Claims

[Claim 1]

A bag or liner film crimping device comprising:

a socket (200) having top and bottom components (201, 251) linked by a severable bridge (202), each component having a pair of opposed limbs (205/206, 255/256) extending proximally; and

a plug (300) having top and bottom components (301, 351) linked by a severable bridge (302) and being configured to fit between the socket limbs with a friction fit in a movement from proximal at an open end of the socket to distal when inserted in the socket; characterized in that the device further comprises:

a cover (400) comprising a top wall (401) and being configured to slide over the socket bottom component to a covering position at which the top wall (401) covers a space at a distal end between the limbs of the separated socket and plug top and bottom components.

[Claim 2]

The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover is dual-purpose and includes at least one tine (403, 404) for, in a second use after removal from said covering position, prising a socket limb (255, 256) from the plug as the cover (400) is pressed distally.

[Claim 3]

The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cover comprises at least two tines (403, 404), at least one for each interface (261, 262) between a socket limb and the plug.

[Claim4]

The device as claimed in claims 2 or 3, wherein the cover comprises the top wall (401), and an end wall (402), and the tines extend from the end wall.

[Claim 5]

The device as claimed in any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the socket (200) includes recesses (270, 271) to accommodate the tines when the cover is in the covering position.

[Claim 6]

The device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein at least one limb of said socket top and bottom components has inwardly directed teeth (203/204, 253/254).

[Claim 7]

The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one plug component has outwardly directed teeth (303/304, 353/354) for engagement with the teeth of the socket.

[Claim 8]

The device of any preceding claim, wherein the cover (400) and the plug lower component (351) are configured to engage each other to be removed as a unit to expose the socket lower component (251) limbs and allow removal of a liner through the socket in the proximal direction.

[Claim 9]

The device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the plug lower component (1351) and the cover (1400, 2400) comprises snap-fitting features (1001, 1002, 2354, 2401, 2411) configured for engaging together when the cover has been pressed distally to prise the socket limbs apart.

[Claim 10]

The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein said features comprise ridges (1001) on the plug or the cover and slots (1002) in the plug or the cover.

[Claim 11]

The device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the socket is symmetrical about a lateral plane in the proximal-distal direction and being through the socket bridge, and wherein the plug is symmetrical about a lateral plane in the proximal-distal direction and being through the plug bridge, whereby the socket and plug top and bottom components are interchangeable.

[Claim 12]

The device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the device comprises at least two covers (400, 1400, 2400), one configured to act as a cover for the bottom socket component and one configured to act as a cover for the top component, after separation of said components.

[Claim 13]

A method of use of a device of any preceding claim, the method comprising:

crimping a film within the socket by pressing the plug distally into the socket,

cutting through the film and the bridges between the top and bottom socket and plug components, and

pressing the cover (400) proximally onto the lower socket and plug components to a covering position so that it covers exposed edges of the film.

[Claim 14]

The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the cover is dual-purpose and includes at least one tine (403, 404), and the method comprises further steps of removing the cover from the covering position and pressing the cover distally so that its tines prise open the socket limbs, and

releasing the crimped film.

[Claim 15]

The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the cover and the plug are removed together, and the liner (L) is removed by proximal movement between and away from the socket limbs, and the cover is pressed distally until snap-fitting features (1001, 1002) of the cover and the plug engage.