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(54) **THREE-DIMENSIONAL OPTICAL WAVEGUIDE, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME, OPTICAL MODULE, AND OPTICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM**

Publication Classification

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **385/14**

(76) **Inventors:** **Kaoru Ishida**, Osaka (JP); **Tsuguhiro Korenaga**, Osaka (JP)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Correspondence Address:
SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP
1850 M STREET, N.W., SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20036 (US)

A three-dimensional optical waveguide is formed by laminating planar substrates such as a plurality of lens substrates and, an isolator substrate and a wavelength division multiplexing filter, the optical substrates at least include a waveguide substrate having a waveguide and a reflecting surface. In the three-dimensional optical waveguide, the planar substrates are positioned by markers integrally formed on at least two of the planar substrates. Light directed into the waveguide is reflected by a reflecting surface and passes through the lens substrates and the isolator substrate.

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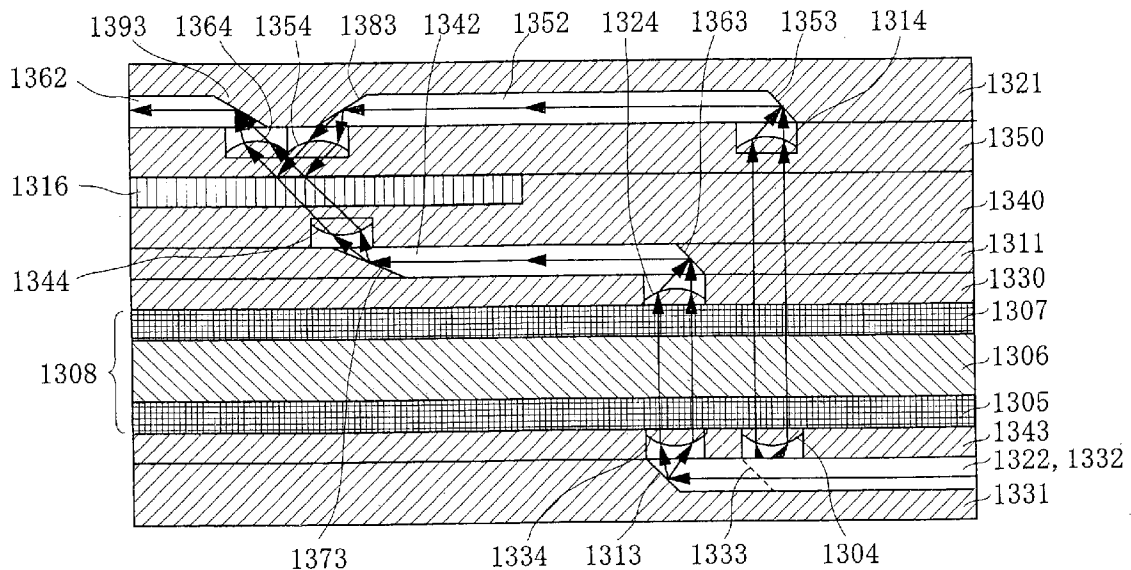


