Forklift Starter and Alternator

Forklift Starters and Alternators - Today's starter motor is typically a permanent-magnet composition or a series-parallel wound direct current electrical motor with a starter solenoid installed on it. When current from the starting battery is applied to the solenoid, basically via a key-operated switch, the solenoid engages a lever that pushes out the drive pinion which is positioned on the driveshaft and meshes the pinion using the starter ring gear that is seen on the engine flywheel.

Once the starter motor starts to turn, the solenoid closes the high-current contacts. Once the engine has started, the solenoid has a key operated switch which opens the spring assembly to pull the pinion gear away from the ring gear. This particular action causes the starter motor to stop. The starter's pinion is clutched to its driveshaft by means of an overrunning clutch. This permits the pinion to transmit drive in only one direction. Drive is transmitted in this particular way through the pinion to the flywheel ring gear. The pinion continuous to be engaged, like for example since the driver did not release the key as soon as the engine starts or if the solenoid remains engaged as there is a short. This actually causes the pinion to spin separately of its driveshaft.

This aforementioned action stops the engine from driving the starter. This is actually an essential step as this particular type of back drive will enable the starter to spin very fast that it would fly apart. Unless adjustments were done, the sprag clutch arrangement would preclude making use of the starter as a generator if it was utilized in the hybrid scheme discussed earlier. Normally a regular starter motor is intended for intermittent utilization that would prevent it being utilized as a generator.

The electrical parts are made in order to work for around 30 seconds to be able to prevent overheating. Overheating is caused by a slow dissipation of heat is because of ohmic losses. The electrical components are intended to save cost and weight. This is really the reason the majority of owner's instruction manuals intended for automobiles recommend the operator to stop for a minimum of 10 seconds right after each and every ten or fifteen seconds of cranking the engine, whenever trying to start an engine that does not turn over instantly.

During the early part of the 1960s, this overrunning-clutch pinion arrangement was phased onto the market. Before that time, a Bendix drive was used. The Bendix system works by placing the starter drive pinion on a helically cut driveshaft. Once the starter motor starts turning, the inertia of the drive pinion assembly enables it to ride forward on the helix, hence engaging with the ring gear. When the engine starts, the backdrive caused from the ring gear enables the pinion to surpass the rotating speed of the starter. At this instant, the drive pinion is forced back down the helical shaft and hence out of mesh with the ring gear.

During the 1930s, an intermediate development between the Bendix drive was made. The overrunning-clutch design which was developed and launched in the 1960s was the Bendix Folo-Thru drive. The Folo-Thru drive has a latching mechanism along with a set of flyweights in the body of the drive unit. This was an improvement in view of the fact that the typical Bendix drive used so as to disengage from the ring as soon as the engine fired, even though it did not stay running.

Once the starter motor is engaged and begins turning, the drive unit is forced forward on the helical shaft by inertia. It then becomes latched into the engaged position. When the drive unit is spun at a speed higher than what is attained by the starter motor itself, for instance it is backdriven by the running engine, and afterward the flyweights pull outward in a radial manner. This releases the latch and enables the overdriven drive unit to become spun out of engagement, thus unwanted starter disengagement could be prevented before a successful engine start.