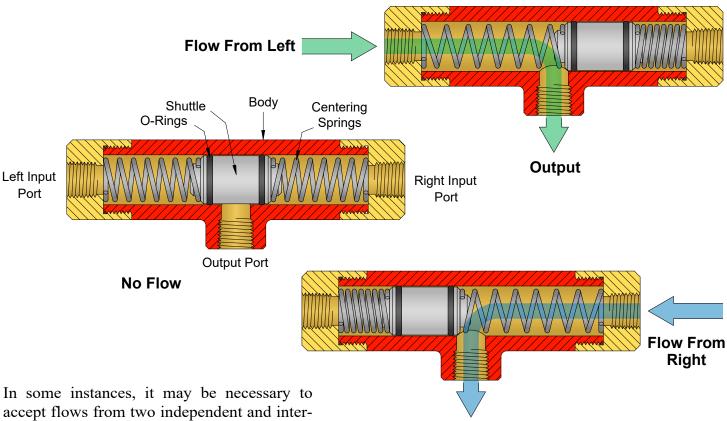
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## **Shuttle Valves**

by Brian S. Elliott



In some instances, it may be necessary to accept flows from two independent and intermittent sources, such as 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 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 shows show the operation of a basic

**Output** 

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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