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A Brief Summary of Types of Rubber Bellows by James Blee

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Similar to the metal extension joints, the rubber bellows serve as the extension of different forms of rotating gears such as pipe works, chillers and pumps. Being highly flexible, they can easily fit so as to complete some problematic misaligned installations thereby allowing axial, angular and lateral movements. They have thin walls which help in reducing noise to a significant extent and at the same time minimize vibration. These systems are mostly used in chemical plants, fluid filling mechanism, hydraulic ram protections and others.

Coming to composition, the rubber bellows are made of rubber, rubberized canvas, synthetic fibers and different types of stiffeners that are used to strengthen it to endure greater pressure. At times, they are also made of different varieties of polymers such as neoprene, silicone etc. They can be compressed into multiple forms like rectangle, round and square based on the requirements. Suited to be used in both acidic as well as alkaline settings, they are capable of enduring temperatures as high as 250 degree.

Rubber bellows are mainly of two types namely double and single arch expansion. The single arch extension ones are meant for absorbing thermal growth, bear up to 40bar pressure and withstand up to 600 degree C. They are mainly used in ventilating and heating systems exhaust connectors of automobiles, nuclear fusions and others. Their key feature includes reducing line noises, absorbing shocks and vibrations, reducing stresses of expansion or contraction and minimizes chances of bucking or fracturing of pipes.

On the contrary, the double arch expansion systems are made of elastomeric neoprene and its features include enduring higher pressure, offer superior movement, absorb shock, noise and vibrations, absorb pipe or stress movement and sealing provided by the flanges.

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