**⚠** A stretched rope can recoil and cause serious burns as the rope leaves your hand.

**⚠** All ropes stretch: a longer one more than a shorter one. The more you pull, the more it stretches.

**⚠** A stretched rope can also move the load in an unpredictable or dangerous way.

**⚠** A stretched rope can recoil and bring your hand towards the winch causing severe injuries. **NEVER WRAP THE ROPE AROUND YOUR HAND.**

**⚠ CAUTION** ALWAYS WEAR **GLOVES.**

### 3.3.1 Using a polyester sling (included with the winch)

Go around the anchor point with the sling. Insert each end of the sling in one of the safety hooks located on the winch (figure 1).

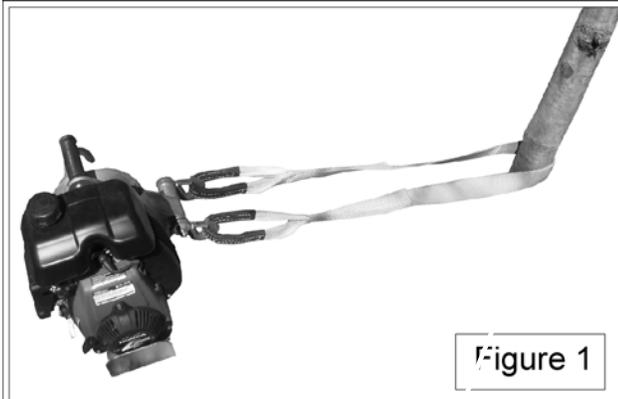


Figure 1

**⚠ CAUTION** AVOID INSTALLING THE SLING ON SHARP EDGES THAT MIGHT DAMAGE IT. WHETHER YOU ARE USING A POST, A TREE OR A STUMP, ALWAYS INSTALL THE SLING NEAR THE ANCHOR'S BASE (FIGURE 1).

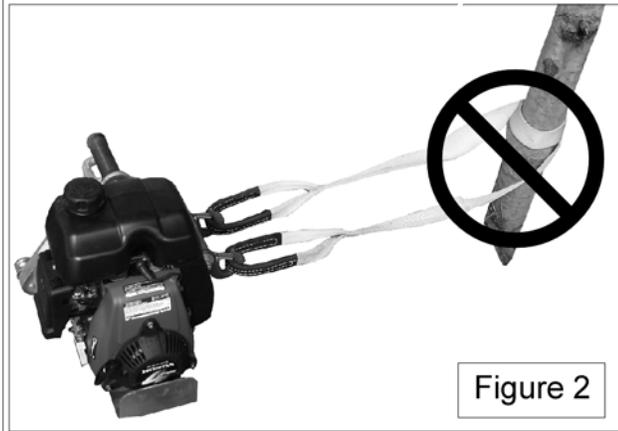


Figure 2

**⚠ CAUTION** USING A STUMP AS AN ANCHOR POINT MEANS PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SLING FROM SLIPPING OVER IT.

**⚠ WARNING** MAKE SURE THE ANCHOR POINT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST THE PULL WITHOUT BREAKING OR BEING DAMAGED.

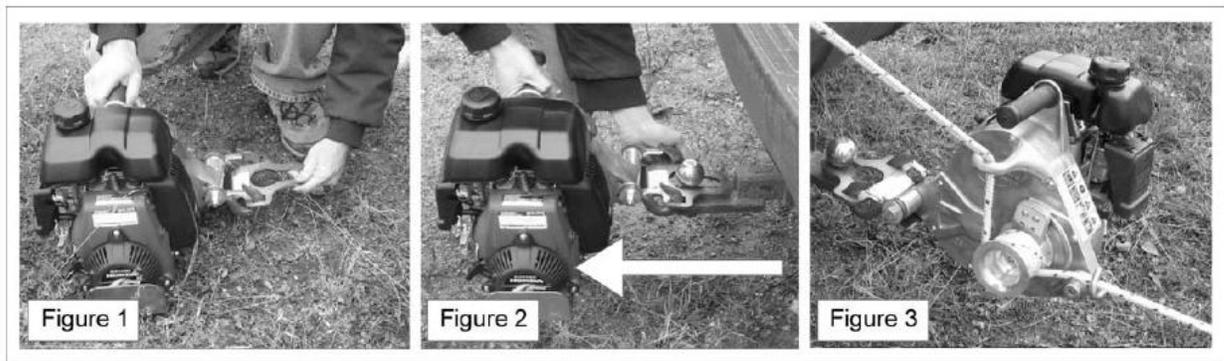
Position the winch in line with the load. When the winch is under tension, it will try to align itself with the load. The friction of the sling against the anchor point could prevent correct alignment. If

that is the case, release the tension on the rope and position the sling on the anchor point so that the tension is equally distributed on both winch anchor hooks.

