12. O-ring Gland Design

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Save time calculating and designing O-ring grooves and verify the O-ring sealing performance by checking parameters like o-ring compression, free groove volume, o-ring inner diameter stretch and even much more.

The ERIKS O-ring design calculator features the calculation of:
- o-ring dimensions for the use in a specific groove
- groove dimensions for the use of a specific o-ring
- evaluation of both, any combination of o-ring and groove

for axial seals with inner or outer pressure, piston seals and rod seals.

Worldwide unique online calculation tool taking into consideration of the thermal expansion of the groove and the O-ring. As well as the chemical volume swell or shrinkage of the O-ring.

Choose between more than 30 groove materials and 11 O-ring compounds!

Benefit from a modern user friendly design and be guided from design recommendations from info boxes.

- Easy to use
- PDF output
- Saving of your designs
- Easy search for ERIKS standard O-rings
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The following pages contain basic O-ring gland design information. Please contact the local ERIKS representative if an application does not clearly fall into these design parameters.

Static Applications
There are five types of static O-ring applications:
• Flange seal
• Radial seal
• Dovetail seal
• Boss seal
• Crush seal

Flange Seal (Axial Seal)
In flange seal glands, the two flanges are assembled with metal to metal contact. So in fact there is no remarkable gap and no risk for extrusion of the O-ring as long as the construction does not deform under system pressure. (fig. 1-26).

When system pressure is from the outside, the groove inside diameter is of primary importance and the groove width then determines the outside diameter. When system pressure is from the inside the reverse is true.

Radial Seal
Because the metal parts are pressed or screwed together there is always a clearance gap with risk for extrusion. (fig. 1-27).

Dovetail seal
Also here there is a metal to metal contact as long as the construction will not deform under system pressure. (fig. 1-30).

Boss seal
The groove dimensions are incorporated in the standard dimensions.

Surface Finish Static Grooves
Straight-sided grooves are best to prevent extrusion or nibbling. Five degree sloping sides are easier to machine and are suitable for lower pressures. Surface finishes up to 64 to 125 RMS with no burrs, nicks, or scratches are recommended.

The method used to produce the finish is important. If the finish is produced by machining the part on a lathe, or by some other method that produces scratches and ridges that follow the direction of the machine head, a very rough surface will still seal effectively.

Other methods, however, such as end milling, will produce scratches that cut across the O-ring. Even these may have a rather high roughness value if the profile across them shows rounded scratches that the rubber can readily flow into.
12. O-ring Gland Design

Dynamic Applications
There are three types of dynamic applications:
• Reciprocating Seal
• Oscillating Seal
• Rotating Seal

Application in reciprocating and oscillating motions
Groove dimensions for reciprocating and oscillating applications are the same.
Dynamic applications, due to the motion against the O-ring, are more complicated than static applications. Fluid compatibility must be more carefully scrutinized because a volume swell of more than 20% may lead to difficulties with high friction problems and only a minimum of shrinkage, at most 4%, can be tolerated to avoid leakage problems.
Because of the movement between the gland parts there always is a clearance gap with a potential risk for extrusion of the O-ring.
O-ring seals are best in dynamic applications when used on short stroke, relatively small diameter applications. Long stroke, large diameter seals are more susceptible to spiral failure.

Application of O-rings in rotary motions
In a rotating application a shaft continuously rotates in the inside diameter of the O-ring, causing friction and heat. Because rubber is a poor conductor of heat, the O-ring can lose its properties. To minimize or reduce wear, the following could be done; however consult the local ERIKS representative:
• confirm amount of squeeze.
• use the smallest possible cross section.
• select an O-ring with internal lubrication or use low friction minerals.
• do not exceed a temperature of 212°F (100°C).
• do not use a shaft which is larger than the inside diameter of the O-ring.
• provide lubrication.
• do not let the O-ring rotate in the groove, only relative to the shaft.
• rough sealing surfaces of the groove will prevent rotation.
• check surface finish (may be too rough)

Installing the O-ring
Mating metal surfaces are generally of different metals, with one metal being softer than the other. The O-ring groove should be put in the softer of the metals. In the event that the metals wear on each other the harder metal will be less damaged, thus insuring a good sealing surface.

Surface Finish for Dynamic Grooves
Straight-sided grooves are best to prevent extrusion or nibbling. Five degree sloping sides are easier to machine and are suitable for pressures up to 1500 psi. (100 bar). The rubbing surfaces should be 8 to 16 RMS without longitudinal or circumferential scratches. Best surfaces are honed, burnished, or hard chrome plated. Finishes of dynamic contacting surfaces have a lot to do with the life of the O-ring seals. Appropriate surface finishes are important. Limits of maximum roughness for glands are given. Rougher finishes will cause excessive wear. Finer finishes reduce lubrication to the O-ring and may result in stick slipping and irregular wear. Surface roughness values less than 5 micro inches (0,15µmRa) are not recommended for dynamic O-ring seals.
The surface must be rough enough to hold small amounts of oil. Finishes below 5 RMS wipe too clean for good moving seal life. Steel or cast iron cylinder bores are preferred. They should be thick enough not to expand or breathe with pressure, otherwise the radial clearance gap may expand and contract with pressure fluctuations-causing nibbling of the O-ring.
12. O-ring Gland Design

Friction
In normal applications harder materials provide less friction than softer materials. However, the higher the hardness of the O-ring, above 70 Shore A, the greater the friction. This is because the compressive force at the same squeeze, is greater than with softer materials.

Compound swell decreases the hardness and may increase friction. The lower the operating temperature the harder the seal becomes which can also increase friction. However, thermal contraction of the seal material which reduces effective squeeze may offset any increased friction caused by an increase of hardness.

Breakout friction is the force necessary to start relative motion. This is dependent upon the length of the time between cycles. It also depends on the surface finish of the metal, the rubber hardness, squeeze, and other friction-affecting factors. After standing 10 days, the breakout friction will be 2 to 5 times the friction of a seal under light load. Breakout friction can be reduced by utilizing softer O-ring or specially modified compounds.

