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› HFT Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch Instruction Manual

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Instruction Manual

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective installation, operation, and maintenance of your HFT Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch with Automatic Load-Holding Brake. Please read all instructions carefully before use to ensure proper function and prevent injury or damage.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when operating the winch. Failure to follow safety guidelines can result in serious injury or property damage.

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves and eye protection.
- Ensure the winch is securely mounted to a structurally sound surface capable of handling the maximum rated load.
- Do not exceed the winch's rated capacity.
- Keep hands and clothing clear of the winch cable, hook, and fairlead during operation.
- Never operate the winch under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Inspect the winch, cable, and all accessories for damage before each use. Do not use if damaged.
- Always use a tree saver strap or similar anchor point to prevent damage to trees or other objects.
- Keep bystanders at a safe distance from the winching area.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that all components listed below are included in your package:

- Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch Unit
- Wired Remote Control (approximately 12 ft long)
- Solenoid/Relay Assembly
- Circuit Breaker (resettable)
- Battery Leads (red and black, approximately 5 ft long)
- Controller Wires for Solenoid
- Handlebar Mount for ATV
- Remote Power Wire for Ignition

- 1/2 inch Shackle
- Winch Hook with Safety Latch
- Winch Strap (Badland branded)
- Rubber Boots for Battery Cable and Wire Ends
- Mounting Bolts and Hardware
- Roller Fairlead

