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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: THERMALLY-CONDUCTIVE, METAL-BASED BANDAGES TO AID IN MEDICAL HEALING AND METHODS OF USE

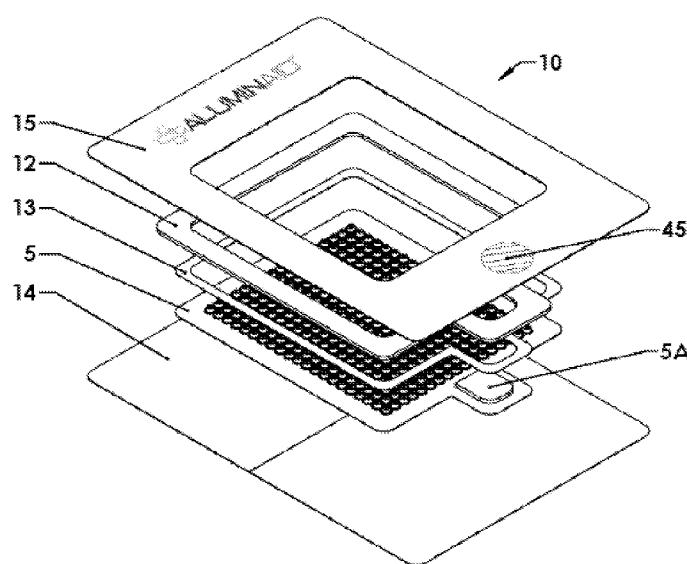


FIG. 25

(57) Abstract: The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical bandages that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of various types of tissue burns, whether be burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Such products can include a plurality of specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of thermally conductive metal (often aluminum) at the base of a substrate adapted to be in direct contact with a burn wound, while manufacturing the top side of the aluminum substrate to have a heat-dissipation-enhancing topography to help cool burns faster by enhancing thermal-convection properties. The bandage can also feature a thermochromic indicator for users to realize the thermal-cooling status of a burn to which a bandage has been applied.

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**THERMALLY CONDUCTIVE, METAL-BASED BANDAGES
TO AID IN MEDICAL HEALING
AND METHODS OF USE**

5

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present patent application is a Continuation-In-Part of, and claims the benefit of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Application No. PCT/US2011/67256, filed on December 23, 2011, for “Aluminum-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”.

10 The present patent application also claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 61/513,366, filed on July 29, 2011, for “Aluminum-Infused Compositions and Devices to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”.

15 The present patent application also claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 61/670,090, filed on July 10, 2012, for “Thermally Conductive, Metal-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”.

20 In addition, the present patent application hereby incorporates by reference PCT Application No. PCT/US2011/67256, U.S. Patent Application No. 61/513,366, and U.S. Patent Application No. 61/670,090, each in their entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

25 Burn injuries are caused by fire, chemicals, electricity, and friction and can vary in severity. First degree burns are the least severe, causing redness, and healing relatively quickly. On the other end of the spectrum, fourth degree burns are the most severe, burning down to the level of the muscle and bone. Second and third degree burns fall between these extremes.

30 Medical professionals often try to strike a balance when deciding how to treat burns. On one hand, if a burn is superficial and relatively dry, then many feel that the wound should be kept moist with water or some sort of ointment or cream. For example, Dr Xu of China National has developed an “alternative” technique called Moist Exposed Burn Therapy, which, unlike the conventional way to heal a burn victim by keeping the burn wound dry, Professor Xu keeps the patient’s burn wound moist. Dr. Xu’s treatment regimen requires very little administration of antibiotics and disinfectants to the burn wound. Instead, Dr. Xu uses natural herbs to aid burn- wound healing, wherein natural-plant extracts at the base of a beeswax is the main ingredient used. However, a problem with applying many ointments

and/or creams is that such applications often do not help draw heat away from a wound. On the other hand, if a burn is more serious, such as a second-degree burn that is oozing fluid, then there is an enhanced fear of infection. In such cases, some medical professionals feel that such wounds should be kept relatively dry, while still others may advocate for the 5 application of various ointment dressings with antibiotic properties to fight infection. Hence, it would be desirable to come up with a treatment strategy that is able to provide the best of all worlds.

On August 30, 1948, *Time Magazine* reported that steam from an exploding locomotive had scalded Fireman Frank Mihlan of the Erie Railroad. When Mihlan was 10 carried into Cleveland's Charity Hospital on July 15, 1948, 70% of his body was burned, and doctors thought that Mihlan had little chance of survival. However, attending surgeons decided to try wrapping the Mihlan's burns in thin strips of aluminum foil, a technique developed by Toronto's Dr. Alfred W. Farmer. It was the first time that aluminum foil for burns had been used in the U.S.; the first time it had ever been used for burns of the whole 15 body. Relief from pain was "miraculous", and within 20 minutes of application, Mihlan was resting comfortably. As an added precaution, Mihlan was given intravenous fluids and penicillin. The aluminum foil, which looked like the inside wrapping of a cigarette package, apparently acted as a seal for the body fluids that seep from burned surfaces. It also apparently helped kill bacteria, speeding the healing process. Twelve days after being 20 bandaged in the aluminum foil wrappings, Mihlan was out of bed. Eventually, Mihlan left the hospital unscarred, albeit temporarily reddened.

Further, a 2004 *American Journal* article reported:

25 Aluminum foil as a dry sterile initial covering for thermal burns under occlusive pressure dressings has been presented as a method of diminishing the maceration of a burn surface. The method appeared to influence favorably the local result by elimination of the use of ointments and by facilitating the dispersion of exudate to the periphery of the burn. No evidence of toxicity as a result of the treatment was found. The systemic reaction was, if anything, less obvious.

30 Despite the above-mentioned anecdotal report and the reported research, public data is not readily accessible in relation to the practicable applications of using aluminum foil as a healing agent. In addition, to date, there appears to be no commercially designed aluminum-derived medical products for general-purpose sale other than large blankets usually reserved for Emergency-Services organizations.

35 One existing known use for aluminum-derived products is in the employment of the

astringent aluminum-based compound, aluminum chloride, which has been used in various concentrations in the art to apply to deodorant pads in order to cause constriction of sweat pores. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,403,588 to Santa Ana is directed to a disposable body deodorant pad and deodorant preparation therefor. The Santa Ana Patent basically dissolves 5 3 to 4 grams of aluminum chloride into about 130 cc of an acetone-isopropyl alcohol solution to achieve an effective constriction of the user's sweat pores. Despite this known use, there are no aluminum-based compositions of matter available on the market for acting as a styptic or otherwise sealing a wound.

Ostensibly, there simply is no specific product range available to the general public 10 that employs both the natural and by-product medical advantages of aluminum. For example, there are no bandages on the market that are comprised of extremely thin aluminum layers or strips, and nor are there therapeutic creams, ointments, or other medicinal compositions that are infused with molecular compositions that substantially include aluminum.

It would be advantageous to develop a set of aluminum-infused healing/therapeutic 15 products (e.g., specialized bandages, burn creams, etc.) that are easy for a consumer to safely use.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical products that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of tissue burns, whether be 20 burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Such products can include a plurality of specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of a thermally conductive metal with enhanced material and surface features to ensure flexibility and effective heat-transfer characteristics to cool a burn wound. One key embodiment employing an enhanced heat-dissipation capability features a this aluminum substrate, with one side 25 adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, while the other side of the aluminum substrate exposes to the air a topography that resembles a microscopic field of cones, hollowed and also providing aeration to the wound. The hollowed cone structures provide a greatly increased exposed surface area of the aluminum substrate to encourage efficient thermal convection processes, while still allowing the bandage to flex in any needed 30 direction. Besides exhibiting multiple properties that are beneficial to healing certain types of tissue wounds, as discussed *infra*, aluminum is non-toxic, easy to sterilize, relatively inexpensive and easy to fabricate with, and abundantly mined worldwide.

Hereinafter, the overall class of products described in this patent application is referred to as “Aluminaid™” or “Aluminaid™”. These aluminum-derived products are specifically designed to alleviate the discomfort and pain caused by thermal burns. Additionally, Aluminaid™, through a combination of natural composition and the prevailing production processes, inherit the potential to minimize scarring, inhibit infection, prevent maceration, and reduce the necessity for later skin grafting.

The inventive principles and disclosures provided in this patent application can be applied to any thermally conductive metal-based substrate, and as such are contemplated as being included within the scope of this patent application, including the appended claims.

The forgoing **Brief Summary** is provided as a convenient overview of a few key (but not all) embodiments; however, it is not intended to limit the scope of the disclosures contained within this patent application, including the appended claims and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This patent application is a Continuation-In-Part of, and incorporates by reference, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Application No. PCT/US2011/67256, filed on December 23, 2011, for “Aluminum-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”. However, for convenience and clarity for the reader, original **Figures 1A-19** from PCT Application No. PCT/US2011/67256 are repeated in the present patent application.

However, **Figures 20A-31G**, which depict some additional and/or refined embodiments, have been added to the disclosure. Brief descriptions for all of the figures are as follows:

Figure 1A depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions.

Figure 1B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user’s tissue.

Figure 2A depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions.

Figure 2B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular

general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue.

5 **Figure 3A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions.

Figure 3B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue.

10 **Figure 4A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions.

15 **Figure 4B** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue.

20 **Figure 5A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (finger-form-factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab **35** adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections **20, 25, 30** for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

25 **Figure 5B** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow finger-form-factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab **35** adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections **20, 25, 30** for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

30 **Figure 6A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (finger-form-factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab **35** adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections **20, 25, 30** for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

Figure 6B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow finger-form-

factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab 35 adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections 20, 25, 30 for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

5 **Figure 7** depicts one embodiment of a roll of Aluminaid™ bandage material, wherein the majority of the surface area is dedicated to an aluminum substrate with a smooth side (the side to be applied to tissue) and with a side having a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions or ridges. In some embodiments, the top and bottom edges of the roll include a line of polymer material with an adhesive to facilitate attachment to a part of a user body. In
10 other variations, these polymer-adhesive strips are not included and the dispensed amount of bandage roll is secured to a user's body with strips of medical tape and/or gauze.

15 **Figure 8** depicts one embodiment of a side view of an Aluminaid™ bandage, showing the relationship between the aluminum substrate and the surrounding second layer/adhesive.

20 **Figure 9A** depicts one embodiment of a possible topography for the air-exposed side of an Aluminaid™ bandage's aluminum substrate, featuring in this case, as an example, a plurality of rows of cone-shaped or mound-shaped protrusions, every other row staggered relative to its neighbor rows to maximize the outer surface area available to facilitate heat transfer away from a user's body/wound. In this particular example, each protrusion is shown separated by a distance along the aluminum substrate from each other, and that distance can be varied between embodiments, and can even be a zero distance in some variations).

25 **Figure 9B** depicts one embodiment of a possible topography for the air-exposed side of an Aluminaid™ bandage's aluminum substrate, featuring in this case, as an example, a plurality of rows of pyramid-shaped protrusions to maximize the outer surface area available to facilitate heat transfer away from a user's body/wound. In this particular example, each protrusion is shown immediately adjacent to each other; however, in other embodiments, the protrusions can be separated by a distance along the aluminum substrate.

30 **Figures 10A-10N** each depicts one embodiment of a possible heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, including various exemplary embodiments of pyramid-type protrusions, cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and protrusions hollows manufactured in the top-center that can extend down the length of the raised protrusion and even all the way through the aluminum substrate of an Aluminaid™ bandage.

Figure 11A depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), wherein the external surface topography of the aluminum substrate (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a plurality of ridges in order to increase heat dissipation.

5 **Figure 11B** depicts one embodiment of a magnified section of the aluminum substrate of the embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage depicted in **Figure 11A**.

10 **Figure 12A** depicts one embodiment of a partial-side view of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), wherein the outer surface area of the aluminum substrate (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a plurality of surface protrusions; e.g., ridges, cones, or pyramids; in order to increase heat dissipation.

15 **Figure 12B** depicts one embodiment of a close-up, partial side view of an Aluminaid™ bandage depicted in **Figure 12A**, wherein the outer surface area of the aluminum substrate (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a plurality of surface protrusions; e.g., ridges, cones, or pyramids; in order to increase heat dissipation, and wherein some candidate dimensions are introduced. It should be noted that the dimensions provided are exemplary only and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure.

20 **Figure 13A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), and also includes thermochromic visual indicators, which display themselves when the aluminum substrate to which they are coupled experiences certain temperatures.

25 **Figure 13B** depicts one embodiment of a cutaway-view of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), which also shows the relationship between the thermochromic visual indicator(s) and the aluminum substrate.

30 **Figure 14** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), and also includes a thermochromic visual indicator, suspended above the aluminum substrate via a "bridge" comprised of aluminum strips, which indicates when the aluminum substrate experiences certain predetermined temperatures.

Figure 15 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), and also includes a thermochromic visual indicator, wherein thermochromic compound is disposed on the tops of a subset of the aluminum substrate protrusions, the subset of thermochromic coated protrusions indicating when the aluminum substrate experiences

certain predetermined temperatures.

Figure 16 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

Figure 17 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

Figure 18 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

Figure 19 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal

aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

5 **Figure 20A** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

10 **Figure 20B** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

15 **Figure 21A** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

20 **Figure 21B** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

25 **Figure 22A** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

30 **Figure 22B** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

Figure 23A depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive,

metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

Figure 23B depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive,

5 metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

Figures 24A and 24B depict one embodiment of a top and side-cutaway view,

10 respectively, of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion. In this embodiment, it can be seen that the holes in the heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are narrower at the top of each respective protrusion, while widening 15 as the bottom surface of the substrate is reached. The holes extend completely through the substrate, which helps aerate wounds as well as increase the amount of exposed surface area available to enhance thermal-convection processes.

Figure 25 depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an

15 Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a transfer adhesive layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable 20 backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready for application to a wound.

Figure 26 depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an

25 Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for 30 protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready for application to a wound.

Figure 27 depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an

Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a 30 thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready for application to a wound.

5 **Figure 28** depicts one embodiment of an exploded view of a finger-form-factor Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready

5 for application to a wound.

10 **Figure 29** depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready

10 for application to a wound.

15 **Figure 30** depicts one embodiment of a portion of a continuous strip of multiple copies of the Aluminaid™ bandage embodiment depicted in **Figure 29**, coupled together, whereby users can tear-off the length of bandage required and wrap the user-sized bandage strip around/over the wound area.

20 **Figures 31A-31G** depict various embodiments of the top-view of different Aluminaid™ bandage sizes and shapes. However, no attempt is made to depict any aluminum-substrate topography details in these figures.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

I. Introduction

25 The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical products that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of tissue burns, whether be burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Included in such products are various specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of thermally conductive metal with uniquely enhanced material and surface features to ensure flexibility and effective heat-transfer characteristics to cool a burn wound.

30 Aluminum is generally favored as the basis of the bandages because besides exhibiting multiple properties that are beneficial to healing certain types of tissue wounds, as discussed *infra*, aluminum is non-toxic, easy to sterilize, relatively inexpensive and easy to fabricate with, and abundantly mined worldwide. Hereinafter, the overall class of products described in this patent application is referred to as “Aluminaid™” or “Aluminaids™”.

II. Terminology

The terms and phrases as indicated in quotes (" ") in this section are intended to have the meaning ascribed to them in this Terminology section applied to them throughout this patent application, unless clearly indicated otherwise in context. Further, as applicable, the 5 stated definitions are to apply, regardless of the word or phrase's case, to the singular and plural variations of the defined word or phrase.

The term "or", as used in this patent application, is not meant to be exclusive; rather, the term is inclusive, meaning "either or both".

References in this patent application to "one embodiment", "an embodiment", "a 10 preferred embodiment", "an alternative embodiment", "a variation", "one variation", and similar phrases mean that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least an embodiment of the invention. The appearances of the phrase "in one embodiment" and/or "in one variation" in various places in this patent application are not necessarily all meant to refer to the same embodiment.

15 The term "couple" or "coupled", as used in this specification and the appended claims, refers to either an indirect or a direct connection between the identified elements, components, or objects. Often, the manner of the coupling will be related specifically to the manner in which the two coupled elements interact.

20 The terms "removable", "removably coupled", "readily removable", "readily detachable", "detachably coupled", and similar terms, as used in this patent application specification (including the claims and drawings), refer to structures that can be uncoupled from an adjoining structure with relative ease (i.e., non-destructively, and without a complicated or time-consuming process) and that can also be readily reattached or coupled to the previously adjoining structure.

25 The term "bonded", "bonding", and similar terms, as used in this patent application specification (including the claims and drawings), refer to any means that is used to fixedly couple two or more structures together, such as the layers in the construction of some embodiments of Aluminaid™ bandages. Examples of bonding include the use of adhesives between surfaces, ultrasonic welding, thermoplastic welding, etc.

30 Directional and/or relational terms such as, but not limited to, left, right, nadir, apex, top, bottom, vertical, horizontal, back, front, and lateral are relative to each other, are dependent on the specific orientation of an applicable element or article, are used accordingly

to aid in the description of the various embodiments in this specification and the appended claims, and are not necessarily intended to be construed as limiting.

As applicable, the terms “about” or “generally”, as used herein in the specification and appended claims, and unless otherwise indicated, means a margin of +/- 20%. Also, as applicable, the term “substantially” as used herein in the specification and appended claims, unless otherwise indicated, means a margin of +/- 10%. It is to be appreciated that not all uses of the above terms are quantifiable such that the referenced ranges can be applied.

The term “aluminum”, “aluminum compound”, aluminum alloy”, and similar terms, as used in this patent application (including the drawings and claims), refer to any material is substantially comprised of the element Aluminum (Period Element Symbol “Al”, atomic number 13). Generally, any machined or otherwise processed aluminum composition or structure (e.g., very thin aluminum sheets or strips) that can be effectively incorporated into a medicinal ointment or cream, or into sheeting to make special bandages, is included in this definition. Examples of aluminum-based molecular compounds that can be used with the teachings of this disclosure include aluminum oxides (e.g. Al_2O_3), aluminum sulfates (e.g., $Al_2(SO_4)_3(H_2O)_{18}$), aluminum chlorides (e.g., $AlCl_3$), aluminum salts (e.g., aluminum diacetate ($HOAl(C_2H_3O_2)_2$)), etc. Many such compounds can be used by the teachings of this disclosure to enhance the effectiveness of aluminum-based or aluminum-infused medical and first-aid products. For example, aluminum diacetate can enhance the antiseptic and astringent properties of a medical bandage, while also enhancing the thermal conductivity away from a burn wound.

III. Aluminaid™ Bandages and/or Wraps

A. Aluminaid™ Theory of Operation

Aluminaid™ products deploy natural occurrences of physics combined with specific application and form factor. Essentially, Aluminaids™ include the physical properties inherent in aluminum, such as “specific heat capacity” and “thermal conductivity”.

Taking an Aluminaid™ bandage as an example, specific heat capacity accounts for the amount of heat that the aluminum foil disposed in the bandage can store at any one time and thermal conductivity accounts for how fast that aluminum material can potentially conduct heat (somewhat analogous to how fast an electrical wire of a given material can conduct electricity).

There are three ways in which thermal energy transfer can be described:

- Conduction;
- Convection; and
- Radiation.

Conduction requires physical contact (similar to the flow of electricity in wire).

5 Convection emanates from the movement of molecules (e.g., the way in which heated and cooled water or other fluid moves up and down). Radiation does not necessarily involve direct contact (e.g., the way the sun emits light rays).

At any given temperature, a given mass of aluminum holds much less energy than an equivalent mass of human flesh. For instance, in convection or conduction, if one touches 10 aluminum foil from an oven during the cooking process, a subject's hand and the foil share the thermal energy. The hand (of much greater mass) requires much more energy to raise its temperature (if at all, depending upon the physical connection between the foil and the food). When the subject touches aluminum foil, the foil transfers heat to the flesh; however, due to 15 the aluminum's low specific-heat capacity, the foil quickly loses energy, barely raising the temperature of the skin in contact. Because aluminum foil does not effectively store conducted heat, it therefore facilitates the "cooling" of a burn whilst simultaneously (in part) preventing other associated risks such as infection, dehydration, and hypothermic symptoms.

While aluminum does not effectively store conducted heat, aluminum is nonetheless an excellent conductor of heat. Aluminum will conduct any heat from the point of contact 20 and will readily give the heat up to any heat sink, even to the ambient. This has a cooling effect to the source of the thermal heat and a heating effect to the heat sink.

In short, aluminum foil can be an effective conductor of a subject's body heat, alleviating pain which emanates from added warmth on a subject's burn wound.

Table 1 shows the comparatively low specific resistance of aluminum:

TABLE 1:
Comparison of Specific Resistance of Aluminum to Various Metals
at 20 Degrees Celsius

Material Element/Alloy	ohm-cmil/ft.	micro-ohm-cm
Platinum (Element)	63.16	10.5
Tungsten (Element)	31.76	5.28
Magnesium (Element)	26.41	4.390
Aluminum (Element)	15.94	2.650
Gold (Element)	13.32	2.214
Copper (Element)	10.09	1.678
Silver (Element)	9.546	1.587

Of course, there are other metals with thermal-conductivity characteristics that are equal to or better than that of aluminum. However, bandage dressings based on such alternative metals; e.g., platinum or tungsten; are generally significantly more expensive to 5 use and/or are not as easy to work with in the manufacturing process when compared to aluminum and various aluminum alloys. Nevertheless, though aluminum is a preferred material when taking into account its cost, thermal conductivity, and other physical properties that make manufacturing easier, it should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the special heat-dissipation-enhancing configurations for bandage metal substrates disclosed 10 herein can also be applied to substrates made of metals other than aluminum.

Further still, aluminum foil as a dry, sterile, initial covering for thermal burns under occlusive pressure dressings has been presented as a method of diminishing the maceration of a burn surface. The method appears to influence favorably the local result by elimination of the use of ointments, and by facilitating the dispersion of exudate to the periphery of the burn. 15 No evidence of toxicity as a result of the treatment was found. The systemic reaction was, if anything, less obvious.

This elimination or at least minimization of applied ointments and other topical treatments by employing aluminum-based bandages and/or wrapping can help avoid adverse consequences to a patient. For example, titanium dioxide exposure cream, as a burn 20 ointment, was considered to be irritating from the evidence of production of pain, delayed healing, and possible destruction of epithelial remnants. Moreover, it has been observed that when massive doses of ascorbic acid was administered to burn patients, the doses quickly corrected the state of ascorbic acid depletion; however, the general systemic reaction to thermal burns was not found to be influenced by this form of treatment, and the general signs 25 of illness were marked in severe cases.

B. General Aluminaid™ Bandage Forms

Refer to **Figures 1A-31G (in particular, Figures 20A-31G depict some preferred designs)**, which depict examples of some exemplary embodiments of Aluminaid™ bandages, which are discussed in the written disclosure herein. It should be noted that many of the 30 exemplary embodiments have similar, but differently configured components, and as such said components are given common reference numbers. For example, all embodiments of the Aluminaid™ bandages include an aluminum substrate, given the reference number of “5”, and the bandage in general is assigned the reference number of “10”. If an embodiment is so

equipped, the surrounding outer second-layer substrate is assigned the reference number of “15”. In some embodiments, an intermediate surrounding absorbent layer is disposed between the perimeter of the aluminum substrate **5** and the outer second layer **15**, and this intermediate layer is assigned the reference number of “12”. In still other variations, a

5 transfer adhesive layer is disposed between the perimeter of the aluminum substrate **5** and the perimeter of the absorbent layer **12**, and this transfer adhesive layer is assigned the reference number of “13”. Finally, in many embodiments, an easily removable bandage-backing layer is disposed across the entire bottom surface of a bandage **10**, and this back layer is assigned the reference number of “14”. However, if a given discussion of a bandage component is

10 particularly tied to a specific Figure, then the Figure number is provided along with the reference number.

In many embodiments, Aluminaid™ bandages **10** are designed for use in the treatment of low-degrees of burn instances (usually first or second-degree burns). In specific embodiments directed to bandages and other types of applied medical wrappings,

15 Aluminaid™ bandages **10** are designed to fit most body shapes, sizes, and provision for children, teenagers, and adults (of both genders). In typical embodiments, the aluminum base **5** of a bandage **10** is coupled about its perimeter with a material **15** to facilitate adhesive coupling to user skin, wherein the second material **15** extends beyond the boundaries of the aluminum substrate **5**. In some variations, the aluminum base **5** of a bandage **10** is coupled

20 about its perimeter to the outer second material **15** via an intermediate absorbent layer **12**, wherein the absorbent layer **12** can be any appropriate sterile and absorbent material, such as gauze, but is preferably made of hydrogel.

In other variations, the aluminum base **5** has a smooth side adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, while the other side is manufactured to have a plurality of heat-
25 dissipation-enhancing surface protrusions; such as cone, half-sphere, or pyramid shaped-shaped nodes (see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N and 20A-24B**). In still another variation, the aluminum base **5** is substantially manufactured by a stamping process wherein a plurality of said heat-dissipation-enhancing surface protrusions are present on one side (and are substantially hollowed-out from the stamping process) while the other side, adapted to make

30 contact with tissue, presents a plurality of voids/holes as a result of the manufacturing process. In this variation, said voids/holes aid in aeration of wounds and this type of topography is especially effective for enhancing thermal convection processes for cooling wounds.

In many embodiments, each Aluminaid™ product can be designed to fit a wide variety of different form factors directly relating to specific body parts, such as fingers and hands. For example, a wrap-around bandage adapted to create a form-fitting mitt with a thin aluminum lining to thermally conduct heat away from the burned tissue of a hand can be 5 used, wherein the outer surface of the mitt exposes the other side of the aluminum lining to the air for heat dissipation. In other variations, more-general form factors; such as circular, rectangular strips, ovals, etc. are used to produce general-purposes pads. (See, e.g., **Figures 1A-7; 11A-11B; and 31A-31G.**) Such embodiments are adapted to easily conform to the contours of specific parts of the body, but are sufficiently robust to avoid fractionation 10 specifically during application, thus aiding healing and subsequent bandage removal.

In still other embodiments, aluminum foils **5** up to 0.5 mil thick are used, which are impermeable to oxygen and water, and which become slightly permeable due to minute pinholes caused by the production process. In other variations, however, such permeability can be desirable in cases where a medical professional desires to allow a burn wound to drain 15 and dry out, while still providing the thermal-conduction benefits of the applied aluminum.

It should be noted that due to the manufacturing process, typical aluminum foil has a shiny side and a matte side (the reflectivity of the shiny side is typically 88%, while the dull, matte side typically has about 80% reflectivity). However, there does not appear to be any 20 statistically significant difference in effectiveness between applications where the shiny side is applied to the wound or where the matte side is applied to the wound **60**. The shiny side is produced when the aluminum is rolled during the final pass. It is difficult to produce rollers with a gap fine enough to cope with the foil gauge; therefore, for the final pass, two sheets are rolled at the same time, doubling the thickness of the gauge at entry to the rollers. When the sheets are later separated, the inside surface is dull, and the outside surface is shiny. The 25 resultant manufactured material is often gas and liquid permeable. In some other embodiments, the aluminum substrate **5** of the bandage is comprised of either permeable aluminum foils or sheets/strips of aluminum foils with intentionally manufactured gaps.

In order to enhance the heat-dissipation capabilities and efficacy of Aluminaid™ bandages **10**, the mass of the aluminum substrate **5** is strategically configured via top-side 30 topographies that both optimize the overall mass of the aluminum substrate enough to improve thermal conductivity at the bio-interface of the bandage **10**, as well as increase the available exposed surface area in order to increase thermal convection processes to the ambient air. The thermal-conduction processes are important during the immediate period of

a few seconds to a minute after bandage application to a burn wound; however, thereafter, the thermal-convection processes are considered more significant to continued wound cooling. Therefore, in the long run, it has been found that wound-cooling efficacy is improved by ensuring that the formation and topography of the aluminum substrate **5** is such that thermal-convection processes are optimized.

In still more embodiments, the aluminum substrate **5** is manufactured for one side to include a plurality of very small protrusions and/or corrugations, which increases the effective surface area for the dissipation of heat away from a burn wound. For example, referring to **Figures 1A-7 and 20A-30**, in a variation, the outer surface area of the aluminum substrate **5** (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a dense plurality of discrete protrusions (see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N and 20A-24B**) that can have any of a variety of shapes and sizes, though based on testing some are more effective than others. In some variations, these discrete protrusions can be cone-shaped, mound-shaped, and/or pyramid-like shaped, though other shapes are possible as well. In some variations, referring to **Figure 9A**, alternating rows of cones/mounds are staggered with respect to adjacent rows in order to be able to pack in more such heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions on the aluminum substrate **5**. Conversely, referring to **Figure 9B**, in other embodiments, the rows of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are not staggered.

In another embodiment, the aluminum substrate **5** is substantially manufactured by a stamping process wherein a plurality of said heat-dissipation-enhancing surface protrusions are present on one side (and are substantially hollowed-out from the stamping process) while the other side, adapted to make contact with tissue, presents a plurality of voids/holes as a result of the manufacturing process. In this variation, said voids/holes aid in aeration of wounds and this type of topography is especially effective for enhancing thermal convection processes for cooling wounds.

In variations, each of the plurality of discrete heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions and/or ridges is separated along the base plane of the aluminum substrate **5** by a distance. The separation distance used impacts the overall flexibility of the aluminum substrate, as well as the heat-dissipation effectiveness because as the distance increases, fewer discrete heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions and/or ridges can populate the aluminum substrate **5**. In various embodiments, the separation distances generally range between 0 (zero) and 0.5 mm, but can be increased in other applications. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that as the separation distance decreases and as the angle incline of the adjacent discrete

protrusions increases, then the concave flexibility of the aluminum substrate **5** is adversely impacted.

Referring to **Figures 16-19**, in a variation, a plurality of rows of aeration holes **95** are disposed between rows of heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions or ridges. In another 5 variation, a plurality of rows and columns of aeration holes **95** are disposed between rows and columns of heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions. In some embodiments, the manufactured aeration holes are 0.2 mm in diameter, with other variations using aeration holes with diameters that range in size from 0.1 to 0.3 mm. In variations, the spacing between the manufactured aeration holes, which inherently correlates to the number of 10 manufactured aeration holes provided over an entire aluminum substrate **5**, strikes a balance the efficacy of the healing effects of the bandage **10** and concerns over the structural integrity of the aluminum substrate. If too many manufactured aeration holes of a given size are placed too close together in a row, then the aluminum substrate **5** could have some weak 15 points subject to easy tearing. In general, such aeration holes are equi-spaced between the heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions or ridges, with sufficient space between the aeration holes so that the aluminum substrate **5** can flex along a line of said aeration holes without tearing the substrate material between the holes. In the case of relatively small-sized bandages **10**, a common spacing between the aeration holes is about 4 mm. For relatively 20 medium-sized bandages, a common spacing between the aeration holes is about 6 mm. For relatively large bandage applications, a common spacing between the aeration holes is about 8 mm. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the aforementioned aeration hole spacing are exemplary only, and the needed spacing distances can vary according to a variety of factors, including the exact aluminum alloy used, whether any strain hardening or annealing processes occurred on the alloy, etc.

25 In yet another variation, referring to **Figures 10J-10N and 20A-24B**, the some or all of the plurality of discrete protrusions on the aluminum substrate include a hole in the middle of the protrusion. In some versions of this, the protrusion's central hole is a tapered hole and extends all the way through the aluminum substrate, thereby providing a strategically sized and placed aeration hole to aid in burn-wound healing, while also increasing the amount of 30 surface area available for thermal convection to the ambient air. In other versions, the protrusions are formed by way of a stamping process that also puts a hole at the top of each protrusion so as to effectively make each protrusion substantially hollowed-out; that is a reverse taper as compared to the previously described version. (See e.g., **Figures 20A-24B**.)

In addition, the presence of a substantial hole into the body of the protrusions also provides an even greater increase in the amount of protrusion surface area available for thermal-convection processes. An example of the dimensions “S”, “D”, “H”, “T”, and “V” for such hollowed-out protrusions, as depicted in **Figures 24A-24B**, are provided in **Table 2**:

5

TABLE 2: Exemplary Dimensions for Hollowed Heat-Dissipation-Enhancing Protrusions With Aeration Holes Disposed Through the Protrusions					
Variation	“S”	“D”	“H”	“T”	“V”
A	0.010”	0.015”	0.016”	10°/s	0.005”
B	0.015”	0.020”	0.030”	15°/s	0.005”
C	0.20”	0.025”	0.030”	10°/s	0.008”
D	0.030”	0.020”	0.040”	10°/s	0.005”

It should be noted by those skilled in the art that the four examples in **Table 2** are exemplary only, and that such hollowed-out, aerating heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions can be fabrics to other dimensional specifications.

10 Many of the variations described herein, especially in **Table 2, supra**, as well as in **Figures 20A-31G**, were subjected to significant analysis and testing, including finite element method (FEM) analysis to develop optimum substrate topographies and geometries. Some of said testing is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 61/670,090, filed on July 10, 2012, for “Thermally Conductive, Metal-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods 15 of Use”, which is incorporated by reference.

In still more variations, referring to **Figures 11A-12B**, a dense plurality of corrugations or ridges **50, 55** are provided on the outer surface of the aluminum substrate **5** to enhance the heat-transfer/dissipation capabilities of the aluminum substrate **5**. However, because in some embodiments the aluminum substrate **5** material can be strain hardened, 20 especially in the thicker (corrugated) regions of the aluminum substrate **5**, bandages using such corrugations/ridges may not be optimally flexible along the axis parallel with the rows of ridges/corrugations. This renders a bandage less useful for application to various parts of the body as it may be more difficult for a user to conform a bandage’s aluminum substrate **5** to a particular part of a user body without overly stressing the aluminum substrate **5** along the 25 longitudinal axis of the ridges, thus compromising the integrity and possible effectiveness of the bandage **10**.

In some embodiments, a plurality of pyramid-shaped, cone-shaped, and/or dome-shaped protrusions manufactured in the aluminum substrate **5** is preferred over corrugations/ridges because, while the available outer surface area for heat-dissipation enhancement is largely equal between the two solutions (assuming equivalent widths and 5 peak heights), an aluminum substrate **5** with a plurality of non-ridge-like protrusions is more flexible along multiple axes. This is important because it furthers the goal of being able to readily apply bandages **10** to a wide variety of body applications and form factors.

It should be appreciated by one ordinarily skilled in the art that number, size/dimensions, and shape of the heat-sink protrusions and/or corrugations depicted in 10 **Figures 1A-31G** are merely exemplary, and that many other shapes and sizes of cone-like or ridge-like structures (or similarly effective geometric structures) could be used for the aluminum substrate **5** in order to enhance the heat transfer of the bandage **10**.

In yet more variations, a thermally conductive adhesive, paste, gel, or grease is applied to the area of a user's skin to enhance the heat transfer from a burn wound to the 15 aluminum substrate heat sink **5**. In some of these variations, the thermally conductive compound is derived from metal or silicone (usually with a zinc-oxide or aluminum-oxide inclusion to improve conductivity), and essentially fills gaps where air would normally be present. The thermally conductive compound provides a superior conductor (as compared to air) almost equal to that of the conductor (the aluminum substrate **5**) itself. The performance 20 of thermally conductive compound is measured in W/m-K. Standard silicon/zinc-oxide thermal compound has thermal conductivities in the range of 0.7-0.9 W/m-K.

In such variations, the thermally conductive medium used can also be an aluminum-infused medicinal/therapeutic cream, ointment, or other compound.

In more variations, the second, polymeric, outer layer **15** of the bandage **10** is coupled 25 about the periphery of the aluminum substrate **5**, yet leaves most of the top surface of the aluminum substrate **5** uncovered so as to better allow heat thermally conducted from a burn wound through the aluminum substrate **5** to dissipate via thermal convection and/or radiation to the ambient air.

In some alternate variations, a roll or sheet of aluminum substrate **5** is used without a 30 coupled second layer **15**, wherein the aluminum substrate is applied over a burn wound, and is fixed into place around the edges of the application with medical tape or gauze, while leaving most of the aluminum substrate **5** open to the air to facilitate heat dissipation.

Table 3 provides a list of some example form-factor dimensions used in some embodiments. It should be noted that this list is exemplary only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure herein in any way.

TABLE 3: Exemplary Bandage Embodiment Dimensions				
Form Factor Embodiment	Polymer outer Base Size (mm x mm)	Aluminum Substrate Size (mm x mm)	Effective Cooling Area (mm ²)	Figure References
Narrow Bandage Strip	25.4 x 76.2	20.3 x 35.5	714	3A-4B; 13A-15; 18-19; 27; 31A
Rounded Rectangle	52.1 x 76.2	43.2 x 50.8	2185	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Rounded Rectangle	63.5 x 88.9	50.8 x 63.5	3229	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Rounded Rectangle	57.2 x 76.2	45.72 x 54.6	2500	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Rounded Rectangle	95.25 x 133.4	69.9 x 101.6	7099	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Finger-Form	85.1 x 93.4	58.4 x 69.9	2885	5A-6B; 28; 31F

5 In still more embodiments, the substantially polymeric and porous second layer **15** of the bandage **10** incorporates a thermochromic compound **40, 45, 70, or 80** (similar to what is typically found in mood rings) so that a user can actually see a visual indicator of the heat being removed from the user's skin/burn. In a variation, referring to **Figures 13A-13B and 25-29**, the top side of the aluminum substrate **5** has an extended member **5A** that extends

10 under the second layer **15** to be under and in direct contact with the thermochromic compound **40, 45**, wherein the aluminum extension **5A** provides thermal communication between a burn wound (via the aluminum substrate **5**) and the thermochromic compound **40, 45**. In another variation, referring to **Figure 14**, the top, exposed textured side of the aluminum substrate **5** (that is, the heat-dissipation-enhancing topography side) has one or

15 more thin aluminum strips **75** that are used to support and position a thermochromic indicator member **70** over the exposed top side of the aluminum substrate **5**. In still more variations, referring to **Figure 15**, a small subset of the heat-dissipation protrusions on the top side of the aluminum substrate **5** are coated at their tip with thermochromic compound **80**. In other variations, referring to **Figures 16-19**, the top side of the aluminum substrate **5** has a thermal-

communication member **90** that extends to the thermochromic indicator **85**, wherein the thermal-communication member **90** provides thermal communication between a burn wound (via the aluminum substrate **5**) and the thermochromic indicator **85**. In some embodiments, the thermal-communication member **90** can be an etched line of thermochromic paint or can

5 be an aluminum conduit.

In some embodiments, the thermochromic indicators **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** have compounds calibrated to indicate when a burn is sufficiently cooled (in some cases providing a color indicator; e.g., “green”; and/or an icon indicator; e.g., a “smilie face”) or still too warm (in some cases providing a color indicator; e.g., “red”; and/or an icon indicator; e.g., a “frownie face”). In more variations, the thermochromic indicator **45** is in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate **5** via a thermally conductive extension **5A** and will change color on the end that is more proximate to the aluminum substrate **5** more quickly than on the other end of the thermochromic indicator **45** because of the thermal strata. Such stratification of the color change of the thermochromic indicator **45** helps a user gauge the

10 rate and amount of cooling.

15

As an example, a user might apply an Aluminaid™ bandage **10** to a burn from a hot pan, and initially, the user can see a red iconic thermochromic indicator **40, 70, 80**, which indicates that a user should keep the Aluminaid™ bandage **10** in place. Later, the pain subsides and the burned tissue cools, the user can see a green iconic thermochromic indicator

20 **45, 70, 80, 85**, which indicates to the user that the Aluminaid™ bandage **10** can be safely changed out to a traditional medical dressing.

C. Details of Aluminaid™ Bandage Materials

Refer to **Figures 1A-31G**.

Aluminum

25 In many embodiments of bandages assuming a specific form factor (e.g., a finger-form-factor dressing, **Figures 5A-6B, 28, and 31F**), the first bandage layer **5** disposed to make direct contact with the burn wound covers approximately 30-100% of the entire length of the bandage **10**. The outer edges of the product are reserved for a suitable adhesive which forms the bond between the outer sheath (cotton wool or polymer) and the aluminum

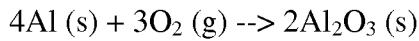
30 dressing.

The aluminum material used in the substrate **5** is generally comprised of at least 90% aluminum, and is essentially an amphoteric material. Other composites can occur as a result

of naturally occurring processes and sometimes some contamination during manufacture. However, none of these other additional substances are toxic in-relation to the scope of the prescribed application. In some embodiments, the aluminum material is annealed in order to make the material more ductile to better facilitate various form factors. The annealing 5 process includes gauging the aluminum substrate **5** and specifically annealing it to enhance ductility in order to optimally navigate the contours of body parts (e.g., finger and hands, but not excluding general-purpose forms, such as rectangle and square-shaped dressings).

In variations, the aluminum may be subjected to electroplating or other non-toxic coating in order to facilitate ductility, improve performance, and enhance durability.

10 When aluminum combines with oxygen, the two elements undergo a spontaneous reaction:



The properties of the aluminum used in some embodiments of the Aluminaid™ bandages and wraps can be summarized as follows:

- 15 • **Main Composite:** $\geq 90\%$ aluminum, but is preferred to be $\geq 99\%$ aluminum
 - In some embodiments, the aluminum used is an alloy comprised of $\geq 92\%$ aluminum and approximately 5% magnesium, with the balance of the alloy being naturally occurring impurities. This alloy is especially suited for a proprietary annealing process designed to enhance the ductility of the aluminum substrate used in bandages, discussed *infra*.
 - The atomic weight of the aluminum used is approximately 26.98 AMU.
- 20 • **Form:** Solid with specifically formed ridges to maximize the available heat-transfer surfaces for cooling a wound.
- 25 • **Annealed:** Yes, in order to optimally navigate the contours of body parts (e.g., fingers and hands, but not excluding general-purpose forms, such as rectangle and square-shaped dressings). In some embodiments, a proprietary annealing process is used, as discussed *infra*.
- 30 • **Thickness:** ≤ 1 mm, as measured from the bottom of the aluminum substrate to the average peak height of the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions/ridges on the top side of the substrate. In areas of the substrate between such heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions/ridges, the thickness is

≤ 0.1 mm.

- **Thermal Conductivity:** approximately 209 W/m·k $\pm 10\%$.
- **Density:** $\geq 2.699\text{g/cm}^3$.
- **Metallurgical Index:** 8217
- 5 • **Toxicity:** Non-toxic (aluminum-oxide layer coating)
- **Porosity:** Defined as sufficient to enable the administration of a controlled release remedial substance, and/or to enable paths for oxygen to be introduced to a burn wound. The aluminum foil used must not exceed the defined thickness needed to ensure that the foil does not become impermeable to oxygen. Porosity can be obtained by either the inherent by-product of the aluminum-rolling process, or by mechanically introducing pinholes. **Section III.B, *supra***, discusses some strategies for mechanically introducing aeration holes in the aluminum substrate beyond those that normally occur as a by-product of the manufacturing process.
- 10 • **Recycle:** The aluminum alloy used in the substrate **5** can be recycled and can be made of recycled aluminum alloy.
- 15

Annealing of Aluminum

In some embodiments, the aluminum substrate **5** is subjected to an annealing process to enhance the ductility and flexibility of the aluminum substrate as it is applied to various 20 parts of a user body. It is a heat treatment used to soften the aluminum alloys to that they can be easily worked and formed. The annealing process gives the resultant alloy a temper designation of “0”, which is very soft. In a variation, instead of quenching the aluminum material immediately after heating (as in the solution heat treatment of aluminum process), the aluminum material is cooled in stages at specified temperatures.

25 In a specialized embodiment, an aluminum alloy comprised of approximately 92% aluminum and approximately 5% magnesium is used (with the remainder of the constituents being naturally occurring impurities). Magnesium is added to the alloy because of its curative elements, its non-toxicity, and reasonable thermal conductivity (even though it is less than aluminum, it will not significantly degrade the alloy’s overall thermal conductivity).

30 In a variation, the Aluminum-magnesium alloy is annealed to condition “1100-0”. It is annealed for approximately one hour at a temperature range of 775 °C - 900 °C. In some

embodiments, the annealed aluminum alloy is furnace cooled. However, in another embodiment, the aluminum alloy is then allowed to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool, thereby substantially removing any strain hardening. The aluminum alloy re-crystallizes during this natural cooling process such that there is greater consistency in the direction of grain growth (that is, most, if not all, of the grains are oriented in a uniform direction), giving the material dramatically greater ductility. These specialized fabrication techniques result in a reduced resistance to thermal conductivity, or greater thermal-conductivity gain, as well as better malleability (less structural resistance at the atomic level). This re-crystallized aluminum alloy is used in some embodiments as the primary material for the aluminum substrate **5** in Aluminaid™ bandages and wraps.

Perimeter Polymer Covering

In some embodiments of bandages **10**, one or more edges of the aluminum substrate **5** are coupled to a second layer **15** which extends beyond the boundaries of the aluminum substrate **5** and typically has adhesive material disposed on its bottom surface to facilitate coupling to a user's skin. A selection of materials commonly used in medical bandages may be used as an effective second layer **15**, but a perforated polymer such as 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) is preferred in many embodiments.

In another embodiment, the second layer **15** is comprised of 3M™ Transpore™ Tape.

In many variations, the adhesive compound disposed on the exposed bottom side of the second layer **15** can be comprised of any non-toxic medical adhesive commonly used in the art, and in most variations, the bandage is stored with a peelable backing layer **14** detachably coupled to the adhesive on the second layer **15**.

Thermochromic Compounds

In some variations, the incorporated thermochromic materials **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** used in the outer bandage layers are comprised of thermochromic liquid crystals (for example, but not limited to, cholesteryl ester carbonates, chiral nematic (non-sterol) aryl compounds, and (2-methylbutyl)phenol 4-alkyl(oxy)benzoates) and/or leuco dyes/inks (for example, but not limited to, spirolactones, fluorans, spiropyrans, and fulgides). In even more variations, the thermochromic-impregnated bandage materials are calibrated to display a "neutral" color at the average human skin temperature; that is, approximately 98.6 °F (37.0 °C).

In other variations, the thermochromic indicator materials **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** used can be a paint, a gel, or a thermochromic-compound-impregnated polymer.

In an embodiment, the thermochromic indicator material **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** comprises liquid crystals calibrated to display a green color indicator when the associated aluminum substrate has cooled to a predetermined threshold, and also comprises liquid crystals calibrated to display a red color indicator when the associated aluminum substrate exceeds a 5 predetermined threshold.

IV. A Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment

In one embodiment, the inventive concept is directed to a bandage that is adapted to treat a burn wound. Refer to **Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G**. In an embodiment, the bandage **10** comprises a first layer **5**, substantially comprised of a thin 10 thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, having a first surface and a second surface, wherein the metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and is adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and most of the metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of the aluminum 15 substrate **5**, adapted to be directly exposed to air. In variations, the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

In another variation, the bandage **10** is further comprised of a second outer layer **15**, 20 substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and a third intermediate layer **12**, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface. In more variations, the third intermediate absorbent layer's **12** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of the second surface of the first layer **5**, but leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed 25 to the air, wherein:

- The second outer layer's **15** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of the second surface of the third layer **12**, but also leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed to the air;
- The second and third layers **15, 12** extend beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**;
- The second outer layer **15** extends beyond the at least two perimeter edges of the

third intermediate layer **12**;

- The at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the third intermediate layer **12**;
- The at least two perimeter edges of the third intermediate layer **12** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**,
- The remainder of the first surface of the second outer layer **15** is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin; and
- The first, second, and third layers **5, 15, 12** are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted to one or more areas of a user body.

