CLAIMS

1. A component for connection to a mounting region of an electrical outlet or switch plate, the component comprising:

   a housing comprising at least one wall and at least one non-deflectable retaining surface on at least a portion of the at least one wall for engaging with a sliding connector;

   component parts at least partially housed within the housing; and

   a component interface for controlling at least one of the component parts.

2. A component as claimed in claim 1 wherein the component is a module.

3. A component as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 wherein the component is a switch mechanism.

4. A component as claimed in claim 3 wherein the component interface is a dolly.

5. A component as claimed in claim 3 wherein the interface is a push button.

6. A component as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 wherein the component is a charger.

7. A component as claimed in claim 6 wherein the component interface is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port.

8. A component interface as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 2 wherein the component is a data outlet.

9. A component as claimed in claim 8 wherein the interface is an RJ-45 connector.

10. A component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the component interface is a wireless receiver or transceiver for receiving wireless signals.

11. A system comprising:

    an electrical outlet or switch plate comprising a mounting region; and

a component connected to the mounting region, the component comprising:

at least one wall;

at least one non-deflectable retaining surface on at least a portion of the at least one wall;

a component interface disposed at one end of the component; and

component parts at least partially housed within the component and controlled by the component interface; wherein

the component is connected to the mounting region via a sliding connector engaging the at least one non-deflectable retaining surface to thereby retain the component to the mounting region.

12. An electrical outlet or switch plate comprising a mounting region for receiving a component, the mounting region comprising at least one aperture or channel for receiving a sliding connector for engagement with a non-deflectable retaining surface of the component to thereby retain the component to the mounting region.

13. A method of connecting a component to an electrical outlet or switch plate, the method comprising:

placing the component at a mounting region of the electrical outlet or switch plate and sliding a sliding connector through a portion of the mounting region to engage a non-deflectable retaining surface of the component to thereby retain the component to the electrical outlet or switch plate.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 further comprising sliding a second sliding connector through a portion of the mounting region to engage a second retaining surface of the component.

15. A method of connecting a plurality of components to an electrical outlet or switch plate, the method comprising placing the plurality of components at respective mounting regions of the electrical outlet or switch plate and sliding a sliding connector through a portion of the respective mounting regions to engage with a non-deflectable retaining surface of a first of the plurality of components, and with a non-deflectable retaining surface of a second of the plurality of components, thereby retaining the plurality of components to the electrical outlet or switch plate.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the number of components is two.

17. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the number of components is three.

18. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the number of components is four.

19. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the number of components is six.

20. A method of disconnecting a component connected to an electrical outlet or switch plate, the method comprising sliding a sliding connector in the electrical outlet or switch plate to disengage from a non-deflectable retaining surface of the component and removing the component from the electrical outlet or switch plate.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20 comprising sliding a second sliding connector in the electrical outlet switch plate to disengage with a second retaining surface of the component prior to removing the component from the electrical outlet or switch plate.

22. A method of disconnecting a plurality of components from an electrical outlet or switch plate, the method comprising sliding a sliding connector in the electrical outlet or switch plate to disengage with a non-deflectable retaining surface of a first of the plurality of components, and from a non-deflectable retaining surface of a second of the plurality of components, and then removing the plurality of components from the electrical outlet or switch plate.

23. An interface between a mounting region of an electrical outlet and a component, the interface comprising an aperture or channel in the mounting region, having therein a sliding connector, which is engaged with a non-deflectable retaining surface of the component, to thereby retain the component to the mounting region.

24. A sliding connector comprising a tab and at least two legs extending substantially perpendicularly therefrom.

25. A sliding connector as claimed in claim 24 comprising three legs.

26. A sliding connector as claimed in claim 24 comprising four legs.

27. A sliding connector as claimed in claim 24 comprising 5 legs.

28. A sliding connector as claimed in any one of claims 24 to 27 wherein the legs are not of the same length.