CLAIMS

1. A fitment mounting apparatus for mounting a hold open fitment to flexible packaging, wherein the hold open fitment has a flexible configuration variable between a first un-distended shape and a second stably distended shape, the apparatus comprising:

a frame forming a holder configured for holding more than one of the hold open fitments within the holder;

a flexible packaging positioning system arranged for positioning flexible packaging for mounting the hold open fitment to the flexible packaging; and

an applicator coupled to the frame configured to engage at least one edge of the hold open fitment in the holder and bias the at least one edge so that the hold open fitment is singulated, from others of the more than one hold open fitments in the holder, and issued from the holder into the flexible packaging on the flexible packaging positioning system substantially simultaneous with singulation.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the applicator comprises a actuator and a fitment dispenser coupled to the frame.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the actuator includes an actuated member having a contact surface, the contact surface configured to engage the at least one edge of the hold open fitment, and wherein actuation of the actuator provides the bias of the at least one edge, and provides dispensing of the hold open fitment from the holder through the fitment dispenser to issue the hold open fitment into the flexible packaging.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the contact surface of the actuated member is angled.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the frame includes a fitment seat configured to engage another edge of the hold open fitment, opposite the at least one edge biased by the actuator.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the frame includes a fitment stop configured to stop the hold open fitment in a position for issue into the flexible packaging.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the fitment seat and the fitment stop are positioned to form a gap therebetween, the gap sized and shaped substantially conformal to a dimension of no more than one hold open fitment and the gap admitting passage of no more than one hold open fitment through the gap so that the hold open fitment biased at the at least one edge is simultaneous singulated and issued.

8. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the actuated member is movably coupled to the frame, the actuated member configured to move between a first position and a second position in a direction the hold open fitment issues from the fitment dispenser.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the actuated member in the first position is disposed so that an offset hold open fitment in the holder is movable within the holder to align the at least one edge of the hold open fitment with the contact surface of the actuator.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the actuated member in the second position is extended through the fitment dispenser so that the hold open fitment is issued and at least partially inserted into the flexible packaging.

11. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the fitment dispenser is orientated so that the hold open fitment issues from the fitment dispenser in a direction that effects insertion of the hold open fitment into the flexible packaging.

12. A fitment applicator comprising:

a frame configured to store strip fitments, the frame having an outlet configured to dispense the stored strip fitments;

a support communicatively coupled to a first end of the outlet, the support configured to support a container; and

an engagement member communicatively coupled to a second end of the outlet aligned opposite the first end, the engagement member configured to operate in cooperation with the outlet, forming a stripper,

wherein the stripper is configured to interface with the stored strip fitments and strip the stored strip fitments one at a time, coincident with each stripped strip fitment being dispensed through the first end of the outlet and inserted into a respective container.

13. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein an opening on at least one side of the container is unsealed so that a separator flares the opening along a full opening width.

14. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the engagement member interfaces with the stored strip fitments and strips the stored strip fitments one at a time.

15. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the engagement member dispenses the stripped strip fitment through the first end of the outlet.

16. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the engagement member is angled such that the stripped strip fitment is dispensed at an angle.

17. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the outlet is configured such that no more than a single stripped strip fitment passes through the outlet at a time.

18. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the outlet and support are configured such that each stripped strip fitment being inserted into the respective container is substantially coincident with the stripped strip fitment dispensing from the outlet.

19. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the strip fitments are stored in a substantially vertical configuration.

20. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the strip fitments are stored in a substantially horizontal configuration.

21. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the stripper is configured such that interface with the stored strip fitments occurs with a single strip fitment at a time.

22. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the stripper is sized and shaped so that it is substantially complementary to an engagement edge of the stored strip fitments, wherein during interface with the stored strip fitment, the stripper contacts the engagement edge of a single strip fitment without contacting any adjacent stored strip fitment.

23. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the stripper is configured such that each stripped strip fitment is partially inserted into the container.

24. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the fitment applicator further comprises a pressure plate configured to provide a substantially consistent contact between the transport system and the containers.

25. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the fitment applicator further comprises a vacuum separator configured to interface with the containers.

26. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the fitment applicator further comprises a guide rail configured to interface with at least one of the containers or the stripped strip fitment.

27. The fitment applicator of claim 12, wherein the fitment applicator further comprises a sealing mechanism configured to seal the stripped strip fitment into the container.