Running friction depends on two factors: the force exerted on the ring's rubbing surface by the compression force of the squeeze and the force of the system's pressure against and tending to distort the O-ring into a 'D' shape. The former depends on the hardness of the O-ring, its percentage-squeeze and the length of the rubbing surface.

The surface over which the O-ring will slide also becomes very important. It must be hard and wear resistant, it must be sufficiently smooth that it will not abrade the rubber, and yet there must be minute pockets to hold lubricant. Soft metals like aluminum, brass, bronze, monel, and some stainless steels should be avoided. Metallic moving surfaces sealed by an O-ring preferably should never touch, but if they must, then the one containing the O-ring groove should be a soft bearing material. If excessive clearance is created, extrusion will result. If adequate squeeze has not been applied, leakage will result.

If friction is excessive a variety of possible solutions exist:

- Select a different O-ring hardness.
- Select a different O-ring material with improved coefficient of friction.
- Increase the groove depth.
- Consider the use of an alternate design of seal.
- Viton® has much lower friction than NBR or EPDM or Silicone.
- Check to ensure squeeze is within the recommended range.
- Do not reduce the squeeze below recommended levels in an attempt to reduce friction. The reduction in squeeze will cause the application to leak.

Seal extrusion
If the radial clearance gap between the sealing surface and the groove corners (clearance gap) is too large and the pressure exceeds the deformation limit of the O-ring, extrusion of the O-ring material will occur.

When this happens, the extruded material wears or frays with cycling and the seal starts to leak.

For extrusion and direction of pressure information for static seals see fig. 1-26. In a reciprocating application the tendency for extrusion will increase if friction and system pressure act on the O-ring in the same direction. Groove design can reduce the tendency for extrusion. See figures 1-32 a & b.

If the friction of the moving metal surface across the O-ring is in the same direction as the direction of the pressure, the O-ring will be dragged into the clearance gap more readily and thus extrude at about 35% of the pressure normally necessary to cause extrusion. By placing the groove in the opposite metal part, the friction will work against pressure.

One of the best ways to reduce extrusion is to use the back-up ring (see page 147).
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Groove depth and clearance gap
The right groove depth in O-ring applications is very important because it strongly influences the squeeze of the O-ring cross section. In the tables the groove depth always includes the machined groove depth and the clearance gap. The clearance gap influences the rate of extrusion. Because it is very difficult to measure the groove depth it is better to make the calculation with the bore, plug and groove diameter as stated below.

Seal Design
Seals are divided into three primary categories: Static Face or Flange, Static Radial type, and Dynamic Radial type. Face or Flange type seals have no clearance gap, but consist of a groove cut into one flange with a flat mating flange bolted together to give a surface to surface contact. Static Radial Seals and Dynamic Radial Seals require the presence of a diametrical clearance gap for installation.

There are two types of radial designs:
1. Male or Plug - the O-ring groove is located on a plug which is inserted into the housing or cylinder (fig. 1-23)
2. Female or Tube - the O-ring groove is located in the housing or cylinder and a tube is installed through the O-ring I.D. (fig. 1-24).

Male or Plug Seal design is based on the following factors (refer to fig. 1-23).
Bore Diameter (A)
Plug Diameter (H)
Groove Diameter (B)
Groove Width (F) as shown in the dimension tables.
Gland Depth (E) as shown in the dimension tables.

Mechanical Squeeze for the gland is determined by the bore diameter and the groove diameter in a plug or male type seal (fig. 23). The formula for determining the groove diameter (B) when the bore diameter (A) and gland depth (E) are known is:

\[ B_{\text{min.}} = A_{\text{min.}} - 2 \times E_{\text{max.}} \]
\[ B_{\text{max.}} = A_{\text{max.}} - 2 \times E_{\text{min.}} \]

Squeeze is measured from the bottom of the groove to the mating surface and includes the clearance gap. The following formula is used to determine the actual gland depth with tolerances:

Max. Gland Depth = max. bore minus min. groove diameter, divided by 2.
Min. Gland Depth = min. bore minus max. groove diameter, divided by 2.
12. O-ring Gland Design

Total Diametrical Clearance is the difference between the bore diameter (A) and the plug diameter (H) dimensions. Tolerances of the bore and plug diameters determine the maximum and minimum diametrical clearance gap. These values divided by two will give the radial maximum and minimum clearance gaps.

Female or Tube seals (fig 24) are based upon the following:
- Bore Diameter (A)
- Plug Diameter (H)
- Groove Diameter (D)
- Groove Width (F) as shown in the dimension tables.
- Gland Depth (E) as shown in the dimension tables.

Mechanical Squeeze for this type of seal is determined by the groove diameter (D) and the plug diameter (H). The formula for determining the groove diameter (D) when the plug diameter (H) and the groove depth (E) are known is:

\[ D_{\text{max.}} = H_{\text{max.}} + 2E_{\text{max.}} \]
\[ D_{\text{min.}} = H_{\text{min.}} + 2E_{\text{min.}} \]

Squeeze is measured from the bottom of the groove to the mating surface and includes the clearance gap. Use the following formula for determining the actual gland depth with tolerance:

\[ \text{Max. Gland Depth} = \frac{\text{Max. groove diameter minus min. plug diameter}}{2} \]
\[ \text{Min. Gland Depth} = \frac{\text{Min. groove diameter minus max. plug diameter}}{2} \]

In some constructions the clearance gap is equal on the whole circumference of the O-ring. This is total clearance with maximum eccentricity. If concentricity between piston and cylinder is rigidly maintained, radial clearance is diametrical clearance. In practice in most constructions, due to side loading and misalignment, on one spot of the O-ring circumference the clearance gap is minimum or even zero and on the opposite spot it will be maximum. This is total clearance with maximum eccentricity. (fig.20)

Please contact the local ERIKS representative for additional information on wear bands and bearing for improving concentricity.
12. O-ring Gland Design

The most effective and reliable sealing is generally provided with the diometrical clearance as shown in Table 3.B-1a. The maximum allowable gaps are indicated for 70° hardness O-rings with different cross sections without back-ups for reciprocating and static seals. These values correspond to a pressure of ca. 1200 PSI (80 bar) (8 MPa) at 70°F (21°C). When greater clearances occur, fig. 1-21 indicates conditions where O-ring seals may be used - depending on the fluid pressure and O-ring hardness. [See Table 3.B-1a]

Note: for silicone and fluorosilicone O-rings reduce all the clearances shown by 50%.

