adjacent regions being processed. Therefore, the invention has an effect of making a difference in level in conspicuous on a boundary portion between adjacent processed regions.

[0038] According to the invention describe in claim 3 above, the radius of tangential curved surfaces in the expansion regions is set larger than an amount of expansion of the tangential curved surfaces. Therefore, the invention has an effect of making the difference in level more inconspicuous.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a tool path, comprising the steps of:

designating processing regions on a surface to be processed;

designating reference lines on the processing regions;

calculating on the basis of the reference lines a plurality of tool paths on the processing regions;

selecting at least one of the adding of a tool approaching expansion region of which a distance measured from the surface to be processed becomes larger as the expansion region gets away from the processing region to a starting end in the picking direction of the processing region, and the adding of a tool escaping expansion region of which a distance measured from the surface to be processed becomes larger as this expansion region gets away from the processing region to a terminal end in the picking direction of the processing region; and

calculating the tool path on the expanded region.

2. A method of making a tool path, comprising the steps of:

dividing a surface to be processed into parts and designating a plurality of processing regions;

designating reference lines on the processing regions;

calculating on the basis of the reference lines a plurality of tool paths on each of the processing regions;

adding a tool approaching expansion region of which a distance measured from the surface to be processed becomes larger as the expansion region gets away from the processing region to a starting end in the picking direction of a processing region which agrees with a boundary line of two adjacent processing regions;

adding a tool escaping expansion region of which a distance measured from the surface to be processed becomes larger as this expansion region gets away from the processing region to a terminal end in the picking direction of the processing region which agrees with a boundary line of two adjacent processing regions; and

calculating tool paths on each expansion region.

3. A method of making a tool path according to claim 1, wherein the expansion regions are tangential curved surfaces contacting the surface to be processed, and including boundary lines between the expansion regions and the processing region, and the radius of the tangential curved surfaces being set not smaller than an expansion amount of the tangential curved surface.

4. A method of making a tool path according to claim 2, wherein the expansion regions are tangential curved surfaces contacting the surface to be processed, and including boundary lines between the expansion regions and the processing region and, and the radius of the tangential curved surfaces being set not smaller than an expansion amount of the tangential curved surface.

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