Multi-Compartment Suction Boxes

Suction boxes were designed on the basis of the structural requirements for spanning the paper machine. Wider machines meant wider boxes; even if the extra cover width did little or nothing to improve water removal. The concept of multi-compartment boxes (pioneered by Kadant) lead to the study of what the optimum dwell time would be at each vacuum level. Pilot machine trials provided Kadant with the paper grade and basis weight dependent formula required to optimize water removal while minimizing energy consumption.

**Overview**

**Features**
- Optimum open area based on hi-vacuum modeling
- Rugged design with 316 stainless steel construction
- Multiple ceramic wear surfaces available
- Efficient use of available machine space

**Benefits**
- Minimize drag load by graduating vacuum
- Increased sheet dryness to the couch roll
- Optimize available CFM and vacuum
- Reduced energy usage
- Minimize drag load and maximize dewatering

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**Single Compartment Suction Boxes**
Long exposure to a single level of vacuum wastes energy giving no value in return for drag load and air flow applied.

**Dual Compartment Suction Boxes**
As vacuum levels increase, optimum dwell time decreases.

**Triple Compartment Suction Boxes**
High vacuum compartments need only a few slots to perform their job, thereby minimizing both drag load and air flow while maximizing dryness.
Multi-Compartment Suction Boxes

Optimization Graph (grade and basis weight dependent)

Ultrawear AL™ High Performance Ceramics
Aluminum Oxide
Advantages: Low cost; good wear and corrosion resistance; moderate machine drag.

Applications: Fourdrinier, except on flatboxes when calcium carbonate is used.

Ultrawear SN™ High Performance Ceramics
Silicon Nitride
Advantages: High thermal shock resistance; low fabric wear, low drive load; best all-around combination of wear, chip, and corrosion resistance.

Applications: High stress applications, like suction boxes and felt strips; all applications where calcium carbonate is used.