shears. Unfortunately, installers often forget or poorly execute this step that can in turn reduce the overall quality of the film attachment system installation.

Additional adhesive attachment article-to-window film installation steps requiring some level of skill include initially aligning the adhesive attachment article relative to the corresponding window component (i.e., the window frame 16 or the glazing 18), and then applying proper force to activate the adhesive surfaces 13a, 13c. First, the adhesive attachment article 10 must be aligned and generally adhered to the corresponding window components. Once aligned, a force is applied by the installer on to the leg portions 12a, 12c, causing the adhesive surfaces 13a, 13c to more fully press against the corresponding window component. Because the leg portions 12a, 12c are quite close to one another while arranged at an approximately 90 degree angle, it can be difficult to uniformly align the attachment article relative to the window components, while simultaneously removing the liners (where provided). Similar constraints also impede consistent application of the requisite pressing forces. Various tools have been developed for assisting the installer with these tasks, including tools that can both align and apply pressing forces to the attachment article such as those described in U.S. Publication No. 2009/0320406 (Dyer). While useful, these alignment and force applying tools must be carried by the installer (in addition to the cutter(s) mentioned above), adding to the overall complexity of the installation process.

The cutting, alignment and/or force applying concerns noted above are not limited to adhesive attachment articles and their installation to windows. Installation of a wide variety of other flexible profile moldings (i.e., other than adhesive attachment articles utilized for window film-to-window frame attachment) also entail one or more of miter cut formation, installation alignment and/or pressing force application.

In light of the above, a need exists for tools that simplify the installation of elongate flexible profile moldings, such as, but not limited to, installation of adhesive attachment articles to window film-protected windows, including the formation of desired miter cuts. Optionally, these same tools facilitate performance of other installation tasks, such as attachment article alignment. Other installation tasks, such as application of required pressing forces, are also addressed.

Summary

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided an installation tool for installing an elongate flexible profile molding to a substrate, the tool comprising:

a housing defining a cavity and opposing, first and second ends;

a blade assembly coupled to the housing and including a blade disposed within the cavity; and

a cutting plate selectively mountable to the second end of the housing, the cutting plate including:

a platform defining opposing, first and second major faces,

a first profile projecting from the first major face,

an optional second profile projecting from the second major face,

wherein the first profile and the optional second profile are configured to retain an elongate flexible profile molding, the first profile differing from the second profile when provided;

wherein selective mounting of the cutting plate to the second end of the housing defines a first cutting state in which the first profile faces the blade and an optional second cutting state in which the second profile, when provided, faces the blade.

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of installing a flexible profile molding having an un-flexed shape in a natural condition, the method comprising:

inserting the flexible profile molding into an installation tool, including the installation tool forcing the flexible profile molding to a flexed cutting condition having a flexed cutting shape differing from the un-flexed shape;

actuating the installation tool to cut the flexible profile molding while in the flexed cutting condition to define a flexible profile molding segment having a miter cut end;

removing the flexible profile molding segment from the installation tool such that flexible profile molding segment is free to revert back toward the natural condition;

wherein the miter cut end is substantially linear in the flexed cutting condition and has a curved contour in the natural condition; and locating the flexible profile molding segment at an installation environment.

Some aspects of the present disclosure relate to an installation tool useful for the installation of an elongate flexible profile molding, for example installation of an adhesive attachment article to a window film-protected window. Although descriptions of the present disclosure make reference to elongate adhesive attachment articles for installation to windows the tools, systems and methods of the present disclosure are equally applicable to any other type or format of flexible profile molding, including flexible profile moldings that do not include an adhesive. The installation tool includes a housing, a blade assembly and a cutting plate. The housing defines a cavity and opposing, first and second ends. The blade assembly is coupled to the housing and includes a blade disposed within the cavity. The cutting