Cycling Without Limit Valves

This circuit enables a double acting cylinder to reciprocate without the use of limit valves and to control its speed in each direction. As C-1 retracts, it creates a back-pressure behind the piston which is further increased by restricting the exhaust air at port 3, V-2, to slow the return of the cylinder rod. This back pressure holds the pilot closed on V-3. When C-1 has fully returned, the back pressure diminishes. When there is insufficient pressure to hold the pilot down on V-3, the spring shifts the valve, which sends pressure to the right hand pilot, port 4, of V-2. This causes V-2 to shift, which starts C-1 to extend and pilots V-3 exhausting the pressure on the right hand pilot of V-2.

As C-1 extends, an identical sequence occurs between V-1 and V-2, causing the 4-way valve to shift when C-1 has fully extended.

Initial Approach to Designing a Pneumatic Control

1. Have a clear verbal understanding of the sequence of operations desired.
2. Put down on paper:
   A. Manual controls necessary or required and what their function is to be.
   B. Other available input signals from:
      1. Limit valves
      2. Sensors
      3. Other controls or control media
   C. All output devices (cylinders, piloted valves, electrical motors, etc.) that are to be controlled.
3. Determine all mechanical interlocks that exist.
4. Determine all the safety interlocks that must exist.
5. Work out the logic portion of the control utilizing the inputs and outputs at hand. Employ the functional circuit concept. Remember even the most complicated control circuits are composites of smaller functional circuits.
6. Check the final circuit for proper actuation during:
   A. Start up
   B. Shut down
   C. Loss of air
   D. Panic stops in the middle of cycle
   E. Restarts in the middle of the cycle
   F. Control during other events that are likely to occur.
Exclusive “OR” Circuit

The exclusive “OR” circuit operates as follows: When V-1 is depressed, the signal goes to both V-3 and V-4. The signal at V-4 is blocked. The signal at V-3 actuates the valve and provides an output signal. If V-2 is actuated independently, the same sequence occurs. If both V-1 and V-2 are actuated, the output at V-4 energizes the bottom pilot which, together with the spring, overrides the opposite pilot of V-3, nullifying both signals, V-3 thus remains off.

Motion Sensing Circuit

V-1 is actuated by rotary or linear cam. Pressure from V-1 goes to a pulse valve (V-2) where it is converted to a uniform pulse each time V-1 is actuated. Each pulse goes through the check valve of V-3 and holds the pilot down on the valve. C-1 is retracted. The pressure holding the pilot of V-3 is constantly trying to exhaust through the adjustable needle valve V-3 and out to atmosphere through the exhaust port of the pulse valve V-2.

When motion stops (or falls below a pre-determined C.P.M.) the pressure on the pilot of V-3 exhausts and the spring shifts the valve, which causes C-1 to extend. The R-341 is shown as normally closed. It can also be used as normally open, a selector, or a diverter.

Signal Release Pulse Circuit

This circuit gives a single pulse output of adjustable duration when its input signal is released (exhausted). Upon actuation of the input 3-way valve, V-1, air is supplied to both valve pilots simultaneously so the valve, V-2, remains in the closed position. Upon release of the input signal the pilot on the spring side of the valve is exhausted immediately. This allows the “trapped” air in the volume tank to actuate the valve causing the output to come on. The valve remains actuated until the trapped air bleeds off through the adjustable needle valve.
Use of Shuttle Valves
The R-603 is a three input shuttle valve sometimes called a three input “OR”. Actuation of V-1 or V-2 or V-3 will give an output at port 6, of V-4, and extend C-1.

Adjustable 4-Way Pulse
When V-1 is actuated a signal pilots port 4, V-3, extending C-1. The signal is also going to the auxiliary pilot but is delayed by the flow control V-2. When pressure builds up on the pilot, port 6, V-3, it, together with the spring, overcomes the opposite pilot and shifts the valve. C-1 then retracts. V-3 will not cycle again until V-1 is released.