10 In an alternative variation, the bandage **10** can be fabricated *without* the absorbent, third intermediate layer **12**, wherein the second outer layer **15** extends beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**, and at least two edges of the first surface **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**. This variation would facilitate better overall heat-transfer properties of the bandage **10**, though the lack of absorbent 15 material about the perimeter of the bandage **10** may not be as desirable for oozing wounds.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In 20 variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered. In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, 25 which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer **5** includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way 30 through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which

both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the 5 substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

10 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C; and
- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted, however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

15 This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to:

- indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and
- indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

20 In variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In other

variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In some applications, the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

5 This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the second layer **15** is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the third intermediate layer **12** is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

10 This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

15 **V. A Method of Making a Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment**

This embodiment is directed to a method of making a bandage adapted for treating burns and other wounds. Refer to **Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G**. The method comprises the step of providing a first layer **5**, substantially comprised of a thin thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, having a first surface and a second surface, 20 wherein the metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and is adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and most of the metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of the aluminum substrate **5**, adapted to be directly exposed to air. In variations, the thermally conductive 25 metal substrate **5** is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

In another variation, the method is further comprised of the steps of providing a second outer layer **15**, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and 30 providing a third intermediate layer **12**, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface. In more variations, the third intermediate absorbent layer's **12** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the

perimeter edges of the second surface of the first layer **5**, but leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed to the air, wherein:

- The second outer layer's **15** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of the second surface of the third layer **12**, but also leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed to the air;
- The second and third layers **15, 12** extend beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**;
- The second outer layer **15** extends beyond the at least two perimeter edges of the third intermediate layer **12**;
- The at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the third intermediate layer **12**;
- The at least two perimeter edges of the third intermediate layer **12** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**,
- The remainder of the first surface of the second outer layer **15** is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin; and
- The first, second, and third layers **5, 15, 12** are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted to one or more areas of a user body.

In an alternative variation, the bandage **10** can be fabricated *without* the absorbent, third intermediate layer **12**, wherein the second outer layer **15** extends beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**, and at least two edges of the first surface **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**. This variation would facilitate better overall heat-transfer properties of the bandage **10**, though the lack of absorbent material about the perimeter of the bandage **10** may not be as desirable for oozing wounds.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes the manufacturing step of providing a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group

consisting of staggered and non-staggered. In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** is provided with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer **5** includes the step of providing a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one **10** heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second **15** stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive **20** metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C;
- 25 and
- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted, however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the **30** aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising the step of providing

a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to:

- indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and
- indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

In variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user

indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In other variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In some applications, the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the second layer **15** is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the third intermediate layer **12** is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

25 VI. A Method of Using a Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment

This embodiment is directed to a method of using a bandage according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*, adapted for treating burns and other wounds. Refer to **Figures 1A-31G**, with an emphasis on **Figures 20A-31G**. It should be noted that this particular embodiment pertains to bandages without a second or third layer 15, 12. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a bandage **10** according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*; and

- Applying the bandage **10** to a burn wound **60** with the first surface of the first layer **5** in direct contact with said burn wound **60**; and
- Securing the bandage **10** in position over the burn wound **60** by applying adhesive medical tape along some or all of the edges of the bandage **10** and extending to the tissue surrounding non-burned tissue, wherein the top side of the bandage first layer **5** is mostly left uncovered and exposed to the ambient environment.

5 This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of 10 cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered. 15 In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed 20 surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer **5** includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward 25 the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which 30 both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C; and
- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted, however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein:

- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and
- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to indicate to a user when a burn on which the bandage **10** is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that the bandage **10** can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **40**, **45**, **70**, **80**, **85** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the steps of:

- Observing the thermochromic indicator member **45**;

- If the thermochromic indicator member **45** indicates that the burn wound **60** is too warm, then continuing the application of the bandage **10** on the burn wound **60** to further cooling of the burn wound **60**;
- If the thermochromic indicator member **45** indicates that the burn wound **60** has cooled sufficiently, then removing the bandage **10** from the burn wound **60** and applying a different medical dressing to the burn wound **60**; and
- Repeating the previous steps as necessary until the bandage **10** has been removed from the burn wound **60**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the different medical dressing referred to above is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed aluminum substrate **5** of the applied bandage **10** to forced-air cooling in order to speed cooling of the burn wound **60**.

20 **VII. A Method of Using a Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment**

This embodiment is directed to a method of using a bandage according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*, adapted for treating burns and other wounds. Refer to Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G. It should be noted that this particular embodiment pertains to bandages *with at least a second layer (and possibly a third layer)* **15, 12**. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a bandage **10** according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*; and
- Applying the bandage **10** to a burn wound **60** with the first surface of the first layer **5** in direct contact with said burn wound **60**; and
- securing the bandage **10** in position over the burn wound **60** with the adhesive material disposed on the first side of the second layer **15** of the bandage **10**.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered. In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer **5** includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- 30 • Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C; and
- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted,

however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

5 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein:

- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and
- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to indicate to a user when a burn on which the bandage **10** is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that the bandage **10** can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

10 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

15 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

20 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **40**, **45**, **70**, **80**, **85** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the steps of:

- Observing the thermochromic indicator member **45**;
- If the thermochromic indicator member **45** indicates that the burn wound **60** is too warm, then continuing the application of the bandage **10** on the burn wound **60** to further cooling of the burn wound **60**;
- If the thermochromic indicator member **45** indicates that the burn wound **60** has cooled sufficiently, then removing the bandage **10** from the burn wound **60** and applying a different medical dressing to the burn wound **60**; and

- Repeating the previous steps as necessary until the bandage **10** has been removed from the burn wound **60**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the different medical dressing referred to above is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal 5 compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-10 corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the second layer **15** is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed aluminum substrate **5** of the applied bandage **10** to forced-air cooling in order to 15 speed cooling of the burn wound **60**.

Alternative Embodiments and Other Variations

The various embodiments and variations thereof described herein (including the appended claims) and/or illustrated in the accompanying Figures are merely exemplary and are not meant to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure. It should be appreciated that 20 numerous variations of the invention have been contemplated as would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with the benefit of this disclosure.

Hence, those ordinarily skilled in the art will have no difficulty devising myriad obvious variations and improvements to the invention, all of which are intended to be encompassed within the scope of the description and Figures herein.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bandage for a burn wound, comprising:

5 a first layer, substantially comprised of a thin thermally conductive metal substrate, having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and

10 wherein most of said metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of said aluminum substrate, and is adapted to be directly exposed to air.

2. The bandage of claim 1, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is

15 substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

3. The bandage of claim 1, further comprising a second outer layer, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, said second layer having a first surface 20 and a second surface,

wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

25 wherein said second layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second layer,

30 wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

wherein said first and second layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is

adapted for use on one or more areas of a user body.

4. The bandage of claim 1, further comprising a second outer layer, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and a third intermediate layer, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said third intermediate absorbent layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

10 wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said third layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,
wherein said second and third layers extend beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

15 wherein said second outer layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said third intermediate layer,

20 wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second outer layer,

wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

25 wherein said first, second, and third layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted for use on one or more areas of a user body.

5. The bandage of claim 1, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.

30 6. The bandage of claim 5, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing

protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.

7. The bandage of claim 5, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
8. The bandage of claim 1, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
9. The bandage of claim 7, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
10. The bandage of claim 9, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.
11. The bandage of claim 9, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length of said hole.
12. The bandage of claim 1, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.
13. The bandage of claim 12, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C.
14. The bandage of claim 13, further comprising the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool, thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

15. The bandage of claim 3, further comprising a thermochromic indicator member, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:
 - 5 indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.
- 10 16. The bandage of claim 15, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.
17. The bandage of claim 15, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.
- 15 18. The bandage of claim 15, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.
19. The bandage of claim 3, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of
 - 20 perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).
20. The bandage of claim 3, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.
21. The bandage of claim 3, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group
 - 25 consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.
22. The bandage of claim 4, further comprising a thermochromic indicator member, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn

wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

5 indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

23. The bandage of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage

10 is applied.

24. The bandage of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

25. The bandage of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

15 26. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

27. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said third intermediate layer is substantially comprised 20 of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

28. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

25 29. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

30. A method of making a bandage for a burn wound, comprising:

providing a first layer, substantially comprised of a thin thermally conductive metal substrate, having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and

wherein most of said metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate, and is adapted to be directly exposed to air.

10 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

15 32. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of providing a second outer layer, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, said second layer having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air, wherein said second layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second layer,

20 25 wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

wherein said first and second layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted for use on one or more areas of a user body.

30 33. The method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of providing a second outer layer substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and providing a third

intermediate layer, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface,

5 wherein said third intermediate absorbent layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said third layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

10 wherein said second and third layers extend beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

wherein said second outer layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer,

15 wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said third intermediate layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second outer layer,

20 wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

wherein said first, second, and third layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted to one or more areas of a user body.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.
- 25
35. The method of claim 34, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.
- 30

36. The method of claim 34, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
37. The method of claim 30, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
5
38. The method of claim 36, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
- 10 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.
40. The method of claim 38, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length
15 of said hole.
41. The method of claim 30, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.
- 20 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C.
43. The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool,
25 thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.
44. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of providing a thermochromic indicator member,
wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn

wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

5 indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

45. The method of claim 32, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

46. The method of claim 32, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

47. The method of claim 32, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

48. The method of claim 32, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

49. The method of claim 32, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

50. The method of claim 32, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

25 51. The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of providing a thermochromic indicator member,

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

5 indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

10 53. The method of claim 51, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

15 55. The method of claim 33, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

56. The method of claim 33, wherein said third intermediate layer is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

20 57. The method of claim 33, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

58. The method of claim 33, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group 25 consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

59. A method of using a bandage according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
obtaining a bandage according to claim 1;

applying said bandage to a burn wound with the first surface of said first layer in direct contact with said burn wound; and

securing said bandage in position over said burn wound by applying adhesive medical tape along some or all of the edges of said bandage and extending to the tissue surrounding non-burned tissue,

5 wherein the top side of said bandage first layer is mostly left uncovered and exposed to the ambient environment.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.
61. The method of claim 59, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.
62. The method of claim 61, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.
63. The method of claim 61, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
64. The method of claim 59, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
65. The method of claim 63, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
66. The method of claim 65, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-

enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.

67. The method of claim 65, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length of said hole.

68. The method of claim 59, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein said annealing process further comprises the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool, thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

71. The method of claim 59, wherein said bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to: indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing;

the method further comprising the steps of:

observing said thermochromic indicator member;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound is too

warm, then continuing the application of said bandage on said burn wound to further cooling of said burn wound;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound has cooled sufficiently, then removing said bandage from said burn wound and applying a different medical dressing to said burn wound; and

repeating the previous steps as necessary until said bandage has been removed from said burn wound.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

73. The method of claim 71, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

74. The method of claim 71, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

75. The method of claim 71, wherein said different medical dressing is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

76. The method of claim 59, wherein said bandage has a form factor adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

77. The method of claim 59, wherein said bandage has a form factor with a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

78. The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed thermally conductive metal substrate of said applied bandage to forced-air cooling.

79. A method of using a bandage according to claim 4, comprising the steps of:
obtaining a bandage according to claim 2;
applying said bandage to a burn wound with the first surface of said first layer in direct contact with said burn wound; and
securing said bandage in position over said burn wound with said adhesive material disposed on the first side of said second layer of said bandage.

5 80. The method of claim 79, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

10 81. The method of claim 79, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.

15 82. The method of claim 81, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.

20 83. The method of claim 81, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.

84. The method of claim 79, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.

25 85. The method of claim 83, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.

86. The method of claim 85, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said

first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.

87. The method of claim 85, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length of said hole.

5 88. The method of claim 79, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 10 775 °C to 900 °C.

90. The method of claim 89, wherein said annealing process further comprises the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool,

thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially 15 uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

91. The method of claim 79, wherein said bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member,

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and

20 wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new 25 medical dressing;

the method further comprising the steps of:

observing said thermochromic indicator member;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound is too warm, then continuing the application of said bandage on said burn wound to

further cooling of said burn wound;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound has cooled sufficiently, then removing said bandage from said burn wound and applying a different medical dressing to said burn wound; and

5 repeating the previous steps as necessary until said bandage has been removed from said burn wound.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

10 93. The method of claim 91, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

94. The method of claim 91, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

15 95. The method of claim 91, wherein said different medical dressing is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

96. The method of claim 79, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of 20 perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

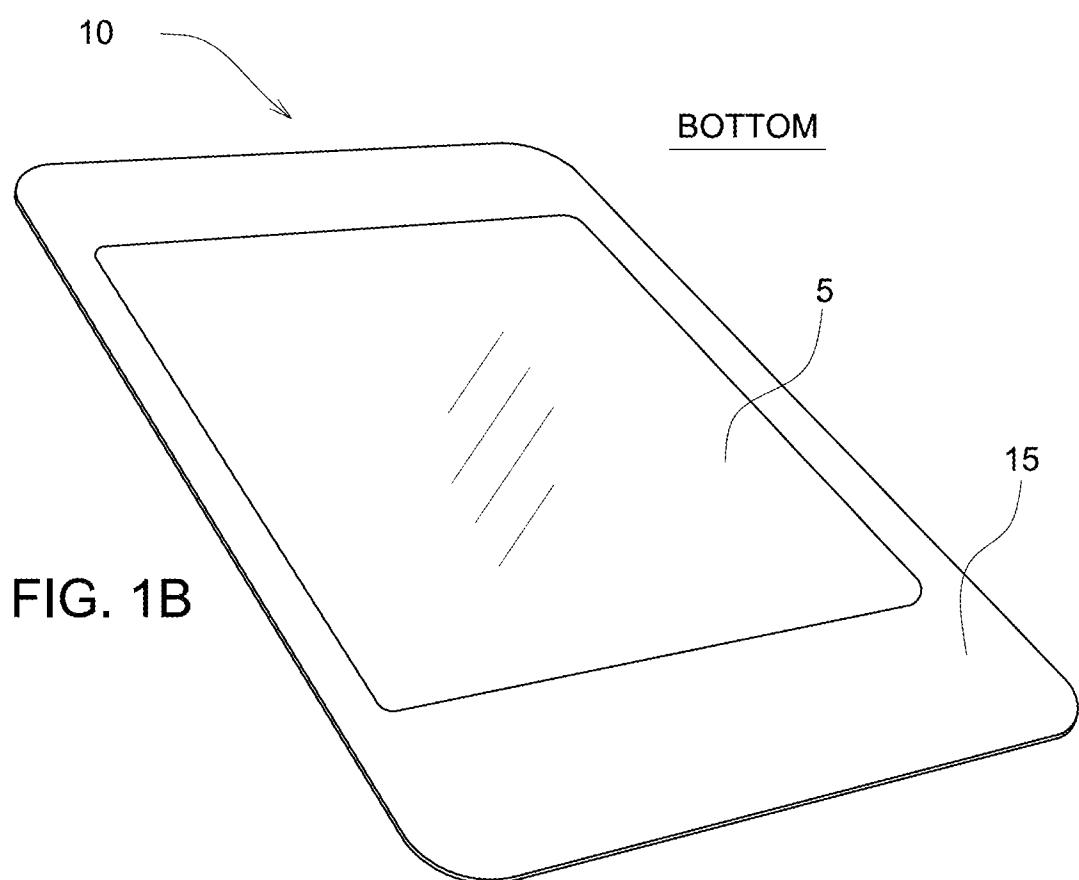
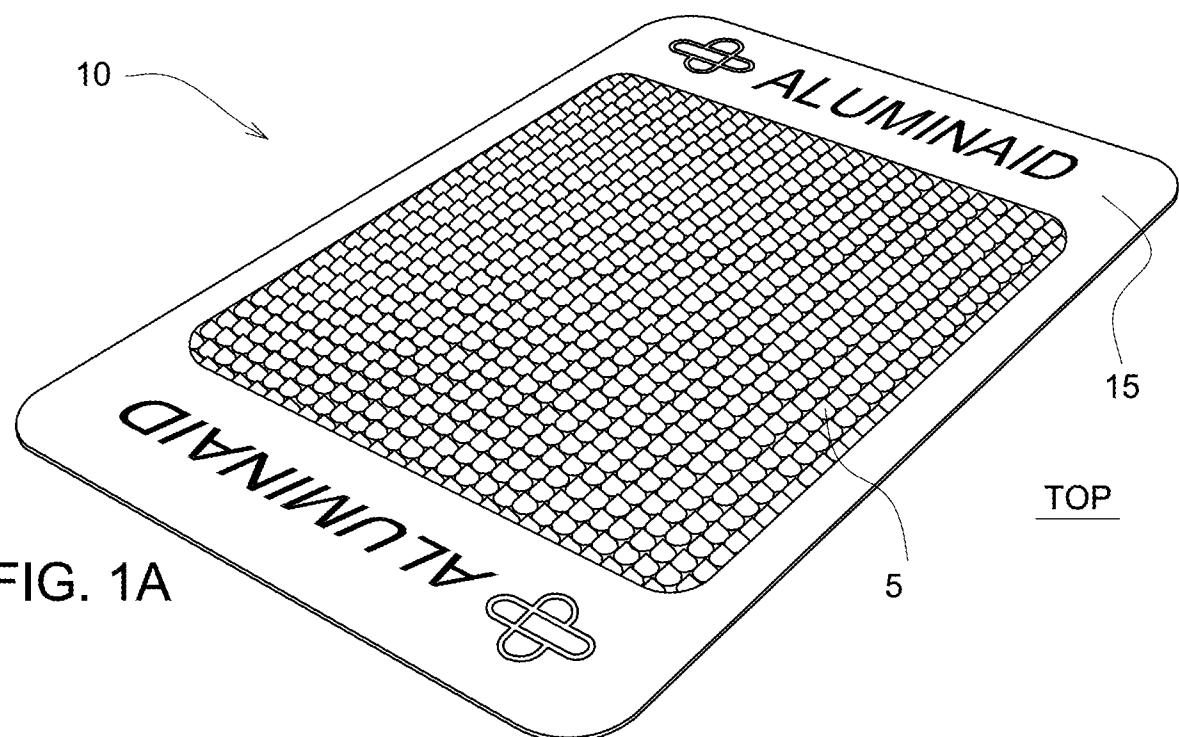
97. The method of claim 79, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

98. The method of claim 79, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group 25 consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

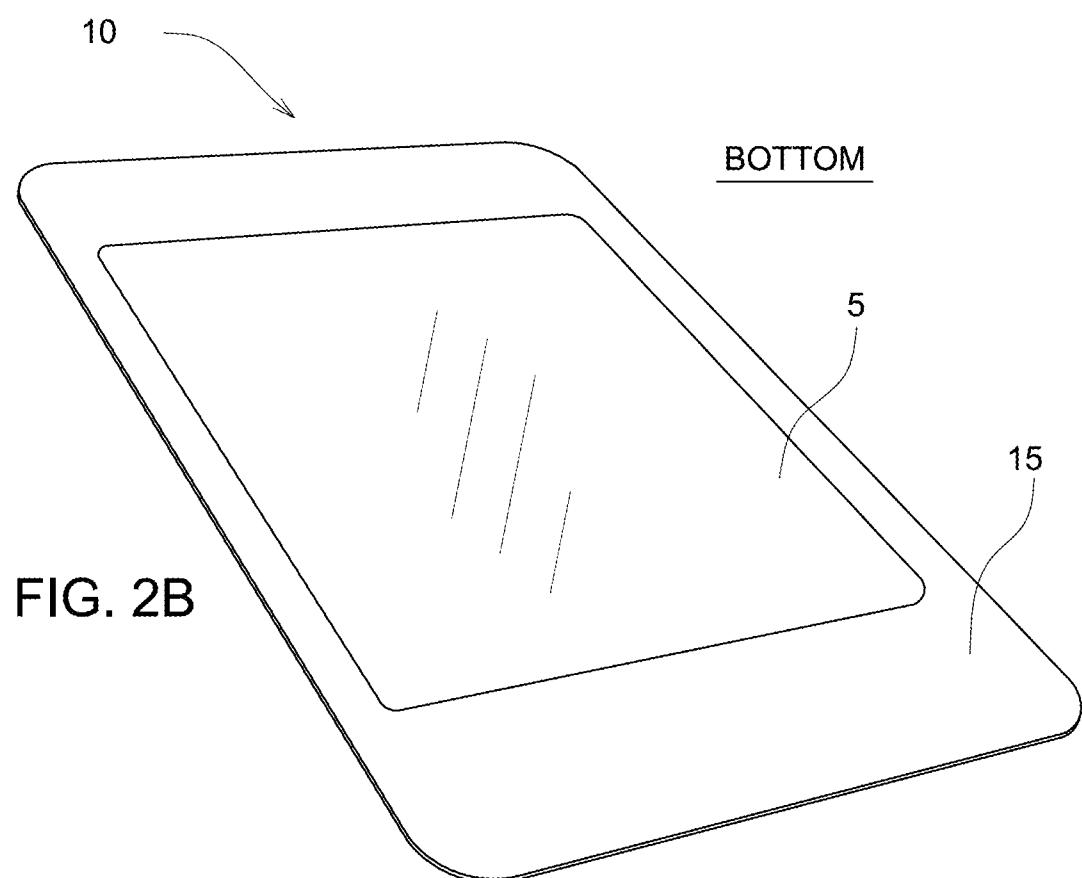
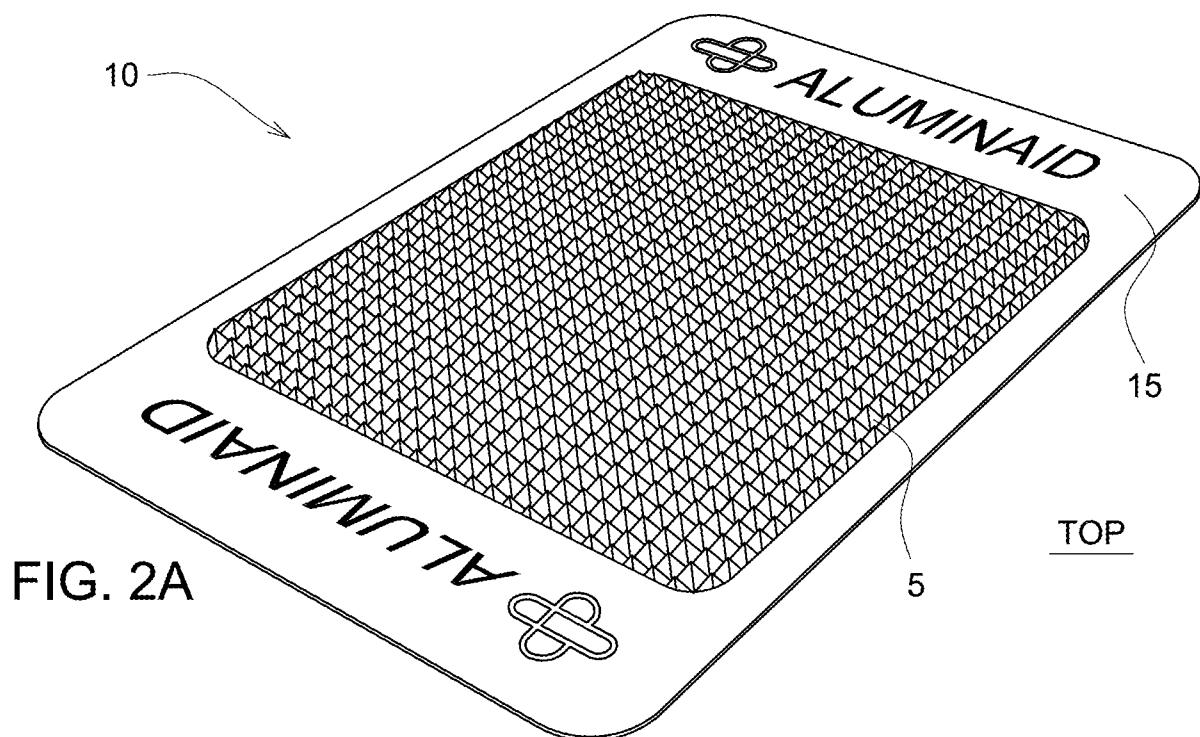
99. The method of claim 79, wherein said third intermediate layer is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

100. The method of claim 79, further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed thermally conductive metal substrate of said applied bandage to forced-air cooling.

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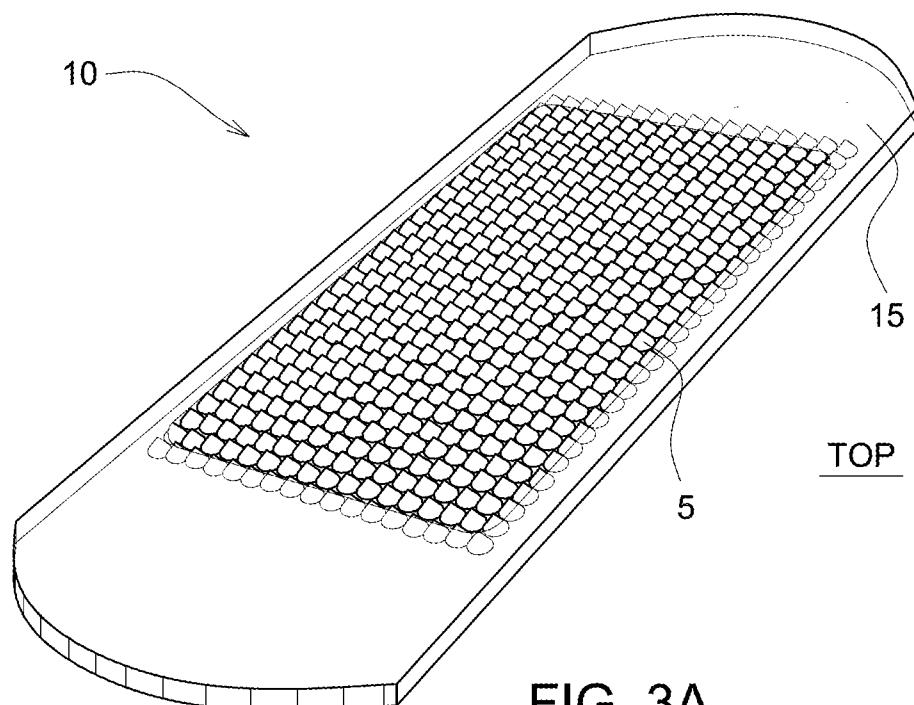


FIG. 3A

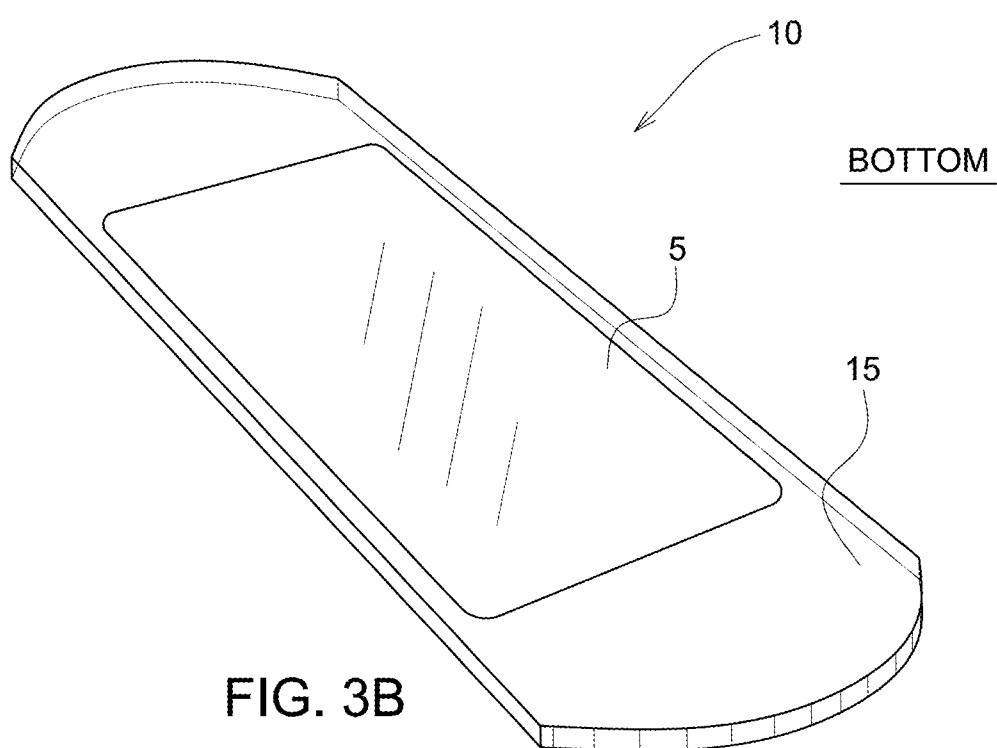
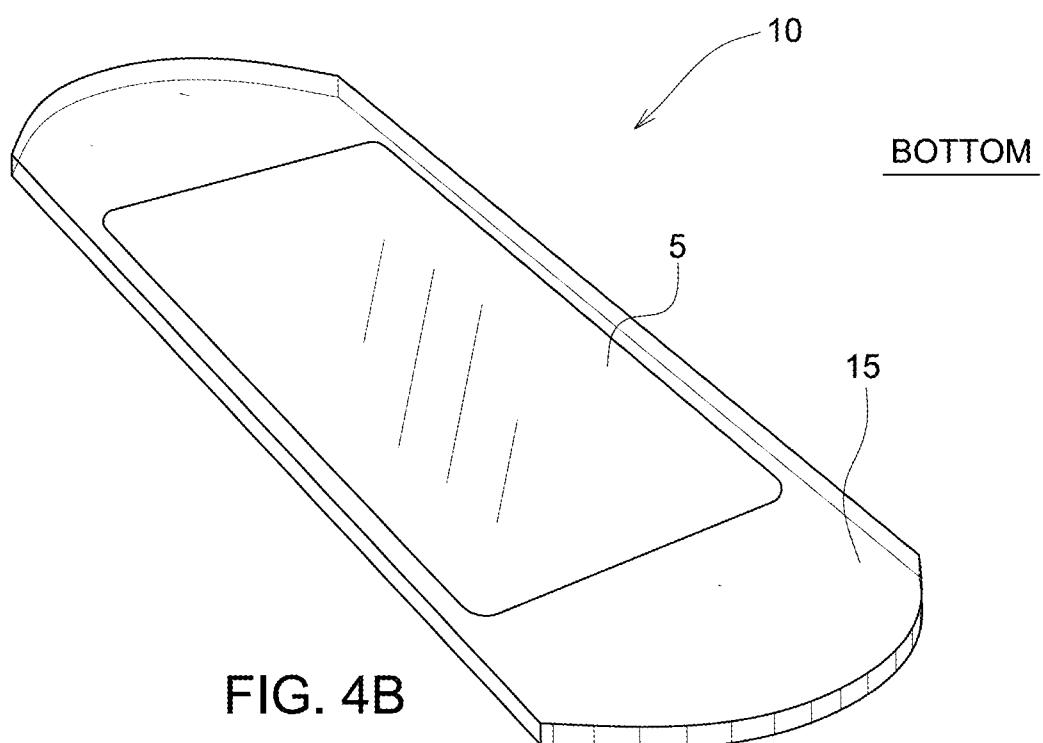
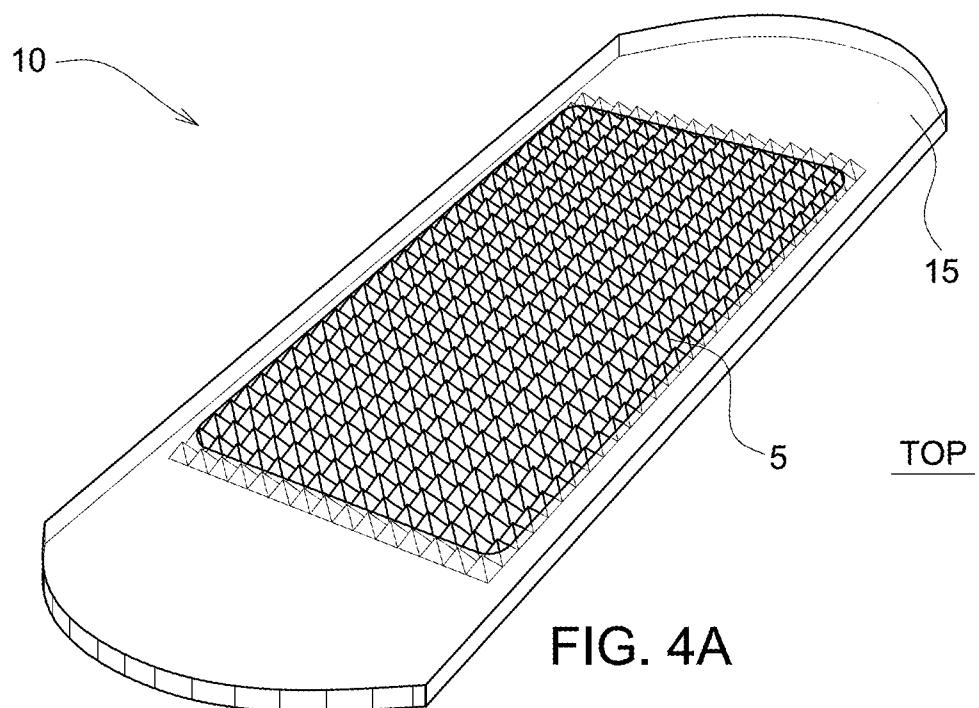


FIG. 3B

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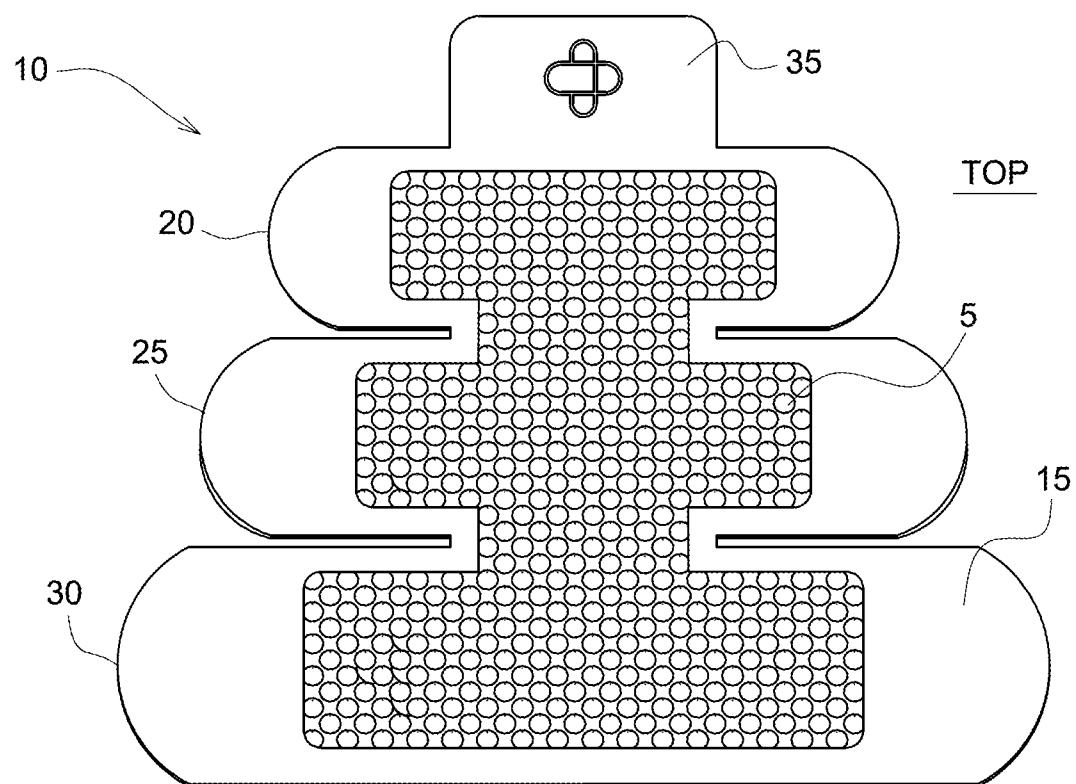


FIG. 5A

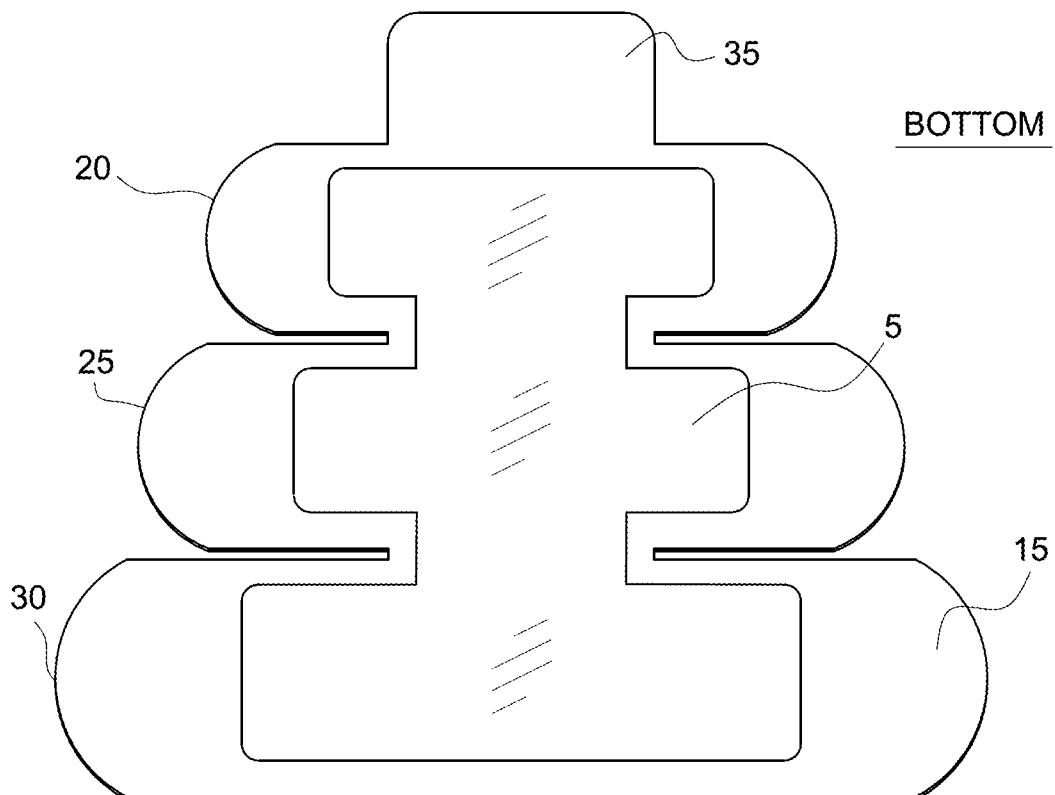


FIG. 5B

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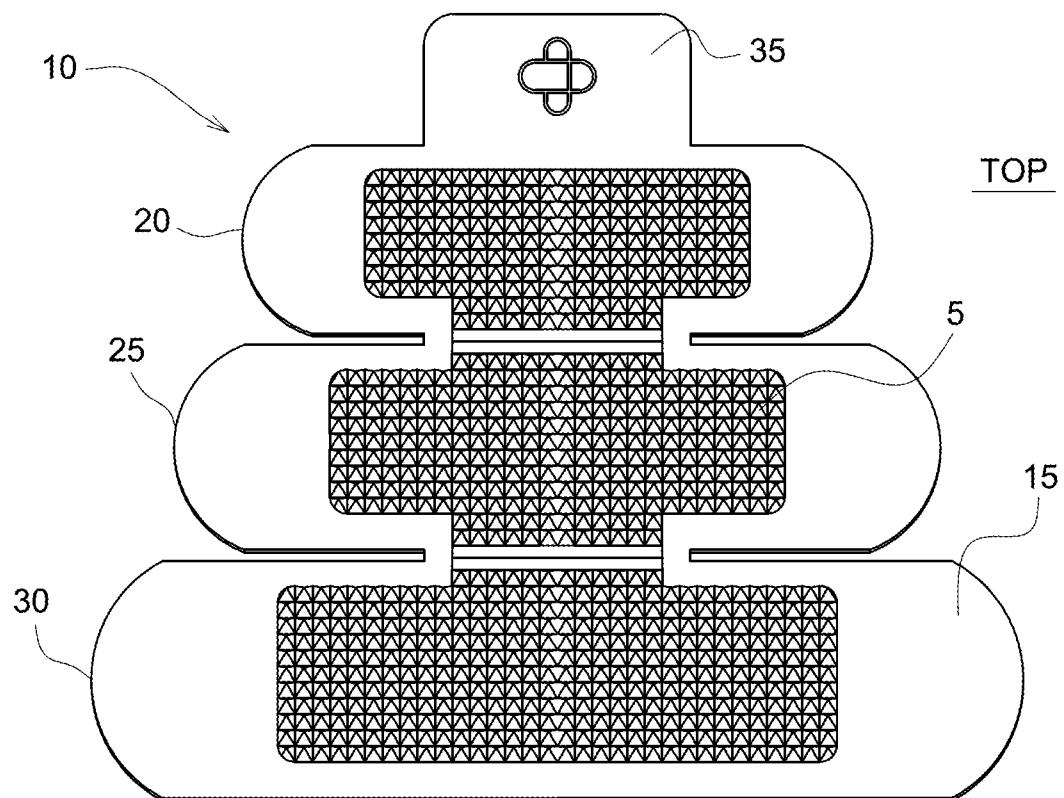


FIG. 6A

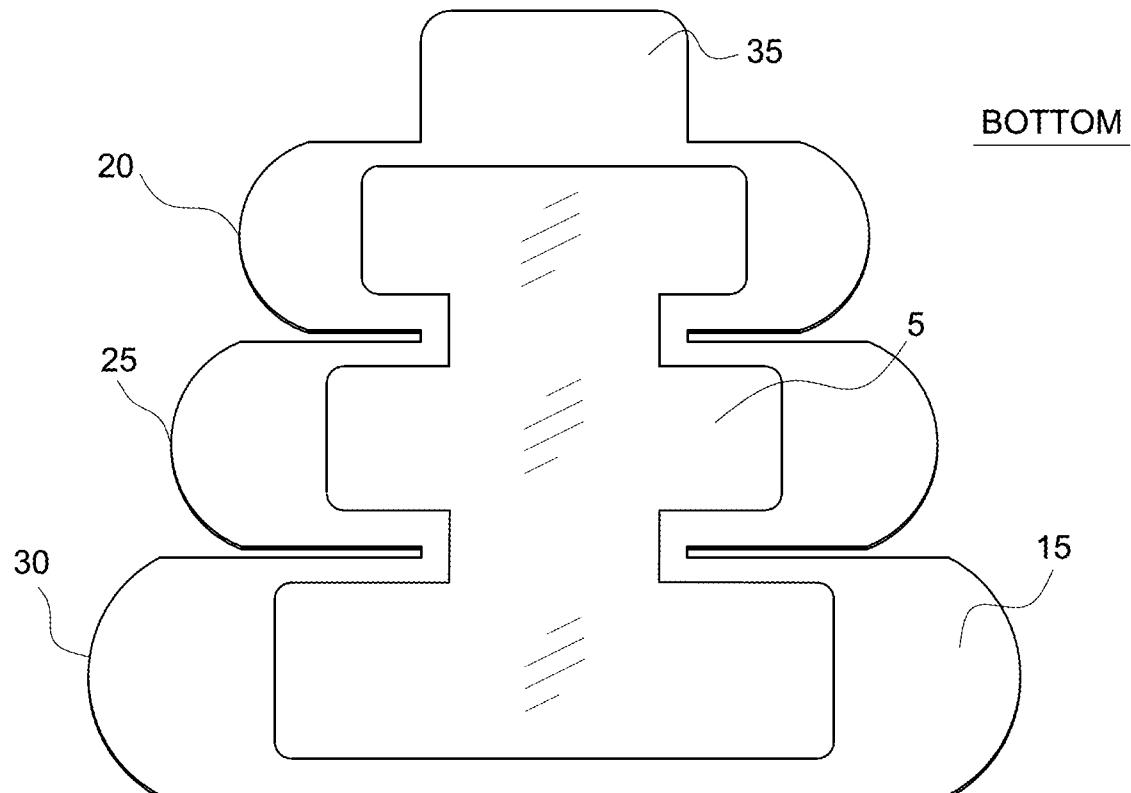


FIG. 6B

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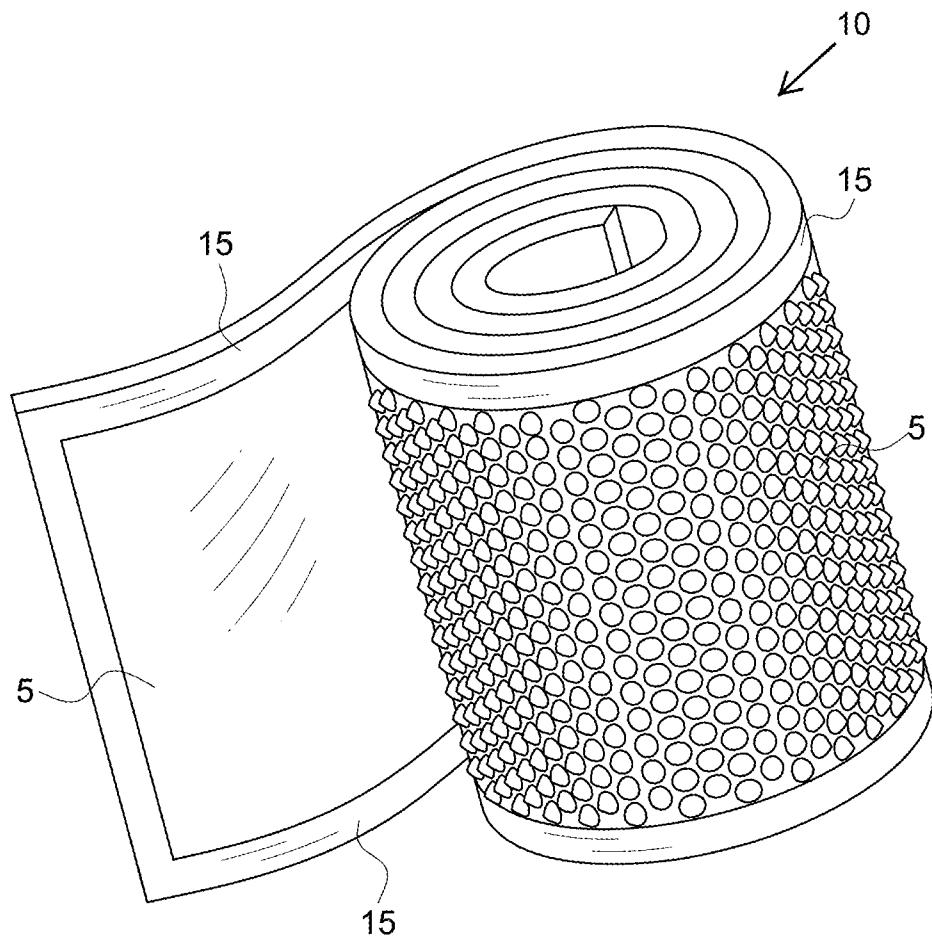


