CLAIMS:

1. A gasket retainer for use in a fluid delivery system, comprising:
a base member formed of a substantially flat sheet of material; and
a gasket-capturing aperture disposed in said base member;
wherein the gasket-capturing aperture has an oval periphery along at least a portion thereof, with a major diameter sufficiently large to allow passage of a circular element therethrough and a minor diameter sufficiently small to engage a cavity, groove, or thread on the outside diameter of said circular element, and wherein the base member is configured to be flexed and then released during an installation of the circular element, and wherein the gasket-capturing aperture is configured to flex with the base member.

2. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 1, and further comprising at least two fastener apertures disposed on opposing sides of said gasket-capturing aperture.

3. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the oval periphery is smoothly concave and corresponds to an elliptical shape.

4. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 3, wherein the ellipse major axis dimension is at least 1.15 times the minor axis dimension.

5. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 4, wherein the ellipse major axis dimension is 1.25 times the minor axis dimension.

6. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the base member is comprised of stainless steel.

7. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the base member has a length and a width, and each of the major and minor diameters of the gasket-capturing aperture are rotated approximately 15 degrees with respect to corresponding ones of the length and width of the base member.

8. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the gasket-capturing aperture is D-shaped, and comprises approximately one-half of a larger ellipse which is truncated along the minor diameter by a straight portion blended into corner curves at opposing ends of the straight portion.

9. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 1, wherein the periphery of the gasket-capturing aperture is non-convex.