Fig. 1

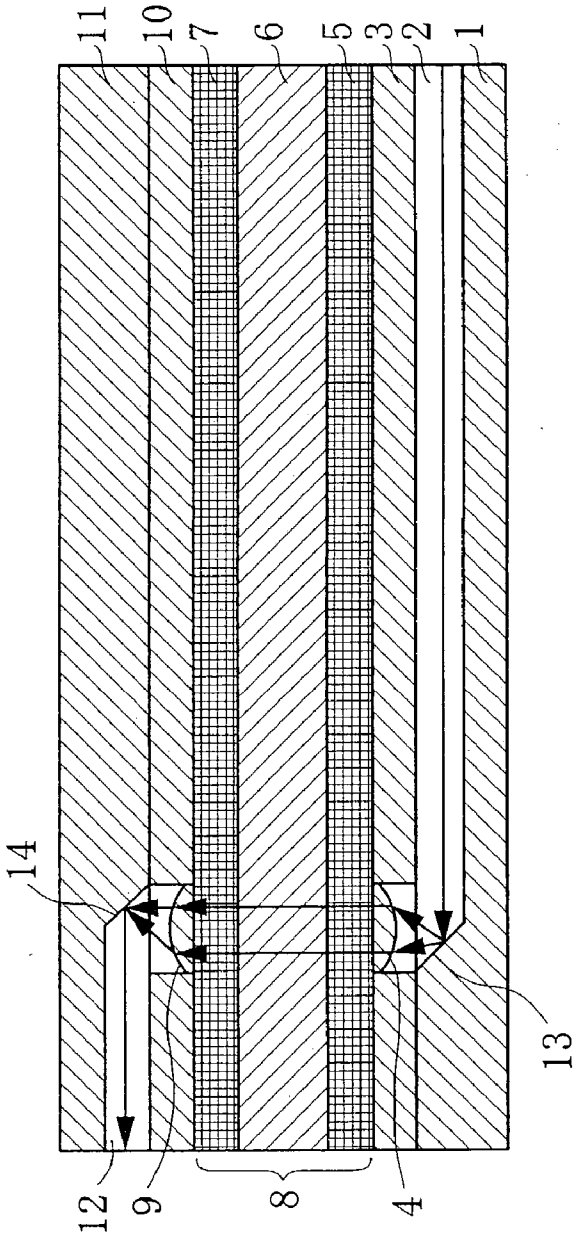


Fig. 2

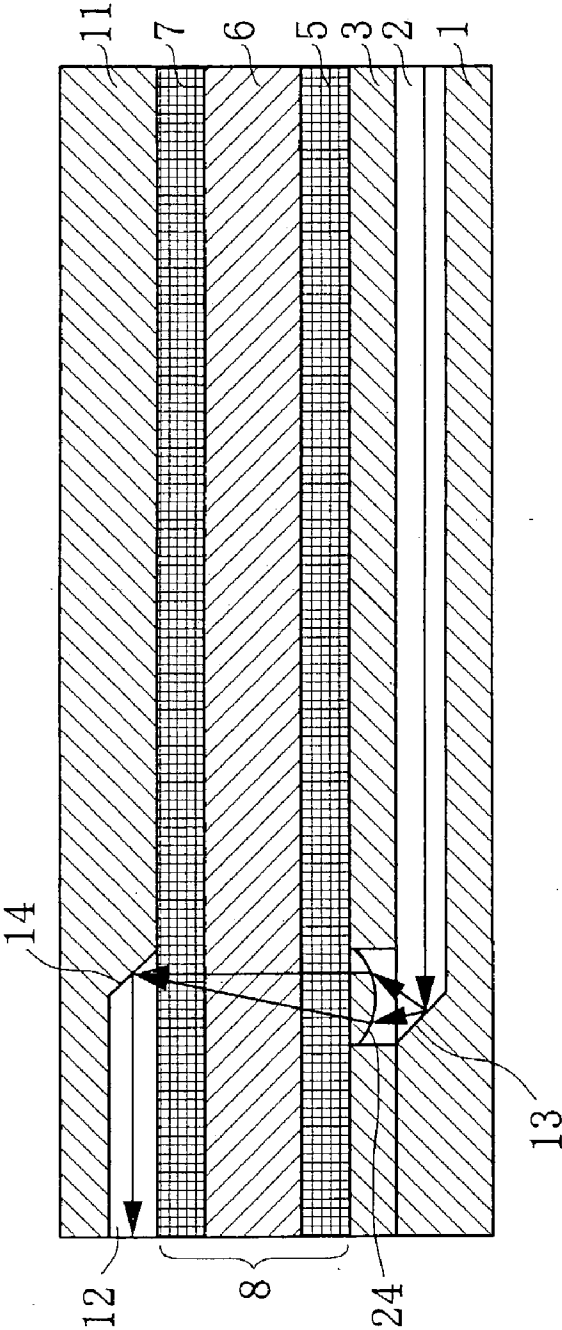


Fig. 3

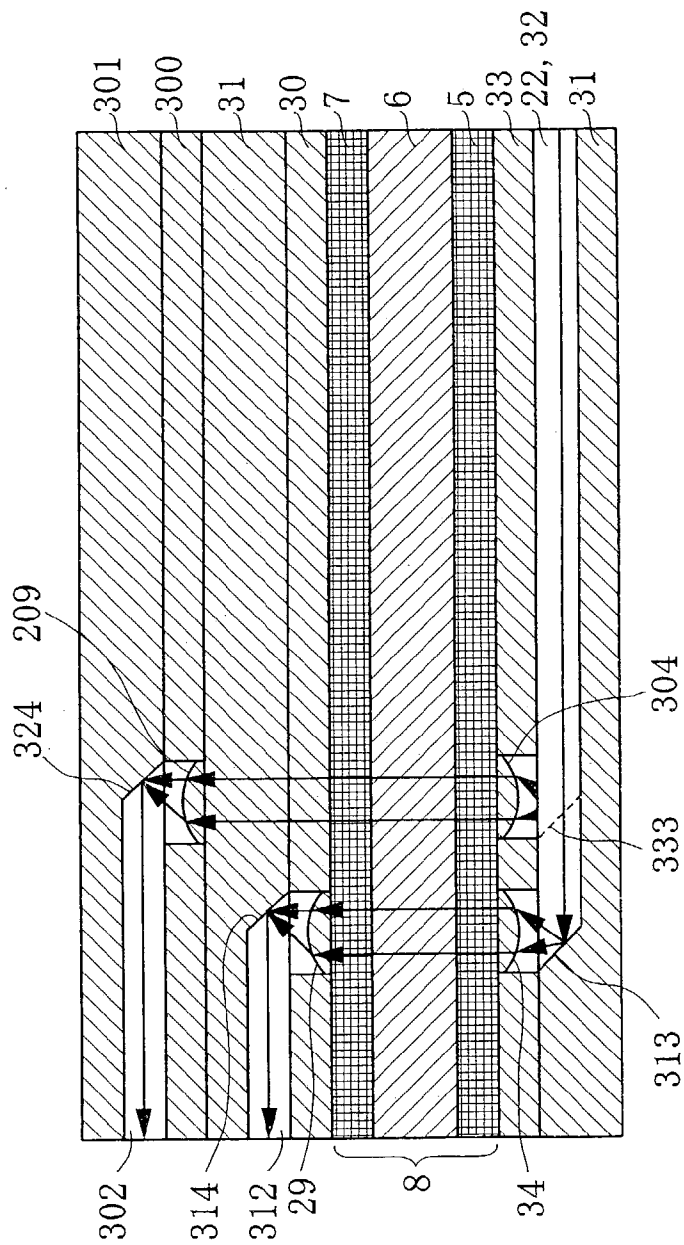


Fig. 4

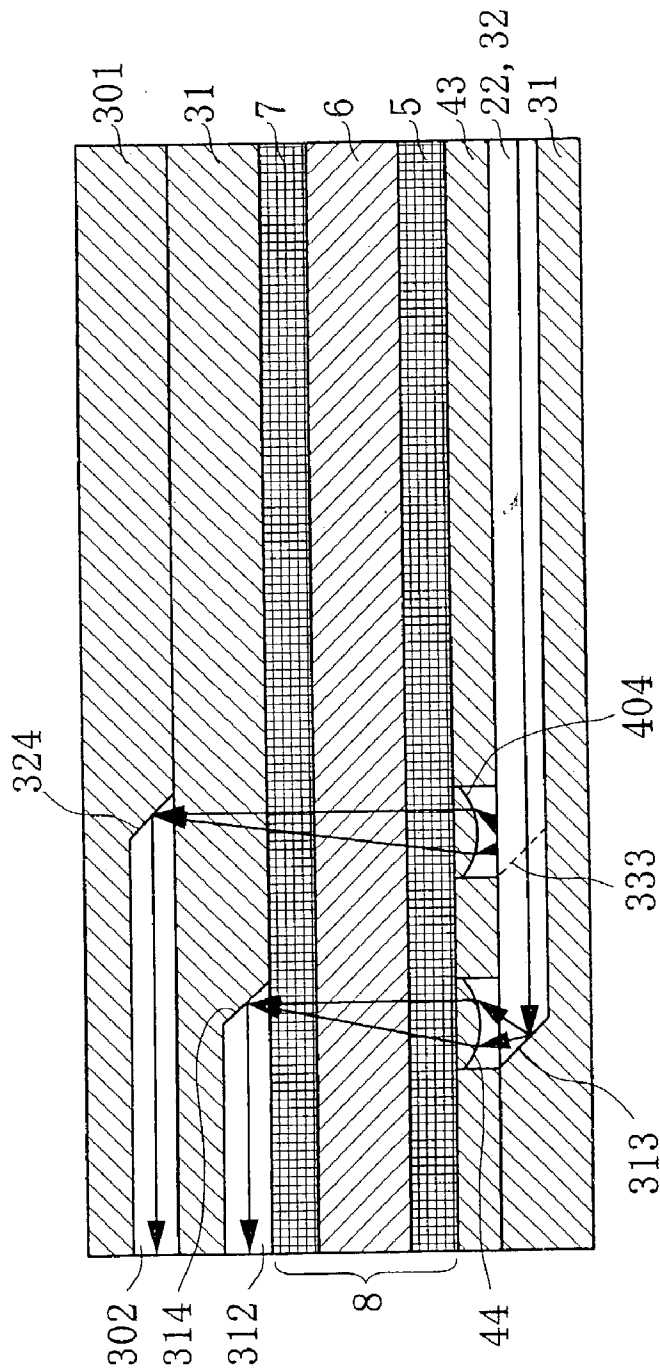


Fig. 5

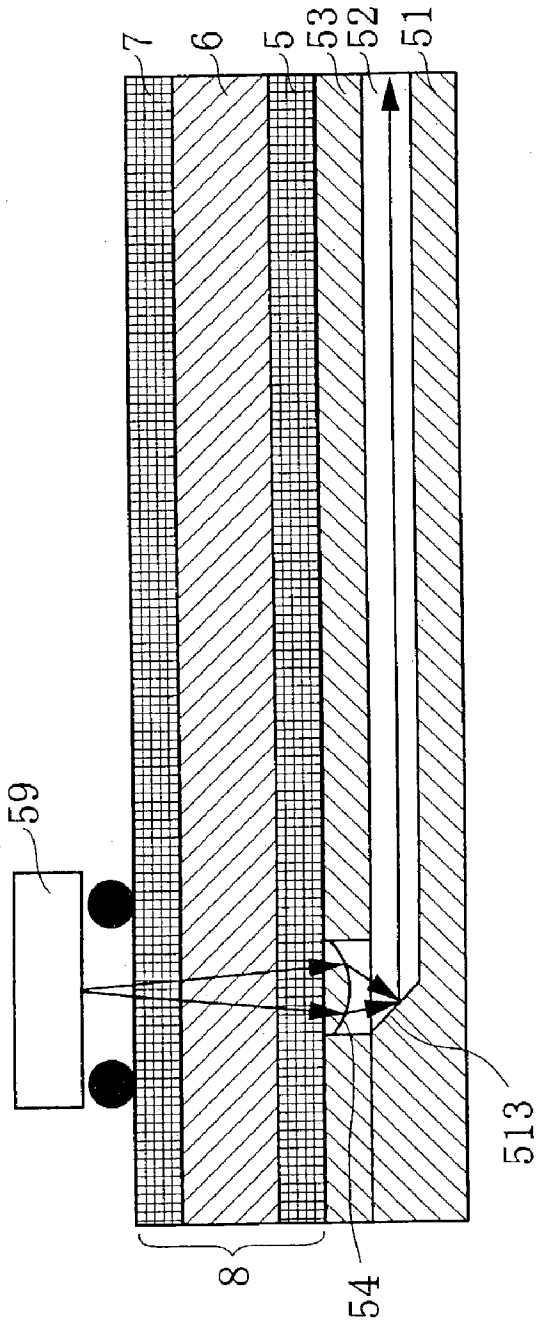


Fig. 6

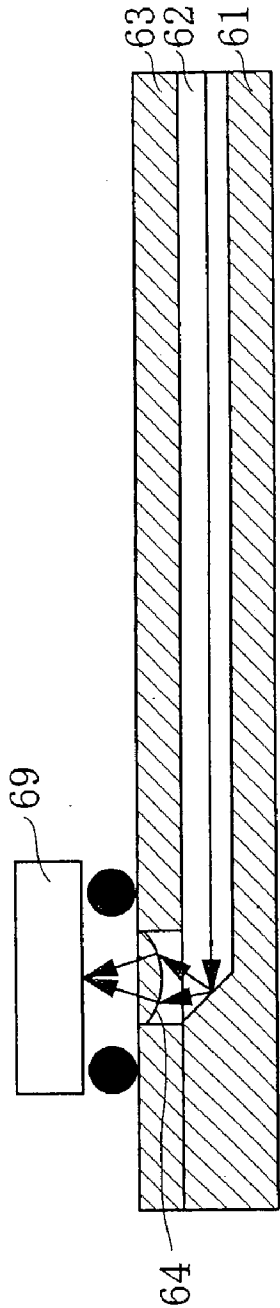


Fig. 7

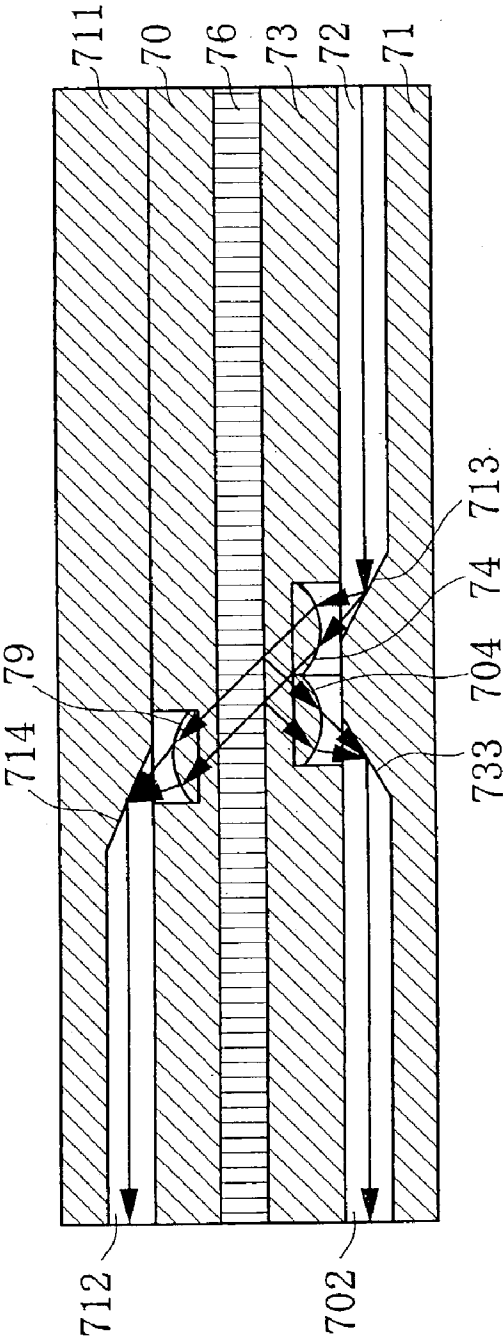
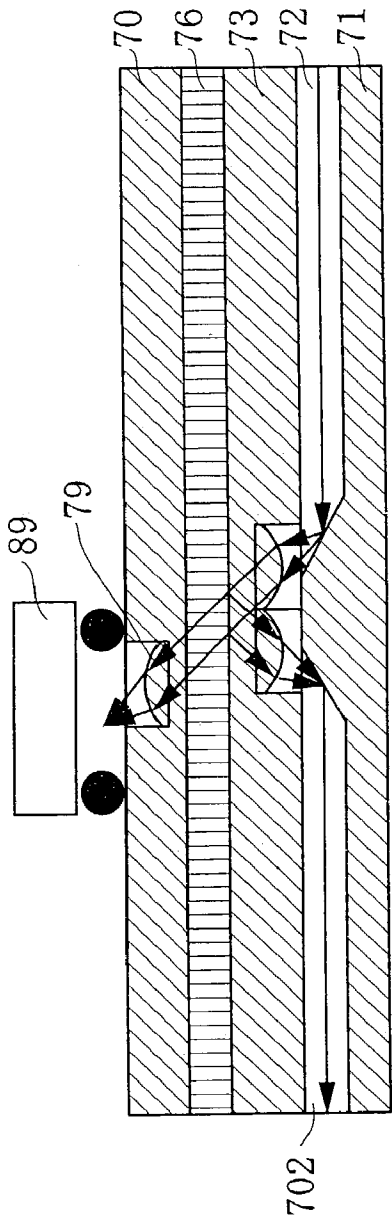


Fig. 8



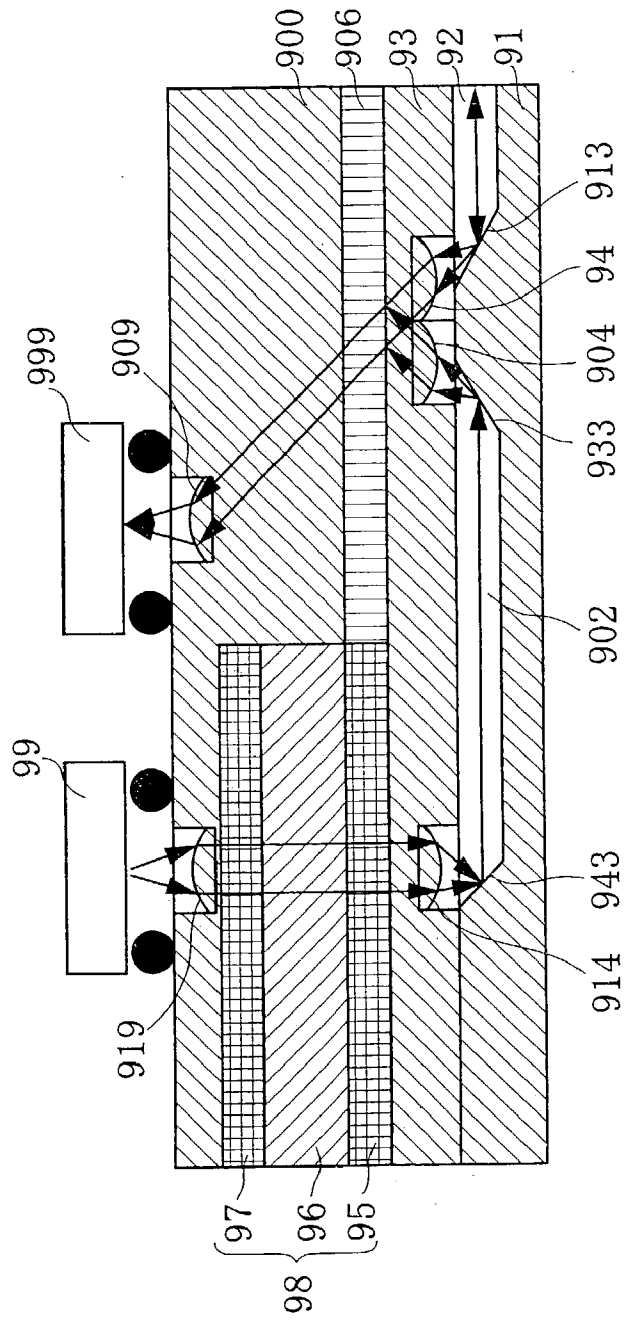
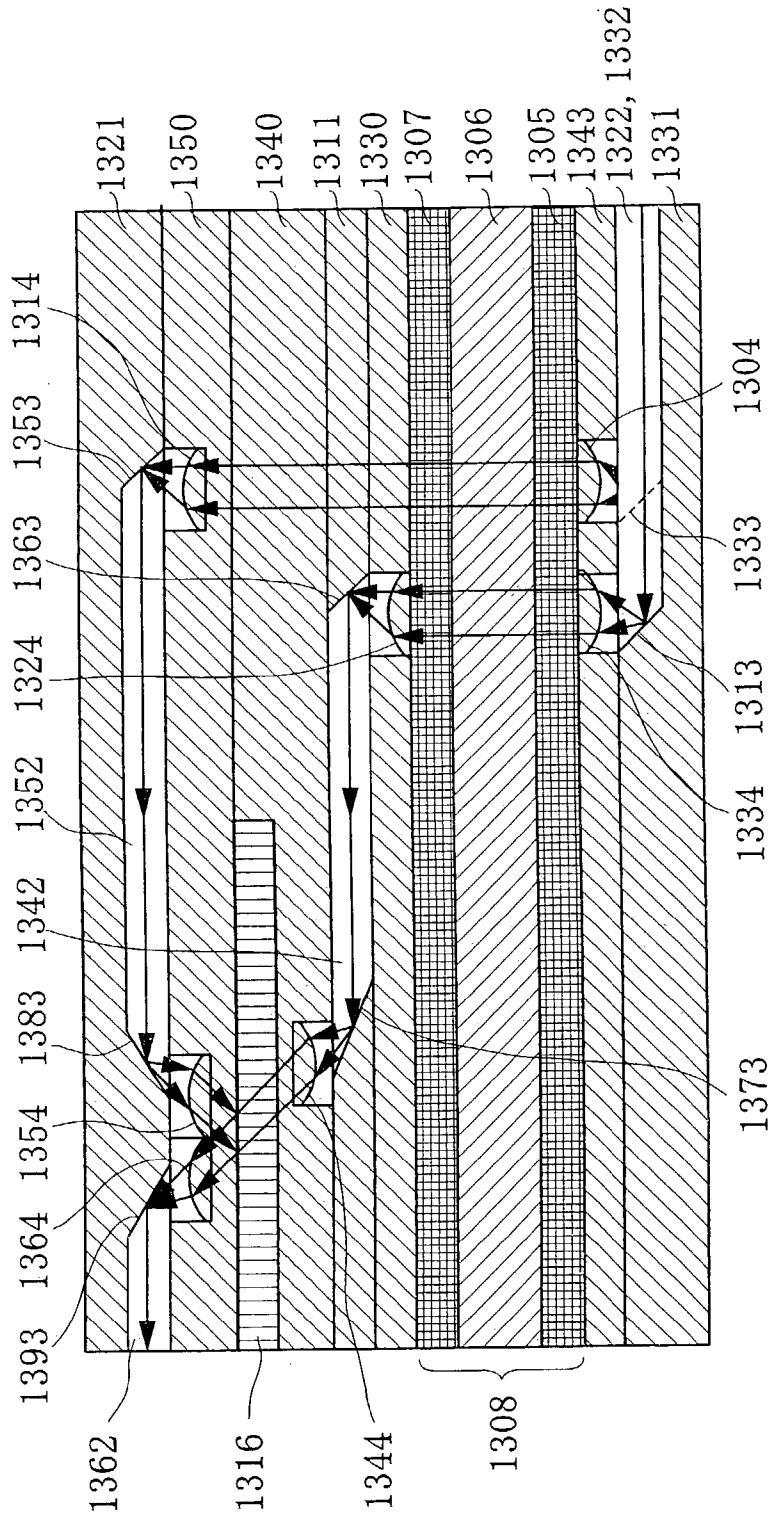
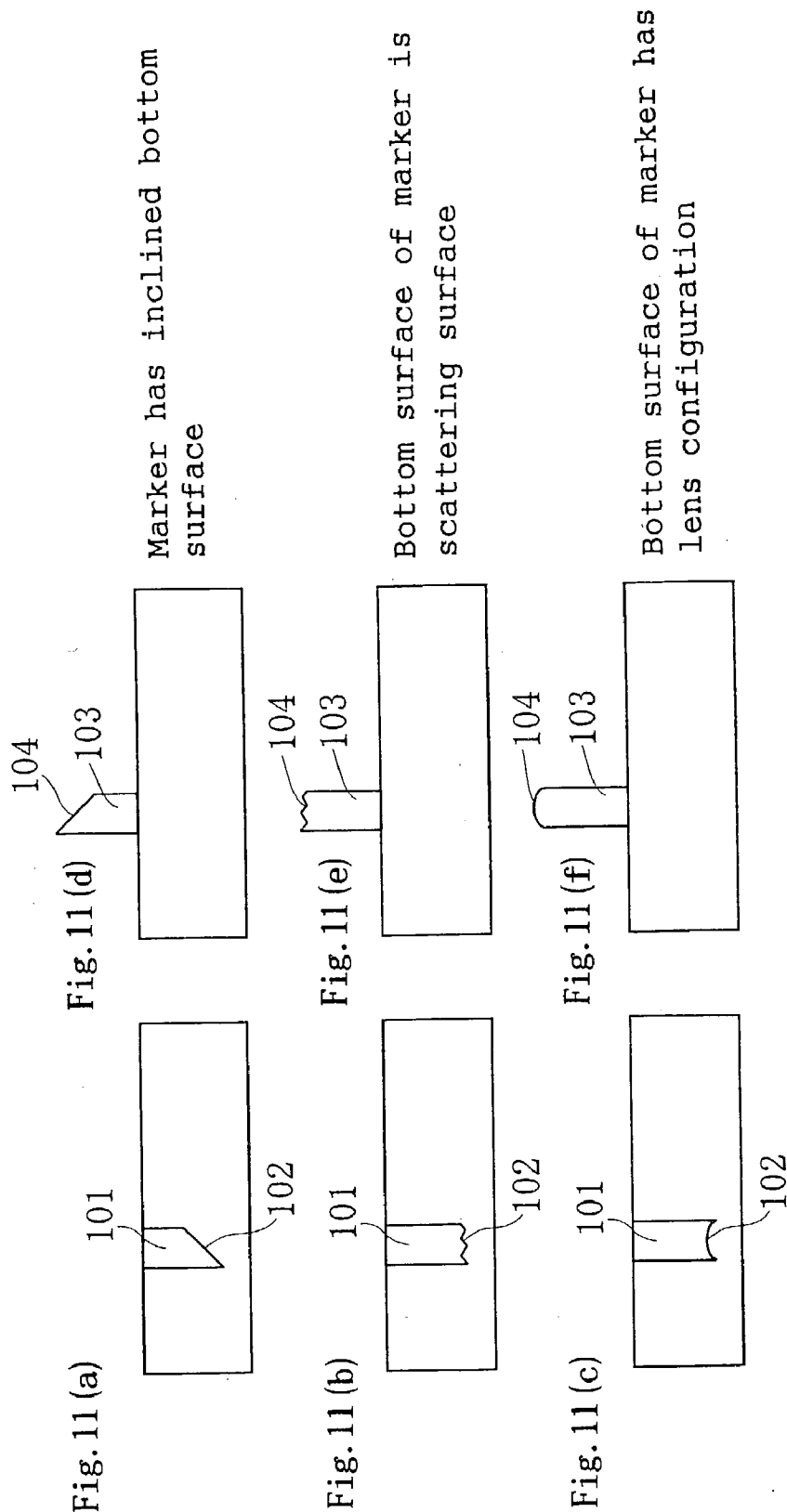
6
 3
 1
 1

