

# JUST ADD DIRT

## Parts Review

### KFI Winch; 3000 lb with Steel Cable: Part I

by Jeffrey Gates

Are you tired of paying top dollar for a so-called high quality winch only to have it leave you stuck in the mud? If so, Kappers Fabricating Inc.(KFI) products may be the answer to your woes. They offer a great product and impressive value.



The KFI 3000 lb winch looks right at home installed on my 2007 Grizzly 700

I need to begin by admitting that I do not have vast experience with multiple types of winches. In fact, I am limited to three different brands. Each of these winches have several features in common. They all offer power in, power out and a free spool lock in/ lock out. The free spool lock in/lock out feature allows the cable to be pulled rather than powered out for quick "hook up". While each product has offered the same features, they have certainly varied in their design and craftsmanship.

I have disassembled a few winches to check out the

"guts", maintain, and to repair. In my experience, the things that can go wrong in the field, and the resultant length of time your winch will last is directly related to how well it's designed and built. With regards to the KFI winch, this is what I have found:

First, if there is a chance for the cable to get between the edge of the spool and the housing, it will happen at some time. Winching off center at extreme angle will do it every time. To eliminate this condition KFI, has a lip or an edge of the winch housing that extends over the edge of the spool. This simple manufacturing detail will prohibit the cable from breaking the spool by getting jammed tight next to the housing . To further protection from this condition, KFI includes a roller fairlead with their #3000 model. This is one problem solved.

Second, the construction of the product itself will lead to a longer useful life. KFI has elected to cast the winch housing from aluminum rather than using plastic as many other manufacturers do. This will reduce housing deflection and protect the motor well, helping to lead to longer, more reliable product life. The



The KFI winch slips right into the front of my Grizzly. Also notice the lip that extends over the edge of the winch housing. This will help to keep the cable from breaking the spool..

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disassembly of the KFI is simple as most and easier than some, and are built of parts that appear to be designed to last.

Third, the price must be competitive with the competition, this is the finest detail of a KFI product. The value of any product is its worth versus its cost. KFI beats all others in this category hands down. I will not mention other winch brands I have worked with but I can say that the others were more costly than the KFI winch. If you are in the market for one of these products and you don't check KFI, Products, Inc. at [KFIproducts.com](http://KFIproducts.com) before you purchase, you may have made a costly mistake.

Keep in mind that the life of your winch will always depend on the maintenance you give it, winches spend much of their time in the mud and water.



The remote connection installed easily and looks professional.

In fact they are under water more often than your feet. Think about this when you are working on your ATV.

As for all products, it must endure the test of time, keep an eye on Just Add Dirt Rider Reviews for a follow up report on this product. My initial impression is that this product is most certainly Dirt Worthy!



Note how the main power cable is tucked out of the way far enough for any but the gnarliest of terrain. Also pay attention to the quality locking hardware

| Initial Impression: Dirt Worthy |  |  | 96    |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-------|
|                                 | Compliments:   | Complaints:  | Score |
| Fitment / Installation:         | Quality hardware, direct bolt-on   | Wiring/Electrical routing not for beginners          | 9/10  |
| Design/Features:                | Unique, made for longevity in harsh conditions, fully functional               | Appearance doesn't immediately stand out as special. | 28/30 |
| Quality:                        | Metal construction. Good tolerances.   | none   | 20/20 |
| Price:                          | Super deal for the money   | none   | 20/20 |
| Business Profile                | Family-owned Minnesota company; priorities are quality & customer satisfaction | Relatively unknown in the industry                   | 9/10  |

Link is available through [www.just-add-dirt.com](http://www.just-add-dirt.com) or visit them directly at [www.KFIproducts.com](http://www.KFIproducts.com)