

inelastic materials may include monofilament polymeric line or mesh. Such reinforced polymers are referred to herein as polymeric composites. A reinforcing, inelastic structural material is referred to in the art as “scrim”. Scrim may be a woven textile or polymer, a non-woven polymer, or any other structural material that acts to stabilize the substrate. Preferably, the scrim reinforced substrate will have a high degree of permeability (e.g., 1,000 to 8,000 liters/sec/m<sup>2</sup>).

Additionally, non-reinforced polymers exhibiting a degree of elasticity (e.g., polyurethane or polyester) may be used in the production of adhesive-backed anchoring members for embodiments in which adhesive-backed anchoring members and elongated connectors are produced separately, and subsequently attached to one another (i.e., non-monolithic embodiments). A preferred polymer for the production of the adhesive-backed anchoring members is polyurethane having a thickness of 3-12 mils. Such a polymer is breathable and exhibits a degree of flexibility. If a non-reinforced elastic polymer is used to produce an adhesive-backed anchoring member, it will be preferable to reinforce the upper surface of the wound edge with an inelastic element so that the wound edge remains substantially straight across the incision site during the closure process. Such an element is referred to herein as a “wound edge bar”. One skilled in the art will recognize that a wide range of inelastic polymers, or even metals, can be utilized in the production of a wound edge bar for the purpose of providing rigidity to the wound edge. Vapor permeable polymeric materials that satisfy the other requirements for use in the manufacturing of the device offer improved comfort and are preferred. Transparent stock is also preferred so that the healing process and the entire wound site can be monitored easily. Therefore, at least the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members are produced from transparent stock in preferred embodiments. As an alternative design choice, colored or opaque stock may be used in the production of at least the first and second adhesive-backed anchoring members when circumstances (e.g., cost considerations) dictate.

In preferred embodiments, the adhesive-backed anchoring members, elongated connectors and pulling elements are produced from sheets or rolls of polymeric material or polymeric composite material (e.g., polyurethane or polyester). The sheet or roll stock is typically referred to as “film” as the thickness in preferred embodiments ranges from about 0.5 mil to about 5 mil, and may vary depending upon application. Die cutting these elements from polymeric sheet stock to provide two monolithic components (i.e., having no seams or joints) which, when assembled/packaged comprise the two-component device, is a particularly cost-effective approach to manufacturing. Die cutting can be combined with other assembly steps,