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Machining characteristics of complex prism pattern on electroplated roll by copper

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Abstract: The BLU (back light unit) is the core component of the LCD for notebook, mobile-phone, navigation, as well as large sized TV, PID (public information display), etc. In order to enhance optical efficiency of LCD, optical films with the uniform prism patterns have been used for BLU by stacking two films up orthogonally. In this case, light interference-phenomenon occurred such as Morie, wet-out, u-turning, etc. It caused several problems such as low brightness, spots and stripes in LCD. Recently, the high-luminance micro complex prism patterns are actively studied to avoid the light interference-phenomenon and enhance the optical efficiency. In this study, the roll master to manufacture complex micro prism pattern film was machined by using the high precision lathe. The machined patterns on the roll master were 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 μ m in the pitch with 25.0, 22.5, 20.0, 17.5, 15.0, 12.5, 10.0, 7.5, 5.0 and 2.5 μ m in the peak height, respectively. The roll was 2 000 mm in length and 320 mm in diameter. The electroplated roll by copper and the natural single crystal diamond tool was used for machining the patterns. The cutting force was measured and analyzed for each cutting condition by using the dynamometer. The chips and the surfaces after being machined were analyzed by SEM and microscope.

Key words: high precision lathe; diamond tool; electroplated roll master by copper; optical film; complex prism patterns; light interference-phenomenon

1 Introduction

LCD (liquid crystal display) is recently popular as the general display devices such as notebook, PDA, LCD TV and PID (public information display). So in these days, the LCD has been rapidly developed and widely used[1]. Because the LCD cannot light by itself, the BLU (back light unit) including lamp, reflecting plate and several optical films is needed[2–3]. Especially, the core component is optical film in the BLU. The general optical films have single pitch prism pattern structure. The optical films have been used by stacking two optical films up orthogonally[4–5]. However, the problems of interference-phenomenon such as Moire, wet-out and u-turning occur when orthogonally contacting two films with the single pitch prism are used. Light interferencephenomenon causes several problems such as inhomogeneous distribution of lights and low brightness. So, the studies on the optical films of the BLU have actively progressed to reduce the interferencephenomenon[6–7]. The complex prism pattern films were proposed as one of the solutions to avoid the problems of light interference-phenomenon[8–9].

In order to produce the optical films, the master with the complex prism patterns is used. The master can be produced by laser techniques, photolithography, stepped techniques, LIGA techniques, and mechanical processes[10–14]. The large-size roll master was machined by lathe-process proposed as the method meeting the mass demands for display equipment[15–22].

In this paper, the results of machined roll master

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with the complex prism patterns are reported. The machining mechanism using the machining methods of the multiple threads which belong to the lathe-process is considered. And the machining conditions using the step by step cutting are optimized.

2 Machining mechanism of multiple thread prism patterns on roll master

Fig.1 shows the diagrams of machining mechanism which is the general method of machining a single thread by the lathe process. In this lathe process, double, triple or even multiple threads can be machined on the roll by applying the cutting tool at different starting positions on the circumference of the end of the roll. The pitch of the prism patterns (P) is the same as a pitch of the unit set $(P_{\rm U})$ which is the pitch of the identical thread in Fig.1(a). As shown Fig.1(b), the pitch of the unit set is as twice as the pitch of prism patterns. And the 2nd starting position of the tool is opposite to the 1st tool position on the circumference of the roll. A method of triple threads is shown in Fig.1(c). The pitch of the unit set is as three times as pitch of prism patterns. And the three different starting positions of the tool have a positional difference of 120°. The machining method of multiple threads is shown in Fig.1(d). The pitch of the feed is to multiply the pitch of the prism pattern by the number of the threads.

Some mathematical expressions for the phase differential machining method are shown in Eqs.(1)-(3).

$$P_{\rm U} = N \times P \tag{1}$$

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$$\theta = \frac{360^{\circ}}{N} \tag{2}$$

$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\pi \times D}{P_{\rm U}} \right) \tag{3}$$

Namely, the starting position of the tool on the circumference of the roll (θ) was divided by number of thread (N). The thread or angle of tool progress (α) was calculated by inverse-tangent dividing the circumference of the roll by the pitch of tool feed.

