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 wherein each layer of the optical stack comprises at least one of polyethylene naphthalate (PEN), polyalkylene terephthalate, polycyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate, polyimide, polyetherimide, atactic polystyrene, polycarbonate, polymethacrylate, polyacrylate, syndiotactic polystyrene (sPS), syndiotactic poly-alpha-~~

~~methyl styrene, syndiotactic polydichlorostyrene, cellulose derivative, polyalkylene polymer, fluorinated polymer, chlorinated polymer, polysulfone, polyethersulfone, polyacrylonitrile, polyamide, silicone resin, epoxy resin, polyvinylacetate, polyether-amide, ionomeric resin, elastomer, polyurethane, copolymer of PEN (coPEN), copolymer of polyalkylene terephthalate, styrene copolymer, copolymer of 4,4'-bibenzoic acid and ethylene glycol; and blends thereof.~~

~~9. The multilayer optical film of claim 8 wherein the polyethylene naphthalate (PEN) is selected from 2,6-PEN, 1,4-PEN, 1,5-PEN, 2,7-PEN, and 2,3-PEN; the polyalkylene terephthalate is selected from polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate, and poly-1,4-cyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate; the polyimide is polyacrylic imides; the polymethacrylate is selected from polyisobutyl methacrylate, polypropylmethacrylate, polyethylmethacrylate, and polymethylmethacrylate; the polyacrylate is selected from polybutylacrylate and polymethylacrylate; the cellulose derivative is selected from ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose propionate, cellulose acetate butyrate, and cellulose nitrate; the polyalkylene polymer is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutylene, polyisobutylene, and poly(4-methyl)pentene); the fluorinated polymer is selected from perfluoroalkoxy resins, polytetrafluoroethylene, fluorinated ethylene-propylene copolymers, polyvinylidene fluoride, and polychlorotrifluoroethylene; the chlorinated polymer is selected from polyvinylidene chloride and polyvinylchloride; the elastomer is selected from polybutadiene, polyisoprene, and neoprene; the copolymer of PEN is selected from copolymers of (i) 2,6 , 1,4 , 1,5-, 2,7 , or 2,3 naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, or esters thereof, and (ii) (a) terephthalic acid, or esters thereof, (b) isophthalic acid, or esters thereof, (c) phthalic acid, or esters thereof, (d) alkane glycols, (e) cycloalkane glycols, (f) alkane dicarboxylic acids, or (g) cycloalkane dicarboxylic acids; the copolymer of polyalkylene terephthalate is selected from copolymers of (i) terephthalic acid, or esters thereof, and (ii) (a) naphthalene dicarboxylic acid, or esters thereof, (b) isophthalic acid, or esters thereof, (c) phthalic acid, or esters thereof, (d) alkane glycols, (e) cycloalkane glycols, (f) alkane dicarboxylic acids, or (g) cycloalkane dicarboxylic acids; and the styrene copolymer is selected from styrene-butadiene copolymers and styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers.~~

~~10. The film body film of claim 9 wherein the optical stack comprises a first polymer/second polymer combination selected from PEN/coPEN, PET/coPEN, PEN/sPS, PET/sPS, PEN/polycyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate, and PET/polycyclohexanedimethylene terephthalate.~~

~~11. The film body film of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises tens of layers.~~

~~12. The film body of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises hundreds of layers.~~

~~13. The film body film of claim 1 wherein the optical stack comprises thousands of layers.~~

~~14. The film body of claim 1 wherein the skin layer comprises polycarbonate or a polycarbonate blend.~~

~~15~~8. The film body of claim 1 further comprising a removable premask on at least one side thereof.

~~16~~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.

~~17~~10. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the film body comprises two or more of the following: polycarbonate, polyester, polyester terephthalate, and pentacene.

~~18~~11. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the film body is provided in roll form and the providing step comprises continuously unwinding the film body.

~~19~~12. The method of claim ~~16~~ 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.

~~20~~13. The method of claim ~~16~~ 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.

~~21~~14. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein configuring the film body into cutting orientation comprises positioning the work zone of the film body on a support surface.

~~22~~15. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the laser radiation has a wavelength of about 9.25.

~~23~~16. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the laser radiation has a pulsed duty cycle of about 50% or less.

~~24~~17. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the laser radiation has a focus spot of about 250 μm or less.

~~25~~18. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the laser radiation has a pulse rate of at least about 20 kHz.

~~26~~19. The method of claim ~~25~~ 18 wherein the laser radiation has a pulse rate of at least about 200 kHz.

~~27~~20. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein the laser radiation has a pulse width of about 20 microseconds or less.

~~28~~21. The method of claim ~~16~~ 9 wherein directing the laser radiation comprises use of a cutting speed of at least about 1 meter/second.

~~29~~22. The method of claim ~~16~~ 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.

~~30~~23. The method of claim ~~29~~ 22 wherein the assist gas is selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, and oxygen.