The diagram (fig. 1-21) gives a guide to the relation between hardness, pressure, clearance, and extrusion. This figure is based on NBR O-rings with a cross section of .139 inch (3,53 mm) without back up rings. When there is risk for extrusion use contoured hard rubber or plastic back-up rings. The results are based on tests at temperatures up to 70°C.

Selection of O-ring OD and ID

When selecting an O-ring ID (or an O-ring OD), consider first the stretch that will be included on the O-ring on final assembly. O-rings and grooves should be dimensioned to give acceptable stretch both on assembly and on pressurization. Table 3.C gives the O-ring/groove common dimensions for good sealing practice for several groove types.

For flange-type grooves with internal pressure, design the system so that on assembly, the O-ring OD seats onto the OD of the groove. Make sure that the O-ring OD is not larger than the groove OD to ensure a good seal. This will ensure best possible seal fit, and minimize stretch on assembly.

If the pressure direction is reversed, make sure that the O-ring ID seats onto the ID of the groove. Effectively, this ensures that when the system is pressurized the O-ring does not stretch.

In the case of a trapezoidal, or other irregularly shaped groove, first look at the pressure direction and then decide on how to minimize stretch. For the case of a trapezoidal section groove use the groove centroid as a base for determining a suitable O-ring ID. This ensures easy assembly and normally small stretch. In any case, initial stretch on assembly should not exceed 3%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross section</th>
<th>Max. clearance 70 Shore A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inch</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.070</td>
<td>1.0-2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.103</td>
<td>2.0-3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.139</td>
<td>3.0-4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.210</td>
<td>4.0-6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;.275</td>
<td>&gt;6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.B-1a Gland clearance in relation to hardness and O-ring cross section

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross section</th>
<th>Max. clearance 70 Shore A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>inch</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.070</td>
<td>.002 -.004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.103</td>
<td>.002 -.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.139</td>
<td>.002 -.006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.210</td>
<td>.003 -.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;.275</td>
<td>.004 -.010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.C - O-ring/groove common dimensions for good seal fit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seal type</th>
<th>Pressure Direction</th>
<th>Common seal/ groove dimensions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flange</td>
<td>Internal</td>
<td>OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flange</td>
<td>External</td>
<td>ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crush</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trapezoidal flange groove</td>
<td>Centroid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piston rod/housing</td>
<td>ID</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 A. Gland Design Static Axial Application
Gland Design for Static Application for O-rings with Axial Squeeze

Surface Finish X
- groove top and bottom:
  - for liquids
    \[ X = 32 \text{ micro inches} \ (0.8 \text{ µm } R_a) \]
  - for vacuum and gases
    \[ X = 16 \text{ micro inches} \ (0.4 \text{ µm } R_a) \]
- groove sides:
  \[ X = 63 \text{ micro inches} \ (1.6 \text{ µm } R_a) \]

Table AS C1 - Gland Dimensions (inches) Industrial Face or Flange Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O-ring Cross section</th>
<th>Gland Depth Axial Static In. E</th>
<th>Static Squeeze for Face Seals Actual In</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Groove Width W</th>
<th>Groove Radius R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominal</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td>Actual</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liquids</td>
<td>Vacuum &amp; Gases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/32</td>
<td>.103</td>
<td>.074/.080</td>
<td>.020/.032</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>.136/.142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These dimensions are intended primarily for face type seals and normal temperature applications.
12. O-ring Gland Design

Gland Design for Static Application for O-rings with Axial Squeeze
Face Seal Glands (METRIC)

O-rings which are compressed axially in a static application are also called flange seals. (see fig. 26 and 27).

Surface Finish X

groove top and bottom:
for liquids
X = 32 micro inches (0.8 µm Ra)

for vacuum and gases
X = 16 micro inches (0.4 µm Ra)

groove sides:
X = 63 micro inches (1.6 µm Ra)

---

Table 3.C-1 Gland Dimensions Static Application-Face Seal Glands-Metric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diam. mm</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>R</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISO 3601-1B</td>
<td>Tol. +/-</td>
<td>Gland Depth</td>
<td>Groove Width</td>
<td>Groove Radius</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.0 - 1.02</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.45</td>
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<td>0.90</td>
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<td>1.25 - 1.27</td>
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<td>0.94</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<td>1.07</td>
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<td>0.08</td>
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<td>0.02</td>
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<td>1.60 - 1.63</td>
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<td>0.2*</td>
<td>9.35</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>13.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</table>

* not defined in ISO 3601/1

---

Fig. 1-26

Pressure outside Pressure inside

Fig. 1-27 a

x = surface finish µm Ra
break corner app. R = .005 (0,15)

groove depth incl. gap

---

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12. O-ring Gland Design

12 B. Gland Design Static Radial Application

Gland Design for Static Application for O-rings with Radial Squeeze
Industrial Radial Glands INCHES

Surface Finish X

- groove top and bottom:
  - for liquids
    - \( X = 32 \text{ micro inches (0.8 \mu m Ra)} \)
  - for vacuum and gases
    - \( X = 16 \text{ micro inches (0.4 \mu m Ra)} \)
- groove sides:
  - \( X = 63 \text{ micro inches (1.6 \mu m Ra)} \)

---

**Table AS.C2 Gland Dimensions Static Seals - Industrial Radial Applications (Inches)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O-ring Cross section W</th>
<th>Gland Depth. Radial Static E</th>
<th>Static Squeeze for Radial Seals</th>
<th>Clearance %</th>
<th>Groove Diameter Standard F</th>
<th>One Backup Washer (^2)</th>
<th>Two Backup Washers (^2)</th>
<th>Groove Radius R</th>
<th>Max. Allowable Eccentricity (^1)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominal 1/16</td>
<td>.070</td>
<td>.050/.052</td>
<td>.015/.023</td>
<td>.002 min.</td>
<td>.093/.098</td>
<td>.138/.143</td>
<td>.005/.015</td>
<td>.005/.015</td>
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</table>

