

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(10) International Publication Number

WO 2017/112537 A1

(43) International Publication Date

29 June 2017 (29.06.2017)

(51) International Patent Classification:

B32B 27/08 (2006.01) C08J 7/04 (2006.01)
B32B 27/30 (2006.01) C09J 7/02 (2006.01)
C08J 5/18 (2006.01)

(US). FRANK, John W.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US).

(74) Agents: FISCHER, Carolyn A. et al.; 3M Center, Office of Intellectual Property Counsel, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2016/067122

(22) International Filing Date:

16 December 2016 (16.12.2016)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/270,752 22 December 2015 (22.12.2015) US
62/346,810 7 June 2016 (07.06.2016) US

(71) Applicant: 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY [US/US]; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US).

(72) Inventors: JANOSKI, Jonathan E.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). THOMAS, Carla S.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). SCHULTZ, Anthony F.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). WHITING, Tien Y.H.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). LEWANDOWSKI, Kevin M.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). FANSLER, Duane D.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). LYON, Keith R.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). WEIKEL, Arlin L.; 51 Skyline Drive, Mansfield, Pennsylvania 16933 (US). SHOCKEY, Eric D.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427 (US). GUSTAFSON, Donald E.; 3M Center, Post Office Box 33427, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55133-3427

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))

WO 2017/112537 A1

(54) Title: ACRYLIC POLYVINYL ACETAL FILMS COMPRISING AN ADHESIVE LAYER

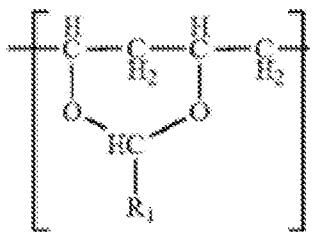
(57) Abstract: A film is described comprising a (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition. A layer of an adhesive composition is disposed proximate the film. The adhesive composition has a tensile elastic modulus of less than 1 MPa at 25°C and 1 hertz.

5

**ACRYLIC POLYVINYL ACETAL FILMS COMPRISING
AN ADHESIVE LAYER**

Summary

A film is described comprising a (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition comprising polymerized units having the following formula



wherein R₁ is hydrogen or a C1-C7 alkyl group. A layer of an adhesive composition is disposed proximate the film. The adhesive composition has a tensile elastic modulus of less than 1 MPa at 25°C and 1 hertz.

15

Detailed Description

Presently described are films comprising a (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer. A layer of an adhesive composition is disposed on the film. The film is preferably prepared by dissolving polyvinyl acetal polymer in a free-radically polymerizable solvent monomer. The solvent monomer is preferably polymerized by exposure to (e.g. ultraviolet) radiation.

20

The “Dahlquist Criterion for Tack” is widely recognized as a necessary condition of a pressure sensitive adhesives (PSA). It states that a PSA has a shear storage modulus (G') of less than 3×10^6 dyne/cm² (0.3 MPa) at approximately room temperature (25°C) and a frequency of 1 Hertz (Pocius, Adhesion and Adhesive Technology 3rd Ed., 2012, p. 288).

25

A shear storage modulus can be converted to a tensile storage modulus using the following equation: $E' = 2G'(r+1)$, where r is Poisson's ratio for the relevant material. Using this equation and given that Poisson's ratio of elastomers and PSAs is close to 0.5, the Dahlquist Criterion expressed as a tensile storage modulus (E') is less than 0.9 MPa (9×10^6 dyne/cm²).

The film described herein generally has a tensile storage modulus (E') at 25°C of greater than 9×10^6 dynes/cm² (0.9 MPa) or 1×10^7 dynes/cm² (1 MPa) at 1 hertz as can be measured by dynamic mechanical analysis (as determined by the test method described in the examples). The tensile storage modulus (E') at 25°C and 1 Hertz is usually greater than 5×10^7 dynes/cm² (5 MPa), and in some embodiments at least 1×10^8 dynes/cm² (10 MPa), 5×10^8 dynes/cm² (50 MPa). In some embodiments, the tensile storage modulus (E') at 25°C and 1 Hertz is at least 1×10^9 dynes/cm², 5×10^9 dynes/cm², or 1×10^{10} dynes/cm² (i.e. 1000 MPa) at 1 Hertz. Thus, the film is not a pressure sensitive adhesive in accordance with the Dahlquist criteria.

The adhesive layer has a tensile storage modulus (E') at 25°C of less than 1×10^7 dynes/cm² (1 MPa) or less than 9×10^6 dynes/cm² (0.9 MPa).

The film may be characterized as a backing for an adhesive article such as a sheet or tape.

In some embodiments, the film described herein may be disposed upon or bonded (e.g. with an adhesive) to a second backing. The second backing may be disposed between the adhesive and the film comprising the (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer and/or the second backing may be disposed on the opposite major surface or the film comprising a (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer.

The second backing can comprise a variety of flexible and inflexible (e.g. preformed web) substrates including but not limited to polymeric films, woven or nonwoven fabrics, metal foils, foams, paper, and combinations thereof (e.g. metalized polymeric film). Polymeric films include for example polyolefins such as polypropylene (e.g. biaxially oriented), polyethylene (e.g. high density or low density), polyvinyl chloride, polyurethane, polyester (polyethylene terephthalate), polycarbonate, polymethyl(meth)acrylate (PMMA), polyvinylbutyral, polyimide, polyamide, fluoropolymer, cellulose acetate, cellulose triacetate, ethyl cellulose, as well as bio-based material such as polylactic acid (PLA). The woven or nonwoven fabric may comprise fibers or filaments of synthetic or natural materials such as cellulose (e.g. tissue), cotton, nylon, polyethylene, rayon, glass, ceramic materials, and the like.

In some embodiments, the second backing is a thermoplastic polymer such as polycarbonate, polyethylene terephthalate, polyamide, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, poly(meth)acrylic polymers, ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer) resins, and the like.

In some embodiments, the second backing is a transparent film having a transmission of visible light of at least 90 percent. In other embodiments, the second backing is opaque (e.g. white) or reflective.

In another embodiment, the film or second backing may further comprise a metal or metal oxide layer. Examples of metals include aluminum, silicon, magnesium, palladium, zinc, tin,

nickel, silver, copper, gold, indium, stainless steel, chromium, titanium, and so on. Examples of metal oxides used in the metal oxide layer include aluminum oxide, zinc oxide, antimony oxide, indium oxide, calcium oxide, cadmium oxide, silver oxide, gold oxide, chromium oxide, silicon oxide, cobalt oxide, zirconium oxide, tin oxide, titanium oxide, iron oxide, copper oxide, nickel oxide, platinum oxide, palladium oxide, bismuth oxide, magnesium oxide, manganese oxide, molybdenum oxide, vanadium oxide, barium oxide, and so on. These metals and metal oxides may be used singly or in combination of two or more. Layers of these metals and/or metal oxides can be formed by known methods such as vacuum deposition, ion plating, sputtering, and CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition). The thickness of the metal and/or metal oxide layer is typically at least 5 nm ranging up to 100 or 250 nm.

The thickness of the film or second backing is typically at least 10, 15, 20, or 25 microns (1 mil) and typically no greater than 500 microns (20 mil) thickness. In some embodiments, the thickness of the film or second backing is no greater than 400, 300, 200, or 100 microns. The film may have the same thickness as the second backing. However, the film, particularly when utilized in combination with a backing, may have a thickness of less than 10 microns. In some embodiments, the film comprising the (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer is typically at least 250 nm, 500 nm, 750 nm or 1 micron. The overall film as well as the second backing is typically in the form of a roll-good, but may also be in the form of individual sheets.

In some embodiments, the film and/or second backing is conformable. By “conformable” it is meant that the film or film layer is sufficiently soft and flexible such that it accommodates curves, depressions, or projections on a substrate surface so that the film may be stretched around curves or projections, or may be pressed down into depressions without breaking or delaminating the film. It is also desirable that the film does not delaminate or release from the substrate surface after application (known as popping-up).

Suitable conformable second backings include, for example, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), plasticized polyvinyl chloride, polyurethane, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluoropolymer or the like. Other polymer blends are also potentially suitable, including for example thermoplastic polyurethane and a cellulose ester.

In some embodiments, the second backing has sufficient inelastic deformation after being stretched so that when stretched, the film does not recover to its original length. Preferably, the film has an inelastic deformation of at least 5% after being stretched once to 115% of their original length. In other embodiments, the conformability of the film comprising the (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer, as determined by % tensile set (as described in WO2016/094277 is at least 20, 25, or 30%.

The film or second backing may optionally further comprise a primer or adhesion-promoting treatment disposed therebetween.

Examples of suitable primers include chlorinated polyolefins, polyamides, and modified polymers disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,677,376, 5,623,010 and those disclosed in WO 98/15601 and WO 99/03907, and other modified acrylic polymers. The film and/or second backing may 5 also be subjected to an adhesion-promoting treatment such as air or nitrogen corona treatment, plasma, flame, or actinic radiation.

The film may optionally comprise a structured layer as described in cofiled 77044US002 incorporated herein by reference. In some embodiments, the structured layer comprises a base 10 film layer and structures disposed on a major surface of the base film layer, wherein the base film layer and/or structures may comprise the (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition. In other embodiments, the structured layer comprises a base film layer, structures comprising peaks and valleys disposed on a major surface of the base film layer, and a filling 15 material at least partially filling the valleys. In this embodiment, the base film layer, and/or the structures, and/or the filling material comprise the (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition.

The film comprises polymerized units of one or more (meth)acrylate ester monomers derived from a (e.g. non-tertiary) alcohol containing 1 to 14 carbon atoms and preferably an 20 average of 4 to 12 carbon atoms

Examples of monomers include the esters of either acrylic acid or methacrylic acid with 25 non-tertiary alcohols such as ethanol, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, 1-butanol, 2-butanol, 1-pentanol, 2-pentanol, 3-pentanol, 2-methyl-1-butanol, 3-methyl-1-butanol, 1-hexanol, 2-hexanol, 2-methyl-1-pentanol, 3-methyl-1-pentanol, 2-ethyl-1-butanol; 3,5,5-trimethyl-1-hexanol, 3-heptanol, 1-octanol, 2-octanol, isoctylalcohol, 2-ethyl-1-hexanol, 1-decanol, 2-propylheptanol, 1-dodecanol, 1-tridecanol, 1-tetradecanol, and the like.

The film comprises polymerized units of one or more low T_g (meth)acrylate monomers, i.e. a (meth)acrylate monomer when reacted to form a homopolymer has a T_g no greater than 0°C. In some embodiments, the low T_g monomer has a T_g no greater than -5°C, or no greater than -10°C. The T_g of these homopolymers is often greater than or equal to -80°C, greater than or equal 30 to -70°C, greater than or equal to -60°C, or greater than or equal to -50°C.