The complex prism patterns consisting of different pitches are in shown Fig.2. Starting position (θ_n) of the each thread needs first to be defined for machining these complex patterns. The distance (L_n) from the peak of the 1st prism(①) to the peak of the *n*th prism peak (⑦) is the total summation of each pitch (P'_n) in Eq.(4). Starting position (θ_n) of each thread for complex prism pattern is defined by dividing length of the *n*th prism peak from the first prism peak by the pitch of tool feed in Eq.(5).

$$L_N = \sum P'_n \tag{4}$$

$$\theta_n = \frac{L_n}{P_{\rm U}} \times 360^{\circ} \tag{5}$$

The designed pattern for this study is shown in Fig.3. A unit set of the micro prism patterns is designed to have various pitches and heights of 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 μ m in the pitch with 25.0, 22.5, 20.0, 17.5, 15.0, 12.5, 10.0, 7.5, 5.0 and 2.5 μ m in the peak



Fig.1 Schematics of machining mechanism of multiple threads using lathe-process: (a) Single thread; (b) Double threads; (c) Triple threads; (d) Multiple threads



Fig.2 Schematic drawing of machining process for complex prism pattern

height, respectively. The unit set of the micro prism patterns consists of different pitches of prism and is repeated to 1 200 mm in length. The unit set of the micro prism patterns is 275 µm. And the prism angle is designed to be 90°.

3 Machining systems and conditions

3.1 Experimental systems

Processing system for machining the micro prism patterns on roll master is shown in Fig.4. The specifications of the system are listed in Table 1. This system is based on the high precision lathe. The hydrostatic bearing was used for two C-axis spindles of the system. The X- and Z-axes were driven by linear motors. Dynamometer (Kistler-9256C2) was utilized to measure the cutting force and the vacuum suction equipment was installed to remove the flow type chip on the tool post.

The blank roll master is shown in Fig.5(a). The roll master is 2 000 mm in length, 320 mm in diameter and about 350 kg in mass. The copper was electroplated to be 1 000 µm in thickness on the roll. The hardness of the copper electroplated on the roll is about HV 240. Fig.5(b) shows the tool whose tip is single crystal natural diamond. The angle of tool is 90° that is the same angle as the designed micro prism pattern.

3.2 Experimental methods and conditions

In order to machine micro complex prism patterns on the roll master, the application of the machining

Content	Specification			
Spindle bearing type	Hydrostatic			
Spindle revolution speed	10-500 r/min			
Swing capacity of bed	<i>d</i> 700 mm			
Movement length of X-axis	200 mm			
Movement length of Z-axis	1 600 mm			
Resolution in X-, Z-axes	0.01 µm			
Machining speed of X-, Z-axes	0.01-5 000 mm/min			
Spindle indexing accuracy	0.001°-0.000 1°			
Maximum work-piece mass	350 kg			

Table 1 Specifications of roll-machining system

mechanism of Fig.1(d) and Fig.6 is needed. In brief, this mechanism is one of the lathe-processes, which is to divide the rotation angle of the roll master for machining multiple threads. The starting positions of the tool calculated from Eq.(5) are shown in Table 2.

Fig.7 shows the machining progress and the machining orders of each prism pattern. These patterns are machined by the machining pass of step by step cutting in Fig.7(a). For example, the 8th prism is completed at 1st machining pass. The prism patterns are completed in order of the 8th, 6th, 10th, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 9th, 3rd, 7th and 1st prism in Fig.7(c).

The machining conditions of prism patterns in this order are listed in Table 3. The velocity of main spindle is 300 r/min and the machining feedrate is 275 µm/r. The pitch of tool feed is determined by pitch of the unit set to machine one thread in each machining pass. The cutting depth of the 1st pass is 4.5 µm. The overlap pitch of 2 µm is considered in the cutting depth of the 1st pass to obtain exact and sharp angle of the prism in Fig.7(b). The depths of step by step cutting increase linearly by each 2.5 µm. This complex prism pattern was machined by step by step cutting from one time to ten times that depends on the pitch and the peak of each prism. The machining mechanism using the machining methods of the multiple threads which are one of the lathe-processes was established.