FIG. 7

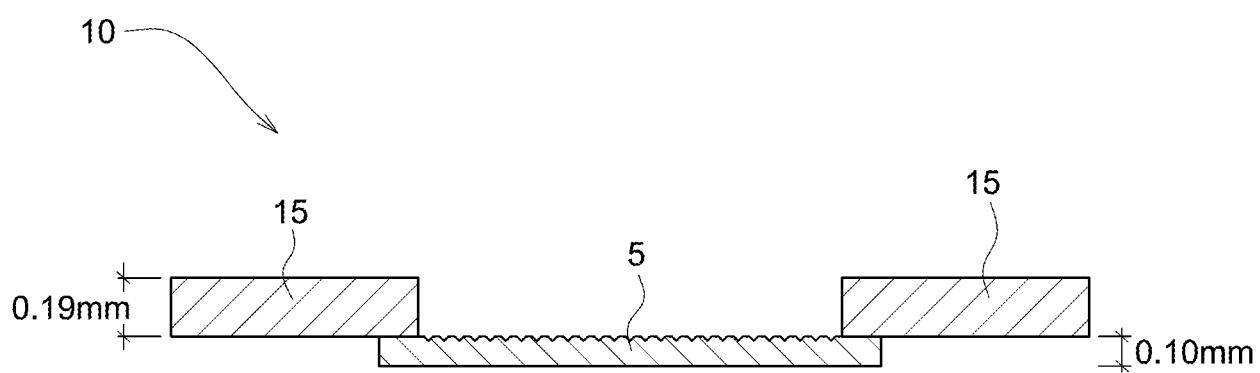


FIG. 8

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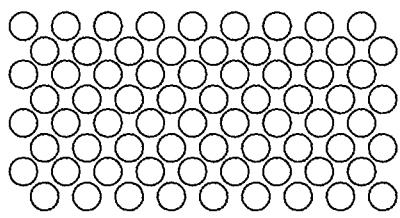


FIG. 9A

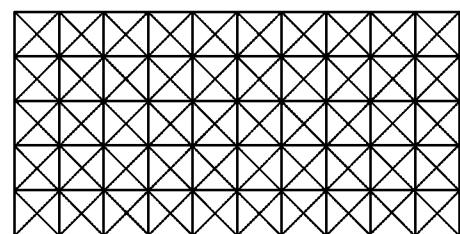


FIG. 9B

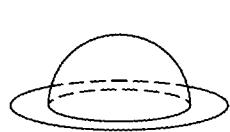


FIG. 10A



FIG. 10B

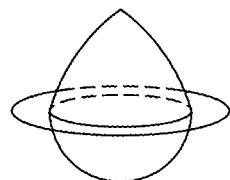


FIG. 10C

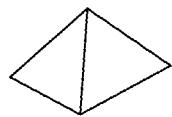


FIG. 10D

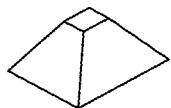


FIG. 10E

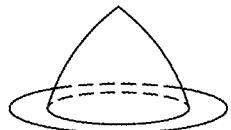


FIG. 10F

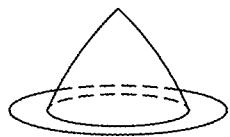


FIG. 10G

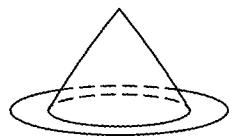


FIG. 10H

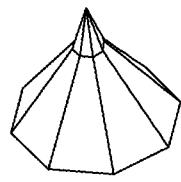


FIG. 10I

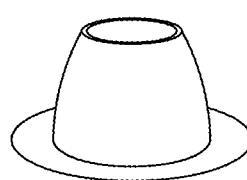


FIG. 10J



FIG. 10K

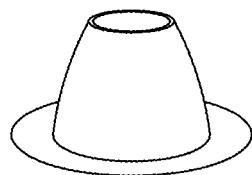


FIG. 10L

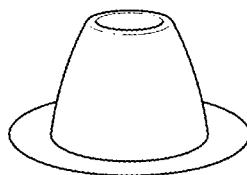


FIG. 10M

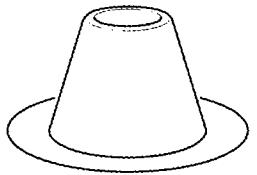
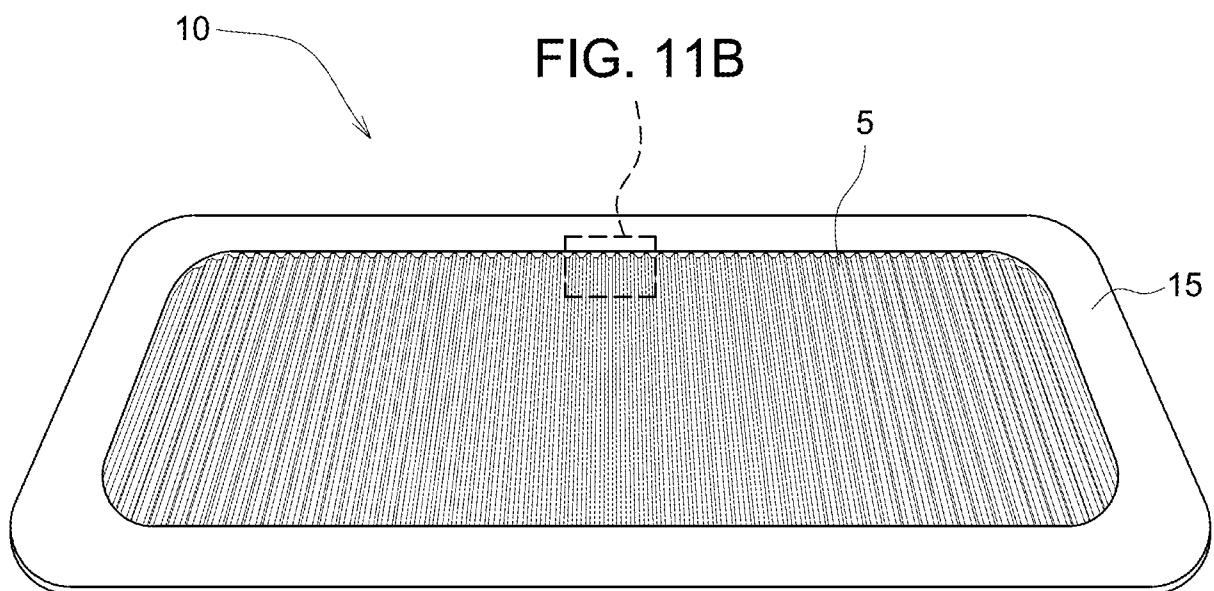


FIG. 10N

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11A

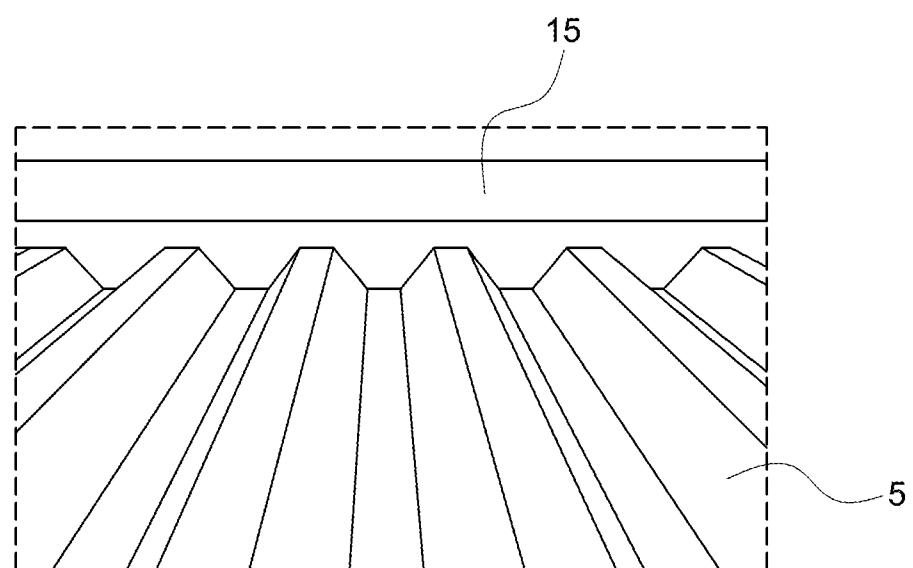


FIG. 11B

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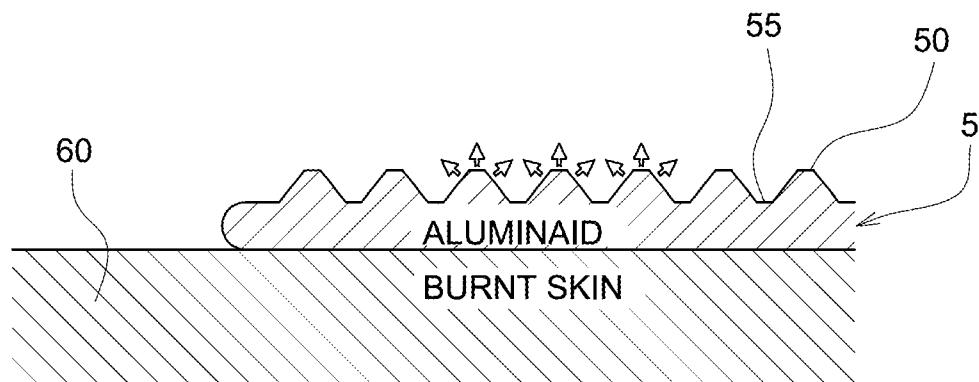


FIG. 12A

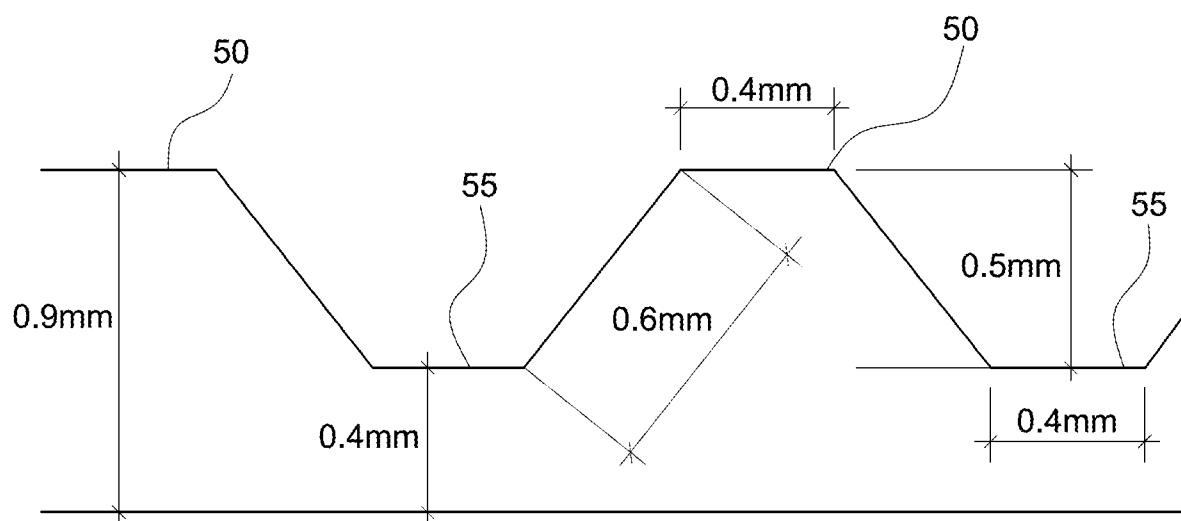


FIG. 12B

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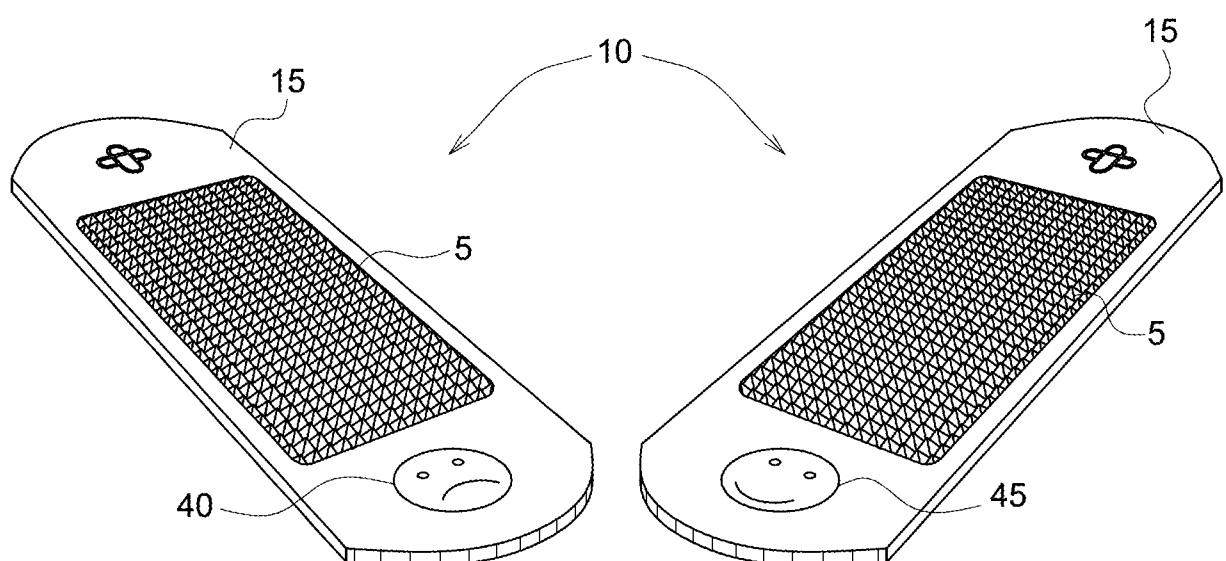


FIG. 13A

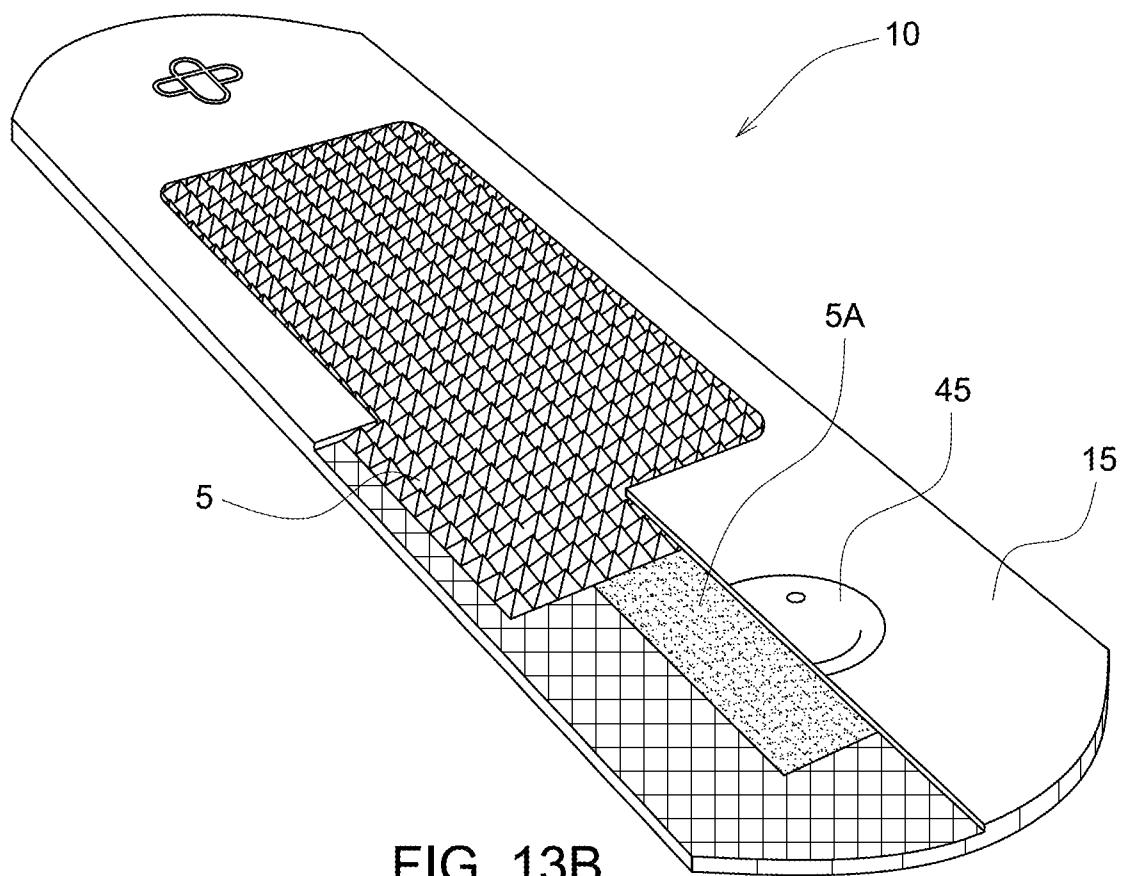


FIG. 13B

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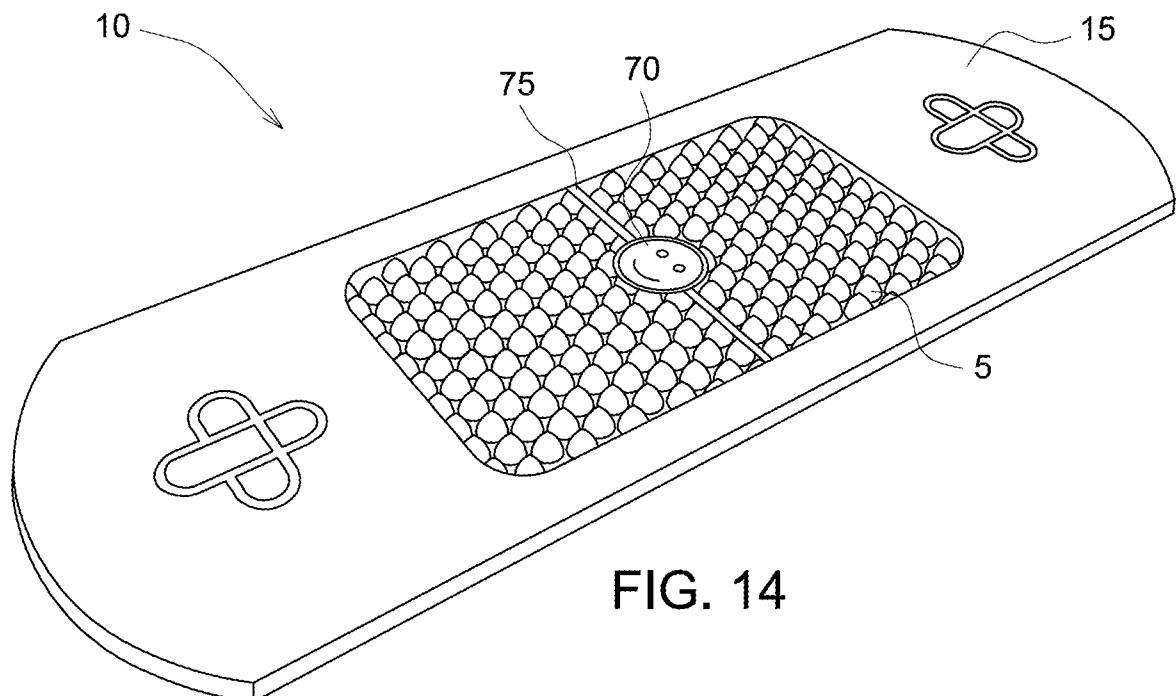


FIG. 14

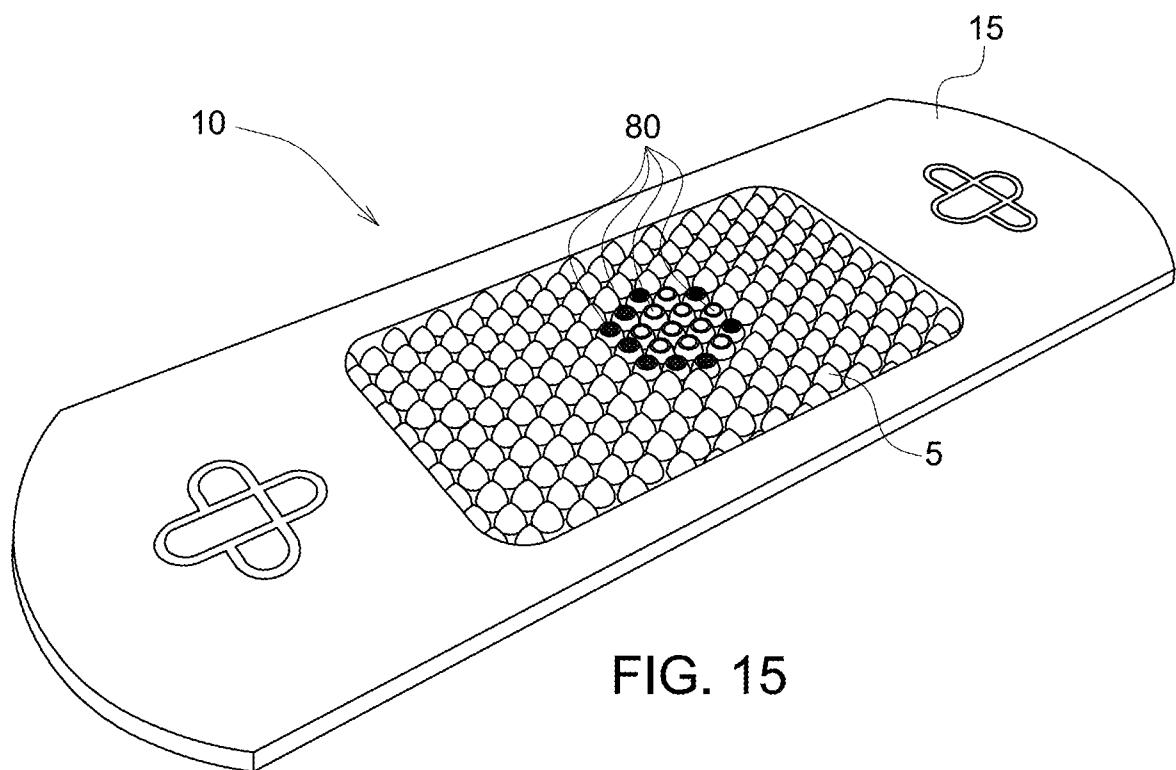
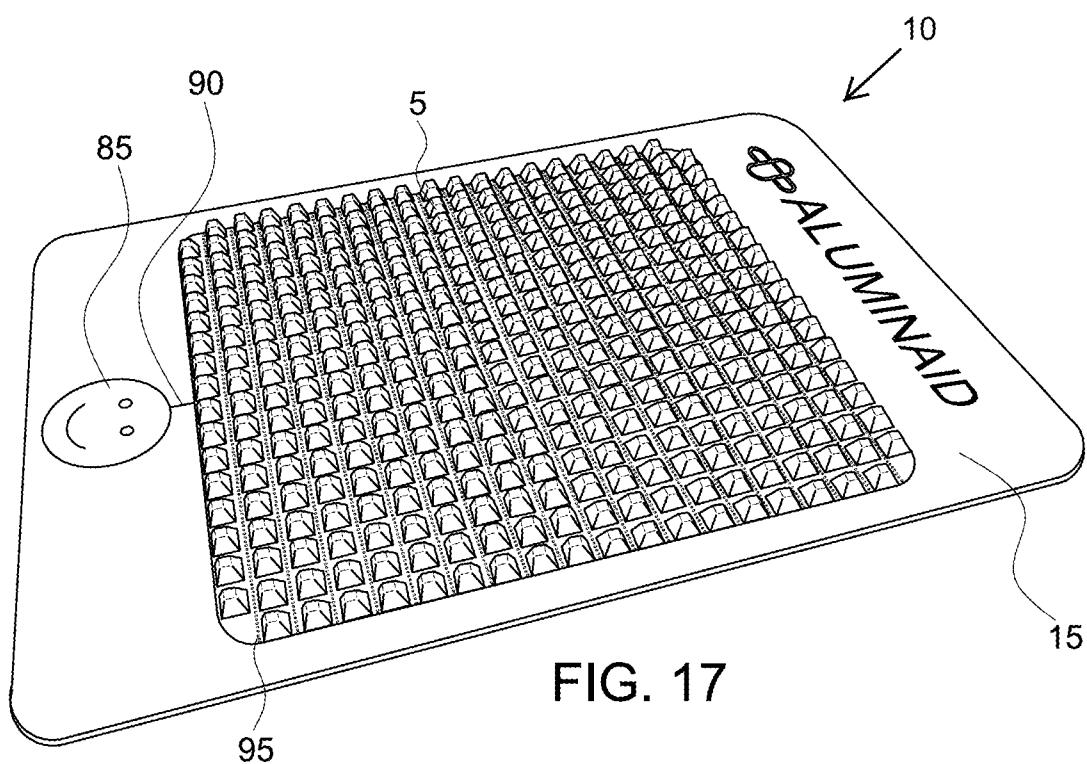
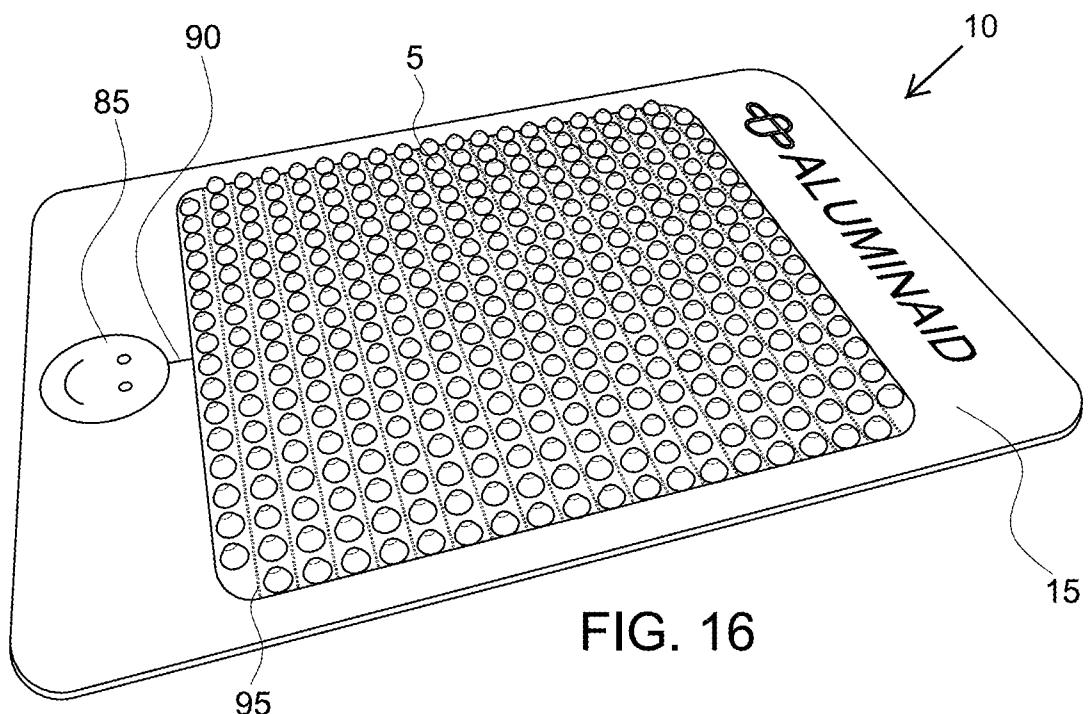


FIG. 15

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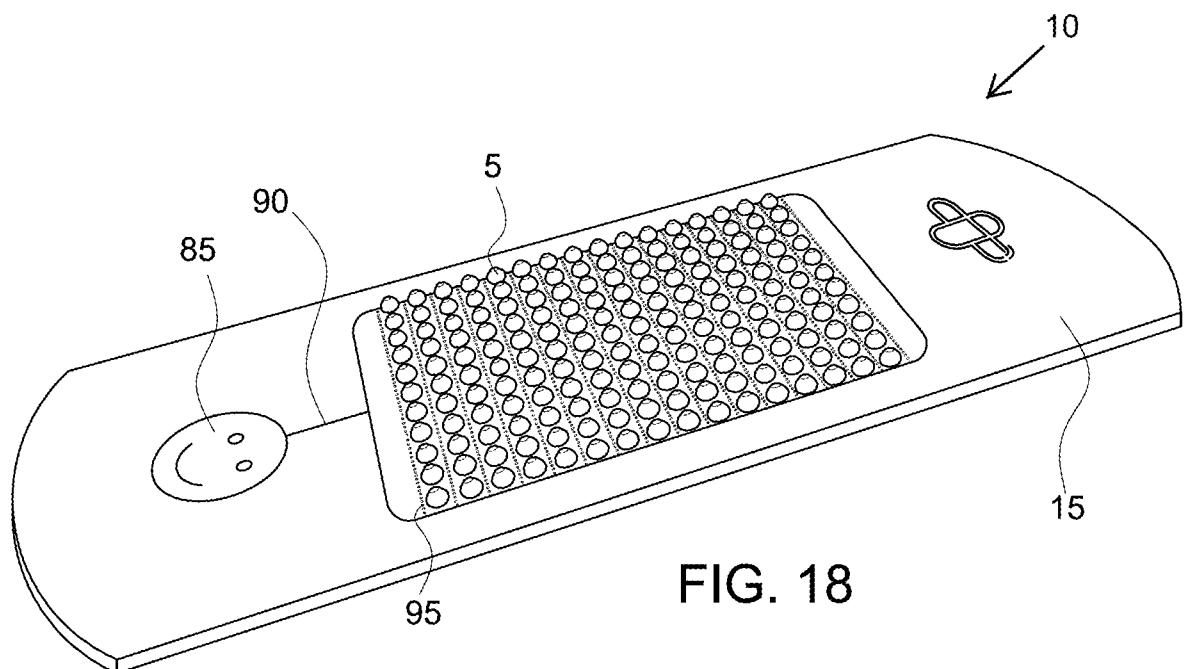


FIG. 18

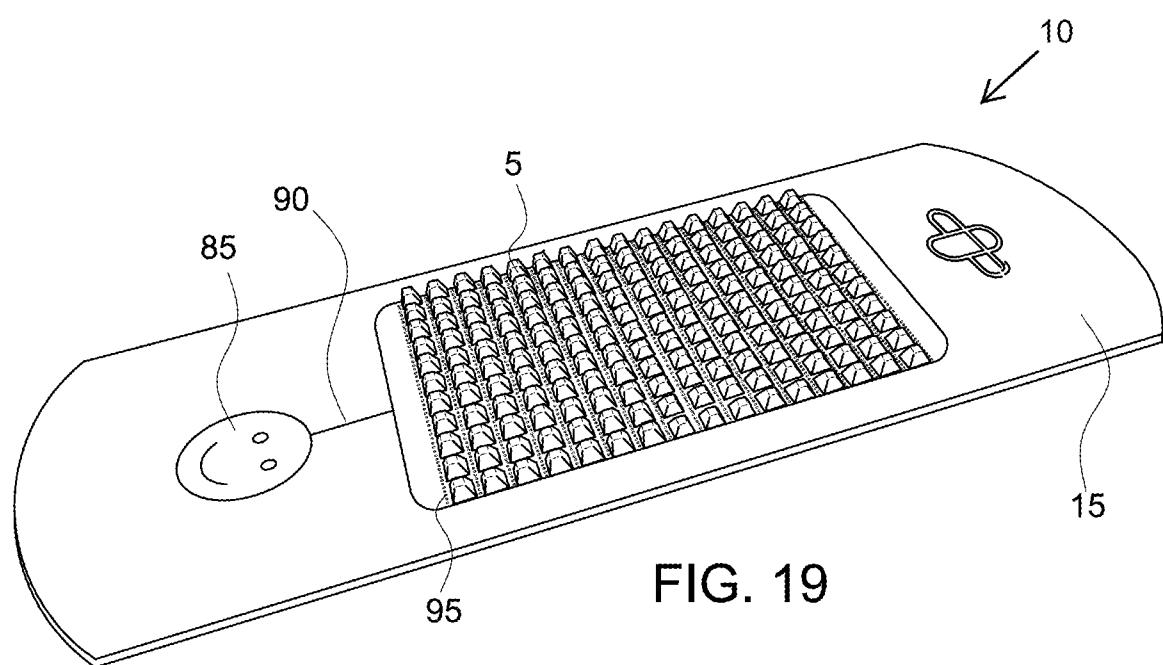


FIG. 19

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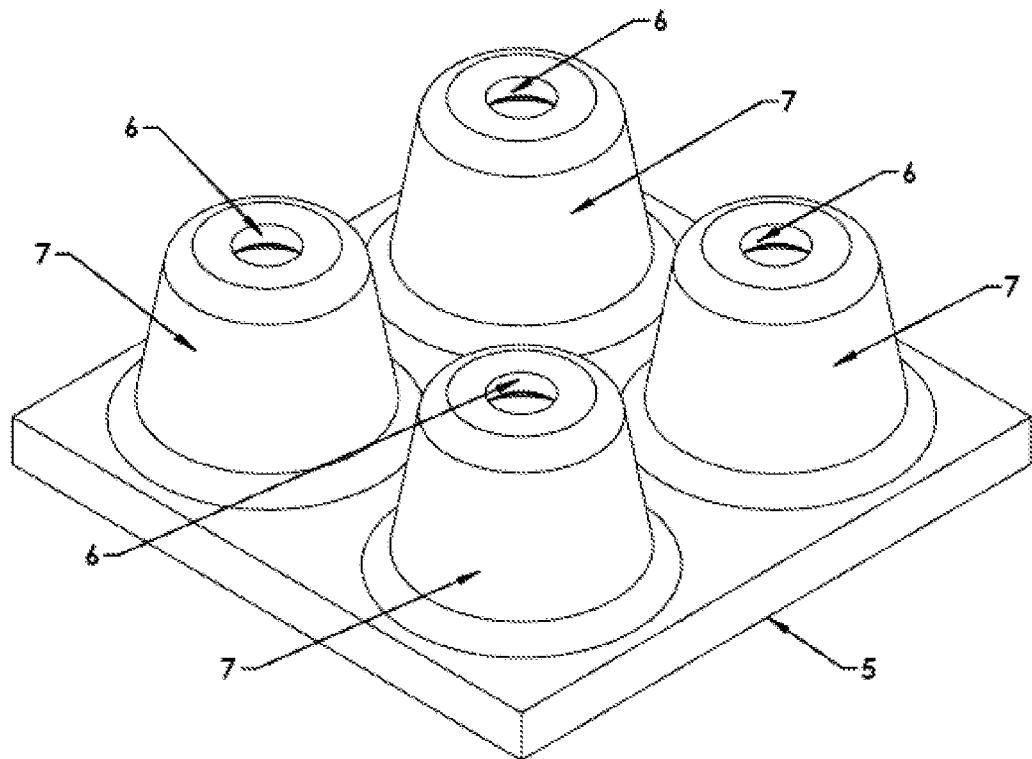


FIG. 20A

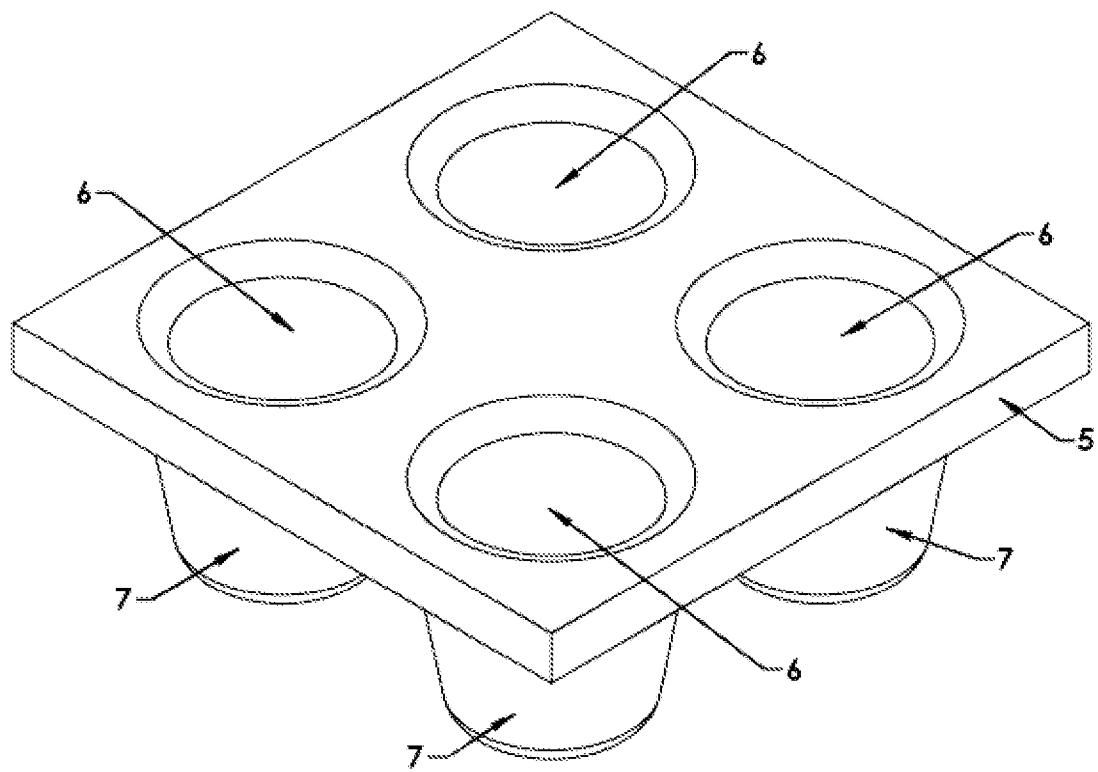


FIG. 20B

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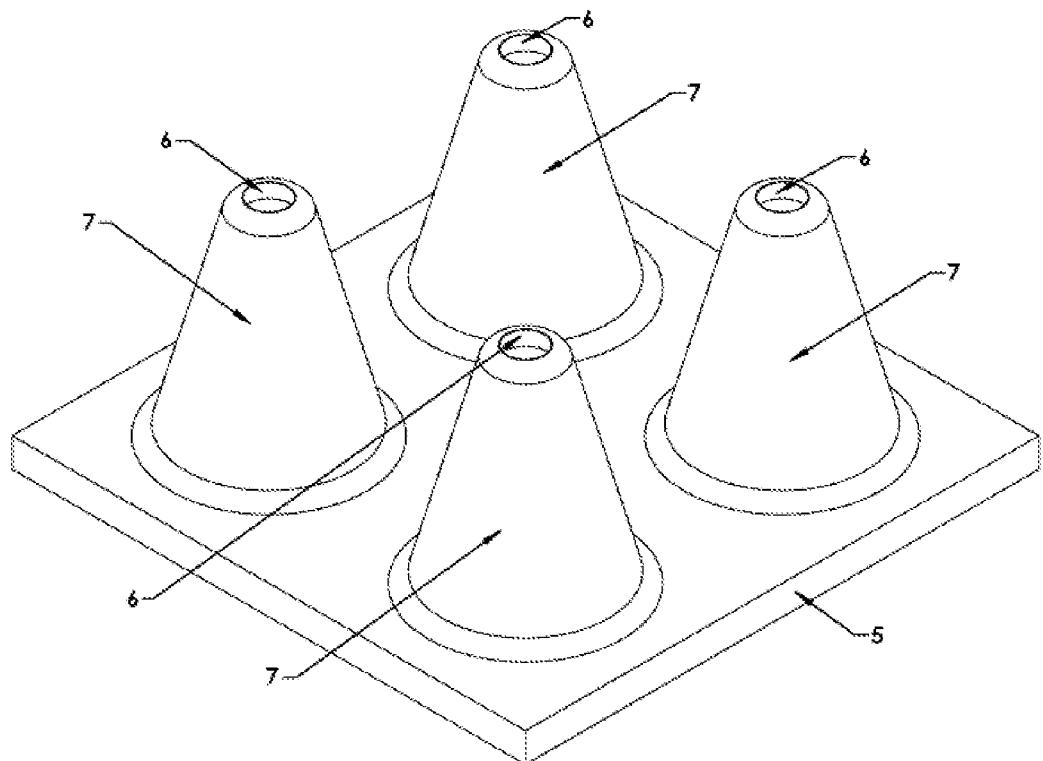


FIG. 21A

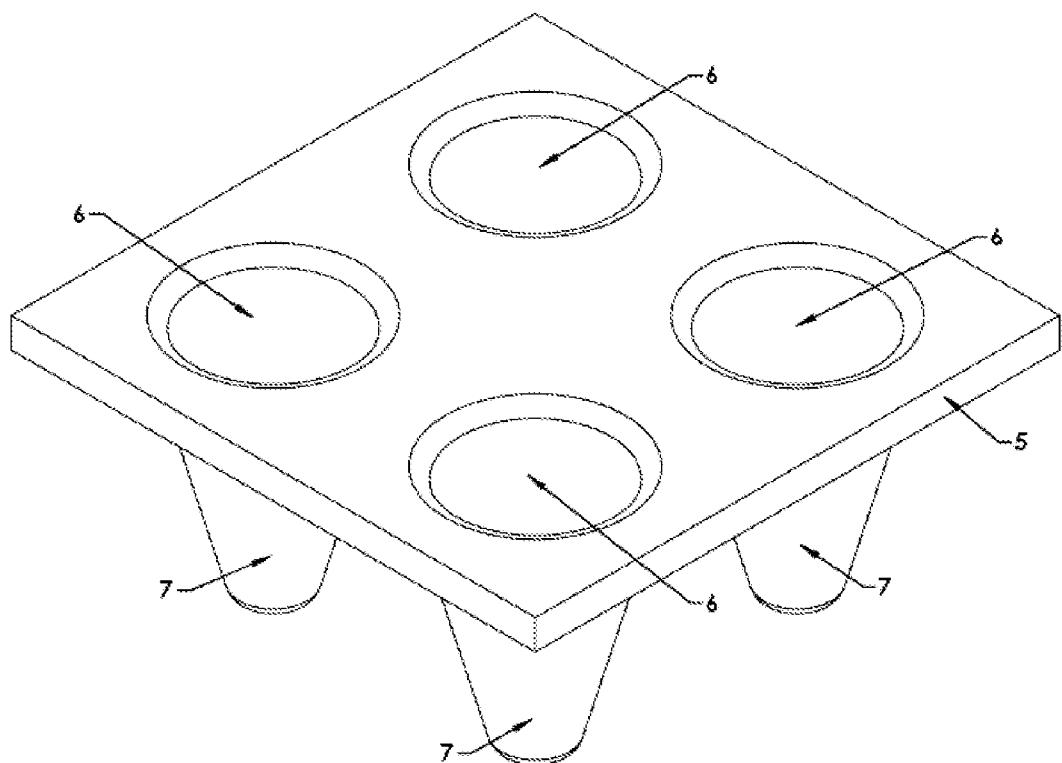


FIG. 21B

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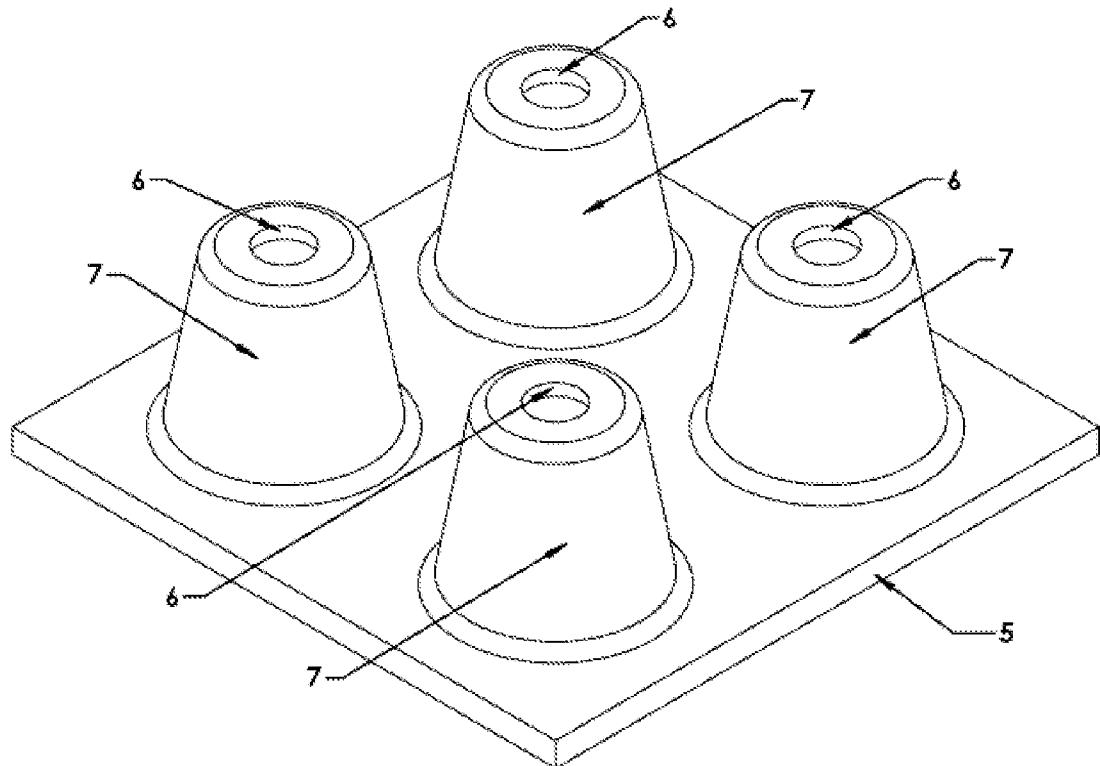