The low T_g monomer may have the formula



wherein R¹ is H or methyl and R⁸ is an alkyl with 1 to 22 carbons or a heteroalkyl with 2 to 20 carbons and 1 to 6 heteroatoms selected from oxygen or sulfur. The alkyl or heteroalkyl group can be linear, branched, cyclic, or a combination thereof.

Exemplary low Tg monomers include for example ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylate, n-pentyl acrylate, isoamyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, 2-methylbutyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 4-methyl-2-pentyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, 2-octyl acrylate, isoctyl acrylate, isononyl acrylate, decyl acrylate, isodecyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, isotridecyl acrylate, octadecyl acrylate, and dodecyl acrylate.

Low Tg heteroalkyl acrylate monomers include, but are not limited to, 2-methoxyethyl acrylate and 2-ethoxyethyl acrylate.

In some embodiments, the film comprises polymerized units of at least one low Tg monomer(s) having an alkyl group with 6 to 20 carbon atoms. In some embodiments, the low Tg monomer has an alkyl group with 7 or 8 carbon atoms. Exemplary monomers include, but are not limited to, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate, isoctyl (meth)acrylate, n-octyl (meth)acrylate, 2-octyl (meth)acrylate, isodecyl (meth)acrylate, and lauryl (meth)acrylate. In some embodiments, the monomer is an ester of (meth)acrylic acid with an alcohol derived from a renewable source, such as 2-octyl (meth)acrylate.

The film typically comprises at least 10, 15, 20 or 25 wt.-% of polymerized units of monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate low Tg monomer (e.g. having a Tg of less than 0°C), based on the total weight of the polymerized units (i.e. excluding inorganic filler or other additives). As used herein, wt.-% of polymerized units refers to the wt.-% based on the total weight of the (meth)acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker when present. The film typically comprises no greater than 60, 55, 50, 45, or 40 wt.-% of polymerized units of monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg of less than 0°C, based on the total weight of the polymerized units.

In other embodiments, the film comprises less than 10 wt.-% of polymerized units of monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg of less than 0°C based on the total weight of the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker when present. For example, the minimum concentration of polymerized units of monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg of less than 0°C may be 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 wt.-%.

When the film is free of unpolymerized components such as inorganic filler and additives, the wt.-% of specified polymerized units is approximately the same as the wt.-% of such polymerized units present in the total film composition. However, when the film composition comprises unpolymerized components, such as inorganic filler or other unpolymerizable additive

the total film composition can comprise substantially less polymerized units. In general, the total amount of unpolymerizable additives may range up to 25 wt.-%. Thus, in the case of films comprising such unpolymerizable additives the concentration of specified polymerized units can be as much as 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 wt.-% less, depending on the total concentration of such additives.

5 For example, when the film comprises 20 wt.-% inorganic filler, the concentration of low Tg monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer may be 20% less, i.e. at least 8 wt.-%, 12 wt.-% etc.

10 The film generally comprises at least one (e.g. non-polar) high Tg monomer, i.e. a (meth)acrylate monomer when reacted to form a homopolymer has a Tg greater than 0°C. The high Tg monomer more typically has a Tg greater than 5°C, 10°C, 15°C, 20°C, 25°C, 30°C, 35°C, or 40°C.

15 In typical embodiments, the film comprises at least one high Tg monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomers including for example, t-butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, s-butyl methacrylate, t-butyl methacrylate, stearyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, isobornyl acrylate, isobornyl methacrylate, norbornyl (meth)acrylate, benzyl methacrylate, 3,3,5 trimethylcyclohexyl acrylate, cyclohexyl acrylate, and propyl methacrylate or combinations.

20 In some embodiments, the film comprises at least 1, 2, or 3 wt.-% up to 35 or 40 wt.-% of polymerized units of a monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg greater than 40°C, 50°C, 60°C, 70°C, or 80°C based on the total weight of the polymerized units (i.e. excluding inorganic filler or other additives). In some embodiments, the film comprises no greater than 30, 25, 20, or 10 wt.-% of polymerized units of high Tg monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer. Further, in some embodiments, the film comprises less than 1.0, 0.5, 0.1 wt.-% or is 25 free of polymerized units of high Tg monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer.

30 In other embodiments, the film, comprises greater than 40 wt.-% of polymerized units of a monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg greater than 40°C based on the total weight of the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker when present. For example, the maximum concentration of polymerized units of a monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg greater than 40°C may be 50, 60, 70, 80, or 90 wt.-%.

The Tg of the homopolymer of various monomers is known and is reported in various handbooks. The Tg of some illustrative monomers is also reported in PCT Application No. WO2016/094277; incorporated herein by reference

In typical embodiments, the film further comprises at least 10, 15 or 20 wt.-% and no greater than 65 wt.-% of polymerized units of polar monomers. Such polar monomers generally aids in compatibilizing the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer with the high and low Tg alkyl (meth)acrylate (e.g. solvent) monomers. The polar monomers typically have a Tg greater than 5 0°C, yet the Tg may be less than the high Tg monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer.

Representative polar monomers include for example acid-functional monomers, hydroxyl functional monomers, nitrogen-containing monomers, and combinations thereof.

In some embodiments, the film comprises polymerized units of an acid functional monomer (a subset of high Tg monomers), where the acid functional group may be an acid *per se*, such as a carboxylic acid, or a portion may be salt thereof, such as an alkali metal carboxylate. 10 Useful acid functional monomers include, but are not limited to, those selected from ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, ethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids, ethylenically unsaturated phosphonic acids, and mixtures thereof. Examples of such compounds include those selected from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, fumaric acid, crotonic acid, citraconic acid, maleic 15 acid, oleic acid, β-carboxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-sulfoethyl methacrylate, styrene sulfonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid, vinylphosphonic acid, and mixtures thereof.

In some embodiments, the film comprises 0.5 up to 20 or 25 wt.-% of polymerized units of acid functional monomers, such as acrylic acid. In some embodiments, the film composition comprises at least 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wt.-% of polymerized units of acid-functional monomers. In 20 other embodiments, the film composition comprises less than 1.0, 0.5, 0.1 wt.-% or is free of polymerized units of acid-functional monomers.

In some embodiments, the film comprises non-acid-functional polar monomer.

One class of non-acid-functional polar monomers includes nitrogen-containing monomers. 25 Representative examples include N-vinylpyrrolidone; N-vinylcaprolactam; acrylamide; mono- or di-N-alkyl substituted acrylamide; t-butyl acrylamide; dimethylaminoethyl acrylamide; and N-octyl acrylamide. In some embodiments, the film comprises at least 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wt.-% of polymerized units of nitrogen-containing monomers and typically no greater than 25 or 30 wt.-%. In other embodiments, film comprises less than 1.0, 0.5, 0.1 wt.-% or is free of polymerized units of nitrogen-containing monomers.

30 Another class of non-acid-functional polar monomers includes alkoxy-functional (meth)acrylate monomers. Representative examples 2-(2-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(methoxyethoxy)ethyl, 2-methoxyethyl methacrylate, and polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylates.

35 In some embodiments, the film comprises at least 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wt.-% of polymerized units of alkoxy-functional (meth)acrylate monomers and typically no greater than 30 or 35 wt.-%.

In other embodiments, the film comprises less than 1.0, 0.5, 0.1 wt.-% or is free of polymerized units of alkoxy-functional (meth)acrylate monomers.

Preferred polar monomers include acrylic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate; N,N-dimethyl acrylamide and N-vinylpyrrolidinone. The film generally comprises polymerized units of polar monomer in an amount of at least 10, 15 or 20 wt.-% and typically no greater than 65, 60, 55, 50 or 45 wt.-%.

The film may optionally comprise vinyl monomers including vinyl esters (e.g., vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate), styrene, substituted styrene (e.g., α -methyl styrene), vinyl halide, and mixtures thereof. As used herein vinyl monomers are exclusive of polar monomers. In some 10 embodiments, the film comprises at least 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 wt.-% and typically no greater than 10 wt.-% of polymerized units of vinyl monomers. In other embodiments, the film comprises less than 1.0, 0.5, 0.1 wt.-% or is free of polymerized units of vinyl monomers.

In some favored embodiments, the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylic polymer contain aliphatic groups and lack aromatic moieties.

15 In typical embodiments, the (e.g. solvent) monomer(s) are polymerized to form a random (meth)acrylic polymer copolymer.

The polyvinyl acetal polymer utilized in the present invention is obtained, for example, by reacting polyvinyl alcohol with aldehyde, as known in the art and described in greater detail in previously cited WO2016/094277. The polyacetal resin is typically a random 20 copolymer. However, block copolymers and tapered block copolymers may provide similar benefits as random copolymers.

The content of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) typically ranges from 65 wt.-% up to 90 wt.-% of the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer. In some embodiments, the content of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) ranges from about 70 or 75 up to 80 or 85 wt.-%. The content of polyvinyl 25 alcohol typically ranges from about 10 to 30 wt.-% of the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer. In some embodiments, the content of polyvinyl alcohol of the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer ranges from about 15 to 25 wt.-%. The content of polyvinyl acetate of the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer can be zero or range from 1 to 8 wt.-% of the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer. In some embodiments, the content of polyvinyl acetate ranges from about 1 to 5 wt.-%.

30 In some embodiments, the alkyl residue of aldehyde comprises 1 to 7 carbon atoms. In other embodiments, the alkyl residue of the aldehyde comprises 3 to 7 carbon atoms such as in the case of butylaldehyde ($R_1 = 3$), hexylaldehyde ($R_1 = 5$), n-octylaldehyde ($R_1 = 7$). Of these butylaldehyde, also known as butanal is most commonly utilized. Polyvinyl butyral (“PVB”) 35 polymer is commercially available from Kuraray under the trade designation “MowitalTM” and Solutia under the trade designation “ButvarTM”.

5 In some embodiments, the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer has a Tg ranging from about 60°C up to about 75°C or 80°C. In some embodiments, the Tg of the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer is at least 65 or 70°C. When other aldehydes, such as n-octyl aldehyde, are used in the preparation of the polyvinyl acetal polymer, the Tg may be less than 65°C or 60°C. The Tg 10 of the polyvinyl acetal polymer is typically at least 35, 40 or 45°C. When the polyvinyl acetal polymer has a Tg of less than 60°C, higher concentrations of high Tg monomers may be employed in the film composition in comparison to those utilizing polyvinyl butyral polymer. When other aldehydes, such as acetaldehyde, are used in the preparation of the polyvinyl acetal polymer, the Tg 15 may be greater than 75°C or 80°C. When the polyvinyl acetal polymer has a Tg of greater than 70°C, higher concentrations of low Tg monomers may be employed in the film composition in comparison to those utilizing polyvinyl butyral polymer.

