We claim:

1. An operating tool for a subterranean tool actuated by movement of a movable member in a housing in the subterranean tool by the operating tool, comprising:

a mandrel supporting a selectively releasable gripping member to selectively actuate the movable member of the subterranean tool while selectively fixedly engaged to the housing of the subterranean tool with a latch;

said gripping member releasing from the movable member before said latch releases from the housing.

2. The tool of claim **1**, wherein:

said gripping member releasing from the movable member before a force can be transmitted from said mandrel to said latch.

3. The tool of claim **2**, wherein:

said gripping member moves relatively to said latch.

4. The tool of claim **3**, wherein:

said gripping member moves in tandem with said mandrel.

5. The tool of claim **4**, wherein:

said gripping member comprises at least one radially protruding member with respect to said mandrel.

6. The tool of claim **5**, wherein:

said radially protruding member comprises a grip lug and a retraction lug spaced apart from each other.

7. The tool of claim **6**, wherein:

said grip lug on initial relative movement with respect to said latch initially engages the movable member at a first location to move the movable member in a first direction.

8. The tool of claim **7**, wherein:

said grip lug moving past the movable member after moving the movable member in said first direction to engage the movable member in a

second location for movement in a second direction opposite said first direction to actuate said subterranean tool.

9. The tool of claim **8**, wherein:

after a predetermined movement of said grip lug while retaining the movable member in a second direction said retraction lug is engaged to push said grip lug away from the movable member.

10. The tool of claim **9**, wherein:

said latch comprises at least one collet to engage the housing and a support member releasably mounted to said mandrel;

said support member moving toward said collet when said grip lug moves in said second direction.

11. The tool of claim **10**, wherein:

said grip lug is moved by said retraction lug away from the movable member before said support member engages said collet.

12. The tool of claim **11**, wherein:

said support member is retained to said mandrel with a shearable member for selective release from the housing of the subterranean tool;

said collet comprises an external thread pattern to engage a similar thread pattern on the housing for gripping the housing when said support member engages said collet.

13. The tool of claim **4**, wherein:

said mandrel moves axially relative to said latch and is rotationally locked to said latch;

said mandrel has a removal lug to engage said latch upon a predetermined relative movement by said mandrel.

14. The tool of claim **5**, wherein:

said mandrel further comprises a muleshoe extending from a lower end to enter the movable member for centering said flexible member and for creating a surrounding clearance around said mandrel to reduce debris access to said flexible member.

15. The tool of claim **1**, wherein:

the movable member operates a barrier tool.

16. The tool of claim **15**, wherein:

said barrier tool comprises a ball valve or a sliding sleeve.

17. The tool of claim **1**, wherein:

said mandrel comprising a sealing assembly that engages the housing.

18. The tool of claim **12**, wherein:

said mandrel allowing said support member to be mounted in two locations;

in a lower location for said support member, movement of said grip lug in said second direction shifts the movable member and in an upper location for said support member on said mandrel movement of said grip lug in said second direction does not shift the movable member.

19. The tool of claim **18**, wherein:

said shearable member when set in said lower location is selected to fail at a value that allows said mandrel to release from the housing;

said shearable member when set in said upper location is selected to fail at a value that fails at a higher level than when in said lower location with the result that said mandrel removes the housing when moved in said second direction.

20. The tool of claim **19**, wherein:

said subterranean tool is a barrier tool that is closed when said mandrel releases from the housing but which remains open if said mandrel removes said housing.

21. The tool of claim **9**, wherein:

said latch remains fixedly engaged to the housing only with set down weight applied to said mandrel.

22. The tool of claim **21**, wherein:

said latch comprises at least one collet to engage the housing;

said collet comprises an external thread pattern to engage a similar thread pattern on the housing for gripping the housing only when weight is set down on said mandrel.

We claim:

1. An operating tool for a subterranean tool located in or delivered to a tubular string and actuated by movement of a movable member in a housing in the subterranean tool by the operating tool, comprising:

a mandrel having an open passage therethrough delivered on a string to the subterranean location, said mandrel supporting a selectively releasable gripping member to selectively actuate the movable member of the subterranean tool in opposed directions while selectively fixedly and sealingly engaged to the housing of the subterranean tool with a latch said actuation facilitating pressure testing the string through said mandrel open passage and to the housing of the subterranean tool with said subterranean tool in a closed position;

said gripping member releasing from the movable member before said latch releases from the housing in response to a mechanical force applied to the string.

