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› [Rockland](#) /

› [Rockland VMI17 10,000 lb Electric Winch User Manual](#)

Rockland VMI17

Rockland VMI17 10,000 lb Electric Winch User Manual

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential instructions for the safe and effective use of your Rockland VMI17 10,000 lb Off-Road 12 Volt DC Electric Winch. Designed for vehicle recovery in challenging off-road conditions, this winch features a 12-volt DC motor, a high-performance planetary gear system, and a durable wire rope. Proper installation, operation, and maintenance are crucial for ensuring the longevity and reliable performance of your winch.

Key features include:

- **Multi-Purpose Winch:** Equipped with a Hawse fairlead and wire rope for vehicle recovery.
- **Convenient Remote Operation:** Wired remote controller for precise rope retraction and extension.
- **12-Volt DC Motor:** Series-wound motor designed to maintain cooler temperatures during extended use.
- **High-Performance Gear System:** 3-stage planetary gear system with free spooling for fast line speed.
- **Safety Features:** Voltage detection and stall load protection with red and blue LED indicators.



Figure 1.1: The Rockland VMI17 10,000 lb Electric Winch, showing the main unit with wire rope, hook, and the wired remote control.

2. SAFETY INFORMATION

Read and understand all safety warnings and instructions before installing or operating this winch. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury or property damage.

- Always wear heavy-duty gloves when handling the wire rope.
- Never exceed the rated capacity of the winch.
- Ensure the vehicle's engine is running during winching operations to maintain battery charge.
- Keep hands and clothing clear of the wire rope, hook, and fairlead during operation.
- Never operate the winch with less than five wraps of wire rope on the drum.
- Inspect the winch, wire rope, and all rigging components before each use for damage or wear.
- Use a tree trunk protector or anchor strap when attaching to a tree to prevent damage.
- Always use a dampener (e.g., a heavy blanket) over the wire rope during winching to absorb energy in case of breakage.
- Do not use the winch for lifting or hoisting people.
- Disconnect the winch from the power source when not in use or during maintenance.

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components are present and undamaged upon unpacking:

- Rockland VMI17 Electric Winch with pre-spoiled wire rope
- Wired Remote Control
- Heavy-duty hook
- Hawse Fairlead (integrated or separate, depending on model)
- Power cables and mounting hardware (may vary)

4. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is critical for safe and effective winch operation. If you are unsure about any step, consult a qualified professional.

4.1 Mounting the Winch

1. Select a suitable mounting location on your vehicle, typically a winch bumper or mounting plate, capable of supporting the winch's weight and pulling forces.
2. Ensure the mounting surface is flat and strong enough to prevent flexing under load.
3. Secure the winch using appropriate high-strength bolts and hardware. Ensure all bolts are tightened to the manufacturer's specifications.

4.2 Electrical Connections

1. Disconnect the vehicle's battery before making any electrical connections.
2. Connect the heavy-gauge power cables from the winch to the vehicle's 12-volt battery. The red cable connects to the positive (+) terminal, and the black cable connects to the negative (-) terminal.
3. Ensure all connections are clean, tight, and free from corrosion.
4. Route cables away from hot engine parts, sharp edges, and moving components.
5. Reconnect the vehicle's battery.

4.3 Engaging and Disengaging the Clutch

The clutch lever allows you to manually spool out the wire rope (free spooling) or engage the gear system for powered winching.

- To **Free Spool** the wire rope, turn the clutch lever to the "Free Spool" position. This disengages the gear train, allowing the drum to rotate freely.
- To **Engage** the winch for powered operation, turn the clutch lever to the "Engage" position. This connects the gear train to the motor.



Figure 4.1: The clutch lever, used to switch between free spooling and engaged winching modes.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Always plan your recovery carefully before beginning. Ensure the area is clear of bystanders and obstacles.

5.1 Preparing for Winching

1. Ensure the vehicle's engine is running to provide maximum power to the winch.
2. Engage the vehicle's parking brake and block the wheels.
3. Turn the clutch lever to the "Free Spool" position.
4. Pull out the wire rope to the anchor point, ensuring at least five wraps remain on the drum.
5. Secure the hook to a suitable anchor point (e.g., tree trunk protector, recovery point on another vehicle).
6. Place a winch dampener over the wire rope, midway between the winch and the anchor point.
7. Turn the clutch lever to the "Engage" position.

5.2 Using the Wired Remote Control

The wired remote control allows you to safely operate the winch from a distance.



Figure 5.1: The wired remote control for the Rockland VMI17 winch, featuring 'IN' and 'OUT' buttons for rope movement.

1. Connect the remote control to the winch's control box.
2. Stand clear of the wire rope and the vehicle.
3. Press the "IN" button to retract the wire rope and pull the load.

4. Press the "OUT" button to extend the wire rope.
5. Operate the winch in short bursts to prevent overheating. Allow the winch motor to cool between pulls.
6. Monitor the wire rope for proper spooling and ensure it does not pile up on one side of the drum.

5.3 After Winching

1. Once the recovery is complete, release tension on the wire rope.
2. Disconnect the hook from the anchor point.
3. Carefully respool the wire rope onto the drum under light tension to ensure even layering.
4. Disconnect the remote control and store it safely.
5. Inspect the winch and wire rope for any damage before storing.

6. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance and extends the life of your winch.

- **Wire Rope Inspection:** Regularly inspect the wire rope for kinks, frayed strands, broken wires, or corrosion. Replace damaged rope immediately.
- **Electrical Connections:** Check all electrical connections periodically for tightness and corrosion. Clean terminals as needed.
- **Lubrication:** Consult the manufacturer's guidelines for any recommended lubrication points.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the winch clean from mud, dirt, and debris. Use a mild detergent and water, then dry thoroughly.
- **Storage:** Store the winch in a dry environment when not in use.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Rockland VMI17 winch, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Winch does not operate	No power to winch; Loose electrical connections; Faulty remote control; Clutch disengaged.	Check battery connections and charge; Tighten all electrical connections; Test remote control; Engage clutch.
Winch operates slowly or weakly	Low battery voltage; Overload; Corroded electrical connections.	Ensure vehicle engine is running; Reduce load; Clean and tighten connections.
Winch motor overheats	Continuous operation; Excessive load.	Allow motor to cool between pulls; Reduce load or use a snatch block to decrease strain.
Wire rope unevenly spools	Lack of tension during respooling; Improper angle.	Respool rope under light tension; Ensure straight pull to the anchor point.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
LED indicators flash red/blue	Voltage detection or stall load protection activated.	Check battery voltage; Reduce load; Allow winch to cool.

If problems persist after attempting these solutions, contact Rockland customer support.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Brand	Rockland
Model	VMI17
Rated Line Pull	10,000 lbs (4,536 kg)
Motor	12-Volt DC, Series-Wound
Gear System	3-Stage Planetary
Clutch	Free Spooling
Wire Rope	Included
Fairlead	Hawse
Remote Control	Wired
Dimensions (L x W x H)	21.3 x 6.5 x 9.76 inches (approx.)
Weight	72.17 pounds (approx.)
Safety Features	Voltage detection, Stall load protection (LED indicators)

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Rockland VMI17 Electric Winch comes with a **1-year manufacturer's warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use.

For warranty claims, technical assistance, or further inquiries, please contact Rockland customer support. Ensure you have your product model number (VMI17) and proof of purchase available when contacting support.