15 In some embodiments, the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer typically has an average molecular weight (Mw) of at least 10,000 g/mole or 15,000 g/mole and no greater than 150,000 g/mole or 100,000 g/mole. In some favored embodiments, the polyacetal (e.g. PVB) polymer has an average molecular weight (Mw) of at least 20,000 g/mole; 25,000; 30,000, 35,000 g/mole and typically no greater than 75,000 g/mole.

20 In some embodiments, the film comprises 5 to 30 wt.-% of polyvinyl acetal polymer such as polyvinyl butyral based on the total weight of the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylate polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker when present. In some 25 embodiments, the film comprises at least 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15 wt.-% of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer. In some embodiments, the film comprises no greater than 25 or 20 wt.-% of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer. When the film comprises a polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer having an average molecular weight (Mw) less than 50,000 g/mole, the film may comprise higher concentration polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer such as 35 or 40 wt.-%. Thus, the film and composition comprises a minor amount of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) resin in combination with a major amount of (meth)acrylic polymer. The amount of (meth)acrylic polymer is typically at least 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, or 95 wt.-% of the film.

30 In other embodiments, the film comprises less than 5 wt.-% of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer based on the total weight of the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker when present. For example, the minimum concentration of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer may be 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 1.5, 3, 3.5, 4, or 4.5 wt.-%

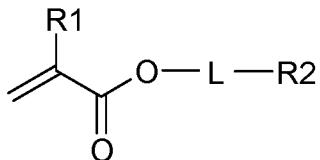
35 In some embodiments, the film comprises polymerized crosslinker units. In some embodiments, the crosslinker is a multifunctional crosslinker capable of crosslinking polymerized units of the (meth)acrylic polymer such as in the case of crosslinkers comprising functional groups

selected from (meth)acrylate, vinyl, and alkenyl (e.g. C₃-C₂₀ olefin groups); as well as chlorinated triazine crosslinking compounds.

Examples of useful (e.g. aliphatic) multifunctional (meth)acrylate include, but are not limited to, di(meth)acrylates, tri(meth)acrylates, and tetra(meth)acrylates, such as 1,6-hexanediol di(meth)acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) di(meth)acrylates, polybutadiene di(meth)acrylate, polyurethane di(meth)acrylates, and propoxylated glycerin tri(meth)acrylate, and mixtures thereof.

In one embodiment, the crosslinking monomer comprises a (meth)acrylate group and an olefin group. The olefin group comprises at least one hydrocarbon unsaturation. The crosslinking monomer may have the formula

10



R1 is H or CH₃,

L is an optional linking group; and

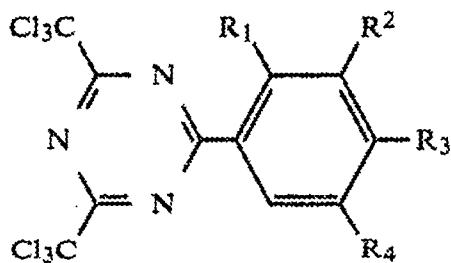
R2 is an olefin group, the olefin group being optionally substituted.

Dihydrocyclopentadienyl acrylate is one example of this class of crosslinking monomer. Other crosslinking monomers of this type comprising a C₆-C₂₀ olefin are described in WO2014/172185.

In other embodiments, the crosslinking monomer comprises at least two terminal groups selected from allyl, methallyl, or combinations thereof. An allyl group has the structural formula H₂C=CH-CH₂- . It consists of a methylene bridge (-CH₂-) attached to a vinyl group (-CH=CH₂). Similarly, a methallyl group is a substituent with the structural formula H₂C=C(CH₃)-CH₂- . The terminology (meth)allyl includes both allyl and methallyl groups. Crosslinking monomers of this types are described in PCT Publication WO2015/157350.

In some embodiments, the film may comprise a multifunctional crosslinker comprising vinyl groups, such as in the case of 1,3-divinyl tetramethyl disiloxane.

The triazine crosslinking compound may have the formula.



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ of this triazine crosslinking agent are independently hydrogen or alkoxy group, and 1 to 3 of R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are hydrogen. The alkoxy groups typically have no greater than 12 carbon atoms. In favored embodiments, the alkoxy groups are independently methoxy or ethoxy. One representative species is 2,4,-bis(trichloromethyl)-6-(3,4-bis(methoxy)phenyl)-triazine. Such triazine crosslinking compounds are further described in U.S. 4,330,590.

In other embodiments, the crosslinker comprises hydroxyl-reactive groups, such as isocyanate groups, capable of crosslinking alkoxy group of the (meth)acrylic polymer (e.g. HEA) or polyvinyl alcohol groups of the polyvinyl acetal (PVB). Examples of useful (e.g. aliphatic) multifunctional isocyanate crosslinkers include hexamethylene diisocyanate, isophorone diisocyanate, as well as derivatives and prepolymers thereof.

Various combinations of two or more of crosslinkers may be employed.

When present, the crosslinker is typically present in an amount of at least 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, or 2 wt.-% ranging up to 5 or 10 wt.-% based on the total weight of the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylate polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker. Thus, the film comprises such amount of polymerized crosslinker units.

In other embodiments, the film comprises greater than 10 wt.-% of polymerized crosslinker units based on the total weight of the polymerized units of the (meth)acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer, and crosslinker when present. For example, the maximum concentration of polymerized crosslinker units may range up to 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 or 80 wt.-%.

The film can be polymerized by various techniques, yet is preferably polymerized by solventless radiation polymerization, including processes using electron beam, gamma, and especially ultraviolet light radiation. In this (e.g. ultraviolet light radiation) embodiment, generally little or no methacrylate monomers are utilized. Thus, the film comprises zero or no greater than 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 wt.-% of polymerized units of monomer having a methacrylate group. One method of preparing the film described herein comprises dissolving the polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer in the unpolymerized solvent monomer(s) of the (meth)acrylic polymer forming a coatable composition of sufficient viscosity.

Another method includes partially polymerizing the solvent monomer(s) to produce a syrup composition comprising a solute (meth)acrylic polymer dissolved in unpolymerized solvent monomer(s).

The polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer can be added prior to and/or after partial polymerization of monomer(s) of the (meth)acrylic polymer. In this embodiment, the coatable composition comprises partially polymerized (e.g. alkyl(meth)acrylate) solvent monomers and polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer. The coatable composition is then coated on a suitable substrate and further polymerized.

The viscosity of the coatable composition is typically at least 1,000 or 2,000 cps ranging up to 100,000 cps at 25°C. In some embodiments, the viscosity is no greater than 75,000; 50,000, or 25,000 cps. The coatable composition is coated on a suitable substrate such as a release liner, and polymerized by exposure to radiation.

The method can form a higher molecular weight (meth)acrylic polymer than can be used by solvent blending a prepolymerized (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal (e.g. PVB) polymer. Higher molecular weight (meth)acrylic polymer can increase the amount of chain entanglements, thus increasing cohesive strength. Also, the distance between crosslinks can be greater with a high molecular (meth)acrylic polymer, which allows for increased wet-out onto a surface of an adjacent (e.g. film) layer.

The molecular weight of the film composition can be increased even further by the inclusion of crosslinker.

The high molecular weight (meth)acrylic polymer as well as the film typically has a gel content (as measured according to the Gel Content Test Method described in the examples utilizing tetrahydrofuran (THF) of at least 20, 25 30, 35, or 40%. In some embodiments, the gel content is at least 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, or 95%. The gel content is typically less than 100%, 99%, or 98%. When the (meth)acrylic polymer has a high gel content, it is typically not thermoplastic.

The polymerization is preferably conducted in the absence of unpolymerizable organic solvents such as ethyl acetate, toluene and tetrahydrofuran, which are non-reactive with the functional groups of the solvent monomer and polyvinyl (e.g. PVB) acetal. Solvents influence the rate of incorporation of different monomers in the polymer chain and generally lead to lower molecular weights as the polymers gel or precipitate from solution. Thus, the film composition can be free of unpolymerizable organic solvent.

Useful photoinitiators include benzoin ethers such as benzoin methyl ether and benzoin isopropyl ether; substituted acetophenones such as 2,2-dimethoxy-2-phenylacetophenone photoinitiator, available the trade name IRGACURE 651 or ESACURE KB-1 photoinitiator

(Sartomer Co., West Chester, PA), and dimethylhydroxyacetophenone; substituted α -ketols such as 2- methyl-2-hydroxy propiophenone; aromatic sulfonyl chlorides such as 2-naphthalene-sulfonyl chloride; photoactive oximes such as 1-phenyl-1,2-propanedione-2-(O-ethoxy-carbonyl)oxime; mono- or bis- acylphosphine oxides such as IRGANOX 819 or LUCIRIN TPO.

5 Preferred photoinitiators are photoactive compounds that undergo a Norrish I cleavage to generate free radicals that can initiate by addition to the acrylic double bonds. The photoinitiator can be added to the mixture to be coated after the polymer (e.g. syrup) has been formed, i.e., photoinitiator can be added. Such polymerizable photoinitiators are described, for example, in U.S. 5,902,836 and 5,506,279 (Gaddam et al.).

10 Such photoinitiators are typically present in an amount of from 0.1 to 1.0 wt.-%. Relatively thick coatings can be achieved when the extinction coefficient of the photoinitiator is low.

15 The film composition can be coated on an unstructured or structured release liner using conventional coating techniques. For example, these film compositions can be applied by methods such as roller coating, flow coating, dip coating, spin coating, spray coating knife coating, and die coating. Coating thicknesses may vary. The film composition may be of any desirable concentration for subsequent coating, but is typically 5 to 30, 35 or 40 wt.-% polyvinyl acetal polymer solids in (meth)acrylic solvent monomer. The desired concentration may be achieved by further dilution of the coatable composition. The coating thickness may vary depending on the 20 desired thickness of the (e.g. radiation) cured film.

The coated release liner may be brought in contact with the film or second backing, as previously described, prior to curing.

