

Winch Installation Tips

Installation of the hidden winch mount on the Grand Cherokee WK2 is not difficult, but there are some important details in order to get the best quality installation and to allow the most convenient use when needed. Surprisingly even reputable installers sometimes miss these key details.

Fairlead Installation

Make sure you cut hole big enough for the fairlead to sit behind plastic, hard against winch plate

Not like this ([this is wrong](#))

Installed in this manner, as you tighten the fairlead (straight surface) it will bend the curved plastic bumper AND might stick out far enough it interferes with the license plate flip. This could also mess up parking sensors



Instead, install like ([this is correct](#))

The fairlead should be recessed back behind the plastic bumper so it is physically contacting the winch cradle.

If you do a nice clean cut you don't need to line the edges.

If you do a rough looking cut (like this one) or too large a cut (like this one) you can line the edge with edge trim off eg Amazon



Nudge Bar / License Plate Flip

Here you can see the Offroad Animal License Plate Flip installed beneath the Offroad Animal Nudge Bar, with the Fairlead inset behind the plastic bumper

If you are installing the nudge bar, make sure the license plate flip goes on last to avoid mounting the flip in a location that interferes with the nudge bar



Controller Cable

Description below is specifically for a Warn VR Evo 10S winch with Bluetooth and wired control function, however generally it applies to all winches

The controller cable cannot be connected/disconnected at will (it is a hidden winch)
Connect the controller cable to the control box permanently and run the wires to a convenient location for access

Leave the wired connection permanently in place. eg Run the cable across to the air filter and then run it toward the windshield and coil in front of windshield
Then if you ever need a wired connection it is there, coiled, ready to be pulled in through the driver's window



Passed air filter



Towards windshield



In front of driver, coiled

Free Spool Clutch Lever

Details below are specifically for a Warn VR Evo 10S winch with Bluetooth and wired control function, however generally it applies to all winches.

The clutch for engaging the free spool can be easily accessed if the steps below are followed. The winch clutch lever can be accessed from underneath. We give access holes in the winch plate and front bumper to allow this.

If you do not have the Offroad Animal front bumper then the lower fascia would need to be removed to have access (this is what Jeep recommends for off road use)



Per the fitting instructions, you may have to clock the gearbox of the winch to face the clutch down to the ground. (The Warn winches ship from the factory with the lever in the 'up' position)

Here you can see the VR Evo 10S after the gearbox has been clocked 180 degrees.



View through winch plate shows the hand access



View through the Offroad Animal bumper looking at the winch plate



Winch Preloading

Make sure you preload the winch line properly per the winch manufacturer's instructions. There are also plenty of YouTube videos out there. So many people overlook this important step. Also take the time to learn how to use the winch and the other recovery equipment safely. So many people just get a winch and have no idea the myriad issues involved in using them properly and safely.

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