Fig. 10





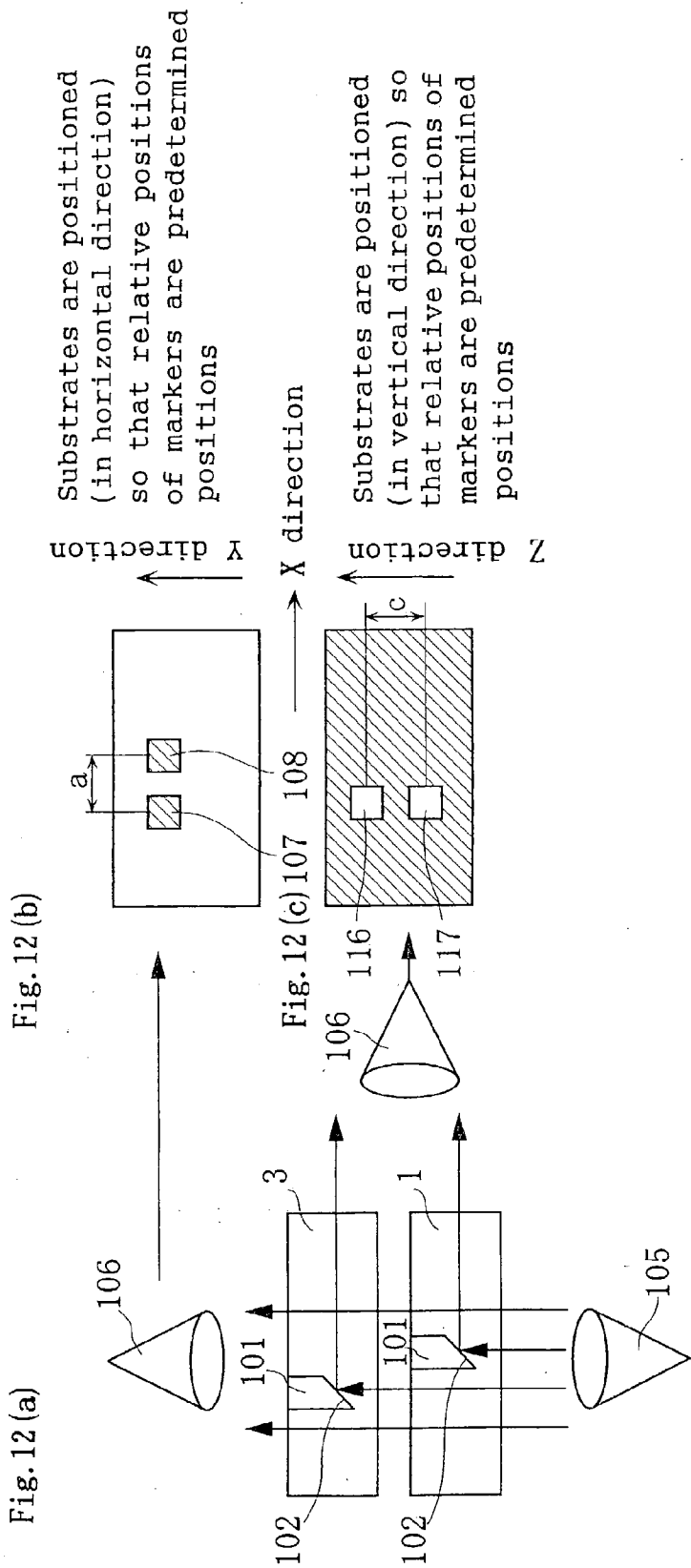


Fig. 13 (a)

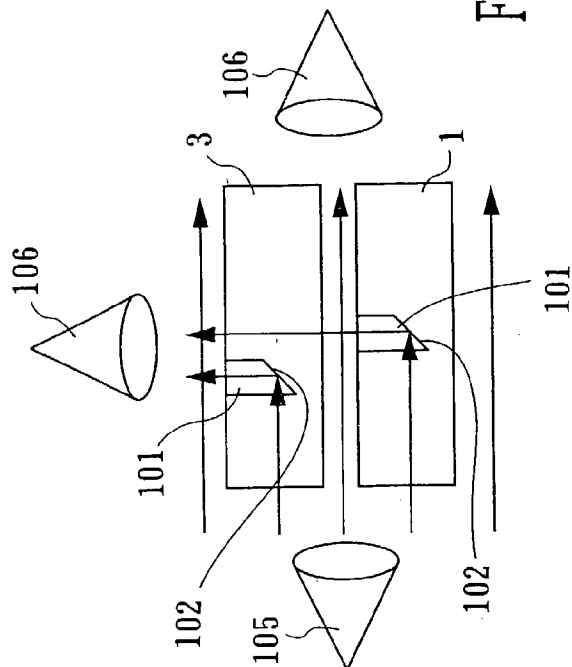


Fig. 13 (b)

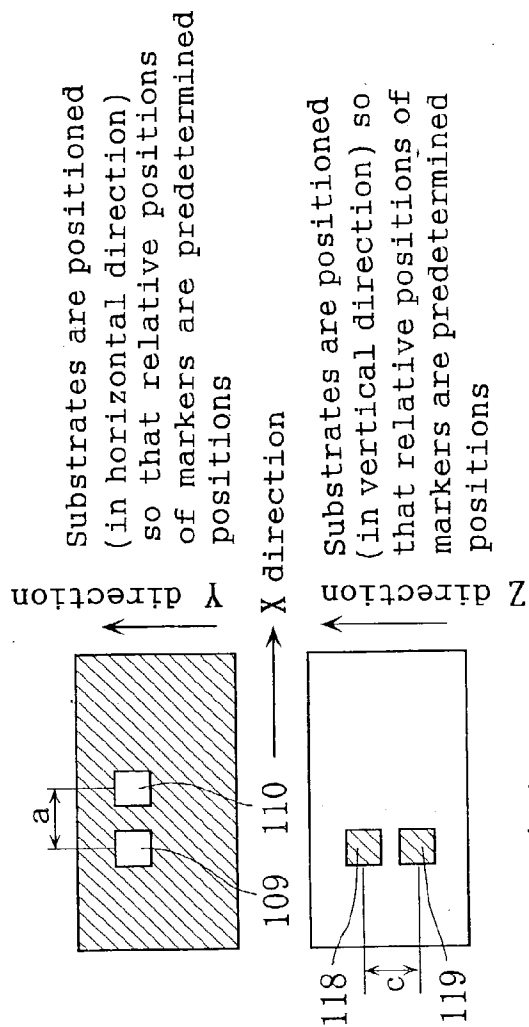


Fig. 13 (c)

Fig. 14 (a)

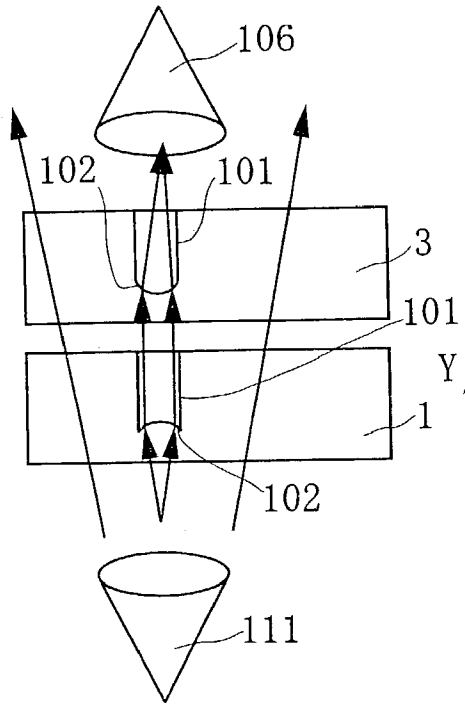


Fig. 14 (b)

Substrates are positioned
so that relative positions
of markers are predetermined
positions

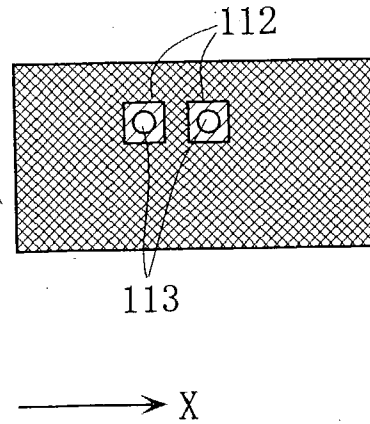


Fig. 15 (a)

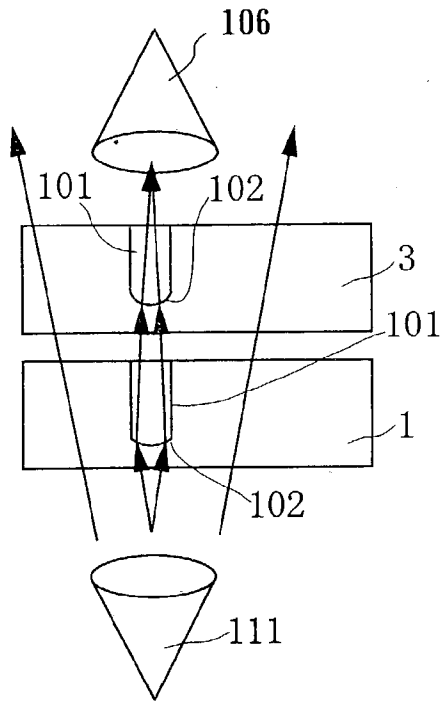


Fig. 15 (b)

Substrates are positioned
so that relative positions
of markers are predetermined
positions

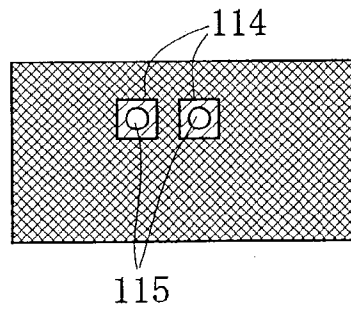


Fig. 16 (a)

