CLAIMS:

1. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) port housed in a housing including an engaging portion, the engaging portion including at least two deflectable clips for engaging with a supporting portion of a power outlet for retaining the USB port to the power outlet.

2. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) port housed in a housing as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least two deflectable clips each has a tapered surface for engaging with a corresponding tapered surface of the supporting portion and for causing deflection of the corresponding deflectable clip upon insertion of the engaging portion into the supporting portion.

3. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) port housed in a housing as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the at least two deflectable clips return to an undeflected position after the tapered surface of each of the at least two deflectable clips moves past the corresponding tapered surface of the supporting portion upon the engaging portion being further inserted into the supporting portion.

4. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) port housed in a housing as claimed in claim 3 wherein the at least two deflectable clips each includes a face for engaging with a corresponding recessed surface of the supporting portion for thereby retaining the USB port to the power outlet.

5. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) port housed in a housing as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the engaging portion includes 4 deflectable clips for engaging with the supporting portion.

6. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module including:

   a USB port;

   an engaging portion for connecting the USB charging module to a supporting portion of a power outlet; and

   a USB charging circuit electrically connected to the USB port at an output and for connection to mains power at an input.

7. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in claim 6 wherein the engaging portion includes at least two deflectable clips for connecting the USB charging module to the supporting portion.

8. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in any one of claims 6 or 7 wherein the engaging portion includes four deflectable clips for connecting the USB charging module to the supporting portion.

9. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8 wherein the USB charging module is removable from the supporting portion once connected to the supporting portion.

10. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 9 wherein the USB charging circuit, in use, converts mains power input of between 100V and 240V alternating current (AC) to between 4.75V and 5.25V direct current (DC) at the output for supply to the USB port.

11. A method of connecting a modular Universal Serial Bus (USB) housing to a power outlet, the modular USB housing housing a USB port and including an engaging portion, the method including:

engaging the engaging portion of the modular USB housing with a supporting portion of the power outlet by inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion, thereby retaining the modular USB housing to the power outlet.

12. A method of connecting a modular Universal Serial Bus (USB) housing as claimed in claim 11 wherein the step of engaging the engaging portion of the modular USB housing with the supporting portion includes causing at least two clips of the engaging portion to each deflect upon engaging with a corresponding tapered surface of the supporting portion upon inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion and then causing the at least two clips to each assume an undeflected position upon further inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion.

13. A method of connecting a modular Universal Serial Bus (USB) housing as claimed in any one of claims 11 or 12 wherein the step of inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion also causes the USB port to be located within an aperture in the power outlet to allow access to the USB port by a user via the aperture.

14. A method of connecting a modular Universal Serial Bus (USB) housing as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the step of engaging the engaging portion of the modular USB housing with the supporting portion includes causing two clips of the engaging portion to each deflect upon interaction with a corresponding tapered surface of the supporting portion upon

inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion and then causing each of the two clips to assume its undeflected position upon further inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion.

15. A method of connecting a modular Universal Serial Bus (USB) housing as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein the step of inserting the modular USB housing is performed from a rear side of the power outlet.

16. A power outlet for allowing a user to charge a device via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector of the device, the power outlet including:

an aperture for receiving a switch; and

a USB port for receiving the USB connector; wherein

the USB port is disposed in the aperture.

17. A power outlet as claimed in claim 16 wherein the USB port is provided in a USB charging module including an engaging portion for connecting the USB charging module to a supporting portion of the power outlet disposed about the aperture, and a USB charging circuit being electrically connected at an output to the USB port and for connection at an input to mains power and wherein the engaging portion includes at least two deflectable clips connecting the USB charging module to the supporting portion of the power outlet.

18. A power outlet as claimed in claim 17 wherein the engaging portion includes four deflectable clips for connecting the modular USB housing to the supporting portion.

19. A power outlet as claimed in any one of claims 17 or 18 further including a second aperture in which is disposed a switch for controlling mains power supplied to the USB charging module.

