CLAIMS

1. A cover element provided with a transparent pressure-sensitive adhesive layer,

wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is made of a transparent base pressure-sensitive adhesive material and is a single-layer having two principal surfaces opposite to each other,

the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer comprises

a base adhesive zone made essentially of a transparent base pressure-sensitive adhesive material and formed over a given range from one principal surface of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in a thickness direction of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer, and

a transparent, adherent, refractive index adjustment zone formed over a given range from the other principal surface of the single-layered pressure-sensitive adhesive layer in the thickness direction, and

and wherein

the base adhesive zone is in contact with the cover element, and

the refractive index adjustment zone is configured for including a material having a refractive index greater than a refractive index of the base pressure-sensitive adhesive material in the single-layered pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

2. The cover element as recited in claim 1, which is a glass substrate or a transparent resin substrate.

3. The cover element as recited in claim 1, wherein the refractive index adjustment zone has a thickness of 20 nm to 600 nm.

4. The cover element as recited in claim 1, wherein the refractive index adjustment zone is formed by dispersing, in a pressure-sensitive adhesive material identical to the base pressure-sensitive adhesive material, particles of a high refractive index material having a refractive index greater than that of the pressure-sensitive adhesive material, to thereby increase an average refractive index of the refractive index adjustment zone.

5. The cover element as recited in claim 4, wherein the refractive index of the high

refractive index material particles is in the range of 1.60 to 2.74.

6. The cover element as recited in claim 4, wherein the high refractive index material particles have an average primary particle size of 3 nm to 100 nm as measured by TEM observation.

7. The cover element as recited in claim 4, wherein a difference between the refractive index of the high refractive index material particles and the refractive index of the base pressure-sensitive adhesive material is in the range of 0.15 to 1.34.

8. The cover element as recited in claim 4, wherein the high refractive index material is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of TiO_2, ZrO_2, CeO_2, Al_2O_3, $BaTiO_3$, Nb_2O_5 and SnO_2.

9. The cover element as recited in claim 1, wherein the refractive index adjustment zone is formed by adding, to a pressure-sensitive adhesive material identical to the base pressure-sensitive adhesive material, an organic material having a refractive index greater than that of the pressure-sensitive adhesive material, in the form of particle, polymer or oligomer, to thereby increase an average refractive index of the refractive index adjustment zone.

10. The cover element as recited in claim 9, wherein the refractive index of the base pressure-sensitive adhesive material is in the range of 1.40 to 1.55, and the refractive index of the organic material is in the range of 1.59 to 2.04.

11. The cover element as recited in claim 1, wherein the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer has a total light transmittance of 80% or more.

12. The cover element as recited in claim 4, wherein the high refractive

index material particles partially exist in the form of an aggregate arising from aggregation of two or more thereof.

13. The cover element as recited in claim 4, wherein the refractive index adjustment zone exists with irregular depths in the thickness direction of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.