

23, the optical unit main body 19 has a reduced thickness (a thickness of not more than 1 mm) at a portion where the aperture mirror 16 is to be mounted (the exit for parallel light from the collimation lens 12) so as to reduce the diffraction or reflection of light at the aperture 16a. In the example shown in FIG. 24, a diameter (D) of an opening of the optical unit main body 19 where the aperture mirror 16 is to be mounted (the diameter of the exit for parallel light from the collimation lens 12) is larger than a diameter (d2) of the exit of the aperture 16a but is smaller than a diameter (d1) of the entrance of the aperture 16a so as to reduce the diffraction or reflection of light at the aperture 16a.

[0064] FIG. 25 is a structural illustration of one example of the aperture mirror 16. In the example shown in FIG. 25, a surface of the aperture mirror 16, which faces the polygon mirror 15, has a mirror finish so that light returned from the recurrence reflection sheet 7 is efficiently guided to the light receiving system (light receiving lens 17) by this mirror section. In such an aperture mirror 16, since the aperture 16a and the mirror section are formed as one body, it is possible to readily increase the accuracy of the parallelism between the optical axis and the aperture mirror 16.

[0065] FIG. 26 is a structural illustration of another example of the aperture mirror 16. In the example shown in FIG. 26, a mirror 51 is attached to a surface of the aperture mirror 16, which faces the polygon mirror 15, so that light returned from the recurrence reflection sheet 7 is efficiently guided to the light receiving system (light receiving lens 17) by this mirror 51. In such an aperture mirror 16, a mirror finish is unnecessary, thereby achieving a low cost.

[0066] FIG. 27 and FIG. 28 are illustrations showing a state of mounting of the aperture mirror 16 on the optical unit main body 19. In the example shown in FIG. 27, positioning of the aperture mirror 16 with respect to the optical unit main body 19 is implemented by a move-and-touch structure, thereby achieving parallelism between the optical axis and the aperture mirror 16 with high accuracy. Moreover, in the example shown in FIG. 27, since a clearance hole 19c is formed at a portion of the optical unit main body 19 toward which the aperture mirror 16 is moved to touch, a sufficient light receiving area is ensured, thereby improving the S/N ratio. In the example shown in FIG. 28, the aperture mirror 16 is mounted on the optical unit main body 19 by a detachable mounting member 52, and this mounting has the advantage of easy replacement of the aperture mirror 16 because the aperture mirror 16 is not fixed by adhesion.

[0067] Light Receiving Lens

[0068] The light receiving lens 17 can perform an optical axis adjustment similar to that described for the collimation lens 12. FIG. 29 is an illustration showing a state of implementing the positional adjustment and fixing of the light receiving lens 17. The light receiving lens 17 is fixed in a cylindrical lens holder 61 which is fitted into the hollow section of the optical unit main body 19. The peripheral surface of the lens holder 61 has a groove 61a running in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis, and this groove 61a is connected to a hole 19d of the optical unit main body 19. By inserting a later-described deflecting jig 62 into this hole 19d and groove 61a in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis and moving the deflecting jig 62, it is possible to move the lens holder 61 having the light receiving lens 17 fixed therein in an optical axis direction.

[0069] Further, in order to perform the positional adjustment of the light receiving lens 17, a focus adjustment is carried out by inserting the deflecting jig 62 into the hole 19d and groove 61a in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis and moving the lens holder 61 to make a fine adjustment to the distance between the light receiving element 13 and the light receiving lens 17, and, after the adjustment, the lens holder 61 is pressed by a plate spring and fixed with screws in the same manner as in the collimation lens 12. Accordingly, it is possible to significantly reduce the adjustment time of the light receiving lens 17.

[0070] Slit Plate 14

[0071] FIG. 30 is an illustration showing an example of the structure of the slit plate 14, in which the length of a screw hole 71 for mounting the slit plate 14 on the optical unit main body 19, in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the slit 14a, is longer than the diameter of a screw 72 to give play in the screw hole 71 so as to permit the slit plate 14 to slide, and the slit plate 14 is mounted so that it can slide. Accordingly, positioning of the slit 14a of the slit plate 14 can be performed accurately.

[0072] FIG. 31 is an illustration showing an example of mounting of the slit plate 14 on the optical unit main body 19. In this structure, the slide direction of the slit plate 14 is limited to one direction by inserting the slit plate 14 into a groove-type holding structure section 19e of the optical unit main body 19.

[0073] FIG. 32 is an illustration showing another example of mounting of the slit plate 14 on the optical unit main body 19. In this structure, the slit plate 14 is mounted by pushing one side of the slit plate 14 against the optical unit main body 19, thereby limiting the moving direction of the slit plate 14.

[0074] Next, the following description will explain a process of mounting the above-mentioned optical members on the optical unit main body 19. First, the lens holder 31 on which the collimation lens 12 is fixed is placed in the optical unit main body 19, and the lens holder 31 is mounted on the optical unit main body 19 while performing a collimate adjustment. Subsequently, the light emitting element fixing substrate 41 on which the light emitting element 11 is fixed is mounted while performing the X-axis and Y-axis adjustment. Next, the aperture mirror 16 is mounted while correcting the aperture. At this time, the collimate adjustment should be confirmed. Subsequently, the lens holder 61 on which the light receiving lens 17 is fixed is placed in the optical unit main body 19, and the lens holder 61 is mounted on the optical unit main body 19 while performing a light focus adjustment. Then, the slit plate 14 is mounted so that it performs a desired slit function by preventing the effect of disturbing light such as illumination light. At this time, the focus adjustment should be confirmed. Next, the polygon mirror 15 and motor 18 are mounted on the optical unit main body 19 with the use of the motor fixing holes 19a. In this case, since the motor fixing holes 19a and the optical unit main body 19 are formed as one body, the positioning of the motor fixing holes 19a and the optical axis has been already performed, and thus it is only necessary to simply mount the polygon mirror 15 and motor 18 in the motor fixing holes 19a without the necessity of precise adjustment of the optical scanning system. Finally, the light receiving element 13 is mounted.

[0075] Next, the following description will explain an operation of calculating the position and size of the indicator