

Woolf Drum Winches

For South Aussie ex-shark fisherman and professional 'roo shooter, Jeff Woolf, busting the big drum net winches on his shark boat was becoming an expensive problem. With typical Aussie ingenuity, he decided he'd make his own. "I wanted one of the bloody things that wouldn't break - and it didn't." His colleagues in the shark fishing world were so impressed, they wanted one too - and Woolf Winches, whilst not quite an overnight success, grew sufficiently for Jeff to hand in his fishing licence, and concentrate on just making winches. **Unbreakable winches.** Originally, they were all designed to sit ON the foredeck - now, a few years later, Jeff has released a series of compromise winches that **can now sit IN the foredeck.** Called "well-based" winches, Jeff has found a whole new audience. You can still see the anchor rode going up and down - and **they are still unbreakable.** Last month, Jeff told the F&B team all about the next generation Woolf Winches. *In his own words . . .*

"Our winches are manufactured from the best materials available.

The side plates and well-bases are cast from marine grade aluminium, the shafts and fastenings are marine grade stainless steel, our motors are made by Quick in Italy, whilst the worm boxes are Varvel - also made in Italy.

The smallest winches are very powerful as they have the same 1400 watt motor as the 2000 model and 2500 model winches. Unlike other drum winches, our winches have a 25mm shaft encased in a 70mm tube which forms the centre of the spool, making the winch faster and trouble free.

On the offside to the wormbox, our winches have a bearing sealed behind an alloy cap.

We do not make a free fall electric winch as so many of our customers have reported all sorts of problems with other 'free-fall' winches, but we do make a free fall hydraulic



winch - the 3000 model - mainly for heavy duty commercial work.

The standard model winch has the motor mounted on the side of the winch in a waterproof housing.

Standard model winches can be mounted on the deck or in the rope well.

The well-base model winches are available in 1500, 2000 and 2500 models.

This winch is designed to be let into the deck giving the winch a lower profile and putting the motor below deck.

All winches are supplied with a template, mounting bolts, double acting solenoid, control switch and wiring diagram.

Winches can be made to order, with features such as a bigger motor, perhaps a heavy duty worm box, or on a standard model, the spool can be made wider to hold more rope.

Winches mounted above deck work a lot better than winches mounted below



Above: How good is this set-up for single handing? With a Woolf Winch, the skipper no longer has to go forward to raise and lower the winch. The whole exercise can be controlled from the helm - a boon in the daytime - and a potentially life-saving feature at night. **Below:** It wasn't pretty, but F&B's Neil Dunstan didn't care - he reckoned the Woolf Winch was better than sliced bread, and after several years of hard work, it was going better than ever.

