Pulleys

© Evan P. Silberstein, 2014



WRITE DOWN

A pulley is a grooved wheel with rope or cable.

Types of Pulleys

inout

output

- A fixed pulley is a pulley that doesn't move, and changes the direction of the applied force.
- A moveable pulley is a pulley that is supported by strands of rope along which it slides.

What Gives a Pulley its Mechanical Advantage?

- Imagine twins are holding a 1,000 N weight with a rope.
 - How much force does each twin exert? 500 N
- Imagine one of the twins is replaced by a tree.
 - How much force does the remaining twin exert? 500 N
 - What is the mechanical advantage of the rope? 2
- The number of supporting strands of rope determines the mechanical advantage.

So, What's the Pulley For?

Ahh!

Better!

strands

- The mechanical advantage comes from the supporting strands of rope.
- The pulley is a grooved wheel that glides along the rope.

The pulley reduces friction.

More on Mechanical Advantage?

Supporting

strand

DOWN

A fixed pulley has one supporting strand.
The mechanical advantage is 1.

Supporting strand

Supporting

strand

A moveable pulley has two supporting strands. • The mechanical advantage is 2.

Pulley Systems

WRITE DOWN

A pulley system containing both fixed and moveable pulleys is called a block and tackle.
The IMA is equal to the number of supporting strands of rope.



Pulley Problems

NRITE

Refer to the diagram of the pulley system to the right:

- What is the mechanical advantage?
 3
- How much force is needed to lift a 60 N load?

$$\frac{F_{out}}{MA} = \frac{60 \text{ N}}{3}$$

• How much rope will need to be pulled out to lift the load 75 cm?

 $d_{in} = MA \times d_{out} = 3 \times 75 \text{ cm} = 225 \text{ cm}$

= 20 N

MA

 d_{in}