1. Total Indicator Reading between groove and adjacent bearing surface.
2. These groove dimensions are for compounds that free swell less than 15%. Suitable allowances should be made for higher swell compounds. * For max. allowable clearance, refer to fig. 22 to determine value based upon pressure requirement and compound hardness.
* Maximum clearance should be reduced by 1/2 for compounds exhibiting poor strength such as silicone and fluorosilicone.
Male plug dimensions and female throat (bore) dimensions must be calculated based upon maximum and minimum clearance gaps.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 B. Gland Design Static Radial Application

Gland Design for Static Application for O-rings with Radial Squeeze
Industrial Radial Glands INCHES

Surface Finish X
groove top and bottom:
for liquids
X = 32 micro inches (0.8 µm Ra)

for vacuum and gases
X = 16 micro inches (0.4 µm Ra)
groove sides:
X = 63 micro inches (1.6 µm Ra)

Fig. 1-28

<table>
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</table>

* not defined in ISO 3601/1

**Fig. 1-27 a**

x = surface finish µ Ra

Groove depth is incl. gap

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12. O-ring Gland Design

12 C. Gland Design Dovetail Grooves

Gland Design for a Static Application; for O-rings in Dovetail Grooves, INCHES

Dovetail grooves are used to hold the O-ring in place during installation or maintenance. This groove design is relatively uncommon as it is expensive to machine and should not be used unless absolutely required. The dovetail groove construction is only recommended for O-rings with cross sections of .139 inch (3.53 mm) and larger.

Surface Finish X

- Groove top and bottom:
  - For liquids: $X = 32$ micro inches ($0.8 \mu m$ Ra)
  - For vacuum and gases: $X = 16$ micro inches ($0.4 \mu m$ Ra)

- Groove sides:
  - $X = 63$ micro inches ($1.6 \mu m$ Ra)

Table AS.C3 Gland Dimensions Dovetail Grooves, INCHES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O-ring Cross section W</th>
<th>Gland Depth. E</th>
<th>Squeeze %</th>
<th>Groove Width to Sharp Corner F</th>
<th>Groove Radius</th>
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<td>.081/.083</td>
<td>.083/.087</td>
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<td>.113/.117</td>
<td>.010/.030</td>
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<td>.275</td>
<td>.231/.234</td>
<td>.231/.235</td>
<td>.015/.060</td>
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</table>

Radius ‘R2’ is critical. Insufficient radius will cause damage to the seal during installation, while excessive radius may contribute to extrusion. R2 is size radius, R1 is machining radius.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 C. Gland Design Dovetail Grooves

Gland Design for a Static Application for O-rings in Dovetail Grooves, METRIC

Dovetail grooves are used to hold the O-ring in place during installation or maintenance. This groove design is relatively uncommon as it is expensive to machine and should not be used unless absolutely required.

The dovetail groove construction is only recommended for O-rings with bigger cross sections, .139 inch (3,53 mm) and bigger.

Surface Finish X

- Groove top and bottom: for liquids
  \( X = 32 \) micro inches (0.8 \( \mu \)m Ra)

- Groove sides: for vacuum and gases
  \( X = 16 \) micro inches (0.4 \( \mu \)m Ra)

Table 3.C-3 Gland Dimensions Dovetail Grooves, METRIC

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<th>E +/-0.05</th>
<th>F +/-0.05</th>
<th>( \alpha +/-1^\circ )</th>
<th>R₁</th>
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Fig. 1-30

Groove dimensions are to be seen as an advice due to the fact they are based on our experience.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 D. Gland Design for Static Boss Seals

O-ring boss Gaskets for Straight Thread Tube Fittings

The 900-series of dash numbers identify the size of boss seals. The digits after the 9 identify the nominal tube size in 16ths of an inch. The tube size is the outside diameter (OD). For example, size 903 is intended for use with 3/16-inch OD tube.

### Boss Dimensions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AS 568 O-ring Size Nr.</th>
<th>Cross-section</th>
<th>I.D. Ø</th>
<th>Tube Outside Ø</th>
<th>Thread</th>
<th>J min. THD Depth</th>
<th>D min.</th>
<th>U +.005 -.000</th>
<th>K +.015 -.000</th>
<th>Y min.</th>
<th>P min.</th>
<th>Z ±.010</th>
<th>O min.</th>
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<td>5/16-24 UNF-2B</td>
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<td>.062</td>
<td>.358</td>
<td>.074</td>
<td>.672</td>
<td>.010</td>
<td>.468</td>
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<td>3/8-24 UNF-2B</td>
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<td>.421</td>
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### Fitting End Dimensions (MS33656)

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<th>Tube Outside Ø</th>
<th>Thread</th>
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<th>D max.</th>
<th>U ±.010</th>
<th>K ±.015 -.000</th>
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<td>.239 ± .005</td>
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<tr>
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12. O-ring Gland Design

12 E. Gland Design Dynamic Hydraulic

Gland Design for Dynamic Application
Hydraulic
INCHES

The following table indicates groove dimensions for reciprocating and oscillating applications when sealing hydraulic fluids and other viscous liquids.

**Surface Finish X**
groove top and bottom:
X = 16 micro inches (0.4 µm Ra)

groove sides:
X = 32 micro inches (0.8 µm Ra)

---

**Table AS.D1 Gland Dimensions Dynamic Seals - Industrial Reciprocating Applications, Inches**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>.139</td>
<td>.121/.123</td>
<td>.012/.022</td>
<td>9/16</td>
<td>+.003 min.</td>
<td>.187/192</td>
<td>.208/213</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>.275</td>
<td>.237/240</td>
<td>.029/.044</td>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>+.004 min.</td>
<td>.375/380</td>
<td>.408/413</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Total Indicator Reading between groove and adjacent bearing surface.
2. These groove widths are for compounds that free swell less than 15%. Suitable allowances should be made for higher swell compounds.
3. Groove width is based on rubber backups. For groove width with pdfe spiral wound backups see table 3.D-2.
4. For max. allowable clearance, refer to table 13.A to determine value based upon pressure requirement and compound durometer.
5. The piston dimension for male glands must be calculated by using the max. gap derived from the extrusion table 13.A and the min. gap listed above.
6. The bore diameter for female glands must be calculated by using the max. gap derived from the extrusion table 13.A and the min. gap listed above.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 E. Gland Design Dynamic Hydraulic

Gland Design for Dynamic Application
Hydraulic
METRIC

The following table indicates groove dimensions for reciprocating and oscillating applications when sealing hydraulic fluids and other viscous liquids.