25 The film composition and the photoinitiator may be irradiated with activating UV radiation having a UVA maximum at a wavelength range of 280 to 425 nanometers to polymerize the monomer component(s). UV light sources can be of various types. Low light intensity sources, such as blacklights, generally provide intensities ranging from 0.1 or 0.5 mW/cm² (milliwatts per square centimeter) to 10 mW/cm² (as measured in accordance with procedures approved by the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology as, for example, with a UVIMAP UM 365 L-S radiometer manufactured by Electronic Instrumentation & 30 Technology, Inc., in Sterling, VA). High light intensity sources generally provide intensities greater than 10, 15, or 20 mW/cm² ranging up to 450 mW/cm² or greater. In some embodiments, high intensity light sources provide intensities up to 500, 600, 700, 800, 900 or 1000 mW/cm². UV light to polymerize the monomer component(s) can be provided by various light sources such as light emitting diodes (LEDs), blacklights, medium pressure mercury lamps, etc. or a combination 35 thereof. The monomer component(s) can also be polymerized with higher intensity light sources as

available from Fusion UV Systems Inc. The UV exposure time for polymerization and curing can vary depending on the intensity of the light source(s) used. For example, complete curing with a low intensity light course can be accomplished with an exposure time ranging from about 30 to 300 seconds; whereas complete curing with a high intensity light source can be accomplished with a shorter exposure time ranging from about 5 to 20 seconds. Partial curing with a high intensity light source can typically be accomplished with exposure times ranging from about 2 seconds to about 5 or 10 seconds.

In some embodiments, the first film layer is transparent having a transmission of visible light of at least 90 percent. In some embodiments, the film, film layer, as well as the composition of (meth)acrylic polymer, polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral), and crosslinker when present is transparent having a transmission of visible light of at least 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, or 95% as measured according to the test method described in the examples. In some embodiments, the clarity is at least 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, or 95%. The transmission and clarity are typically less than 100%. In some embodiments, the haze is less than 15% or 10%. In some embodiments, the haze is less than 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, or 2%. The haze may be at least 0.5%.

In other embodiments, the first film layer is opaque (e.g. white) or reflective.

The film may optionally contain one or more conventional additives. Additives include, for example, antioxidants, stabilizers, ultraviolet absorbers, lubricants, processing aids, antistatic agents, colorants, impact resistance aids, fillers, matting agents, flame retardants (e.g. zinc borate) and the like. Some examples of fillers or pigments include inorganic oxide materials such as zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, silica, carbon black, calcium carbonate, antimony trioxide, metal powders, mica, graphite, talc, ceramic microspheres, glass or polymeric beads or bubbles, fibers, starch and the like.

When present, the amount of additive can be at least 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, or 0.5 wt.-%. In some embodiments, the amount of additive is no greater than 25, 20, 15, 10 or 5 wt.-% of the total film composition. In other embodiments, the concentration of additive can range up to 40, 45, 50, 55 or about 65 wt.-% of the total film composition.

In some embodiments, the film is free of plasticizer, tackifier and combinations thereof. In other embodiments, the film composition comprise plasticizer, tackifier and combinations thereof in amount no greater than 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1 wt.-% of the total film composition. From the standpoint of tensile strength, it is preferable not to add a large amount of tackifier or plasticizer.

In some embodiments, the film composition comprises fumed silica. The concentration of (e.g. fumed) silica can vary. In some embodiments, the film comprises at least 0.5 or 1.0 wt.-% of (e.g. fumed) silica.

The film can be characterized using various techniques. Although the Tg of a copolymer may be estimated by use of the Fox equation, based on the Tgs of the constituent monomers and the weight percent thereof, the Fox equation does not take into effect interactions, such as incompatibility, that can cause the Tg to deviate from the calculated Tg. The Tg of the film refers to the midpoint Tg as measured by Differential Scanning Calorimetry, (DSC), according to the test method previously cited in PCT Application No. WO2016/094277. When the film and (e.g. radiation) cured composition comprises a monomer having a Tg greater than 150°C, the upper limit of the DSC testing temperature is chosen to be higher than that of the highest Tg monomer. The midpoint Tg as measured by DSC is 10-12°C lower than the peak temperature Tg as measured by Dynamic Mechanical Analysis (DMA) at a frequency of 10 Hz and a rate of 3°C/min. Thus, a Tg of 60°C as measured according to DSC is equivalent to 70-72°C when measured according to DMA as just described.

The Tg of the film is generally at least 20, 25, or 30°C ranging up to 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, or 60°C. In some embodiments, the Tg of the film is at least 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35°C. In other 15 embodiments, the Tg of the film is at least 36, 37, 38, 39, or 40°C. In yet other embodiments, the Tg of the film is at least 41, 42, 43, 44, or 45°C. In some embodiments, the film exhibits a single Tg as measured by DSC. Thus, the polymerized (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition alone or in combination with crosslinker can exhibit a single Tg.

A single Tg is one indication of a single (e.g. continuous) phase morphology. Thus, the 20 film, as well as the polymerized (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition alone or in combination with crosslinker can be characterized as a single (e.g. continuous phase). Alternatively, the film or (e.g. radiation) cured composition can be tested by transmission electron microscopy (TEM) according to the test method described in the examples. Single (e.g. continuous) phase morphology is preferred for films having low haze and high transmission.

25 In other embodiments, the film, as well as the polymerized (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition alone or in combination with crosslinker can be characterized as having a dispersed phase of polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) in a continuous phase of (meth)acrylic polymer. The average dispersion size can be calculated by averaging the diameter of randomly chosen particles (e.g. 100 particles) of the dispersed phase utilizing TEM. The 30 average dispersion size can range from 0.1 to 10 microns. In some embodiments, the average dispersion size is less than 0.5, 0.3, 0.4, 0.3, 0.1 microns. An average dispersion size of less than 0.1 microns can also provide films having a low haze and high transmission.

The film can be characterized by tensile and elongation according to the test method described in previously cited WO2016/094277. The tensile and elongation properties can pertain

to the acrylic polyvinyl acetal film layer alone or in combination with the (e.g. PSA) adhesive. In some embodiments, the tensile strength is at least 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 MPa and typically no greater than 50, 45, 40, or 35 MPa. The elongation at break can ranges from 2, 3, 4 or 5% up to about 150%, 200% or or 300% and greater. In some embodiments, the elongation is at least 50, 5 100, 150, or 175% and may range up to 225, 250, 275, or 300%.

The film is preferably non-tacky to the touch at room temperature (25°C) and preferably at (e.g. storage or shipping) temperatures ranging up to (120°F) 50°C. In some embodiments, the films may exhibit a low level of adhesion to glass. For example, the 180° peel values can be about 2 oz/inch or less at a 12 inch/minute peel rate.

10 A layer of an adhesive composition is proximate the first film or second backing. The adhesive is typically disposed directly on the first film or second backing or may comprise a primer or adhesion promoting treatment between the first film or backing and the adhesive layer. The type of primer will vary with the type of film and adhesive used and one skilled in the art can select an appropriate primer. Examples of suitable primers include chlorinated polyolefins, 15 polyamides, and modified polymers disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,677,376, 5,623,010 and those disclosed in WO 98/15601 and WO 99/03907, and other modified acrylic polymers. Typically, primers are dispersed into a solvent at very low concentrations, e.g., less than about 5% solids, and coated onto the film, and dried at room or elevated temperatures to form a very thin layer. Typical solvents used may include water, heptane, toluene, acetone, ethyl acetate, isopropanol, and the 20 like, used alone or as blends thereof.

The adhesive layer may be any suitable adhesive. Non-limiting examples of adhesives include pressure sensitive adhesives, heat activated adhesives, radiation curable adhesives, and the like. Examples of formulation types include solvent-based solutions, water-based latex, microspheres, hot melt coatable, and suitable combinations thereof. The pressures sensitive 25 adhesive (PSA) may be any type of PSA such as those described in the *Handbook of Pressure-Sensitive Adhesives*, Ed. D. Satas, 2nd Edition, Von Nostrand Reinhold, New York, 1989. Classes of useful pressure sensitive adhesives include, for example, rubber resin materials such as tackified natural rubbers or those based on synthetic rubbers, styrene block copolymers, polyvinyl ethers, acrylics (including both acrylates and methacrylates), polyurethanes, poly-alpha-olefins, silicone 30 resins, and the like. Combinations of these adhesives can be used. Additionally, further useful adhesives include those that may be activated at elevated temperature for application at use temperature. These generally meet the Dahlquist criterion at use temperature.

The pressure sensitive adhesive may be inherently tacky. If desirable, tackifiers may be added to a pressure sensitive adhesive base material to form the pressure sensitive adhesive.

35 Useful tackifiers include, for example, rosin ester resins, aromatic hydrocarbon resins, aliphatic

hydrocarbon resins, mixed aromatic/aliphatic hydrocarbon resins, and terpene resins. Other materials can be added for special purposes, including, for example, oils, plasticizers, antioxidants, ultraviolet ("UV") stabilizers, hydrogenated butyl rubber, pigments, fillers, curing agents, and crosslinkers. Some examples of fillers or pigments include zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, silica, carbon black, metal powders and calcium carbonate.

The adhesive layer may be applied using any conventional technique known to those skilled in the art. For example, the adhesive layer can be applied onto the film surface by coating, using for example a rotary rod die, slit die or gravure roll, or extrusion coating with conventional coating weights (e.g. 0.0004 to 0.008 g/cm²) . The application of the adhesive layer may also be achieved by laminating the film with an adhesive layer, optionally covered by a release liner. When a release liner is used, the adhesive is either coated on the liner and laminated to the film or coated on the film and the release liner subsequently applied to the adhesive layer. The adhesive layer may be applied as a continuous layer, or a patterned, discontinuous layer. The adhesive layer typically has a thickness of about 5 to about 50 micrometers.

Examples of adhesives include PSA's, hot melt or heat activated adhesives that are the pressure sensitive at the time of application such as pressure sensitive adhesives disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,994,322 (Delgado et al), U.S. Pat. No. 4,968,562 (Delgado), EP 0 570 515, and EP 0 617 708; and the pressure sensitive adhesives disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,296,277 and 5,362,516 (both Wilson et al) and 5,141,790 (Calhoun et al) and WO 96/1687 (Keller et al.) Other examples of PSA's are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. Re 24,906 (Ulrich), 4,833,179 (Young et al), 5,209,971 (Babu et al), 2,736,721 (Dester), and 5,461,134 (Leir et al). Acrylate-based PSA's include those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,181,752 (Clemens et al) and 4,418,120 (Kealy et al), WO 95/13331.

In some embodiments, the adhesive layer is a repositionable adhesive layer. The term "repositionable" refers to the ability to be, at least initially, repeatedly adhered to and removed from a substrate without substantial loss of adhesion capability. A repositionable adhesive usually has a peel strength, at least initially, to the substrate surface lower than that for a conventional aggressively tacky PSA. Suitable repositionable adhesives include the adhesive types used on CONTROLTAC Plus Film brand and on SCOTCHLITE Plus Sheeting brand, both made by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA.

The adhesive layer may also be a structured adhesive layer or an adhesive layer having at least one microstructured surface. Upon application of film article comprising such a structured adhesive layer to a substrate surface, a network of channels or the like exists between the film article and the substrate surface. The presence of such channels or the like allows air to pass

laterally through the adhesive layer and thus allows air to escape from beneath the film article and the surface substrate during application.