FIG. 22A

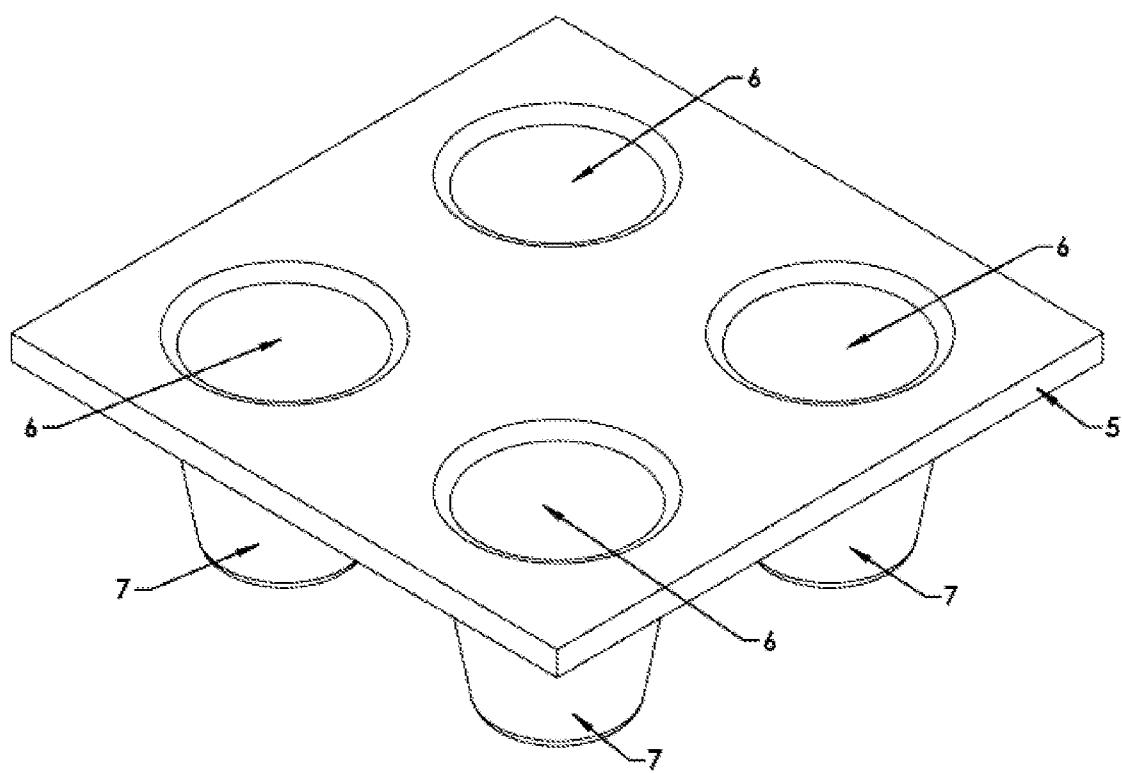


FIG. 22B

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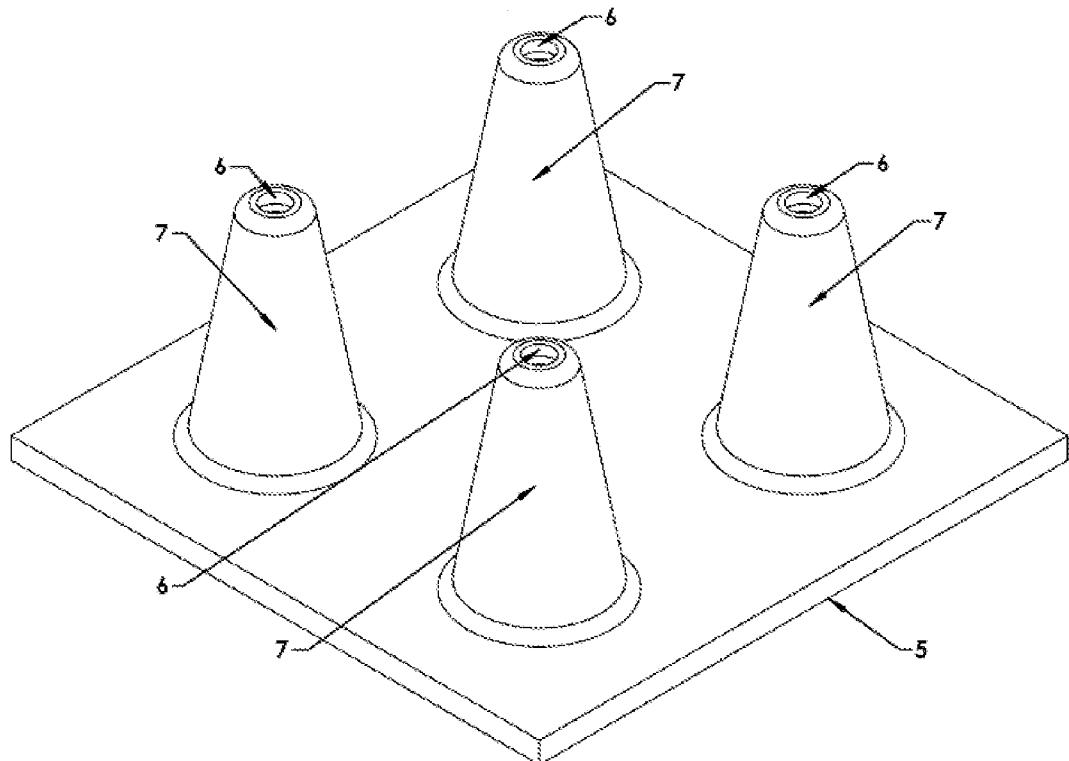


FIG. 23A

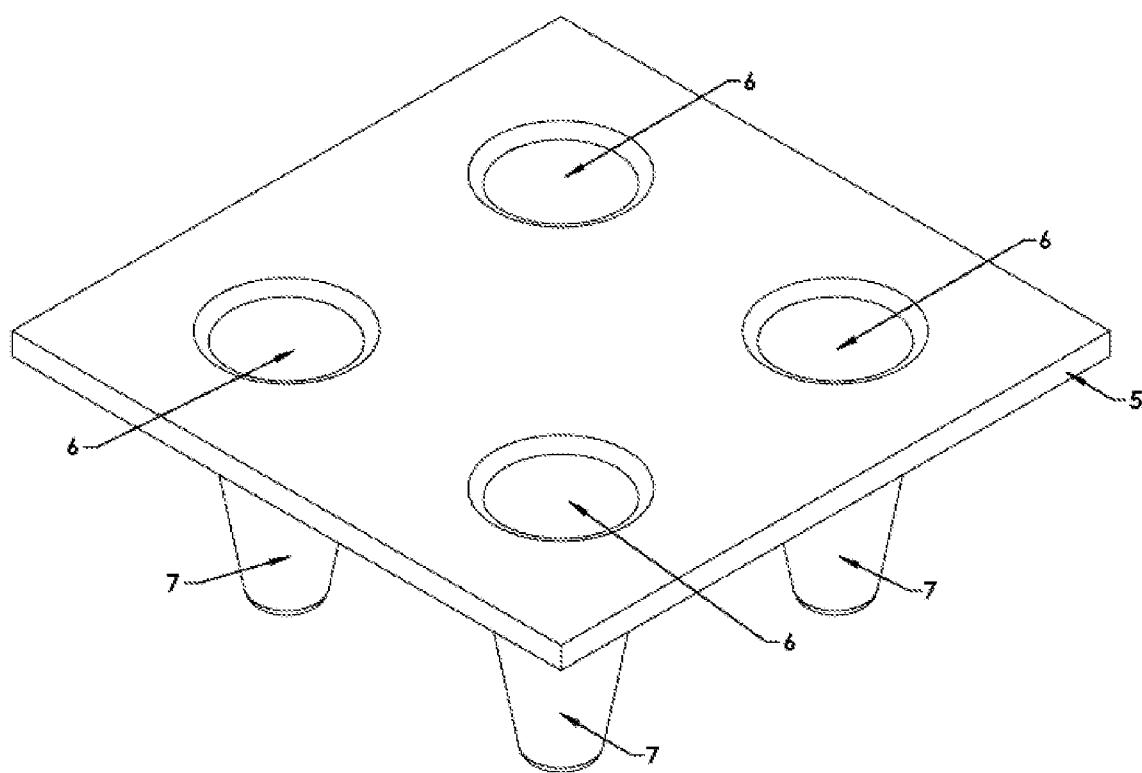


FIG. 23B

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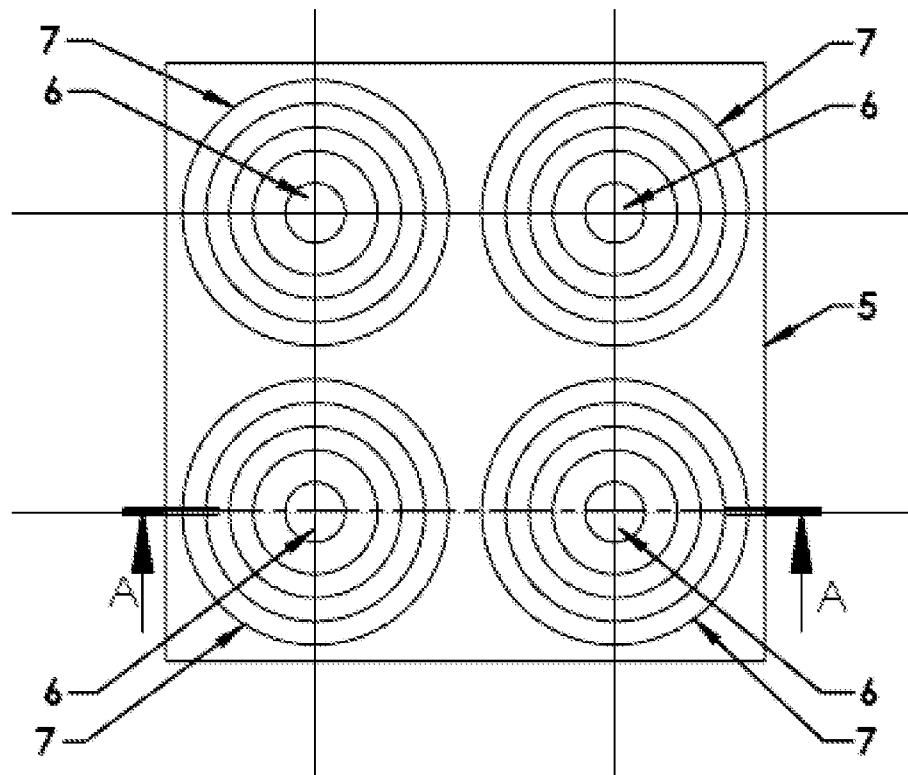
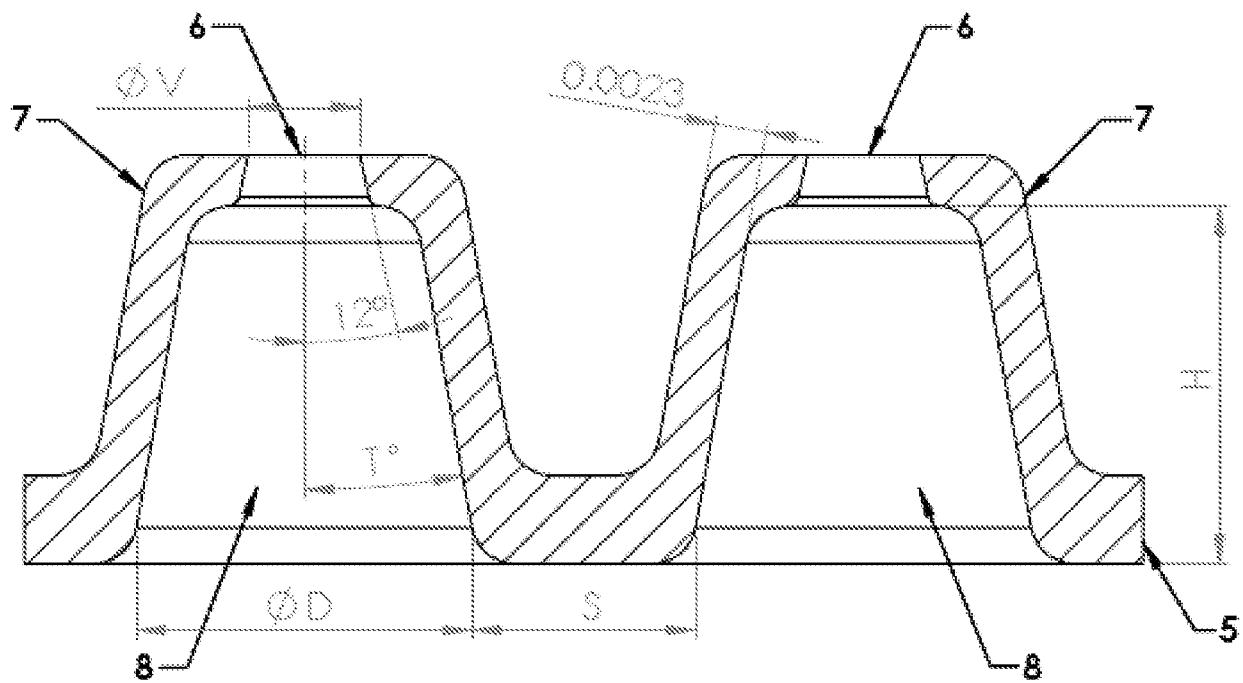


FIG. 24A



SECTION A-A; SCALE 100 : 1

FIG. 24B

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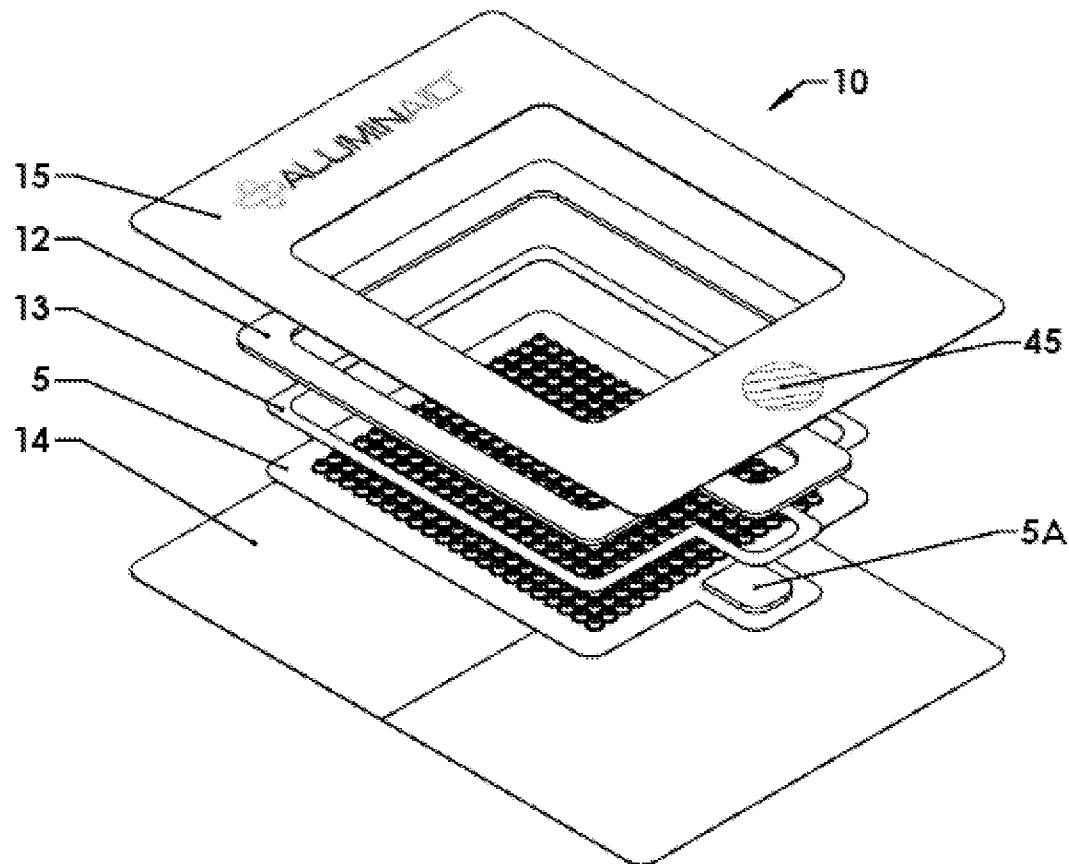


FIG. 25

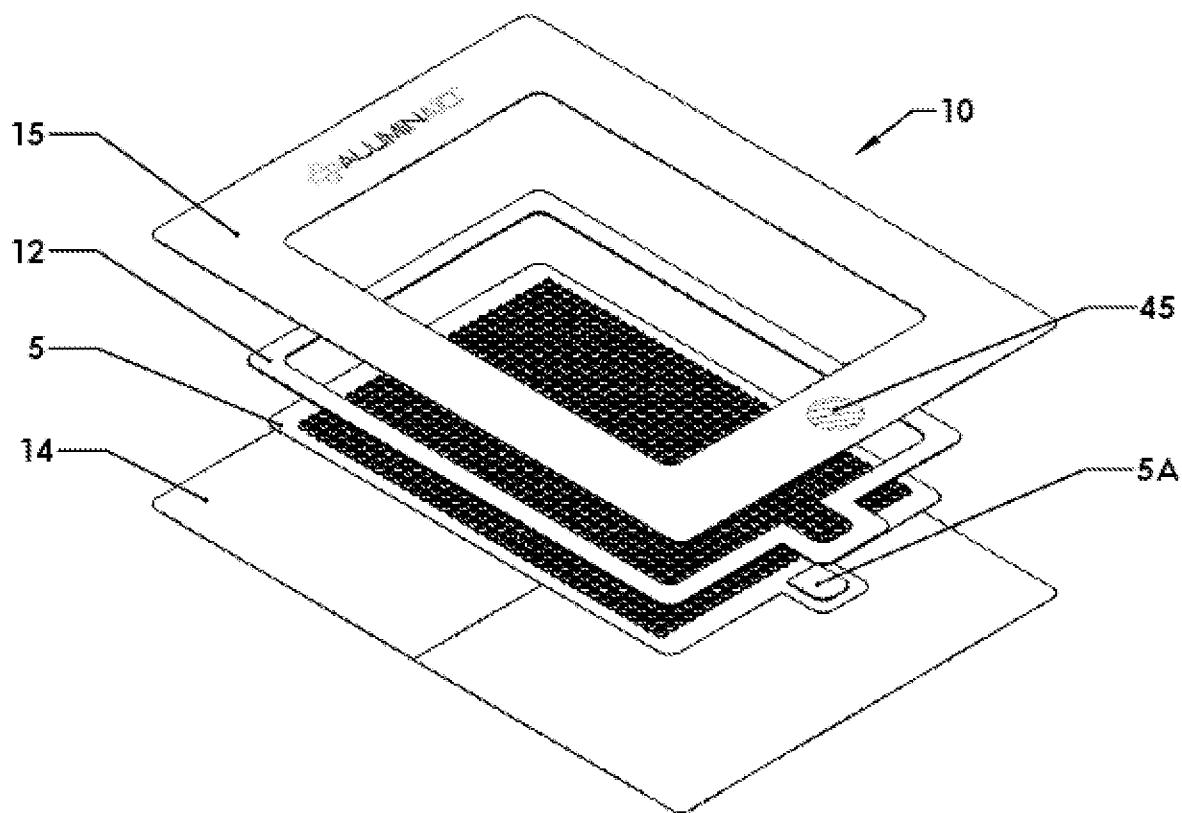


FIG. 26

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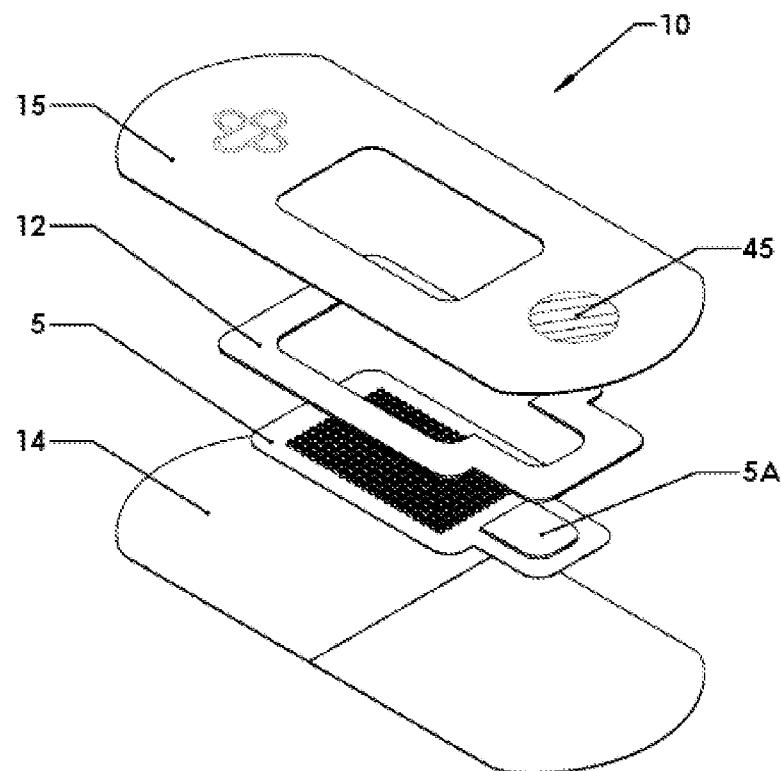


FIG. 27

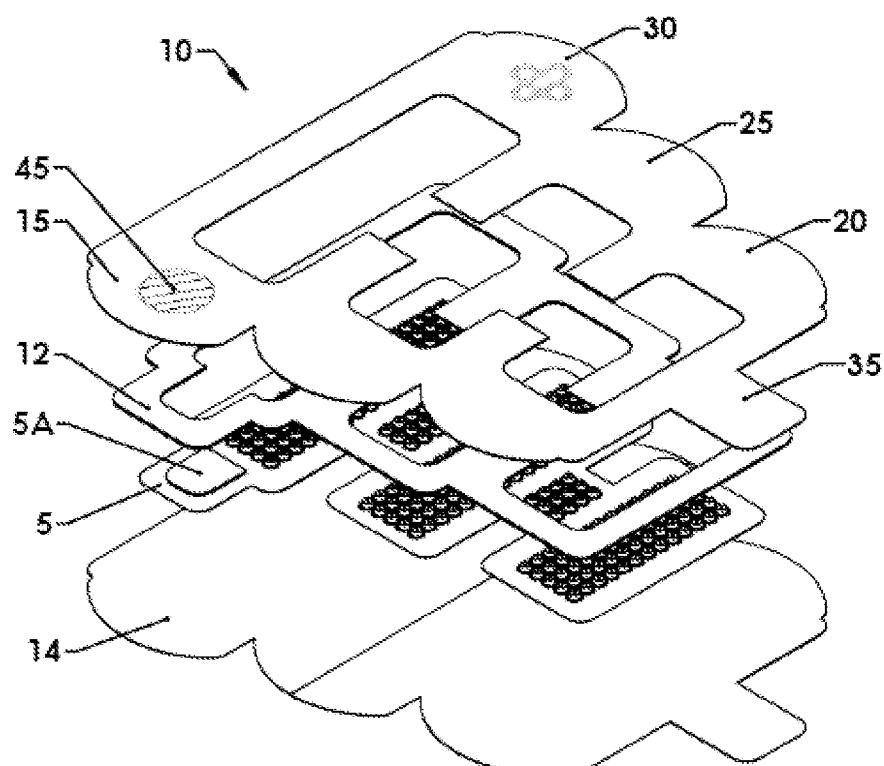


FIG. 28

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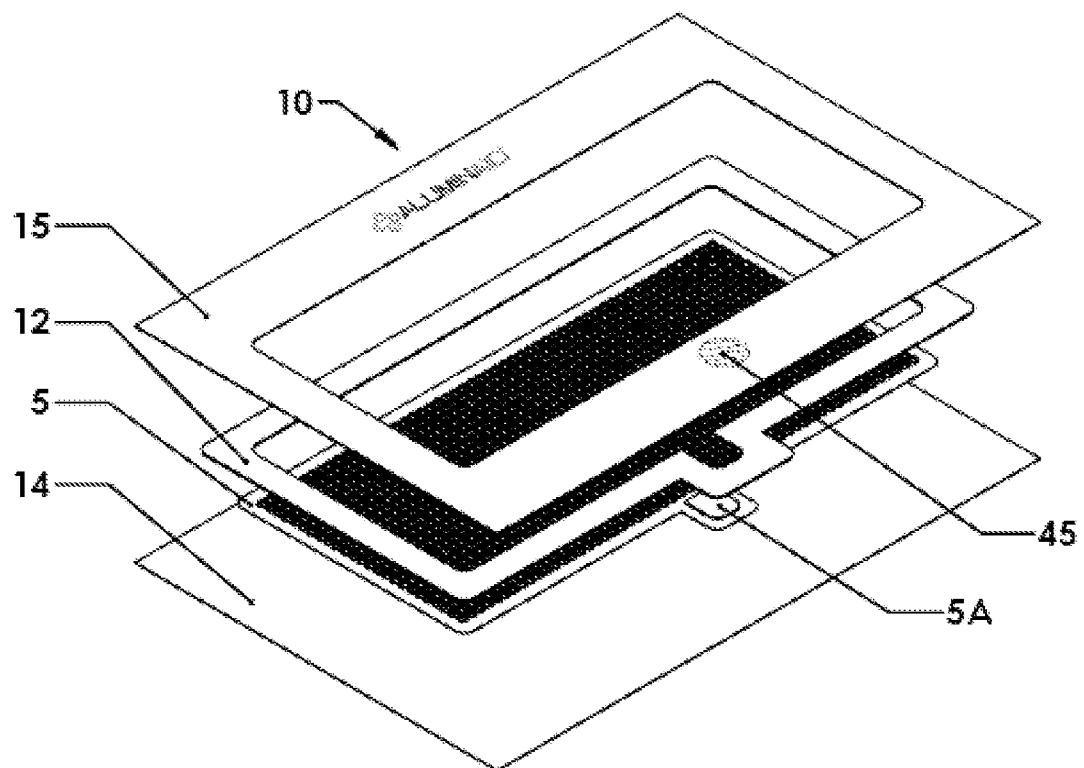


FIG. 29

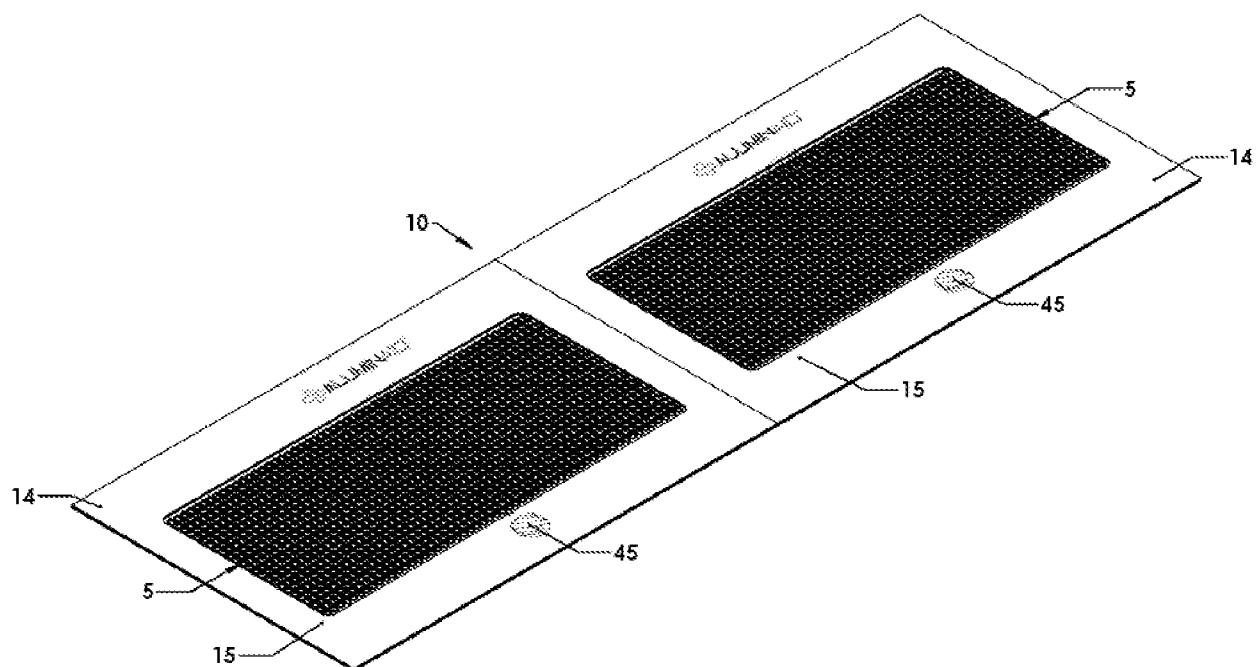


FIG. 30

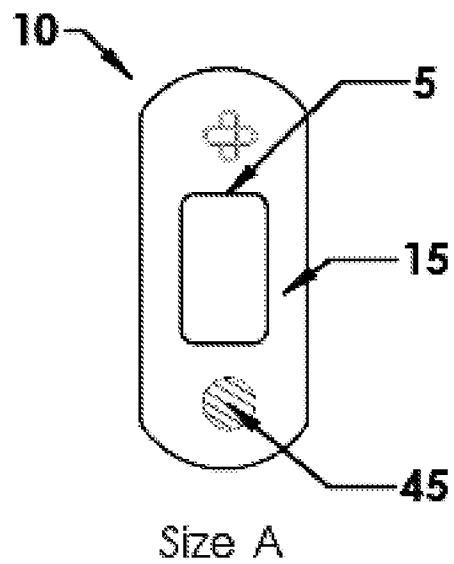


FIG. 31A

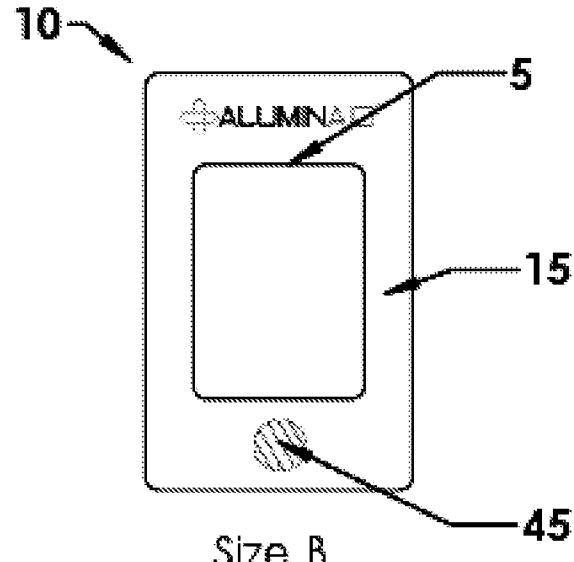


FIG. 31B

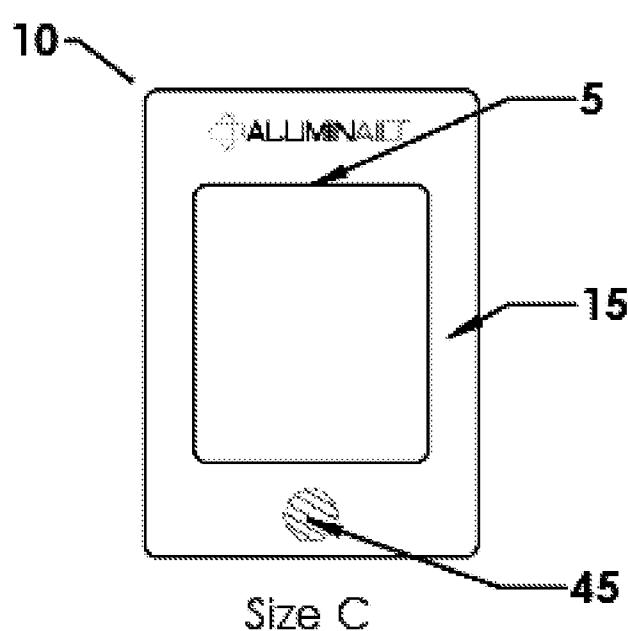


FIG. 31C

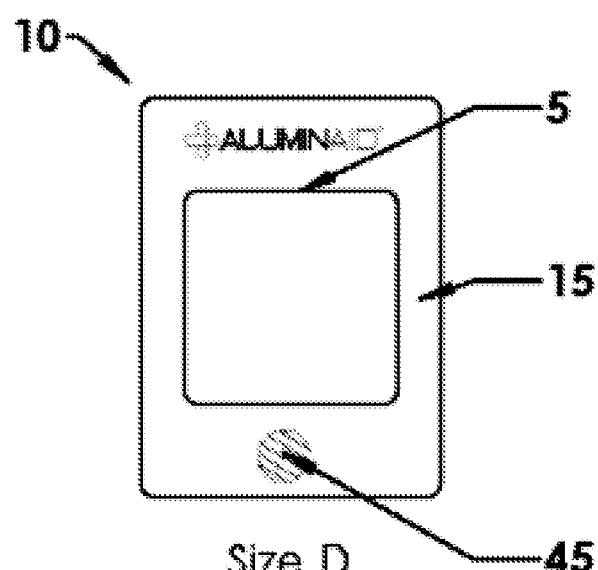


FIG. 31D

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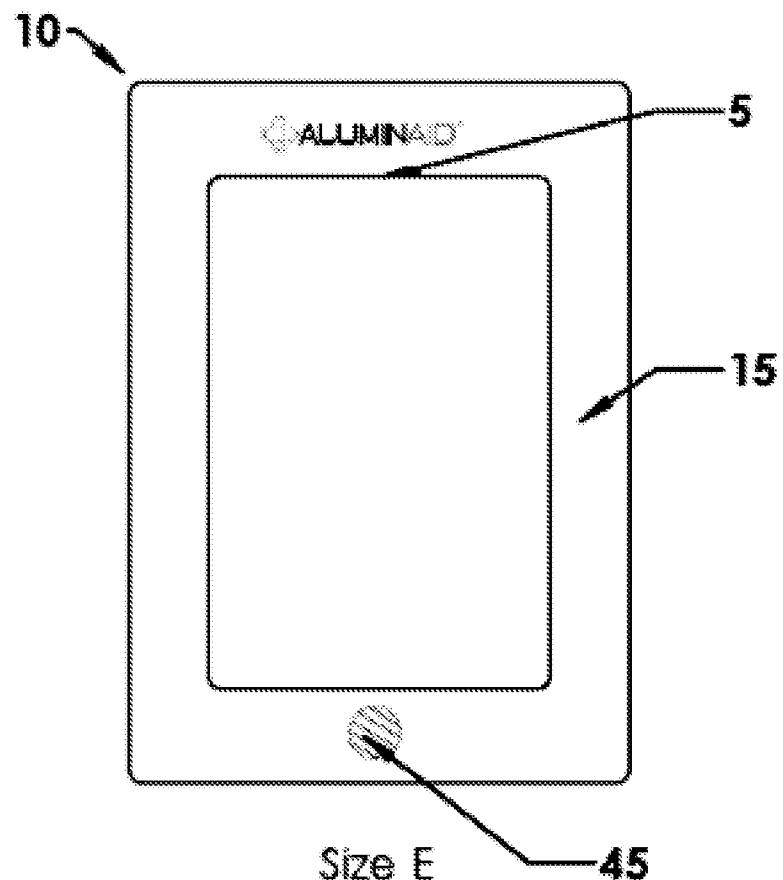


FIG. 31E

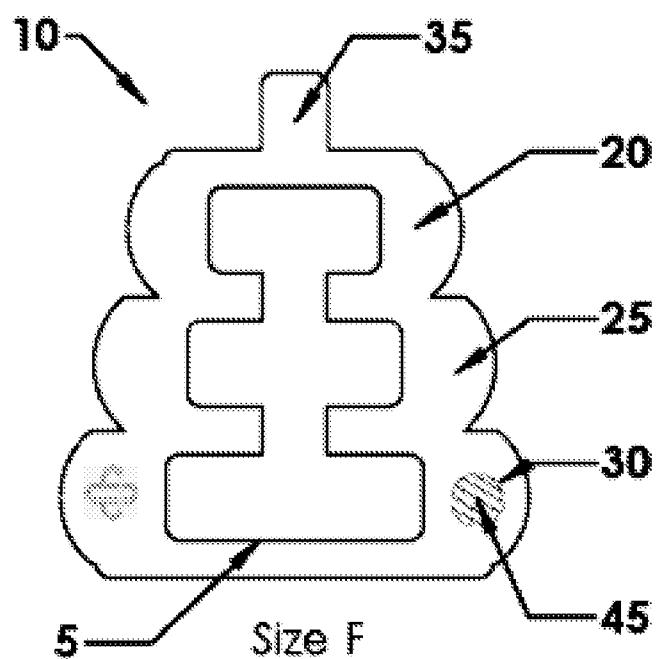


FIG. 31F

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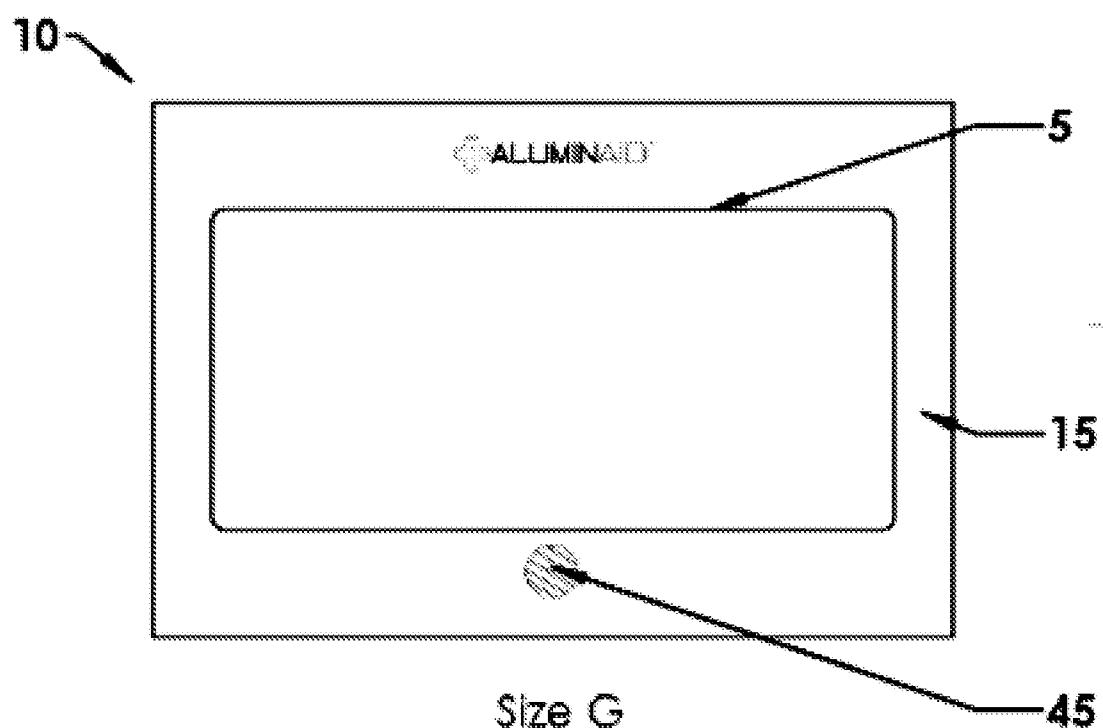


FIG. 31G

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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



(10) International Publication Number

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(43) International Publication Date
7 February 2013 (07.02.2013)

WIPO | PCT

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61L 15/18 (2006.01) A61K 9/70 (2006.01)
A61F 13/02 (2006.01)

(72) Inventors; and
(71) Applicants : **FREEER, Carl** [SE/US]; Box 4489, Aspen, Colorado 81612 (US). **FREEER, Ericka** [US/US]; Box 4489, Aspen, Colorado 81612 (US). **WYLES, Terrence** [US/US]; 2404 S. Oakland Cir., Aurora, Colorado 80014 (US).

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2012/046310

(74) Agent: **WYLES, Terrence, M.**; c/o Aluminaid, Inc., 7301 Medical Center Drive, Suite 205, West Hills, CA 91307 (US).

(22) International Filing Date:
11 July 2012 (11.07.2012)

(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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, 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.

(25) Filing Language:
English

(26) Publication Language:
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(30) Priority Data:
61/513,366 29 July 2011 (29.07.2011) US
PCT/US2011/067256
23 December 2011 (23.12.2011) US
61/670,090 10 July 2012 (10.07.2012) US

(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, 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,

(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:
US PCT/US11/67256 (CIP)
Filed on 23 December 2011 (23.12.2011)

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ALUMINAID INTERNATIONAL, AG** [CH/CH]; c/o lic. Iur. josef Schaller, Chr.-Schnyder-Strasse 1c, CH-6210 Sursee (CH).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: THERMALLY-CONDUCTIVE, METAL-BASED BANDAGES TO AID IN MEDICAL HEALING AND METHODS OF USE

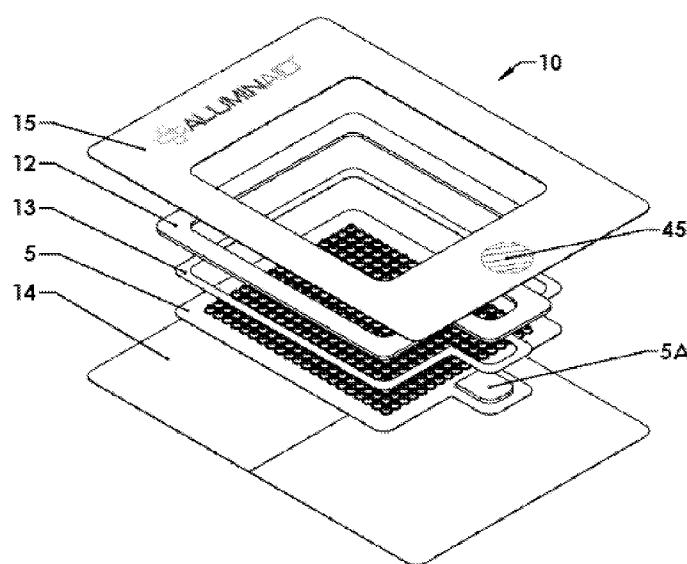


FIG. 25

(57) Abstract: The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical bandages that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of various types of tissue burns, whether be burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Such products can include a plurality of specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of thermally conductive metal (often aluminum) at the base of a substrate adapted to be in direct contact with a burn wound, while manufacturing the top side of the aluminum substrate to have a heat-dissipation-enhancing topography to help cool burns faster by enhancing thermal-convection properties. The bandage can also feature a thermochromic indicator for users to realize the thermal-cooling status of a burn to which a bandage has been applied.



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, 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))*
- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

28 March 2013

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2012/046310

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

A61L 15/18(2006.01)i, A61F 13/02(2006.01)i, A61K 9/70(2006.01)i

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)

A61L 15/18; A61B 5/01; A61F 13/02; A61F 13/00; A41D 13/06; A41D 27/12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Korean utility models and applications for utility models
Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: bandage, burn, wound, layer, thin, thermally, conductive, metal, profile, flat, topography, aluminum

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6164279 A (TWEEDLE, J. A.) 26 December 2000 See abstract; Figures 1-7; claims 1,4.	1-58
A	US 2008-0064997 A1 (FLICK, B. A.) 13 March 2008 See abstract; paragraphs [0064],[0107]; figure 1; claims 1, 33.	1-58
A	US 6623835 B2 (CHANG, J. S.) 23 September 2003 See abstract; column 2, lines 9-41; figures 7,9; claims 1-3.	1-58
A	US 2009-0204100 A1 (VAN PIETERSON, L. et al.) 13 August 2009 See abstract; figures 1-4; claims 1,2,4.	1-58
A	KR 20-0394032 Y1 (SILVER NANO TECHNOLOGY CO.) 07 September 2005 See abstract; figures 1,2; claim 1.	1-58

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 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 25 JANUARY 2013 (25.01.2013)	Date of mailing of the international search report 28 JANUARY 2013 (28.01.2013)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR Korean Intellectual Property Office 189 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon Metropolitan City, 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Authorized officer JEONG, JAE CHEOL Telephone No. 82-42-481-3479



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2012/046310**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 59-100
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 59-100 pertain to methods for treatment of the human body by therapy, and thus relate to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under Article 17(2)(a)(i) of PCT and Rule 39.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT, to search.
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2012/046310

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6164279 A	26.12.2000	US 5944017 A US 6164279 A	31.08.1999 26.12.2000
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US 2009-0204100 A1	13.08.2009	CN 101466300 A EP 2032018 A1 JP 2009-539536 A WO 2007-144795 A1	24.06.2009 11.03.2009 19.11.2009 21.12.2007

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2012/046310

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
KR 20-0394032 Y1	07.09.2005	None	

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CORRECTED VERSION

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International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
7 February 2013 (07.02.2013)

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A61F 13/02 (2006.01)

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ALUMINAID INTERNATIONAL, AG [CH/CH]; c/o lic. Iur. josef Schaller, Chr.-Schnyder-Strasse 1c, CH-6210 Sursee (CH).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2012/046310

(72) Inventors; and

(22) International Filing Date:

11 July 2012 (11.07.2012)

(71) Applicants : FREER, Carl [SE/US]; Box 4489, Aspen, Colorado 81612 (US). FREER, Ericka [US/US]; Box 4489, Aspen, Colorado 81612 (US). WYLES, Terrence [US/US]; 2404 S. Oakland Cir., Aurora, Colorado 80014 (US).

(25) Filing Language:

English

(74) Agent: CARNEL, Lana, H.; Loeb & Loeb LLP, 321 North Clark Street, Suite 2300, Chicago, IL 60654 (US).

(26) Publication Language:

English

(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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, 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.

(30) Priority Data:

61/513,366 29 July 2011 (29.07.2011)

US

PCT/US2011/067256

23 December 2011 (23.12.2011)

US

61/670,090 10 July 2012 (10.07.2012)

US

(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:

US PCT/US11/67256 (CIP)

Filed on

23 December 2011 (23.12.2011)

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: THERMALLY-CONDUCTIVE, METAL-BASED BANDAGES TO AID IN MEDICAL HEALING AND METHODS OF USE

(57) Abstract: The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical bandages that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of various types of tissue burns, whether be burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Such products can include a plurality of specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of thermally conductive metal (often aluminum) at the base of a substrate adapted to be in direct contact with a burn wound, while manufacturing the top side of the aluminum substrate to have a heat-dissipation-enhancing topography to help cool burns faster by enhancing thermal-convection properties. The bandage can also feature a thermochromic indicator for users to realize the thermal-cooling status of a burn to which a bandage has been applied.

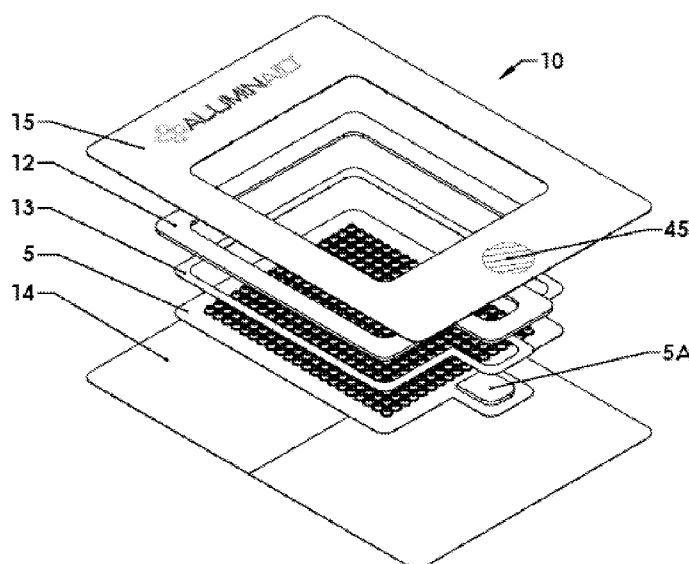


FIG. 25



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**THERMALLY CONDUCTIVE, METAL-BASED BANDAGES
TO AID IN MEDICAL HEALING
AND METHODS OF USE**

5

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present patent application is a Continuation-In-Part of, and claims the benefit of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Application No. PCT/US2011/67256, filed on December 23, 2011, for “Aluminum-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”.

10 The present patent application also claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 61/513,366, filed on July 29, 2011, for “Aluminum-Infused Compositions and Devices to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”.

15 The present patent application also claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 61/670,090, filed on July 10, 2012, for “Thermally Conductive, Metal-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”.

