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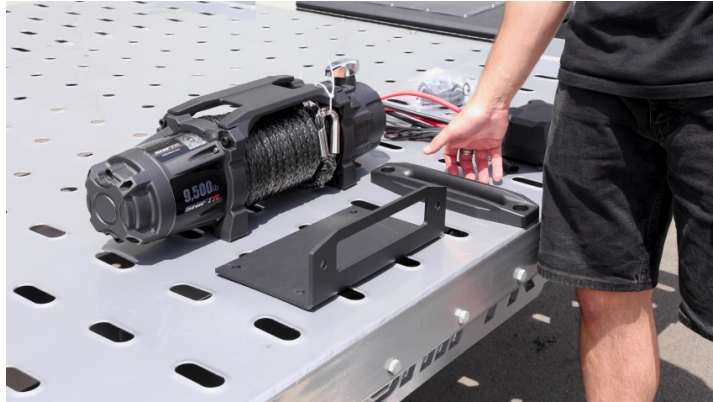
# SHIFTR **RECOVERY** WINCH

Installation & Testing Guide

March 2026 | [shifttrailers.com](https://shifttrailers.com)

# WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Before you begin, make sure you have the following items ready. All winch components are included in your SHIFTR Recovery Winch kit.



**1** SHIFTR 9,500 lb Recovery Winch with synthetic rope



**2** Winch mounting bracket (fairlead bracket)



**3** Control box (solenoid), power cables, mounting bolts, and wireless remote



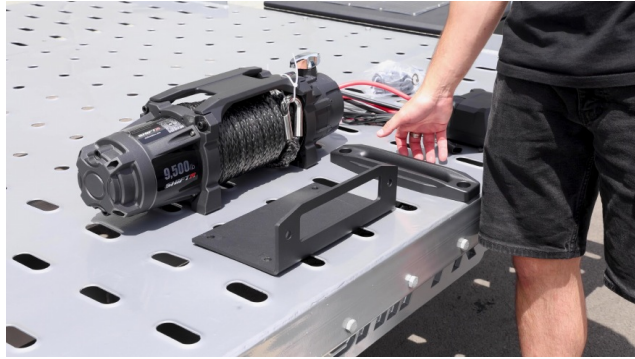
**4** Tools required: Ratchet wrench, sockets (10mm, 16mm, 19mm), wrench, Phillips screwdriver

## IMPORTANT

Ensure the trailer is parked on a flat, stable surface with the handbrake engaged before beginning installation. The winch unit is heavy — use proper lifting technique when placing it on the trailer deck.

# INSTALLATION STEPS

Follow each step carefully to ensure a safe and correct installation.



## 1 UNBOX THE RECOVERY WINCH KIT

Open up your box and remove all the contents. Lay out all components on the trailer deck and verify nothing is missing.



## 3 REMOVE ONE OF THE BOLTS

Undo the existing trailer bolts **one at a time** using a 16mm socket and 16mm wrench. Loosen from the bottom with your ratchet while holding the top with your wrench.



## 2 MOUNT THE FAIRLEAD TO THE MOUNT PLATE

Mount the fairlead to the fairlead mount plate using M12 hex head bolts, flat washers, spring washers, and nuts. Use a 19mm socket on one side and 10mm on the other, then tighten. Put the bolt through, followed by the flat washer, followed by a spring washer.



## 4 LINE UP THE MOUNT PLATE

Now that the one bolt is loose, take it out, line up the winch mount plate with the first hole in the chassis.

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# SAFETY WARNING

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## BEFORE WORKING UNDER THE TRAILER

### ■ ALWAYS USE JACK STANDS

Never work underneath a trailer supported only by a jack. Always place appropriately rated jack stands on a solid, level surface under the trailer's frame before positioning yourself beneath it.

### ■ USE A LEVEL, SOLID SURFACE

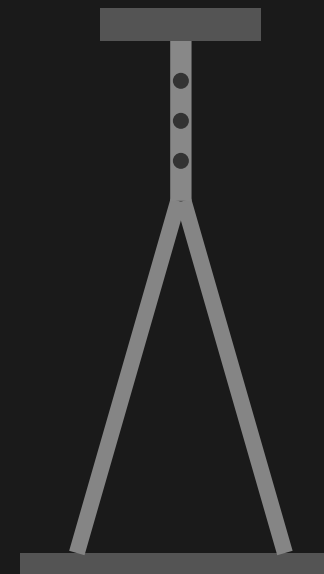
Perform this installation on flat, firm ground such as concrete or compacted asphalt. Never work on grass, gravel, soft ground, or slopes. Ensure the tow vehicle is in park with the parking brake engaged and wheels chocked (if trailer is attached to a tow vehicle).

