

A seal for sealing between components of a rotary machine at an annular sealing interface where opposing surfaces of the components define an enclosed or partially enclosed seal volume, of generally predetermined shape, configuration and orientation, between relatively high pressure and low pressure zones, the seal being in the form of a ring of pliable material and defining a plurality of cavities arranged to accept deformed material to allow deformation of the material of the seal into cavities, the seal including a skirt which extends generally longitudinally, which has radially inner and outer peripheral surfaces, and which is generally wedge shaped, a taper end of the skirt then having a free end which is intended to be positioned at a high pressure zone of the seal volume, in which said cavities alternate with land areas, the cavities and land areas being distributed peripherally, cross sectional surfaces through the land areas at respective radii increasing progressively from a surface of the skirt.