20 In addition, the present patent application hereby incorporates by reference PCT Application No. PCT/US2011/67256, U.S. Patent Application No. 61/513,366, and U.S. Patent Application No. 61/670,090, each in their entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

25 Burn injuries are caused by fire, chemicals, electricity, and friction and can vary in severity. First degree burns are the least severe, causing redness, and healing relatively quickly. On the other end of the spectrum, fourth degree burns are the most severe, burning down to the level of the muscle and bone. Second and third degree burns fall between these extremes.

30 Medical professionals often try to strike a balance when deciding how to treat burns. On one hand, if a burn is superficial and relatively dry, then many feel that the wound should be kept moist with water or some sort of ointment or cream. For example, Dr Xu of China National has developed an “alternative” technique called Moist Exposed Burn Therapy, which, unlike the conventional way to heal a burn victim by keeping the burn wound dry, Professor Xu keeps the patient’s burn wound moist. Dr. Xu’s treatment regimen requires very little administration of antibiotics and disinfectants to the burn wound. Instead, Dr. Xu uses natural herbs to aid burn- wound healing, wherein natural-plant extracts at the base of a beeswax is the main ingredient used. However, a problem with applying many ointments

and/or creams is that such applications often do not help draw heat away from a wound. On the other hand, if a burn is more serious, such as a second-degree burn that is oozing fluid, then there is an enhanced fear of infection. In such cases, some medical professionals feel that such wounds should be kept relatively dry, while still others may advocate for the 5 application of various ointment dressings with antibiotic properties to fight infection. Hence, it would be desirable to come up with a treatment strategy that is able to provide the best of all worlds.

On August 30, 1948, *Time Magazine* reported that steam from an exploding locomotive had scalded Fireman Frank Mihlan of the Erie Railroad. When Mihlan was 10 carried into Cleveland's Charity Hospital on July 15, 1948, 70% of his body was burned, and doctors thought that Mihlan had little chance of survival. However, attending surgeons decided to try wrapping the Mihlan's burns in thin strips of aluminum foil, a technique developed by Toronto's Dr. Alfred W. Farmer. It was the first time that aluminum foil for burns had been used in the U.S.; the first time it had ever been used for burns of the whole 15 body. Relief from pain was "miraculous", and within 20 minutes of application, Mihlan was resting comfortably. As an added precaution, Mihlan was given intravenous fluids and penicillin. The aluminum foil, which looked like the inside wrapping of a cigarette package, apparently acted as a seal for the body fluids that seep from burned surfaces. It also apparently helped kill bacteria, speeding the healing process. Twelve days after being 20 bandaged in the aluminum foil wrappings, Mihlan was out of bed. Eventually, Mihlan left the hospital unscarred, albeit temporarily reddened.

Further, a 2004 *American Journal* article reported:

25 Aluminum foil as a dry sterile initial covering for thermal burns under occlusive pressure dressings has been presented as a method of diminishing the maceration of a burn surface. The method appeared to influence favorably the local result by elimination of the use of ointments and by facilitating the dispersion of exudate to the periphery of the burn. No evidence of toxicity as a result of the treatment was found. The systemic reaction was, if anything, less obvious.

30 Despite the above-mentioned anecdotal report and the reported research, public data is not readily accessible in relation to the practicable applications of using aluminum foil as a healing agent. In addition, to date, there appears to be no commercially designed aluminum-derived medical products for general-purpose sale other than large blankets usually reserved for Emergency-Services organizations.

35 One existing known use for aluminum-derived products is in the employment of the

astringent aluminum-based compound, aluminum chloride, which has been used in various concentrations in the art to apply to deodorant pads in order to cause constriction of sweat pores. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,403,588 to Santa Ana is directed to a disposable body deodorant pad and deodorant preparation therefor. The Santa Ana Patent basically dissolves 5 3 to 4 grams of aluminum chloride into about 130 cc of an acetone-isopropyl alcohol solution to achieve an effective constriction of the user's sweat pores. Despite this known use, there are no aluminum-based compositions of matter available on the market for acting as a styptic or otherwise sealing a wound.

Ostensibly, there simply is no specific product range available to the general public 10 that employs both the natural and by-product medical advantages of aluminum. For example, there are no bandages on the market that are comprised of extremely thin aluminum layers or strips, and nor are there therapeutic creams, ointments, or other medicinal compositions that are infused with molecular compositions that substantially include aluminum.

It would be advantageous to develop a set of aluminum-infused healing/therapeutic 15 products (e.g., specialized bandages, burn creams, etc.) that are easy for a consumer to safely use.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical products that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of tissue burns, whether be 20 burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Such products can include a plurality of specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of a thermally conductive metal with enhanced material and surface features to ensure flexibility and effective heat-transfer characteristics to cool a burn wound. One key embodiment employing an enhanced heat-dissipation capability features a this aluminum substrate, with one side 25 adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, while the other side of the aluminum substrate exposes to the air a topography that resembles a microscopic field of cones, hollowed and also providing aeration to the wound. The hollowed cone structures provide a greatly increased exposed surface area of the aluminum substrate to encourage efficient thermal convection processes, while still allowing the bandage to flex in any needed 30 direction. Besides exhibiting multiple properties that are beneficial to healing certain types of tissue wounds, as discussed *infra*, aluminum is non-toxic, easy to sterilize, relatively inexpensive and easy to fabricate with, and abundantly mined worldwide.

Hereinafter, the overall class of products described in this patent application is referred to as “Aluminaid™” or “Aluminaids™”. These aluminum-derived products are specifically designed to alleviate the discomfort and pain caused by thermal burns. Additionally, Aluminaids™, through a combination of natural composition and the prevailing production processes, inherit the potential to minimize scarring, inhibit infection, prevent maceration, and reduce the necessity for later skin grafting.

The inventive principles and disclosures provided in this patent application can be applied to any thermally conductive metal-based substrate, and as such are contemplated as being included within the scope of this patent application, including the appended claims.

10 The forgoing **Brief Summary** is provided as a convenient overview of a few key (but not all) embodiments; however, it is not intended to limit the scope of the disclosures contained within this patent application, including the appended claims and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 This patent application is a Continuation-In-Part of, and incorporates by reference, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Application No. PCT/US2011/67256, filed on December 23, 2011, for “Aluminum-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods of Use”. However, for convenience and clarity for the reader, original **Figures 1A-19** from PCT Application No. PCT/US2011/67256 are repeated in the present patent application.

20 However, **Figures 20A-31G**, which depict some additional and/or refined embodiments, have been added to the disclosure. Brief descriptions for all of the figures are as follows:

Figure 1A depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions.

25 **Figure 1B** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user’s tissue.

Figure 2A depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions.

Figure 2B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular

general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue.

5 **Figure 3A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions.

Figure 3B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue.

10 **Figure 4A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions.

15 **Figure 4B** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue.

20 **Figure 5A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (finger-form-factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab **35** adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections **20, 25, 30** for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

25 **Figure 5B** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow finger-form-factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab **35** adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections **20, 25, 30** for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

30 **Figure 6A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (finger-form-factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab **35** adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections **20, 25, 30** for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

Figure 6B depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow finger-form-

factor), showing the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate, which is intended to make contact with a user's tissue. This form factor includes an end adhesive tab 35 adapted to engage the end of a finger, and three incrementally sized sections 20, 25, 30 for engaging an associated region of a finger the bandage is applied to.

5 **Figure 7** depicts one embodiment of a roll of Aluminaid™ bandage material, wherein the majority of the surface area is dedicated to an aluminum substrate with a smooth side (the side to be applied to tissue) and with a side having a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions or ridges. In some embodiments, the top and bottom edges of the roll include a line of polymer material with an adhesive to facilitate attachment to a part of a user body. In
10 other variations, these polymer-adhesive strips are not included and the dispensed amount of bandage roll is secured to a user's body with strips of medical tape and/or gauze.

15 **Figure 8** depicts one embodiment of a side view of an Aluminaid™ bandage, showing the relationship between the aluminum substrate and the surrounding second layer/adhesive.

20 **Figure 9A** depicts one embodiment of a possible topography for the air-exposed side of an Aluminaid™ bandage's aluminum substrate, featuring in this case, as an example, a plurality of rows of cone-shaped or mound-shaped protrusions, every other row staggered relative to its neighbor rows to maximize the outer surface area available to facilitate heat transfer away from a user's body/wound. In this particular example, each protrusion is shown separated by a distance along the aluminum substrate from each other, and that distance can be varied between embodiments, and can even be a zero distance in some variations).

25 **Figure 9B** depicts one embodiment of a possible topography for the air-exposed side of an Aluminaid™ bandage's aluminum substrate, featuring in this case, as an example, a plurality of rows of pyramid-shaped protrusions to maximize the outer surface area available to facilitate heat transfer away from a user's body/wound. In this particular example, each protrusion is shown immediately adjacent to each other; however, in other embodiments, the protrusions can be separated by a distance along the aluminum substrate.

30 **Figures 10A-10N** each depicts one embodiment of a possible heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, including various exemplary embodiments of pyramid-type protrusions, cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and protrusions hollows manufactured in the top-center that can extend down the length of the raised protrusion and even all the way through the aluminum substrate of an Aluminaid™ bandage.

Figure 11A depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), wherein the external surface topography of the aluminum substrate (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a plurality of ridges in order to increase heat dissipation.

5 **Figure 11B** depicts one embodiment of a magnified section of the aluminum substrate of the embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage depicted in **Figure 11A**.

10 **Figure 12A** depicts one embodiment of a partial-side view of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), wherein the outer surface area of the aluminum substrate (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a plurality of surface protrusions; e.g., ridges, cones, or pyramids; in order to increase heat dissipation.

15 **Figure 12B** depicts one embodiment of a close-up, partial side view of an Aluminaid™ bandage depicted in **Figure 12A**, wherein the outer surface area of the aluminum substrate (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a plurality of surface protrusions; e.g., ridges, cones, or pyramids; in order to increase heat dissipation, and wherein some candidate dimensions are introduced. It should be noted that the dimensions provided are exemplary only and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure.

20 **Figure 13A** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), and also includes thermochromic visual indicators, which display themselves when the aluminum substrate to which they are coupled experiences certain temperatures.

Figure 13B depicts one embodiment of a cutaway-view of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), which also shows the relationship between the thermochromic visual indicator(s) and the aluminum substrate.

25 **Figure 14** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), and also includes a thermochromic visual indicator, suspended above the aluminum substrate via a "bridge" comprised of aluminum strips, which indicates when the aluminum substrate experiences certain predetermined temperatures.

30 **Figure 15** depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (general form factor), and also includes a thermochromic visual indicator, wherein thermochromic compound is disposed on the tops of a subset of the aluminum substrate protrusions, the subset of thermochromic coated protrusions indicating when the aluminum substrate experiences

certain predetermined temperatures.

Figure 16 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

Figure 17 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (large-rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

Figure 18 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

Figure 19 depicts one embodiment of an Aluminaid™ bandage (narrow, substantially rectangular general form factor), showing the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing pyramid-like protrusions, a thermochromic visual indicator in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate, and a plurality of rows of manufactured aeration holes to supplement the randomly occurring pinholes that are part of the normal

aluminum-rolling process due to impurities. Though this particular embodiment shows only rows of aeration holes, in other variations, columns of aeration holes can be present on the aluminum substrate as well. The size and population densities of the aeration holes can be varied with particular applications.

5 **Figure 20A** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

10 **Figure 20B** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

15 **Figure 21A** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

20 **Figure 21B** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

25 **Figure 22A** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

30 **Figure 22B** depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

Figure 23A depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive,

metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion.

Figure 23B depicts one embodiment of a small portion of a thermally conductive,

5 metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the bottom-side topography that features a substantially smooth aluminum substrate interspersed with holes that extend into and through their respective heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions. This bottom surface is adapted to make contact with a user's tissue.

Figures 24A and 24B depict one embodiment of a top and side-cutaway view,

10 respectively, of a small portion of a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate that can be used in Aluminaid™ bandage, showing a variation of the top-side topography that features a field of heat-dissipation-enhancing cone-like protrusions with holes disposed at the top of each protrusion. In this embodiment, it can be seen that the holes in the heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are narrower at the top of each respective protrusion, while widening 15 as the bottom surface of the substrate is reached. The holes extend completely through the substrate, which helps aerate wounds as well as increase the amount of exposed surface area available to enhance thermal-convection processes.

Figure 25 depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an

15 Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a transfer adhesive layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable 20 backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready for application to a wound.

Figure 26 depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an

25 Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for 30 protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready for application to a wound.

Figure 27 depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an

Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a 30 thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready for application to a wound.

5 **Figure 28** depicts one embodiment of an exploded view of a finger-form-factor Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready

10 for application to a wound.

10 **Figure 29** depicts one form factor of one embodiment of an exploded view of an Aluminaid™ bandage, including an outer polymeric layer, an intermediate absorbent layer, a thermally conductive, metal-based substrate layer, and a removable backing layer for protecting the adhesive material disposed about the outer perimeter of the bandage until ready

15 for application to a wound.

15 **Figure 30** depicts one embodiment of a portion of a continuous strip of multiple copies of the Aluminaid™ bandage embodiment depicted in **Figure 29**, coupled together, whereby users can tear-off the length of bandage required and wrap the user-sized bandage strip around/over the wound area.

20 **Figures 31A-31G** depict various embodiments of the top-view of different Aluminaid™ bandage sizes and shapes. However, no attempt is made to depict any aluminum-substrate topography details in these figures.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

I. Introduction

20 The inventive disclosure contained herein is generally directed to a class of medical products that in many embodiments are effective in the treatment of tissue burns, whether be burns due to thermal burns, sun exposure, or rashes. Included in such products are various specialized bandages and wraps that incorporate an extremely thin layer of thermally conductive metal with uniquely enhanced material and surface features to ensure flexibility

25 and effective heat-transfer characteristics to cool a burn wound.

Aluminum is generally favored as the basis of the bandages because besides exhibiting multiple properties that are beneficial to healing certain types of tissue wounds, as discussed *infra*, aluminum is non-toxic, easy to sterilize, relatively inexpensive and easy to fabricate with, and abundantly mined worldwide. Hereinafter, the overall class of products

30 described in this patent application is referred to as “Aluminaid™“ or “Aluminaids™“.

II. Terminology

The terms and phrases as indicated in quotes (" ") in this section are intended to have the meaning ascribed to them in this Terminology section applied to them throughout this patent application, unless clearly indicated otherwise in context. Further, as applicable, the 5 stated definitions are to apply, regardless of the word or phrase's case, to the singular and plural variations of the defined word or phrase.

The term "or", as used in this patent application, is not meant to be exclusive; rather, the term is inclusive, meaning "either or both".

References in this patent application to "one embodiment", "an embodiment", "a 10 preferred embodiment", "an alternative embodiment", "a variation", "one variation", and similar phrases mean that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least an embodiment of the invention. The appearances of the phrase "in one embodiment" and/or "in one variation" in various places in this patent application are not necessarily all meant to refer to the same embodiment.

15 The term "couple" or "coupled", as used in this specification and the appended claims, refers to either an indirect or a direct connection between the identified elements, components, or objects. Often, the manner of the coupling will be related specifically to the manner in which the two coupled elements interact.

20 The terms "removable", "removably coupled", "readily removable", "readily detachable", "detachably coupled", and similar terms, as used in this patent application specification (including the claims and drawings), refer to structures that can be uncoupled from an adjoining structure with relative ease (i.e., non-destructively, and without a complicated or time-consuming process) and that can also be readily reattached or coupled to the previously adjoining structure.

25 The term "bonded", "bonding", and similar terms, as used in this patent application specification (including the claims and drawings), refer to any means that is used to fixedly couple two or more structures together, such as the layers in the construction of some embodiments of Aluminaid™ bandages. Examples of bonding include the use of adhesives between surfaces, ultrasonic welding, thermoplastic welding, etc.

30 Directional and/or relational terms such as, but not limited to, left, right, nadir, apex, top, bottom, vertical, horizontal, back, front, and lateral are relative to each other, are dependent on the specific orientation of an applicable element or article, are used accordingly

to aid in the description of the various embodiments in this specification and the appended claims, and are not necessarily intended to be construed as limiting.

As applicable, the terms “about” or “generally”, as used herein in the specification and appended claims, and unless otherwise indicated, means a margin of +/- 20%. Also, as applicable, the term “substantially” as used herein in the specification and appended claims, unless otherwise indicated, means a margin of +/- 10%. It is to be appreciated that not all uses of the above terms are quantifiable such that the referenced ranges can be applied.

The term “aluminum”, “aluminum compound”, aluminum alloy”, and similar terms, as used in this patent application (including the drawings and claims), refer to any material is substantially comprised of the element Aluminum (Period Element Symbol “Al”, atomic number 13). Generally, any machined or otherwise processed aluminum composition or structure (e.g., very thin aluminum sheets or strips) that can be effectively incorporated into a medicinal ointment or cream, or into sheeting to make special bandages, is included in this definition. Examples of aluminum-based molecular compounds that can be used with the teachings of this disclosure include aluminum oxides (e.g. Al_2O_3), aluminum sulfates (e.g., $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{18}$), aluminum chlorides (e.g., AlCl_3), aluminum salts (e.g., aluminum diacetate ($\text{HOAl}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2)_2$)), etc. Many such compounds can be used by the teachings of this disclosure to enhance the effectiveness of aluminum-based or aluminum-infused medical and first-aid products. For example, aluminum diacetate can enhance the antiseptic and astringent properties of a medical bandage, while also enhancing the thermal conductivity away from a burn wound.

III. Aluminaid™ Bandages and/or Wraps

A. Aluminaid™ Theory of Operation

Aluminaid™ products deploy natural occurrences of physics combined with specific application and form factor. Essentially, Aluminaid™ include the physical properties inherent in aluminum, such as “specific heat capacity” and “thermal conductivity”.

Taking an Aluminaid™ bandage as an example, specific heat capacity accounts for the amount of heat that the aluminum foil disposed in the bandage can store at any one time and thermal conductivity accounts for how fast that aluminum material can potentially conduct heat (somewhat analogous to how fast an electrical wire of a given material can conduct electricity).

There are three ways in which thermal energy transfer can be described:

- Conduction;
- Convection; and
- Radiation.

Conduction requires physical contact (similar to the flow of electricity in wire).

5 Convection emanates from the movement of molecules (e.g., the way in which heated and cooled water or other fluid moves up and down). Radiation does not necessarily involve direct contact (e.g., the way the sun emits light rays).

At any given temperature, a given mass of aluminum holds much less energy than an equivalent mass of human flesh. For instance, in convection or conduction, if one touches 10 aluminum foil from an oven during the cooking process, a subject's hand and the foil share the thermal energy. The hand (of much greater mass) requires much more energy to raise its temperature (if at all, depending upon the physical connection between the foil and the food). When the subject touches aluminum foil, the foil transfers heat to the flesh; however, due to 15 the aluminum's low specific-heat capacity, the foil quickly loses energy, barely raising the temperature of the skin in contact. Because aluminum foil does not effectively store conducted heat, it therefore facilitates the "cooling" of a burn whilst simultaneously (in part) preventing other associated risks such as infection, dehydration, and hypothermic symptoms.

While aluminum does not effectively store conducted heat, aluminum is nonetheless 20 an excellent conductor of heat. Aluminum will conduct any heat from the point of contact and will readily give the heat up to any heat sink, even to the ambient. This has a cooling effect to the source of the thermal heat and a heating effect to the heat sink.

In short, aluminum foil can be an effective conductor of a subject's body heat, alleviating pain which emanates from added warmth on a subject's burn wound.

Table 1 shows the comparatively low specific resistance of aluminum:

TABLE 1:
Comparison of Specific Resistance of Aluminum to Various Metals
at 20 Degrees Celsius

Material Element/Alloy	ohm-cmil/ft.	micro-ohm-cm
Platinum (Element)	63.16	10.5
Tungsten (Element)	31.76	5.28
Magnesium (Element)	26.41	4.390
Aluminum (Element)	15.94	2.650
Gold (Element)	13.32	2.214
Copper (Element)	10.09	1.678
Silver (Element)	9.546	1.587

Of course, there are other metals with thermal-conductivity characteristics that are equal to or better than that of aluminum. However, bandage dressings based on such alternative metals; e.g., platinum or tungsten; are generally significantly more expensive to 5 use and/or are not as easy to work with in the manufacturing process when compared to aluminum and various aluminum alloys. Nevertheless, though aluminum is a preferred material when taking into account its cost, thermal conductivity, and other physical properties that make manufacturing easier, it should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the special heat-dissipation-enhancing configurations for bandage metal substrates disclosed 10 herein can also be applied to substrates made of metals other than aluminum.

Further still, aluminum foil as a dry, sterile, initial covering for thermal burns under occlusive pressure dressings has been presented as a method of diminishing the maceration of a burn surface. The method appears to influence favorably the local result by elimination of the use of ointments, and by facilitating the dispersion of exudate to the periphery of the burn. 15 No evidence of toxicity as a result of the treatment was found. The systemic reaction was, if anything, less obvious.

This elimination or at least minimization of applied ointments and other topical treatments by employing aluminum-based bandages and/or wrapping can help avoid adverse consequences to a patient. For example, titanium dioxide exposure cream, as a burn 20 ointment, was considered to be irritating from the evidence of production of pain, delayed healing, and possible destruction of epithelial remnants. Moreover, it has been observed that when massive doses of ascorbic acid was administered to burn patients, the doses quickly corrected the state of ascorbic acid depletion; however, the general systemic reaction to thermal burns was not found to be influenced by this form of treatment, and the general signs 25 of illness were marked in severe cases.

B. General Aluminaid™ Bandage Forms

Refer to **Figures 1A-31G (in particular, Figures 20A-31G depict some preferred designs)**, which depict examples of some exemplary embodiments of Aluminaid™ bandages, which are discussed in the written disclosure herein. It should be noted that many of the 30 exemplary embodiments have similar, but differently configured components, and as such said components are given common reference numbers. For example, all embodiments of the Aluminaid™ bandages include an aluminum substrate, given the reference number of “5”, and the bandage in general is assigned the reference number of “10”. If an embodiment is so

equipped, the surrounding outer second-layer substrate is assigned the reference number of “15”. In some embodiments, an intermediate surrounding absorbent layer is disposed between the perimeter of the aluminum substrate **5** and the outer second layer **15**, and this intermediate layer is assigned the reference number of “12”. In still other variations, a

5 transfer adhesive layer is disposed between the perimeter of the aluminum substrate **5** and the perimeter of the absorbent layer **12**, and this transfer adhesive layer is assigned the reference number of “13”. Finally, in many embodiments, an easily removable bandage-backing layer is disposed across the entire bottom surface of a bandage **10**, and this back layer is assigned the reference number of “14”. However, if a given discussion of a bandage component is

10 particularly tied to a specific Figure, then the Figure number is provided along with the reference number.

In many embodiments, Aluminaid™ bandages **10** are designed for use in the treatment of low-degrees of burn instances (usually first or second-degree burns). In specific embodiments directed to bandages and other types of applied medical wrappings,

15 Aluminaid™ bandages **10** are designed to fit most body shapes, sizes, and provision for children, teenagers, and adults (of both genders). In typical embodiments, the aluminum base **5** of a bandage **10** is coupled about its perimeter with a material **15** to facilitate adhesive coupling to user skin, wherein the second material **15** extends beyond the boundaries of the aluminum substrate **5**. In some variations, the aluminum base **5** of a bandage **10** is coupled

20 about its perimeter to the outer second material **15** via an intermediate absorbent layer **12**, wherein the absorbent layer **12** can be any appropriate sterile and absorbent material, such as gauze, but is preferably made of hydrogel.

In other variations, the aluminum base **5** has a smooth side adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, while the other side is manufactured to have a plurality of heat-
25 dissipation-enhancing surface protrusions; such as cone, half-sphere, or pyramid shaped-shaped nodes (see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N and 20A-24B**). In still another variation, the aluminum base **5** is substantially manufactured by a stamping process wherein a plurality of said heat-dissipation-enhancing surface protrusions are present on one side (and are substantially hollowed-out from the stamping process) while the other side, adapted to make

30 contact with tissue, presents a plurality of voids/holes as a result of the manufacturing process. In this variation, said voids/holes aid in aeration of wounds and this type of topography is especially effective for enhancing thermal convection processes for cooling wounds.

In many embodiments, each Aluminaid™ product can be designed to fit a wide variety of different form factors directly relating to specific body parts, such as fingers and hands. For example, a wrap-around bandage adapted to create a form-fitting mitt with a thin aluminum lining to thermally conduct heat away from the burned tissue of a hand can be 5 used, wherein the outer surface of the mitt exposes the other side of the aluminum lining to the air for heat dissipation. In other variations, more-general form factors; such as circular, rectangular strips, ovals, etc. are used to produce general-purposes pads. (See, e.g., **Figures 1A-7; 11A-11B; and 31A-31G.**) Such embodiments are adapted to easily conform to the contours of specific parts of the body, but are sufficiently robust to avoid fractionation 10 specifically during application, thus aiding healing and subsequent bandage removal.

In still other embodiments, aluminum foils **5** up to 0.5 mil thick are used, which are impermeable to oxygen and water, and which become slightly permeable due to minute pinholes caused by the production process. In other variations, however, such permeability can be desirable in cases where a medical professional desires to allow a burn wound to drain 15 and dry out, while still providing the thermal-conduction benefits of the applied aluminum.

It should be noted that due to the manufacturing process, typical aluminum foil has a shiny side and a matte side (the reflectivity of the shiny side is typically 88%, while the dull, matte side typically has about 80% reflectivity). However, there does not appear to be any 20 statistically significant difference in effectiveness between applications where the shiny side is applied to the wound or where the matte side is applied to the wound **60**. The shiny side is produced when the aluminum is rolled during the final pass. It is difficult to produce rollers with a gap fine enough to cope with the foil gauge; therefore, for the final pass, two sheets are rolled at the same time, doubling the thickness of the gauge at entry to the rollers. When the sheets are later separated, the inside surface is dull, and the outside surface is shiny. The 25 resultant manufactured material is often gas and liquid permeable. In some other embodiments, the aluminum substrate **5** of the bandage is comprised of either permeable aluminum foils or sheets/strips of aluminum foils with intentionally manufactured gaps.

In order to enhance the heat-dissipation capabilities and efficacy of Aluminaid™ bandages **10**, the mass of the aluminum substrate **5** is strategically configured via top-side 30 topographies that both optimize the overall mass of the aluminum substrate enough to improve thermal conductivity at the bio-interface of the bandage **10**, as well as increase the available exposed surface area in order to increase thermal convection processes to the ambient air. The thermal-conduction processes are important during the immediate period of

a few seconds to a minute after bandage application to a burn wound; however, thereafter, the thermal-convection processes are considered more significant to continued wound cooling. Therefore, in the long run, it has been found that wound-cooling efficacy is improved by ensuring that the formation and topography of the aluminum substrate **5** is such that thermal-convection processes are optimized.

In still more embodiments, the aluminum substrate **5** is manufactured for one side to include a plurality of very small protrusions and/or corrugations, which increases the effective surface area for the dissipation of heat away from a burn wound. For example, referring to **Figures 1A-7 and 20A-30**, in a variation, the outer surface area of the aluminum substrate **5** (that is, the surface not designed to be in direct contact with a user's skin) is increased with a dense plurality of discrete protrusions (see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N and 20A-24B**) that can have any of a variety of shapes and sizes, though based on testing some are more effective than others. In some variations, these discrete protrusions can be cone-shaped, mound-shaped, and/or pyramid-like shaped, though other shapes are possible as well. In some variations, referring to **Figure 9A**, alternating rows of cones/mounds are staggered with respect to adjacent rows in order to be able to pack in more such heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions on the aluminum substrate **5**. Conversely, referring to **Figure 9B**, in other embodiments, the rows of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are not staggered.

In another embodiment, the aluminum substrate **5** is substantially manufactured by a stamping process wherein a plurality of said heat-dissipation-enhancing surface protrusions are present on one side (and are substantially hollowed-out from the stamping process) while the other side, adapted to make contact with tissue, presents a plurality of voids/holes as a result of the manufacturing process. In this variation, said voids/holes aid in aeration of wounds and this type of topography is especially effective for enhancing thermal convection processes for cooling wounds.

In variations, each of the plurality of discrete heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions and/or ridges is separated along the base plane of the aluminum substrate **5** by a distance. The separation distance used impacts the overall flexibility of the aluminum substrate, as well as the heat-dissipation effectiveness because as the distance increases, fewer discrete heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions and/or ridges can populate the aluminum substrate **5**. In various embodiments, the separation distances generally range between 0 (zero) and 0.5 mm, but can be increased in other applications. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that as the separation distance decreases and as the angle incline of the adjacent discrete

protrusions increases, then the concave flexibility of the aluminum substrate **5** is adversely impacted.

Referring to **Figures 16-19**, in a variation, a plurality of rows of aeration holes **95** are disposed between rows of heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions or ridges. In another 5 variation, a plurality of rows and columns of aeration holes **95** are disposed between rows and columns of heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions. In some embodiments, the manufactured aeration holes are 0.2 mm in diameter, with other variations using aeration holes with diameters that range in size from 0.1 to 0.3 mm. In variations, the spacing between the manufactured aeration holes, which inherently correlates to the number of 10 manufactured aeration holes provided over an entire aluminum substrate **5**, strikes a balance the efficacy of the healing effects of the bandage **10** and concerns over the structural integrity of the aluminum substrate. If too many manufactured aeration holes of a given size are placed too close together in a row, then the aluminum substrate **5** could have some weak 15 points subject to easy tearing. In general, such aeration holes are equi-spaced between the heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions or ridges, with sufficient space between the aeration holes so that the aluminum substrate **5** can flex along a line of said aeration holes without tearing the substrate material between the holes. In the case of relatively small-sized bandages **10**, a common spacing between the aeration holes is about 4 mm. For relatively 20 medium-sized bandages, a common spacing between the aeration holes is about 6 mm. For relatively large bandage applications, a common spacing between the aeration holes is about 8 mm. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the aforementioned aeration hole spacing are exemplary only, and the needed spacing distances can vary according to a variety of factors, including the exact aluminum alloy used, whether any strain hardening or annealing processes occurred on the alloy, etc.

25 In yet another variation, referring to **Figures 10J-10N and 20A-24B**, the some or all of the plurality of discrete protrusions on the aluminum substrate include a hole in the middle of the protrusion. In some versions of this, the protrusion's central hole is a tapered hole and extends all the way through the aluminum substrate, thereby providing a strategically sized and placed aeration hole to aid in burn-wound healing, while also increasing the amount of 30 surface area available for thermal convection to the ambient air. In other versions, the protrusions are formed by way of a stamping process that also puts a hole at the top of each protrusion so as to effectively make each protrusion substantially hollowed-out; that is a reverse taper as compared to the previously described version. (See e.g., **Figures 20A-24B**.)

In addition, the presence of a substantial hole into the body of the protrusions also provides an even greater increase in the amount of protrusion surface area available for thermal-convection processes. An example of the dimensions “S”, “D”, “H”, “T”, and “V” for such hollowed-out protrusions, as depicted in **Figures 24A-24B**, are provided in **Table 2**:

5

TABLE 2: Exemplary Dimensions for Hollowed Heat-Dissipation-Enhancing Protrusions With Aeration Holes Disposed Through the Protrusions					
Variation	“S”	“D”	“H”	“T”	“V”
A	0.010”	0.015”	0.016”	10°/s	0.005”
B	0.015”	0.020”	0.030”	15°/s	0.005”
C	0.20”	0.025”	0.030”	10°/s	0.008”
D	0.030”	0.020”	0.040”	10°/s	0.005”

It should be noted by those skilled in the art that the four examples in **Table 2** are exemplary only, and that such hollowed-out, aerating heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions can be fabrics to other dimensional specifications.

10 Many of the variations described herein, especially in **Table 2, supra**, as well as in **Figures 20A-31G**, were subjected to significant analysis and testing, including finite element method (FEM) analysis to develop optimum substrate topographies and geometries. Some of said testing is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 61/670,090, filed on July 10, 2012, for “Thermally Conductive, Metal-Based Bandages to Aid in Medical Healing and Methods 15 of Use”, which is incorporated by reference.

20 In still more variations, referring to **Figures 11A-12B**, a dense plurality of corrugations or ridges **50, 55** are provided on the outer surface of the aluminum substrate **5** to enhance the heat-transfer/dissipation capabilities of the aluminum substrate **5**. However, because in some embodiments the aluminum substrate **5** material can be strain hardened, especially in the thicker (corrugated) regions of the aluminum substrate **5**, bandages using such corrugations/ridges may not be optimally flexible along the axis parallel with the rows of ridges/corrugations. This renders a bandage less useful for application to various parts of the body as it may be more difficult for a user to conform a bandage’s aluminum substrate **5** to a particular part of a user body without overly stressing the aluminum substrate **5** along the 25 longitudinal axis of the ridges, thus compromising the integrity and possible effectiveness of the bandage **10**.

In some embodiments, a plurality of pyramid-shaped, cone-shaped, and/or dome-shaped protrusions manufactured in the aluminum substrate **5** is preferred over corrugations/ridges because, while the available outer surface area for heat-dissipation enhancement is largely equal between the two solutions (assuming equivalent widths and 5 peak heights), an aluminum substrate **5** with a plurality of non-ridge-like protrusions is more flexible along multiple axes. This is important because it furthers the goal of being able to readily apply bandages **10** to a wide variety of body applications and form factors.

It should be appreciated by one ordinarily skilled in the art that number, size/dimensions, and shape of the heat-sink protrusions and/or corrugations depicted in 10 **Figures 1A-31G** are merely exemplary, and that many other shapes and sizes of cone-like or ridge-like structures (or similarly effective geometric structures) could be used for the aluminum substrate **5** in order to enhance the heat transfer of the bandage **10**.

In yet more variations, a thermally conductive adhesive, paste, gel, or grease is applied to the area of a user's skin to enhance the heat transfer from a burn wound to the 15 aluminum substrate heat sink **5**. In some of these variations, the thermally conductive compound is derived from metal or silicone (usually with a zinc-oxide or aluminum-oxide inclusion to improve conductivity), and essentially fills gaps where air would normally be present. The thermally conductive compound provides a superior conductor (as compared to air) almost equal to that of the conductor (the aluminum substrate **5**) itself. The performance 20 of thermally conductive compound is measured in W/m-K. Standard silicon/zinc-oxide thermal compound has thermal conductivities in the range of 0.7-0.9 W/m-K.

In such variations, the thermally conductive medium used can also be an aluminum-infused medicinal/therapeutic cream, ointment, or other compound.

In more variations, the second, polymeric, outer layer **15** of the bandage **10** is coupled 25 about the periphery of the aluminum substrate **5**, yet leaves most of the top surface of the aluminum substrate **5** uncovered so as to better allow heat thermally conducted from a burn wound through the aluminum substrate **5** to dissipate via thermal convection and/or radiation to the ambient air.

In some alternate variations, a roll or sheet of aluminum substrate **5** is used without a 30 coupled second layer **15**, wherein the aluminum substrate is applied over a burn wound, and is fixed into place around the edges of the application with medical tape or gauze, while leaving most of the aluminum substrate **5** open to the air to facilitate heat dissipation.

Table 3 provides a list of some example form-factor dimensions used in some embodiments. It should be noted that this list is exemplary only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure herein in any way.

TABLE 3: Exemplary Bandage Embodiment Dimensions				
Form Factor Embodiment	Polymer outer Base Size (mm x mm)	Aluminum Substrate Size (mm x mm)	Effective Cooling Area (mm ²)	Figure References
Narrow Bandage Strip	25.4 x 76.2	20.3 x 35.5	714	3A-4B; 13A-15; 18-19; 27; 31A
Rounded Rectangle	52.1 x 76.2	43.2 x 50.8	2185	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Rounded Rectangle	63.5 x 88.9	50.8 x 63.5	3229	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Rounded Rectangle	57.2 x 76.2	45.72 x 54.6	2500	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Rounded Rectangle	95.25 x 133.4	69.9 x 101.6	7099	1A-2B; 11A-11B; 16-17; 25-26; 31B-31E
Finger-Form	85.1 x 93.4	58.4 x 69.9	2885	5A-6B; 28; 31F

5 In still more embodiments, the substantially polymeric and porous second layer **15** of the bandage **10** incorporates a thermochromic compound **40, 45, 70, or 80** (similar to what is typically found in mood rings) so that a user can actually see a visual indicator of the heat being removed from the user's skin/burn. In a variation, referring to **Figures 13A-13B and 25-29**, the top side of the aluminum substrate **5** has an extended member **5A** that extends

10 under the second layer **15** to be under and in direct contact with the thermochromic compound **40, 45**, wherein the aluminum extension **5A** provides thermal communication between a burn wound (via the aluminum substrate **5**) and the thermochromic compound **40, 45**. In another variation, referring to **Figure 14**, the top, exposed textured side of the aluminum substrate **5** (that is, the heat-dissipation-enhancing topography side) has one or

15 more thin aluminum strips **75** that are used to support and position a thermochromic indicator member **70** over the exposed top side of the aluminum substrate **5**. In still more variations, referring to **Figure 15**, a small subset of the heat-dissipation protrusions on the top side of the aluminum substrate **5** are coated at their tip with thermochromic compound **80**. In other variations, referring to **Figures 16-19**, the top side of the aluminum substrate **5** has a thermal-

communication member **90** that extends to the thermochromic indicator **85**, wherein the thermal-communication member **90** provides thermal communication between a burn wound (via the aluminum substrate **5**) and the thermochromic indicator **85**. In some embodiments, the thermal-communication member **90** can be an etched line of thermochromic paint or can

5 be an aluminum conduit.

In some embodiments, the thermochromic indicators **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** have compounds calibrated to indicate when a burn is sufficiently cooled (in some cases providing a color indicator; e.g., “green”; and/or an icon indicator; e.g., a “smilie face”) or still too warm (in some cases providing a color indicator; e.g., “red”; and/or an icon indicator; e.g., a “frownie face”). In more variations, the thermochromic indicator **45** is in thermal communication with the aluminum substrate **5** via a thermally conductive extension **5A** and will change color on the end that is more proximate to the aluminum substrate **5** more quickly than on the other end of the thermochromic indicator **45** because of the thermal strata. Such stratification of the color change of the thermochromic indicator **45** helps a user gauge the

10 rate and amount of cooling.

15

As an example, a user might apply an Aluminaid™ bandage **10** to a burn from a hot pan, and initially, the user can see a red iconic thermochromic indicator **40, 70, 80**, which indicates that a user should keep the Aluminaid™ bandage **10** in place. Later, the pain subsides and the burned tissue cools, the user can see a green iconic thermochromic indicator

20 **45, 70, 80, 85**, which indicates to the user that the Aluminaid™ bandage **10** can be safely changed out to a traditional medical dressing.

C. Details of Aluminaid™ Bandage Materials

Refer to **Figures 1A-31G**.

Aluminum

25 In many embodiments of bandages assuming a specific form factor (e.g., a finger-form-factor dressing, **Figures 5A-6B, 28, and 31F**), the first bandage layer **5** disposed to make direct contact with the burn wound covers approximately 30-100% of the entire length of the bandage **10**. The outer edges of the product are reserved for a suitable adhesive which forms the bond between the outer sheath (cotton wool or polymer) and the aluminum

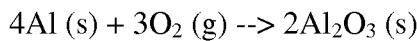
30 dressing.

The aluminum material used in the substrate **5** is generally comprised of at least 90% aluminum, and is essentially an amphoteric material. Other composites can occur as a result

of naturally occurring processes and sometimes some contamination during manufacture. However, none of these other additional substances are toxic in-relation to the scope of the prescribed application. In some embodiments, the aluminum material is annealed in order to make the material more ductile to better facilitate various form factors. The annealing 5 process includes gauging the aluminum substrate **5** and specifically annealing it to enhance ductility in order to optimally navigate the contours of body parts (e.g., finger and hands, but not excluding general-purpose forms, such as rectangle and square-shaped dressings).

In variations, the aluminum may be subjected to electroplating or other non-toxic coating in order to facilitate ductility, improve performance, and enhance durability.

10 When aluminum combines with oxygen, the two elements undergo a spontaneous reaction:



The properties of the aluminum used in some embodiments of the Aluminaid™ bandages and wraps can be summarized as follows:

- 15 • **Main Composite:** $\geq 90\%$ aluminum, but is preferred to be $\geq 99\%$ aluminum
 - In some embodiments, the aluminum used is an alloy comprised of $\geq 92\%$ aluminum and approximately 5% magnesium, with the balance of the alloy being naturally occurring impurities. This alloy is especially suited for a proprietary annealing process designed to enhance the ductility of the aluminum substrate used in bandages, discussed *infra*.
 - The atomic weight of the aluminum used is approximately 26.98 AMU.
- 20 • **Form:** Solid with specifically formed ridges to maximize the available heat-transfer surfaces for cooling a wound.
- 25 • **Annealed:** Yes, in order to optimally navigate the contours of body parts (e.g., fingers and hands, but not excluding general-purpose forms, such as rectangle and square-shaped dressings). In some embodiments, a proprietary annealing process is used, as discussed *infra*.
- 30 • **Thickness:** ≤ 1 mm, as measured from the bottom of the aluminum substrate to the average peak height of the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions/ridges on the top side of the substrate. In areas of the substrate between such heat-dissipation-enhancement protrusions/ridges, the thickness is

≤ 0.1 mm.

- **Thermal Conductivity:** approximately 209 W/m·k \pm 10%.
- **Density:** ≥ 2.699 g/cm³.
- **Metallurgical Index:** 8217
- 5 • **Toxicity:** Non-toxic (aluminum-oxide layer coating)
- **Porosity:** Defined as sufficient to enable the administration of a controlled release remedial substance, and/or to enable paths for oxygen to be introduced to a burn wound. The aluminum foil used must not exceed the defined thickness needed to ensure that the foil does not become impermeable to oxygen. Porosity can be obtained by either the inherent by-product of the aluminum-rolling process, or by mechanically introducing pinholes. **Section III.B, *supra***, discusses some strategies for mechanically introducing aeration holes in the aluminum substrate beyond those that normally occur as a by-product of the manufacturing process.
- 10 • **Recycle:** The aluminum alloy used in the substrate **5** can be recycled and can be made of recycled aluminum alloy.
- 15

Annealing of Aluminum

In some embodiments, the aluminum substrate **5** is subjected to an annealing process to enhance the ductility and flexibility of the aluminum substrate as it is applied to various 20 parts of a user body. It is a heat treatment used to soften the aluminum alloys to that they can be easily worked and formed. The annealing process gives the resultant alloy a temper designation of “0”, which is very soft. In a variation, instead of quenching the aluminum material immediately after heating (as in the solution heat treatment of aluminum process), the aluminum material is cooled in stages at specified temperatures.

25 In a specialized embodiment, an aluminum alloy comprised of approximately 92% aluminum and approximately 5% magnesium is used (with the remainder of the constituents being naturally occurring impurities). Magnesium is added to the alloy because of its curative elements, its non-toxicity, and reasonable thermal conductivity (even though it is less than aluminum, it will not significantly degrade the alloy’s overall thermal conductivity).

30 In a variation, the Aluminum-magnesium alloy is annealed to condition “1100-0”. It is annealed for approximately one hour at a temperature range of 775 °C - 900 °C. In some

embodiments, the annealed aluminum alloy is furnace cooled. However, in another embodiment, the aluminum alloy is then allowed to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool, thereby substantially removing any strain hardening. The aluminum alloy re-crystallizes during this natural cooling process such that there is greater consistency in the direction of grain growth (that is, most, if not all, of the grains are oriented in a uniform direction), giving the material dramatically greater ductility. These specialized fabrication techniques result in a reduced resistance to thermal conductivity, or greater thermal-conductivity gain, as well as better malleability (less structural resistance at the atomic level). This re-crystallized aluminum alloy is used in some embodiments as the primary material for the aluminum substrate **5** in Aluminaid™ bandages and wraps.

Perimeter Polymer Covering

In some embodiments of bandages **10**, one or more edges of the aluminum substrate **5** are coupled to a second layer **15** which extends beyond the boundaries of the aluminum substrate **5** and typically has adhesive material disposed on its bottom surface to facilitate coupling to a user's skin. A selection of materials commonly used in medical bandages may be used as an effective second layer **15**, but a perforated polymer such as 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) is preferred in many embodiments.

In another embodiment, the second layer **15** is comprised of 3M™ Transpore™ Tape.

In many variations, the adhesive compound disposed on the exposed bottom side of the second layer **15** can be comprised of any non-toxic medical adhesive commonly used in the art, and in most variations, the bandage is stored with a peelable backing layer **14** detachably coupled to the adhesive on the second layer **15**.

Thermochromic Compounds

In some variations, the incorporated thermochromic materials **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** used in the outer bandage layers are comprised of thermochromic liquid crystals (for example, but not limited to, cholesteryl ester carbonates, chiral nematic (non-sterol) aryl compounds, and (2-methylbutyl)phenol 4-alkyl(oxy)benzoates) and/or leuco dyes/inks (for example, but not limited to, spirolactones, fluorans, spiropyrans, and fulgides). In even more variations, the thermochromic-impregnated bandage materials are calibrated to display a "neutral" color at the average human skin temperature; that is, approximately 98.6 °F (37.0 °C).

In other variations, the thermochromic indicator materials **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** used can be a paint, a gel, or a thermochromic-compound-impregnated polymer.

In an embodiment, the thermochromic indicator material **40, 45, 70, 80, 85** comprises liquid crystals calibrated to display a green color indicator when the associated aluminum substrate has cooled to a predetermined threshold, and also comprises liquid crystals calibrated to display a red color indicator when the associated aluminum substrate exceeds a 5 predetermined threshold.

IV. A Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment

In one embodiment, the inventive concept is directed to a bandage that is adapted to treat a burn wound. Refer to **Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G**. In an embodiment, the bandage **10** comprises a first layer **5**, substantially comprised of a thin 10 thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, having a first surface and a second surface, wherein the metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and is adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and most of the metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of the aluminum 15 substrate **5**, adapted to be directly exposed to air. In variations, the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

In another variation, the bandage **10** is further comprised of a second outer layer **15**, 20 substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and a third intermediate layer **12**, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface. In more variations, the third intermediate absorbent layer's **12** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of the second surface of the first layer **5**, but leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed 25 to the air, wherein:

- The second outer layer's **15** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of the second surface of the third layer **12**, but also leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed to the air;
- The second and third layers **15, 12** extend beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**;
- The second outer layer **15** extends beyond the at least two perimeter edges of the

third intermediate layer **12**;

- The at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the third intermediate layer **12**;
- The at least two perimeter edges of the third intermediate layer **12** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**,
- The remainder of the first surface of the second outer layer **15** is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin; and
- The first, second, and third layers **5, 15, 12** are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted to one or more areas of a user body.