20. A power outlet as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19 wherein, in use, the USB charging circuit converts mains power received at the input of between 100V and 240V alternating current (AC) to between 4.75V and 5.25V direct current (DC) at the output for supply to the USB port.

21. A power outlet for allowing a user to charge a device via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector of the device and for allowing the user to provide mains power to a further device via an alternating current (AC) connector, the power outlet including:

a power socket for connection to mains power and for receiving the AC connector;

an aperture for receiving a switch; and

a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port for receiving the USB connector; wherein the USB port is disposed in the aperture.

22. A power outlet as claimed in claim 21 wherein the USB port is provided in a USB charging module including an engaging portion connecting the USB charging module to a supporting portion of the power outlet disposed about the aperture, and a USB charging circuit being electrically connected at an output to the USB port and for connection at an input to mains power and wherein the engaging portion includes at least two deflectable clips connecting the USB charging module to the supporting portion of the power outlet.

23. A power outlet as claimed in claim 22 wherein, in use, the USB charging circuit converts mains power at the input of between 100V and 240V alternating current (AC) to between 4.75V and 5.25V direct current (DC) at the output for supply to the USB port.

24. A power outlet as claimed in any one of claims 21 or 23 wherein the engaging portion is provided by four deflectable clips for connecting the USB charging module to the supporting portion of the power outlet.

25. A power outlet as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 24 including a second power socket and two switches, at least one switch for controlling mains power supplied to at least one of the power sockets.

26. A method of installing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module in a power outlet, the USB charging module including a USB port, an engaging portion and an input for connection to mains power, the method including:

connecting the USB charging module to the power outlet via the engaging portion so that the USB port is accessible via an aperture in the power outlet;

connecting the input of the USB charging module to mains power; and

mounting the power outlet to a mounting surface.

27. A method of installing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in claim 26 wherein the step of connecting the USB charging module to the power outlet includes inserting the engaging portion of the USB charging module into a supporting portion of the power outlet causing at least two clips of the engaging portion to each deflect upon engaging with a corresponding tapered surface of the supporting portion and then causing the at least

two clips to each assume an undeflected position upon further inserting the engaging portion into the supporting portion, to thereby retain the engaging portion to the supporting portion.

28. A method of installing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in any one of claims 26 or 27 wherein the step of connecting the input of the USB charging module to mains power includes connecting an active wire and a neutral wire of the USB charging module to mains power.

29. A method of installing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 28 wherein the step of connecting the input of the USB charging module to mains power occurs after the step of connecting the USB charging module to the power outlet.

30. A method of installing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 29 wherein the step of mounting the power outlet to a mounting surface includes mounting the power outlet to a wall around an aperture in the wall, and wherein the USB charging module is thereby retained within a cavity behind the wall.

31. An interface between a supporting portion of a power outlet and a USB port, the interface including at least two mating interfaces of the supporting portion, each engaging with a corresponding clip of an engaging portion disposed about the USB port to thereby retain the USB port to the power outlet.

32. An interface as claimed in claim 31 wherein the at least two mating interfaces each includes a recessed surface engaging with a face of the corresponding clip.

33. An interface as claimed in claim 32 wherein the at least two mating interfaces each includes a tapered surface for deflecting a tapered surface of the corresponding clip upon insertion of the corresponding clip into the at least two mating interfaces.

34. An interface as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 33 wherein the supporting portion is disposed about a switch aperture in the power outlet.

35. An interface as claimed in claim 34 wherein the USB port is disposed within the switch aperture and is accessible via the switch aperture.

CLAIMS:

1. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module housing adapted for securement to a surface mountable power outlet, the housing including:

an engaging portion for connecting the housing to a supporting portion of the power outlet;

access means to allow a USB charging circuit to be inserted into the housing; and

an aperture for allowing external access to a USB port.

2. The housing according to claim 1 further including at least one aperture for receiving wires carrying mains power.

3. The housing according to claim 1 wherein the access means is provided by an aperture in an external face of the housing.