2. The tool of claim **1**, wherein:

said gripping member releasing from the movable member before a force can be transmitted from said mandrel to said latch.

3. The tool of claim **2**, wherein:

said gripping member moves relatively to said latch.

4. The tool of claim **3**, wherein:

said gripping member moves in tandem with said mandrel.

5. The tool of claim **4**, wherein:

said gripping member comprises at least one radially protruding member with respect to said mandrel.

6. The tool of claim **5**, wherein:

said radially protruding member comprises a grip lug and a retraction lug spaced apart from each other.

7. The tool of claim **6**, wherein:

said grip lug on initial relative movement with respect to said latch initially engages the movable member at a first location to move the movable member in a first direction.

8. An operating tool for a subterranean tool actuated by movement of a movable member in a housing in the subterranean tool by the operating tool, comprising:

a mandrel supporting a selectively releasable gripping member to selectively actuate the movable member of the subterranean tool while selectively fixedly engaged to the housing of the subterranean tool with a latch;

said gripping member releasing from the movable member before said latch releases from the housing;

said gripping member releasing from the movable member before a force can be transmitted from said mandrel to said latch;

said gripping member moves relatively to said latch;

said gripping member moves in tandem with said mandrel;

said gripping member comprises at least one radially protruding member with respect to said mandrel;

said radially protruding member comprises a grip lug and a retraction lug spaced apart from each other;

said grip lug on initial relative movement with respect to said latch initially engages the movable member at a first location to move the movable member in a first direction;

said grip lug moving past the movable member after moving the movable member in said first direction to engage the movable member in a second location for movement in a second direction opposite said first direction to actuate said subterranean tool.

9. The tool of claim **8**, wherein:

after a predetermined movement of said grip lug while retaining the movable member in a second direction said retraction lug is engaged to push said grip lug away from the movable member.

10. The tool of claim **9**, wherein:

said latch comprises at least one collet to engage the housing and a support member releasably mounted to said mandrel;

said support member moving toward said collet when said grip lug moves in said second direction.

11. The tool of claim **10**, wherein:

said grip lug is moved by said retraction lug away from the movable member before said support member engages said collet.

12. The tool of claim **11**, wherein:

said support member is retained to said mandrel with a shearable member for selective release from the housing of the subterranean tool;

said collet comprises an external thread pattern to engage a similar thread pattern on the housing for gripping the housing when said support member engages said collet.

13. The tool of claim **4**, wherein:

said mandrel moves axially relative to said latch and is rotationally locked to said latch;

said mandrel has a removal lug to engage said latch upon a predetermined relative movement by said mandrel.

14. The tool of claim **5**, wherein:

said mandrel further comprises a muleshoe extending from a lower end to enter the movable member for centering said flexible member and for creating a surrounding clearance around said mandrel to reduce debris access to said flexible member.

15. The tool of claim **1**, wherein:

the movable member operates a barrier tool.

16. The tool of claim **15**, wherein:

said barrier tool comprises a ball valve or a sliding sleeve.

17. The tool of claim **1**, wherein:

said mandrel comprising a sealing assembly that engages the housing.

18. The tool of claim **12**, wherein:

said mandrel allowing said support member to be mounted in two locations;

in a lower location for said support member, movement of said grip lug in said second direction shifts the movable member and in an upper location for said support member on said mandrel movement of said grip lug in said second direction does not shift the movable member.

19. The tool of claim **18**, wherein:

said shearable member when set in said lower location is selected to fail at a value that allows said mandrel to release from the housing;

said shearable member when set in said upper location is selected to fail at a value that fails at a higher level than when in said lower location with the result that said mandrel removes the housing when moved in said second direction.

20. The tool of claim **19**, wherein:

said subterranean tool is a barrier tool that is closed when said mandrel releases from the housing but which remains open if said mandrel removes said housing.

21. The tool of claim **9**, wherein:

said latch remains fixedly engaged to the housing only with set down weight applied to said mandrel.

22. The tool of claim **21**, wherein:

said latch comprises at least one collet to engage the housing;

said collet comprises an external thread pattern to engage a similar thread pattern on the housing for gripping the housing only when weight is set down on said mandrel.