WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A base for installation on a vehicle seat and for receiving a child car seat thereon, the base comprising:

a body having a first side, a second side opposite from the first side, a first end configured to align with a seat back of the vehicle seat, a second end opposite the first end;

a first side impact protection (SIP) device located at the first side of the body, near the first end thereof, and a second SIP device located at the second side of the body, near the first end thereof; and

wherein the first SIP device and the second SIP device both extend upward and outward from the body.

2. The base of claim 1, wherein the base and at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device are integrally formed together as a unitary part.

3. The base of claim 1, wherein the first SIP device and the second SIP device horizontally align with a handle of child car seat when the handle is in a stored position.

4. The base of claim 1, wherein the first SIP device and the second SIP device horizontally align with a head receiving area of the child car seat.

5. The base of claim 1, wherein a maximum width of at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is greater than a width of a handle connected to the child car seat.

6. The base of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device defines a recess within which a portion of the handle is receivable.

7. The base of claim 6, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is positionable within a gap formed between a seat shell of the child car seat and a handle connected to the seat shell;

wherein an outwardly facing surface of at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is contoured to maximize engagement with a surface of the handle.

8. The base of claim 6, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is aligned with an exterior of at least one of the first side and the second side of the body;

wherein an inwardly facing surface of at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is contoured to maximize engagement with a surface of the handle.

9. The base of claim 6, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device includes a first protrusion and a second protrusion spaced laterally apart;

wherein the first protrusion is positionable within a gap formed between a seat shell of the child car seat and a handle connected to the seat shell and the second protrusion is positionable near an exterior of at least one of the first side and the second side of the body;

wherein the recess is defined between the first protrusion and the second protrusion.

10. The base of claim 1, wherein when the child car seat is coupled to the base, the child car seat is rotatable about an axis relative to the base.

11. The base of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is transformable between a first configuration and a second configuration;

wherein the child car seat is rotatably connectable to the base, and the at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is transformable between the first configuration and the second configuration in response to rotation of the child car seat relative to the base.

12. A base for installation on a vehicle seat and for receiving a child car seat thereon, the base comprising:

a body having a first side, a second side opposite from the first side, a first end configured to align with a seat back of the vehicle seat, a second end opposite the first end;

a first side impact protection (SIP) device located at the first side of the body, near the first end thereof, and a second SIP device located at the second side of the body, near the first end thereof; and

wherein the first SIP device and the second SIP device are positioned to horizontally align with a head receiving area of the child car seat when the child car seat is positioned on the base.

13. The base of claim 12, wherein the first SIP device and the second SIP device horizontally align with a handle of child car seat when the handle is in a stored position;

wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device defines a recess within which a portion of the handle is receivable.

14. The base of claim 12, wherein the base and at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device are integrally formed together as a unitary part.

15. The base of claim 13, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is positionable within a gap formed between a seat shell of the child car seat and the handle connected to the seat shell;

wherein an outwardly facing surface of at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is contoured to maximize engagement with a surface of the handle.

16. The base of claim 13, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is aligned with an exterior of at least one of the first side and the second side of the body;

wherein an inwardly facing surface of at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is contoured to maximize engagement with a surface of the handle.

17. The base of claim 13, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device includes a first protrusion and a second protrusion spaced laterally apart;

wherein the first protrusion is positionable within a gap formed between a seat shell of the child car seat and the handle connected to the seat shell and the second protrusion is positionable near an exterior of at least one of the first side and the second side of the body;

wherein the recess is defined between the first protrusion and the second protrusion.

18. The base of claim 12, wherein at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is transformable between a first configuration and a second configuration;

wherein the child car seat is rotatably connectable to the base, and the at least one of the first SIP device and the second SIP device is transformable between the first configuration and the second configuration in response to rotation of the child car seat relative to the base.