CLAIMS

1. Method for thermally bonding together a cover film (3) of an ophthalmic lens package (1), such as a contact lens package, in particular a soft contact lens package, and a base part (2) of the ophthalmic lens package (1), the method comprising the steps of
   - providing a package holder (9) supporting a base part (2) comprising a depression (4) containing an ophthalmic lens (5), and a cover film (3) arranged on the base part (2);
   - mechanically pressing the cover film (3) and the base part (2) together along a bonding area (7) having a shape completely enclosing the depression (4) while applying heat to the bonding area (7), thereby thermally bonding together the cover film (3) and the base part (2) along the bonding area (7);

   characterized in that the step of providing the package holder (9) supporting the base part (2) includes arranging a flexible support element (18) on an upper surface (10) of the package holder (9) to form a support area (19) supporting the base part (2), the support area (19) corresponding in shape to and being arranged in alignment with the bonding area (7),

   wherein the flexible support element (18) has a flexibility which is higher than the flexibility of the base part (2),

   wherein the flexible support element (18) is a ring (18),

   wherein the ring (18) comprises a lower portion (20) and an upper portion (21), the upper portion (21) having a width which is larger than the width of the lower portion (20), and wherein the upper portion (21) has a continuous top surface forming the support area (19),

   wherein the ring (18) comprises fixation pins (22) formed at the lower portion (20) of the ring (18),

   wherein the upper surface (10) of the package holder (9) comprises a support structure (11) having a support structure upper surface (12) corresponding in shape to the shape of the bonding area (7) and having a groove (14) in the support structure upper surface (12), with the lower portion (20) of the ring (18) being arranged in the groove (14) and with the upper portion (21) of the ring (18) protruding from the support structure upper surface (12),

and wherein the groove (14) extends only essentially completely along the support structure upper surface (12) so that the groove (14) has a first end (15) and a second end (16) to form a web (17) between the first end (15) and the second end (16) of the groove (14), and wherein the lower portion (20) of the ring (18) arranged in the groove (12) has a gap (23) accommodating the web (17).

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the step of mechanically pressing the cover film (3) and the base part (2) together along the bonding area (7) while applying heat to the bonding area (7) includes
   - providing a heatable contact plate (31) having a contact surface (32) corresponding in shape to the bonding area (7) and
   - moving the package holder (9) towards the heatable contact plate (31), or vice versa, until a predetermined bonding force as well as heat are applied through the contact surface to the bonding area (7).

3. Method according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined bonding force is less than 650N, in particular less than 500N, for example 300N or less, and wherein the temperature at the contact surface is selectable from a temperature range of 190°C to 210°C.

4. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the base part (2) is made of plastics, in particular of a polyolefin, for example polypropylene.

5. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the flexible support element (18) is made of an elastic material having an elasticity which is higher than the elasticity of the material the base part (2) is made of.

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the elastic material is silicone.

7. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fixation pins (22) are arranged equally spaced along the lower portion (20) of the ring (18).

8. Package holder (9) for supporting a base part (2) of an ophthalmic lens package (1), such as a contact lens package, in particular a soft contact lens package, and a cover film (3) of the ophthalmic lens package (1) arranged on the base part (2), the package holder (9) comprising:
   - an upper surface (10) comprising a support structure (11) having a support structure upper surface (12) with a groove (14) therein;

     characterized in that the package holder further comprises
   - a ring (18) made of an elastic material having an elasticity which is higher than the elasticity of the material of the base part (2) to be supported,

   the ring (18) comprising an upper portion (21) and a lower portion (20), with the lower portion (20) of the ring (18) being arranged in the groove (14) in the support structure upper surface (12), and with the upper portion (21) of the ring (18) protruding from the support structure upper surface (12), the upper portion (21) of the ring (18) having a width which is larger than the width of the lower portion (20) and further having a continuous top surface forming a support area (19) to support the base part (2) of the ophthalmic lens package (9), and

   wherein the support structure (11) of the upper surface (10) of the package holder (9) is shaped to define a cavity (13) for accommodating a depression (4) of the base part (2) of the ophthalmic lens package (1),

   wherein the ring (18) comprises fixation pins (22) formed at the lower portion (20) of the ring (18),

   wherein the groove (14) extends only essentially completely along the support structure upper surface (12) so that the groove (14) has a first end (15) and a second end (16) to form a web (17) between the first end (15) and the second end (16) of the groove (14), and wherein the lower portion (20) of the ring (18) arranged in the groove (12) has a gap (23) accommodating the web (17).