Surface Finish X
groove top and bottom:
X = 16 micro inches (0.4 µm Ra)

groove sides:
X = 32 micro inches (0.8 µm Ra)

<table>
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<td>Diam.</td>
<td>Tol. +/- ISO 3601-1B</td>
<td>in mm</td>
<td>Tol. -0/+</td>
<td>Tol. -0/+</td>
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<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.02</td>
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<td>0.80</td>
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<td>9.0</td>
<td>0.2*</td>
<td>7.92</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>12.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.2*</td>
<td>8.80</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>13.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not defined in ISO 3601/1
** For groove width with back-up rings for O-rings AS 568A, see table 3.D-2. For groove width with back-up rings for metric O-rings, ask for more information.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 F. Groove Design for Static and Dynamic Applications when using Back-up Rings

The use of Back-up rings
Extrusion occurs when part of the O-ring material is forced through the gap between mating metal parts because of system pressure.

Extrusion can be prevented in several ways:
- Reducing the gap will help prevent extrusion.
- A harder O-ring material i.e. NBR 90 Shore, FKM 90 or 95 Shore A, AU, EU, PUR (Polyurethane) can be used to prevent extrusion. (FKM 95° shore is also excellent for explosive decompression applications, see page 96).
- An O-ring can be installed with a back-up ring of a harder material to close the gap and support the O-ring.

The use of back-up rings is related to O-ring hardness, media pressure, and whether it is a static or dynamic application. In general the guidelines are:

Pressure static application:
up to 1000 psi (70 bar, 7 MPa) without back-up ring, up to 6000 psi (400 bar, 40 MPa) with back-up ring, up to 30000 psi (2000 bar, 200 MPa) with special construction.

Dynamic application:
reciprocating up to 750 psi (50 bar, 5MPa) without back-up ring, higher pressures with back-up ring.

Speed
reciprocating up to 0.5 m/sec.
12. O-ring Gland Design

Solution with Back-up Rings
In practice extrusion of a 70 Shore A O-ring at 20°C (70°F) with correct gland clearance, does not occur at pressures under 1200 psi (80 bar, 8 MPa) in static applications.

To avoid risks of extrusion, it is recommended to use 90 Shore A O-rings at pressures higher than 750 psi (50 bar, 5 MPa) if the dimension of the groove is too small for back-up rings or if the groove cannot be machined to allow for back-up rings. In general it is recommended in dynamic applications to use back-up rings at pressures over 750 psi (50 bar, 5 MPa).

Back-up rings are generally made of a material that is harder than the O-ring material. Back-up rings can be made from PTFE and PTFE blends, 90-95 hardness elastomers, and some plastics such as polyamides or PEEK for high temperature applications. Back-up rings are installed down stream from the system pressure in the O-ring gland. See figure 22.

In double acting applications two back-up rings are installed, one on each side of the O-ring. When back-up rings are used the groove dimensions must be adapted to accommodate the back-up rings. Groove widths as indicated on the table should be increased by the thickness of the back-up ring or rings.

Fig. 1-22

Fig. 1-35
Sealing Elements
Technical Handbook O-rings

12. O-ring Gland Design

Back-up Ring Styles
Spiral and split (or skarf-cut) PTFE back-up rings are a common choice due to the ease of installation of these designs. Note that the width of the back-up ring is equal to the groove depth plus the clearance gap. See figure 1-23.
The solid PTFE back-up ring is recommended for applications with higher system pressures; however, this design can only be installed in two piece applications.
Contoured nitrile back-up rings are recommended at higher system pressures where the ability to stretch the back-up in installation is required. See figure 1-24.
PTFE back-up rings are available in custom dimensions. Please contact an ERIKS representative for assistance in groove design.

For US standard O-rings in accordance with AS568, standard spiral PTFE back-ups are available. See table 3.D-2 for groove dimensions for O-rings with standard back-ups. See figure 1-35.

Note:
We also stock the Parbak® back-up rings in different compounds of 90 Shore A, mainly in AS-dimensions.

Table 3.D-2 Groove Dimensions for O-rings with Standard Spiral Wound Back-up rings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O-ring Cross Section</th>
<th>Back-up ring Thickness</th>
<th>Groove Depth (incl. clearance)</th>
<th>Groove Width with 1 back-up ring</th>
<th>Groove Width with 2 back-up rings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inch</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td>inch</td>
<td>mm</td>
<td>inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+0/-0.001</td>
<td>+0/-0.25</td>
<td>+0.004/-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.070</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>.059</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.103</td>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>.059</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>.090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.139</td>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>.059</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.210</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>.071</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>.188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.275</td>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>.102</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>.238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All the information in this documentation has been compiled with the greatest of care. Despite this we can bear no responsibility whatsoever for any errors present in the documentation. The recommendations are intended as guidelines.

www.eriks.info
12. O-ring Gland Design

PTFE BACK-UP RINGS Standard Sizes for O-rings according AS 568

The dimension 'E' of the back-up ring is dependent upon the depth of the groove for dynamic O-ring applications. The standard groove width needs to be increased with one or two times the width of the back-up ring depending if one or two back-up rings need to be installed. (See fig 1-39,1-40)

It is only needed to install a back-up ring at the side where the extrusion of the O-ring or Quad-Ring®/X-Ring exists. Only in the case of changing pressure directions are back-up rings needed on both sides of the seal.

Standard back-up rings are available for O-rings according the table 3.D-2A.

Please ask an ERIKS back-up ring specialist for special sizes.