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Fig.3 Design for complex pitch prism pattern (µm)



Fig.4 High precision roll-machining system for experiment



Fig.5 Roll master and tool shape for experiments (Hardness: HV 243; Mass: 350 kg): (a) Coated roll master by copper; (b) Single crystal diamond tool



Fig.6 Schematics of start position of tool on circumference of roll master angle and machining motion

Table 2 Division angle by angular division

Thread number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	(θ_1)	(θ_2)	(θ_3)	$(heta_4)$	(θ_5)	(θ_6)	(θ_7)	(θ_8)	(θ_9)	$(heta_{10})$
Division angle/(°)	0	45.818	85.091	127.630	163.630	189.810	225.810	258.540	284.720	317.450

4 Results and discussion

4.1 Surfaces of prism patterns

The machined roll master is shown in Fig.8. In order to observe the machined complex prism patterns on the large-size roll master under different conditions, the patterns were duplicated by the silicone resin. Fig.9 shows images of duplicated patterns. The surface of the machined micro complex prism patterns is shown in Fig.9(a). The satisfying surfaces of the prism patterns without machining defects such as burr were machined. The section of machined micro complex prism patterns is shown in Fig.9(b). The pitches and heights of the machined complex prism patterns were measured by microscope to compare the shapes of the machined patterns with those of the designed patterns. Especially, the smallest pitch of 5 μ m was machined successfully. In the view of the results, micro and complex patterns can be machined.



Fig.7 Schematics of machining conditions: (a) Step by step cutting; (b) Overlap pitch; (c) Machining order of each pass

Table 3 Machining conditions (Velocity of main spindle: 300 r/min; Machining feedrate: 275 µm/r)

Thread	Cutting	Machining depth/µm									
number	$depth/\mu m$	1st pass	2nd pass	3rd pass	4th pass	5th pass	6th pass	7th pass	8th pass	9th pass	10th pass
1	52	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0	14.5	17.0	19.5	22.0	24.5	27.0
2	22	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0						
3	42	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0	14.5	17.0	19.5	22.0		
4	27	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0	14.5					
5	32	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0	14.5	17.0				
6	12	4.5	7.0								
7	47	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0	14.5	17.0	19.5	22.0	24.5	
8	7	4.5	7.0								
9	37	4.5	7.0	9.5	12.0	14.5	17.0	19.5			
10	17	4.5	7.0	9.5							

4.2 Cutting force

The graph of gauged cutting force in accordance with each cutting depth is shown in Fig.10. The cutting force is increased at each pass because the cutting areas are increased by constant increasing the depth of step by step cutting. And the increasing rate of cutting force is constant. In other words, the cutting area increases with the increase of cutting depth step by step and the cutting force increases in proportion to the cutting area. However, the cutting force decreases with the decrease of the increasing rate of cutting force because the cutting area decreases between the 9th pass and the 10th pass.

4.3 Cutting chips

The features of machined chips are observed by SEM and shown in Fig.11. Every chip is created as flow

type. Smooth surfaces form at the outside which is the friction surface. And micro creases are observed at the inside of chip. As shown in Fig.11(a), the chip is created during cutting of the 1st pass, and the section feature of chip is triangle, which is very similar to feature of the tool. Fig.11(b) shows features of chip which is machined during cutting from the 2nd to the 9th pass.



Fig.8 Machined roll master with complex pitch prism pattern (d: 320 mm; Length: 1 500 mm)



Fig.9 Results of machined patterns: (a) Surfaces of machined pattern; (b) Section parts of machined pattern



Fig.10 Graph of cutting areas and forces according to cutting depth



Fig.11 Chip shapes of machined micro prism patterns: (a) Chip after cutting of the 1st pass; (b) Chip after cutting of the 2nd–9th pass; (c) Chip after cutting of the 10th pass

The "V"-shape is created at the inside of chips and plate-shape is made at the outside of chips because of friction between outside of chip and surface of tool. Fig.11(c) shows picture of chip during cutting of the 10th pass. Micro marks are shown at both ends of chip which is affected by over depth cutting. Judging from the above results such as machined smooth surfaces and consideration of created chips, machining processing and conditions are generally suitable.

5 Conclusions

1) A study on machining the micro complex prism patterns which are 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 μ m in the pitch with 25.0, 22.5, 20.0, 17.5, 15.0, 12.5, 10.0, 7.5, 5.0 and 2.5 μ m in the peak height was accomplished.

2) The machining mechanism using the machining methods of the multiple threads which are one of the lathe-processes was established. The machining methods using different staring positions of the tool on the circumference of the roll master were applied. And the machining conditions using the step by step cutting were optimized.

3) The large-size electroplated roll master by copper with the complex prism patterns was machined. And the surfaces, geometric accuracy, cutting force and chip were considered and analyzed.

4) The results from this study can be used to machine the roll master and produce the high efficiency optical films which can be applied to complex prism patterns.

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