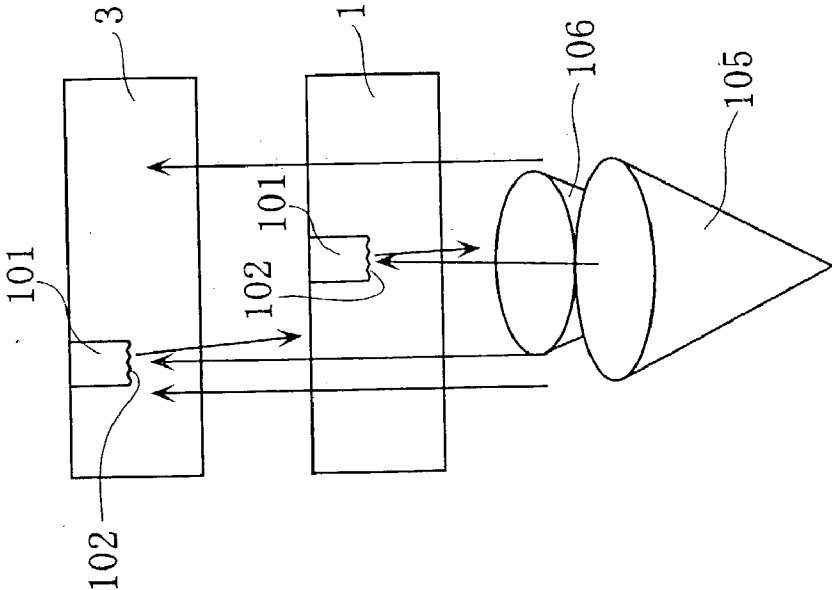


Fig. 16 (b)

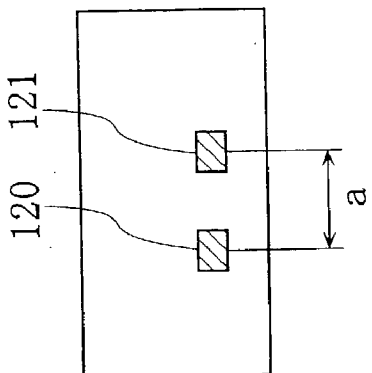


Fig. 17 (a)

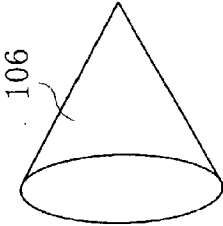
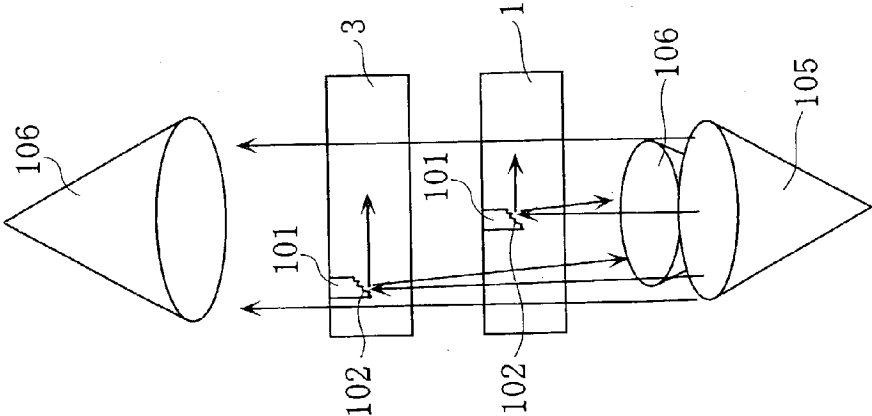


Fig. 17 (b)

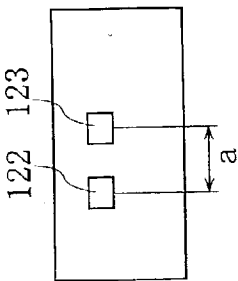


Fig. 17 (c)

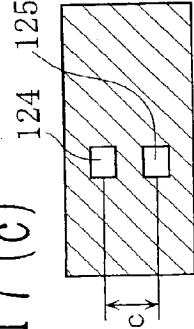


Fig. 17 (d)

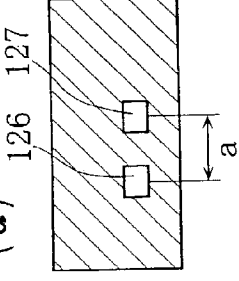


Fig. 18 (a)

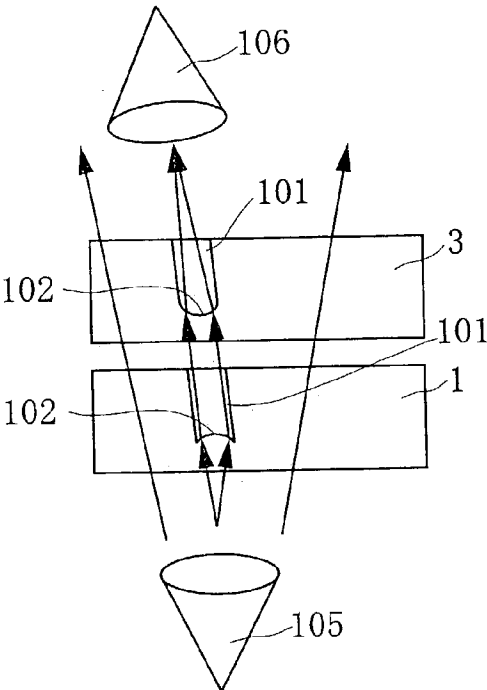


Fig. 18 (b)

Substrates are positioned
so that relative positions
of markers are predetermined
positions

