HIGH DISPERSION (HD2) TRAY

Maximising liquid distribution and extending cycle length for fixed bed reactors

Shell Global Solutions





at a glance

Customer Driver: Optimised production and efficiency; reliability; reduced WABT; streamlined maintenance

Solution: High Dispersion (HD2) distribution tray

Value-delivered: Nearly perfect (100%) utilisation of catalyst. Reduction of large radial temperature maldistribution. Boltless installation for easy cleaning and catalyst loading

Proof point: Total feed processed worldwide through HD² trays exceeds 1.2 million barrels per day over 300 operating units

High Dispersion (HD²) Trays provide unparalled hydroprocessing performance with minimal investment. As product specifications grow more stringent, production success depends on reactor internals that can outperform standard distribution tray technology. Conventional distribution trays, even advanced bubble cap designs, are notorious for low uniformity of vapour/liquid distribution as well as undesirable thermal maldistribution.

Shell Global Solution's latest High Dispersion (HD²) Trays have high feed rate flexibility and utilise more nozzles per area than the original HD trays, providing even better performance for hydroprocessing reactors needing optimisation.

ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY

As one of Shell's latest proprietary technologies, the HD² tray has benefited from extensive observation in the organisation's pressurised testing facilities, advanced computer simulations and over 20 years of operation in Shell and non-Shell refineries.

The substantially high-performance profile of the HD² tray makes it an essential component in any hydroprocessing reactor especially when paired with other Shell internals, such as the UFQ (Ultra Flat Quench). Even in retrofit applications HD² trays confer performance benefits by lowering start-of-run temperatures, decreasing catalyst deactivation and raising end-of-run WABT (Weighted Average Bed Temperature). They boast extremely low occurrence of stagnant zones and channeling as well as minimal susceptibility to tilt and fouling.

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION

Due to their excellent vapour/liquid and thermal distribution uniformity HD² trays function equally well as top distribution and interbed distribution trays ensuring full catalyst utilisation throughout the reactor. Also in contrast with conventional and bubble cap designs, which require a deep layer of inert distributive packing, HD² trays enable the volume of the reactor beds to be filled with active catalyst.

Unique nozzle design harnesses vapour momentum to create overlapping coverage, ensuring near-perfect wetting, even in severe fouling applications. And in addition to improved production performance, the mechanical configuration of each tray is engineered for easy boltless access, cleaning and catalyst loading, all of which improve turnaround time significantly.

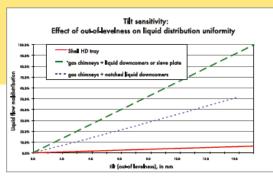


Figure 1: Low tilt sensitivity of Shell HD tray, in comparison to conventional trays

Because they function independent of pressure drop, HD^2 trays enable the reactor to operate efficiently at a wide range of feed rates, typically plus fifty percent to minus seventy-five percent (+50% to -70%). This is true for both liquid and gas feeds, although operation with gas feed only is also viable.

Along with the benefits of decreased maintenance time, lower WABTs (up to 5° C) translate into substantially longer runlengths for reactors retrofitted with HD² trays as demonstrated in Figure 1.

BUSINESS VALUE

Upcoming fuel trends demand new hydroprocessing methods. Shell Global Solutions is positioned to equip refiners to meet these trends using their proprietary reactor internals technology.

HD² trays can vastly improve refiners' cycle lengths through slower catalyst deactivation, lower inlet temperatures (as required for stringent product specifications), and improved thermal distribution. Documented case studies have demonstrated higher throughput capacity as well as the ability to process heavier feeds. Ultimately, Shell HD² trays offer optimized reactor performance while minimising your capital expenditure and investment costs.

PROOF POINTS

This distillate Low-Sulphur diesel hydrotreater reactor scenario illustrates (Figure 2) the benefits of a Shell HD² tray internal. After being retrofitted with a High Dispersion Tray, reactor catalyst volume was increased by 30% compared to the original configuration. This enabled production of 50 ppm sulphur diesel without large revamp costs.