10 In an alternative variation, the bandage **10** can be fabricated *without* the absorbent, third intermediate layer **12**, wherein the second outer layer **15** extends beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**, and at least two edges of the first surface **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**. This variation would facilitate better overall heat-transfer properties of the bandage **10**, though the lack of absorbent
15 material about the perimeter of the bandage **10** may not be as desirable for oozing wounds.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In
20 variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered. In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**,
25 which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer **5** includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way
30 through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which

both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C; and
- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted, however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to:

- indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and
- indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

In variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In other

variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In some applications, the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

5 This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the second layer **15** is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the third intermediate layer **12** is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

10 This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

15 **V. A Method of Making a Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment**

This embodiment is directed to a method of making a bandage adapted for treating burns and other wounds. Refer to **Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G**. The method comprises the step of providing a first layer **5**, substantially comprised of a thin thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, having a first surface and a second surface, 20 wherein the metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and is adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and most of the metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of the aluminum substrate **5**, adapted to be directly exposed to air. In variations, the thermally conductive 25 metal substrate **5** is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

In another variation, the method is further comprised of the steps of providing a second outer layer **15**, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and 30 providing a third intermediate layer **12**, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface. In more variations, the third intermediate absorbent layer's **12** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the

perimeter edges of the second surface of the first layer **5**, but leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed to the air, wherein:

- The second outer layer's **15** first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of the second surface of the third layer **12**, but also leaving most of the first layer's **5** second surface uncovered and exposed to the air;
- The second and third layers **15, 12** extend beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**;
- The second outer layer **15** extends beyond the at least two perimeter edges of the third intermediate layer **12**;
- The at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the third intermediate layer **12**;
- The at least two perimeter edges of the third intermediate layer **12** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**,
- The remainder of the first surface of the second outer layer **15** is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin; and
- The first, second, and third layers **5, 15, 12** are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted to one or more areas of a user body.

In an alternative variation, the bandage **10** can be fabricated *without* the absorbent, third intermediate layer **12**, wherein the second outer layer **15** extends beyond at least two perimeter edges of the first layer **5**, and at least two edges of the first surface **5** are bonded to a portion of the first surface of the second outer layer **15**. This variation would facilitate better overall heat-transfer properties of the bandage **10**, though the lack of absorbent material about the perimeter of the bandage **10** may not be as desirable for oozing wounds.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes the manufacturing step of providing a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group

consisting of staggered and non-staggered. In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** is provided with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed surface area to air. In other 5 variations, the first layer **5** includes the step of providing a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one 10 heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second 15 stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive 20 metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C;

25 and

- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted, however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the 30 aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

This embodiment can be further enhanced by further comprising the step of providing

a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to:

- indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and
- indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

In variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In other variations, the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied. In some applications, the thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the second layer **15** is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the third intermediate layer **12** is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

25 VI. A Method of Using a Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment

This embodiment is directed to a method of using a bandage according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*, adapted for treating burns and other wounds. Refer to **Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G**. It should be noted that this particular embodiment pertains to bandages without a second or third layer 15, 12. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a bandage **10** according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*; and

- Applying the bandage 10 to a burn wound 60 with the first surface of the first layer 5 in direct contact with said burn wound 60; and
- Securing the bandage 10 in position over the burn wound 60 by applying adhesive medical tape along some or all of the edges of the bandage 10 and extending to the tissue surrounding non-burned tissue, wherein the top side of the bandage first layer 5 is mostly left uncovered and exposed to the ambient environment.

5 This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography 5 includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions 7 (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of 10 cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions 7 (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer 5, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered. 15 In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion 7 has a hole 6 disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate 5, which aids in the bandage's 10 thermal convection processes because of the added exposed 20 surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer 5 includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes 6 in the thermally conductive metal substrate 5. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion 7 with a hole 6 disposed from its apex toward 25 the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate 5 has its hole extending all the way through the thermally conductive metal substrate 5. In some cases, the hole 6 disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion 7 has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer 5 and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate 5 and is formed by way of a 30 two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion 7 are formed by a first stamping of the substrate 5 from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions 7 toward the first surface of the substrate 5 to form the openings 6. In some other cases, the holes 6 in the formed protrusions 7 are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole 6.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive metal substrate 5 is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C; and
- 5 • Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted, however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

10 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein:

- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and
- 15 • The thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to indicate to a user when a burn on which the bandage **10** is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that the bandage **10** can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

20 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

25 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **40**, **45**, **70**, **80**, **85** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the steps of:

30 • Observing the thermochromic indicator member **45**;

- If the thermochromic indicator member 45 indicates that the burn wound 60 is too warm, then continuing the application of the bandage 10 on the burn wound 60 to further cooling of the burn wound 60;
- If the thermochromic indicator member 45 indicates that the burn wound 60 has cooled sufficiently, then removing the bandage 10 from the burn wound 60 and applying a different medical dressing to the burn wound 60; and
- Repeating the previous steps as necessary until the bandage 10 has been removed from the burn wound 60.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the different medical dressing referred to above is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage 10 application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed aluminum substrate 5 of the applied bandage 10 to forced-air cooling in order to speed cooling of the burn wound 60.

20 **VII. A Method of Using a Bandage for a Burn Wound Embodiment**

This embodiment is directed to a method of using a bandage according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*, adapted for treating burns and other wounds. Refer to Figures 1A-31G, with an emphasis on Figures 20A-31G. It should be noted that this particular embodiment pertains to bandages *with at least a second layer (and possibly a third layer)* 15, 12. The method comprises the steps of:

- Obtaining a bandage 10 according to either Section III or Section IV, *supra*; and
- Applying the bandage 10 to a burn wound 60 with the first surface of the first layer 5 in direct contact with said burn wound 60; and
- securing the bandage 10 in position over the burn wound 60 with the adhesive material disposed on the first side of the second layer 15 of the bandage 10.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography **5** includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also, see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**), said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions. In variations, the plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions **7** (also see, e.g., **Figures 10A-10N**) are disposed in rows on the first layer **5**, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered. In yet another variation, at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**, which aids in the bandage's **10** thermal convection processes because of the added exposed surface area to air. In other variations, the first layer **5** includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes **6** in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some applications, the at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** with a hole **6** disposed from its apex toward the base plane of the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** has its hole extending all the way through the thermally conductive metal substrate **5**. In some cases, the hole **6** disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion **7** has a diameter that is narrower toward the second surface of the first layer **5** and wider toward the first surface of the first layer, which both aids in the thermal-convection properties of the substrate **5** and is formed by way of a two-step manufacturing stamping process wherein the main protrusion **7** are formed by a first stamping of the substrate **5** from the first surface toward the second surface, then a second stamping/punching at the apex of the formed protrusions **7** toward the first surface of the substrate **5** to form the openings **6**. In some other cases, the holes **6** in the formed protrusions **7** are cylindrical in shape, maintaining approximately the same diameter along the length of the hole **6**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the material in the thermally conductive metal substrate **5** is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the aluminum alloy used in the first layer **5** is annealed by a process comprised of the steps of:

- 30 • Subjecting the aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C; and
- Either subjecting the annealed aluminum alloy to furnace cooling or allowing the aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool. It should be noted,

however, that the natural cooling step results in substantially removing any strain hardening of the aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of the aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

5 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member **45**, wherein:

- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is in thermal communication **5A** with a burn wound via the first layer **5**, and
- The thermochromic indicator member **45** is comprised of material calibrated to indicate to a user when a burn on which the bandage **10** is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that the bandage **10** can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

10 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

15 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **45** provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which the bandage **10** is applied.

20 This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the thermochromic indicator member **40**, **45**, **70**, **80**, **85** is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the steps of:

- Observing the thermochromic indicator member **45**;
- If the thermochromic indicator member **45** indicates that the burn wound **60** is too warm, then continuing the application of the bandage **10** on the burn wound **60** to further cooling of the burn wound **60**;
- If the thermochromic indicator member **45** indicates that the burn wound **60** has cooled sufficiently, then removing the bandage **10** from the burn wound **60** and applying a different medical dressing to the burn wound **60**; and

- Repeating the previous steps as necessary until the bandage **10** has been removed from the burn wound **60**.

This embodiment can be enhanced wherein the different medical dressing referred to above is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal 5 compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage **10** application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face. In variations, the form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll. 10

This embodiment can be further enhanced wherein the second layer **15** is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

This embodiment can be enhanced by further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed aluminum substrate **5** of the applied bandage **10** to forced-air cooling in order to 15 speed cooling of the burn wound **60**.

Alternative Embodiments and Other Variations

The various embodiments and variations thereof described herein (including the appended claims) and/or illustrated in the accompanying Figures are merely exemplary and are not meant to limit the scope of the inventive disclosure. It should be appreciated that 20 numerous variations of the invention have been contemplated as would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art with the benefit of this disclosure.

Hence, those ordinarily skilled in the art will have no difficulty devising myriad obvious variations and improvements to the invention, all of which are intended to be encompassed within the scope of the description and Figures herein.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bandage for a burn wound, comprising:

5 a first layer, substantially comprised of a thin thermally conductive metal substrate, having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and

10 wherein most of said metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate, and is adapted to be directly exposed to air.

2. The bandage of claim 1, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is
15 substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

3. The bandage of claim 1, further comprising a second outer layer, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, said second layer having a first surface
20 and a second surface,

wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

wherein said second layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second layer,

wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

wherein said first and second layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is

adapted for use on one or more areas of a user body.

4. The bandage of claim 1, further comprising a second outer layer, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and a third intermediate layer, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface,

5 wherein said third intermediate absorbent layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

10 wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said third layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,
wherein said second and third layers extend beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

15 wherein said second outer layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said third intermediate layer,

20 wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second outer layer,

wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

25 wherein said first, second, and third layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted for use on one or more areas of a user body.

5. The bandage of claim 1, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.

30 6. The bandage of claim 5, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing

protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.

7. The bandage of claim 5, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
8. The bandage of claim 1, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
9. The bandage of claim 7, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
10. The bandage of claim 9, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.
11. The bandage of claim 9, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length of said hole.
12. The bandage of claim 1, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.
13. The bandage of claim 12, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C.
14. The bandage of claim 13, further comprising the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool, thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

15. The bandage of claim 3, further comprising a thermochromic indicator member, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:
 - 5 indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.
- 10 16. The bandage of claim 15, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.
17. The bandage of claim 15, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.
- 15 18. The bandage of claim 15, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.
19. The bandage of claim 3, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of 20 perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).
20. The bandage of claim 3, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.
21. The bandage of claim 3, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group 25 consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.
22. The bandage of claim 4, further comprising a thermochromic indicator member, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn

wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

5 indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

23. The bandage of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage

10 is applied.

24. The bandage of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

15 25. The bandage of claim 22, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

26. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

20 27. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said third intermediate layer is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

28. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

25 29. The bandage of claim 4, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

30. A method of making a bandage for a burn wound, comprising:

providing a first layer, substantially comprised of a thin thermally conductive metal substrate, having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said metal substrate's first surface has a profile, when viewed from the side, that is substantially flat and adapted to make direct contact with a burn wound, and

wherein most of said metal substrate's second surface has a non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography, when viewed from the side, that rises above the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate, and is adapted to be directly exposed to air.

10 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.

15 32. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of providing a second outer layer, substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, said second layer having a first surface and a second surface,

wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

20 wherein said second layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second layer,

25 wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

wherein said first and second layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted for use on one or more areas of a user body.

30 33. The method of claim 30, further comprising the steps of providing a second outer layer substantially comprised of a substantially polymeric material, and providing a third

intermediate layer, substantially comprised of absorbent material, each layer having a first surface and a second surface,

5 wherein said third intermediate absorbent layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said first layer, but leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

wherein said second outer layer's first surface is adapted to mate with and cover at least two of the perimeter edges of said second surface of said third layer, but also leaving most of said first layer's second surface uncovered and exposed to the air,

10 wherein said second and third layers extend beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer,

wherein said second outer layer extends beyond said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer,

15 wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said first layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said third intermediate layer,

wherein said at least two perimeter edges of said third intermediate layer are bonded to a portion of the first surface of said second outer layer,

20 wherein the remainder of the first surface of said second outer layer is substantially coated with a non-toxic adhesive material adapted for use on user skin, and

wherein said first, second, and third layers are sized and shaped to a form factor that is adapted to one or more areas of a user body.

34. The method of claim 30, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.
- 25
35. The method of claim 34, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.
- 30

36. The method of claim 34, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
37. The method of claim 30, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
5
38. The method of claim 36, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
- 10 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.
40. The method of claim 38, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length
15 of said hole.
41. The method of claim 30, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.
- 20 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C.
43. The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool,
25 thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.
44. The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of providing a thermochromic indicator member,
wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn

wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

5 indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

45. The method of claim 32, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

46. The method of claim 32, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

47. The method of claim 32, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

48. The method of claim 32, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

49. The method of claim 32, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

50. The method of claim 32, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

25 51. The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of providing a thermochromic indicator member,

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

5 indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

10 53. The method of claim 51, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

54. The method of claim 51, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

15 55. The method of claim 33, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

56. The method of claim 33, wherein said third intermediate layer is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

20 57. The method of claim 33, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

58. The method of claim 33, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group 25 consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

59. A method of using a bandage according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
25 obtaining a bandage according to claim 1;

applying said bandage to a burn wound with the first surface of said first layer in direct contact with said burn wound; and

securing said bandage in position over said burn wound by applying adhesive medical tape along some or all of the edges of said bandage and extending to the tissue surrounding non-burned tissue,

5 wherein the top side of said bandage first layer is mostly left uncovered and exposed to the ambient environment.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.
61. The method of claim 59, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.
62. The method of claim 61, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.
63. The method of claim 61, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
64. The method of claim 59, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
65. The method of claim 63, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
66. The method of claim 65, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-

enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.

67. The method of claim 65, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length 5 of said hole.

68. The method of claim 59, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

69. The method of claim 68, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process 10 comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 775 °C to 900 °C.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein said annealing process further comprises the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool, 15 thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

71. The method of claim 59, wherein said bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member, 20 wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold 25 such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new medical dressing;

the method further comprising the steps of:

observing said thermochromic indicator member;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound is too

warm, then continuing the application of said bandage on said burn wound to further cooling of said burn wound;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound has cooled sufficiently, then removing said bandage from said burn wound and applying a different medical dressing to said burn wound; and

repeating the previous steps as necessary until said bandage has been removed from said burn wound.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

73. The method of claim 71, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

74. The method of claim 71, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

75. The method of claim 71, wherein said different medical dressing is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

76. The method of claim 59, wherein said bandage has a form factor adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

77. The method of claim 59, wherein said bandage has a form factor with a shape selected from the group consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

78. The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed thermally conductive metal substrate of said applied bandage to forced-air cooling.

79. A method of using a bandage according to claim 4, comprising the steps of:
obtaining a bandage according to claim 2;
applying said bandage to a burn wound with the first surface of said first layer in direct contact with said burn wound; and
5 securing said bandage in position over said burn wound with said adhesive material disposed on the first side of said second layer of said bandage.

80. The method of claim 79, wherein said thermally conductive metal substrate is substantially comprised of a metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, silver, gold, copper, magnesium, tungsten, platinum, and a metal alloy substantially based on any other aforementioned metals.
10

81. The method of claim 79, wherein said non-flat, heat-dissipation-enhancing surface topography includes a plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions, said protrusions selected from the group consisting of cone-like protrusions, half-dome-like protrusions, and pyramid-like protrusions.
15

82. The method of claim 81, wherein said plurality of heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusions are disposed in rows on said first layer, the positioning of every row with respect to its adjacent row(s) is selected from the group consisting of staggered and non-staggered.
20

83. The method of claim 81, wherein at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate.
25

84. The method of claim 79, wherein said first layer includes a plurality of manufactured aeration holes in said thermally conductive metal substrate.
30

85. The method of claim 83, wherein said at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion with a hole disposed from its apex toward the base plane of said thermally conductive metal substrate has its hole extending all the way through said thermally conductive metal substrate.
35

86. The method of claim 85, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is narrower toward said second surface of said

first layer and wider toward said first surface of said first layer.

87. The method of claim 85, wherein said hole disposed in at least one heat-dissipation-enhancing protrusion has a diameter that is substantially the same size along the length of said hole.

5 88. The method of claim 79, wherein the material in said thermally conductive metal substrate is comprised of an aluminum alloy containing at least 92% aluminum and about 5% magnesium.

89. The method of claim 88, wherein said aluminum alloy is annealed by a process comprising the step of subjecting said aluminum alloy to a temperature in the range of 10 775 °C to 900 °C.

90. The method of claim 89, wherein said annealing process further comprises the step of allowing said aluminum alloy to naturally cool; that is, non-furnace cool,

15 thereby substantially removing any strain hardening of said aluminum alloy and ensuring that the re-crystallization of said aluminum alloy results in substantially uniform grain growth and directional orientation.

91. The method of claim 79, wherein said bandage further comprises a thermochromic indicator member,

wherein said thermochromic indicator member is in thermal communication with a burn wound via said first layer, and

20 wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material calibrated to:

indicate to a user when a burn on which said bandage is applied is still too warm for safe removal of said bandage, based on a predetermined threshold, and

indicate to a user when a burn has cooled to at least a predetermined threshold such that said bandage can be safely removed and/or changed-out for a new 25 medical dressing;

the method further comprising the steps of:

observing said thermochromic indicator member;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound is too warm, then continuing the application of said bandage on said burn wound to

further cooling of said burn wound;

if said thermochromic indicator member indicates that said burn wound has cooled sufficiently, then removing said bandage from said burn wound and applying a different medical dressing to said burn wound; and

5 repeating the previous steps as necessary until said bandage has been removed from said burn wound.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides color-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

10 93. The method of claim 91, wherein said thermochromic indicator member provides icon-based user indications as to the thermal status of the burn to which said bandage is applied.

94. The method of claim 91, wherein said thermochromic indicator member is comprised of material selected from the group consisting of thermochromic liquid crystals, leuco dyes, and thermochromic inks.

15 95. The method of claim 91, wherein said different medical dressing is any one or combination of dressings selected from the group consisting of medicinal compounds, therapeutic compounds, and sterile gauze-based or cotton-based bandages.

96. The method of claim 79, wherein said second layer is substantially comprised of

20 perforated 1527-ENP ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA).

97. The method of claim 79, wherein said form factor is adapted to facilitate bandage application to a part of a human body selected from the group consisting of finger, thumb, toe, elbow, wrist, knee, ankle, foot, hand palm, and face.

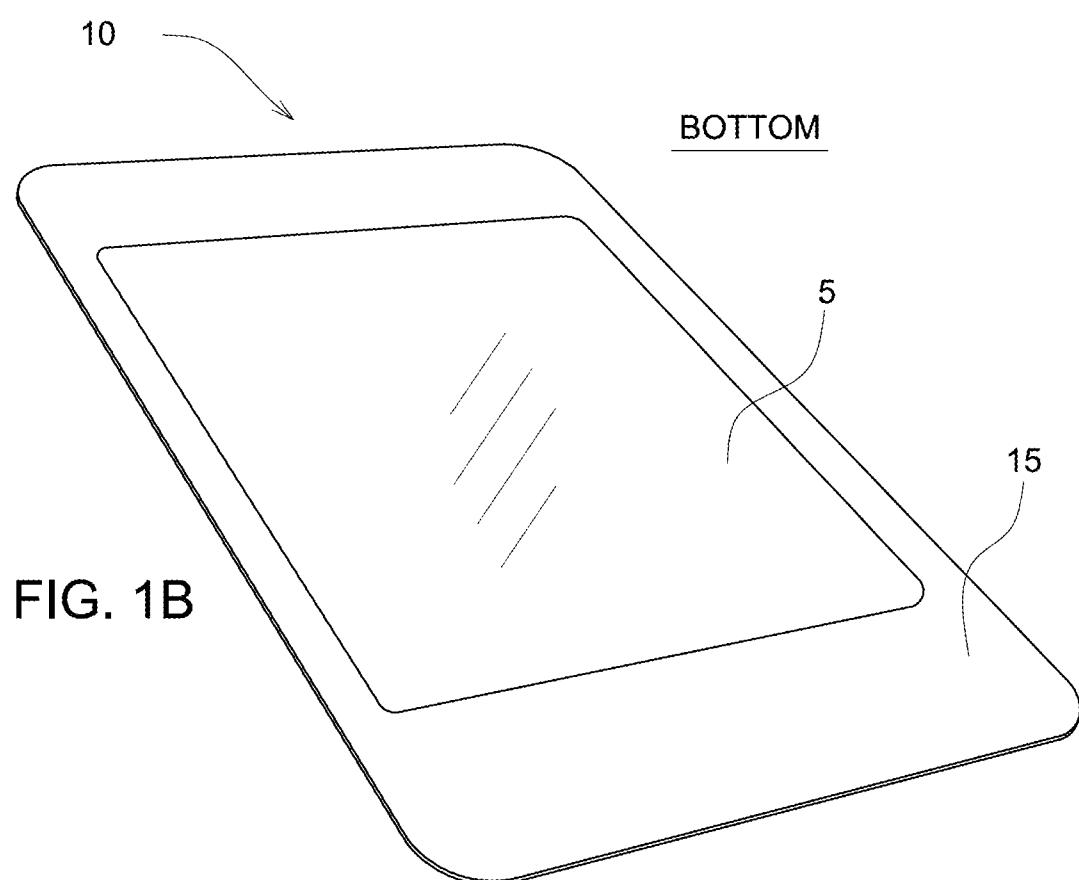
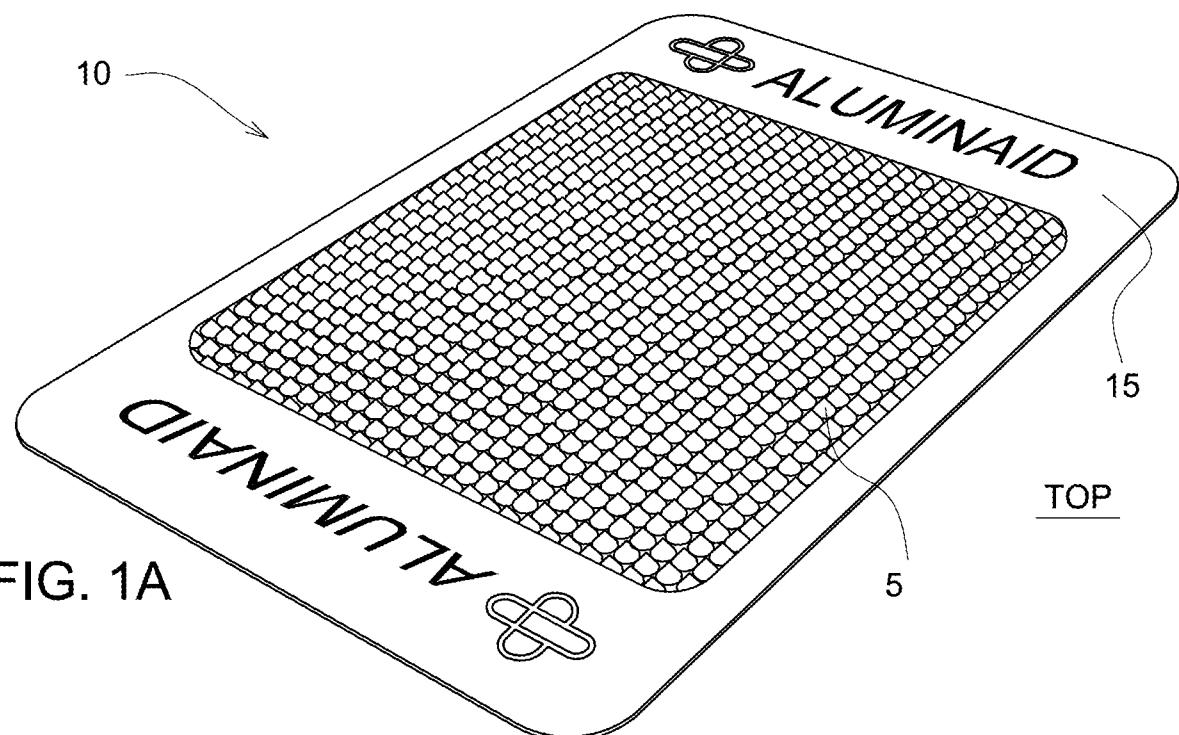
98. The method of claim 79, wherein said form factor is of a shape selected from the group

25 consisting of rectangle, square, rounded-corner rectangle, circle, oval, triangle, rounded-corner triangle, and continuous-strip roll.

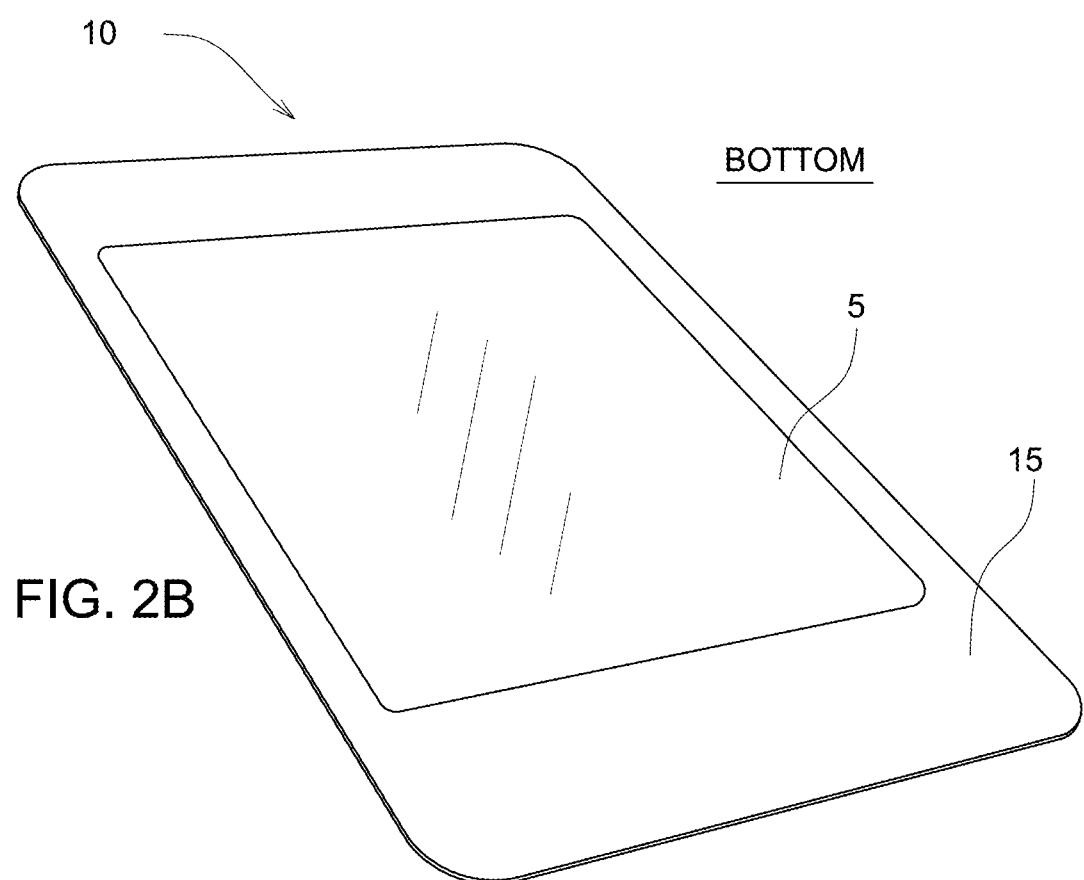
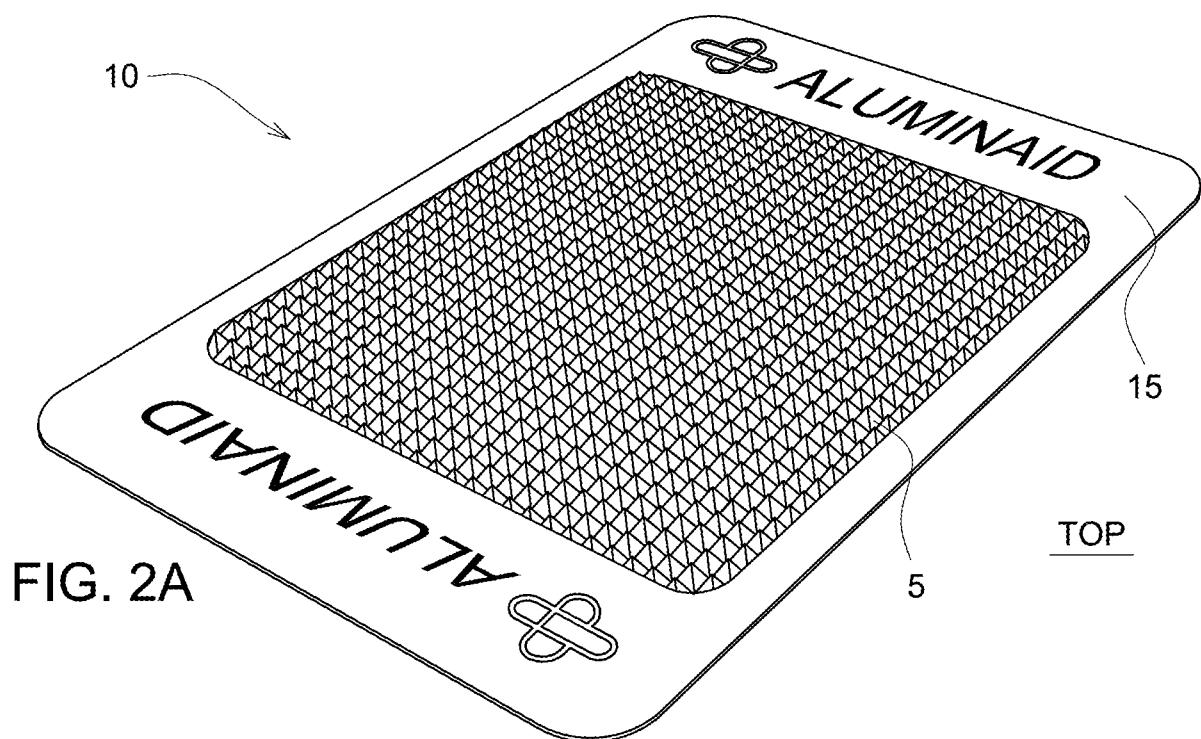
99. The method of claim 79, wherein said third intermediate layer is substantially comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of cotton cause, silk gauze, porous plastic gauze, and hydrogel.

100. The method of claim 79, further comprising the step of subjecting the exposed thermally conductive metal substrate of said applied bandage to forced-air cooling.

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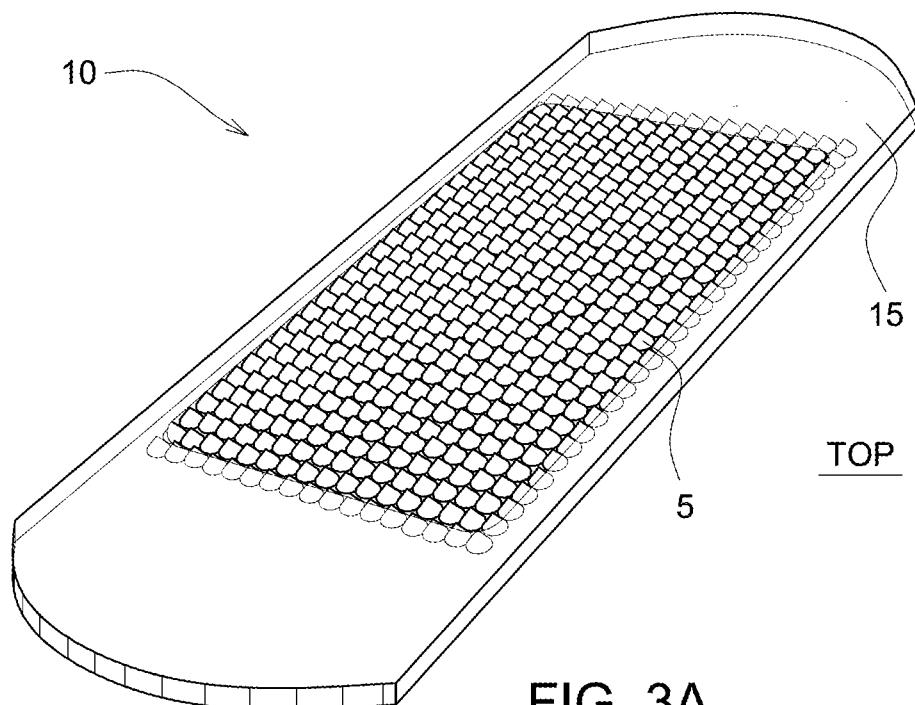


FIG. 3A

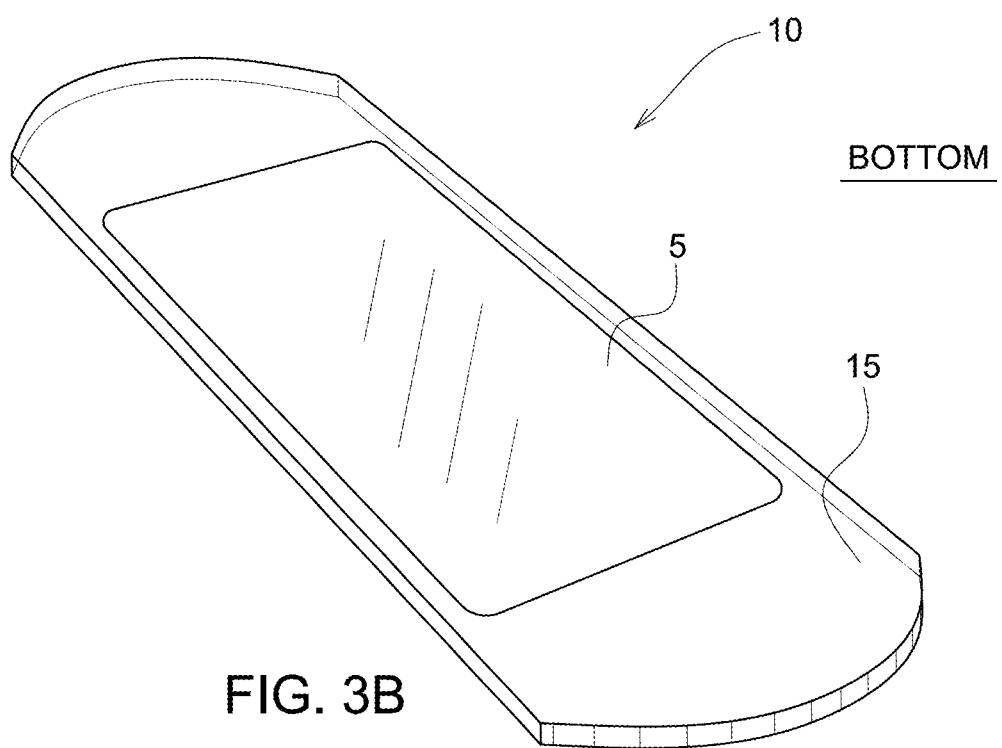


FIG. 3B

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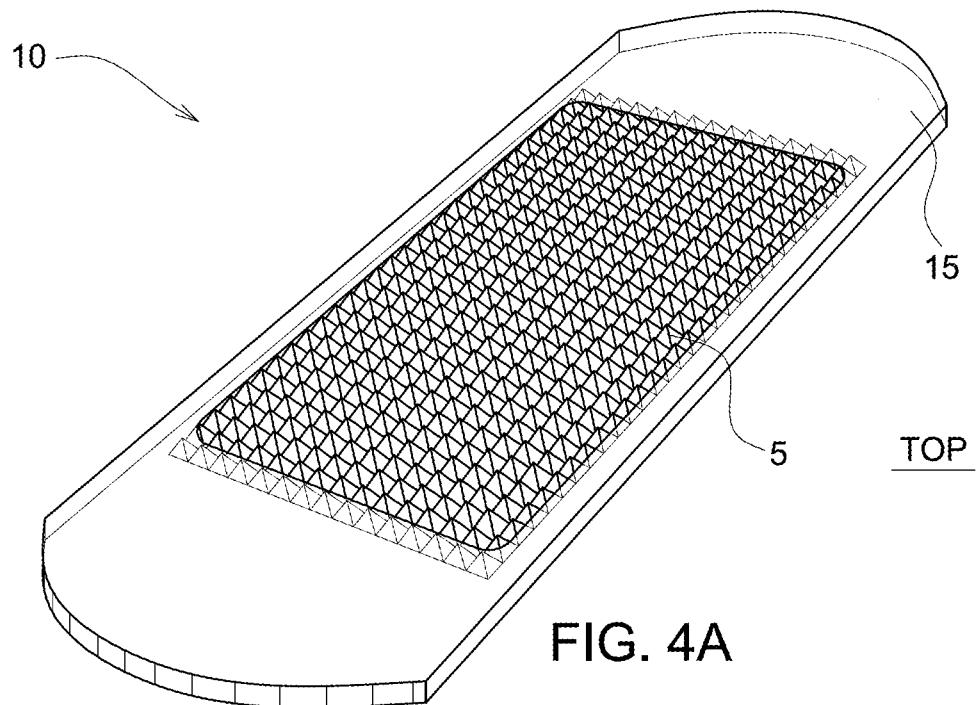


FIG. 4A

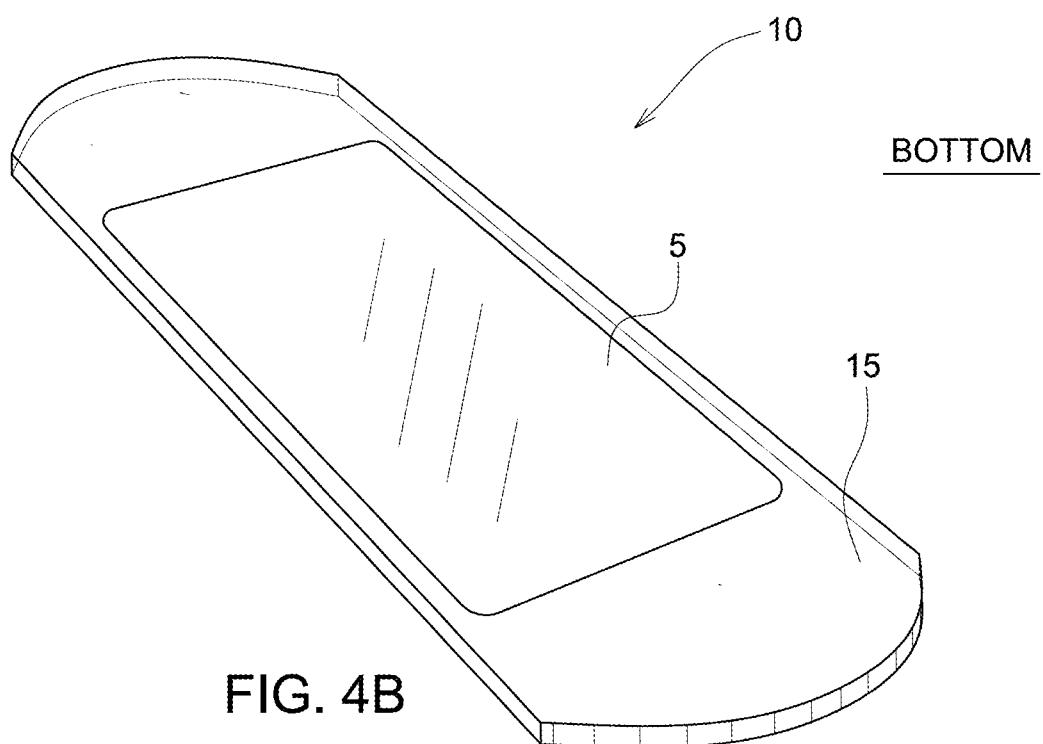


FIG. 4B

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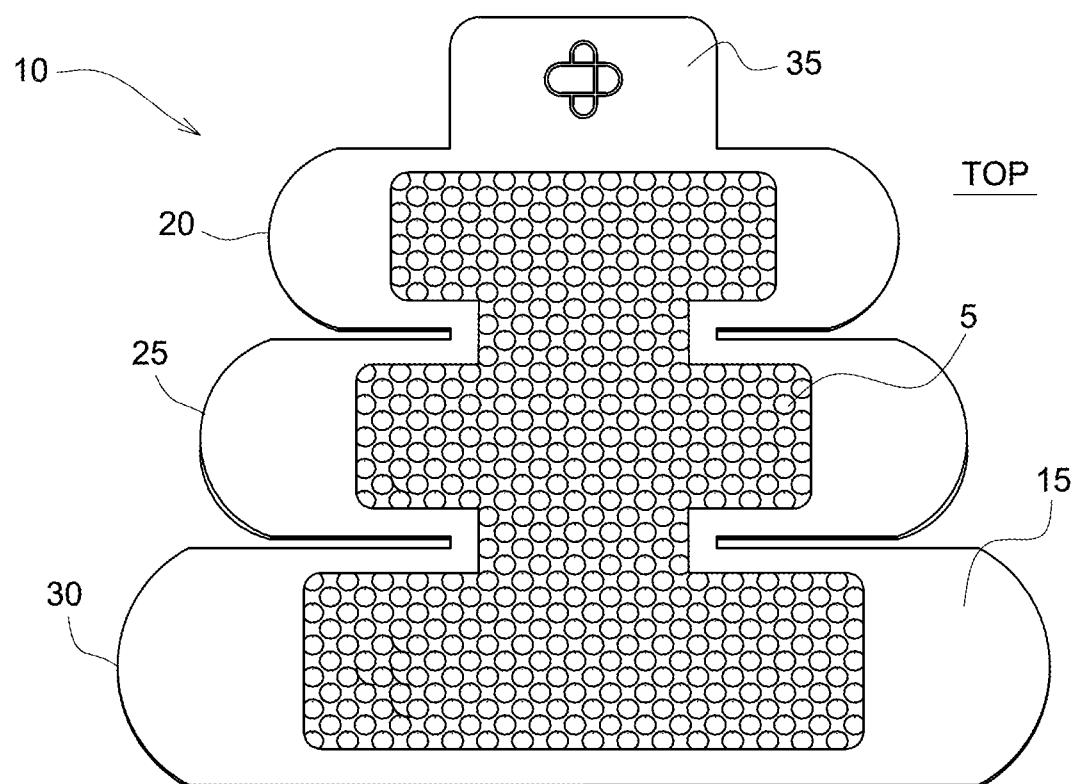


FIG. 5A

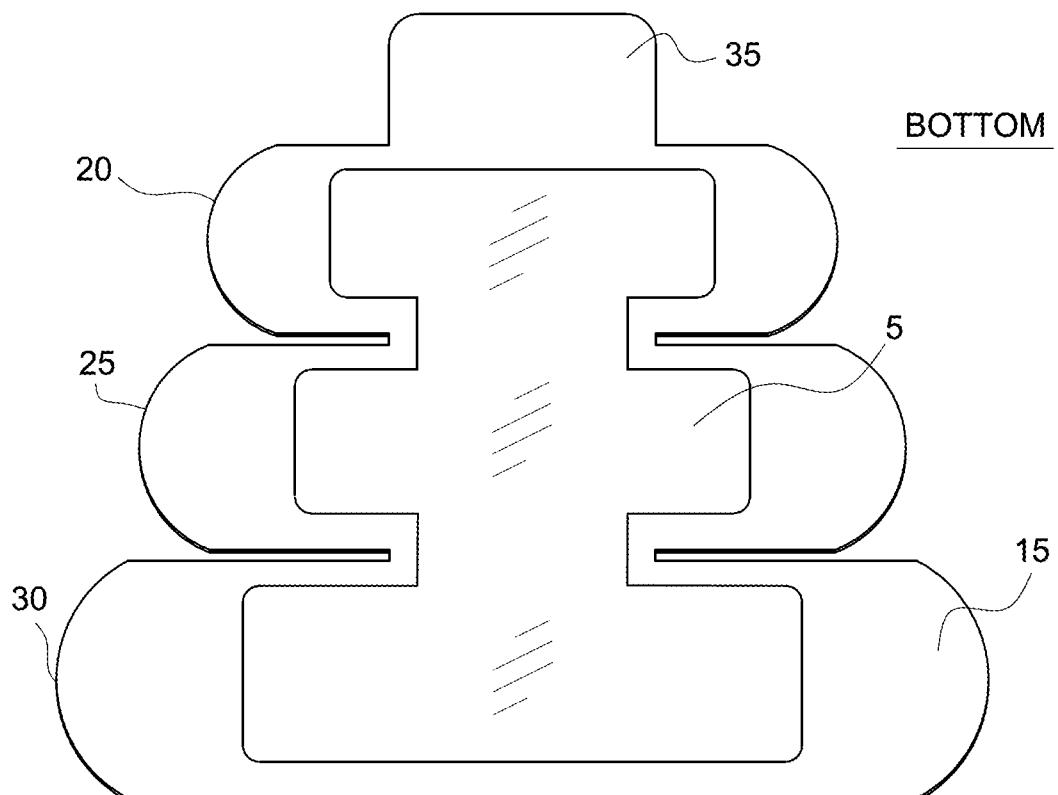


FIG. 5B

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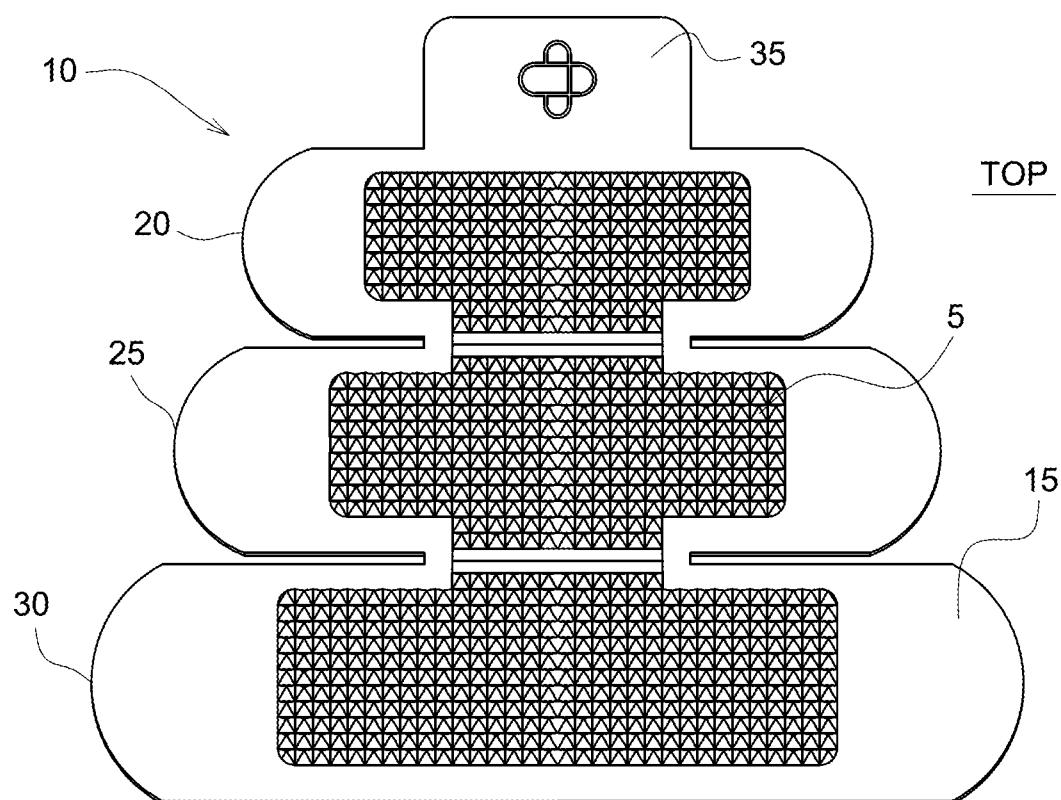


