

The Conveyor

Rubber Ron's Report



Last year seemed to be much better for those of us in the rubber world. In the spring of 2002 when the price of oil was hitting \$32 a barrel, I wrote a report wondering about the potential of higher prices. Instead, prices remained stable, partly because of the strong dollar overseas and the fact that high-quality imports kept prices competitive in the U.S. In addition, the slow economy

resulted in lower demand. Now, let's fast forward to January 2005. Oil is at \$50 a barrel. The price of fabric has increased by 30% and belting prices have escalated by 24% in the last five months. The dollar has been dropping in value since 2002 and currently is at an all-time low against the euro. On top of that, we have a federal budget deficit of \$400 billion.

I'm the old graybeard around here and can offer some perspective from the 1970s. At that time, the U.S. government declared a devaluation in the dollar. We had spot shortages of commodities, inflation, long delivery times, and rapid escalations in prices. This all led to a

recession in the early 1980s, with double-digit inflation, unemployment, and interest rates. Given the high standard of living in the U.S. today, and the fact that it seems based in large part on our ability to borrow money from foreign investors, I hope we will not see that same scenario play out again over the next few years.

We'll see what happens, but currently, interest rates are rising, deliveries are taking longer (from 12 to 14 weeks), and belt prices are back to 1988 levels. In addition, we are seeing a higher demand for our products. I hope things start to stabilize this quarter.

Besides all this, the rubber industry has seen a period of buyouts and consolidations. And, just like the automotive industry, it is becoming a truly global business with companies outside the U.S. leading the way in producing quality products.

As the year unfolds, we will continue to keep you competitive by providing you with products of high quality and good value. And, because we believe our customers are our most important asset, we will continue our tradition of providing superior customer service.



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Employee Profiles

Donna Raymond

Joining us in July 2004, Donna is responsible for the customer service and sales desk. She brings impressive and welcome experience from the industrial power transmission industry, working with Applied Industrial Technology (AIT) and Berg Evans Chain for 11 years.



Since her arrival, she has quickly picked up the conveyor belting business and our computer system. She looks forward to having a long and happy career with RPI, providing customer service and handling some of the company's business operations.

Donna grew up in the Portland area and has four grown children. She recently received her A.A. in business administration.

Chris Hungerford

Chris has been with RPI for nearly three years and is responsible for national roofing belt sales and the Midwest territory. He has several years of industrial experience and a determined approach to sales and customer service. Chris gained invaluable sales experience during his two-year stint as a stockbroker, where he learned how to make cold calls and B2B telecommunications sales calls.



Since joining RPI, sales in Chris's territory have grown dramatically. His primary goal is to keep breaking his own sales records by keeping his current customers happy.

Chris obtained his B.A. in business from Portland State University and played baseball on the collegiate level and professionally overseas. He spends much of his free time with his two children. With what little time is left, he enjoys playing basketball and watching professional sports.

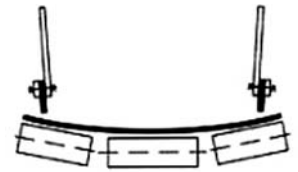
Featured Accessories

Skirtboard Rubber

Packaging: 50' rolls

Specifications

- Blended SBR/NR slit sheet, plate finish
- Style SK60: 60-durometer hardness (Shore durometer A)
- Polymer: Styrene-butadiene and isoprene rubber, natural
- Color: Black
- Common Name: Skirtboard Rubber



- ISO/ASTM Designation: SBR/NR
- General Properties: Provides excellent resistance to abrasion and inclement weather conditions

Style	ASTM Specification (SI units)	Durometer	Tensile Strength (PSI)	Elongation (%)	Finish
N60	D 2000 M1AA 608	55-65	1,400	400%	Plate



Replacement Impact Bars

48" and 60" Replacement Impact Bars

3" height x 4" width, with 3/8" blue UHMW top
 48" bar comes with 4 bolts
 60" bar comes with 6 bolts

Impact Resistance of Straight Warp Belt

The Situation

Recently, an OEM asked us to provide recommendations for moving from a grinding application for green waste to a crushing application for construction and demolition. Instead of processing wood products, they were now working with pieces of concrete, rebar, and steel.

The Problem

Because of the change in use, they were finding that the impact from the new materials was breaking the fabric plies and punching holes in the traditional 3-ply conveyor belt.

The Solution

In working with the recycling industry, RPI has met with success by using a single-ply belt. This polyester carcass has straight warp yarn for low stretch and high strength. A binder warp locks the fabric together. In addition, fill yarns above and below the binder yarn makes for a high crimp fabric. The unique design offers a good rip and impact resistance and permits the use of small diameter pulleys.

