



ABSTRACT

Improved Seal

A seal for use between a pair of elements (11 and 12) which are capable of relative movement with respect to each other where one element (11) has a substantially circular cross section, said seal comprising a bush (16) configured to be received in close abutting relationship with the one element (11) and being associated at one end with a sealing element (17) of corresponding cross-section, said sealing element (17) having a helical configuration, the opposed axial faces of the helix are of complementary configuration and are in close abutting relationship, the opposed axial faces of the helix and each bush are of a complementary configuration and are in close abutting relationship, said bush (16) and sealing element (17) being integral and being formed of a resilient wear resistant material having a low coefficient of sliding friction and a high modulus of rigidity, said seal further comprising an elastomeric sleeve (23) extending over the radial face of the sealing element and of an adjacent portion of the bush which is remote from the one element, said sleeve (23) applying a radial force to the seal in the direction of the one element and an axially compressive force on the seal, the bush (16) being adapted to be supported by the other element.