### ■ WEAR APPROPRIATE PROTECTION

Wear safety glasses to protect against falling debris and gloves to protect your hands from sharp edges on the galvanised mount bracket and trailer undercarriage.

### ■ INSPECT BEFORE YOU START

Before going underneath, visually confirm that the trailer is stable, the jack stands are properly positioned under structural frame members, and there is adequate clearance to work comfortably.



**JACK STAND**

Minimum 2-ton rated



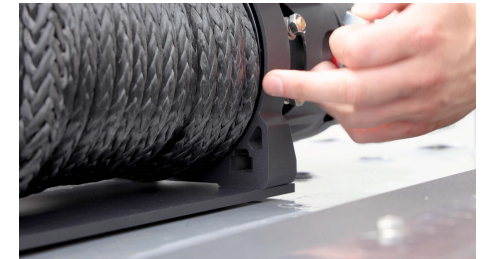
# INSTALLATION STEPS

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## 5 POSITION THE RECOVERY WINCH

Bring the Recovery Winch over and line up the holes on the mounting plate with the hole on the winch.



## 6 INSERT THE SQUARE LOCKING NUT IN THE FRONT OF THE WINCH

Insert the square locking nuts in each side at the front of the winch.



## 7 RE-INSERT THE BOLT FROM THE BOTTOM

Re-insert the bolt from the bottom, and make it finger tight, but not all the way tightened. Make sure it's lined up properly with the hole in the recovery winch. The bolt should have the spring washer on first, followed by the flat washer.

**TORQUE SETTINGS:** FOR M10 bolts, 40 ft-lb (54 Nm) is the standard dry torque for a Grade 8.8 bolt.



## 8 INSERT THE SQUARE LOCKING NUTS IN THE BACK OF THE WINCH

Undo the existing trailer bolts **one at a time** using a 16mm socket and 16mm wrench. Loosen from the bottom with your ratchet while holding the top with your wrench.

# INSTALLATION STEPS

Continued from previous page.



## 9 REPEAT THE PROCESS ON THE OTHER SIDE

Again, take out the bolt from the top and insert it from the bottom, while making sure it's lined up with the hole in the recovery winch at the top. The bolt should have the spring washer on first, followed by the flat washer.



## 10 INSERT THE WINCH BOLTS ON THE REAR

Using the M10x50 bolts with spring washers followed by flat washers, go under the trailer and tighten by hand, then finish off with the ratchet.

**TORQUE SETTINGS:** FOR M10 bolts, 40 ft-lb (54 Nm) is the standard dry torque for a Grade 8.8 bolt.



## 11 BRING OVER THE CONTROL BOX, SCREWS & SCREWDRIVER

Bring the control box to the toolbox at the front of the trailer, along with the 4 screws included and a screwdriver.



## 12 LINE UP THE CONTROL BOX & TIGHTEN

Line up the control box with the 4 holes on the Recovery Winch, and start tightening the screws.

# INSTALLATION STEPS

Continued from previous page.



## 13 CONNECT THE CABLES & TIGHTEN (DETAILED GUIDE ON NEXT PAGES)

Wire up the cables to the winch, positive (red) to positive & negative (black) to negative. Tighten all the connections, then cover with the included rubber sheath. Feed the three remaining wires through the bottom right hole in the tool box. Attach the three pin plugs.



## 15 CONNECT 3 PIN PLUG

Connect the 3 pin plug - you'll see it says "RW" for Recovery Winch.



## 14 COVER WITH SHEATING & FEED WIRES THROUGH TOOLBOX

Now cover up the connections with the included rubber sheathing. Feed the wires through the slot in the trailer deck and then the bottom right hole in the toolbox.



## 16 CONNECT POWER TO THE BATTERY

Hook up the positive and negative to the corresponding terminals, starting with the positive. Put the bolt through the spade with the washer on top and tighten. Do the same with the negative. Finish by tightening with your 10mm ratchet.

# WIRING YOUR RECOVERY WINCH

The SHIFTR recovery winch utilizes a series-wound 12V DC motor. High-current delivery is managed by the solenoid pack mounted atop the motor housing, which acts as the directional switch for the drum.

