

flective sheet 2. Therefore, the lights Ln and Rn are never detected by the CCDs 13L and 13R of the optical units 1L and 1R, respectively.

[0094] Thereby, the points of weak optical intensity (dark points) are generated in the positions DnL and DnR on the respective CCDs 13L and 13R, and the first and second waveform data corresponding to the intensity distributions of the reflected lights in the direction parallel to the panel surface 10a are stored in the waveform memories 28L and 28R, respectively. Based on the first and second waveform data, the peak detectors 25L and 25R detect the positions DnL and DnR of the dark points on the respective CCDs 13L and 13R, and the x-y computing element 29 computes the coordinate value (x, y) of the position where the lights Ln and Rn are interrupted. Data of thus obtained coordinate value (x, y) is inputted to the computer 14 via the interface part 26, and an operation corresponding to the indicated position is performed.

[0095] Next, a description will be given of the filter 4 provided in the optical unit shown in FIG. 2, which filter is the most important element of the present invention.

[0096] In the above-described coordinate input and detection device according to the present invention, in order to increase the detection accuracy of the coordinate value of an input position, it is required, at least, to make as thin as possible the thickness of each of the sector-shaped light beams projected parallel to the panel surface 10a of the touch panel 10 from the optical units 1L and 1R, respectively, and to have the amount of light of each light beam distributed uniformly in the direction in which the light beam spreads out in the sector shape. However, as previously described, since the amount of light of the light beam projected from the light source 3 shown in FIG. 1 is large in the center portion of the light beam spreading in the sector shape and decreases as the measurement point of the amount of light approaches each side of the light beam. Therefore, the filter 4 is employed to correct the distribution of the amount of light of the light beam.

[0097] FIG. 9 is a diagram showing a shape and a characteristic of a first embodiment of the filter 4.

[0098] The filter 4 is formed of a single long thin resin film whose optical transmission rate is 25%, and, as shown in FIG. 2, is disposed, in the optical path of the light beam made incident on the light receiving part 7, in the direction perpendicular to the traveling direction of the light beam so that the light beam spread out in a longitudinal direction of the filter 4. The filter 4 has wedge-like notches 4b protruding from the respective longitudinal end portions toward the center portion thereof.

[0099] Therefore, although a portion a of the filter 4 without any notches 4b has a transmission rate of 25%, the transmission rate of each portion b including the notch 4b increases as a measurement point of the transmission rate approaches each longitudinal end portion of the filter 4 so as to reach almost 100% at each side thereof.

[0100] Thus, if a light beam is made incident on the filter 4 so that its amount of light is distributed uniformly all over the filter 4, the light beam passing through the filter 4 has its amount of light distributed in the Y-axial direction with a characteristic indicated by a curve 31 in FIG. 9.

[0101] However, an actual light beam made incident on the filter 4 does not have its amount of light distributed uniformly in the Y-axial direction, and therefore, the distribution of the amount of light has a characteristic indicated by the curve 51 in FIG. 9 as in the conventional example described with reference to FIG. 1. Therefore, if the light beam having such a distribution of the amount of light passes through the filter 4 of this embodiment, due to the transmission rate distribution of the filter 4, the distribution of the amount of light is averaged as indicated by a broken curve 32 in FIG. 9 to be almost uniform in the Y-axial direction.

[0102] Next, a description will be given, with reference to FIGS. 10A through 13, of a second embodiment of the filter 4.

[0103] In this embodiment, as shown in FIGS. 10A and 10B, first and second filters 41 and 42 having different shapes and optical transmission rates are superposed on each other to form the filter 4 shown in FIG. 10C.

[0104] The first filter 41 of FIG. 10A has an optical transmission rate of 25%, and includes deep wedge-like notches 41a protruding from the respective longitudinal end portions toward the center portion thereof. On the other hand, the second filter 42 of FIG. 10B has an optical transmission rate of 50%, and includes shallow wedge-like notches 42a protruding from the respective longitudinal end portions toward the center portion thereof.

[0105] FIG. 10C shows a state in which the filter 4 is formed by superposing the first and second filters 41 and 42.

[0106] Therefore, the transmission rate of a portion 4a of the filter 4 where the first and second filters 41 and 42 are superposed is 12.5% ( $25\% \times 50\% = 12.5\%$ ), the transmission rate of each portion 4b formed only of the first filter 41 is 25%, the transmission rate of each portion 4c formed only of the second filter 42 is 50%, and the transmission rate of each portion 4d formed only of the notches is 100%.

[0107] Thus, if a light beam is made incident on the filter 4 so that its amount of light is distributed uniformly all over the filter 4, the light beam passing through the filter 4 has its amount of light distributed in the Y-axial direction with a characteristic indicated by a curve 33 in FIG. 11.

[0108] However, an actual light beam made incident on the filter 4 does not have its amount of light distributed uniformly in the Y-axial direction, and therefore, the distribution of the amount of light has the characteristic indicated by the curve 51 in FIG. 11 as in the conventional example described with reference to FIG. 1. Therefore, if the light beam having such a distribution of the amount of light passes through the filter 4 of this embodiment, due to the transmission rate distribution of the filter 4, the distribution of the amount of light is averaged as indicated by a broken curve 34 in FIG. 11 to be almost uniform in the Y-axial direction.

[0109] Thus, by a combination of a plurality of filters having different optical transmission rates and notch shapes, a filter having a desired transmission rate distribution can be made with more ease.

[0110] In order to attach the filter 4 to a predetermined position in each of the optical units 1L and 1R, as shown in FIGS. 12A and 12B, an adhesion portion 41c is provided on