Topologically structured adhesives may also be used to provide a repositionable adhesive. For example, relatively large scale embossing of an adhesive has been described to permanently 5 reduce the pressure sensitive adhesive/substrate contact area and hence the bonding strength of the pressure sensitive adhesive. Various topologies include concave and convex V-grooves, diamonds, cups, hemispheres, cones, volcanoes and other three dimensional shapes all having top surface areas significantly smaller than the base surface of the adhesive layer. In general, these topologies provide adhesive sheets, films and tapes with lower peel adhesion values in comparison with 10 smooth surfaced adhesive layers. In many cases, the topologically structured surface adhesives also display a slow build in adhesion with increasing contact time.

An adhesive layer having a microstructured adhesive surface may comprise a uniform distribution of adhesive or composite adhesive "pegs" over the functional portion of an adhesive surface and protruding outwardly from the adhesive surface. A film article comprising such an 15 adhesive layer provides a sheet material that is repositionable when it is laid on a substrate surface (See U.S. Pat. No. 5,296,277). Such an adhesive layer also requires a coincident microstructured release liner to protect the adhesive pegs during storage and processing. The formation of the microstructured adhesive surface can be also achieved for example by coating the adhesive onto a release liner having a corresponding micro-embossed pattern or compressing the adhesive, e.g. a 20 PSA, against a release liner having a corresponding micro-embossed pattern as described in WO 98/29516.

If desired, the adhesive layer may comprise multiple sub-layers of adhesives to give a combination adhesive layer assembly. For example, the adhesive layer may comprise a sub-layer 25 of a hot-melt adhesive with a continuous or discontinuous overlayer of PSA or repositionable adhesive.

The adhesive layer may optionally be protected with a release liner. The release liner is preferably adhesive-repellant and more specifically comprises paper or film, which has been coated or modified with compounds of low surface energy relative to the adhesive applied. Organosilicone compounds, fluoropolymers, polyurethanes and polyolefins can serve this purpose. 30 The release liner can also be a polymeric sheet produced from polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC, polyesters with or without the addition of adhesive-repellant compounds. As mentioned above, the release liner may have a microstructured or micro-embossed pattern for imparting a structure to the adhesive layer.

Alternatively the exposed surface of the film (e.g. structured layer or cured filling 35 material) may be coated with a suitable release material, also referred to in the art as a low

adhesive backsize (LAB). Release materials are known and include materials such as, for example, silicone, polyethylene, polycarbamate, polyacrylics, and the like. In some embodiments, the adhesive is an acrylic heat activated adhesive or acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive. Such adhesives can comprise the same general components as the (meth) acrylic polymer of the film.

5 However, the adhesives generally comprise different concentrations of such components. For example, the adhesives often comprise a higher concentration of polymerized units of low Tg alkyl monofunctional (meth)acrylate monomer and/or a sufficient concentration of tackifier to lower the Tg and the tensile elastic modulus. In one embodiment, the acrylic adhesive comprises at least 65, 70, 75, 80, 85 or 90 wt.-% of polymerized units of low Tg alkyl monofunctional (meth)acrylate monomer, as previously described. In some embodiments, the acrylic adhesive comprises at least 0.1, 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 wt.-% of a polar monomer, such as an acid functional monomer. The maximum concentration of polar monomer is the same as previously described for the film. In some embodiments, the acrylic adhesive comprises at least 0.4, 1, 1.5 or 2 wt-% up to about 10 or 15 wt-% of polymerized crosslinker units. The crosslinker may comprise a (meth)acrylate group and an olefin group as previously described. Alternatively, the acrylic adhesive may comprise a small concentration, e.g. less than 1 wt.-% of a triazine crosslinker. In some embodiments, the acrylic adhesive comprises greater than 5, 10, or 15 wt-% of tackifier and typically no greater than 20, 30, 40, or 50 wt.-%. In typical embodiments, the adhesive does not comprise a polyvinyl acetal (e.g. butyral) polymer.

10 20 In some embodiments, the film is a graphic film used to apply designs, e.g. images, graphics, text and/or information, on windows, buildings, pavements or vehicles such as autos, vans, buses, trucks, streetcars and the like for e.g. advertising or decorative purposes. Many of the surfaces, e.g. vehicles, are irregular and/or uneven.

15 In other embodiments, the film is a decorative tape.

20 25 In yet other embodiments, the film is a synthetic textile such as synthetic leather.

Materials

Designation	Description
EHA	2-Ethylhexyl acrylate, available from BASF, Florham Park, NJ.
IBOA	Isobornyl acrylate, available from San Esters, New York, NY.
AA	Acrylic acid, available from BASF, Florham Park, NJ.
HEA	2-Hydroxyl ethyl acrylate, available from BASF, Florham Park, NJ.
IOA	Isooctyl acrylate, obtained from 3M Company, St. Paul, MN.
DPA	Dihydrocyclopentadienyl acrylate, available from BASF, Florham Park, NJ.

CN965	An aliphatic polyester based urethane diacrylate oligomer available under the trade designation CN965 from Sartomer Americas, Exton, PA,.
CN2295	A hexafunctional polyester acrylate oligomer available under the trade designation CN2295 from Sartomer Americas Exton, PA.
CN963B80	An aliphatic polyester-based urethane diacrylate oligomer blended with 20% w/w hexanediol diacrylate, available under the trade designation CN963B80 from Sartomer Americas Exton, PA.
SR306HP	A tripropylene glycol diacyrylate, available under the trade designation SARTOMER SR306HP from Sartomer Americas, Exton, PA.
Irg 651	2,2-Dimethoxy-1,2-diphenylethan-1-one, available under the trade designation IRGACURE 651 from BASF Corporation, Vandalia, IL.
Irg 819	Bis(2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl)-phenylphosphineoxide, available under the trade designation IRGACURE 819 from BASF Corporation, Vandalia, IL.
Irg 1076	Octadecyl-3-(3,5-di-tert.butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propionate, available under the trade name IRGANOX 1076 from BASF Corporation, Vandalia, IL.
Tin 479	A hydroxyphenyl-triazine (HPT) UV absorber, available under the trade designation TINUVIN 479 from BASF Corporation, Vandalia, IL.
Tin 928	A UV absorber of the hydroxyphenyl benzotriazole class, available under the trade designation TINUVIN 928 from BASF Corporation, Vandalia, IL.
Reg 6108	A hydrocarbon resin produced by the polymerization and partial hydrogenation of pure monomer hydrocarbon feedstocks, having a glass transition temperature of 55° C and a number average molecular weight of 750, available under the trade designation REGALREZ 6108 from Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN.
B60H	Poly(vinyl butyral) having a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 70°C, available under the trade designation MOWITAL B60H from Kuraray, Houston, TX.
White Pigment	A white pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as 9W1817 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.
Black Pigment 1	A black pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as 9B117 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.
Black Pigment 2	A black pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as PMX 4178 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.
Blue Pigment	A blue pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as 9S1494 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.

Magenta Pigment	A magenta pigment dispersion in dipropylene glycol diacrylate, obtained as 9R1052 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA
Red Pigment 2	A red pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as 9R1517 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.
Purple Pigment	A purple pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as 9S9490 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.
Yellow Pigment	A yellow pigment dispersion in phenoxyethyl acrylate, obtained as 9Y1397 from Penn Color, Doylestown, PA.
Red Pigment 1	A red pigment, obtained under the trade designation NEOPOLAR BRILLIANT RED B from CIBA-GEIGY Corporation, Ardsley, NY.
Blue Glitter	A blue polyester jewel having a diameter of 0.008 inches (203 micrometers), available under the trade designation BRILLIANT CANADIAN BLUE from Meadowbrook Inventions, Newton, NJ.
Red Glitter	A red polyester jewel having a diameter of 0.006 inches (0.152 micrometers), available under the trade designation HEX FIRE RED from Meadowbrook Inventions, Newton, NJ.
Triazine 1	2,4-bis(trichloromethyl)-6-(4-methoxyphenyl)-s-triazine, prepared as described in US 3277091, column 2, line 73.
PET 1	An untreated clear, amorphous, copolyester film having a nominal thickness of 51 micrometers (0.002 inches) .
PET 2	A clear, amorphous, copolyester film having a nominal thickness of 13 micrometers (0.0005 inches), obtained from Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, TN. Prior to use this was corona treated under a nitrogen atmosphere at 500 milliJoules/square centimeter.
PET 3	A silicone release liner having a nominal thickness of 51 micrometers (0.002 inches), obtained from Dupont Teijin, Dupont Chemical Company, Wilmington DE.
Textured Paper 1	A textured release liner commercially available under the trade designation BALLISTIC ULTRACAST from Sappi Warren Release Papers, Westbrook, ME.
Textured Paper 2	A textured release liner commercially available under the trade designation HONEYCOMB ULTRACAST from Sappi Warren Release Papers, Westbrook, ME.

Textured Paper 3	A textured release liner commercially available under the trade designation SPIRO ULTRACAST from Sappi Warren Release Papers, Westbrook, ME.
Textured Paper 4	The liner from the inkjet printable film available under the trade designation 3M CONTROLTAC GRAPHIC FILM WITH COMPLY ADHESIVE IJ-180Cv3 from 3M Company, St. Paul, MN.
1080 BR	A cast, 0.004 inch (90 micrometer) thick, poly(vinyl chloride) graphics film having a brushed metal texture and a metallic steel blue color and having a repositionable acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive covered with a paper release liner, available under the trade designation 3M WRAP FILM 1080-BR-217 BRUSHED STEEL BLUE from 3M Company, St. Paul, MN.
1080 CF 1	A cast, 0.004 inch (90 micrometer) thick, poly(vinyl chloride) graphics film having a carbon fiber texture and metallic anthracite color and having a repositionable acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive covered with a paper release liner, available under the trade designation 3M WRAP FILM 1080-CF201 ANTHRACITE from 3M Company, St. Paul, MN.
1080 CF 2	A cast, 0.004 inch (90 micrometer) thick, poly(vinyl chloride) graphics film having a carbon fiber texture and white color and having a repositionable acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive covered with a paper release liner, available under the trade designation 3M WRAP FILM 1080-CF201 CARBON FIBER WHITE from 3M Company, St. Paul, MN.
BOPP 1	A 0.0016 inch (41 micrometers) biaxially oriented polypropylene film which was corona treated under a nitrogen atmosphere at 500 milliJoules/square centimeter.
Fumed Silica	A fumed silica after-treated with dimethyldichlorosilane, available under the trade designation AEROSIL R 972 from Evonik Industries, Essen, Germany.
XP 2617	A largely linear diisocyanate prepolymer based on hexamethylene diisocyanate and an ether diol, having an NCO content of 12.5 wt%, available under the trade designation DESMODUR XP 2617 from Bayer Material Science, Leverkusen, Germany.
MEK	Methyl ethyl ketone
PS90	A water-based acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive available under the trade designation ROBOND PS90 from Dow Chemical Company, Midland, MI.