## WINCH TERMINAL VIEW



## 3-CORE CONTROL CABLE PLUG

**7** Connects to the SmartControl™ box.



## TERMINAL IDENTIFIERS

### F1 (FIELD 1)

**1** Connected to the solenoid; energized for “In” or “Out” rotation.

### F2 (FIELD 2)

**2** Connected to the solenoid; energized for the opposite rotation.

### A (ARMATURE)

**3** The common feed from the solenoid to the motor brushes.

### GROUND (NEGATIVE)

**4** A heavy-gauge cable connecting the motor frame directly to the trailer battery negative terminal. Provides the return path for the high-current draw and the reference for the control circuit.

## POSITIVE TERMINAL

(on battery)



## NEGATIVE TERMINAL

(on battery)



### WARNING:

NEVER CONNECT THE BATTERY LEADS DIRECTLY TO THE MOTOR TERMINALS. POWER MUST ALWAYS BE ROUTED THROUGH THE SOLENOID PACK.

# WIRING YOUR RECOVERY WINCH

## CABLE REFERENCE



## CABLE NAME

## CONNECTS TO

### F2-LEAD

**1** Black cable, with black boot — **2** F2 (FIELD 2)

### MAIN POSITIVE

**2** Red, long cable (reaches battery) — **5** POSITIVE TERMINAL ON BATTERY

### A-LEAD

**3** Red cable, with red boot — **3** A (ARMATURE)

### F1-LEAD

**4** Black cable with yellow boot — **1** F1 (FIELD 1)

### CONTROL GROUND

**5** Black, thin, wire — **4** GROUND (NEGATIVE)

### MAIN GROUND

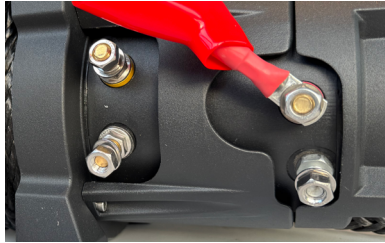
**6** Black, long, cable (packed separately in box) — **4** GROUND (NEGATIVE) + **6** NEGATIVE TERMINAL ON BATTERY

### 3-CORE CONTROL CABLE

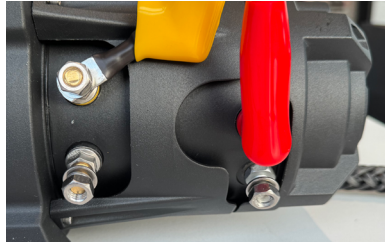
**7** 3-pin weatherproof plug on flexible lead — **7** 3-CORE CONTROL CONNECTOR (Inside toolbox)

# WIRING STEPS

TOOLS NEEDED: 13MM SOCKET WRENCH + EXTENSION



**1** A-LEAD -> A (ARMATURE)



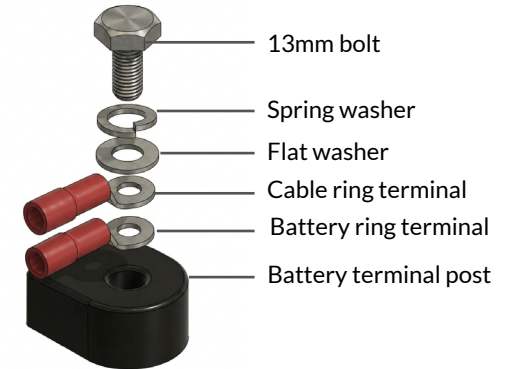
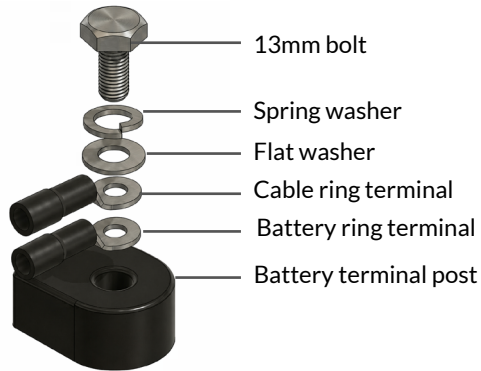
**2** F1-LEAD -> F1 (FIELD 1)