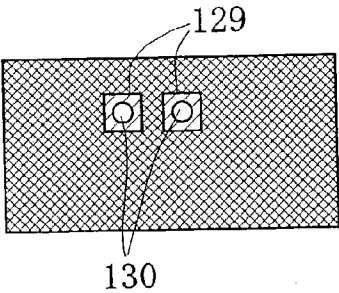


Fig. 19

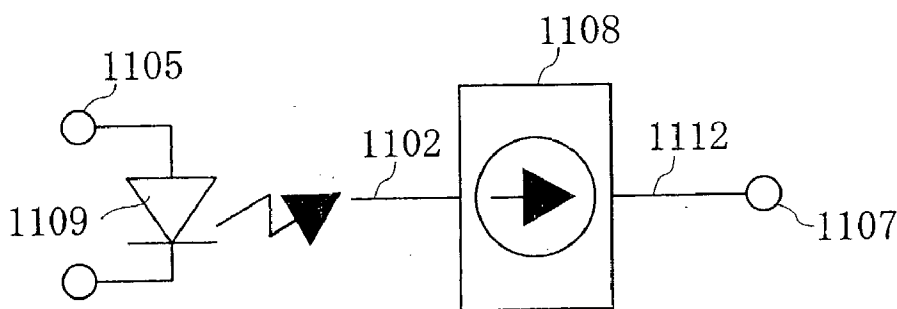


Fig. 20

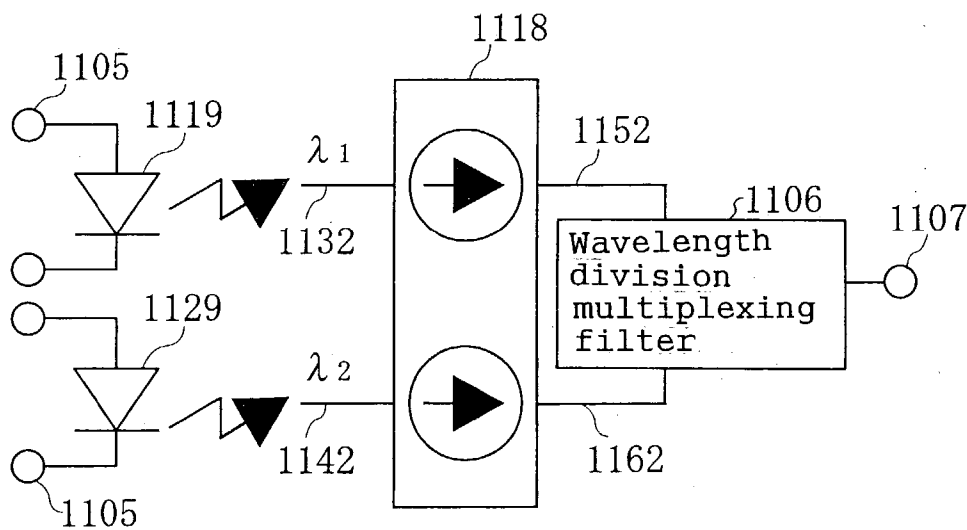


Fig. 21

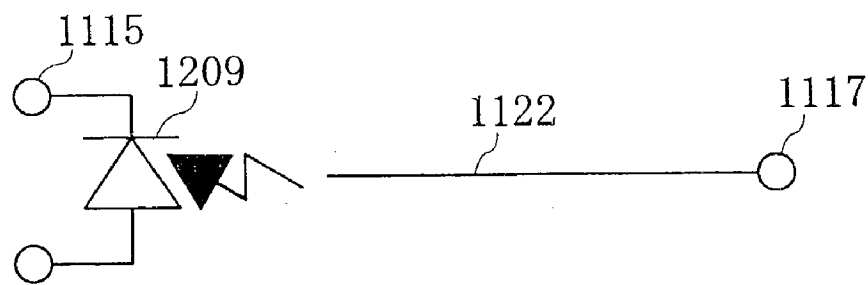


Fig. 22

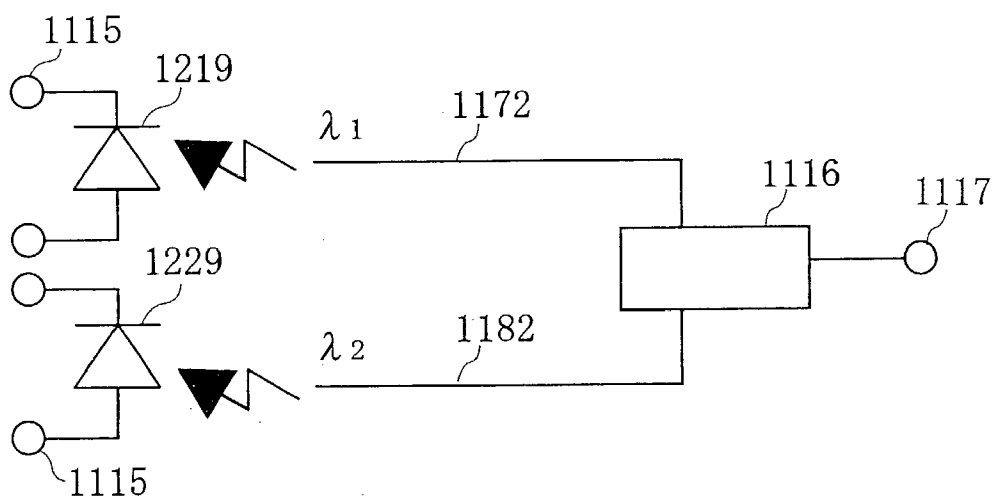


Fig. 23

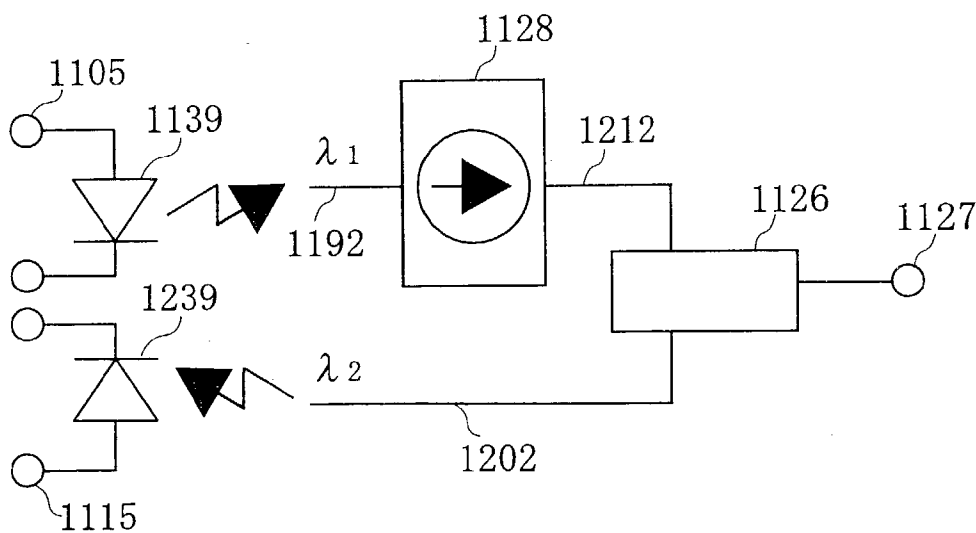


Fig. 24

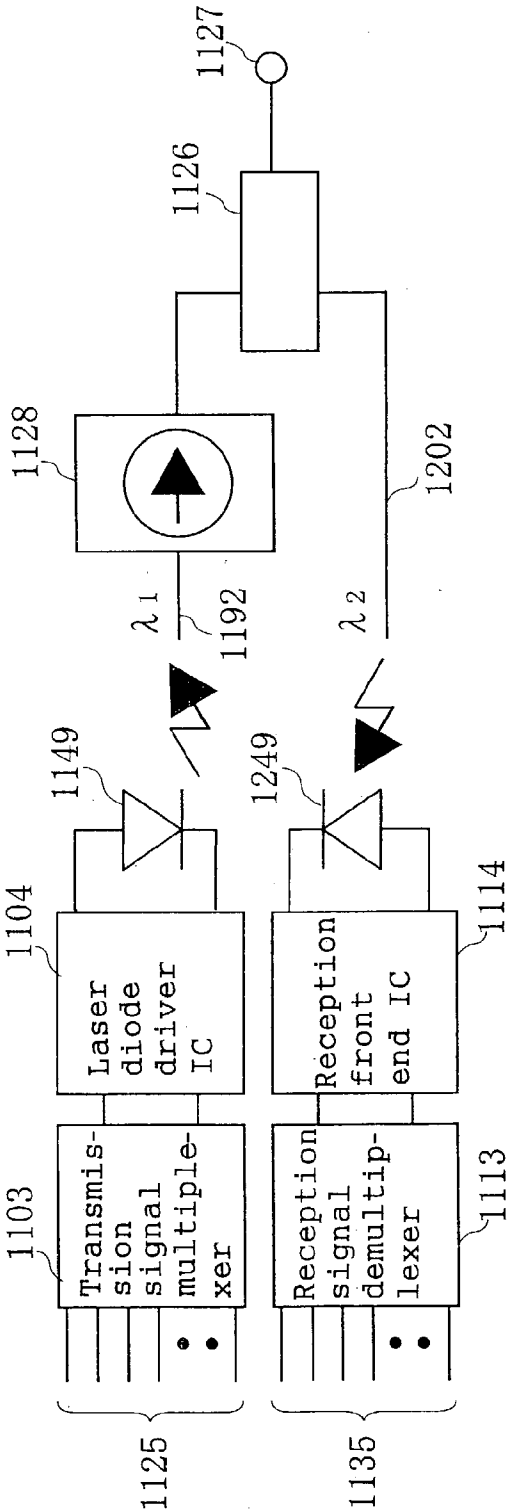


Fig. 25

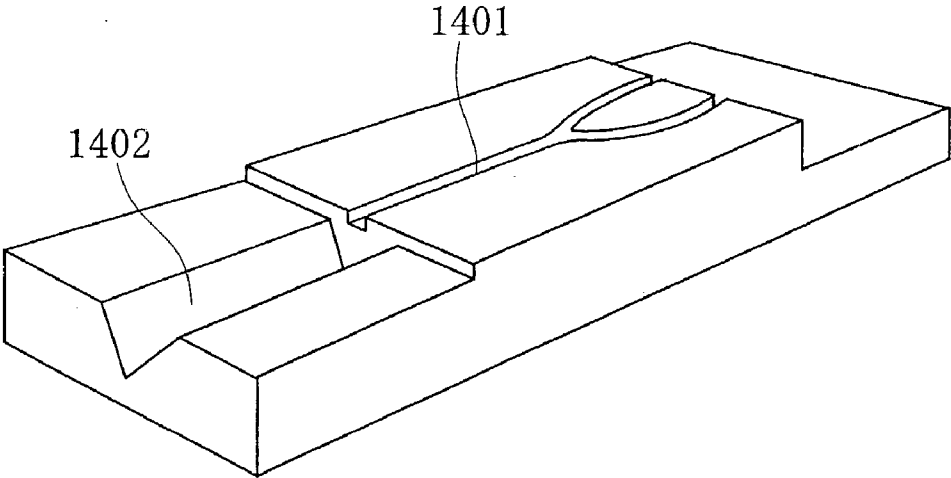
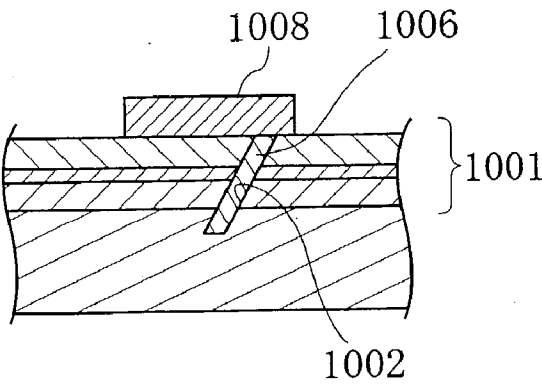


Fig. 26 PRIOR ART



THREE-DIMENSIONAL OPTICAL WAVEGUIDE, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME, OPTICAL MODULE, AND OPTICAL TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a three-dimensional optical waveguide, a method of manufacturing the same, an optical module, and an optical transmission system for enhancing the performance of an optical device.

[0003] 2. Related Art of the Invention

[0004] Conventionally, when a three-dimensional optical waveguide is formed, for example, in order that light traveling through a waveguide is output vertically with respect to the waveguide, as shown in **FIG. 26**, a planar filter **1006** such as a wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) filter is inserted in a groove **1002** obliquely formed in a planar waveguide **1001**, and the light reflected or transmitted by the planar filter **1006** is oriented with respect to a light receiving element **1008**, a lens system and another planar optical waveguide which are disposed spatially, thereby forming the three-dimensional optical waveguide.

[0005] However, in such a three-dimensional optical waveguide, spatial adjustment in each waveguide and the lens system is extremely difficult. For example, when a planar wavelength division multiplexing filter is inserted in a planar optical waveguide, it is necessary that the formation of the groove for supporting the wavelength division multiplexing filter be performed extremely precisely. In addition, after the insertion of the wavelength division multiplexing filter into the groove, a precise adjustment for fine positioning of the wavelength division multiplexing filter is further required.

[0006] Therefore, when it is intended to enhance the performance by inserting an optical device such as an isolator in such a three-dimensional optical waveguide, since the number of parts requiring adjustment increases, the cost increases.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In view of the above-mentioned problem, an object of the present invention is to provide a three-dimensional optical waveguide, a method of manufacturing the same, an optical module and an optical transmission system that are low in cost and do not require complicated adjustment.

[0008] The 1st aspect of the present invention is a three-dimensional optical waveguide comprising a lamination of at least a planar substrate (**1, 31, 51, 61, 71, 91, 301, 711, 1311, 1321, 1331**) having a planar optical waveguide (**2, 12, 22, 32, 52, 62, 72, 92, 702, 712, 902, 1322, 1332, 1342, 1352, 1362**) and a planar substrate (**3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350**) having a sheet optical element (**4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 24, 34, 29, 44, 54, 64, 74, 79, 94, 95, 96, 97, 209, 304, 404, 704, 904, 906, 909, 914, 919, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1316, 1324, 1334, 1344, 1354, 1364**).

[0009] The 2nd aspect of the present invention is a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 1st aspect,

wherein the planar substrate having a sheet optical element is one of a lens layer, an isolator layer and a filter layer.

[0010] The 3rd aspect of the present invention is a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 2nd aspect, wherein the planar substrate having the planar waveguide, and the said one of the lens layer, the isolator layer and the filter layer are integrally formed on forming glass.

[0011] The 4th aspect of the present invention is a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 2nd aspect or 3rd aspect, wherein a reflecting surface is formed on the planar optical waveguide and light passes through the said one of the lens layer, the isolator layer and the filter layer.

[0012] The 5th aspect of the present invention is a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 4th aspect, further comprising at least one of a light receiving element and a light emitting element.

[0013] The 6th aspect of the present invention is a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 1st aspect, wherein the planar substrates are positioned with respect to each other by markers integrally formed on at least two planar substrates.

[0014] The 7th aspect of the present invention is a method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide comprising:

[0015] providing a plurality of planar substrates (**3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350**), each having a planar optical waveguide;

[0016] forming a marker (**101, 103**) on each of the planar substrates (**3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350**) at a same time; and

[0017] laminating the planar substrates (**3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350**) by positioning the planar substrates by using the markers (**101, 103**).

[0018] The 8th aspect of the present invention is a method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 7th aspect, wherein the markers have one of a concave or convex shape, and wherein before the planar substrates are laminated, the planar substrates are positioned by applying light to the markers and causing the light to be reflected or transmitted by the markers.

[0019] The 9th aspect of the present invention is a method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 8th aspect, wherein bottom surfaces of the markers are one of inclined surfaces, scattering surfaces and lens surfaces.

[0020] The 10th aspect of the present invention is an optical transmitter module, comprising:

[0021] an electric input terminal (**1105**);

[0022] a light emitting element (**69, 89, 999, 1209, 1219, 1229, 1239, 1249**) connected to the electric input terminal (**1105**);

[0023] the three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 3rd aspect, the waveguide transmit-

- ting light emitted from the light emitting element (69, 89, 999, 1209, 1219, 1229, 1239, 1249); and
- [0024] an optical output terminal (1107) outputting light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide.
- [0025] The 11th aspect of the present invention is an optical receiver module, comprising:
- [0026] an optical input terminal (1117);
- [0027] the three-dimensional optical waveguide according to the 3rd aspect connected to the optical input terminal (1117);
- [0028] a light receiving element, that receives light (59, 99, 1109, 1119, 1129, 1139, 1149) transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide; and
- [0029] an electric output terminal (1115) connected to the light receiving element.
- [0030] The 12th aspect of the present invention is an optical transmitter and receiver module, comprising:
- [0031] an electric input terminal (1105);
- [0032] a three-dimensional optical waveguide including a lamination of at least a planar substrate (3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350) having a planar optical waveguide (2, 12, 22, 32, 52, 62, 72, 92, 702, 712, 902, 1322, 1332, 1342, 1352, 1362), a planar substrate (3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350) having an isolator (8, 98, 1108, 1118, 1128, 1308), and a planar substrate (3, 8, 10, 30, 33, 43, 53, 63, 70, 73, 76, 93, 98, 300, 900, 1308, 1330, 1340, 1343, 1350) having a wavelength division multiplexing filter;
- [0033] a light emitting element (69, 89, 999, 1209, 1219, 1229, 1239, 1249) connected to the electric input terminal (1105) and connected to the three-dimensional optical waveguide;
- [0034] a light receiving element (69, 89, 999, 1209, 1219, 1229, 1239, 1249) connected to the three-dimensional optical waveguide;
- [0035] an electric output terminal (1115) connected to the light receiving element (69, 89, 999, 1209, 1219, 1229, 1239, 1249); and
- [0036] an optical input and output terminal (1115) connected to the three-dimensional optical waveguide,
- [0037] wherein an electric signal input from the electric input terminal (1105) is converted into an optical signal and transmitted from the optical input and output terminal (1115), and an optical signal received by the optical input and output terminal (1115) is converted into an electric signal and output to the electric output terminal.
- [0038] The 13th aspect of the present invention is an optical transmission system for transmission and reception, comprising:
- [0039] an optical transmitter module, including:
- [0040] an electric input terminal;
- [0041] a light emitting element connected to the electric input terminal;
- [0042] a three-dimensional optical waveguide having:
- [0043] a lamination of at least a planar substrate having a planar optical waveguide connected to the light emitting element and a planar substrate having a sheet optical element;
- [0044] the waveguide is transmitting light emitted from the light emitting element; and
- [0045] an optical output terminal outputting light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide;
- [0046] an optical fiber cable connected to the optical transmitter module; and
- [0047] an optical receiver module, including:
- [0048] an optical input terminal;
- [0049] a three-dimensional optical waveguide having:
- [0050] a lamination of at least a planar substrate having a planar optical waveguide connected to the optical input terminal and a planar substrate having a sheet optical element;
- [0051] a light receiving element, that receives light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide; and
- [0052] an electric output terminal connected to the light receiving element;
- [0053] the optical receiver module is connected to the optical fiber cable.
- [0054] The 14th aspect of the present invention is an optical transmission system for optical transmission and reception, comprising:
- [0055] the optical transmitter and receiver module according to 12th aspect; and
- [0056] an optical fiber cable connected to the optical transmitter and receiver module.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0057] FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a first embodiment of the present invention.
- [0058] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a modification of the first embodiment of the present invention.
- [0059] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a second embodiment of the present invention.
- [0060] FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a modification of the second embodiment of the present invention.

[0061] FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

[0062] FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a modification of the third embodiment of the present invention.

[0063] FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0064] FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a modification of the fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0065] FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

[0066] FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view showing the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0067] FIGS. 11(a) to 11(f) are cross-sectional views showing a marker formed in each substrate and used when the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention is manufactured.

[0068] FIGS. 12(a) to 12(c) are schematic views showing a method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0069] FIGS. 13(a) to 13(c) are schematic views showing a modified method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0070] FIGS. 14(a) and 14(b) are schematic views showing a further method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0071] FIGS. 15(a) and 15(b) are schematic views showing a still further method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0072] FIGS. 16(a) and 16(b) are schematic views showing yet another method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0073] FIGS. 17(a) to 17(d) are schematic views showing still another method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0074] FIGS. 18(a) and 18(b) are schematic views showing a still further method of manufacturing the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention.

[0075] FIG. 19 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical transmitter module of the present invention.

[0076] FIG. 20 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical transmitter module of the present invention.

[0077] FIG. 21 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical receiver module of the present invention.

[0078] FIG. 22 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical receiver module of the present invention.

[0079] FIG. 23 is a schematic view showing the structure of an optical transmitter and receiver module of the present invention.

[0080] FIG. 24 is a schematic view showing the structure of an application of the optical transmitter and receiver module of the present invention.

[0081] FIG. 25 is a perspective view showing a concrete example of an optical input terminal, an optical output terminal or an optical input and output terminal of the present invention.

[0082] FIG. 26 shows the structure of the waveguide according to the prior art.

[0083] Explanation of Reference Numerals

[0084] 1, 11 Waveguide substrate

[0085] 2, 12 Waveguide

[0086] 3, 10 Lens substrate

[0087] 4, 9 Lens

[0088] 8 Isolator substrate

[0089] 13, 14 Reflecting surface

[0090] 59, 99 Surface emitting laser

[0091] 69, 89 Surface-mount photodiode

[0092] 101, 103 Marker

[0093] 102, 104 Bottom surface

[0094] 105 Light source

[0095] 106 Light receiver

[0096] 107, 108 Image

[0097] Embodiments of the Invention

[0098] (First Embodiment)

[0099] FIG. 1 shows the cross-sectional structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0100] A waveguide substrate 1 as the planar substrate having a planar waveguide of the present invention is formed of forming glass, and a waveguide 2 which is the planar optical waveguide of the present invention is formed on the top surface of the waveguide substrate 1. At an end of the waveguide 2, a reflecting surface 13 which is the reflecting surface of the present invention comprising a mirror or the like is formed. On the top surface of the waveguide substrate 1, a lens substrate 3 which is the planar substrate having a lens layer of the present invention is laminated. In the lens substrate 3, a lens 4 is integrally formed of forming glass (the same for the lens substrate described below).