Curing of the Film and Adhesive Compositions

All the UVA cured films and adhesive compositions were cured by exposure a UVA light source having a UVA maximum in the range of 350-400 nanometers. The total UVA energy was
5 determined using a POWERMAP radiometer equipped with low power sensing head (available from EIT Incorporated, Sterling, VA). The radiometer web speed and energy were then used to calculate the total UVA energy. The radiometer web speed was used to calculate the total exposure time.

10 Test Methods

90 Degree Angle Peel Strength

A tape sample measuring 0.5 inches (1.27 centimeters) wide by approximately 12 inches (30.5 centimeters) long in the machine direction was conditioned at 23 °C and 50% relative humidity for at least 24 hours prior to testing. It was then placed on un-used, anodized aluminum panels and
15 rolled down back and forth one time using a 4.5 pound (2 kilogram) rubber hand roller. Samples were tested at 90 inches per minute (228.6 centimeters/minute) and averaged over 5 seconds. The results were recorded in ounces force/0.5 inch, and reported ounces force/0.5 inch (Newtons/decimeter). The failure mode was noted and recorded. An adhesive failure mode was assigned where the adhesive removed entirely from the substrate to which it was bonded. A
20 cohesive failure mode was assigned where the adhesive layer split with some being still bonded to the backing and some still bonded to the substrate. A two bond failure mode was assigned where the adhesive removed entirely from the film backing to which it was bonded.

Shear Strength

25 Stainless steel (SS) plates, measuring 5.1 centimeters (2 inches) long by 3.8 centimeters (1.5 inches) wide by 0.13 centimeters (0.050 inches) thick, were prepared for testing by cleaning with methyl ethyl ketone and a clean tissue (available under the trade designation KIMWIPE, available from Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Neenah, WI) three times with the last cleaning taking place immediately preceding sample preparation. The adhesive tapes were cut into strips measuring 1.27 centimeters (0.5 inch) wide and at least 15 centimeters (6 inches) long and bonded to the plate such
30 that the contact area was 1.27 centimeters by 2.54 centimeters long. A 2 kilogram (4.5 pound) rubber roller was then rolled back and forth one time over the assembly. The assembly was

equilibrated at 23°C and 50% relative humidity for 15 minutes after which it was transferred to a 158 °F (70 °C) oven, positioned vertically at an angle of 2 degrees, and a 500 gram weight was attached to the assembly by the remaining length of tape that extended beyond the bonded area. The time (in minutes) at which the bond failed was recorded. The test was discontinued after 1,200 5 minutes if there was no failure and the result recorded as 1200. Three specimens of each sample were tested and averaged to provide the result reported.

180 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength

Stainless steel (SS) plates, measuring 12.7 centimeters (5 inches) long by 5.1 centimeters (2 10 inches) wide by 0.13 centimeters (0.050 inches) thick, were prepared for testing by cleaning with methyl ethyl ketone and a clean tissue (available under the trade designation KIMWIPE, available from Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Neenah, WI) three times with the last cleaning taking place immediately preceding sample preparation. The adhesive tapes were cut into strips measuring 1.27 15 centimeters (0.5 inch) wide and at least 20 centimeters (8 inches) long and bonded to the plate such that the contact area was 1.27 centimeters (0.5 inches) by approximately 15.2 centimeters (6 inches) long. A 2 kilogram (4.5 pound) rubber roller was then rolled back and forth twice over the assembly. The assembly was equilibrated at 23°C and 50% relative humidity for 15 minutes then tested. The peel test was run at an angle of 180 degrees and at a rate of 305 millimeters/minute (12 20 inches/minute) with an averaging time of 5 seconds using a using peel tester (Model IMASS SP-200 Slip/Peel Tester, available from IMASS, Incorporated, Accord, MA). Two samples were evaluated and the results were recorded in ounces force/0.5 inch and converted to ounces force/inch (Newtons/decimeter).

Determination of Tensile Storage Modulus (E')

25 Some of the films and adhesives were analyzed by Dynamic Mechanical Analysis (DMA) using a DMAQ800 from TA Instruments in tensile mode to characterize the physical properties of each sample as a function of temperature. Rectangular samples, 6.2 mm wide and 0.05-0.07 mm thick, were clamped into the film tension clamps of the instrument at 17-19 mm length. The furnace was closed and the temperature was equilibrated at -50°C and held for 5 minute. The 30 temperature was then ramped from -50°C to 50°C at 2°C/min while the sample was oscillated at a frequency of 1 Hertz and a constant strain of 0.1 percent. The tensile storage modulus (E') at 25°C was recorded in MPa.

Colored, Multilayer Films with Pressure Sensitive Adhesive

Preparation of Base Syrups 1-2

Base Syrup 1 was prepared by mixing the components in the amounts shown in Table 1 below as follows. Acrylic monomers, crosslinker, ultra-violet absorbers (UVAs) and photoinitiator were combined in a 1 gallon (3.79 liters) glass jar and mixed using a high shear electric motor to provide a homogeneous mixture. Next, B60H was then added over a period of about three minutes with mixing. This was followed by further high speed mixing until a homogeneous, viscous solution was obtained. This was then degassed for ten minutes at a vacuum of 9.9 inches (252 millimeters) mercury. The XP 2617 was added to the syrup immediately prior to coating.

Base Syrup 2 was prepared in the same manner as Base Syrup 1 using the amounts shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Base Syrup Formulations (parts by weight)

Base Syrup	EHA	IBOA	AA	HEA	CN965	XP2617	Irg 651	Irg 819	B60H	Tin 479	Tin 928
1	29.5	8.2	20.2	20.2	2.6	2.6	0.32	0	16.4	0.05	0.10
2	29.8	8.3	20.4	20.4	2.6	0	0	2.0	16.6	0	0

Preparation of Pigmented Syrups 1-2

Pigmented syrups were prepared by adding the desired amount of Base Syrup 2 to a 1 quart (0.95 liter) glass jar, followed by pigment, in parts per one hundred (pph) parts of base syrup, as shown in Table 2. The pigmented syrups were then mixed at 3,000 revolutions per minute (rpm) for 5 minutes using a 1.5 inch Cowles blade.

Table 2: Pigmented Syrup Formulations

Syrup Identification	Pigment	Pigment Loading (pph)
Black Pigment Syrup 1	Black Pigment 1	6
Red Pigment Syrup 1	Red Pigment 1	5

Example 1

Base Syrup 1 was coated using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.0005 inches (13 micrometers) onto the surface of 1080 CF1 opposite the side having the pressure sensitive adhesive layer, and brought into intimate contact with PET 1. The syrup was cured by exposing the PET 1 surface to

UVA energy for 300 seconds such that the total UVA energy was 1800 milliJoules/square centimeter. The PET 1 was removed, giving a flexible, multilayer article having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface and an acrylic/PVB film layer on the other outer surface. This article had a smooth, glossy surface and a textured two-toned, metallic anthracite colored appearance.

5

Example 2

Base Syrup 1 was coated, using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.0005 (13 micrometers) onto the surface of 1080 BR opposite the side having the pressure sensitive adhesive layer, and brought into intimate contact with PET 1. The syrup was exposed to UVA energy as described in Example 10. The PET 1 was removed, giving a flexible, multilayer article having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface and an acrylic/PVB film layer on the other outer surface. This article had a smooth, glossy surface and a brushed metal steel blue appearance.

10

Example 3

Black Pigment Syrup 1 was squeegee coated onto the surface of 1080 CF2 opposite the side 15 having the pressure sensitive adhesive layer, and brought into intimate contact with PET 1. The syrup was exposed to UVA energy, as described in Example 1. The PET 1 was removed, giving a flexible, multilayer article having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface and an acrylic/PVB film layer on the other outer surface. The article had a smooth, glossy surface and a gray colored lattice-work appearance having black borders therein.

20

Example 4

Red Pigment Syrup 1 was squeegee coated onto the surface of 1080 CF1 opposite the side having the pressure sensitive adhesive layer. This coated article was then further overcoated with Base Syrup 1 at a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers), and brought into intimate contact with PET 1. The syrup was exposed to UVA energy, as described in Example 1. 25 The PET 1 was removed, giving a flexible, multilayer article having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface and an acrylic/PVB film layer on the other outer surface. The article had a smooth, glossy surface and a textured two-toned, metallic purple colored appearance.

Preparation of Base Syrups 3-5

30

Base Syrups 3-5 were prepared in the same manner as Base Syrup 1 using the amounts shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Base Syrup Formulations (parts by weight)

Base Syrup	EH A	IBO A	AA	HE A	CN965:IBOA/1: 1	CN229 5	Irg 651	Irg 819	B60 H
3	27.7	12.6	11.5	11.5	16.2	0	0	1.00	19.4
4	29.4	13.4	12.2	12.2	17.1	0	0	1.00	14.7
5	26.8	16.1	11.2	11.2	15.6	0.15	0.22	0	18.8
6	30.8	14.1	12.9	12.9	18.0	0	0	0.99	10.4

Preparation of Pigmented Syrups

Pigmented syrups were prepared by adding a Base Syrup to a 1 quart (0.95 liter) glass jar, followed by pigment, in parts per one hundred (pph) parts of base syrup, as shown in Table 4. The pigmented syrups were then mixed at 3,000 revolutions per minute (rpm) for 5 minutes using a 1.5 inches Cowles blade.

Table 4: Pigmented Syrup Formulations

Notebook Reference	Syrup Identification	Base Syrup	Pigment	Pigment Loading (pph)
98C4	Black Pigment Syrup 2	4	Black Pigment 2	3.0
MK-B2	Black Pigment Syrup 3	3	Black Pigment 2	2.5
98C9	White Pigment Syrup 1	4	White Pigment	15
98C5	Blue Pigment Syrup	4	Blue Pigment	10
A4-24	White Pigment Syrup 2	6	White Pigment	10

Preparation of Glitter Syrups

Glitter syrups were prepared by adding a Base Syrup to a 1 quart (0.95 liter) glass jar, followed by glitter, in parts per one hundred (pph) parts of base syrup, as shown in Table 5. The glitter syrups were then mixed at 3,000 revolutions per minute (rpm) for 5 minutes using a 1.5 inches Cowles blade.

