other in a side-by-side relationship on the first side of the base member. Each of the handles is respectively engaged with one of the pivot posts for rotation on the base member. Further, each of the handles is formed with an arcuate gripping surface that is positioned so that when the handles are rotated toward each other, the gripping surfaces will independently, but cooperatively, engage the patient interface of the laser unit. It is an important aspect of the present invention that neither of the handles will apply an effective force on the patient interface of the laser unit until they are both in engagement with the patient interface of the laser unit. Once they are both in engagement with the patient interface of the laser unit, however, the handles will symmetrically apply equal and opposite forces against the patient interface of the laser unit. As intended for the present invention, this cooperation of structure is provided to avoid the application of uneven or unequal forces against the patient interface of the laser unit during an engagement of the suction ring with the patient interface.

In addition to the grip, the interface device of the present invention also includes a latching mechanism. In detail, this latching mechanism has two - latch members that are separately mounted on a respective handle. Operationally, these latch members engage each other to hold the interface device in a "closed" (first) configuration. When the device is in its "closed" configuration, the respective arcuate gripping surfaces of the handles are in engagement with the patient interface of the laser unit to firmly hold the interface device on the patient interface of the laser unit.

Along with the latching mechanism, the interface device also includes