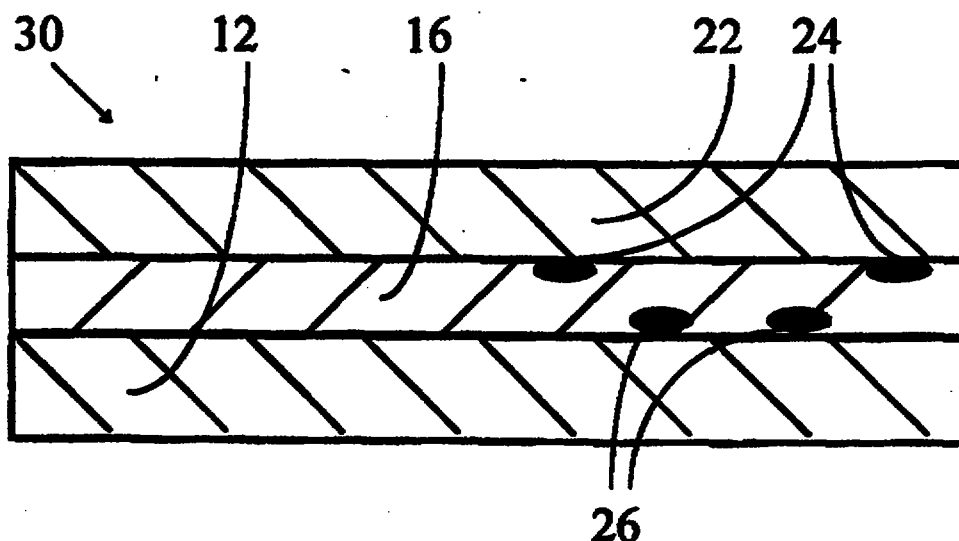




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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/07079 (22) International Filing Date: 16 May 1996 (16.05.96) (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BULL, Sally, Jo [US/US]; 2478 Ripley Avenue E., North Saint Paul, MN 55109 (US). (74) Agents: HORNICKEL, John, H. et al.; Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, Office of Intellectual Property Counsel, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, <u>SG</u> , SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>	

(54) Title: PROTECTIVE CLEAR LAYER FOR IMAGES**(57) Abstract**

An optically clear, transparent, protective layer (12) is disclosed for transfer from a release liner (not shown) to an imaged substrate. The layer has a composition including vinyl resin, optional acrylic resin, optional plasticizer, and optional stabilizer. The layer optionally includes a pressure sensitive adhesive (16) which adheres to the imaged substrate (22) and image (24) with pressure, followed by removal of the release liner. The release liner has a Sheffield smoothness value of from 1 to 10. A method of making and a method of using the layer are also disclosed. An image (26) may also be present between the protective layer (12) and the pressure sensitive adhesive (16).