



ABSTRACT

A mechanical face seal has a first sealing ring (12) mounted non-rotatably and sealed with respect to a shaft (10), a second sealing ring (20) mounted non-rotatably and sealed with respect to a housing (11), said second sealing ring (20) being mounted in axial alignment and being resiliently urged into sealing engagement with the first sealing ring (12). The sealing face (33) of the first sealing ring (12) has a first and second set of grooved areas (40, 41) grooved areas (40, 41) of each set being spaced angularly around the circumference of the sealing face (33) the grooved areas (40) of one set being spaced angularly of the grooved areas (41) of the other set, the grooved areas (40, 41) of both sets opening to one edge of the sealing face (33) and extending part way across the sealing face (33), each grooved area (40, 41) defining a trailing edge relative to the direction of rotation (D) of the first sealing ring, the trailing edge of the grooves (40, 41) being inclined in the plane of the sealing face (33) at an obtuse angle to the direction of rotation (D), the axial depth of the grooved areas (40) of the first set being less than the axial depth of the grooved areas (41) of the second set.