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EP9—X9, or any other 9,000 lb winch come to that

It's your choice!

By David Bowyer

Since the Superwinch EP9 series was first spoken about and indeed launched over four years ago, there have been a great number of choices on which winch to have in this class.

Generally speaking, low profile electric winches in the 9,000 lb (4,000Kg) category are either made in the USA or China. America was indeed the largest producer of winches, the 'big three' being Superwinch, Warn and Ramsey.

During the last three or four years, China has come up through the ranks with copies of Warn and Ramsay winches—or a mixture of both—in the form of T-Max, Champion, Britpart, Mikemarker (all GEW / KEW winches) and finally Come Up and the Superwinch EP9 series. Quite a choice.

Some of these winches are shown as 9,500 lb, but quite frankly, 500 lb difference in pulling power on the first layer is minimal. The difference is usually the fitting of a very slightly larger motor. But as we must all know by now, unless you have a super duper double battery supply with a huge alternator you are not going to get the benefit of having a six point something HP motor. You also know that if you want some grunt in pulling power, you simply use a swingaway snatchblock located on the rigging to more or less halve the current drawn.

Along with a colleague who has spent a considerable time researching this category of winches, we have listed manufacturers data in respect of the rated line pull of each and every model along with motor power, line speed and current draw from no load right through to 9,000 lb (or 9,500 lb as appropriate) as well as pull by layer.

All I can say is that this is a well researched document giving a vast amount of detail which, when the average selling price is added into the equation, a number of points come to light.

And guess what, based on the average selling price, quality of its motor, solenoids, gearbox and brake system the Superwinch EP9 and EPi9 come out tops. It's the second fastest (beaten only by the Warn 9.5 ti/si which costs considerably more).

At both half load and full load, the EP9 series is well up in the top third. Whilst on the current draw tables taking sample readings from no load up to full load the EP9 series also comes up tops beating everything else whatever the price.

In the pull by layer tables based on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th layers the EP series is only narrowly beaten by the Warn 9.5XP, again a model that costs considerably more. I have realised for nearly three years now that the EP9 series has given remarkable service to a great number of clients and users right across Europe. We have never had any major problems, in fact literally nothing to speak of at all. So in the reliability stakes, our clients have more than produced a record second to none.

I have to say that we have been told that there have been enormous problems out there in the world that the slightly cheaper winches from the Far East are riddled with built in faults, namely with motor, gearbox, freespool and solenoid problems.

So there you have it, my personal thoughts have most definitely been confirmed by not only the knowledge that I have gained, but by research as well by a colleague who simply wanted to buy the best value for money winch, but with built in quality, reliability, and longevity as well. Needless to say he bought an EP9 from us and he lives in Europe.

So back to 'your choice'. You could pay a lot more, but not get very good value for money as you do with the Superwinch EP9 series. You could pay a bit less and get terrible value for money in the form of a not so well built winch that has nowhere near the features of an EP9.

I rest my case, but it's your hard earned money you are spending. Don't fall into the trap of buying the cheapest, when another £100 or so buys you a truly remarkable winch that was designed with giving a great number of features with you in mind.

Take a look at our EP9 literature on www.goodwinch.com



EP9



EPi9