4. The housing according to claim 3 wherein the aperture is covered by a removable portion.

5. The housing according to claim 4 wherein the removable portion includes at least one aperture for receiving wires carrying mains power.

6. The housing according to claim 1 wherein the supporting portion of the power outlet is an integral portion of a grid or face plate.

7. The housing according to claim 1 wherein the supporting portion of the power outlet is located in a mounting plate that is adapted to be connected to the rear of a grid or face plate.

8. The housing according to claim 1 wherein said housing is connected to the supporting portion of the power outlet from the front of the grid or face plate.

9. The housing according to claim 1 wherein said housing is connected to the supporting portion of the power outlet from the rear of the grid or face plate.

10. The housing according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the engaging portion includes:

a plurality of clips extending outwardly from one or more exterior faces of the housing, said clips for engagement with one or more surfaces of the supporting portion of the power outlet in a snap fit arrangement.

11. The housing according to claim 10 wherein the clips have a tapered front face and a substantially vertical rear face.

12. The housing according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the aperture for allowing external access to a USB port is located on a front face of the housing.

13. A Universal Serial Bus (USB) charging module adapted for securement to a surface mountable power outlet, the charging module including:

a USB port;

a USB charging circuit that is capable of receiving a mains power input;

a housing, said housing including an engaging portion for connecting the housing to a supporting portion of the power outlet; access means to allow the USB charging circuit to be inserted into the housing and an aperture for allowing external access to the USB port.

14. The USB charging module according to claim 13 wherein the USB charging circuit includes a printed circuit board (PCB).

15. The USB charging module according to claim 14 wherein a plurality of wires are soldered directly to the PCB for connection to mains power either directly or via a switch.

16. The USB charging module according to claim 14 wherein a terminal block is mounted on the PCB for connection to wires carrying mains power either directly or via a switch.

17. The USB charging module according to claim 14 wherein there are provided screwed terminals for wire termination.

18. A surface mountable power outlet for allowing a user to charge a USB compatible device, the power outlet including:

a supporting portion;

a USB charging module including a USB port; a USB charging circuit that is capable of receiving a mains power input; a housing, said housing including an engaging portion for connecting the housing to the supporting portion of the power outlet; access means to allow the USB charging circuit to be inserted into the housing and an aperture for allowing external access to the USB port;

a grid or face plate adapted to allow a user to access the USB port;

a connection between the USB charging module and mains power; and

mounting means for mounting the power outlet to a mounting surface.

19. The power outlet according to claim 18 wherein the supporting portion is an integral portion of the grid or face plate.

20. The power outlet according to claim 18 wherein the supporting portion is located in a mounting plate that is adapted to be connected to the rear of the grid or face plate.

21. The power outlet according to claim 18 wherein the USB charging module housing is connected to the supporting portion from the front of the grid or face plate.

22. The power outlet according to claim 18 wherein the USB charging module housing is connected to the supporting portion from the rear of the grid or face plate.

23. The power outlet according to claim 18 wherein the mounting surface is a wall or floor.

24. The power outlet according to claim 18 further including a cover plate.

25. The power outlet according to claim 18 wherein the mains power is between about 100-240V alternating current (AC).

26. A method of installing a power outlet for allowing a user to charge a USB compatible device, the power outlet according to claim 18, comprising the steps of:

connecting the engaging portion of the USB charging module housing to the supporting portion of the power outlet;

connecting the mains power to the USB charging module; and

mounting the power outlet to the mounting surface.

27. A method of installing a power outlet allowing a user to charge USB compatible devices, the power outlet according to claim 20, comprising the steps of:

connecting the engaging portion of the USB charging module housing to the supporting portion of the power outlet;

connecting the mounting plate to the rear of a grid or face plate;

connecting the mains power to the USB charging module; and

mounting the power outlet to the mounting surface.

28. The method of installing a power outlet according to any one of claims 26 or 27 wherein the power outlet is mounted to the mounting surface by fastening the grid or face plate to the surface by screws.