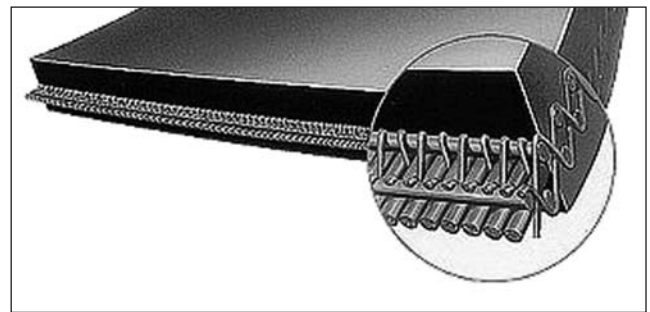
Our experience has shown that single-ply, 440# belt, tension-rated with 1/4" top covers and 1/8" bottom covers offers the most bang for the buck. We also use RMA, grade 2 covers. We think this cover is better than grade 1 or MOR covers because of its resistance to impact and abrasion.

RPI uses this belt in concrete recycling, impact crushers, and steel scrap yard belts. These areas have a particularly high level of impact and abrasion. Because vulcanization on small pulleys is not recommended, we chose the R5 or #190 plate fasteners for the splice. The single-ply also provides good flex around small diameter pulleys. The minimum diameter is 16". We have some 10" and 12" diameter applications that use this belt, but do not recommend it.

The Result

For this impact application, our OEM was able to standardize the single-ply, straight warp belt shown in the picture below. They continue to use plied belt on lighter applications.

If you need a recommendation for an application, please call RPI.



Single-Ply, Straight Warp, High-Impact Tech Flex Belt

Single-ply 440#, 1/4" x 1/8", RMA 2
Available in 48", 60", and 72" widths

Probabilities direct the conduct
of a wise man.

—Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC)



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Product Line & Services

CONVEYOR BELT

Heavy-Duty Rubber Belt
Lightweight Rubber Belt
Oil-Resistant Belt
High-Temperature Belt
PVC, RMV Belt
Profile, Rubber; & PVC Belt (Roughtop, V-Cleat, Chevron, Crescent Top, etc.)
Integrally Molded, Cleated Belt
Food Handling Belt

CUSTOM FABRICATION

Rubber (Hot-Vulcanized) Cleat
PVC (Thermo-Welded) Cleat
Custom Cleats: Transverse, Beefy T-Cleat, Herringbone, Chevron (Open & Closed), Scoop, Curved, etc.
V-Guides (Plain or Notched)
Corrugated Sidewall
Vanner Edges
Dewatering Belt
Elevator Belts
Punched Parts, Flaps, etc.
Specialty OEM Applications
Vulcanized, Endless Belt
Rubber Boots (Sleeves)

CONVEYOR IDLERS

Troughed Idlers (Equal & Unequal Length Rolls)
Return & Flat Carrier Idlers
Impact Idlers (Rubber Cushion)
Self-Aligning (Training) Idlers
Feeding/Picking Troughed Idlers
Replacement Rollers (Cans)
Return Roll Guards
Replacement Component Parts
Low Profile & Channel Mount Idlers
Side Guide Idlers
Live Shaft Idlers

CONVEYOR PULLEYS

Drum-Type Pulleys
Wing-Type Pulleys
Spiral Wing & Drum Pulleys
Heavy-Duty, Reinforced Pulleys
Motorized Drive Pulleys
Magnetic Pulleys
Hubs & Bushings
Shafting
Pad Lag/Slide Lag
Roughtop & Vulcanized Lagging

SPECIALTY ITEMS

Punched & Cut Parts: Seals, Gaskets, Guards, Deflectors, Custom Parts, etc.
Trailer Flaps
Bolt-on Cleats
Tatch-A-Cleat
Rubber & PVC Bondable Cleats & V-Guides
Belt Scraper Blades
Impact Beds
Mats
Dock Bumpers
Metal Back Rubber
Rubber Boots (Sleeves)

ADHESIVES

Trufflex/Pang Products
Belt Splice Kits
Neoprene Contact Cement
PVC Cement
Urethanes

SHEET RUBBER, ETC.

Skirtboard Rubber
Combi-Rubber
Crown Bar Rubber
Chute Lining
Pure Gum Rubber Sheet
Urethane Sheet
Neoprene Rubber Sheet
Diaphragm Sheet
Cloth-Inserted (C.I.) Sheet
Red Gum Rubber (40 Duro)

OTHER SERVICES

Engineering & Technical Assistance
Conveyor Consulting
Belt Surveys
Field Splicing (Vulcanizing), Repairs, & Installations

MECHANICAL FASTENERS

Clipper, Staple, Bolt-Hinged, Rivet-Hinged, Installation Tools, etc.

PULLEY LAGGING

Herringbone, Plain, V-Groove, Roughtop, etc.

Used Belt and Much More Available From RPI.

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