Two Hand No Tie Down
This circuit provides an output signal to power or pilot a piece of machinery when two push buttons are manually pressed simultaneously. Neither button can be tied down. The output will cease if either button is released. See CM-023 in the Pneumatic Circuit Board section for more details.

Pilot Signal Priority Lockout
Application of a pilot signal from either push button will pneumatically lock out the output of the other push button to eliminate the possibility of a dual output.
932 Sequence Control Circuit
A typical sequence circuit is shown below. It includes five R-932 sequence modules, two R-402 4-way modular valves, (power valves) and two cylinders, each equipped with two limit valves. This typical circuit is designed for Cylinder A to extend and return, then Cylinder B to extend and return.

In inactive mode, LVA- and LVB- are held passing, supplying pressure to port 8 of both SM3 and SM5. The valves will not actuate because there is air already to port 6 which connects to a larger pilot. When the start button is actuated, pilot pressure is applied to SM1, shifting the valve which pressurizes port 4 of power valve “A” (PVA). Pressure at its port 4. This shifts PVA, extending the cylinder. When SM1 shifts, it also removes pressure from SM2 at port 6 preparing it for step 2.

Extension of cylinder A actuated LVA+. This shifts SM2, providing pressure to port 6 of PVA which shifts and powers the retraction of Cylinder A. The shifting of SM2 also removes supply from port 4 of step 1 allowing the cylinder retraction, and removes supply from port 6 of SM3, preparing it for step 3.

As a result, when LVA- attains passing position this time, there is no pressure on the larger pilot of SM3. It shifts, providing supply to port 4 of PVB. The power module shifts, with resultant flow extending Cylinder B. The sequence cycle continues through retraction and stops unless the start button remains actuated. Continuous cycling can be accomplished by using a toggle or selector valve for the start button.

Retraction of cylinder B actuates LVB- causing a chain reaction for resetting the sequence valves for the next cycle.

NOTE: The SEQUENCE IS FOLLOWED by the indicator in the valve. The last indicator down is the last step actuated. This is helpful when trouble shooting a circuit.

The circuit described above is an example of a typical sequence circuit. Most applications will require additional functions. Therefore, the number of sequence valves will increase, but the procedure for connections and applications of the R-932 remain.

It is important to remember the input signals can come from other types of input devices such as:
proximity sensors, gap sensors, back pressure sensors, pressure sensors, limit valves, electronic Hall Effect sensing, liquid level sensing, part sensing, etc.

By using modular components found in this catalog, additional functions such as “Delay IN (R-333) “AND” (R-301) can be added to the sequence circuits.

The sequence circuit can also be used with larger air power valves or air piloted hydraulic valves.
**Bleed Piloted 4-Way Valve**
Pressure in line 4 pilots valve V2 so that the cylinder is retracted on the valve V-2 and C-1 retracted. When V-1 is actuated, the pressure is exhausted from 4 faster than the restricted supply at 5 can make it up. The spring then shifts the valve and C-1 extends.

**Unique OPEN-CLOSE Pulse Circuit**
This pulse circuit can be adapted to a wide variety of uses. It consists of an MAV-3 3-way valve and two standard R-341 modular valves, and is being used to open and close a collet vice on a milling fixture. Circuit operation: when V-1 is depressed, V-2 gives an output pulse at “A”. The length of the pulse is predetermined by the needle valve adjustment on V-2.
When V-1 is released, a pulse occurs at “B”. This pulse is also determined by the length of the needle valve on V-3. Thus both pulses are independently adjustable. Note that the R-341 allows supply to be segregated from the pilot signal which allows for different pressures or gases to be controlled.

**“Latch” Circuit**
Actuation of V-1 pilots V-3 and extends C-1. The same pressure that extends C-1 also passes through V-2 and holds the twin pilot down locking C-1 in the out position even though V-1 is released. When V-2 is actuated, breaking the line between port 2 & 5, V-3, and exhausting the pilot, the spring will shift the valve V-3, causing C-1 to retract.

