

- Fig. 1 is a schematic presentation of the components of a laser system for performing ophthalmic laser surgery on an eye of a patient, with portions shown in cross section or cut away for clarity;
- Fig. 2 is a perspective view of an interface device in accordance with the present invention;
- Fig. 3 is an exploded, perspective view of an interface device of the present invention;
- Fig. 4 is a plan view of the latching and release mechanisms of the present invention; and
- Fig. 5 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring initially to Fig. 1, the components of a system in accordance with the present invention are shown and collectively designated 10. As shown, the system 10 includes a laser unit 12 and an alignment device 14 that can be fixedly mounted on the laser unit 12. Further, the system 10 includes a patient interface 16 and a grip 18. As envisioned for the present invention, a suction ring 20 is attached to a base member 22, for example, by an interference fit attachment, and the base member 22, in turn, is operably coupled to the grip 18, as further detailed below. Operationally, during a