

Printed Electronics -Performance Requirements for Flexible Substrates



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Presentation Expectations

Will Not

- Will
 - Define Printed Electronics
 - Provide general market information & Applications
 - Provide performance information on a wide variety of thermoplastic films
 - Provide processing considerations for current PE applications
 - Provide incite into future product developments

- Provide specific substrate processing or ink recommendations per PE application
- Provide information on paper or foils





Printed Electronics

- Is a set of printing methods used to create electronic circuits, sensors, devices, and various electronics products.
- Is emerging as a technology that can replace traditional photolithography process, which requires costly material, very complex process, and expensive equipment in manufacturing of simple circuits and electronic components.
- Enables direct patterning of desired materials on the desired location without a complex process.



The Technology



- PE is the application of conductive, semiconductive, and dielectric materials onto various substrates in order to form electrically functional devices.
- Printing Technologies Screen, flexographic, gravure, Offset and ink jet



The Technology

- Substrates vary widely. Mostly flexible plastics and papers
- Current Products in Volume
 - Membrane Switches
 - Key pads
 - Diagnostic strips
 - EL
 - OLED
 - RFID
 - Sensors
 - Fabrics







APEX 2012 March Convergence



Market Trends

Tp

CAN

2012

20



- IDTechEx projection - \$300B 2027

-NanoMarkets projection - \$30B 2015

- OLED, PV, Logic/Memory will be 80+% of market through 2017
- 400M m2 manufacturing by 2014 represents \$40B



Market Trends - Recent





Various PE Market Niches

Batteries

- lithium
- manganese dioxide zinc

Displays

- electrochromic
- electroluminescent
- electrophoretic
- OLED
- thermochromic

Fuel cells

Lighting

- EL
- OLED

Logic - inorganic

-organic

Memory - transistors

Photovoltaic

- CIGS
- DSSC
- organic
- printed silicon

RFID

Sensors

Touch Panels

- capacitive
- membrane
- resistive



Factors Influencing Substrate Choice -Property Set

OLED displays

Inorganic AM backplanes

Organic AM backplanes

Increasing complexity of substrate structure and more demanding property set

"Complex" circuitry

"Simple" organic circuitry



Print Electronics is a Developing Industry Needing Companies Who Know....

- Thermoplastic films
- Printing process, currently using conductive inks
- Electrical Engineering
- Electronic Design
- General lack of Material Capabilities & Print Understanding



What Else is Needed?

- R2R process capability enhancements – Quality, Speed, etc.
- Collaborative environment in the industry to encourage partnering
- Government backed initiatives to grow plastic electronics in the US?



General Thermoplastic Characteristics

Characteristic	Amorphous Material	Semi Crystalline Material
Hardness / Softness	Soft over wide range of temperatures, easy to cut	Harder, more defined melting point, tougher to cut
Formability	Easy to form / thermoform, holds form well	Tougher to form, increased T helps, form will relax
Transparency	Excellent	Good at thin gauges
Solvent resistance	Generally poor	Generally excellent
Stress resistance	Easily prone to cracking and poor flex resistance	Good resistance and flex durability

Thermoplastic Features and Materials

TP

APEX EXPO" 2012 CAN

Commodity	Amorphous	Semi Crystalline	0
Low -	PETG – 80	PP - <10	Approx. Ta's °C
Cost	PVC - 80	LDPE	<u> </u>
Durability Strength	PMMA – 105	HDPE	
Engineered			
Higher cost	PC – 150	PBT	
Improved resistance, strength, durability		PET - 70	
High Performance			
Highest cost	PSO – 190	PEN – 120	
Increased performance	PEI – 215	PTFE – 120	
	PES – 225	PEEK – 140	
Imidized		PI – 250	
Excellent properties >400F		PAI – 275	



Key Challenges – Transport & Performance

- Low Shrinkage
- Low Coefficient of Thermal Expansion
- Upper Temperature for Processing
- Clarity
- Rigidity
- Cleanliness

- Surface smoothness
- Barrier
- Solvent Resistance
- Moisture Resistance
- Flatness / Skew
- Conductive layers
- Commercial availability



Key Substrate Criteria

- Modulus, Strength, Rigidity
- Stability, 1 3 mil thickness
- Printability solvent and UV systems Multi platform compatible – screen, flexo etc.
- Chemical Resistance
- Surface Profile flatness, curvature, smoothness
- Roll to Roll processing
- Conversion capability die cutting, laminating, metalizing, adhesive bondable, forming
- Environmental Compatibility RoHS /Weee etc.
- Commercially available and supply consistency
- Cost