**⚠ CAUTION** **DON'T DO THIS!** WHEN YOU ANCHOR THE WINCH, MAKE SURE THAT YOU **DO NOT** DO A COMPLETE WRAP AROUND THE ANCHOR POINT (FIGURE 2). THIS SET-UP WILL PREVENT PROPER ALIGNMENT OF THE WINCH WITH THE LOAD AND WILL PUT UNEVEN TENSION ON THE WINCH ANCHOR HOOKS.

### 3.3.2 Using the hitch plate winch anchor (PCA-1261) for tow balls up to 50 mm (2") diameter (sold separately)

- 1) Push the safety hooks in the rectangular openings of the hitch plate (figure 1 next page). The rubber plate must be under the winch;
- 2) Start the winch engine;
- 3) Slide the plate on the ball hitch and pull the winch forward (figure 2)
- 4) Wrap the rope around the drum and start winching (figure 3).



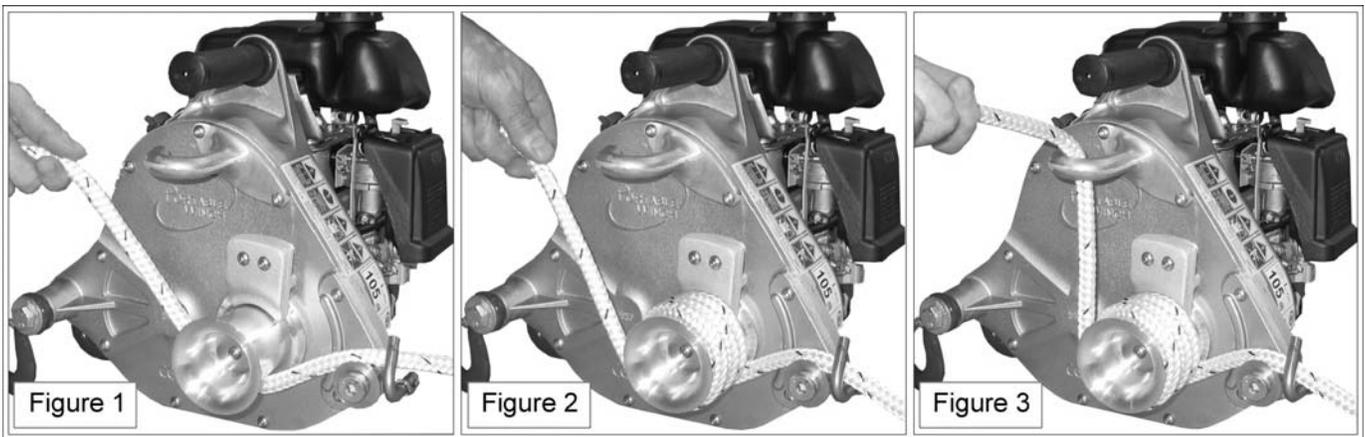
**NOTE: Do not leave the winch on the hitch with the engine running; the resting position will cause the Oil Alert device to turn the Honda engine off.**

**CAUTION** USE THE HITCH PLATE ONLY WITH CATEGORY II BALL HITCH (1500 KG (3300 LB)) OR HIGHER. MAKE SURE THE ANCHORING VEHICLE'S HAND BRAKE IS ON AND WORKING PROPERLY. POSITION BLOCKS BEHIND THE WHEELS TO PREVENT ROLL BACK.

### 3.6.1 Wrapping the rope on the capstan drum

**⚠ WARNING** NEVER PUT YOUR HANDS ON THE CAPSTAN DRUM, THE ROPE GUIDE OR THE FRONT PULLEY WHEN THE ENGINE IS RUNNING.

- 1) Start the engine and let it idle for 30 seconds to warm-up;
- 2) Run the rope **OVER THE ROPE KEEPER** and the front pulley and under the drum (figure 1);
- 3) Wrap the rope around the drum (3 or 4 turns) (figure 2);
- 4) Bring the rope behind the rope hook (figure 3);
- 5) Stand about 1 m (3') from the winch and pull gently and horizontally on the rope to get the slack until you feel the tension rising on the rope (figure 3);
- 6) Look at your set-up to make sure that the winch anchors and the front pulley are aligned with the rope;
- 7) Check that the rope does not rub against objects along the path;
- 8) Pull the throttle up and start winching.



### 3.6.2 Winching

While winching, position yourself away from the winch in order to see both the winch and the load. Pull horizontally on the rope. The tension you exert on the rope will keep the winch level. Do not operate with the winch tilted or the Oil Alert™ will kick in.

**⚠ DANGER** DO NOT WRAP THE ROPE AROUND YOUR HANDS OR YOUR BODY! ALSO BEWARE OF THE ROPE ACCUMULATING IN FRONT OF YOU; MAKE SURE YOUR FEET DO NOT GET TANGLED IN IT.

**⚠ WARNING** CAREFULLY WATCH THE CAPSTAN DRUM DURING THE OPERATION AND MAKE SURE THAT THE ROPE DOES NOT CROSS OVER ON IT. IF IT HAPPENS, RELEASE THE TENSION ON THE ROPE AND STOP THE ENGINE WHILE UNDOING THE CROSS OVER.