[0101] Above the lens substrate 3, a polarizer 5, a Faraday rotator 6 and a polarizer 7 are laminated in this order. These elements constitute an isolator substrate 8 which is the planar substrate having an isolator of the present invention. On the top surface of the isolator substrate 8, a lens substrate 10 is laminated which is the planar substrate having a lens layer of the present invention. In the lens substrate 10, a lens 9 is integrally formed of forming glass. Above the lens layer 10, a waveguide substrate 11 which is the planar optical

waveguide of the present invention is laminated. The waveguide substrate **11** is also formed of forming glass.

[0102] In a lower part of the waveguide substrate **11**, a waveguide **12** which is the planar optical waveguide of the present invention is formed. At an end of the waveguide **12**, a reflecting surface **14** which is the reflecting surface of the present invention comprising a mirror or the like is formed. The reflecting surface **13**, the lens **4**, the lens **9** and the reflecting surface **14** are disposed so that the horizontal positions thereof are aligned in the vertical direction. The method of position alignment will be described later. The reflecting surface **13** is angled (inclined by 45°) so that light traveling along the horizontal direction is made to travel in the vertical direction. The reflecting surface **14** is angled (inclined by 45°) so that light traveling along the vertical direction is made to travel in the horizontal direction. The substrates are bonded by an ultraviolet cure adhesive or the like.

[0103] In this description, it is assumed that the vertical direction and the horizontal (longitudinal) direction coincide with the vertical direction and the horizontal (longitudinal) direction of FIG. 1 (this applies to the description that follows).

[0104] When such a three-dimensional optical waveguide is manufactured, as described above, precise position alignment is necessary between the waveguide substrate **1** having the reflecting surface **13** and the lens substrate **3** having the lens **4**, between the lens substrate **3** and the lens substrate **10** having the lens **9** and between the lens substrate **10** and the optical waveguide substrate **11** having the reflecting surface **14**. FIGS. 11 to 12 are views for assistance in explaining the method of such position alignment.

[0105] First, a concave marker **101** as shown in FIG. 11(a) is formed integrally with the substrates (the waveguide substrate **1**, the lens substrate **3**, the lens substrate **10**, and the waveguide substrate **11**) by pressing the forming glass. As shown in FIG. 11(a), the marker **101** has a bottom surface **102** angled at 45°.

[0106] Next, with reference to FIGS. 12(a) to 12(c), the process of aligning the substrates will be described with the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** as an example.

[0107] The bottom surfaces **102** angled as described above are formed in the same direction with respect to the direction of length of the substrates. The horizontal positions of the markers **101** formed on the substrates are determined so that predetermined spacings are provided in the direction of length of the substrates (hereinafter, referred to as the X direction), in the direction orthogonal to the X direction within the planes of the substrates (hereinafter, referred to as the Y direction) and in the direction in which the substrates are laminated (the vertical direction, that is, the direction orthogonal to the X and the Y directions, hereinafter, referred to as the Z direction). For example, the substrates are laminated so that, as shown in FIGS. 12(a) to 12(c), the position of the marker **101** formed in the waveguide substrate **1** and the position of the marker **101** formed in the lens substrate **3** are the same in the Y direction of the substrates, a predetermined spacing *a* is provided in the X direction and a predetermined spacing *c* is provided in the Z direction.

[0108] As shown in FIG. 12(a), the waveguide substrate **1** is disposed below, and the lens substrate **3** is disposed

above the waveguide substrate **1** through an ultraviolet cure adhesive. Then, a light source **105** emitting parallel light is disposed below the waveguide substrate **1**, and a light receiver **106** such as a CCD camera is disposed above the lens substrate **3** and at a side of the laminated substrates. When parallel light is emitted from the light source **105**, part of the emitted parallel light is reflected by the bottom surfaces **102** in parts where the markers **101** are present, and the reflected part of the light reaches the light receiver **106** disposed at a side of the laminated substrates. At the parts where the markers **101** are absent, the emitted parallel light is all transmitted, and the transmitted light reaches the light receiver **106** disposed above the lens substrate **3**.

[0109] FIG. 12(b) shows images obtained from the light receiver **106** disposed above the lens substrate **3** in this manner. Here, an image **108** corresponds to the marker **101** formed in the waveguide **1**, and an image **107** corresponds to the marker **101** formed in the lens substrate **3**. These images are shown on the light receiver **106** as parts darker than any peripheral part. Then, adjustment is made by moving the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** in the horizontal direction so that the positions of the images **107** and **108** in the Y direction coincide with each other and the spacing between the images **107** and **108** in the X direction is the predetermined spacing *a*.

[0110] FIG. 12(c) shows images obtained from the light receiver **106** disposed at a side of the laminated substrates as described above. Here, an image **116** corresponds to the marker **101** formed in the lens substrate **3**, and an image **117** corresponds to the marker **101** formed in the waveguide substrate **1**. These images are shown on the light receiver **106** as parts brighter than any peripheral part. Then, adjustment is made by moving the waveguide **1** and the lens substrate **3** in the Z direction so that the spacing between the image **116** and the image **117** is the predetermined spacing *c*. When the elements are brought into predetermined position alignment, ultraviolet light is applied to the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** to cure the ultraviolet-cure adhesive filling the space between the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3**, thereby bonding the substrates **1** and **3**.

[0111] Likewise, position alignment is made between the lens substrate **3** and the lens substrate **10** and between the lens substrate **10** and the waveguide substrate **11**. At this time, the position alignment between the lens substrate **3** and the lens substrate **10** is performed by an operation similar to the above-described one with the isolator substrate **8** sandwiched between the lens substrate **3** and the lens substrate **10**.

[0112] At this time, while the predetermined spacing *a* may be different among the substrates, it is determined so that the horizontal positions of the reflecting surface **13**, the lens **4**, the lens **9** and the reflecting surface **14** are aligned in the vertical direction when the substrates are laminated.

[0113] Next, the operation performed when such a three-dimensional optical waveguide is used will be described.

[0114] The light directed into the waveguide substrate **1** travels through the waveguide **2**, and is reflected upward by the reflecting surface **13** to be incident on the lens **4**. The light having exited from the lens **4** passes through the isolator substrate **8** and the lens **9**, is horizontally reflected by the reflecting surface **4**, and travels through the waveguide **12**.

[0115] By doing this, a low-cost and precise three-dimensional optical waveguide not requiring a complicated adjustment is provided.

[0116] While in the description given above, the substrates are positioned so that the horizontal positions (in the X direction and in the Y direction) of the markers **101** formed in the substrates are the same in the Y direction and the predetermined spacing *a* is provided in the X direction, the substrates may be positioned so that a predetermined spacing *b* is provided in the Y direction.

[0117] In the first embodiment, the lens substrate **10** is present between the isolator substrate **8** and the waveguide substrate **11**. However, when the light reflected by the reflecting surface **13** can be condensed on the reflecting surface **14** only by a lens **24** as shown in **FIG. 2**, the lens substrate **10** is unnecessary. In that case, similar effects to those described above are obtained.

[0118] While in the present embodiment, the light source **105** is disposed below the waveguide substrate **1** when position alignment between the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** is performed, the light source **105** may be disposed at a side of the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** as shown in **FIG. 13(a)**. In that case, at the parts not coinciding with the bottom surfaces **102** of the markers **101**, the parallel light emitted from the light source **105** is transmitted to the opposite side of the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** as it is to reach the light receiver **106** disposed at a side of the waveguide **1** and the lens substrate **3**, and at the parts coinciding with the bottom surfaces **102** of the markers **101**, part of the parallel light is reflected upward to reach the light receiver **106** disposed above the lens substrate **3**.

[0119] Consequently, as the images obtained on the light receiver **106** disposed above the lens substrate **3**, as shown in **FIG. 13(b)**, an image **109** corresponding to the marker **101** of the lens substrate **3** and an image **110** corresponding to the marker **101** of the waveguide substrate **1** are shown on the light receiver **106** as parts brighter than the peripheral part. As described above, when the light source **105** is disposed at a side of the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3**, the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** can be positioned in predetermined positions in the horizontal direction by adjusting the spacing *a* between the image **109** and the image **110** similar to the above-described case.

[0120] **FIG. 13(c)** shows images obtained from the light receiver **106** disposed at a side of the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** as described above. Here, an image **118** corresponds to the marker **101** formed in the lens substrate **3**, and an image **119** corresponds to the marker **101** formed in the waveguide substrate **1**. These images are shown on the light receiver **106** as parts darker than the peripheral part. Then, adjustment is made by moving the waveguide **1** and the lens substrate **3** in the Z direction so that the spacing between the image **118** and the image **119** is the predetermined spacing *c*. When the elements are brought into predetermined position alignment, the waveguide **1** and the lens substrate **3** are bonded together similar to the above-described case.

[0121] While the concave markers **101** are used for the positioning of the substrates in the description given above,

convex markers **103** may be used for the positioning. **FIG. 11(d)** shows a case where the bottom surface **104** of the convex marker **103** is angled at 45°. **FIG. 11(e)** shows a case where the bottom surface **104** of the convex marker **103** has a scattering surface. **FIG. 11(f)** shows a case where the bottom surface **104** of the convex marker **103** has a lens configuration.

[0122] When these convex markers **103** are used, the horizontal positions and the vertical positions of the substrates can be adjusted similarly to the case of the concave markers **101** with the spacing between each substrate being fixed by a spacer (not shown) or filled with an adhesive as described above and with the light source **105** being disposed below or at a side of the waveguide **1**.

[0123] While in the description given above, the bottom surfaces of the markers **101** and **103** are angled at 45°, they may be angled at a different angle. In that case, by disposing the light receiver **106** so that the light from the light source **105** is projected onto the light receiver **106** upward or downward in a slanting direction with respect to the substrates, the spacing between each substrate can be similarly adjusted by observing the images shown on the light receiver **106**.

[0124] While in the description given above, the markers **101** and **103** of which bottom surfaces are inclined are used to perform the positioning of the substrates in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction, it is considered to use markers **101** having bottom surfaces **102** of a different configuration.

[0125] **FIGS. 14(a)** and **15(a)** show examples of arrangement of the elements in a case where markers **101** of which bottom surfaces **102** have a lens configuration are used. As shown in **FIG. 14(a)**, a light source **111** is a diffusing light source, and is disposed below the waveguide substrate **1** at a predetermined distance therefrom. The light receiver **106** is disposed above the lens substrate **3**. In the waveguide substrate **1**, a concave marker **101** having a bottom surface **102** of a lens configuration being concave when viewed from below is disposed, and in the lens substrate **3**, a concave marker **101** having a bottom surface **102** of a lens configuration being convex when viewed from below is disposed. Here, the concave lens of the bottom surface **102** formed in the waveguide substrate **1** has a lens configuration and a refractive index that refract into parallel light the diffused light emitted from the light source **111** disposed at the predetermined distance from the waveguide substrate **1**.

[0126] The lens configuration as a convex lens and the refractive index of the bottom surface **102** formed in the lens substrate **103** are a lens configuration and a refractive index that condense the parallel light incident on the bottom surface **102** of the lens substrate **3** on the light receiver **106** disposed above the lens substrate **3**. The positions of markers **101** of the substrates are the same both in the X direction and in the Y direction, or are predetermined positions. In this arrangement, when light is emitted from the light source **111**, the light passes through the marker **101** of the waveguide substrate **1** and the marker **101** of the lens substrate **3** to be condensed on the light receiver **106**. The images obtained from the light receiver **106** at this time are shown in **FIG. 14(b)**. That is, on the light receiver **106**, an image **112** which is an image of the marker **101** itself is formed and an image **113** condensed by the bottom surface **102** having a lens

configuration is formed inside the image 112. As described above, by adjusting the waveguide substrate 1 or the lens substrate 3 in the horizontal direction so that the image 113 is formed inside the image 112, positioning of the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens substrate 3 in the horizontal direction can be performed.

[0127] By adjusting the spacing between the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens substrate 3 so that the outside diameter of the image 113 on the light receiver 106 is a predetermined value (that is, so that the light emitted from the light source 111 is most excellently condensed on the light receiver 106), adjustment (positioning in the vertical direction) of the spacing between the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens substrate 3 can be made. While in the FIG. 14(b), the two images 112 and 113 are situated side by side, these are images formed when another markers 101 of the same type are disposed so as to be situated side by side on the substrates. The markers 101 may be disposed one by one on each of the substrates as shown in FIG. 14(a).

[0128] FIG. 15(a) shows a modification of the structure of FIG. 14(a). In this case, the bottom surface 102 of the marker 101 formed in the waveguide substrate 1 has a lens configuration being convex when viewed from below. The lens configurations as convex lenses and the refractive indices of the bottom surface 102 formed in the waveguide substrate 1 and the bottom surface 102 formed in the lens substrate 3 are lens configurations and refractive indices that condense the light emitted from the light source 111 on the light receiver 106 disposed above the lens substrate 3 by way of the bottom surface 102 of the waveguide substrate 1 and the bottom surface 102 of the lens substrate 3. On the light receiver 106, images 114 and 115 are similarly formed as shown in FIG. 15(b), and the positioning of the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens substrate 3 in the horizontal and the vertical directions can be performed similarly to the above-described case.

[0129] While FIGS. 14(a), 14(b), 15(a) and 15(b) are described with reference to examples using the concave markers 101, the above-described applies to cases where convex markers 101 are used as shown in FIG. 11(f).