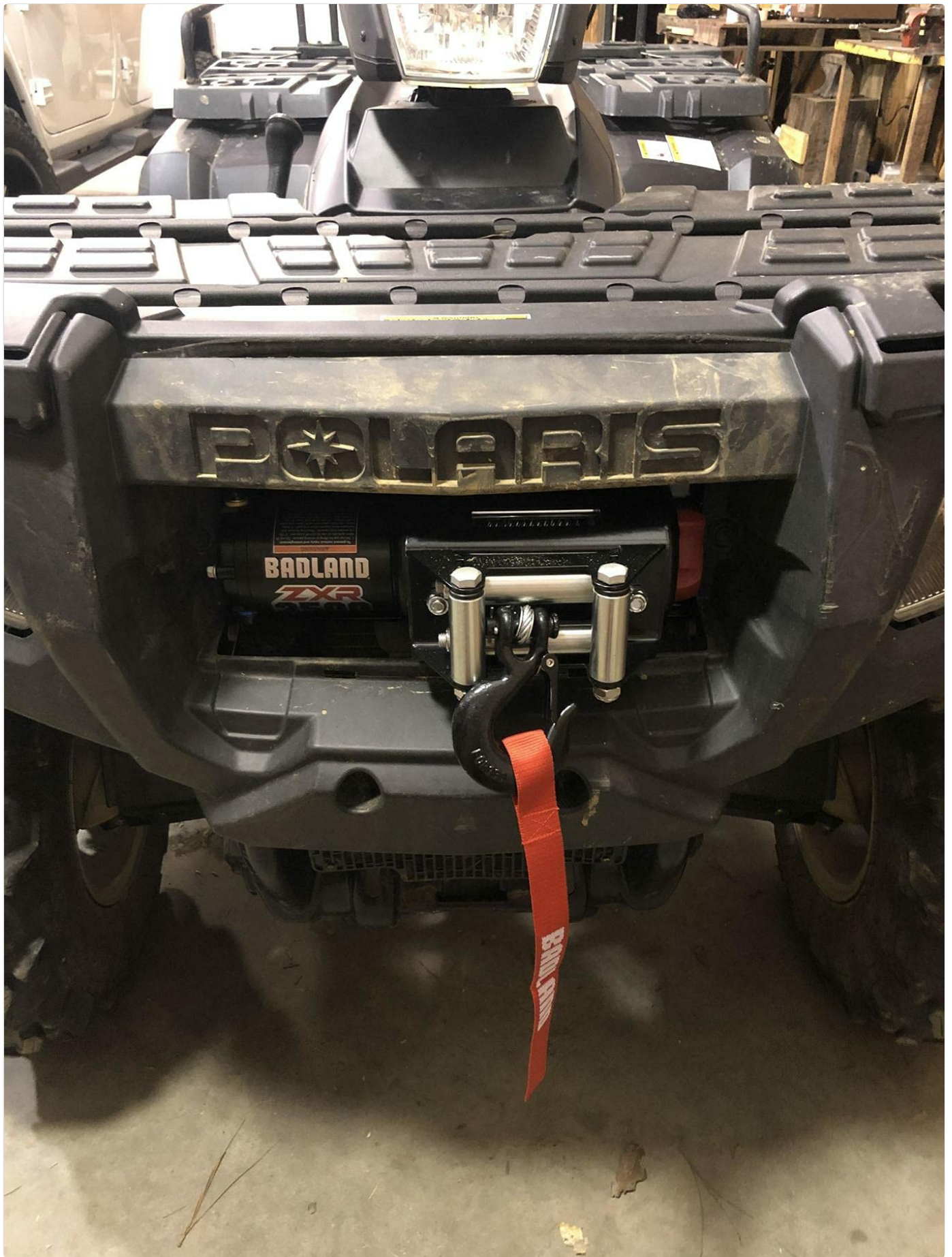


Image: The Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch and its various components laid out, including the winch unit, cables, remote, and accessories.

SETUP AND INSTALLATION

Proper installation is crucial for the safe and efficient operation of your winch. If you are unsure about any step, consult a qualified professional.

1. Mounting the Winch

The winch should be mounted to a sturdy mounting plate or directly to the vehicle's frame. Ensure the mounting surface can withstand the forces generated during winching operations. Use the provided mounting bolts and hardware to secure the winch.



Image: Close-up view of the Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch unit, showing the cable drum and engagement mechanism.

2. Installing the Fairlead

Attach the roller fairlead to the front of the mounting bracket. The fairlead guides the winch cable and reduces wear. Ensure it is securely fastened.

3. Electrical Connections

1. Connect the battery leads (red for positive, black for negative) to the appropriate terminals on your vehicle's 12V battery.
2. Install the resettable circuit breaker in line with the positive battery cable to protect the electrical system.
3. Connect the solenoid/relay assembly according to the wiring diagram provided in the full product manual. This unit controls the direction of the winch motor.
4. Connect the remote control wiring to the solenoid and the vehicle's ignition system as instructed.
5. Use the provided rubber boots to cover all exposed electrical terminals to prevent short circuits and corrosion.

4. Remote Control and Handlebar Mount

The wired remote control allows for safe operation from a distance. If installing on an ATV, use the provided handlebar mount to secure the remote switch for easy access.



Image: The wired remote control for the Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch, used for controlling winch operations.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Familiarize yourself with the winch's controls and functions before attempting any recovery operations.

1. Engaging and Free Spooling

- To **Free Spool** the cable (pull out manually), disengage the clutch mechanism, typically by rotating a knob or lever on the winch housing. This allows the cable to be pulled out freely.
- To **Engage** the winch for powered operation, re-engage the clutch mechanism. Ensure it is fully engaged before applying power.

2. Winching Operation

1. Unspool enough cable to reach your anchor point.
2. Attach the winch hook securely to the shackle, which is connected to your anchor point (e.g., tree saver strap).
3. Ensure the cable is spooled evenly and tightly on the drum.
4. Using the wired remote control, press the appropriate button to spool the cable **IN** or **OUT**.
5. Operate the winch in short bursts, allowing the motor to cool between cycles.
6. Always maintain tension on the cable to prevent kinks or tangles.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will extend the life and ensure the reliability of your winch.

- **Cable Inspection:** Regularly inspect the winch cable for frays, kinks, or damage. Replace the cable if any damage is found.
- **Electrical Connections:** Check all electrical connections for tightness and corrosion. Clean terminals as needed.
- **Lubrication:** Refer to the full product manual for specific lubrication points and schedules.
- **Cleaning:** Keep the winch unit clean from dirt, mud, and debris.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the winch in a dry, protected environment.

TROUBLESHOOTING

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

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Winch does not operate	No power to winch; loose electrical connections; tripped circuit breaker; faulty remote/solenoid.	Check battery connections; inspect wiring for damage; reset circuit breaker; test remote/solenoid.
Winch operates slowly or weakly	Low battery voltage; excessive load; corroded connections.	Charge battery; reduce load; clean battery terminals and connections.
Cable spools unevenly	Improper cable tension; damaged fairlead.	Maintain tension during spooling; inspect and replace fairlead if damaged.

SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** Badland 3500 Lb. ATV Powersport 12V Winch
- **Manufacturer:** Harbor Freight Tools
- **Rated Line Pull:** 3500 Lb.
- **Voltage:** 12V DC
- **Brake Type:** Automatic Load-Holding Brake
- **Item Weight:** 28 pounds
- **Package Dimensions:** 15.16 x 10.59 x 8.9 inches
- **ASIN:** B091MTM3PT
- **Date First Available:** April 2, 2021

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information or technical support, please refer to the contact details provided with your purchase documentation or visit the official HFT website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

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