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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/06855 (22) International Filing Date: 14 May 1996 (14.05.96) (30) Priority Data: 60/000,229 15 June 1995 (15.06.95) US (71) Applicant: MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (72) Inventors: BAYER, Glen, H., Jr.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). WOLF, Robert, J.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). WOLF, James, G.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). BREDAHL, Timothy, D.; P.O. Box 33427, Saint Paul, MN 55133-3427 (US). (74) Agents: HUEBSCH, William, L. 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: AU, CA, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SOLID ELASTOMERIC GELS**(57) Abstract**

Solid elastomeric gel is produced in a continuous process using a twin screw extruder (10). Gel from the extruder (10) can be fed through a die (21) to form a length of the gel (20) with a uniform cross section and then cut to length to provide pieces of the gel (20) for use in a pad. Alternatively, gel from the extruder (10) may be injected into a chamber between a rigid base portion and a thermoplastic sheet to form that sheet and a surface of the layer of gel in the cavity against a surface in a cavity, thereby producing a pad including the layer of gel that has a precise predetermined peripheral shape corresponding to the surface in the cavity and is covered by the sheet which also has that peripheral shape and is wrinkle free.

