

a release mechanism that is operationally interrelated with the latching mechanism. More specifically, both mechanisms include a cantilever that extends from the end of one handle. This cantilever has a tab that is formed at the end of the cantilever, with one of the latch members being mounted on the tab. The cantilever itself is biased to engage the latch member on the tab with the latch member that is on the other handle. This engagement of the latching mechanism then holds the interface device in its first configuration. When the latch members are engaged with each other, however, the tab can be pulled to disengage one latch member from the other. With this disengagement the device moves into an "open" (second) configuration. In this "open" configuration the respective arcuate gripping surfaces of the first and second handles are distanced from the patient interface of the laser unit to release the interface device from the patient interface of the laser unit.

As an additional structural feature of the present invention, the interface device includes a pair of wing arms that is mounted on the base member. Specifically, these wing arms are located diametrically across the orifice from the pivot posts, and they respectively extend away from each other in opposite directions tangential to the orifice. Each handle receives one of the wing arms in a slot that is located on the handle adjacent its arcuate gripping surface. For this combination, each wing arm is formed with a protrusion, and the slot in each handle is formed with a hole for receiving the respective protrusion. The interaction of a protrusion on a wing arm, with a hole in the slot on a handle, is specifically established to