Film Surface Properties

Highly advanced Printed Electronics demand surface properties beyond typical plastic films

- Planarizing Coatings
 - Give glass smooth surfaces, provide clean surfaces, and
 - Balance converting and end-user requirements
 - hardness, smoothness, stress/strain resistance
 - adhesion, solvent resistance, environmental resistance etc.
- Planarized PET and PEN are now commercial
 - Based on 5 mil stabilized PEN and 7 mil stabilized PET

Courtesy DuPont Teijin Films





Surface Challenges

- Balancing cost of substrate and performance requirement
- Impact of Surface Profile ink deposit and continuity of deposit

The DuPoot Trijin Films 3-Dimensional Interactive Display K Rakos @ Wilton HQ





Note:

Standard Packaging Film



Laminating Film



Surface Challenges II

 Balancing cost of substrate and performance requirement

APEX

Impact of Surface Profile ink deposit and continuity of deposit



"Electronics" Grade Film



Typical HS PET



Autostat CT3



		PV (nm)	RMS (nm)	Ra (nm)	Rz (nm)
Estar LS	Average	2685.0	11.9	4.2	1292.0
	St. Dev.	1561.0	5.8	0.4	854.0



Film Performance Pyramid





Heat Stabilized Substrates

- HS PET is dimensionally stable up to 150°C
 - -For greater thermal stability
 - -For greater modulus
- HS PEN is dimensionally stable between 180-220°C
- Specification temperatures of heat stabilization
- This largely dictates upper temperature for processing-film selection for printable electronics
 - Registration
 - Dimensional stability



Unstabilised PET vs. Heat Stabilised PEN



Film Market Trends

- As the market evolves, customers and end-users are demanding
 - Reduced device thickness
 - Improved economics, productivity & quality
 - Enhanced flexibility, optics & film surface properties
- Thinner stabilized polyester films, target device thickness
 - Low scratch, high quality films designed for high-end electronics applications are needed
 - Dimensional stability equivalent to conventional thicker films
 - Haze below 1%, much of which is surface haze that can be reduced by coatings or optical adhesives in the final structure
 - Good handling, R2R printing and vacuum processing
 - Examples

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XPO" 2012

Key Features	Film Type	Adhesion Primer	Market Application
Crystal Clear (Haze <1%)	ST579	1-side general purpose adhesion promoting	ITO, Displays, Touch Screen
High Transparency, clean, smooth	ST580	1-side specialty adhesion promoting	Flexible Electronics
Crystal Clear, UV	XST6582	1 side specialty adhesion promoting	Printed Electronics, organic
Same as above + UV protection	AG10002	r-side specially adhesion promoting	semi conductors



Film Market Trends

- Improved economics, productivity & quality to meet market needs
- Improved manufacturing capabilities
 - -Clean room certification
 - -Total web enclosure
 - -In line Coating, scanners, stabilization





Improved Manufacturing Capabilities



Courtesy of Kodak





PEDOT:PSS Conductive Coatings

- Waterborne dispersion of the polymer complex poly(3,4ethylenedioxy-thiophene)/ polystyrene sulfonate
- Nano particle sized gel particles
- Forms a continuous film upon drying

Main features

- Highly conductive
- Highly transparent
- Easy-to-use, printable
- Durable



Courtesy H.C. Starck







SER Ranges for Electronic Displays





Courtesy Kodak



Film Performance Pyramid





Peek Films - Comparison

	Mechanical Properties at 200 C	Moisture Absorption	Chemical Resistance	Abrasion Wear resistance	Radiation Resistance
Victrex Aptiv (Peek)	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent	Excellent
Polyimide (PI)	Very Good	Fair	Poor	Good	Very Good
Polyetherimide (PEI)	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good
Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)	Poor	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Poor
	Basic Character	Recycleable	Dielectic Properties	RTI Rating	Flammability
Victrex Aptiv (Peek)	Melt Processible	Yes	Very Good	220 C	Very Good
Polyimide (PI)	Thermoset	No	Very Good	200 C	Excellent
Polyetherimide (PEI)	Melt Processible	Yes	Very Good	180 C	Excellent
Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)) Limited Melt Processible	Limited	Excellent	180 C	Excellent



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Price Comparison Matrix

Substrate	Comparative Price
PET	1x
White PET	1.5x
HS PET	2.5x
HS White PET	3x
PEN	10x
HS PEN	20x
PI	25x
PEI	35x
PEEK	40x
Conductive Films	
ITO	28x
PEDOT	24x



Presentation Contributors

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