CLAIMS

1. A breathable adhesive bandage, including:

    a. a fabric layer substantially formed from wool that has been weaved or formed into a non-woven fabric, wherein the fabric layer is a brushed fabric layer, brushing distressing the wool of the fabric layer to give extra thickness and padding or cushioning to the fabric layer;

    b. an adhesive layer applied to the fabric layer, the adhesive layer providing only partial coverage of the fabric layer;

    c. a pad attached to the fabric layer or adhesive layer; and

    d. a removable backing covering the pad and removably attached to the adhesive layer.

2. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the fabric layer is substantially formed from merino wool.

3. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the fabric layer is moisture absorbent.

4. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of the above claims wherein the fabric layer is brushed only on its outer surface.

5. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the fabric layer is substantially formed from wool fibres with fibre thicknesses of 13 to 25 microns.

6. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the fabric layer has a weight of 1 to 15 ounces per square yard.

7. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the pad is substantially formed from wool.

8. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in claim 7 wherein the pad is substantially formed from merino wool.

9. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the pad is formed from a fabric with a weight of 4 to 10 ounces per square yard.

10. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the pad is a moisture absorbent pad.

11. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the adhesive is applied in a discontinuous layer.

12. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the adhesive is applied in a pattern of stripes.

13. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the adhesive is a PVA-based adhesive.

14. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the backing is a paper backing.

15. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein an inner surface of the backing is coated to limit adhesion between the backing and adhesive layer.

16. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the adhesive layer provides 20 to 95% coverage of the fabric layer.

17. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the adhesive layer provides 40 to 70% coverage of the fabric layer.

18. A method of manufacturing a breathable adhesive bandage, including:

providing a fabric layer that has been weaved or formed into a non-woven fabric;

brushing an outer surface of the fabric layer to distress fabric of the fabric layer and to give extra thickness and padding or cushioning to the fabric layer;

applying an adhesive layer onto the fabric layer, the adhesive layer providing only partial coverage of the fabric layer;

attaching a pad to the fabric layer or adhesive layer; and,

attaching a removable backing to the adhesive layer, the removable backing covering the pad.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, including sterilising the pad, the fabric layer, or both the pad and fabric layer.

20. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the sterilising is performed by irradiation.

21. A breathable adhesive bandage, including:

a fabric layer substantially formed from wool;

an adhesive layer applied to the fabric layer, the adhesive layer providing 40 to 70% coverage of the fabric layer;

a pad attached to the fabric layer or adhesive layer; and

a removable backing covering the pad and removably attached to the adhesive layer.

22. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in claim 21 wherein the fabric layer is a woven layer.

23. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in claim 21 wherein the fabric layer is a non-woven layer.

24. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 23 wherein the fabric layer is substantially formed from merino wool.

25. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 24 wherein the fabric layer is substantially formed from wool fibres with fibre thicknesses of 13 to 25 microns.

26. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 25 wherein the fabric layer has a weight of 1 to 15 ounces per square yard.

27. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 25 wherein the pad is formed from a fabric with a weight of 1 to 10 ounces per square yard.

28. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 27 wherein the pad is a moisture absorbent pad.

29. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 28 wherein the adhesive is applied in a discontinuous layer.

30. A breathable adhesive bandage as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 29 wherein the adhesive is applied in a pattern of stripes.

31. A method of manufacturing a breathable adhesive bandage, including:

    providing a fabric layer substantially formed from wool;

    applying an adhesive layer onto the fabric layer, the adhesive layer providing 40 to 70% coverage of the fabric layer;

    attaching a pad to the fabric layer or adhesive layer; and,

    attaching a removable backing to the adhesive layer, the removable backing covering the pad.