What is claimed is:

1. A film body comprising an optical stack having first and second major surfaces and a polycarbonate-based skin layer on at least one of the major surfaces, the film body having at least one edge portion connecting the first and second major surfaces, wherein at the edge portion the skin layer has a discoloration zone that has a width of about 25 microns or less and the optical stack has an optically heat affected zone that has a width of less than about 100 microns.

2. The film body of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises a multilayer optical film.

3. The film body of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises alternating layers of at least a first polymer and a second polymer.

4. The film body of claim 3 wherein at least one of the first and second polymers has a stress-induced birefringence.

5. The film body of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises layers of the first polymer, a semi-crystalline polymer, having an average thickness of not more than 0.5 microns and layers of the second polymer having an average thickness of not more than 0.5 microns, wherein said optical stack has been stretched in at least one direction to at least twice that direction's unstretched dimension.

6. The film body of claim 5 wherein the optical stack has been stretched in at least two directions.

7. The film body of claim 1 wherein the first and second polymers differ in composition, and wherein each layer of the optical stack has a thickness of no more than 0.5 microns.

8. The film body of claim 1 further comprising a removable premask on at least one side thereof.

9. A method of subdividing a film body comprising:

(a) providing a film body comprising an optical stack having first and second major surfaces and a polymeric skin layer on at least one of the major surfaces, wherein the film and skin layer have different absorbance spectra;

(b) configuring the film body into cutting orientation; and

(c) directing pulsed laser radiation at the film body, while the film body is in cutting orientation, to produce one or more cuts in the film body and define an edge portion, the laser radiation having a wavelength of from about 9.2 to about 9.3 and a laser average output power equal to or greater than about 400 W.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the film body comprises two or more of the following: polycarbonate, polyester, polyester terephthalate, and pentacene.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein the film body is provided in roll form and the providing step comprises continuously unwinding the film body.

12. The method of claim 9 wherein the film body is provided in roll form and the configuring step comprises unwinding a portion of the film body from the roll and positioning the portion in the cutting zone.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein the film body is provided in sheet form and configuring the film body into cutting orientation comprises positioning the sheet in the cutting zone.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein configuring the film body into cutting orientation comprises positioning the work zone of the film body on a support surface.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the laser radiation has a wavelength of about 9.25.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein the laser radiation has a pulsed duty cycle of about 50% or less.

17. The method of claim 9 wherein the laser radiation has a focus spot of about 250 μm or less.

18. The method of claim 9 wherein the laser radiation has a pulse rate of at least about 20 kHz.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the laser radiation has a pulse rate of at least about 200 kHz.

20. The method of claim 9 wherein the laser radiation has a pulse width of about 20 microseconds or less.

21. The method of claim 9 wherein directing the laser radiation comprises use of a cutting speed of at least about 1 meter/second.

22. The method of claim 9 wherein the directing step is performed at a laser cutting station and the directing step further comprises providing an assist gas flow in a first direction across the laser station.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the assist gas is selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, and oxygen.

What is claimed is:

1. A film body comprising an optical stack having first and second major surfaces and a polycarbonate-based skin layer on at least one of the major surfaces, the film body having at least one edge portion connecting the first and second major surfaces, wherein at the edge portion the skin layer has a discoloration zone that has a width of about 25 microns or less and the optical stack has an optically heat affected zone that has a width of less than about 100 microns.

2. The film body of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises a multilayer optical film.

3. The film body of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises layers of the first polymer, a semi-crystalline polymer, having an average thickness of not more than 0.5 microns and layers of the second polymer having an average thickness of not more than 0.5 microns, wherein said optical stack has been stretched in at least one direction to at least twice that direction's unstretched dimension.

4. The film body of claim 1 wherein the first and second polymers differ in composition, and wherein each layer of the optical stack has a thickness of no more than 0.5 microns.

5. A method of subdividing a film body comprising:

(a) providing a film body comprising an optical stack having first and second major surfaces and a polymeric skin layer on at least one of the major surfaces, wherein the film and skin layer have different absorbance spectra;

(b) configuring the film body into cutting orientation; and

(c) directing pulsed laser radiation at the film body, while the film body is in cutting orientation, to produce one or more cuts in the film body and define an edge portion, the laser radiation having a wavelength of from about 9.2 to about 9.3 and a laser average output power equal to or greater than about 400 W.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the film body comprises two or more of the following: polycarbonate, polyester, polyester terephthalate, and pentacene.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the laser radiation has at least one of the following:

a) a wavelength of about 9.25; or

b) a pulsed duty cycle of about 50% or less; or

c) a focus spot of about 250 μm or less; or

d) a pulse rate of at least about 20 kHz; or

e) a pulse width of about 20 microseconds or less.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein directing the laser radiation comprises use of a cutting speed of at least about 1 meter/second.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the directing step is performed at a laser cutting station and the directing step further comprises providing an assist gas flow in a first direction across the laser station.