What Is Claimed Is:

1. A packing gland for a valve, wherein the valve includes a top portion for receiving a gate, comprising:

a first longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first stuffer side element located adjacent the first longitudinal section;

a second stuffer side element located adjacent the second longitudinal section;

a first stuffer end element located adjacent the first end section;

a second stuffer end element located adjacent the second end section;

a plurality of clamp elements located adjacent the first and second stuffer side elements and the first and second stuffer end elements, wherein the plurality of clamp elements provide pressure on selected portions of the first and second stuffer side elements and the first and second stuffer end elements to compress corresponding selected portions of the first and second longitudinal sections and the first and second end sections of packing material.

2. The packing gland according to claim 1, further including at least one fastener assembly wherein the at least one fastener assembly secures each clamp element to the top portion.

3. The packing gland according to claim 2 further including at least one jack screw located adjacent to the at least one fastener assembly for providing pressure to the clamp elements.

4. The packing gland according to claim 1, further including a first spacer located between the first stuffer side element and the gate and a second spacer located between the second stuffer side element and the gate.

5. The packing gland according to claim 4, further including a first notch in one of the plurality of clamp elements for receiving a portion of the first stuffer side element and

second spacer and a second notch in a second of the plurality of clamp elements for receiving a portion of the second stuffer side element and a second spacer.

6. The packing gland of claim 5, further including a transverse portion fixedly attached to each axial end of the first and second stuffer side elements wherein the plurality of clamp elements each include a third notch for receiving portions of the first and second stuffer end elements and the transverse portions of the first and second stuffer side elements.

7. A knife gate valve, comprising:

a valve body having a top portion and a passageway for fluid;

a gate moveable between a closed position for closing the passageway and an open position for opening the passageway to enable fluid flow; and

a packing gland including,

a first longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first stuffer side element located adjacent the first longitudinal section;

a second stuffer side element located adjacent the second longitudinal section;

a first stuffer end element located adjacent the first end section;

a second stuffer end element located adjacent the second end section;

a plurality of clamp elements located adjacent the first and second stuffer side elements and the first and second stuffer end elements, wherein the plurality of clamp elements provide pressure on selected portions of the first and second stuffer side elements and the first and second stuffer end elements to compress corresponding selected portions of the first and second longitudinal sections and the first and second end sections of packing material.

8. The knife gate assembly according to claim 7, further including at least one fastener assembly wherein the at least one fastener assembly secures each clamp element to the top portion.

9. The knife gate valve according to claim 8, further including at least one jack screw located adjacent to the at least one fastener assembly for providing pressure to the clamp elements.

10. The knife gate valve according to claim 9, further including a first spacer located between the first stuffer side element and the gate and a second spacer located between the second stuffer side element and the gate.

11. The knife gate valve according to claim 10, further including a first notch in one of the plurality of clamp elements for receiving a portion of the first stuffer side element and second spacer and a second notch in a second of the plurality of clamp elements for receiving a portion of the second stuffer side element and a second spacer.

12. The knife gate valve according to claim 11, further including a transverse portion fixedly attached to each axial end of the first and second stuffer side elements wherein the plurality of clamp elements each include a third notch for receiving portions of the first and second stuffer end elements and the transverse portions of the first and second stuffer side elements.

Claims:

1. A packing gland for a valve, wherein the valve includes a top portion for receiving a gate, comprising:

a first longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first stuffer side element located adjacent the first longitudinal section;

a second stuffer side element located adjacent the second longitudinal section;

a first stuffer end element located adjacent the first end section;

a second stuffer end element located adjacent the second end section;

a plurality of first clamp elements located adjacent the first stuffer side element and the first stuffer end element, wherein the plurality of first clamp elements provide pressure on selected portions of the first stuffer side element and the first stuffer end element to compress corresponding selected portions of the first longitudinal section and the first end section of packing material; and

a plurality of second clamp elements located adjacent the second stuffer side element and the second stuffer end element, wherein the plurality of second clamp elements provide pressure on selected portions of the second stuffer side element and the second stuffer end element to compress corresponding selected portions of the second longitudinal section and the second end section of packing material,

wherein the first stuffer side element and the first stuffer end element are arranged between the plurality of first clamp elements and the first longitudinal section and the first end section of packing material, and

wherein the second stuffer side element and the second stuffer end element are arranged between the plurality of second clamp elements and the second longitudinal section and the second end section of packing material.

2. The packing gland according to claim 1, further including at least one fastener assembly wherein the at least one fastener assembly secures each clamp element to the top portion.

3. The packing gland according to claim 2 further including at least one jack screw located adjacent to the at least one fastener assembly for providing pressure to the clamp elements.

4. The packing gland according to claim 1, further including a first spacer located between the first stuffer side element and the gate and a second spacer located between the second stuffer side element and the gate.

5. The packing gland according to claim 4, further including a first notch in one of the plurality of first clamp elements for receiving a portion of the first stuffer side element and first spacer and a second notch in one of the plurality of second clamp elements for receiving a portion of the second stuffer side element and a second spacer.

6. The packing gland of claim 5, further including a transverse portion fixedly attached to each axial end of the first and second stuffer side elements wherein the one of the plurality of first clamp elements and one of the plurality of second clamp elements includes a third notch for receiving portions of the first and second stuffer end elements and the transverse portions of the first and second stuffer side elements.

7. A knife gate valve, comprising:

a valve body having a top portion and a passageway for fluid;

a gate moveable between a closed position for closing the passageway and an open position for opening the passageway to enable fluid flow; and

a packing gland including,

a first longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second longitudinal section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a second end section of packing material for sealing the gate;

a first stuffer side element located adjacent the first longitudinal section;

a second stuffer side element located adjacent the second longitudinal section;

a first stuffer end element located adjacent the first end section;

a second stuffer end element located adjacent the second end section;

a plurality of first clamp elements located adjacent the first stuffer side element and the first stuffer end element, wherein the plurality of first clamp elements provide pressure on selected portions of the first stuffer side element and the first stuffer end element to compress corresponding selected portions of the first longitudinal section and the first end section of packing material; and

a plurality of second clamp elements located adjacent the second stuffer side element and the second stuffer end element, wherein the plurality of second clamp elements provide pressure on selected portions of the second stuffer side element and the second stuffer end element to compress corresponding selected portions of the second longitudinal section and the second end section of packing material,

wherein the first stuffer side element and the first stuffer end element are arranged between the plurality of first clamp elements and the first longitudinal section and the first end section of packing material, and

wherein the second stuffer side element and the second stuffer end element are arranged between the plurality of second clamp elements and the second longitudinal section and the second end section of packing material.

8. The knife gate assembly according to claim 7, further including at least one fastener assembly wherein the at least one fastener assembly secures each clamp element to the top portion.

9. The knife gate valve according to claim 8, further including at least one jack screw located adjacent to the at least one fastener assembly for providing pressure to the clamp elements.

10. The knife gate valve according to claim 9, further including a first spacer located between the first stuffer side element and the gate and a second spacer located between the second stuffer side element and the gate.

11. The knife gate valve according to claim 10, further including a first notch in one of the plurality of first clamp elements for receiving a portion of the first stuffer side element and first spacer and a second notch in one of the plurality of second clamp elements for receiving a portion of the second stuffer side element and a second spacer.

12. The knife gate valve according to claim 11, further including a transverse portion fixedly attached to each axial end of the first and second stuffer side elements wherein the one of the plurality of first clamp elements and one of the plurality of second clamp elements includes a third notch for receiving portions of the first and second stuffer end elements and the transverse portions of the first and second stuffer side elements.