The Claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method for making cards with a given appearance comprising the steps of:

selecting a decorative layer, the decorative layer comprising an anodized metal layer having a predetermined colored region extending to a given depth within the anodized metal layer; and

selecting a core layer for forming the body of said card, said core layer having first and second surfaces generally parallel to each other, said core layer being: (a) metal; or (b) a ceramic coated metal; or (c) a ceramic coated polymer, or (d) a solid ceramic material, and

attaching said decorative layer to the first surface of the core layer,

removing selected portions of the colored region to said given depth in accordance with a design pattern, and

electroplating the anodized metal layer with an electroplating metal having a color other than said predetermined colored region for producing a pattern displaying the colors of said electroplating metal and said predetermined colored region.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said decorative layer comprises an anodized aluminum layer designed to have a given color, wherein the step of attaching said layers includes laminating the layers, and the method further

comprises applying a laser source to said anodized aluminum layer for modifying the card's color, appearance, and texture.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said decorative layer is an anodized aluminum layer having a given color, wherein the step of attaching said layers includes laminating the layers, and the method further comprises forming a hard coat layer over said anodized aluminum layer; and applying a laser source to said hard coat layer and to said anodized aluminum layer for modifying at least one the color and feel of the card,

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the hard coat layer has a color different from the given color of the anodized aluminum.

5. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 4, further comprising attaching a polymeric layer to the second surface of the core layer.

6. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 5, further comprising locating an integrated circuit module within said card for enabling at least one of: (a) wireless radio frequency (RF) transmission between the card and an external card reader; and (b) contact reading between the card and a contact reader.

7. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 6, further comprising attaching an embossable polymer layer to the anodized aluminum layer and embossing said polymer layer and said anodized aluminum layer.

8. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said core layer is a metal layer and wherein said decorative layer is an anodized aluminum layer designed to have a given color; wherein said metal layer is designed to have a

different color; further including at least one additional layer having a preselected color; and further including the step of applying a laser source to said anodized aluminum layer, said metal layer and said additional layer for modifying at least one of the color and feel of the card.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, further comprising dying the anodized metal layer multiple colors.

10. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 9, further comprising modifying the anodized layer by laser engraving, mechanical engraving, die cutting, embossing, or by printing graphics by screen printing, sublimation printing, or digital printing.

11. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 10, wherein the decorative layer is selectively extended along the surface of the card as follows: (a) the full length and width of the card, (b) as a patch, (c) as a stripe, or (d) as a decorative design.

12. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 11, wherein said anodized metal layer is a layer of aluminum having a top sub layer region dyed to have said predetermined color, the step of removing selected portions of the colored region includes using a laser device to bare selected portions of the anodized aluminum layer, and said electroplating metal is a noble metal.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the noble metal comprises gold.

14. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein said step of attaching said decorative layer to a core layer includes the step of forming a

pocket within a surface of said core layer and firmly attaching one of said decorative layers within said pocket.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the depth of the pocket is made substantially equal to a thickness of the decorative layer.

16. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 15, wherein said decorative layer is a first decorative layer, further including the step of attaching a second decorative layer to the second surface of the core layer.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein said second decorative layer attached to the second surface of the metal layer includes one of (a) an anodized metal layer, (b) a plant derived material veneer layer; (c) an animal derived material veneer layer; (d) an aggregate binder material veneer layer; (e) a ceramic layer; and (f) a layer of crystal fabric material.

18. The method of any one of Claims 1 to 17, further comprising selecting the core layer to have a thickness in the range of 0.005 inches to 0.032 inches (0.127 mm to 0.813 mm), and selecting or processing said decorative layer to have a thickness in the range of 0.0005 inches (0.0127 mm) to 0.014 inches (0.356 mm).