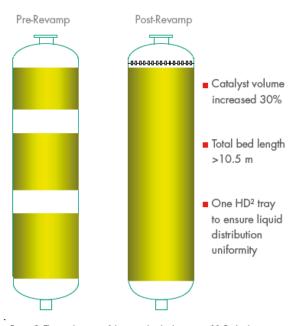


Figure 2: The combination of three catalyst beds into one 10.5 m bed was only possible in this DHT reactor due to the exceptional performance of the HD² Tray.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HOW YOU CAN

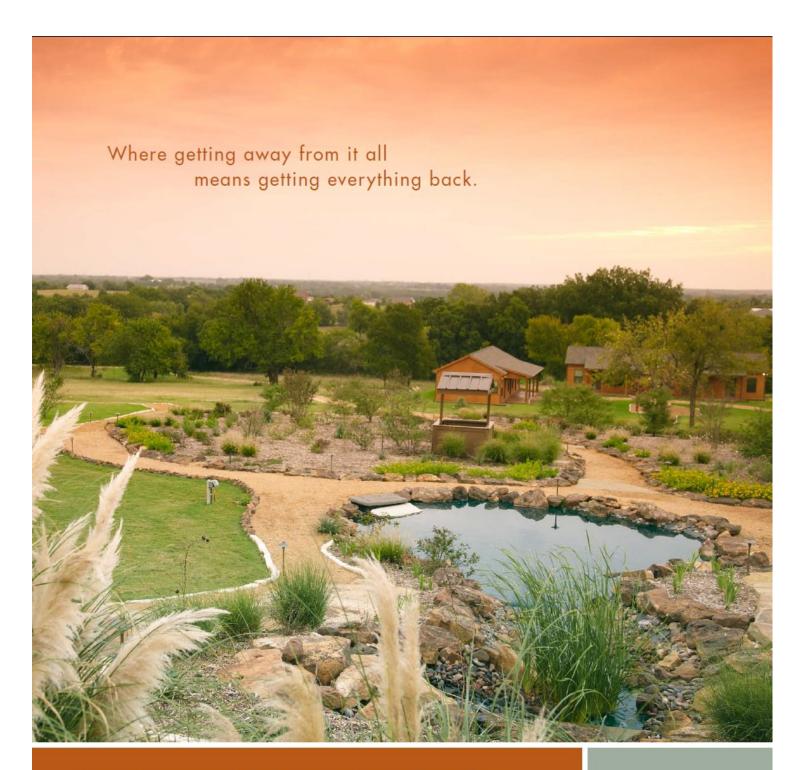
- Increase cycle length and throughput?
- Optimise catalyst usage?
- Increase production despite heavier feedstock?
- Develop new, quality products that meet clean fuel specifications?

For further information, please visit our website at www.shell.com/globalsolutions

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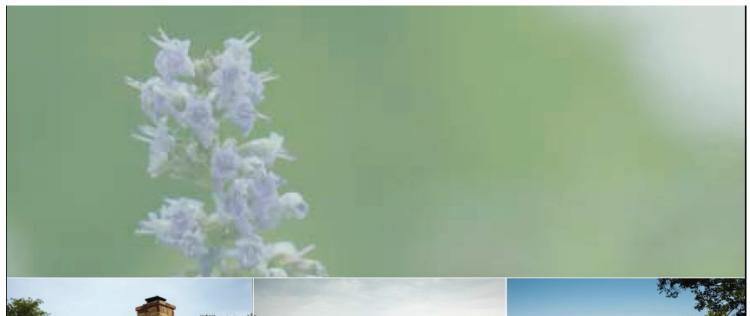
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Uncover...

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Uncover magnificence.





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A BETTER TWIST ON REFINING

Sour crudes present a challenge that no refiner can escape; but instead of swallowing the bitter pill, Shell has developed innovative ways to combat heavy contaminants and improve end products. Better yet, rather than rely on conventional outlets for sulphur by-products, Shell licenses a host of technologies to help refiners repurpose it as a value-added resource. This kind of unique approach to difficult crudes is helping refiners capitalise on their resources and do more with less. Quite the turn of events, don't you think?

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