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All the information in this documentation has been compiled with the greatest of care. Despite this we can bear no responsibility whatsoever for any errors present in the documentation. The recommendations are intended as guidelines.

www.eriks.info
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 G. Gland design For Teflon® Encapsulated O-rings, Teflex O-rings

The Teflex O-ring consists of a solid or hollow elastomeric core encapsulated in a Teflon® FEP or PFA sheath. The elastomeric core may be fluorocarbon or silicon rubber. Solid core Teflex O-rings are generally used in static applications. Hollow Silicone core Teflex O-rings are commonly used in applications where lower sealing force is required as in semi-dynamic applications.

The Teflex O-ring offers an effective solution for many difficult applications. The Teflon® FEP or PFA encapsulation actually effects the seal. The elastomeric core insures consistent compression on the seal. The result is an overall sealing compression, increasing with medium pressure. The encapsulated O-ring behaves like a highly viscous fluid, any pressure exerted on the seal is transmitted undiminished in all directions.

FEP and PFA are suitable for injection molding. Maximum operating temperature for FEP is 205°C (400°F) and for PFA 260°C (500°F). Chemical and electrical properties are similar to PTFE. PFA offers additional abrasion resistance. (See fig.43).

Why are Teflex O-rings needed?
There are certain applications which prohibit the use of conventional rubber O-ring seals. The use of hostile chemicals or extreme temperatures (both high and low) during various processes can make effective sealing very difficult. Many seal manufacturers have produced different “high performance” materials for these applications. ERIKS contributed to this area by introducing Teflex.

The Teflex O-ring is available in several standard size ranges:
- AS 568, BS 1806
- JIS B2401
- Swedish Standard.
- Metric Dimensions.

Teflex O-rings are available in other dimensions and alternative cross sections, oval, square, rectangular. Contact an ERIKS representative for additional information. For full information: ask for the special brochure on Teflex O-rings.

Teflex O-rings offer:
- Excellent chemical resistance due to the FEP/PFA encapsulation.
- Temperature range from -60°C to 205°C (-75°F to 400°F) with silicone core and -15°C to 205°C (5°F to 440°F) with fluorocarbon core. Special applications are possible up to 260°C (500°F).
- Overall hardness 85 Shore A ±5 durometer.
- Sterilizable.
- Pressures from vacuum to 10000 psi (700 bar, 70 MPa).
- Low compression set characteristics.
- Anti-adhesive properties, non stick surface, low coefficient of friction.
- FDA compliant
- Quick supply
- No restriction on inside diameter

Teflex O-rings are available in the following dimensions. Upon request Teflex O-rings can also be supplied in a special design or dimensions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size range</th>
<th>Smallest inside Ø possible (in mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cord (mm)</td>
<td>Silcone Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,60</td>
<td>10,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,78</td>
<td>10,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,00</td>
<td>10,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,50</td>
<td>12,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,62</td>
<td>12,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,00</td>
<td>15,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,40</td>
<td>15,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,53</td>
<td>15,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,00</td>
<td>16,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,25</td>
<td>17,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,50</td>
<td>18,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,00</td>
<td>22,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,33</td>
<td>25,00</td>
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<td>5,70</td>
<td>27,00</td>
</tr>
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<td>30,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,35</td>
<td>40,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>50,00</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>100,00</td>
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<td>9,52</td>
<td>120,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,00</td>
<td>140,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11,10</td>
<td>150,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>12,00</td>
<td>180,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12,70</td>
<td>190,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no upper limit to inside diameters. Please refer to the design and installation section for housing details.
It is not recommend to stretch O-Rings smaller than 12 mm inside diameter. This often results in breakage of the core which is not vulcanised on small sizes.
# 12. O-ring Gland Design

## 12 G. Gland design For Teflon® Encapsulated O-rings, Teflex O-rings

### Table 1 - Piston/Rod Sealing Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ø</th>
<th>'t'</th>
<th>'b'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.78</td>
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<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>3.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>3.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
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<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>5.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<td>8.20</td>
<td>12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>8.65</td>
<td>13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>9.65</td>
<td>14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>10.60</td>
<td>15.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.70</td>
<td>11.45</td>
<td>16.80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2 - Axial Face Sealing Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ø</th>
<th>'t'</th>
<th>'b'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>1.20 ± 0.05</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>1.30 ± 0.05</td>
<td>2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>1.50 ± 0.05</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>1.90 ± 0.05</td>
<td>3.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>2.00 ± 0.05</td>
<td>3.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>2.30 ± 0.05</td>
<td>3.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>2.75 ± 0.05</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.15 ± 0.05</td>
<td>5.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.60 ± 0.05</td>
<td>5.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>4.00 ± 0.05</td>
<td>6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.34</td>
<td>4.30 ± 0.05</td>
<td>6.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>4.50 ± 0.05</td>
<td>7.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.70</td>
<td>4.65 ± 0.05</td>
<td>7.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>4.95 ± 0.05</td>
<td>7.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.35</td>
<td>5.25 ± 0.05</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>5.85 ± 0.05</td>
<td>9.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>6.75 ± 0.10</td>
<td>10.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>7.15 ± 0.10</td>
<td>10.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>7.70 ± 0.10</td>
<td>11.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.52</td>
<td>8.20 ± 0.10</td>
<td>12.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>8.65 ± 0.10</td>
<td>13.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.10</td>
<td>9.70 ± 0.10</td>
<td>14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>10.60 ± 0.10</td>
<td>15.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.70</td>
<td>11.40 ± 0.10</td>
<td>16.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 G. Gland design For Teflon® Encapsulated O-rings, Teflex O-rings

Installation of Teflex O-rings
It is critical that the Teflex O-ring is not damaged during installation. It is not recommended to stretch Teflex O-rings. Break all sharp corners and lubricate the groove before installation. Take care not to bend the O-ring too sharply as buckling of the PTFE/FEP covering may result. The Teflex O-ring may be heated to make it slightly more flexible to facilitate installation. Teflex O-rings are subject to compression set. Smaller diameter cross section O-rings will demonstrate higher compression set than larger diameter cross sections. For this reason the use of the biggest possible cross section is recommended. ERIKS recommends the use of Teflex O-rings in static applications. For use in dynamic applications tests should be conducted for suitability.