Table 5: Glitter Syrup Formulations

Syrup Identification	Base Syrup	Glitter ID	Glitter Loading (pph)
Blue Glitter Syrup	5	Blue Glitter	15
Red Glitter Syrup	6	Red Glitter	15

Example 5

Black Pigment Syrup 2 was coated between Textured Paper 1 and BOPP 1 using a two-roll coater having a gap setting of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) greater than that combined thickness of the two liners. The syrup was cured by exposing the BOPP 1 surface to UVA energy for 228 seconds such that the total UVA energy was 912 milliJoules/square centimeter. Textured Paper 1 was removed, giving a two-layered, colored article having a textured surface on the exposed surface of the cured acrylic/PVB film. PS90 was then coated onto the exposed BOPP 1 surface using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) and dried at 70°C for 15 minutes. A flexible, black colored, multilayer article having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface and a structured, acrylic/PVB film layer on the other outer surface was obtained.

Example 6

White Pigment Syrup 1 was coated at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) using a notch bar coater onto PET 2 and Blue Pigment Syrup was squeegee coated onto Textured Paper 2. The two coated liners were brought into intimate contact using a two-roll coating station using a gap setting of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) greater than the combined thickness of the uncoated liners. The syrup was cured by exposing the PET 2 surface to UVA energy for 228 seconds such that the total UVA energy was 1368 milliJoules/square. Textured Paper 2 was removed to give a three-layered article having a two-tone (white and blue) colored appearance, and a textured surface on the exposed surface of the cured acrylic/PVB film. PS90 was then coated onto the exposed PET 2 surface as described in Example 5. A flexible, two-tone colored, multilayer article having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface and a structured, acrylic/PVB film layer on the other outer surface was obtained.

Example 7

Black Pigment Syrup 3 was coated at a thickness of 0.005 inches (127 micrometers) using a notch bar coater onto BOPP 1, and Blue Glitter Syrup was coated at a thickness of 0.004 inches (102 micrometers) using a notch bar coater onto PET 1. The two coated liners were then brought into intimate contact using a two-roll coating station having a total gap setting of 0.0136 inches (345 micrometers), and exposed to a total UVA energy, as described in Example 6. PET 1 was removed to give a three-layered article having a glossy glittered appearance. PS90 was then coated onto the exposed BOPP 1 surface as described in Example 5. A flexible, multilayer article having an acrylic/PVB film with a glossy glittered appearance on one side, and a pressure sensitive adhesive on the other side was obtained.

Example 8

White Pigment Syrup 2 was squeegee coated onto Textured Paper 3. The coated composition was partially cured by for about 5 seconds by exposure to a total UVA energy of 60 milliJoules/square centimeter. Following irradiation, the exposed surface of the acrylic/PVB film was coated with Red Glitter Syrup and the Red Glitter Syrup was covered with BOPP 1 using a two-roll coating station having a gap setting of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) greater than the combined thickness of the BOPP 1 and coated Textured Paper 3. The syrups was then cured by exposing the BOPP 1 surface to a total UVA energy of 1368 milliJoules/square centimeter. PS90 was then coated onto the exposed BOPP 1 surface as described in Example 5. A flexible, multilayer article with a two-tone (red and white) structured surface and having a pressure sensitive adhesive on one outer surface was obtained.

Acrylic Films with Pressure Sensitive Adhesive

Base Syrup Preparation

Base Syrup 7 was prepared in the same manner as Base Syrup 1 using the amounts shown in Table 6. Table 6: Base Syrup Formulations (parts by weight)

Base Syrup	EHA	IBOA	AA	HEA	CN965:IBOA/1:1	Irg 651	B60H
7	19.8	20.9	11.6	11.6	16.3	0.23	19.6

Adhesive Syrup Preparations

Adhesive Syrup 1

Adhesive Syrup 1 was prepared by charging a one gallon (3.8 liters) jar with IOA, AA, and Irg 651 in the amounts shown in Table 7, and stirred until the photoinitiator had dissolved and a homogeneous mixture was obtained. The mixture was degassed by introducing nitrogen gas into it through a tube inserted through an opening in the jar's cap and bubbling vigorously for at least 5 minutes. While stirring, the mixture was exposed to UVA light until a pre-adhesive syrup having a viscosity deemed suitable for coating was formed. Following UV exposure, air was introduced into the jar. Following prepolymerization, 0.1 pph Triazine 1 was mixed into the syrup by rolling overnight.

Adhesive Syrup 2

Adhesive Syrup 2 was prepared by charging a one gallon (3.8 liters) jar with 1784 grams IOA, 16.2 grams AA, 360 grams IBOA, 54 grams DPA, and 0.72 grams 651 photoinitiator and stirred

until the photoinitiator had dissolved and a homogeneous mixture was obtained. The mixture was degassed by introducing nitrogen gas into it through a tube inserted through an opening in the jar's cap and bubbling vigorously for at least 5 minutes. While stirring, the mixture was exposed to UVA light until a pre-adhesive syrup having a viscosity deemed suitable for coating was formed. 5 Following UV exposure, air was introduced into the jar. Next, 360 grams IBOA, 4.32 grams Irg 651, 518.4 grams Reg 6108, and 1.35 grams Irg 1076 were added to the pre-adhesive syrup and mixed by rolling overnight.

Table 7: Adhesive Syrup Formulations (parts by weight)

Adhesive Syrup	IOA	IBOA	AA	DPA	Irg 651	Reg 6108	Irg 1076	Triazine 1
1	89.8	0	10.0	0	0.2	0	0	0.10
2	57.6	23.2	0.5	1.7	0.2	16.7	0.04	0

10 The tensile elastic modulus of cured adhesive syrup 2 was measured and determined to be 0.05MPa at 25°C and 1 hertz.

Example 9

Base Syrup 7 was coated using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) 15 onto PET 1. The syrup was partially cured by exposing the open surface of the syrup in a nitrogen-inerted environment to a total UVA energy of approximately 90 milliJoules/square centimeter. Following irradiation, the acrylic/PVB film /PET 1 combination was coated on the exposed acrylic/PVB film surface with Adhesive Syrup 1 using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) and the open surface of the adhesive in a nitrogen-inerted 20 environment exposed to a total UVA energy of 958 milliJoules/square centimeter. Upon removal of PET 1 an article having an acrylic/PVB film backing with PSA on one side was obtained. This was evaluated for 90 Degree Angle Peel Strength.

Comparative Example 1 was a double coated tape having a 0.0005 inch (12 micrometers) thick 25 polyester film with a 0.0027 inch (69 micrometers) thick adhesive on each side, and polycoated Kraft paper liners over each adhesive layer. The adhesive was the same composition as Example 9 prepared by coating and curing the syrup on polyester (rather than acrylic/PVB) film. As evident by the following test results, Example 9 exhibited better adhesion to the acrylic/PVB film compared to a polyester backing.

Table 8

Example	Adhesive thickness (inches)	90 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength (ozf/0.5 inch)	90 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength (N/dm)	Failure Mode
9	0.0020	28	61.3	cohesive
C1	0.0027	33	72.2	two bond

Example 10

Base Syrup 7 was coated using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) onto a second sample of PET 3. Base Syrup 7 was partially cured by exposing the open surface of the composition in a nitrogen-inerted environment to a total UVA energy of approximately 90

milliJoules/square centimeter to give an acrylic/PVB film on PET 3. A first layer of pressure sensitive adhesive was provided by coating Adhesive Syrup 2 onto PET 3 using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers). The irradiated acrylic/PVB film/ PET 3

combination was brought into intimate contact with the Adhesive Syrup 2 coated PET 3 using two-roll coating station having a total gap setting of 0.008 inches (203 micrometers) and exposed to a total UVA energy of 958 milliJoules/square centimeter. A construction having, in order, PET 3, a PSA, acrylic/PVB film, and PET 3 was obtained. Next, the PET 3 in contact with the acrylic film was removed. A second layer of pressure sensitive adhesive was provided by coating Adhesive

Syrup 2 onto PET 3 using a notch bar coater at a thickness of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) and brought into intimate contact with the exposed surface of the acrylic/PVB film using a two-roll coating station having a total gap setting of 0.010 inches (254 micrometers). The open surface of the second adhesive in a nitrogen-inerted environment was cured by exposure to a total UVA energy of 958 milliJoules/square centimeter.

A five layered construction having, in order, PET 3, an acrylic PSA, an acrylic/PVB film, an acrylic PSA, and PET 3 was obtained. Upon removal of both the PET 3 release liners an article having an acrylic/PVB film backing with PSA on both sides was obtained. This was evaluated for Shear Strength and 180 Degree Angle Peel Strength. The adhesive layers on both sides were evaluated.

25

Tape samples were tested for shear and peel properties according to Test Methods 2 and 3. The results are shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Peel and Shear Results for PSA-Containing Articles

Example	180 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength (First PSA)		180 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength (Second PSA)		Shear Strength (min) (First PSA)	Shear Strength (min) (Second PSA)	Shear Failure Mode
	ozf/in	N/dm	ozf/in	N/dm			
10	46.8	5.12	72.6	7.95	1107.3	1200	Popoff (one sample)

NA: not applicable

Acrylic Films with Microstructured Pressure Sensitive Adhesive

Base Syrup Preparation

5 Base Syrups 8 and 9 were prepared in the same manner as Base Syrup 1 using the amounts shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Base Syrup Formulations (parts by weight)

Base Syrup	EHA	IBOA	AA	HEA	CN965:IBOA/1:1	CN965	Irg 651	Irg 819	B60H	White Pigment
8	29.6	13.5	12.3	12.3	17.2	0	0.25		14.8	0
9	26.7	20.0	11.1	11.1	0	7.8	0	0.77	13.4	9.1

Adhesive Syrup Preparation

10 Adhesive Syrups 3-8 were prepared by combining EHA, AA, IBOA, DPA, and Irg 651 in a quart (0.95 liter) jar in the amounts shown in Table 11 and stirred until the photoinitiator had dissolved and a homogeneous mixture was obtained. The mixture was degassed by introducing nitrogen gas into it through a tube inserted through an opening in the jar's cap and bubbling vigorously for at least 5 minutes. While stirring, the mixture was exposed to UVA light until a pre-adhesive syrup having a viscosity deemed suitable for coating was formed. Following UV exposure, air was introduced into the jar. Next, 0.67 grams Irg 651 was added to the pre-adhesive syrup and mixed by rolling overnight.

