PATENT CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a multilayer data carrier, which has a first layer of plastic that comprises an upper side on which an opaque layer partially covering this upper side is arranged, and having a second layer of plastic which is arranged on the first layer and is transparent at least in a subregion of the opaque layer, characterized in that the opaque layer is partially removed using a laser until the opaque layer has at least one recess, or the opaque layer is produced from a material which is modified during the exposure in such a way that it becomes transparent or at least translucent in the exposed region.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the opaque layer is laminated between the first and second plastic layers.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the opaque layer is arranged in a window of the otherwise at least regionally opaque layer 1.

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1-3, characterized in that the opaque layer is a metal layer.

5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the data carrier is produced with at least two metal sheets arranged parallel above one another, and these two metal sheets are provided with recesses.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the two metal layers are exposed vertically with respect to their plane or at an inclination with respect to their planes, so that the recesses extend

vertically or at an inclination with respect to said planes.

7. The method as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the at least two metal sheets are arranged at a distance from one another.

8. The method as claimed in one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that the at least two metal sheets are arranged in a window of an opaque core sheet.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the core sheet is laminated between two transparent sheets.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1-4, characterized in that the opaque layer is a plastic layer, which has an additive that modifies the plastic layer during the exposure to the laser in such a way that the opaque layer becomes transparent in the exposed region.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the opaque plastic layer is at least 20 micrometers thick, preferably at least 50 micrometers thick.

12. The method as claimed in claim 10-11, characterized in that the opaque plastic layer is exposed to the laser vertically with respect to its plane or at an inclination with respect to its plane, so that the recesses extend vertically or at an inclination with respect to said plane.

13. A data carrier produced according to one of claims 1 to 12.

14. The data carrier as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that it is an identity card, a page of a passport, a credit card or the like.

15. The data carrier as claimed in claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the opaque layer is a metal layer which is vapor deposited onto a sheet, applied by hot stamping or laminated together with a carrier layer.

16. The data carrier as claimed in one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that the metal layer is thinner than 4 micrometers, preferably thinner than 1 micrometer.

17. The data carrier as claimed in one of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that in the case of two metal layers, they are at a distance from one another of at least 50 micrometers, preferably at least 100 micrometers.

18. The data carrier as claimed in claim 13 or 14, characterized in that the opaque layer is produced from a plastic, and in that the latter is transparent or translucent in an exposed region.

19. The data carrier as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that the opaque layer is produced from a pigmented or semicrystalline plastic.

20. The data carrier as claimed in one of claims 13 to 19, characterized in that the ablated regions are visible from both sides of the data carrier.

21. The data carrier as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that owing to the reflection behavior of the metal layer, the image when viewed can be seen as positive or negative depending on the viewing angle.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for producing a multilayer data carrier, said data carrier comprising:

a first layer of plastic that comprises an upper side;

an opaque layer that is arranged on said upper side of said first layer and partially covering said upper side; and

a second layer of plastic which is arranged on the first layer and is transparent at least in a subregion of the opaque layer, wherein said method comprises:

the step of partially removing the opaque layer using a laser until the opaque layer has at least one recess, or

the step of producing the opaque layer from a material which is modified during the exposure in such a way that it becomes transparent or at least translucent in the exposed region.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opaque layer is laminated between the first and second plastic layers.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opaque layer is arranged in a window of the otherwise at least regionally opaque layer.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opaque layer is a metal layer.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data carrier is produced with at least two metal sheets arranged parallel above one another, and these two metal sheets are provided with recesses.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the two metal layers are exposed vertically with respect to their plane or at an inclination with respect to their planes, so that the recesses extend vertically or at an inclination with respect to said planes.

7. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two metal sheets are arranged at a distance from one another.

8. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least two metal sheets are arranged in a window of an opaque core sheet.

9. The method as claimed in claim **8**, wherein the core sheet is laminated between two transparent sheets.

10. The method as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the opaque layer is a plastic layer, which has an additive that modifies the plastic layer during the exposure to the laser in such a way that the opaque layer becomes transparent in the exposed region.

11. The method as claimed in claim **10**, wherein the opaque plastic layer is at least 20 micrometers thick.

12. The method as claimed in claim **10**, wherein the opaque plastic layer is exposed to the laser vertically with respect to its plane or at an inclination with respect to its plane, so that the recesses extend vertically or at an inclination with respect to said plane.

13. A data carrier produced according to claim **1**, said data carrier comprising:

a first layer of plastic that comprises an upper side;

an opaque layer that is arranged on said upper side of said first layer and partially covering said upper side; and

a second layer of plastic which is arranged on the first layer and is transparent at least in a subregion of the opaque layer.

14. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein it is an identity card, a page of a passport, a credit card or the like.

15. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the opaque layer is a metal layer which is vapor deposited onto a sheet, applied by hot stamping or laminated together with a carrier layer.

16. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the metal layer is thinner than 4 micrometers.

17. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the case of two metal layers, they are at a distance from one another of at least 50 micrometers.

18. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the opaque layer is produced from a plastic, and wherein the latter is transparent or translucent in an exposed region.

19. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the opaque layer is produced from a pigmented or semicrystalline plastic.

20. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein the ablated regions are visible from both sides of the data carrier.

21. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein owing to the reflection behavior of the metal layer, the image when viewed can be seen as positive or negative depending on the viewing angle.

22. The method claimed in claim **10**, wherein the opaque plastic layer is at least 50 micrometers thick.

23. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, the metal layer is thinner than 1 micrometer.

24. The data carrier as claimed in claim **13**, wherein in the case of two metal layers, they are at a distance from one another of at least 100 micrometers.