[0130] FIGS. 16(a) and 16(b) show a case in which the bottom surfaces 102 of the markers 101 are scattering surfaces (see FIG. 11(b)). In this case, as shown in FIG. 16(a), the light receiver 106 and the light source 105 are disposed below the waveguide substrate so as to adjoin each other. When parallel light is emitted from the light source 105 in this arrangement, the light is scattered at the scattering surfaces of the bottom surfaces 102 of the markers 101, and part of the scattered light reaches the light receiver 106 disposed below the waveguide substrate 1. FIG. 16(b) shows images light-received on the light receiver 106. Here, an image 120 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the lens substrate 3, and an image 121 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the waveguide substrate 1. By adjusting the distance between the image 120 and the image 121 so as to be the predetermined spacing a, positioning of the substrates in the horizontal direction can be performed.

[0131] FIGS. 17(a) to 17(d) show a case where the bottom surfaces 102 of the markers 101 are inclined scattering surfaces. In this case, as shown in FIG. 17(a), the light receiver 106 can be disposed below the waveguide substrate 1, at a side of the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens

substrate 3 or above the lens substrate. In this arrangement, the horizontal positions or the vertical positions of the substrates can be adjusted by applying light from the light source 105 disposed below the waveguide substrate 1.

[0132] For example, by disposing the light receiver 106 above the lens substrate 3 and at a side of the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens substrate 3, positioning of the substrates in the horizontal direction and positioning thereof in the vertical direction can be performed at the same time like in the case shown in FIGS. 12(a) to 12(c). Moreover, by disposing the light receiver 106 below the waveguide substrate 1 and at a side of the waveguide substrate 1 and the lens substrate 3, positioning of the substrates in the horizontal direction and positioning thereof in the vertical direction can also be performed at the same time. FIG. 17(b) shows images shown on the light receiver 106 disposed above the lens substrate 3. An image 122 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the lens substrate 3, and an image 123 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the waveguide substrate 1. FIG. 17(c) shows images shown on the light receiver 106 disposed at a side of the lens substrate 3 and the waveguide substrate 1. An image 124 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the lens substrate 3, and an image 125 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the waveguide substrate 1. FIG. 17(d) shows images shown on the light receiver 106 disposed below the waveguide substrate 1. An image 126 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the lens substrate 3, and an image 127 corresponds to the marker 101 formed in the waveguide substrate 1.

[0133] As described above, when the bottom surfaces of the markers 101 are inclined scattering surfaces, since the light receiver 106 can be disposed in three directions with respect to the substrates, there is flexibility in the positioning method. For example, positioning can be performed even when the laminated substrates do not transmit light as described later. Positioning can be more precisely performed by making the adjustment while observing the light receivers 106 disposed in the three directions at the same time.

[0134] Moreover, it is considered that the bottom surfaces 102 of the markers 101 are inclined lens surfaces. In that case, as shown in FIGS. 18(a) and 18(b), the light receiver 106 is disposed so as to be shifted from the optical axis of the light source 105.

[0135] Moreover, it is considered that the bottom surfaces 102 of the markers 101 are lens surfaces having scattering surfaces.

[0136] While in the description given above, the markers 101 formed in the substrates are a combination of markers 101 of the same kind, positioning may be performed with a combination of markers 101 of different kinds. For example, positioning may be performed by forming in one substrate a marker 101 of which bottom surface 102 is inclined and forming in the other substrate a marker 101 of which bottom surface 102 has a scattering surface. Moreover, positioning may be performed by forming in one substrate a marker 101 of which bottom surface 102 is inclined and forming in the other substrate a marker 101 of which bottom surface 102 has a lens surface. Moreover, positioning may be performed by forming in one substrate a marker 101 of which bottom surface 102 has a scattering surface and forming in the other substrate a marker 101 of which bottom surface 102 has a

lens surface. When a marker **101** having a lens surface is combined, the light emitted from the light source **105** is not necessarily strictly parallel.

[0137] While in the description given above, the method of positioning of the substrates is described as a case where positioning of the waveguide substrate **1** and the lens substrate **3** is performed, it is similarly applicable to a case where positioning of other substrates (that is, the planar substrates of the present invention) is performed.

[0138] While in the description given above, positioning is performed by applying light from below the substrates, it is considered to apply light from above the substrates. For example, as shown in **FIG. 1**, when under a condition where the waveguide substrate **1**, the lens substrate **3**, the isolator substrate **8** and the lens substrate **10** are laminated, the waveguide substrate **12** is further laminated on the lens substrate **10** and positioning of the lens substrate **10** and the waveguide substrate **11** is performed, the light source **105** and the light receiver **106** are disposed above the waveguide substrate **11** and the light receiver **106** is disposed at a side of the lens substrate **10** and the waveguide substrate **11**. At this time, markers **101** of which bottom surfaces **102** are inclined scattering surfaces are used. When light is applied from above the waveguide substrate **11**, at the part where the markers **101** are absent, the light is reflected by the isolator substrate **11**, and at the part where the markers **101** are present, the light is reflected sideward. Consequently, on the light receiver **106** disposed above the waveguide substrate **11**, images similar to those shown in **FIG. 12(b)** are projected. On the light receiver **106** disposed at a side of the waveguide substrate **11**, images similar to those shown in **FIG. 12(c)** are projected. By doing this, positioning of the substrates in the horizontal direction and positioning thereof in the vertical direction can be performed at the same time by applying light from above the substrates.

[0139] (Second Embodiment)

[0140] Next, a second embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to **FIG. 3**.

[0141] In the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in **FIG. 3**, a waveguide substrate **31** has two waveguides **22** and **32**. Here, the waveguide **32** is disposed on the farther side from the plane of **FIG. 3** so as to be parallel to the waveguide **22**. The waveguide **22** has a reflecting surface **313** at its end, and the waveguide **32** has a reflecting surface **333** at its end. The lens substrate **33** has a lens **34** corresponding to the reflecting surface **313** and a lens **304** corresponding to the reflecting surface **333**.

[0142] Above the isolator substrate **8**, a lens substrate **30** having a lens **29** corresponding to the lens **34** is laminated, and above the lens substrate **30**, a waveguide substrate **31** is laminated having a waveguide **312** and a reflecting surface **314** disposed at an end of the waveguide **312** and corresponding to the lens **29**. Above the waveguide substrate **31**, a lens substrate **300** having a lens **209** corresponding to the lens **304** is laminated, and above a lens substrate **300**, a waveguide substrate **301** is laminated having a waveguide **302** and a reflecting surface **324** disposed at an end of the waveguide **302** and corresponding to the lens **209**.

[0143] Here, the reflecting surfaces **313** and **333** are angled at 45° like the reflecting surface **13** in the first embodiment, and the reflecting surfaces **314** and **324** are

angled 45° like the reflecting surface **14** in the first embodiment. Like in the first embodiment, the horizontal positions of the reflecting surface **313**, the lens **34**, the lens **29** and the reflecting surface **314** are aligned in the vertical direction, and the horizontal positions of the reflecting surface **333**, the lens **304**, the lens **209** and the reflecting surface **324** are aligned in the vertical direction.

[0144] Here, positioning of the waveguide substrate **31** and the lens substrate **33**, positioning of the lens substrate **33** and the lens substrate **30**, positioning of the lens substrate **30** and the waveguide substrate **31**, positioning of the waveguide substrate **31** and the lens substrate **300** and positioning of the lens substrate **300** and the waveguide substrate **301** are performed similarly to the first embodiment (the same applied to the embodiments described below).

[0145] By structuring the three-dimensional optical waveguide as described above, the lights directed into the waveguides **22** and **32** of the waveguide substrate **31** are directed to the waveguides **312** and **302**, respectively, by an action similar to that of the first embodiment. As described above, by laminating the planar substrates of the present invention and three-dimensionally forming two waveguides, a low-cost and high-performance three-dimensional optical waveguide not requiring a complicated adjustment is provided.

[0146] While in the second embodiment, the lens substrate **30** is present between the isolator substrate **8** and the waveguide substrate **31** and the lens substrate **300** is present between the waveguide substrate **31** and the waveguide substrate **301**, when it is possible that the light reflected by the reflecting surface **313** is condensed on the reflecting surface **314** only by the lens **44** and the light reflected by the reflecting surface **333** is condensed on the reflecting surface **324** only by the lens **404** as shown in **FIG. 4**, the lens substrates **30** and **300** are unnecessary. In that case, similar effects to those described above are obtained.

[0147] While in the second embodiment, the waveguide **32** is disposed on the farther side from the plane of **FIG. 3** so as to be parallel to the waveguide **22**, the arrangement of the waveguides **22** and **32** is not limited thereto. Similar effects to those described above are obtained from any arrangement as long as the waveguides **22** and **32** are separately disposed on the same waveguide substrate **31** and the lights directed thereinto are directed to the other waveguides **312** and **302**, respectively.

[0148] The waveguides **22** and **32** are not necessarily present on the same waveguide substrate **31** but may be present on different laminated waveguide substrates, and the waveguides **312** and **302** are not necessarily present on the waveguide substrates **31** and **301** but may be present on the same waveguide substrate. In these cases, similar effects to those described above are obtained.

[0149] (Third Embodiment)

[0150] **FIG. 5** shows the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

[0151] In the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present embodiment, a surface emitting laser (VCSEL) **59** which is the light emitting element of the present invention

is disposed above the isolator substrate **8**, and a reflecting surface **513**, a lens **54** and the surface emitting laser **59** are disposed so that the horizontal positions thereof are aligned in the vertical direction. Here, the structure of the part constituted by a waveguide substrate **51**, a lens substrate **53** and the isolator substrate **8** is similar to that of the first embodiment, and description thereof is omitted.

[0152] According to the above-described structure, the laser beam emitted from the surface emitting laser **59** passes through the isolator substrate **8** and the lens **54** to be directed to the waveguide **52** of the waveguide substrate **51**. By doing this, a low-cost and high-performance three-dimensional optical waveguide not requiring a complicated adjustment is provided.

[0153] While in the third embodiment, the isolator substrate **8** is present between the lens substrate **53** and the surface emitting laser **59**, the isolator substrate **8** is not necessarily present. In that case, similar effects to those described above are obtained.

[0154] While the above description is given with reference to an example in which the surface emitting laser **59** is disposed above the isolator substrate **8**, as shown in **FIG. 6**, a surface-mount photodiode **69** which is the light receiving element of the present invention may be disposed instead of the surface emitting laser **59**. **FIG. 6** shows a three-dimensional optical waveguide comprising a waveguide substrate **61** having a waveguide **62**, a lens substrate **63** having a lens **64** and the surface-mount photodiode **69**. Here, the structure of the waveguide substrate **61** and the lens substrate **63** is similar to the above-described structure, and description thereof is omitted. In the structure shown in **FIG. 6**, the isolator substrate **8** may be laminated between the lens substrate **63** and the surface-mount photodiode **69**.

[0155] (Fourth Embodiment)

[0156] **FIG. 7** shows the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

[0157] In the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the fourth embodiment, a waveguide substrate **71** has a waveguide **72**, and a waveguide **702** in a direction opposed to the waveguide **72**. At an end of the waveguide **72**, a reflecting surface **713** is formed, and at an end of the waveguide **702**, a reflecting surface **733** is formed. Here, the reflecting surfaces **713** and **733** are formed so as to be opposed to each other and each angled at approximately 22.5° from the horizontal plane in a direction that forms a slope of a trapezoidal shape. On a lens substrate **73** laminated above the waveguide substrate **71**, a lens **74** and a lens **704** are formed integrally with the lens substrate **73** so as to adjoin each other.

[0158] Above the lens substrate **73**, a wavelength division multiplexing filter **76** which is the planar substrate having a filter layer of the present invention is laminated, and above the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76**, a lens substrate **70** having a lens **79** is laminated. Above the lens substrate **70**, a waveguide substrate **711** is laminated having a waveguide **712** and a reflecting surface **714** formed at an end of the waveguide **712**. Here, the reflecting surface **714** is angled at approximately 22.5° from the horizontal plane. When viewed from the reflecting surface **713**, the lens **74**, the lens **79** and the reflecting surface **714** are aligned so as

to be inclined toward the upper left by 45° from the horizontal plane. When viewed from the reflecting surface **733**, the lens **704** is inclined by 45° from the horizontal direction in a direction slanting upward toward the right.

[0159] The operation of the three-dimensional optical waveguide structured as described above will be described next.

[0160] The light traveling leftward in the horizontal direction through the waveguide **72** is reflected upward by the reflecting surface **713** at 45° from the horizontal travel direction, and passes through the lens **74**. Part of the light having passed through the lens **74** passes through the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76** (that is, is sorted out by the wavelength division multiplexing filter), reaches the reflecting surface **714** through the lens **79** to be reflected in the horizontal direction, and travels leftward through the waveguide **712**. The light including the remaining wavelength component sorted out by the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76** is reflected at 45° from the horizontal direction in a direction slanting downward toward the left at the interface between the lens substrate **73** and the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76**, is reflected by the reflecting surface **733** through the lens **704**, and travels leftward in the horizontal direction through the waveguide **702**.

[0161] As described above, according to the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present embodiment, the light incident on the waveguide **72** can be extracted after being separated between light traveling through the waveguide **712** and light traveling through the waveguide **702** according to the wavelength component.

[0162] In the present embodiment, when it is possible that light is sufficiently condensed on the reflecting surface **714** by the lens **74**, the lens substrate **70** is unnecessary. In that case, similar effects to those described above are obtained.

[0163] **FIG. 8** shows a modification of the present embodiment. In this modification, above the lens substrate **70**, a surface-mount photodiode **89** is disposed instead of laminating the waveguide substrate **711**. By doing this, it is possible that, of the light incident on the waveguide **72**, only the light of the wavelength component sorted out by the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76** is directed into the surface-mount photodiode **89** and the light of the wavelength component not sorted out by the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76** is directed into the other waveguide **702**.

