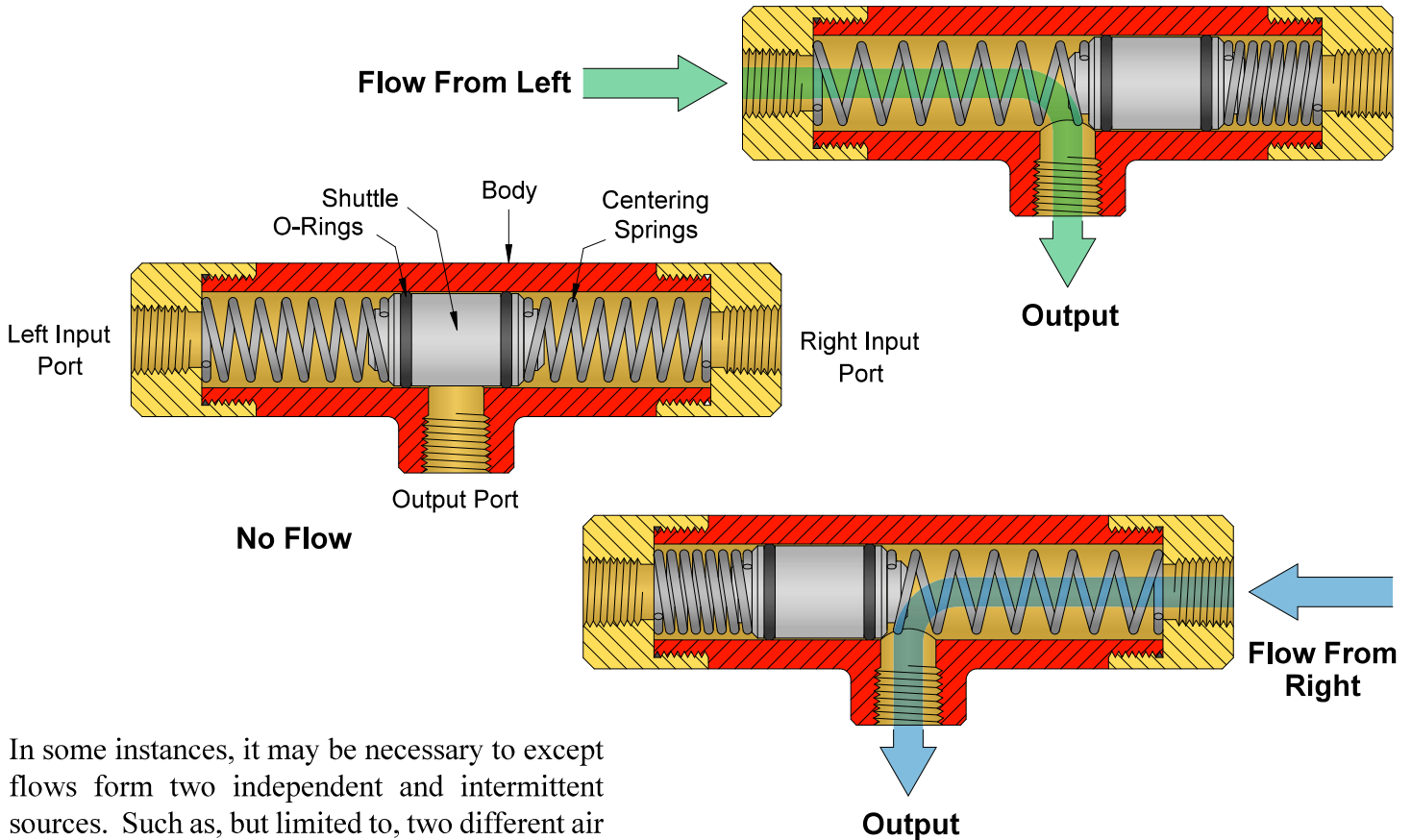


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Shuttle Valves

by Brian S. Elliott



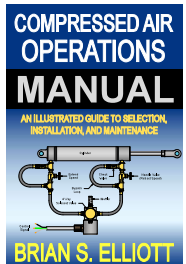
In some instances, it may be necessary to accept flows from two independent and intermittent sources. Such as, but limited to, two different air compressors. In these cases, a shuttle valve is typically specified. A shuttle valve will automatically accept the flow from two different sources based on which one is active or which one has the highest pressure. The body of the valve has two input ports and a single output port. A shuttle with two o-rings is held in the middle of the bore with two centering springs. When a pressure is applied to the left-hand input port, then the shuttle is pushed towards the right end and the output port opens.

The opposite holds true when the input pressure is applied to the right-hand port.

The illustrations above show the operation of a basic shuttle valve. However, it should be noted that there are thousands of variations on this basic principle.

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Comprehensive information on compressed air systems is provided in the book "**Compressed Air Operations Manual**" by Brian S. Elliott, ISBN: 0-07-147526-5 Published by the McGraw-Hill Book Co.



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