

External Diameter of User's Stoma (mm)	Internal Diameter of Opening 12 (mm)
20.0 to 23.0	17.00
23.0 to 26.0	20.00
26.0 to 29.0	23.00
29.0 to 32.0	26.00
32.0 to 35.9	29.00
35.0 to 38.0	32.00

[0033] In the present example, the taper is at an angle of 6°, but it must be appreciated that other angles of taper could be utilised. In addition, the tapering of the peripheral wall 13 provides for compact storage of one or more like devices 10, as they can be stacked one on top of each other, with the peripheral wall 13 of one device 10 received in the opening 12 of an adjacent device 10.

[0034] In the present example, the device 10 is manufactured as a one-piece component using a moulding process, for example, injection moulding or dip forming. It should be appreciated, however, that any other appropriate forming process can be used.

[0035] The device 10 is manufactured from a polyurethane material (e.g. that known as Alphathane™) and is, as a result, elastically deformable. This material property is essential for the device 10, as it ensures a fluid-tight fit with a user's stoma. It should be appreciated that other materials could be used so long as they provide for adequate elastic deformation of the opening 12.

[0036] The device 10 can be used as an additional component to many existing ostomy appliances to provide a seal around the user's stoma so as to prevent leakage and contact of collected waste with the user's skin. A user simply positions the device 10 over their stoma, so that a fluid-tight seal is provided therebetween and so that the external surface of the stoma is covered by the peripheral wall 13. The user then attaches the ostomy appliance to their skin as they would normally do so. An adhesive flange, conventionally provided as part of the ostomy appliance, adheres both to the user's skin and to the external surface of the flange part 14 of the device, thus securing the device 10 relative to the pouch. If it is desired to remove the appliance, e.g. for emptying or to replace with a fresh appliance, the user can either re-use the device 10 or install a fresh device 10.

[0037] As an alternative, the device 10 may be provided already connected to an adhesive member. For example, a surface of the flange part 14 which faces the user's skin may be connected to or provided with an annular hydrocolloid adhesive member, by adhesion, heat welding or any other appropriate means. It is important to ensure that the aperture in the adhesive member is larger than the opening 12 of the device 10, thus permitting the opening 12 to stretch during installation.

[0038] Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, these show first and second embodiments of a second aspect of the invention—where the device 10 has been incorporated as an integral component of an ostomy appliance 20, 20'.

[0039] In FIG. 3 the ostomy appliance 20 includes a pouch 21, to receive waste, and a body side flange 22, connected to the pouch 21, for connection to a user. The flange 22 can be connected to a user by any known means, e.g. by an adhesive or by a coupling device. The appliance 20 includes a device 10 (as described and shown in FIGS. 1 and 2) which is positioned

inside the pouch 21 so that the opening 12 of the device 10 is aligned with an opening to the pouch 21. A surface of the flange part 14 remote from the peripheral wall 13 is connected to an internal surface of the pouch 21, e.g. by an adhesive, heat welding or any other appropriate means. By providing an ostomy appliance 21 with an integral device 10 to surround the stoma renders the appliance user-friendly, as a user only needs to position one component relative to their stoma—namely to position the opening to the pouch 21 over their stoma.

[0040] As an alternative to the configuration shown in FIG. 3, a surface of the flange part 14 adjacent the peripheral wall 13 may be connected to an external surface of the body side flange 22 of the pouch 21, e.g. by an adhesive, heat welding or any other appropriate means.

[0041] FIG. 4 shows a second embodiment of an ostomy appliance 20', which also includes a device 10. In this example, the flange part 14 of the device 10 is sandwiched between a first adhesive member 23' and a second adhesive member 24'. The first adhesive member 23' is adapted for adhering to skin surrounding a user's stoma, and is preferably manufactured from a hydrocolloid material. The second adhesive member 24' is adhered to an external surface of the body side flange 22' (e.g. by an adhesive, heat welding or any other appropriate means), so that the opening 12 of the device 10 is aligned with an opening to the pouch 21', through the body side flange 22'. Again, by providing an ostomy appliance 21' with an integral device 10 to surround the stoma renders the appliance 21' user-friendly, as a user only needs to position one component relative to their stoma.

[0042] It should be appreciated that the device 10 of FIGS. 1 and 2 could be supplied as a single component (i.e. not already connected to the body side flange 22 of the pouch 21) having the first and second adhesive members 23', 24' connected thereto (as shown in FIG. 4). The device 10 would, preferably, be also provided with removable cover members covering the adhesive surfaces 23', 24'. Such a configuration can be used with many known ostomy appliances, thus providing users of those appliances with the advantages associated with the device 10—namely forming a seal around the stoma to prevent leakage and contact of collected waste with the user's skin.

[0043] For the avoidance of doubt, the device 10 can also be utilised with a two-piece ostomy appliances (i.e. appliances which have two mating fixings, one which remains connected to the user's skin and the other of which is connected to the pouch).

[0044] When used in this specification and claims, the terms “comprises” and “comprising” and variations thereof mean that the specified features, steps or integers are included. The terms are not to be interpreted to exclude the presence of other features, steps or components.

[0045] The features disclosed in the foregoing description, or the following claims, or the accompanying drawings, expressed in their specific forms or in terms of a means for performing the disclosed function, or a method or process for attaining the disclosed result, as appropriate, may, separately, or in any combination of such features, be utilised for realising the invention in diverse forms thereof.

1. A device (10) for use with an ostomy appliance, the device (10) having an opening (12), surrounded by a peripheral wall (13), to receive a stoma, and a flange part (14)