FIG. 6A

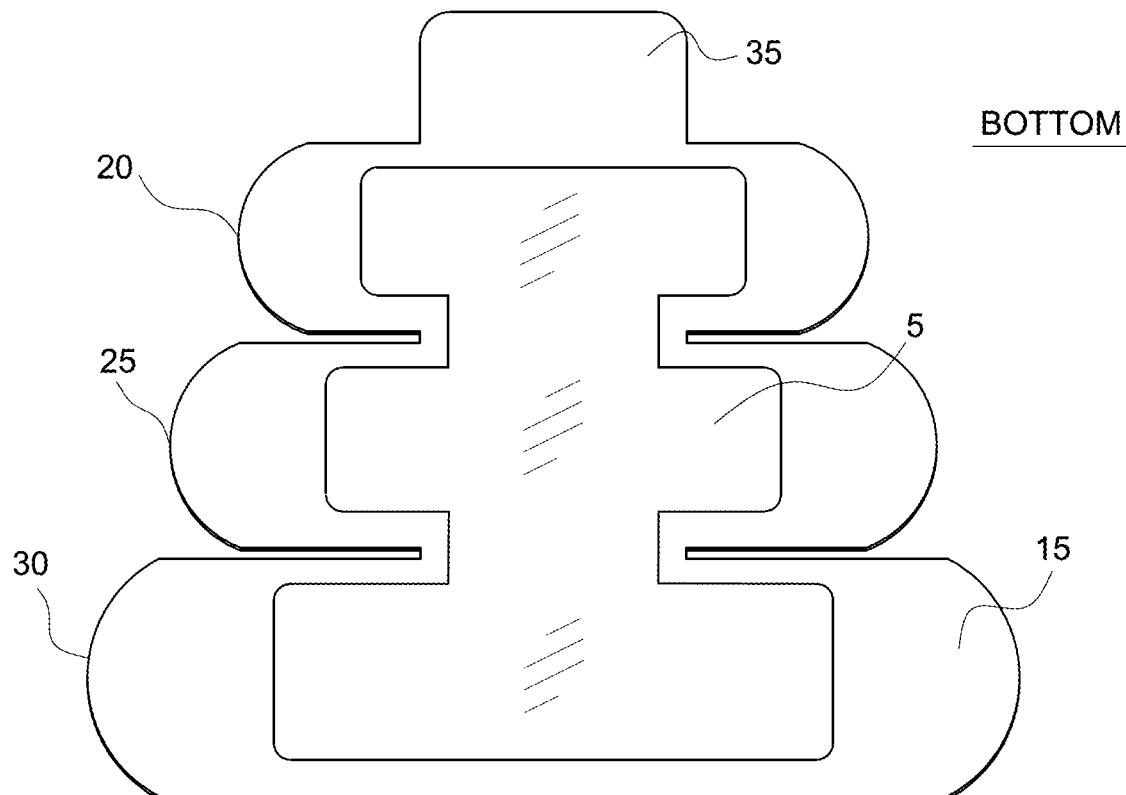


FIG. 6B

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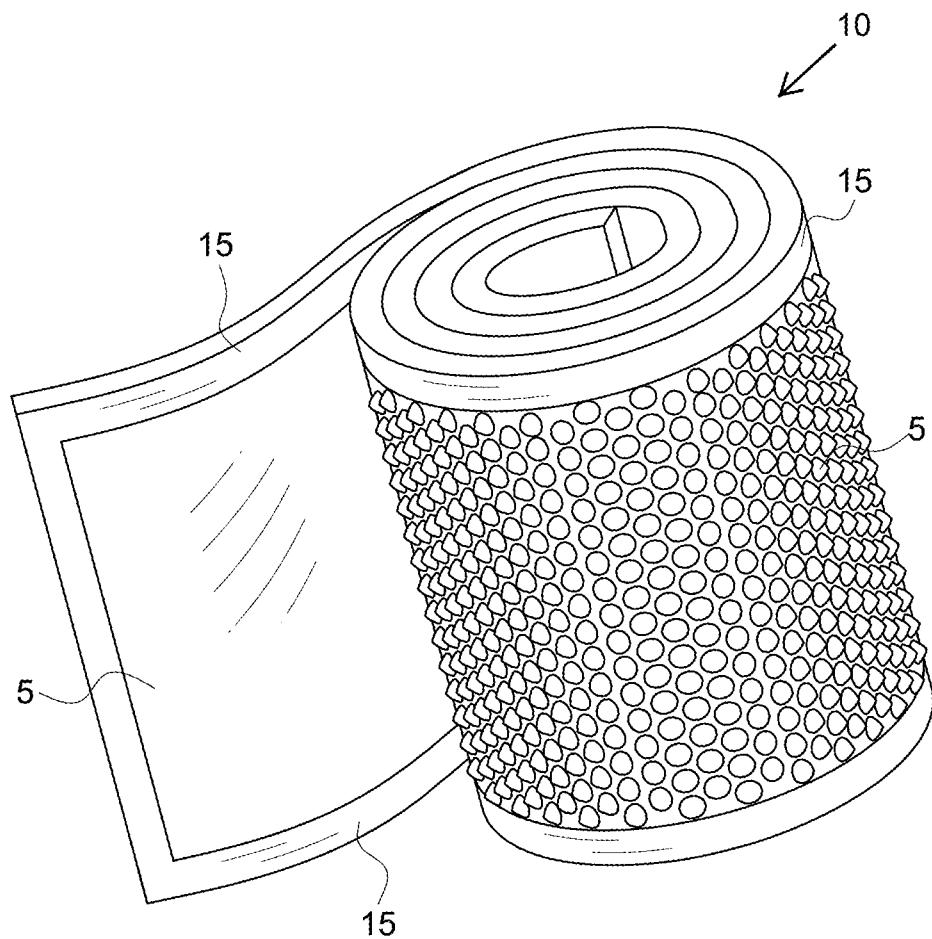


FIG. 7

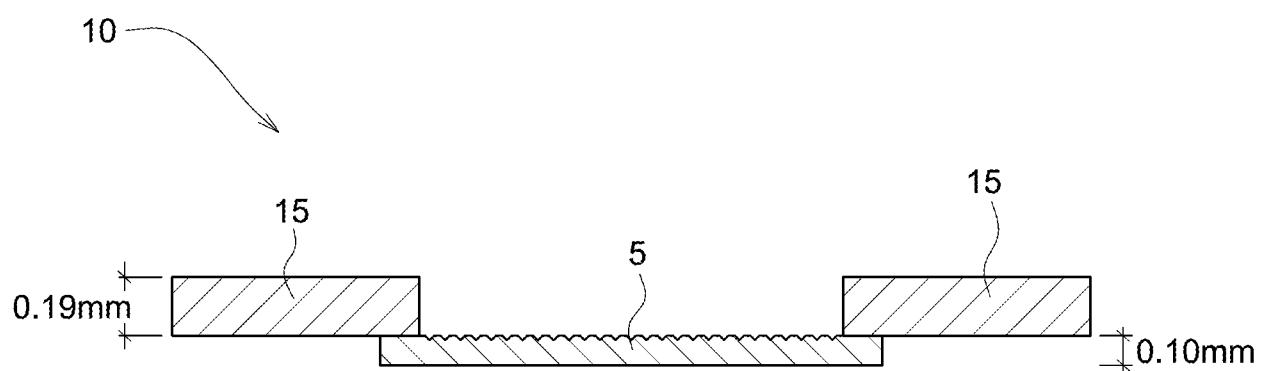


FIG. 8

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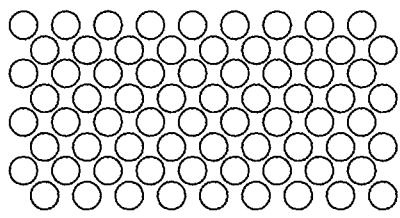


FIG. 9A

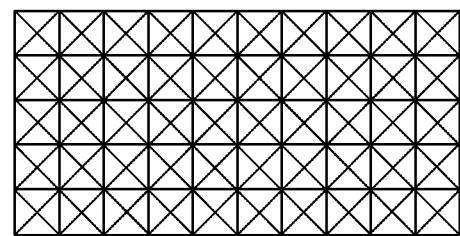


FIG. 9B

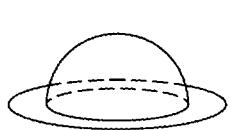


FIG. 10A

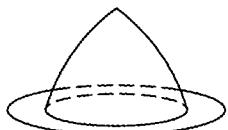


FIG. 10B

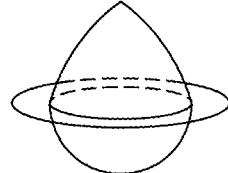


FIG. 10C

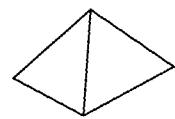


FIG. 10D

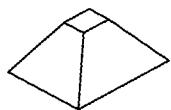


FIG. 10E



FIG. 10F

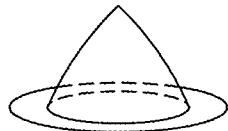


FIG. 10G

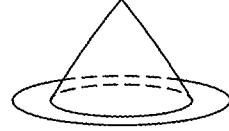


FIG. 10H

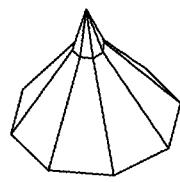


FIG. 10I

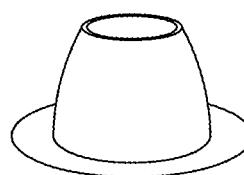


FIG. 10J

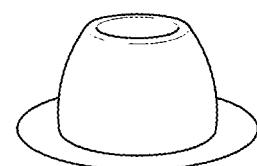


FIG. 10K

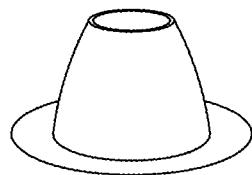


FIG. 10L

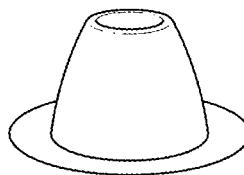


FIG. 10M

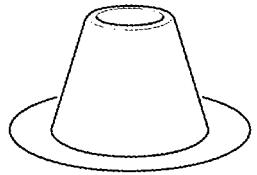


FIG. 10N

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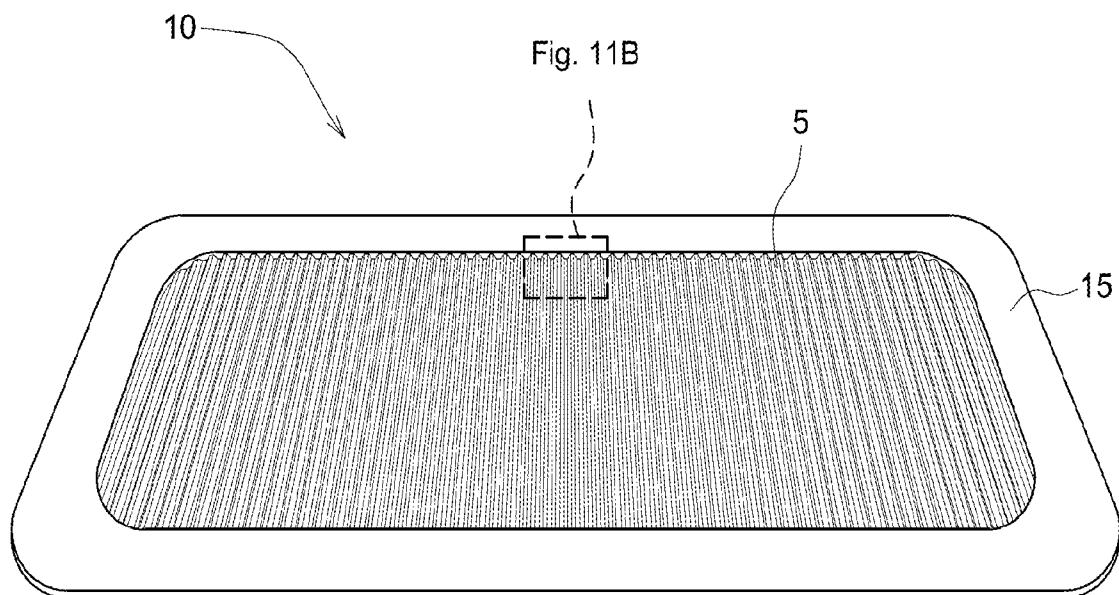


FIG. 11A

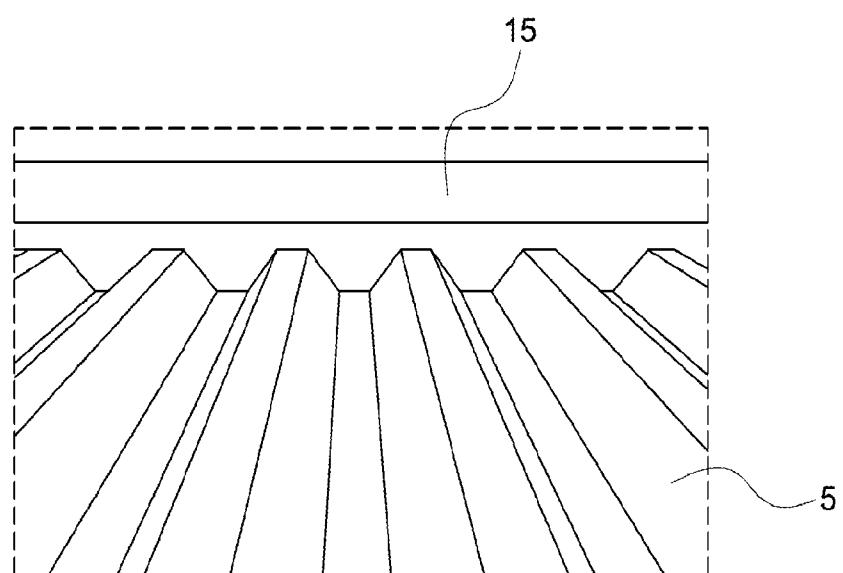


FIG. 11B

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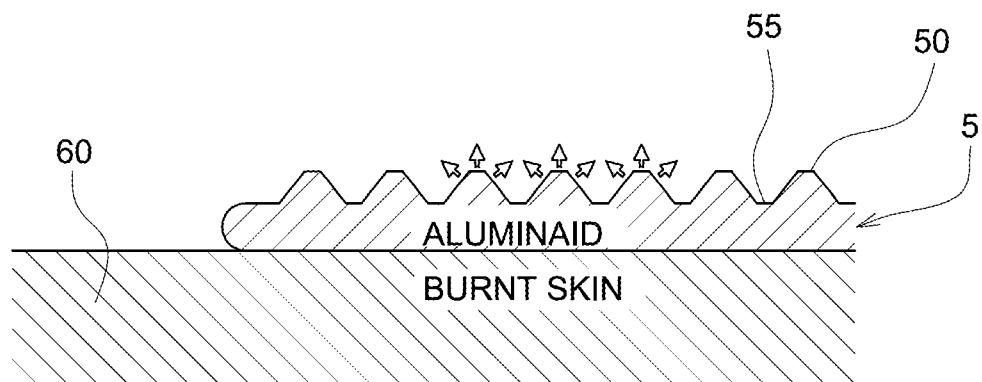


FIG. 12A

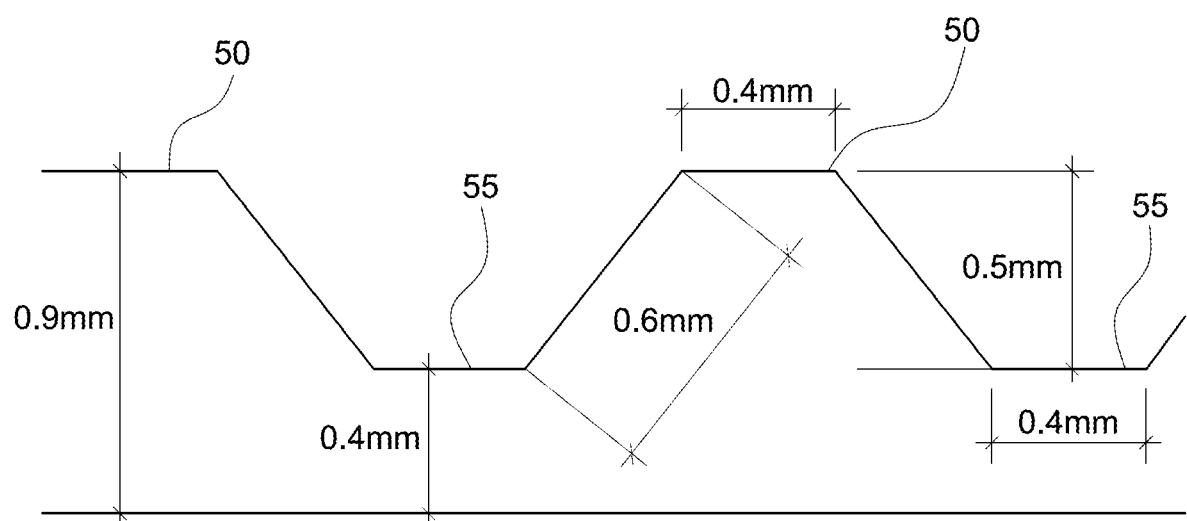


FIG. 12B

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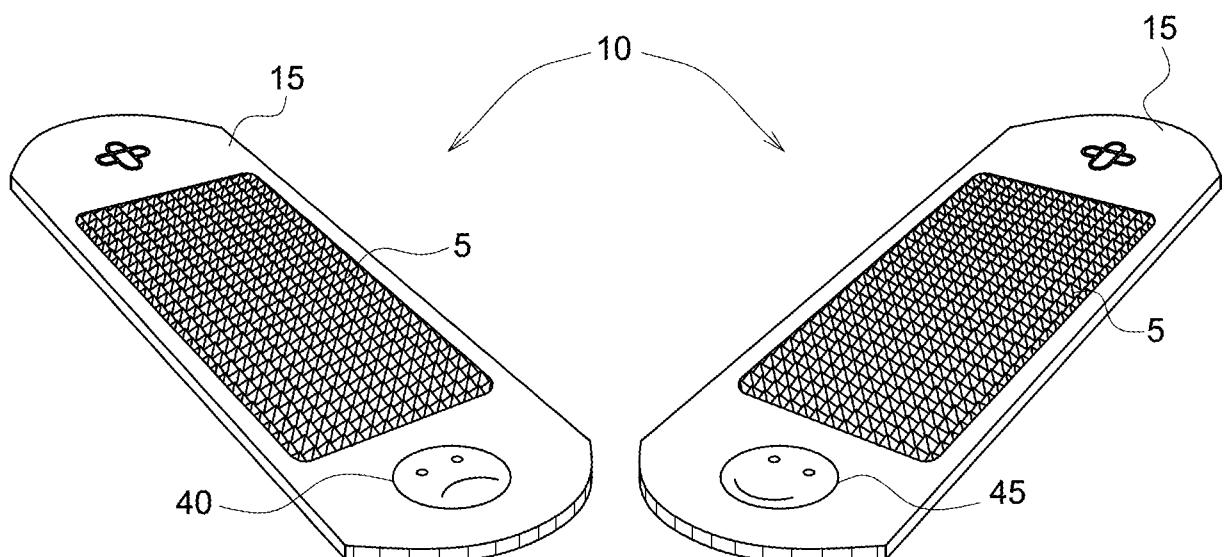


FIG. 13A

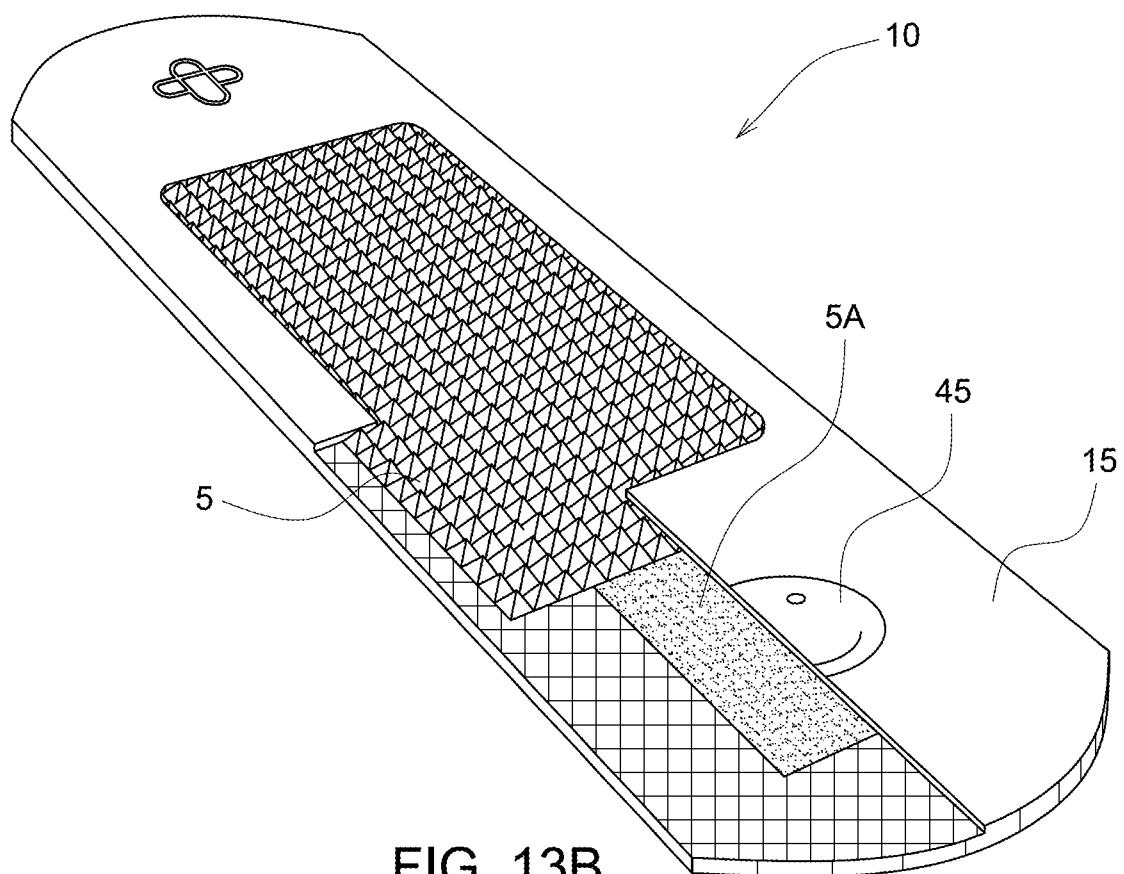


FIG. 13B

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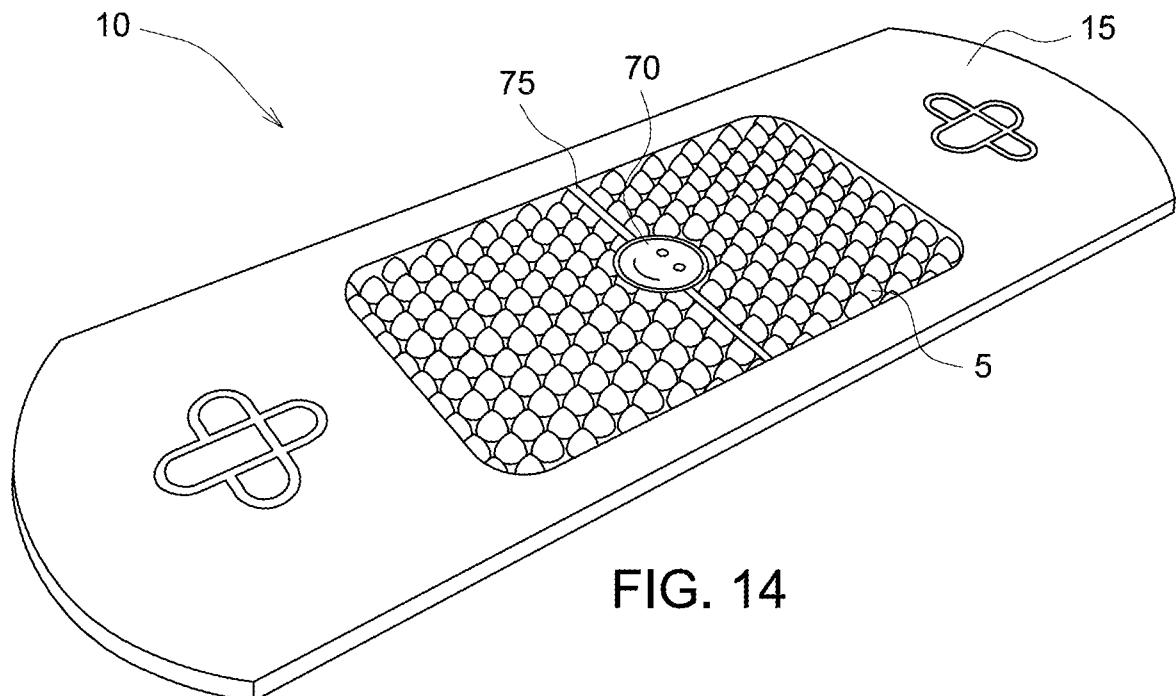


FIG. 14

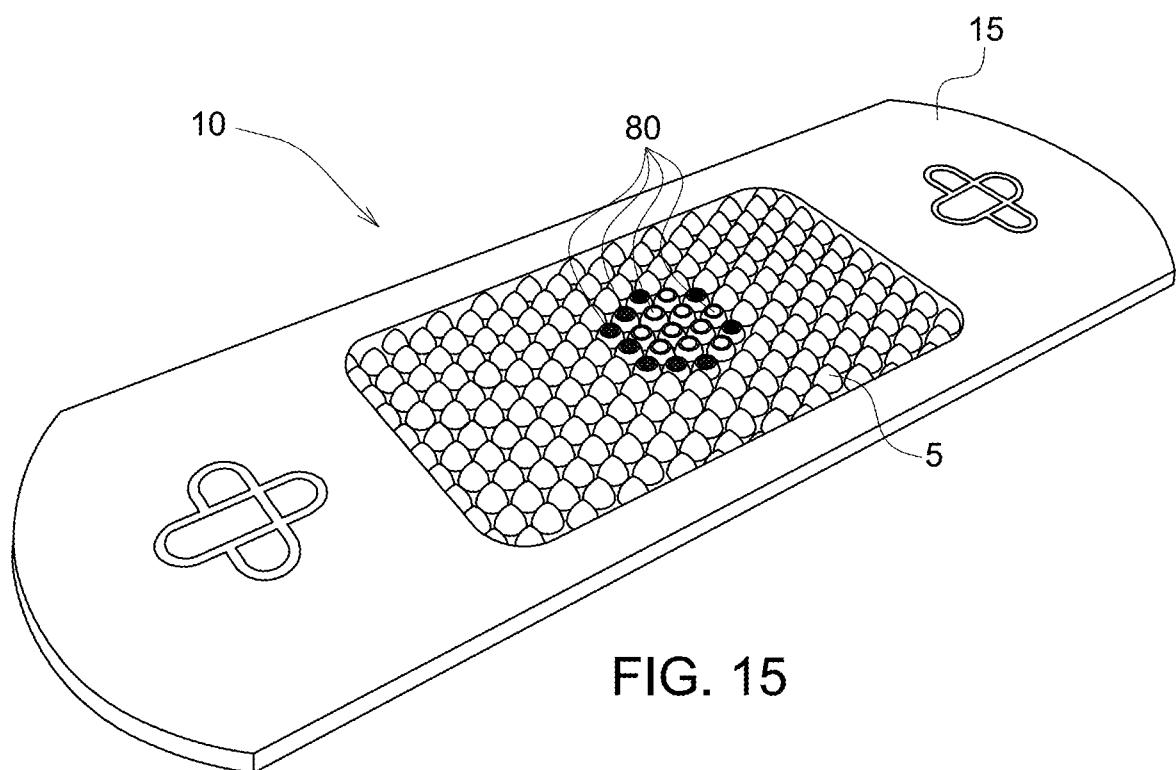
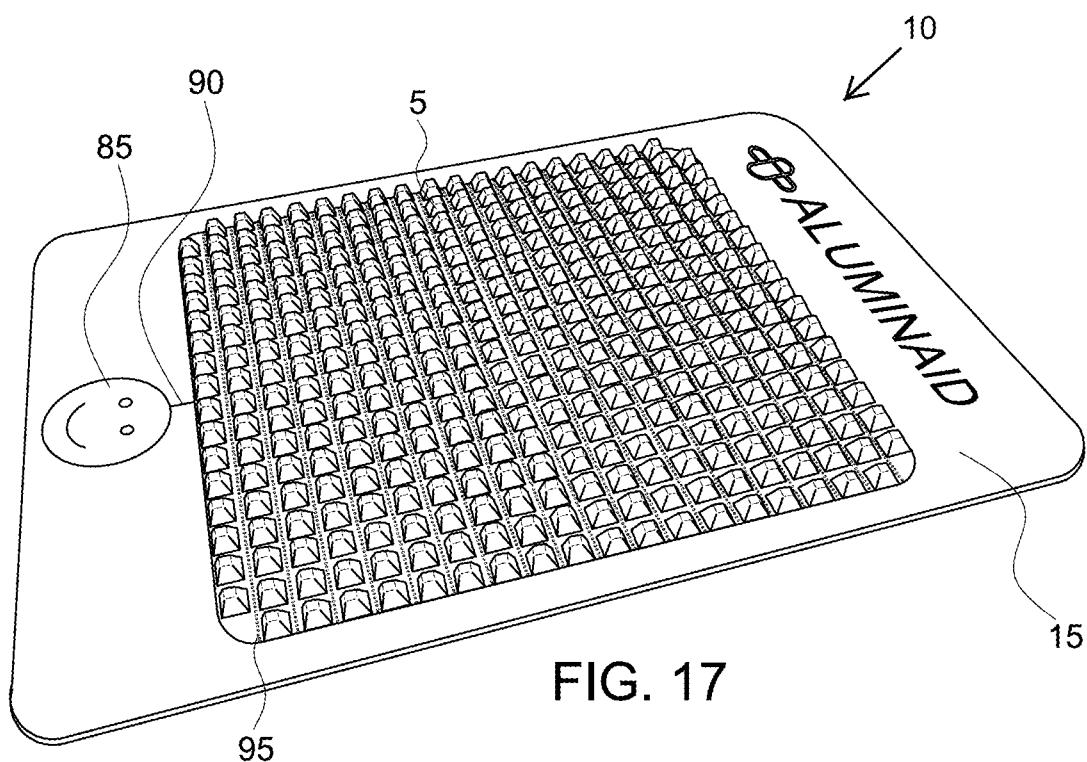
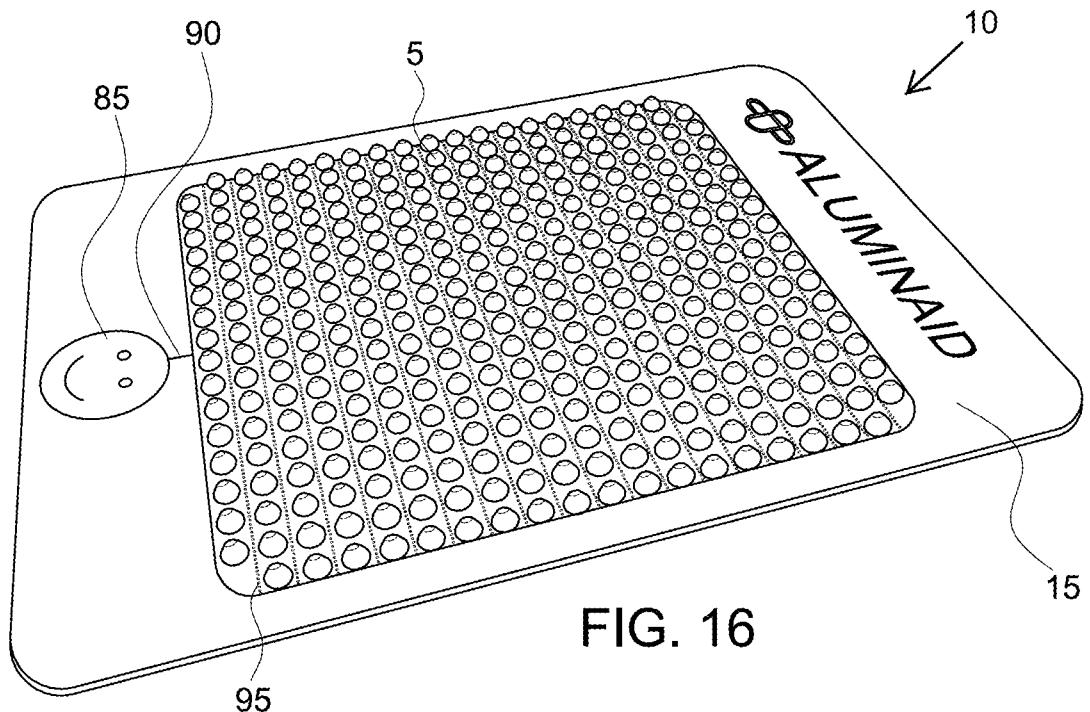
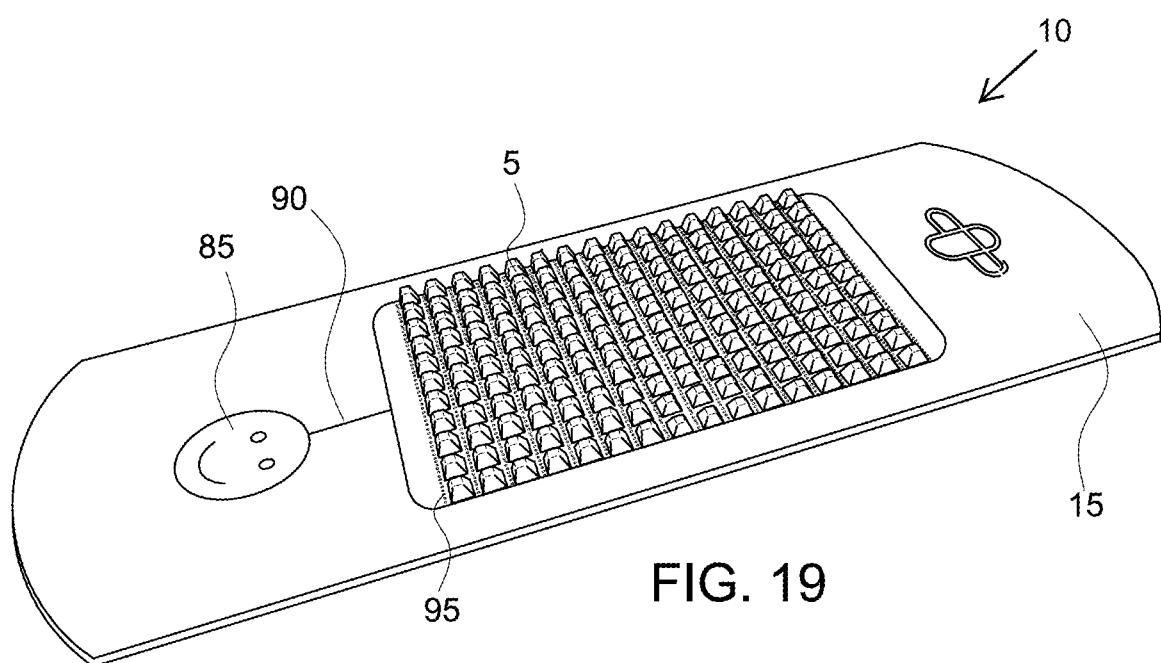
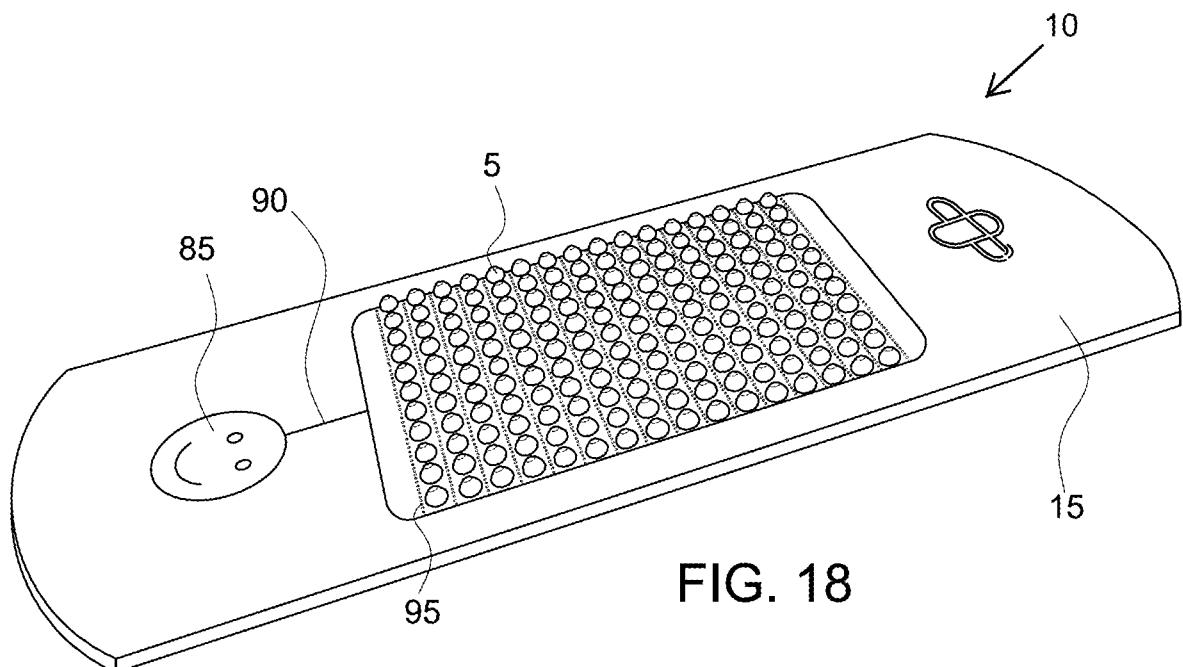


FIG. 15

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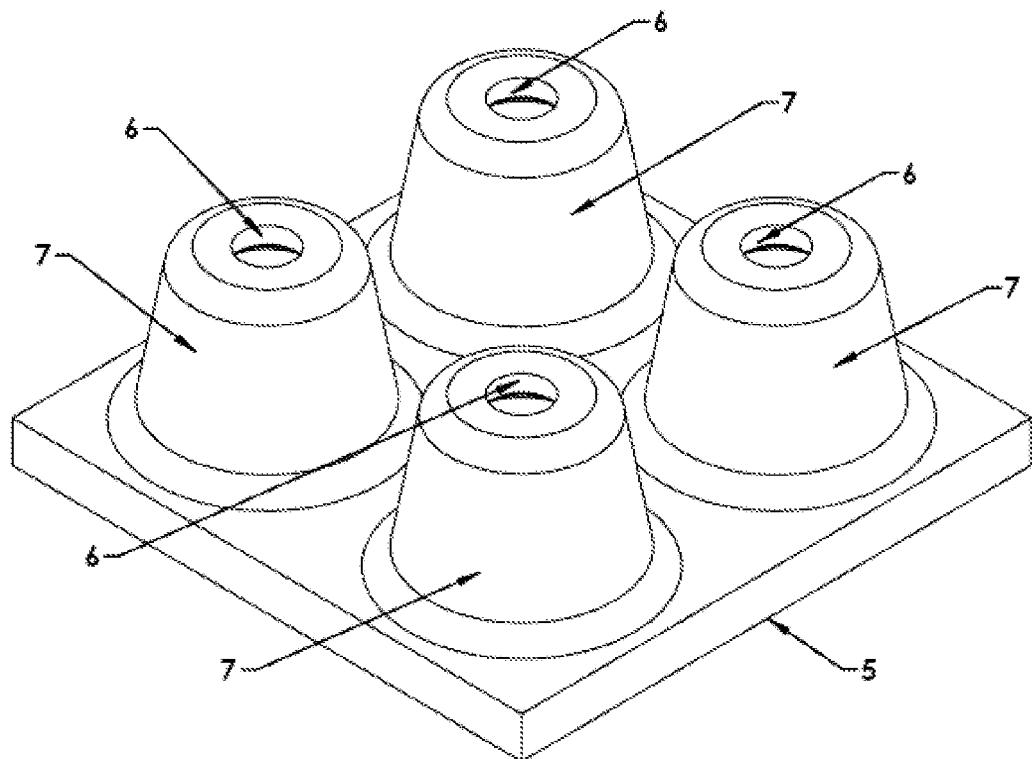


FIG. 20A

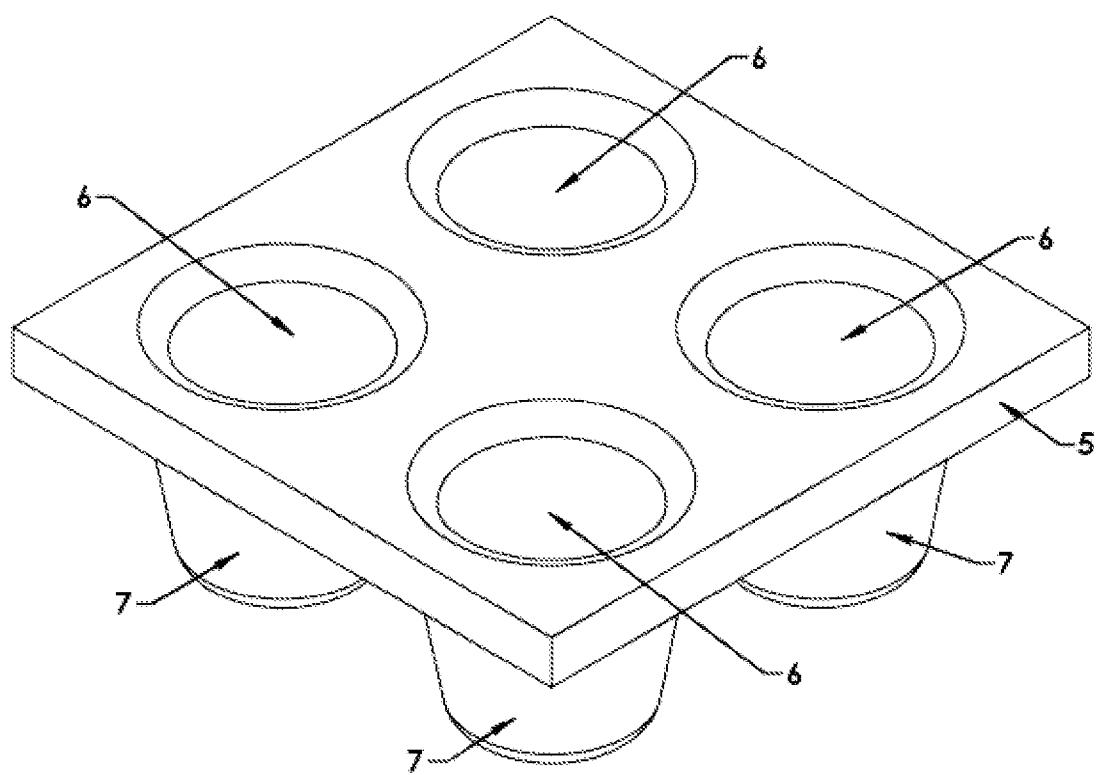


FIG. 20B

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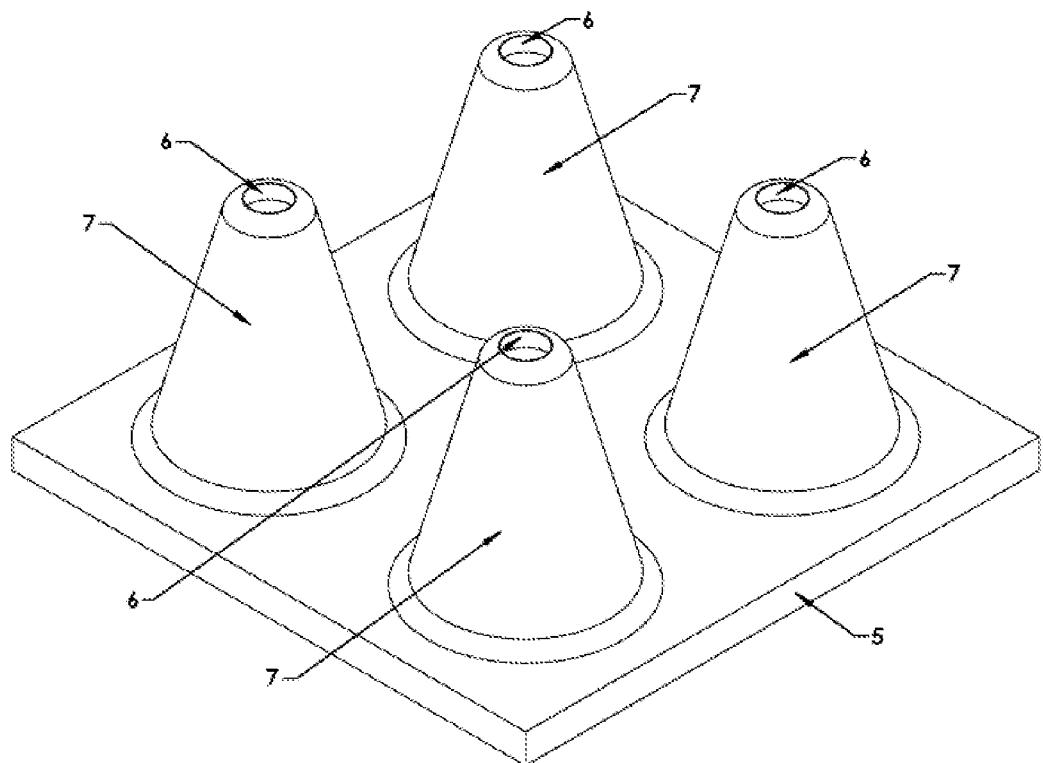


