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AC-DK BH-3500-B

AC-DK 3500lb Heavy Duty Boat Trailer Winch Instruction Manual

Model: BH-3500-B

1. Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the safe and effective use of your AC-DK 3500lb Heavy Duty Boat Trailer Winch. Please read all instructions carefully before installation and operation to ensure proper function and prevent injury or damage. This winch is designed for pulling applications such as loading boats onto trailers, and is suitable for various vehicles including trucks, ATVs, RVs, and jet skis.



Image 1.1: AC-DK 3500lb Heavy Duty Boat Trailer Winch.

2. Safety Information

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

- **Do not exceed the rated capacity:** The winch has a maximum capacity of 3500 lbs. Overloading can cause winch failure and injury.
- **Inspect before use:** Before each use, check the winch, strap, and hook for any signs of wear, damage, or corrosion. Do not use if damaged.
- **Secure mounting:** Ensure the winch is securely mounted to a stable surface capable of withstanding the pulling force.
- **Keep hands clear:** Never place hands or fingers near moving parts, gears, or the strap during operation.
- **Wear protective gear:** Always wear appropriate safety gloves and eye protection.
- **Maintain control:** Always maintain a firm grip on the crank handle. Be aware of the ratchet mechanism and its

engagement.

- **Avoid sudden jerks:** Apply force smoothly and steadily. Sudden jerking can damage the winch or the item being pulled.
- **Keep bystanders away:** Ensure all bystanders are at a safe distance from the winch and the load during operation.
- **Do not use for lifting:** This hand winch is designed for pulling horizontally or on an incline, not for overhead lifting.

3. Package Contents

Verify that all components are present and undamaged upon unpacking.

- AC-DK 3500lb Hand Winch Unit
- 32ft x 2in Blue Polyester Strap with Hook
- Ergonomic Crank Handle (9.8 inches)
- Mounting Hardware (Bolts, Washers, Nuts)

4. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Model Number	BH-3500-B
Capacity	3500 lbs
Strap Length	32 ft
Strap Width	2 in
Strap Material	Polyester
Gear Ratios	4:1 / 8:1
Ratchet Type	2-Way (Forward/Reverse) with 3-Position Switch
Handle Length	9.8 inches
Construction Material	High-quality steel, galvanized finish
Product Dimensions	Approximately 9.6" L x 8" W x 6.9" H (Winch body)
Item Weight	11.84 pounds



Image 4.1: Product Dimensions.

5. Setup and Installation

Proper installation is crucial for the safe and effective operation of your winch.

1. **Choose Mounting Location:** Select a strong, stable mounting surface on your trailer or vehicle that can support the winch's maximum pulling force. Ensure the surface is flat and provides adequate clearance for the crank handle and strap.
2. **Drill Mounting Holes:** Use the winch base as a template to mark and drill appropriate holes for the mounting hardware. Ensure the holes are correctly sized for the provided bolts.
3. **Secure the Winch:** Position the winch on the mounting surface. Insert the provided bolts through the winch base and the drilled holes. Secure tightly with washers and nuts. Double-check all connections to ensure they are firm and stable.
4. **Attach Crank Handle:** Fasten the ergonomic crank handle to the winch shaft using the designated bolt and nut. Ensure it is securely attached and rotates freely.
5. **Strap Installation:** The 32ft blue polyester strap comes pre-installed on the winch drum. Ensure the strap is wound evenly and the hook is securely attached to the end of the strap.

6. Operating Instructions

Understand the winch's features for efficient and safe operation.

6.1 Gear Ratios (4:1 / 8:1)

This winch features two gear ratios to optimize pulling speed and effort. The 8:1 gear ratio provides more pulling power with less effort, ideal for heavier loads. The 4:1 gear ratio offers faster retrieval for lighter loads.



Image 6.1: Gear Ratios and Two-Way Ratchet.

6.2 Two-Way Ratchet Operation

The winch is equipped with a versatile 3-position ratchet switch to control the direction of the strap.

