WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for laparoscopically approximating edges of a tissue opening toward each other for surgical attachment, the device comprising:

a first tissue engaging component; and

a second tissue engaging component;

a spreader component for moving the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component; and

a control for moving the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the device is shaped as an elongate device, including a first end of the elongate device which comprises the first tissue engaging component, the second tissue engaging component and the spreader component, and a second end of the elongate device which comprises the control.

3. The device of claim 2 and further comprising rests for aligning a tissue attachment mechanism parallel to a line between the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component.

4. The device of any one of claims 2-3 and further comprising a mechanism for rotating the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component relative to an axis of the elongate device.

5. The device of any one of claims 1-4 and further comprising a wire attached to at least one of the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component, the wire extending to the control for moving the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component.

6. The device of any one of claims 2-3 and further comprising a spring for pushing the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component apart, the spring located in the first end of the elongate device.

7. The device of claim 2 and further comprising a spring for pushing the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component apart, the spring located in the second end of the elongate device.

8. The device of any one of claims 1-7 wherein the first tissue engaging component comprises a first prong and the second tissue engaging component comprises a second prong.

9. The device of any one of claims 1-8 wherein the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component comprise shape memory material.

10. The device of claim 8 wherein:

the first prong is configured to enter the opening in the tissue, a tip of the first prong pointing in a first direction; and

the second prong is configured to enter the opening in the tissue, a tip of the second prong pointing in a second direction, at least 90 degrees away from the first direction.

11. The device of any one of claims 6-10 and further comprising:

a tissue attachment mechanism for surgically attaching edges of the opening in the tissue to each other located in the first end of the elongate device; and

a second control for actuating the tissue attachment mechanism, the control located in the second end of the elongate device.

12. The device of any one of claims 2-7 and further comprising:

a tissue stapler located in the first end of the elongate device; and

a second control for actuating the tissue stapler, the control located in the second end of the elongate device.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein the tissue stapler comprises a stapler side and a stapler anvil side, and the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component are attached to the stapler side.

14. The device of claim 12 wherein the tissue stapler comprises a stapler side and a stapler anvil side, and the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component are attached to the stapler anvil side.

15. The device of any one of claims 12-14 wherein the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component are arranged to pull the edges of the tissue opening between jaws of the tissue stapler.

16. The device of any one of claims 1-15 shaped and sized to pass through a trocar wherein a first portion of the device, configured to operate within a patient's body, has a maximum diameter in a range between 5 millimeters and 15 millimeters.

17. The device of any one of claims 12-16 wherein the tissue stapler is a narrow tissue stapler, comprising no more than 3 rows of staples.

18. The device of any one of claims 12-17 wherein the first end of the elongate device is attached to a distal end of a shaft of the device configured to be detachable from the second end of the elongate device.

19. A system for laparoscopic stapling of tissue comprising:

a tissue aligning device for laparoscopically approximating edges of a tissue opening toward each other for surgical attachment, for adding onto a laparoscopic tissue stapler, the tissue aligning device comprising:

a first tissue engaging component configured to engage an opening in tissue at a first location in the opening; and

a second tissue engaging component configured to engage the opening at a second location in the opening;

a spreader component configured to move the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component; and

a control for moving the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component; and

a tissue stapler.

20. A device for laparoscopically approximating edges of a tissue opening toward each other for surgical attachment comprising:

a first tissue engaging component configured to engage an opening in tissue at a first location in the opening; and

a second tissue engaging component configured to engage the opening at a second location in the opening;

a spreader component configured to move the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component; and

a control for moving the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component

wherein the first tissue engaging component the second tissue engaging component and the spreader component are attached to a distal end of a shaft of the device configured to be detachable from a proximal end of the device.

21. A device for approximating edges of a tissue opening toward each other for surgical attachment, the device comprising:

a first tissue engaging component configured to engage an opening in tissue at a first location in the opening; and

a second tissue engaging component configured to engage the opening at a second location in the opening;

wherein

the device includes rests for aligning a tissue attachment mechanism parallel to a line between the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component.

22. The device of claim 21 wherein the rests for aligning the tissue attachment mechanism are configured to locate the tissue attachment mechanism parallel to the line between the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component and a specific distance away from the line, the specific distance in a range between 2 millimeters and 10 millimeters.

23. The device of any one of claims 21-22 and further comprising a tissue attachment mechanism.

24. The device of claim 23 wherein the tissue attachment mechanism comprises a tissue stapler.

25. The device of claim 24 wherein the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component are located between the tissue stapler and a stapler anvil.

26. The device of any one of claims 21-25 and further comprising a spring for pushing the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component apart.

27. The device of claim 26 wherein the spring is configured to push the first tissue engaging component and the second tissue engaging component apart with a specific force in a range between 50 grams force and 200 grams force.

28. The device of claim 27 wherein the specific force is adjustable dynamically, from a control outside a patient's body.

29. The device of any one of claims 21-28 shaped and sized to pass through a trocar wherein the device has a maximum diameter in a range between 5 millimeters and 15 millimeters.

30. A method for constructing a device for laparoscopic surgical closure of an opening in tissue, the method comprising:

providing an add-on device for laparoscopically approximating edges of a tissue opening toward each other for surgical attachment, for adding onto a laparoscopic tissue stapler, the add-on device comprising

a first tissue engaging component; and

a second tissue engaging component; and

a spreader component configured to move the first tissue engaging component away from the second tissue engaging component;

providing a tissue stapler; and

mounting the add-on device onto the tissue stapler.