FIG. 21A

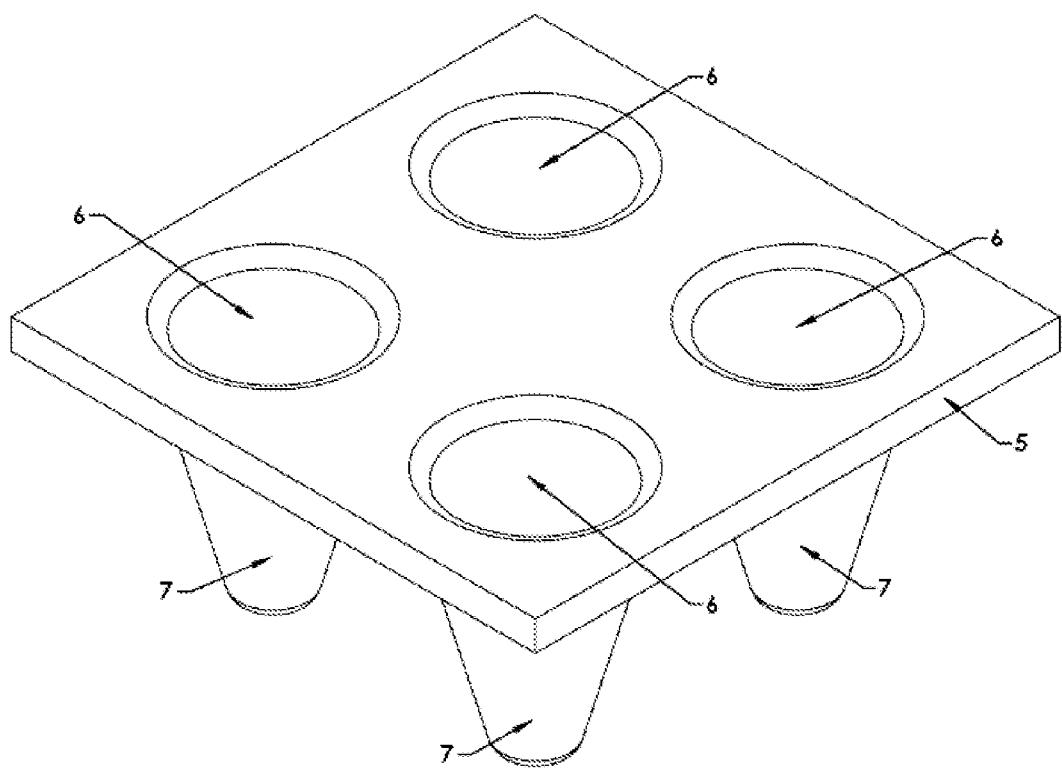


FIG. 21B

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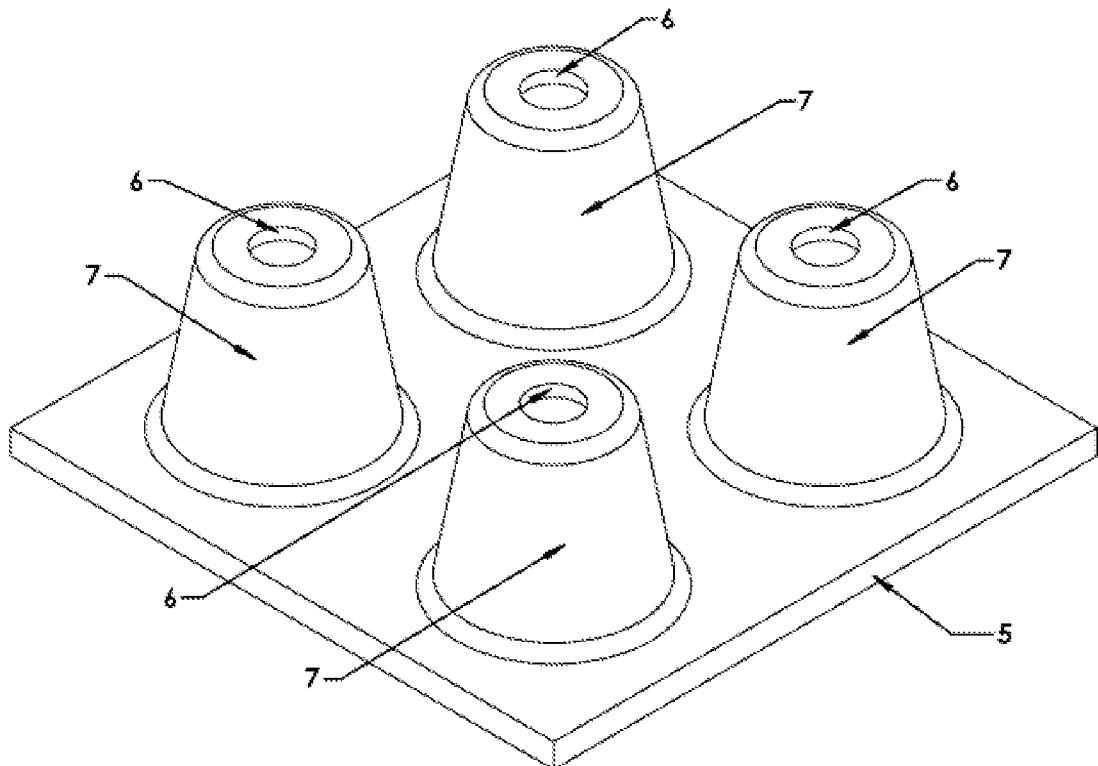


FIG. 22A

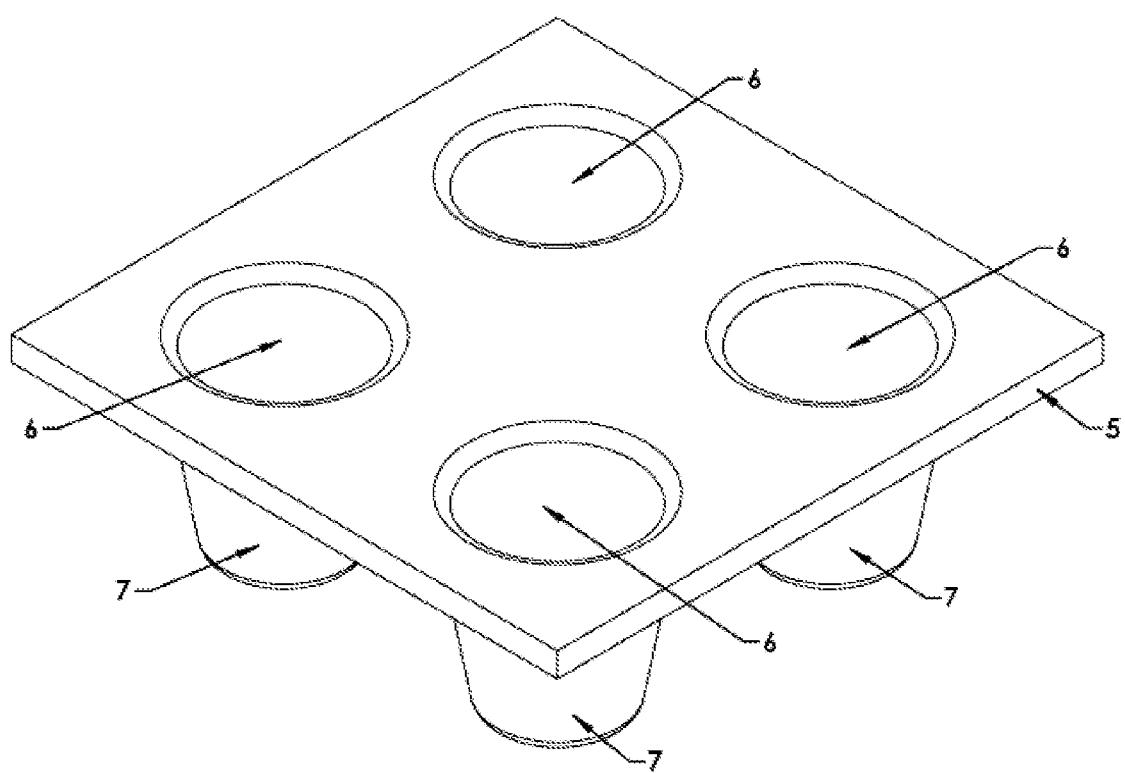


FIG. 22B

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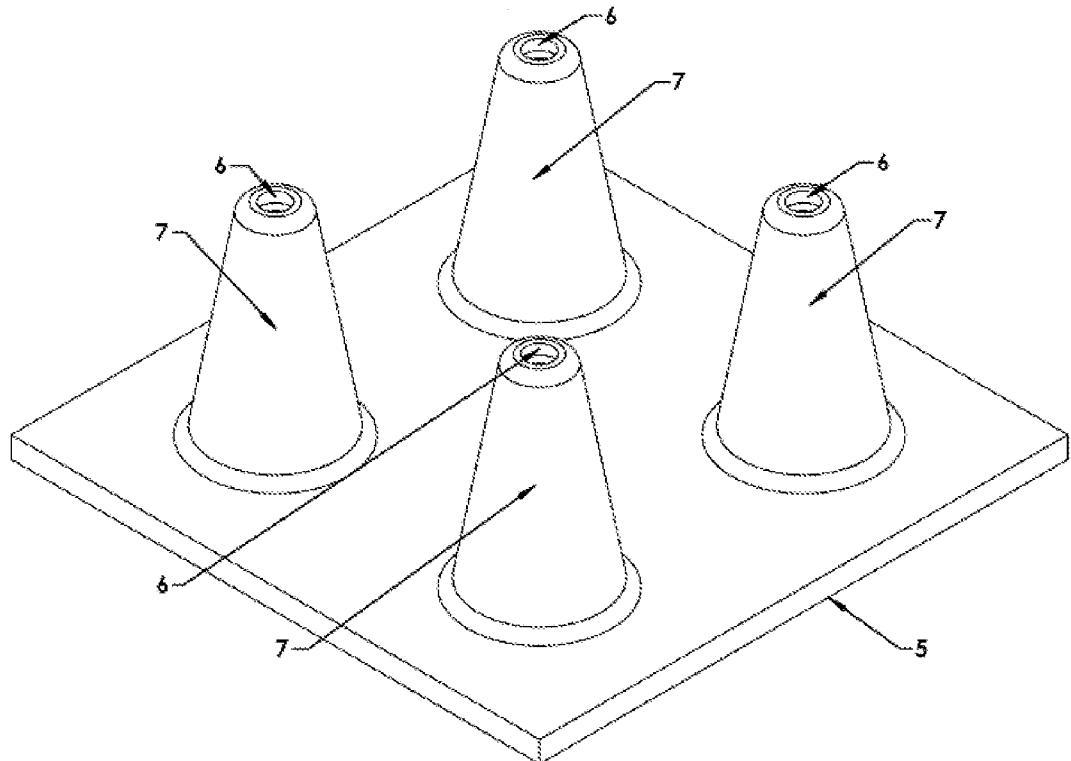


FIG. 23A

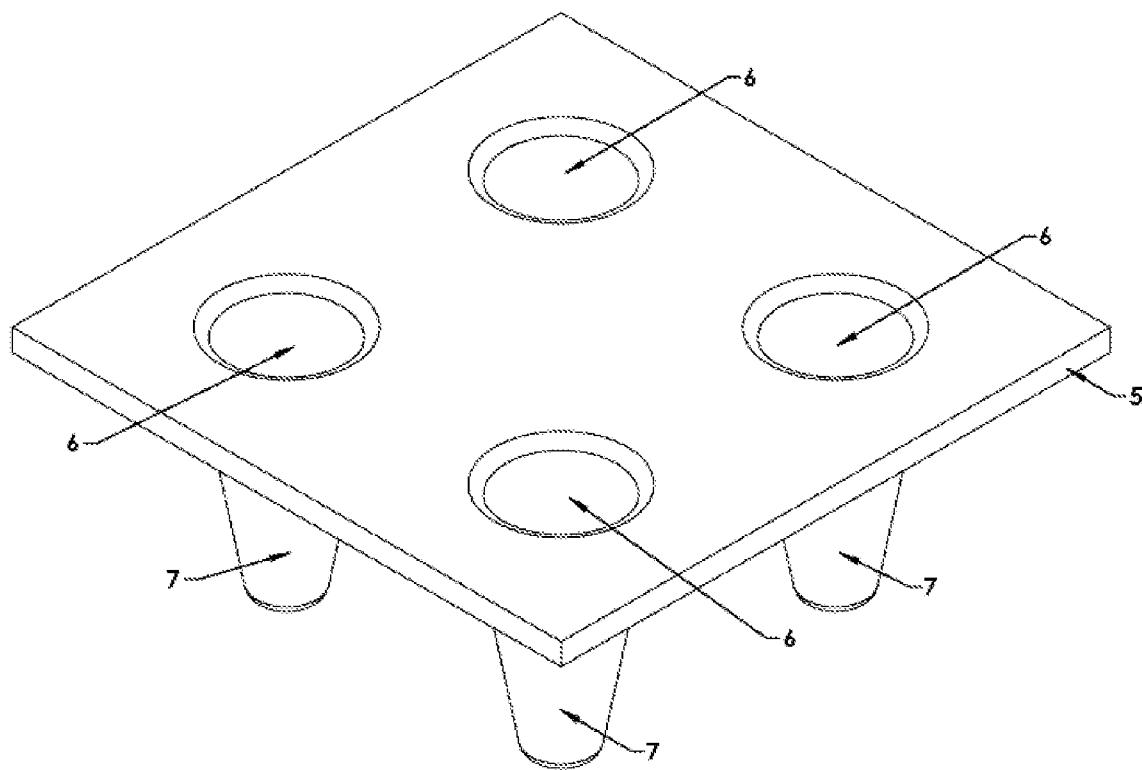


FIG. 23B

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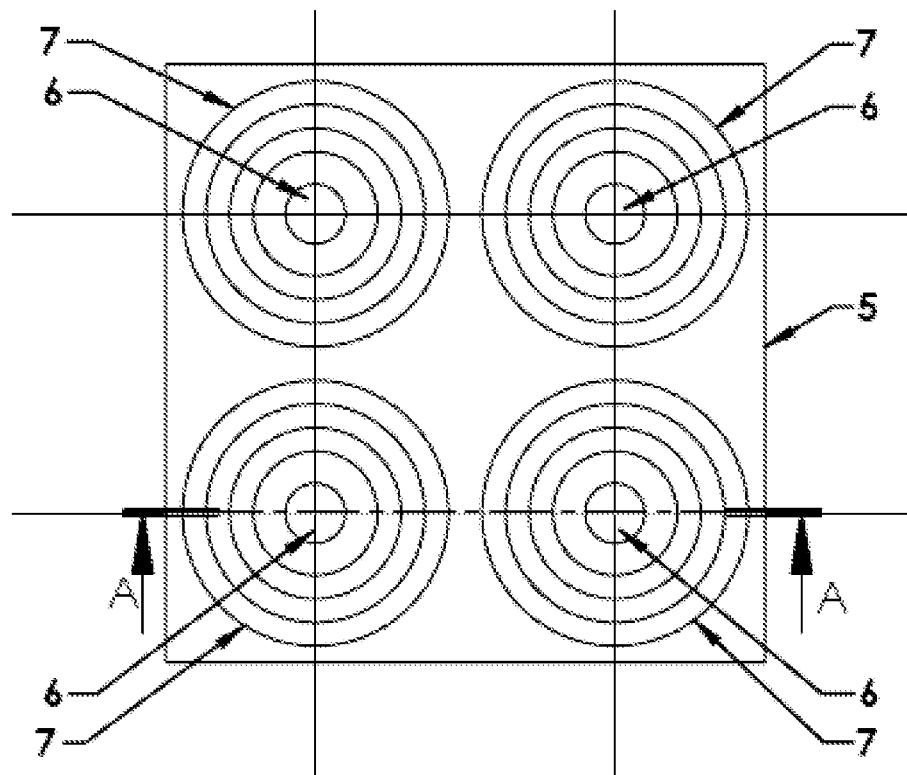
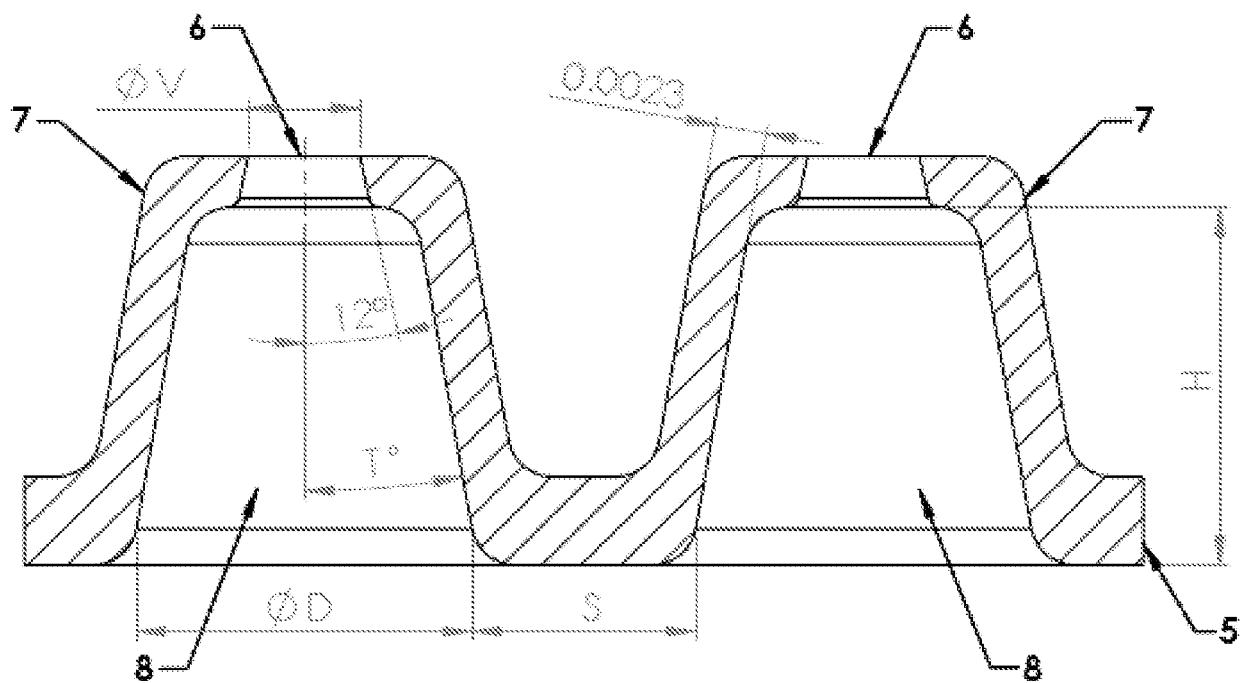


FIG. 24A



SECTION A-A; SCALE 100 : 1

FIG. 24B

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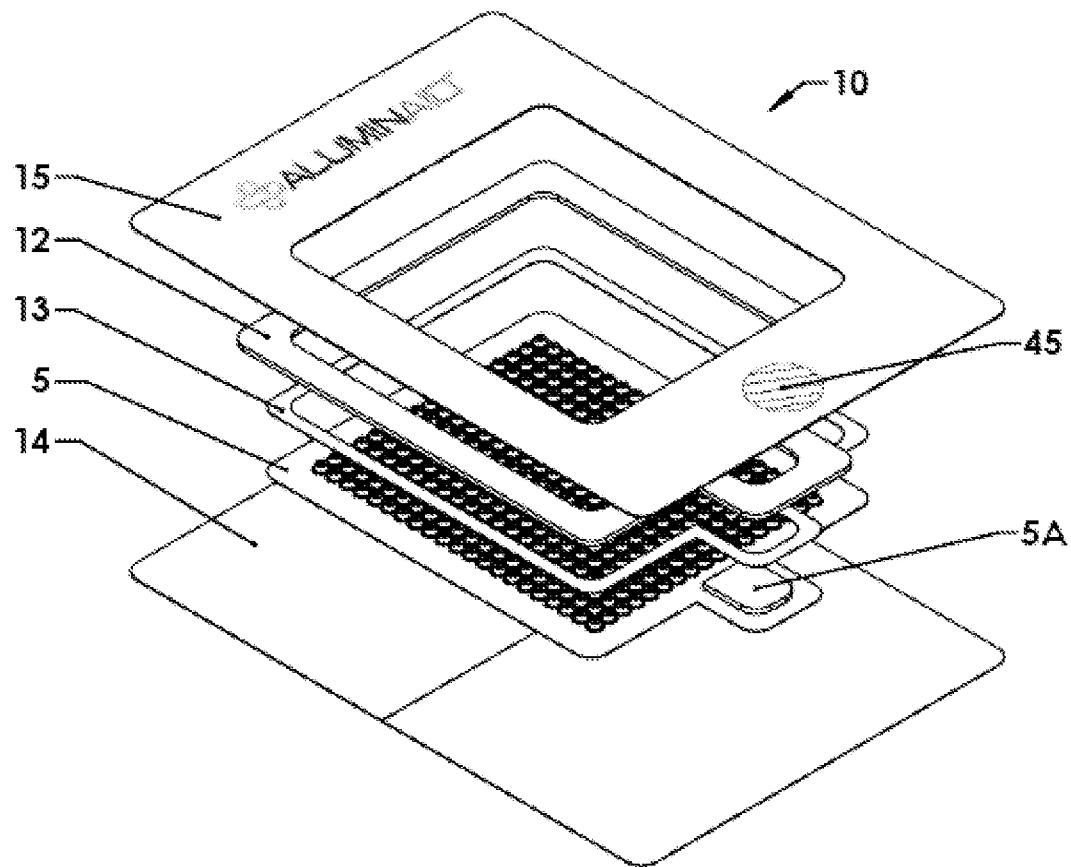


FIG. 25

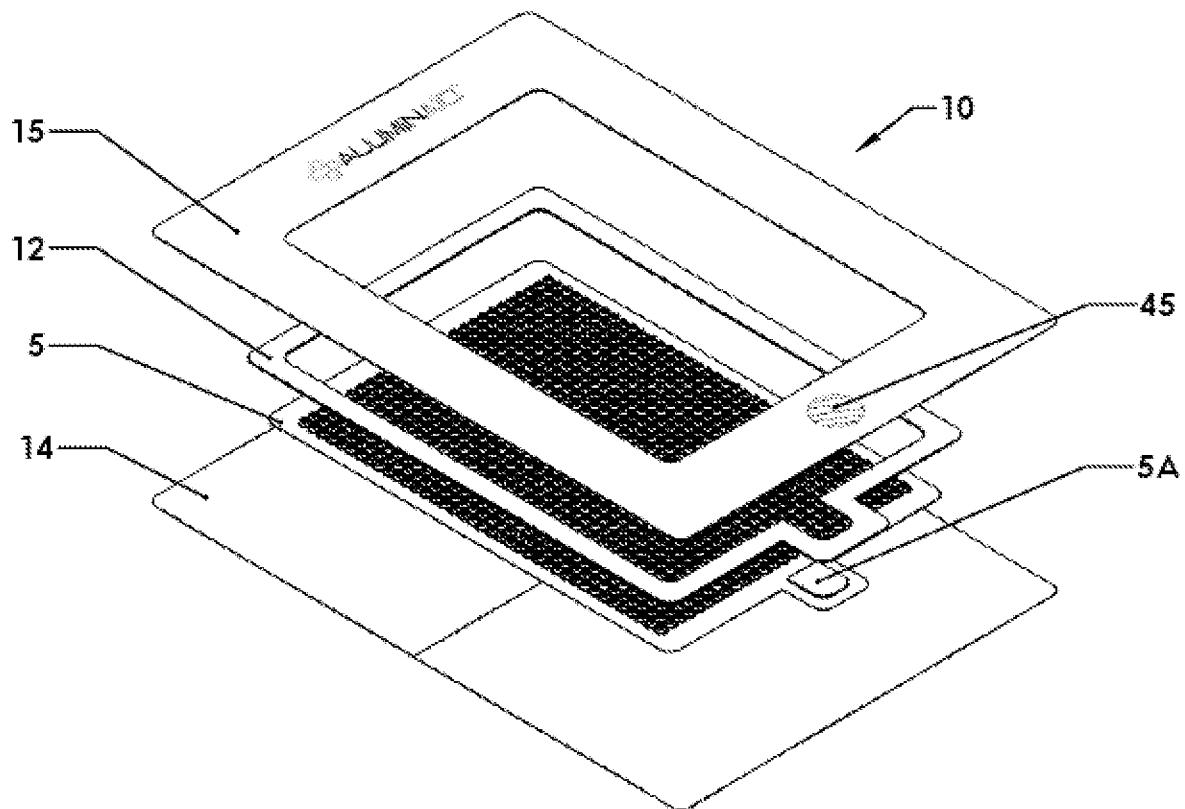


FIG. 26

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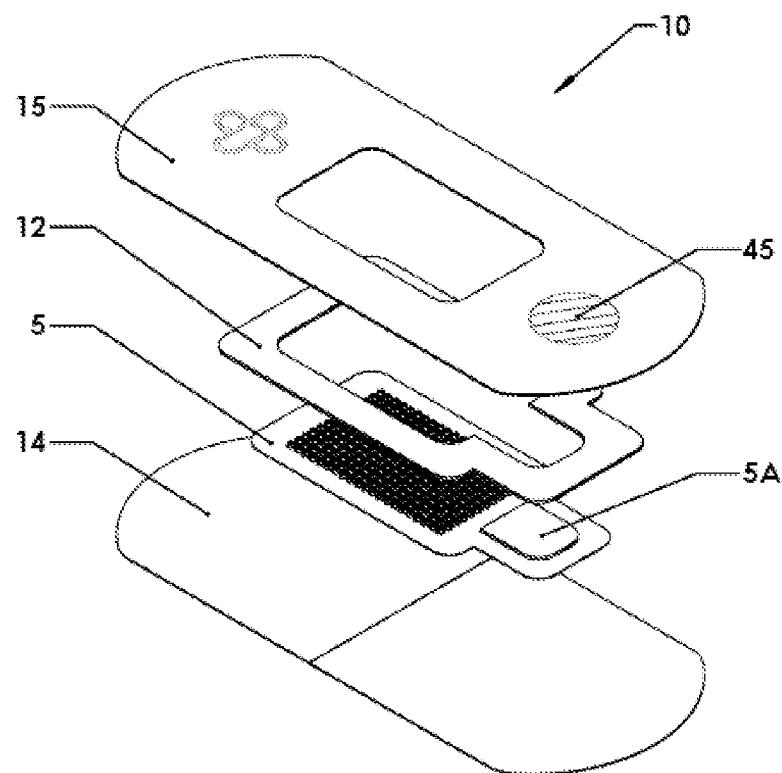


FIG. 27

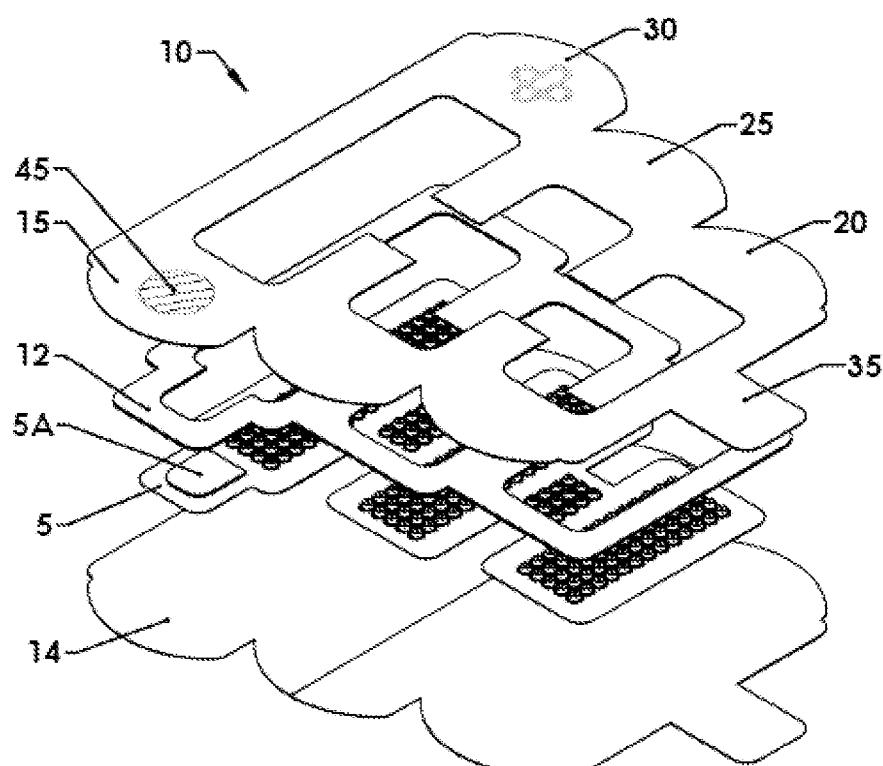


FIG. 28

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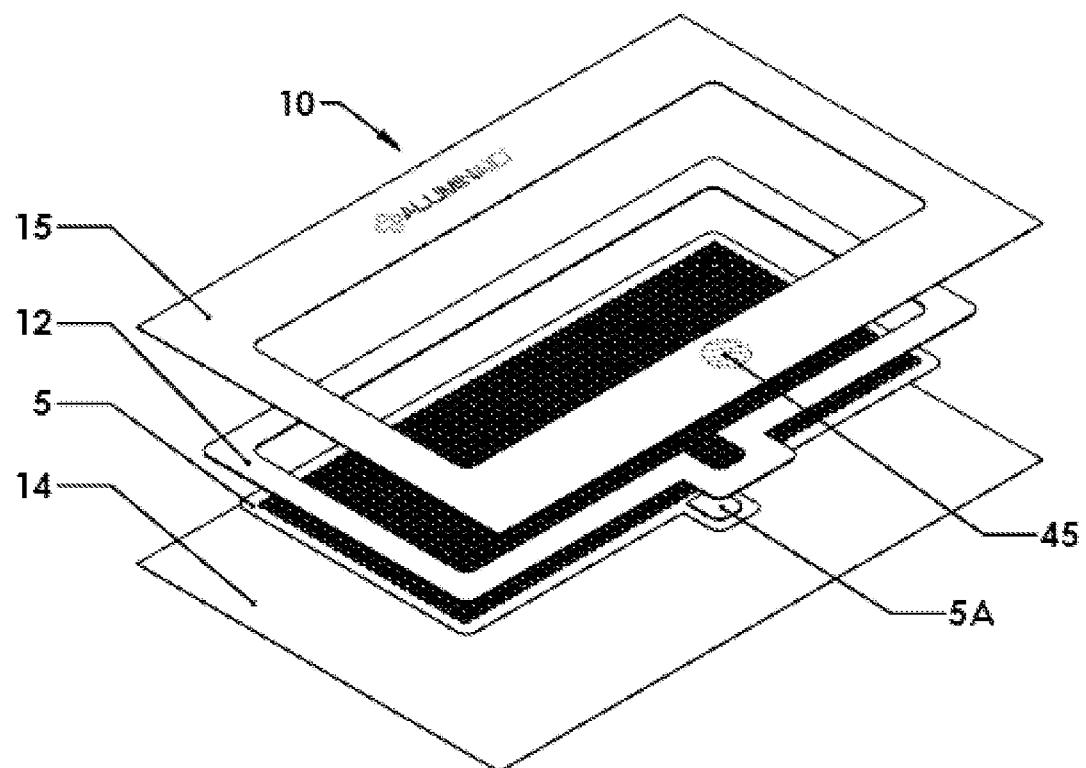


FIG. 29

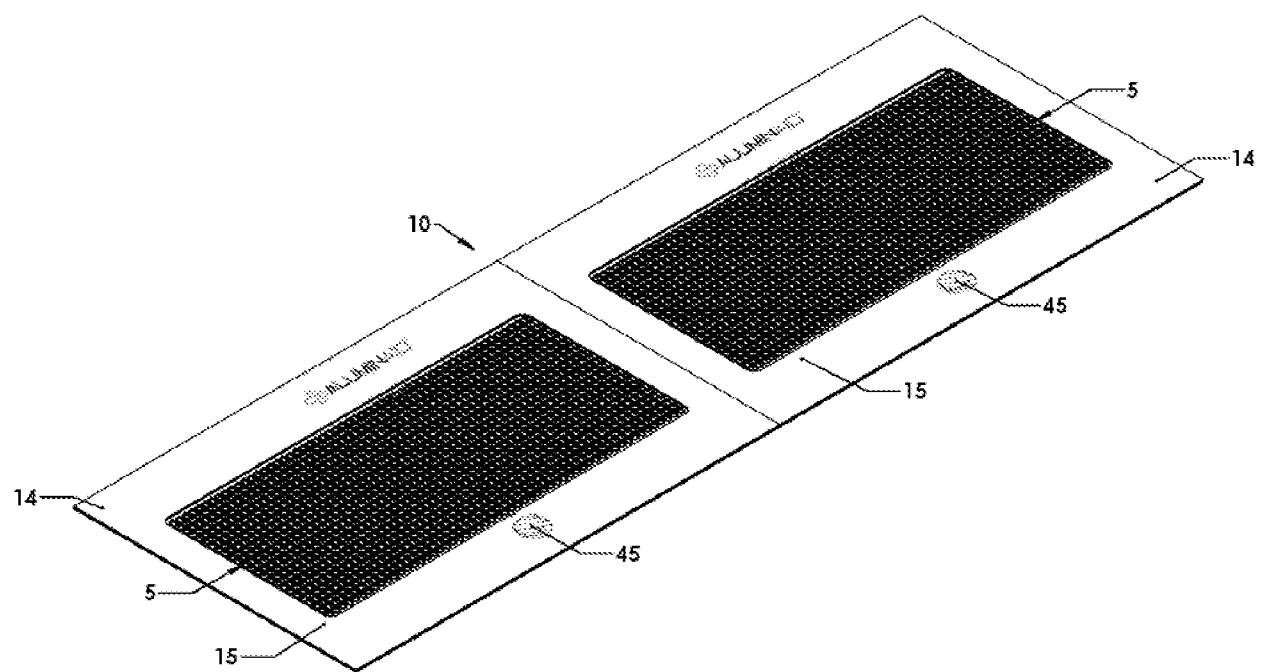


FIG. 30

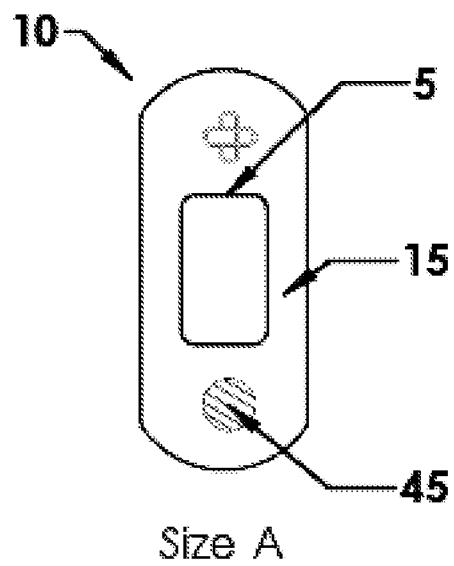


FIG. 31A

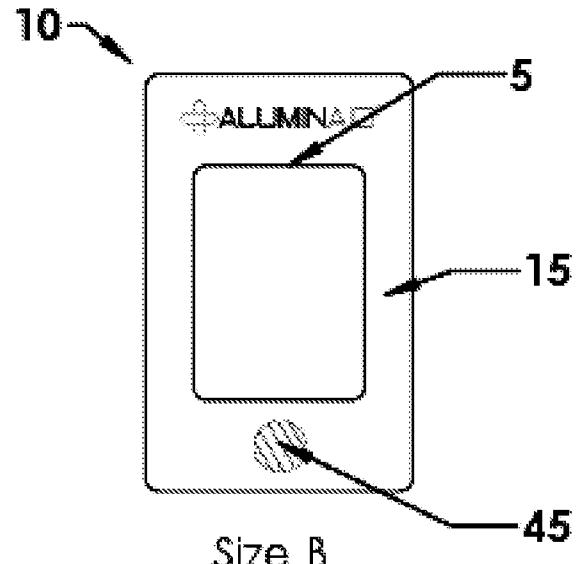


FIG. 31B

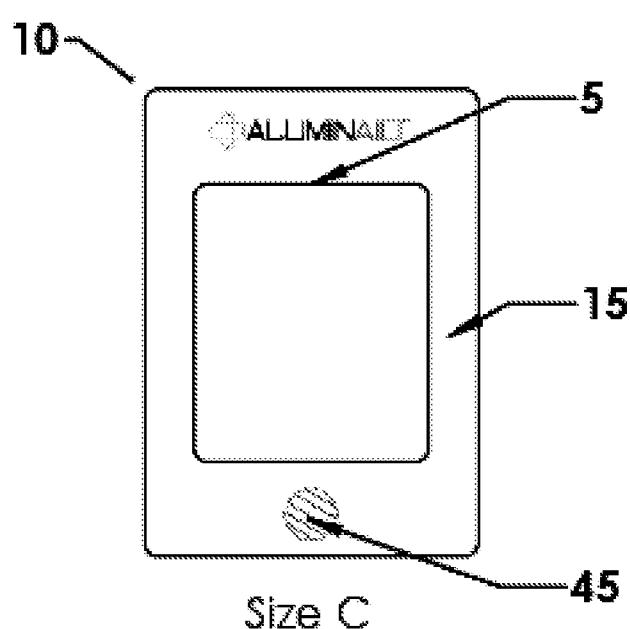


FIG. 31C

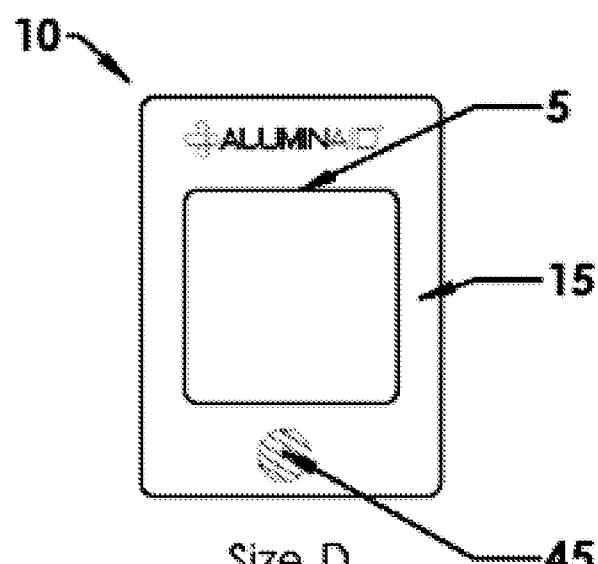


FIG. 31D

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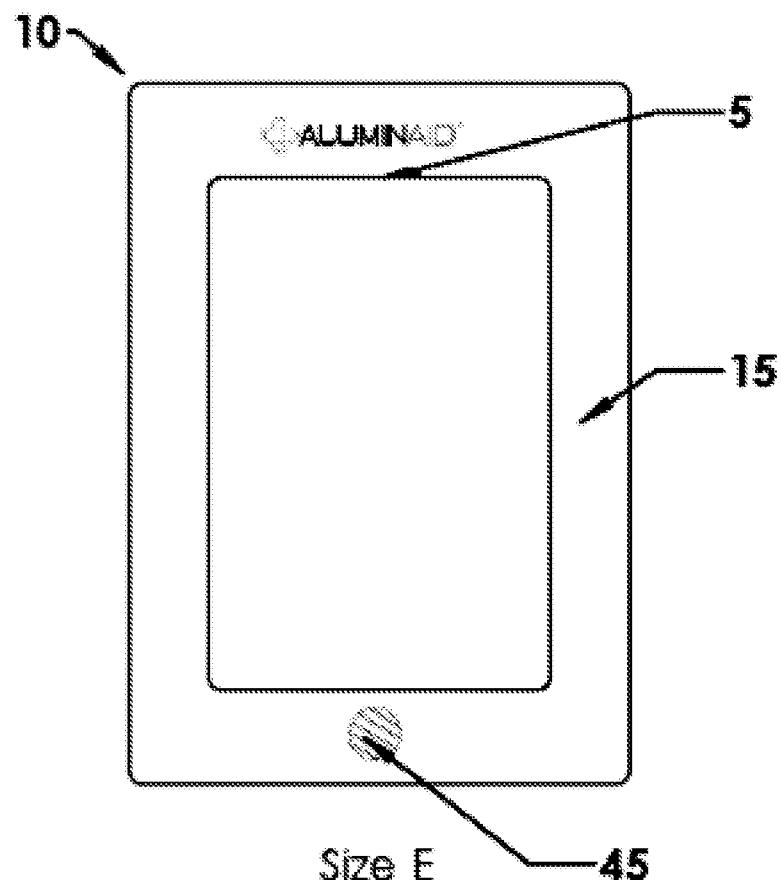


FIG. 31E

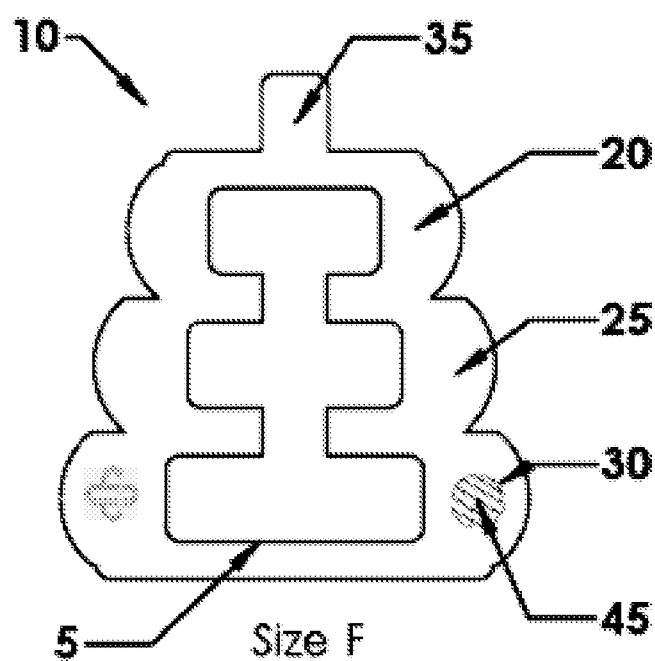


FIG. 31F

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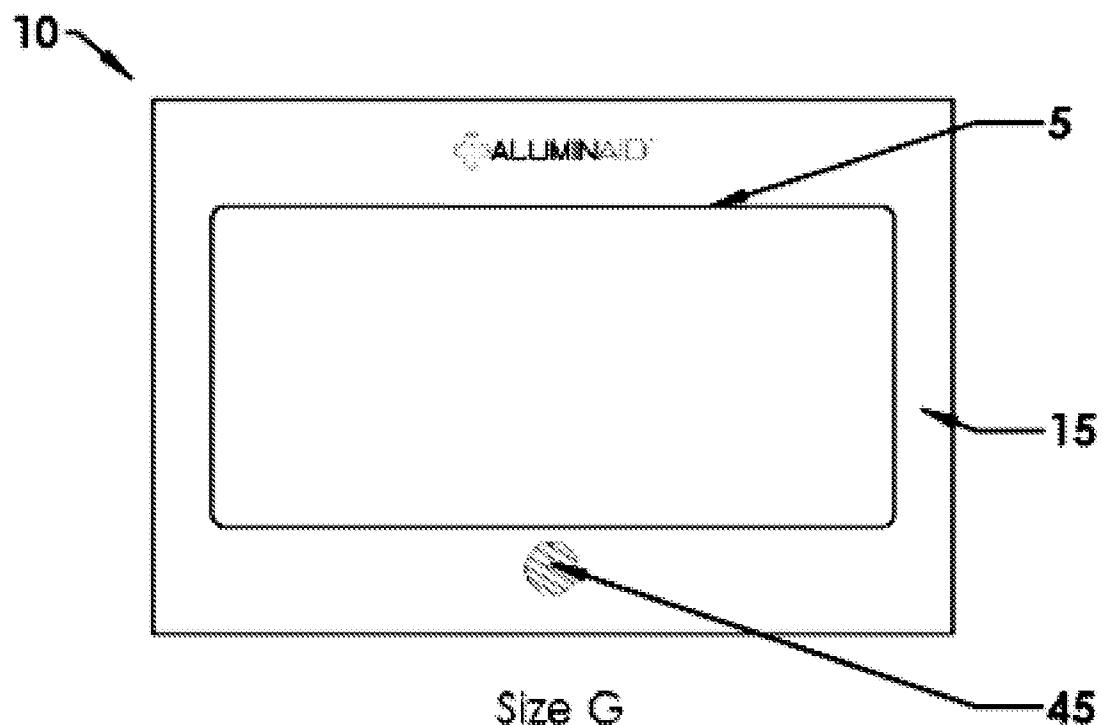


FIG. 31G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2012/046310**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****A61L 15/18(2006.01)i, A61F 13/02(2006.01)i, A61K 9/70(2006.01)i**

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)

A61L 15/18; A61B 5/01; A61F 13/02; A61F 13/00; A41D 13/06; A41D 27/12

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Korean utility models and applications for utility models
Japanese utility models and applications for utility modelsElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: bandage, burn, wound, layer, thin, thermally, conductive, metal, profile, flat, topography, aluminum**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6164279 A (TWEEDLE, J. A.) 26 December 2000 See abstract; Figures 1-7; claims 1,4.	1-58
A	US 2008-0064997 A1 (FLICK, B. A.) 13 March 2008 See abstract; paragraphs [0064],[0107]; figure 1; claims 1, 33.	1-58
A	US 6623835 B2 (CHANG, J. S.) 23 September 2003 See abstract; column 2, lines 9-41; figures 7,9; claims 1-3.	1-58
A	US 2009-0204100 A1 (VAN PIETERSON, L. et al.) 13 August 2009 See abstract; figures 1-4; claims 1,2,4.	1-58
A	KR 20-0394032 Y1 (SILVER NANO TECHNOLOGY CO.) 07 September 2005 See abstract; figures 1,2; claim 1.	1-58

 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 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

25 JANUARY 2013 (25.01.2013)

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 JANUARY 2013 (28.01.2013)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR



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JEONG, JAE CHEOL



Telephone No. 82-42-481-3479

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US2012/046310

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: **59-100**
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 59-100 pertain to methods for treatment of the human body by therapy, and thus relate to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under Article 17(2)(a)(i) of PCT and Rule 39.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT, to search.
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

<input type="checkbox"/>	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/US2012/046310

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6164279 A	26.12.2000	US 5944017 A US 6164279 A	31.08.1999 26.12.2000
US 2008-0064997 A1	13.03.2008	AU 1998-95734 A1 AU 1998-95734 B2 CA 2307040 A1 CA 2307040 C EP 1023003 A2 EP 1023003 A4 EP 1023003 B1 EP 1864634 A2 EP 1864634 A3 EP 2316524 A1 JP 04-424847 B2 JP 2002-516120 A US 2004-0030276 A1 US 2004-0049145 A1 US 2005-0244484 A1 US 2006-0264796 A1 US 2007-0179522 A1 US 2008-0033506 A1 US 2008-0114279 A1 US 2008-0119773 A1 US 2008-0125687 A1 US 5814094 A US 6087549 A US 6861570 B1 US 7005556 B1 US 7214847 B1 US 7230153 B2 US 7291762 B2 US 7989674 B2 US 8093444 B2 US 8118791 B2 US 8283513 B2 US 8293964 B2 WO 99-15101 A2 WO 99-15101 A3	12.04.1999 10.01.2002 01.04.1999 23.12.2008 02.08.2000 18.08.2004 21.05.2008 12.12.2007 30.09.2009 04.05.2011 18.12.2009 04.06.2002 12.02.2004 11.03.2004 03.11.2005 23.11.2006 02.08.2007 07.02.2008 15.05.2008 22.05.2008 29.05.2008 29.09.1998 11.07.2000 01.03.2005 28.02.2006 08.05.2007 12.06.2007 06.11.2007 02.08.2011 10.01.2012 21.02.2012 09.10.2012 23.10.2012 01.04.1999 02.12.1999
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US 2009-0204100 A1	13.08.2009	CN 101466300 A EP 2032018 A1 JP 2009-539536 A WO 2007-144795 A1	24.06.2009 11.03.2009 19.11.2009 21.12.2007

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2012/046310

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
KR 20-0394032 Y1	07.09.2005	None	

摘要

本文包含的發明公開通常涉及一類醫用綑帶，在許多實施方式中，該醫用綑帶有效治療無論是由於熱燒傷、陽光暴曬還是皮疹燒傷的多種類型的組織燒傷。這樣的產品可包括在適於直接接觸燒傷傷口的基片的基底併入非常薄的導熱金屬層(經常是鋁)的多種專用綑帶和包紮物，同時製造鋁基片的頂面以具有散熱增強的形貌通過增強熱對流性能來幫助更快地冷卻燒傷。所述綑帶還能以用於使使用者意識到已應用綑帶的燒傷的熱冷卻狀態的熱致變色指示器為特徵。