

engagement with a hole 82a,b formed in a respective slot 80a,b. Fig. 2 shows an assembled device with the wing arms 78a,b positioned in the slots 80a,b (see Fig. 3). The interaction of a protrusion on a wing arm 78a,b, with a hole 82a,b (also see Fig. 3) in the slot 80a,b functions to limit the extent to which the handles 56a,b can separate from each other when the device is in its "open" configuration. Further, handles 56a,b are held in place by the combination of their position under tab 81 and the wing arms 78a,b in slots 80a,b which together restrict movement such that the handles 56a,b remain under the tab 81.

As best seen in Fig. 3, the handles 56a,b can each be formed with an extension spring 83a,b that interact together to bias the handles 56a,b apart and toward an "open" configuration for the patient interface device 16. Specifically, the extension springs 83a,b contact with each other when the patient interface device 16 is closed and generate a spring force that acts in opposition to the latching mechanism described above.

Fig. 3 also shows that the device can include two flange units. Specifically, handle 56a is formed with a first flange unit having a long flange 84 and a short flange 86 and handle 56b is formed with a second flange unit having a long flange 88 and a short flange 90. Thus, long flange 84 interacts with short flange 90 and long flange 88 interacts with short flange 86. Also shown, on each handle 56a,b, the flanges are mounted adjacent and substantially parallel to each other. Further, the flanges are arranged so that when the handles 56a,b are closed, the long flange of one handle overlaps and contacts the short flange of the other and vice-versa. With the mutually