Design
The following diagrams show the suggested adaptations of BS, ISO, and DIN standard housing designs.
The surface finish to all contact parts should be 20 micro-inch or better.
The following diagram gives tolerances for axial face sealing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pressure</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seal Surface</td>
<td>Ra 0.4 – 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rt 3- 6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>Ra 1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rt 11- 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 H. Gland Design for solid PTFE O-rings

PTFE has very poor elasticity. For this reason it is recommended that PTFE O-rings are only used in static applications with an axial load.

PTFE O-rings require much higher compression than elastomers to cause a seal. Rigidity of the material makes PTFE O-rings relatively difficult to install. Heating them to approximately 100°C (215°F) will make them slightly more flexible and facilitate easier installation. Perfluorinated elastomers have similar chemical resistance and thermal properties while offering the advantages of an elastomeric seal. In extreme or critical applications consideration of the use of a perfluorinated elastomer is recommended. (See fig. 1-45, 1-46, 1-47).

E = 10% to 20% of cross section (.070 to .210 inch) (1.78 to 5.33 mm).

E = 10% to 15% of cross section (.210 to .275 inch) (5.33 to 7 mm)

Surface Finish

groove top and bottom:
for liquids
X = 32 micro inches (0.8 µm Ra).
for vacuum and gases
X = 16 micro inches (0.4 µm Ra).
12. O-ring Gland Design

12.1. O-ring Compression in Different Applications

1. Hydraulic Dynamic Applications

![Graph showing O-ring compression in hydraulic dynamic applications.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross Section (mm)</th>
<th>Max. Compression</th>
<th>Min. Compression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.070</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.103</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.139</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.210</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.275</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Pneumatic Dynamic Applications

![Graph showing O-ring compression in pneumatic dynamic applications.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross Section (mm)</th>
<th>Max. Compression</th>
<th>Min. Compression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.070</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.103</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.139</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.210</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.275</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. O-ring Gland Design

12.1. O-ring Compression in Different Applications

3. Hydraulic and Pneumatic Static Applications

![Graph showing compression in different applications for hydraulic and pneumatic static applications.]

4. Hydraulic and Pneumatic Axial (face seal) Applications

![Graph showing compression in different applications for hydraulic and pneumatic axial applications.]

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12. O-ring Gland Design

12.1 Gland design for Kalrez® O-rings

Kalrez® parts are manufactured from exceptionally stable materials which are serviceable in most chemical environments up to 327°C (620°F) (depending on the specific compound).

The purpose of this design guide is to provide engineers with guidance in the selection of O-rings and the design of grooves for specific applications. In non-aggressive media, at modest pressures and temperatures, there is usually little problem in developing a groove design or selecting an O-ring. In the case where the operating environment is more aggressive and the application is more specialized design problems may occur. The information provided is intended to facilitate the groove/seal design process, especially with Kalrez® perfluoroelastomer parts.

General considerations in seal selection or groove design

From a knowledge of the temperature and chemical media, a suitable sealing compound can be selected. To design a groove, or select the best O-ring size for a given groove, however, the application environment must be considered in more detail.

- What is the application temperature range?
- Is the temperature cyclic?
- What is the pressure differential and direction?
- If it is a vacuum application, where is the vacuum applied?
- Is the pressure or vacuum cyclic?
- What is the compression/decompression rate if the pressure is high (in excess of 80 bar)?
- Is it a radial seal (piston rod/housing type)?
- Is it a face seal (flange type)?
- Is it a standard groove section or is it non-standard: crush-type, dovetail-section?
- Is it a gasket application?
- What is the chemical media to be sealed?
- If it is a replacement for a failure, what was the old seal?
- What is the consequence of failure?
- Is the application static or dynamic?
- If it is dynamic, define the motion.
- What are the groove dimensions and tolerances if it is in existence?
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 J. Gland design for Kalrez® O-rings

The ratio of the O-ring CSD to the groove depth will dictate the initial compression. There are some general rules for initial compression when using Kalrez® O-rings as given in these tables.

The condition in Table 1 represents the ‘Normal Case’ where the operating temperatures are not particularly aggressive and therefore the thermal expansion will not be excessive.

The scenario in Table 2 is the ‘High Temperature’ region. The application is now at a temperature in excess of that at which thermal expansion becomes significant. The volumetric thermal expansion for Kalrez® is 0% at 21°C and up to 20.42% at 316°C. Note that the effective squeeze will increase at high temperature as a result of this expansion.

In the scenario in Table 3 the O-ring dimensions actually reduce as the surrounding environment is changed from the assembly conditions to the operating conditions. The reduction in O-ring size is a result of low temperature shrinkage (may be regarded as a reversal of expansion), or the direct effect of vacuum. In either case, the initial squeeze may decrease significantly and it is necessary to compensate for this in the design stage.

In general, initial compression in excess of 25% is undesirable since it will cause over-compression at higher temperatures. In dynamic applications, high initial compression may cause problems associated with excessive friction.

Temperature cycling applications may require different squeezes.

---

**Table 1 Initial Squeeze for Applications Running at 25°C to 200°C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross section</th>
<th>Initial Squeeze at 20°C (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in mm</td>
<td>Static</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2 Initial Squeeze for Applications Running at > 200°C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross section</th>
<th>Initial Squeeze at 20°C (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in mm</td>
<td>Static</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3 Initial Squeeze for Applications Running at Low Temperature & Vacuum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cross section</th>
<th>Initial Squeeze at 20°C (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in mm</td>
<td>Static</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.62</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.53</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.99</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 J. Gland design for Kalrez® O-rings

Compensating for thermal expansion effects
As stated before, one effect of thermal expansion is to cause the initial squeeze to increase. Another problem which may occur is over-filling of the O-ring groove as a result of the change in volume of the seal. In general, the groove should be designed according to the following expression:

\[
\text{Volume}_{\text{GROOVE}} = \text{volume}_{\text{O-RING}} \times (1 + C_{\text{EXP}} + T_{\text{EXP}})^* 1.2
\]

where:

- \( C_{\text{EXP}} \) is the volumetric expansion due to chemical swell,
- \( T_{\text{EXP}} \) is the volumetric thermal expansion.

