

consequence of all this is that when the alignment device 14 is joined with the patient interface 16, the end 46 of the patient interface 16 (i.e. lens 44) will be at a predetermined distance from the end 38 of alignment device 14 (i.e. laser unit 12). Further, the contact lens 44 can be flat or curved, and for some applications, can be manufactured with a radius of curvature that generally conforms with the anterior surface 48 of the eye 24. Fig. 1 also shows that the suction ring 20 is connected in fluid communication with a suction device 52, via a hose 54.

Figs. 2 and 3 show the device of the present invention. As shown, the device includes base member 22, suction ring 20 and a pair of handles 56a,b (which together constitute the grip 18 shown and labeled in Fig. 1). For the present invention, the base member 22 has an annular shaped portion 58 that surrounds an orifice 50 that extends through the base member 22. It can further be seen that the base member 22 has a first side 60 and a second side 62. Geometrically, the orifice 50 is dimensioned at the second side 62 to receive and hold the suction ring 20 against the base member 22 with an interference fit attachment. For the patient interface device 16, the suction ring 20 can be made of an elastomeric material and the base member 22 and handles 56a,b are typically made of a rigid medical grade plastic.

Continuing with Figs. 2 and 3, it can be seen that two spaced-apart pivot posts 64a,b are mounted on the first side 60 of the base member 22 and extend parallel to each other in a direction perpendicular from a plane defined by the annular portion 58 of the base member 22. Also, each handle