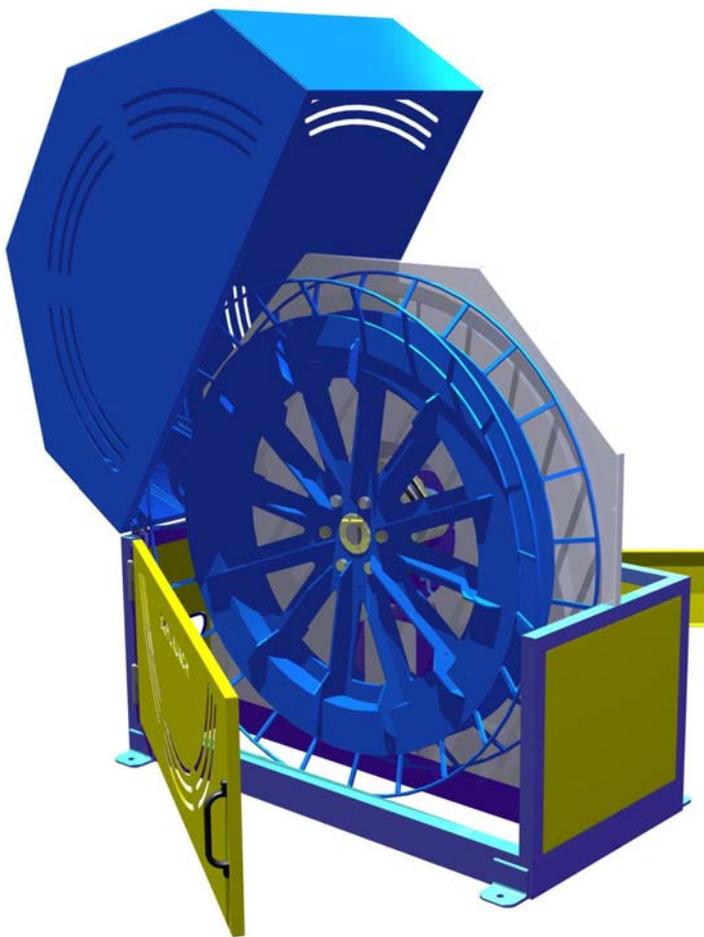


Skylaunch Ltd., the glider winch manufacturer located in the UK, has been offering a new platform recently called the Skydrive, complimenting its popular Skylaunch 2 and 3 models. Skydrive is a modular system allowing to arrange any expandable number of cable drums side by side.

The Skylaunch Skydrive drum module contains a cable drum drive, brake system, reduction drive etc to enable clubs to make their own winch at low price, quickly and easily. Skylaunch provide help and advice to ensure the club makes a successful final product.



The Skydrive drum module is manufactured using Skylaunch proven designs and components.

Prices start from €15,700

Complete winches using Skydrive modules

A) Skydrive SD (Single Drum) - a winch ready to launch at a budget price.



SD utilises the Skylaunch 2/3 proven components and the Skydrive drum module to produce a simple, easy to use winch, with all the performance and accuracy of the more expensive models.

Launching with one cable can be efficient as it uses a midfield cable retrieve method to reduce time, cable wear and distance for travelling retrieve vehicle. Launch rates can be 10-15 per hour, depending on airfield length etc.

Skydrive SD can be used with the Skylaunch high speed cable retrieve winch system, to give launch rates of up to 30 gliders per hour.



Above; Skylaunch Cable Retrieve Winch and Skylaunch 2 at the National Gliding Centre, Terlet, Netherlands

Prices for complete Skydrive SD winches “ready to launch” start from €46,798

B) Skydrive 1D - 6D (One to six drums)



This complete winch also features standard Skylaunch 2/3 components.

- Skylaunch throttle control system with presets for glider type and head wind component, to ensure safe and accurate launches with low operator skill.

- Standard disc brake system for the cable drums with automatic tow-out brakes.
- Hardened spline couplings for reliable and easy drum selection with the engine on or off.
- High power, spring operated cable guillotines suitable for any cable type.
- Self adjusting cable pulley/roller guide system with hardened steel or plastic pulleys, to suit all cable types.
- High strength cable drums will hold up to 3000m and are suitable for any cable material.

Components are in a different layout to Skylaunch 2 and 3, giving the option of more than 2 drums.

Modular design allows clubs to add more cable drums in the future, depending on their requirements or funds available.

Skylaunch has emphasised accessibility and simplicity is an important feature, especially with multi drum winches.

Low level of the winch and cable entry/exit gives extra safety, comfort and convenience.

Standard models are fitted with 8.2 Litre GM V8 engines supplying 415 hp. In Skylaunch's programme, they have proven to be the most popular, cost effective and reliable power units.

Most of them are powered by propane (LPG). Skylaunch also offer petrol and diesel models.

All winch models can be lorry or trailer mounted.

Open or fully closed cab with laminated safety glass, heater, upholstery etc. are options.

Electronic powered Skylaunches are planned. They will be offered as soon as the technology of electric drives has evolved in a way that they can ensure the same quality, quantity and economy of launches provided by the standard GM V8 models.

Prices start from €56,798 for Skydrive 1D

To €163,083 for Skydrive 6D

Skylaunch winches HQ is based in Central England with an agency in Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Skylaunch has been producing glider winches for 20 years and have more than 70 winches in 12 countries across Europe, Asia and South America. Skylaunches are all designed by a panel of 4 experts, including professional winch drivers, engineers, and Glider/Airline pilots with a combined experience of over 100 years and 400,000 glider launches.