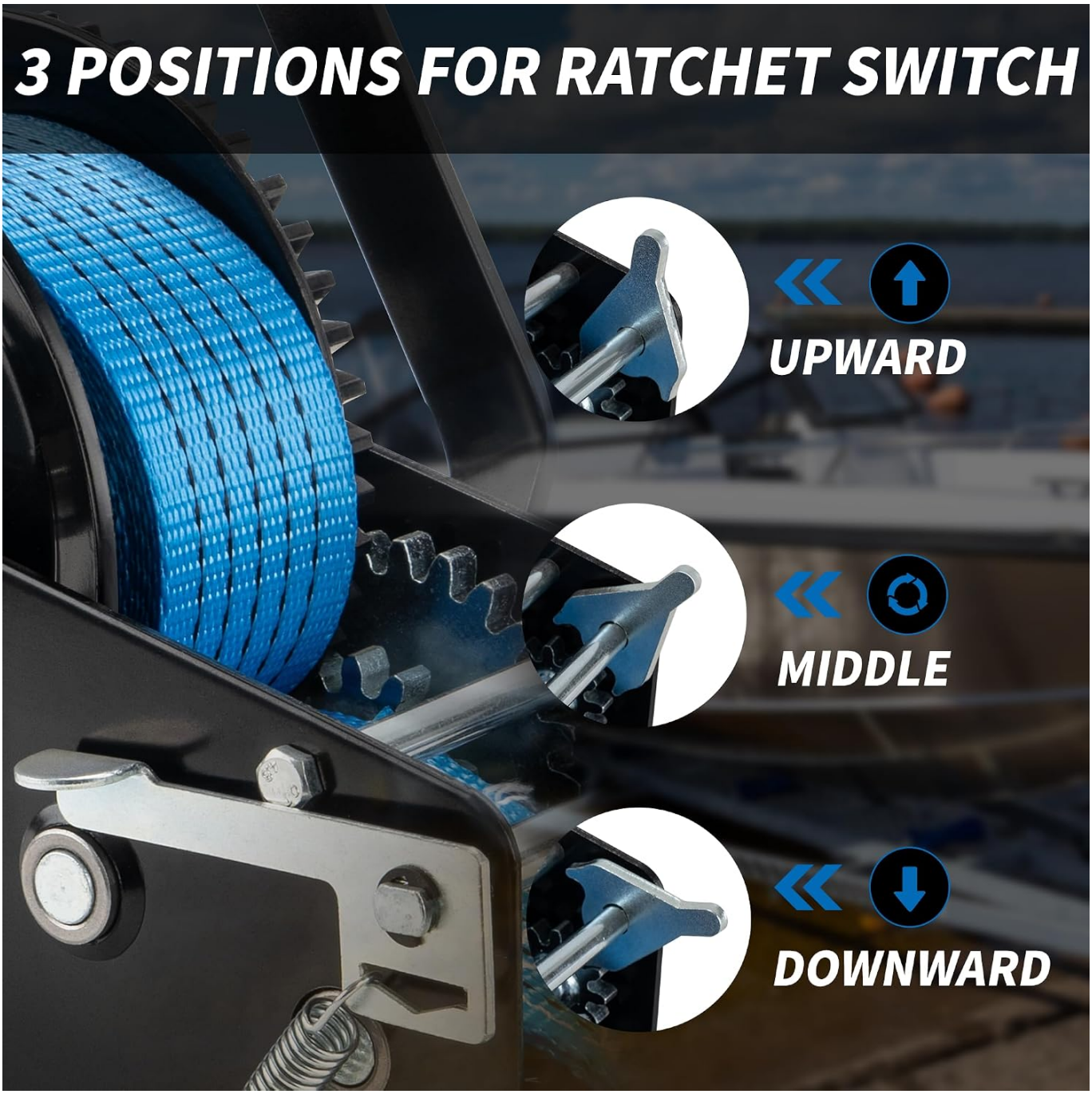


Image 6.2: Ratchet Switch Positions.

- **Upward Position (Pulling):** Move the ratchet switch to the upward position to engage the pulling mechanism. This allows the strap to be wound onto the drum when the handle is cranked, preventing backward movement.
- **Downward Position (Releasing):** Move the ratchet switch to the downward position to engage the releasing mechanism. This allows the strap to unwind from the drum when the handle is cranked, preventing forward movement.
- **Middle Position (Neutral/Unloaded Only):** The middle position disengages the ratchet, allowing the drum to spin freely. **This position should only be used when the winch is unloaded. Never switch to the middle position under load, as it can cause the load to drop suddenly and result in severe injury or damage.**

To operate:

1. Ensure the winch is securely mounted and the strap is properly attached to the load.
2. Select the desired gear ratio if applicable (some models have fixed ratios or require manual adjustment).
3. For pulling, set the ratchet switch to the **Upward** position. Crank the handle clockwise to pull the load.
4. For releasing, set the ratchet switch to the **Downward** position. Crank the handle counter-clockwise to release the load slowly and controlled.

5. Always maintain a firm grip on the handle and control the speed of operation.

7. Maintenance

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

- **Cleaning:** After each use, especially in saltwater environments, rinse the winch with fresh water to remove salt, dirt, and debris. Dry thoroughly to prevent corrosion.
- **Lubrication:** Periodically apply a light coat of marine-grade grease or lubricant to all moving parts, including gears, pawls, and shaft bearings.
- **Strap Inspection:** Regularly inspect the polyester strap for cuts, fraying, excessive wear, or UV damage. Replace the strap immediately if any damage is found.
- **Hook Inspection:** Check the hook for deformation, cracks, or a malfunctioning safety latch. Replace if damaged.
- **Mounting Hardware:** Periodically check all mounting bolts and nuts for tightness. Re-tighten as necessary.
- **Storage:** Store the winch in a dry, protected area when not in use to prevent exposure to harsh weather conditions.

8. Troubleshooting

Refer to this section for common issues and their solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Winch is difficult to crank	Overload; Lack of lubrication; Damaged gears	Reduce load; Lubricate moving parts; Inspect and replace damaged gears if necessary.
Strap does not wind or unwind smoothly	Strap tangled or unevenly wound; Debris in mechanism; Damaged strap	Unwind and re-wind strap evenly; Clean any debris; Replace damaged strap.
Ratchet mechanism slips or does not engage	Pawl not engaging properly; Worn pawl or gear teeth; Debris	Ensure ratchet switch is fully engaged; Clean mechanism; Inspect and replace worn parts.
Winch makes unusual noises	Lack of lubrication; Loose components; Damaged gears	Lubricate all moving parts; Check and tighten all fasteners; Inspect gears for damage.

If you encounter issues not listed here or if solutions do not resolve the problem, contact customer support.

9. Warranty and Support

For warranty information or technical support, please refer to the contact details provided with your purchase or visit the official AC-DK website. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

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