~~WHAT IS~~ CLAIM~~ED I~~S:

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.

~~10. 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 having a smoothly non-convex periphery, which does not have a continuously changing curvature, the periphery being defined by three substantially identically shaped periphery portions and three curved radii joining opposing ends of each of the three substantially identically shaped periphery portions, so that the aperture is substantially triangular in appearance, the aperture defining a sufficiently sized opening to allow passage of a circular element therethrough between each of the substantially identically shaped periphery portions and opposing aperture periphery radii while simultaneously maintaining sufficiently small clearance between adjacent pairs of the identically large curvature periphery portions to engage a cavity, groove, or thread on the outside diameter of that circular element.~~

~~11. The gasket retainer as recited in Claim 10, and further comprising at least two fastener apertures disposed on opposing sides of said gasket-~~

~~capturing aperture.~~

~~12. A gasket retainer according to Claim 10, wherein the three substantially identically shaped periphery portions have a relatively large curvature which appear substantially straight.~~

~~13. A gasket retainer according to Claim 10, wherein the non-convex aperture appears as a Reuleaux triangle or tri-oval shape.~~