As a margin of safety, the groove should have a volume which is at least 20% larger than the fully expanded O-ring. The thermal expansion data for Kalrez® is given in Table 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Linear Expansion (%)</th>
<th>Volumetric Expansion (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in °C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>5.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>8.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>4.23</td>
<td>12.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>5.50</td>
<td>16.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>20.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>316</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the effects of thermal expansion are not adequately considered, the O-ring will fill the groove and attempt to burst out of it, resulting in extrusion and catastrophic mechanical failure.

Additional swell may occur due to exposure to chemical media. Chemical swell data for Kalrez® is given in Appendix 1 of this document for many generic chemical classes. For data on specific chemicals and chemical mixtures it is usually necessary to perform swell tests. Much of this data from DuPont Performance Elastomers is available from an ERIKS representative.

Tolerance effects on groove design
Usually, when designing grooves, a standard (BS or AS) O-ring groove will be sufficient. However, in cases where swell and expansion are likely to be high it is often necessary to design a special groove. O-rings of small ID and relatively large CSD often cause problems. In these cases, the area bounded by the O-ring ID is small and it does not take much expansion to cause stretch and groove overfill problems. It is necessary to take great care when designing and tolerancing grooves for these classes of O-ring. It is possible to check for this sort of problem at the groove design stage, by comparing the extra O-ring volume due to swell with that available for swell, ensuring that the extremes of groove and seal tolerance are included in the calculation.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12 J. Gland design for Kalrez® O-rings

Extrusion of O-rings in service
Extrusion is a common mode of failure and is often the result of inadequate consideration of expansion and swell. These problems are considered in the previous section “Compensating for thermal expansion effects”. It may be, however, that the maximum clearance gap (as defined by tolerances on joining surfaces) in the seal system has not been defined correctly. The required maximum clearance gap in a seal is a function of the compound hardness and the pressure being sealed. Table 5 gives the required maximum clearance as a function of pressure and hardness if back-up rings are not used.

Table 5 Maximum Clearance Gap vs Pressure/Hardness (mm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Pressure</th>
<th>Hardness Shore A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in bar</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>0,56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>0,43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>0,36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>0,28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>0,20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0,15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>0,13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>0,10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>0,08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>0,05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>0,08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>0,02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>345</td>
<td>0,01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>480</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As illustrated by this data, the softer compounds require closer tolerances than the harder compounds. It must be remembered that this data refers to relatively low temperature applications, up to 100°C. For high temperature applications it is necessary to consider the effect of temperature on the compound hardness. One rule of thumb is to assume a drop of hardness of about 10 (Shore A) for every 100°C temperature rise. Remember also that this clearance data is based on total diametral clearance.

It may not be feasible to machine to such close tolerances as required in some cases. Elastomers behave essentially as highly viscous incompressible fluids and tend to flow under the application of pressure and temperature.

The use of back-up rings is recommended if the pressure/temperature of the operating environment may cause the seal to flow. If, at a particular pressure, the maximum clearance gap is greater than the value specified in Table 5, a back-up ring should be used.

Back-up rings can be made from Teflon® fluoropolymer resin filled with 25% glass, or another material that is resistant to the environment being sealed. If a back-up ring is used, the groove should be modified to provide increased volume to avoid over filling at high temperatures.
12. O-ring Gland Design

12.J. Gland design for Kalrez® O-rings

Compression set
Compression set is essentially a measure of a seal’s ability to retain sealing force and, therefore, the capability to function. The degree of compression set will depend on the operating environment and, importantly, the duration of exposure. (It is typical in material datasheets to quote this property after 70 hrs exposure, which is hardly representative of long term performance. In fact, after an initial increase in compression set, Kalrez® tends to retain its elastomer properties much longer than conventional elastomers.

Compression set causes most problems in applications where thermal cycling is extreme. When continually exposed to very high temperatures, even Kalrez® will take on a cross sectional form which is no longer circular; This may not effect the seal integrity provided it is considered at the initial design stage. Kalrez® has a relatively slow elastic recovery rate. During thermal cycling, while the seal volume reduces due to temperature drop in the cooling phase, the form of the seal, taken during the high temperature phase, may be retained. At this time, the potential loss of sealing force will be at its greatest and the system may be prone to leakage. Such set is usually not permanent. The elastic recovery rate of Kalrez® increases rapidly with increasing temperature and if the seal temperature is raised, the normal circular cross section will return - along with the sealing properties.

It is evident, then, that the sequence of loading of a system can greatly influence the integrity of the seal. This is indicated by the following example loading sequence and the consequences on seal integrity:

Installation of O-rings
A very important aspect of sealing is the installation of the seal. There are many ways to avoid damage to seal surfaces during assembly. The use of lubricants can minimize surface damage and, by reducing the coefficient of friction between seal and gland, allow easier sliding into position. Since Kalrez® is resistant to almost all chemical media, almost any lubricant may be used. In fact, it is often easier to lubricate the seal with the chemical it is going to be sealing. Fluorinated oils such as Krytox® or powdered graphite can also be used to aid assembly. It is normal to design sealing systems such that the seal will not have to encounter any sharp edges during assembly. However, if this is not practical, it is simple to fabricate an assembly tool, often in the form of a cone, to help get the seal over many sharp edges.

The elongation at break for Kalrez® ranges from 120% to 170% depending on the compound being used. Remember when assembling that it is possible to break an O-ring by overstretching it. Since part of the molecular structure of Kalrez® is a material having plastic properties, it is also possible to cause plastic deformation due to overstretching. If you stretch Kalrez® too much, particularly when it is cold, it will first flow as a plastic and then fracture. For small CSD O-rings it is recommended that the stretch on assembly not exceed 20% to avoid these problems. Remember that O-rings can be softened by immersion in hot water prior to assembly.

Take note: if the O-ring is rolled into position be sure to not leave a permanent twist on the part. This may result in overstressing and mechanical failure at high temperature.

Simply by reversing the loading sequence seal leakage can be avoided.

Compression set is often accelerated by chemical attack - the total environment must be considered. Since the chemicals and chemical mixtures used in industry are so numerous, it is not feasible to either perform all test combinations or to present here all available data.