**3** F2-LEAD -> F2 (FIELD 2)

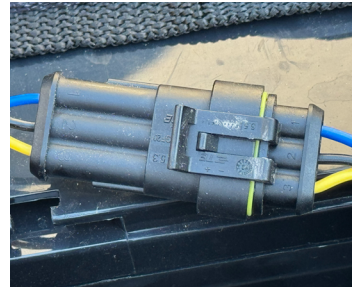
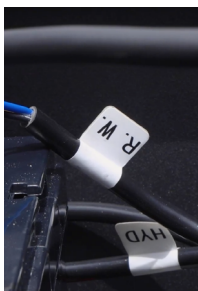


**4** CONTROL GROUND + MAIN GROUND -> GROUND NEGATIVE



**5** DISCONNECT NEGATIVE TERMINAL BEFORE WORKING ON POSITIVE TERMINAL

**6** MAIN POSITIVE -> POSITIVE TERMINAL ON BATTERY (RECONNECT NEGATIVE AFTERWARD)



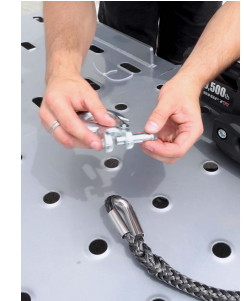
**7** 3-CORE CONTROL CABLE -> 3-CORE CONTROL CABLE PLUG (LABELLED RW)

## THE CONTROL LOGIC (SMART CONTROL™ INTERFACE)

Beyond the heavy-gauge power cables, your winch is managed by the SmartControl™ Box. This interface allows for wireless operation via the remote. A 3-core control cable connects the SmartControl™ box to the solenoid pack.

**Function:** This cable carries low-voltage signals. It does not power the motor; it only "triggers" the solenoid to click into place.

**Maintenance Tip:** Ensure the 3-core plug is seated firmly and free of corrosion. If the winch motor has power but won't respond to the remote, the issue is likely in this control circuit or the pairing of the remote to the SmartControl™ box.

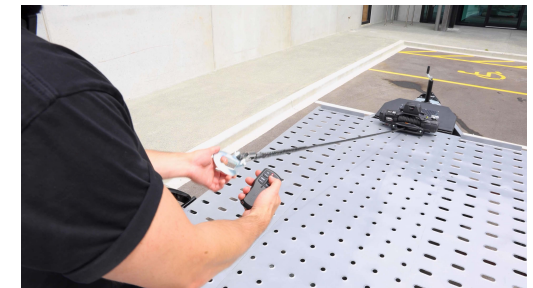


## 17 CUT THE CABLE TIE, FEED THE CABLE THROUGH

Cut the cable tie with box cutters or scissors, feed the winch rope through.

## 18 DISENGAGE THE WINCH & ATTACH THE HOOK

Set the winch is set to disengaged and pull out some rope. To attach the hook, pull out the split pin, then the main pin, line up the hole in the hook, re-insert the main pin, and then the split pin.



## 19 TEST THE RECOVERY WINCH

Now to test the winch, make sure the winch is set to disengaged and pull out some rope and walk down the deck. Put it on high speed. Grab the remote out of the box, make sure the control box and remote are turned on, and activate the winch as you hold it and walk it back. Once confirmed working, you're good to go.

## SAFETY WARNINGS

- Ensure the trailer is parked on a flat, stable surface and the handbrake is engaged before beginning installation.
- Disconnect any existing power sources before connecting winch power cables to the battery.
- The winch unit is heavy. Use proper lifting technique when placing it on the trailer deck.
- Do not exceed the rated 9,500 lb winch capacity. Always inspect the synthetic rope for damage before each use.

## INSTALLATION TIPS

- Tighten bolts firmly but do not over-torque. The winch should be completely stable with no movement when pushed.
- Always connect positive (red) first, then negative (black). When disconnecting, remove negative first.
- Refer to the winch instruction manual for detailed wiring diagrams before connecting cables.
- Guide the rope with your hand near the fairlead to ensure it spools evenly on the drum.

# INSTALLATION **COMPLETE**



Your SHIFTR 9,500 lb Recovery Winch is now fully installed and ready to use. The winch will allow you to safely load and secure vehicles onto your SHIFTR trailer using the wireless remote control.

Always inspect the winch, rope, and connections before each use. For further assistance, contact Futura Trailers support or visit [shifttrailers.com](https://shifttrailers.com).

## **SUPPORT**

[shifttrailers.com](https://shifttrailers.com)

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