15

Table 11: Adhesive Syrup Formulations (parts by weight)

Adhesive Syrup	EHA	IBOA	AA	DPA	Irg 651
3	88.2	2.9	6.9	2.0	0.04
4	86.5	2.9	6.7	3.8	0.04
5	83.3	2.8	6.5	7.4	0.04
6	85.3	5.9	6.9	2.0	0.04
7	83.6	5.8	6.7	3.8	0.04
8	80.5	5.6	6.5	7.4	0.04

Example 11

Adhesive Syrup 3 was coated at a thickness of 0.003 inches (76 micrometers) using a notch bar coater onto Textured Paper 4. The open surface of the syrup in a nitrogen-inerted environment was exposed to a total UVA energy of 385 milliJoules/square centimeter. Following irradiation, the exposed surface of Adhesive Syrup 3 was coated with Base Syrup 8 and covered with PET 3 using a two-roll coating station using a gap setting of 0.002 inches (51 micrometers) greater than the combined thickness of the PET 3 and coated Textured Paper 4 liner. The base syrup was cured by exposing the PET 3 surface to a total UVA energy of 1824 milliJoules/square centimeter. A four layered construction having, in order, PET 3, an acrylic/PVB film, an acrylic PSA, and Textured Paper 4 was obtained. Upon removal of both the PET 3 release liner and Textured Paper 4 an article having an acrylic/PVB film backing with PSA on one side was obtained. This was evaluated for 180 Degree Angle Peel Strength.

Example 12

Example 11 was repeated with the following modification. Adhesive Syrup 4 was used in place of Adhesive Syrup 3.

Example 13

Example 11 was repeated with the following modification. Adhesive Syrup 5 was used in place of Adhesive Syrup 3.

Example 14

Example 11 was repeated with the following modification. Adhesive Syrup 6 was used in place of Adhesive Syrup 3.

Example 15

Example 11 was repeated with the following modification. Adhesive Syrup 7 was used in place of Adhesive Syrup 3.

Example 16

5 Example 11 was repeated with the following modification. Adhesive Syrup 8 was used in place of Adhesive Syrup 3.

Example 17

Example 11 was repeated with the following modifications. Adhesive Syrup 8 was used in place of Adhesive Syrup 3 and Base Syrup 9 was used in place of Base Syrup 8.

10 Table 12: 180 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength

Example	180 Degree Angle Peel Adhesion Strength	
	(ozf/in)	(N/dm)
11	25.3	27.7
12	24.9	27.2
13	14.3	15.7
14	18.5	20.2
15	12.0	13.1
16	19.9	21.7
17	14.8	16.2

The morphology, transmission, haze, and clarity of a representative film, the acrylic/PVB film of Example 9 prepared from Base Syrup 7, was evaluated using the following test methods. The test results are reported in Table 13 below.

15

Transmission, Haze and Clarity were measured using a BYK Haze-gard plus, CAT # 4725.

Morphology Characterization by Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM)

Analytical characterization of the sample morphology was carried out by transmission electron microscopy (TEM). All the film samples were imaged in cross-section.

Sample Preparation

The film samples were prepared using room-temperature ultramicrotomy as follows: 1) roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ " by $\frac{1}{2}$ " sections were cut from the film samples using a scalpel blade. These sections were embedded in Scotchcast #5 electrical resin. The embedded samples were allowed to room-
 5 temperature cure overnight; 2) thin slices of the embedded film (in cross-section) were cut by ultramicrotomy (Leica FC7) using a diamond knife. Slice thickness varied from 110 nm to 150 nm, depending on the sample. Cutting speed was 0.15 mm/sec; 3) the thin slices were floated onto distilled/deionized water, and then collected onto a standard TEM sample grid: A carbon/formvar film supported on a 3 mm diameter, 150 mesh Cu grid.

10 Imaging

The prepared thin sections were imaged by TEM (FEI Osiris, 200 kv field emission TEM). Magnification range was from 450 X to 20,000X (instrument magnification). Various imaging modes were employed to characterize the morphology. They are briefly described below:

15 TEM: Conventional Transmission Electron Microscopy is a microscopy technique in which a beam of electrons is transmitted through an ultra-thin specimen, in this case 110 – 150 nm, interacting with the specimen as it is transmitted through. An image is formed as a result of the electron/sample interactions. At the lower magnifications used here, TEM image contrast is primarily due to the variations in the thickness, structure and composition in the material.

20 STEM: Scanning Transmission Electron Microscopy. An alternate mode of imaging in the TEM: In this case the electron beam is rastered in much the same way as in an SEM image, but with a significantly smaller probe size. Probe size for this imaging mode ranges from 0.5 nm to 5 nm.

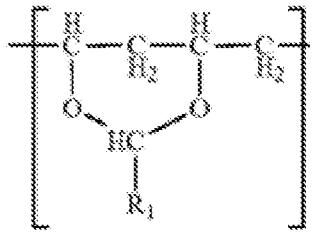
25 HAADF: High Angle Annular Dark Field imaging mode. HAADF images are formed by collecting the scattered (vs. transmitted) electrons with an annular dark-field detector. The high angle, incoherently scattered electrons which form the image are highly sensitive to variations in the average atomic number, thus the contrast in these images is compositionally sensitive. The HAADF imaging mode is also known as Z-contrast imaging.

Table 13

Ex.	Transmission	Haze	Clarity	Morphology by TEM Analysis
9	94.6	8.2	90.4	Single phase

What is claimed is:

1. A film comprising a (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition comprising polymerized units having the following formula



5

wherein R₁ is hydrogen or a C1-C7 alkyl group; and

wherein a layer of an adhesive composition is disposed proximate the film and the adhesive composition has a tensile elastic modulus of less than 1 MPa at 25°C and 1 hertz.

10 2. The film of claim 1 wherein the adhesive composition has a T_g of less than 25°C or less than 0°C.

15 3. The film of claims 1-2 wherein the adhesive composition is a pressure sensitive adhesive having a tensile elastic modulus of less than 0.9 MPa at 25°C and 1 hertz.

4. The film of claim 1 wherein the film is a backing of an adhesive coated sheet or tape.

15 5. The film of claim 1 wherein the film further comprises a second backing proximate the base film.

20 6. The film of claim 5 wherein the second backing comprises a substrate selected from polymeric films, woven or nonwoven fabrics, metal foils, foams, paper, and combinations thereof.

25 7. The film of claims 1-6 wherein the film and/or second backing is a conformable polymeric film.

8. The film of claims 1-7 wherein the adhesive composition is an acrylic adhesive composition.

9. The film of claims 1-8 wherein the layer of adhesive is structured.

30

10. The film of claims 1-9 wherein the film comprises a structured layer.
11. The film of claims 1-10 further comprising a release coating disposed on an outer exposed surface of the film.

5

12. The film of claims 1-10 further comprising a removable release liner covering the layer of adhesive.

13. The film of claims 1-12 wherein the film has a Tg of at least 30°C.

10

14. The film of claims 1-13 wherein the film has a gel content of at least 20%.

15. The film of claims 1-14 wherein the film has a tensile elastic modulus of at least 1 MPa at 25°C and 1 hertz.

15

16. The film of claims 1-15 wherein the film comprises at least 10, 15, 20 or 25 wt.-% of polymerized units of monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg of less than 0°C.

20

17. The film of claim 16 wherein the film comprises polymerized units of monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having a Tg of less than 0°C.

18. The film of claims 16-17 wherein the film comprises polymerized units of a monofunctional alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer having an alkyl group with 8 carbon atoms.

25

19. The film of claims 1-18 wherein the film comprises at least 10, 15 or 20 wt.-% and no greater than 65 wt.-% of polymerized units of polar monomers.

20. The film of claim 18 wherein polar monomers are selected from acid-functional, hydroxyl functional monomers, nitrogen-containing monomers, and combinations thereof.

30

21. The film of claims 1-20 wherein the film comprises polyvinyl butyral.

35

22. The film of claims 1-21 wherein the film further comprises polymerized units of a multifunctional crosslinker wherein the crosslinker comprises functional groups selected from (meth)acrylate, alkenyl, and hydroxyl-reactive groups.

23. The film of claims 1-22 wherein the (meth)acrylic polymer and polyvinyl acetal polymer composition of the film has a single phase.

5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2016/067122

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV.	B32B27/08	B32B27/30	C08J5/18	C08J7/04	C09J7/02
ADD.					

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

B32B C08J C09J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 783 550 A1 (MINNESOTA MINING & MFG [US]) 16 July 1997 (1997-07-16) paragraphs [0004], [0008], [0014], [0019], [0027], [0041], [0048], [0054], [0058] examples 55-60, 71-74; tables 8, 11 -----	1-23
X	JP 2007 277050 A (TDK CORP) 25 October 2007 (2007-10-25) abstract examples 1-3; table 1 claim 1 -/-	1,3-7, 11,12, 21-23

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
28 March 2017	05/04/2017
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Vandoolaeghe, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2016/067122

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	& DATABASE WPI Week 200810 Thomson Scientific, London, GB; AN 2008-B44755 & JP 2007 277050 A (TDK CORP) 25 October 2007 (2007-10-25) abstract -----	
A	US 2015/240067 A1 (NAGAI YASUHARU [JP] ET AL) 27 August 2015 (2015-08-27) paragraphs [0014], [0040], [0053], [0054] examples 1-8 claims 1-8 -----	1-23
A	US 2011/034618 A1 (REGISTER JAMES A [US] ET AL) 10 February 2011 (2011-02-10) paragraph [0009] examples 1-18; table 4 claims 1, 7, 16 -----	1-23
X,P	WO 2016/094277 A1 (3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES CO [US]) 16 June 2016 (2016-06-16) cited in the application examples 1-13; tables 4, 5 claims 1-11, 15, 17, 24 -----	1-23
X,P	WO 2016/094280 A1 (3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES CO [US]) 16 June 2016 (2016-06-16) examples 1-63; tables 2-14 claims 1-4, 6-11, 15, 17 -----	1-23
1		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2016/067122

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date	
EP 0783550	A1	16-07-1997	CA DE DE EP ES JP WO	2200975 A1 69511096 D1 69511096 T2 0783550 A1 2133797 T3 H10506587 A 9610059 A1	04-04-1996 02-09-1999 13-04-2000 16-07-1997 16-09-1999 30-06-1998 04-04-1996
<hr/>					
JP 2007277050	A	25-10-2007	JP JP	4816211 B2 2007277050 A	16-11-2011 25-10-2007
<hr/>					
US 2015240067	A1	27-08-2015	CN EP JP JP KR TW US WO	104662085 A 2902439 A1 5629393 B2 W02014050746 A1 20150063019 A 201422701 A 2015240067 A1 2014050746 A1	27-05-2015 05-08-2015 19-11-2014 22-08-2016 08-06-2015 16-06-2014 27-08-2015 03-04-2014
<hr/>					
US 2011034618	A1	10-02-2011	BR CA CN EP US WO	P10807218 A2 2677350 A1 101652435 A 2115076 A2 2011034618 A1 2008097415 A2	29-04-2014 14-08-2008 17-02-2010 11-11-2009 10-02-2011 14-08-2008
<hr/>					
WO 2016094277	A1	16-06-2016	US WO	2016289440 A1 2016094277 A1	06-10-2016 16-06-2016
<hr/>					
WO 2016094280	A1	16-06-2016	NONE		
<hr/>					