**“Active Or” Circuit**
Actuation of any one or all of the input signal valves, V-1, V-2, V-3, V-4, will cause an active output (an output from a separate air supply source).
Assembly Jig Control
This circuit is used with an assembly jig that draws a vacuum on a part inserted into it. When the operator has finished working on the part, a spring return knock out cylinder pushes the part out of the jig. Depressing V-1 pilots V-3 which draws a vacuum on the jig. Releasing V-1 allows the spring in V-3 to shift the valve, connecting air to V-2, an adjustable pulse valve, which gives a controlled pulse of air to the knock out cylinder in the jig.

Piloted 4-Way Valve
When V-1 is actuated, pressure forces the pilot to overcome the spring and shift the valve V-2, causing C-1 to retract. Releasing V-1 exhausts the pressure on the pilot and allows the spring to shift the valve extending C-1.

Automatic Cycler
Turning on the toggle switch V-1 sends a signal through V-2 and to the flow control of V-3 where it is delayed before piloting the 3-way (normally closed) valve V-3, which extends C-1. The output of V-3 also goes to the flow control of V-2 where it is delayed before piloting the 3-way (normally open) valve V-2. When V-2 shifts, it shuts off the original signal from V-1 and exhausts the pressure that has piloted V-3, allowing the spring to shift the valve. This causes C-1 to retract and also exhausts the pressure that has piloted V-2, allowing the spring to shift the valve. This allows the signal from V-1 to start the cycle over again.

The adjustment on V-3 controls the “IN” duration, and the adjustment on V-2 controls the “OUT” duration at C-1.
Adjustable Pulse Valve

The R-341 delay valve may be used to provide an adjustable pulse (N.C.) or adjustable off (N.O.) signal. When an input occurs at port 7 it immediately pilots the valve and gives a signal at ports 2 & 8, which extends C-1. The same input is also being delayed through the flow control (between 7 & 4) until enough pressure builds up to actuate the auxiliary pilot which, together with the spring, overcomes the opposite pilot and shifts the valve shutting off the output. C-1 then retracts. The input must be removed before the valve will reset and cycle again. Since the input is separate from the supply and output valving, separate pressures or fluids can be used in the valve. Pulse times can range from 25 MS to 5 seconds. The second drawing shows the R-341 piped normally open. The same sequence applies as above, only the valve is going off for a period instead of on.

Set-Reset Circuits

Shown are three examples of set-reset circuits, also called “latch” circuits. There are many ways to set or reset a valve or group valves. These examples make use of the unique auxiliary pilots available on many of the modular valves.

A set occurs when a valve is actuated and part of the output is used to hold the valve in the actuated position, even though the original pilot signal may be gone. Generally a circuit is reset by interrupting the “set” pilot line or air supply to the valve when an opposite pilot is present to shift the valve. The modular auxiliary pilot, in combination with the valve spring, will overcome any or all opposite pilot(s) to reset the circuit.
**Six Ported 4-Way**

This circuit controls two double acting cylinders with a single 4-way (6 ported) valve. When V-1 has been depressed, actuation of V-3 will extend or retract C-1. When V-2 has been depressed, actuation of V-3 will extend or retract C-2.

**Three Input “And”**

The R-353 valve will give an output at C-1 only when V-1, V-2, and V-3 are depressed. Remove any of the three inputs and the output ceases.

**Exhaust Piloted 3-Way Valve**

Pressure in line 7 holds pilot down on the valve V-2 which has no output signal. When V-1 is actuated, pressure is exhausted from line 7 faster than the adjusted supply can make it up. The spring then shifts the valve giving an output at ports 2 & 8. (Port 8 is shown as blocked.)

**Piloting From Two Inputs**

Actuating of either V-1 or V-2 will pilot V-3 causing C-1 to extend. The R-321 is shown normally closed. It may also be used normally open, as a selector, or as a diverter. An R-315 provides the same function by having two separate pilots.