[0164] When the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present embodiment is formed, positioning of the substrates is performed by applying light from above the three-dimensional optical waveguide as required. For example, in a case where positioning of the waveguide substrate **711** is performed under a condition where the waveguide substrate **71**, the lens substrate **73**, the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76** and the lens substrate **70** are laminated as shown in **FIG. 7**, when the wavelength of the light emitted from the light source **105** does not pass through the wavelength division multiplexing filter **76**, the light source **105** is disposed above the waveguide substrate **711**, and positioning of the waveguide substrate **711** is performed by applying light from above by a method similar to that described in the first embodiment.

[0165] (Fifth Embodiment)

[0166] FIG. 9 shows the structure of a three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention according to a fifth embodiment.

[0167] The three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present embodiment has on the left side thereof a three-dimensional optical waveguide where a lens substrate 900 having a lens 919 is laminated above the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in the third embodiment (FIG. 5), and has on the right side thereof the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in the fourth embodiment (FIG. 8). Here, the thickness of the lens substrate 900 is different between the left side and the right side thereof. The thickness of the right side of the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present embodiment is larger than that of the left side by the thickness of a Faraday rotator 96 and the thickness of a polarizer 97. Moreover, a wavelength division multiplexing filter 906 is designed so as to reflect the wavelength of the light emitted from a surface emitting laser 99 and transmit the wavelength of the light incident from a waveguide 92. The elements other than these are similar to those of the third and the fourth embodiments, and description thereof is omitted.

[0168] In the three-dimensional optical waveguide having such a structure, the light traveling leftward through the waveguide 92 is reflected upward by a reflecting surface 913 at 45° from the horizontal travel direction, passes through a lens 94, the wavelength division multiplexing filter 906 and a lens 909, and reaches a surface-mount photodiode 999. The light emitted from the surface emitting laser 99 passes downward through the lens 919, an isolator substrate 98 and a lens 914, is reflected rightward in the horizontal direction by a reflecting surface 943, and is then reflected upward by a reflecting surface 933 in a direction 45° from the direction of travel. The light reflected by the reflecting surface 933 passes through a lens 904, is reflected at 45° in a direction slanting downward toward the right at the interface between the wavelength division multiplexing filter 906 and a lens substrate 93, passes through the lens 94, and reaches the reflecting surface 913. The light reflected rightward in the horizontal direction by the reflecting surface 913 travels rightward through the waveguide 92.

[0169] As described above, according to the present embodiment, a low-cost and high-performance three-dimensional optical waveguide is provided that does not require a complicated adjustment although having a complicated structure.

[0170] (Sixth Embodiment)

[0171] FIG. 10 shows the structure according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0172] The structure of the right side of the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 10 is similar to the structure of the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in the second embodiment (FIG. 3), and description thereof is omitted. The structure of the left side of the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 10 is one obtained by vertically and horizontally reversing the structure of the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in the fourth embodiment (FIG. 7). Here, a wavelength division multiplexing filter 1316 which is an example of the wavelength division multiplexing filter of the present inven-

tion is set so as to transmit light of a wavelength λ_1 and not to transmit light of a wavelength λ_2 .

[0173] In the three-dimensional optical waveguide having such a structure, when lights of the different wavelengths λ_1 and λ_2 are directed into waveguides 1322 and 1332, respectively, the light of the wavelength λ_1 directed into the waveguide 1322 reaches a reflecting surface 1373 through a reflecting surface 1313, a lens 1334, an isolator substrate 1308, a lens 1324, a reflecting surface 1363 and a waveguide 1342. The light reflected by the reflecting surface 1373 passes through a lens 1344, the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1316 and a lens 1364, is reflected by a reflecting surface 1393, and reaches a waveguide 1362.

[0174] The light of the wavelength λ_2 directed into the waveguide 1332 reaches a reflecting surface 1383 through a reflecting surface 1333, a lens 1304, the isolator substrate 1308, a lens 1314 and a reflecting surface 1353. The light reflected by the reflecting surface 1383 is incident, through a lens 1354, on the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1316 from the upper right in a slanting direction. Since the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1316 does not transmit light of the wavelength λ_2 , the light incident from the upper right of the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1316 in a slanting direction is reflected at the interface between the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1316 and a lens substrate 1350, travels in a direction slanting upward toward the left, and is directed into a waveguide 1362 through the lens 1364 and the reflecting surface 1393.

[0175] When the lights of the wavelengths λ_1 and λ_2 are directed into the waveguides 1322 and 1332 as described above, light having the wavelength components of λ_1 and λ_2 is output from the waveguide 1362. As described above, according to the present embodiment, a low-cost and high-performance three-dimensional optical waveguide is provided that does not require a complicated adjustment although having a complicated structure.

[0176] (Seventh Embodiment)

[0177] Using any of the three-dimensional optical waveguides shown in the above-described embodiments, a module transmitting and receiving light can be formed. FIG. 19 is an example of the structure of such an optical transmitter module. As shown in FIG. 19, to an electric input terminal 1105 which is an example of the electric input terminal of the present invention, a laser diode 1109 which is an example of the light emitting element of the present invention is connected. The laser diode 1109 is connected to a waveguide 1102. The waveguide 1102 is connected to a waveguide 1112 through an isolator 1108. To the waveguide 1112, an optical output terminal 1107 which is an example of the optical output terminal of the present invention is connected. Such an optical transmitter module can be formed, for example, by using the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 1 which is an example of the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention. In this case, the waveguide 1102 in FIG. 19 corresponds to the waveguide 2 shown in FIG. 1, and to an end thereof, the laser diode 1109 (in this case, an edge emitting laser) is attached. The waveguide 1112 in FIG. 19 corresponds to the waveguide 12 shown in FIG. 1, and at an end thereof, for example, a V groove 1042 shown in FIG. 25 is disposed as the optical output terminal 1107, and an optical fiber cable (not shown) is fixed.

[0178] By doing this, an optical output can be output from the output terminal 1107 in accordance with the electric signal input to the electric input terminal 1105, so that a low-cost optical transmitter module not requiring a complicated adjustment is provided.

[0179] Instead of using the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 1, the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 2 may be used. Moreover, the three-dimensional optical waveguide as shown in FIG. 3 or FIG. 4 may be used. In that case, the two waveguides 22 and 32 correspond to the waveguide 1102, and the two waveguides 312 and 302 correspond to the waveguide 1112. At an end of each of the waveguides 22 and 32, the laser diode 1109 is disposed, and to an end of each of the waveguides 312 and 302, the optical output terminal 1107 is connected. The light emitted from each laser diode 1109 is output from the optical output terminal 1107. Moreover, the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 5 may be used. In that case, the waveguide 1102 is omitted, and as the laser diode 1109, the surface emitting laser 59 is used.

[0180] Moreover, FIG. 20 shows an example of the structure of a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter module. The wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter module shown in FIG. 20 has two laser diodes 1119 and 1129 each having the electric input terminal 1105. To the laser diodes 1119 and 1129, the waveguides 1132 and 1142 are connected, respectively. The waveguides 1132 and 1142 are connected to waveguides 1152 and 1162 through an isolator 1118, respectively. The waveguides 1152 and 1162 are connected to the optical output terminal 1107 through the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1106.

[0181] Such a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter module can be formed, for example, by using the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the structure shown in FIG. 10. In this case, the laser diode 1119 outputting light of the wavelength λ_1 is disposed at an end of the waveguide 1322, and the laser diode 1129 outputting light of the wavelength λ_2 is disposed at an end of the waveguide 1332. The output terminal 1107 is disposed at an end of the waveguide 1362.

[0182] By doing this, the electric signals input from the two laser diodes 1119 and 1129 can be output as combined with each other as an optical signal.

[0183] (Eighth Embodiment)

[0184] FIG. 21 shows an example of the structure of an optical receiver module. As shown in FIG. 21, an optical input terminal 1117 (for example, the V groove shown in FIG. 25) which is an example of the optical input terminal of the present invention is disposed at an end of a waveguide 1122, and a photodiode 1209 which is an example of the light receiving element of the present invention is connected to the waveguide 1122. To the photodiode 1209, an electric output terminal 1115 which is an example of the electric output terminal of the present invention is connected. Such an optical receiver module can be structured, for example, by using the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 6 which is an example of the three-dimensional optical waveguide. According to the optical receiver module having such a structure, electric output can be obtained from the electric output terminal 1115 in accordance with the optical signal input to the optical input terminal 1117.

[0185] FIG. 22 shows an example of the structure of a wavelength division multiplexing optical receiver module. In this structure example, the optical input terminal 1117 is connected to the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1116, waveguides 1172 and 1182 are connected to the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1116, and photodiodes 1219 and 1229 are connected to the waveguides 1172 and 118, respectively.

[0186] Such a wavelength division multiplexing optical receiver module can be structured, for example, by using the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 7. In this case, the optical input terminal 1117 is connected to an end of the waveguide 72, and the photodiodes 1219 and 1229 are connected to ends of the waveguides 712 and 702, respectively. The wavelength division multiplexing filter 76 is set so as to transmit light of the wavelength λ_1 and not to transmit light of the wavelength λ_2 .

[0187] In the wavelength division multiplexing optical receiver module having such a structure, when lights of the wavelength λ_1 and the wavelength λ_2 are directed into the waveguide 71, the light of the wavelength λ_1 reaches the photodiode 1219 through the waveguide 712, the light of the wavelength λ_2 reaches the photodiode 1229 through the waveguide 702, and in accordance therewith, electric output is output from the electric output terminal 1115 connected to each of the photodiodes 1219 and 1229. That is, an optical signal input from one optical input terminal 1117 can be obtained from each electric output terminal 1115 as two separate electric signals.

[0188] The above-described optical transmitter module and optical receiver module can be used as an optical transmission system for transmission and reception by being connected through an optical fiber cable.

[0189] (Ninth Embodiment)

[0190] FIG. 23 shows an example of the structure of a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter and receiver module having both an optical transmission function and an optical reception function. In the structure shown in FIG. 23, a laser diode 1139 having the electric input terminal 1105 and emitting light of the wavelength λ_1 is connected to a wavelength division multiplexing filter 1126 which is an example of the wavelength division multiplexing filter of the present invention through a waveguide 1192, an isolator 1128 which is an example of the isolator of the present invention and a waveguide 1212. The photodiode 1239 having the electric output terminal 1115 and receiving light of the wavelength λ_2 is connected to the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1126 through a waveguide 1202. To the wavelength division multiplexing filter 1126, an optical input and output terminal 1127 (for example, the V groove shown in FIG. 25) which is an example of the optical input and output terminal of the present invention is connected.

[0191] Such a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter and receiver module can be structured, for example, by using the three-dimensional optical waveguide shown in FIG. 9. In this case, the optical input and output terminal 1127 is disposed at an end of the waveguide 92. The wavelength division multiplexing filter 906 is set so as not to transmit light of the wavelength λ_1 emitted from the surface emitting laser 99 and to transmit light of the wavelength λ_2 input to the optical input and output terminal 1127.

[0192] According to this structure, the light of the wavelength λ_1 emitted from the surface emitting laser 99 is reflected at the interface between the wavelength division multiplexing filter 906 and the lens substrate 93, and is output from the optical input and output terminal 1127 through the waveguide 92. The light of the wavelength λ_2 input to the optical input and output terminal 1127 passes through the wavelength division multiplexing filter 906 to reach the surface-mount photodiode 999. According to such a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter and receiver module, light can be transmitted and received with only one optical input and output terminal 1127.

[0193] FIG. 24 shows an example of a light transmission apparatus using such a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter and receiver module. In FIG. 24, to the laser diode 1149, a laser diode driver IC 1104 is connected, and to the laser diode driver IC 1104, a transmission signal multiplexer 1103 is connected. To the transmission signal multiplexer 1103, an electric signal input terminal 1125 for inputting a plurality of signals is connected. The laser diode driver IC 1104 controls the current bias supplied to the laser diode, and superimposes digital signals.

[0194] On the other hand, to a photodiode 1249, a reception front end IC 1114 is connected, and to the reception front end IC 1114, a reception signal demultiplexer 1113 is connected. To the reception signal demultiplexer 1113, a reception signal output terminal 1135 for outputting a plurality of signals is connected. The reception front end IC 1114 low-noise-amplifies the faint signal output from the photodiode 1249.

[0195] In FIG. 24, the laser diode 1149 and the elements disposed on the right side of the photodiode 1249 are as described above. By using such an optical transmission apparatus, a plurality of electric signals can be transmitted on an optical fiber cable through one optical input and output terminal.

[0196] A plurality of the above-described optical modules for transmission and reception can be used as an optical transmission system for transmission and reception by being connected through an optical fiber cable. In this case, for example, two optical modules for transmission and reception prepared as a pair can be used as a pair of optical transmission systems for transmission and reception by making a setting such that one optical transmitter and receiver module performs transmission at the wavelength λ_1 and reception at the wavelength λ_2 and the other optical transmitter and receiver module performs transmission at the wavelength λ_2 and reception at the wavelength λ_1 .

[0197] While in the description given above, the top, the bottom, the right and the left are fixed to those shown in the figures, they may be different from those described above as long as similar effects are obtained.

[0198] While in the description given above, light from a horizontal direction is made to travel in the vertical direction or at an angle of 45° , these are merely examples. The light may be made to travel at an arbitrary angle with respect to the laminated substrates. In that case, the angles of the reflecting surfaces and the arrangement of the lenses and the reflecting surfaces are settable so that the light travels in such a manner.

[0199] While in the above-described embodiments, the substrates are formed of forming glass, the present invention

is not limited thereto; they may be formed of resin or the like. The substrates may be formed, for example, by forming the markers 101 and 103 at the same time together with the waveguides on a silicon substrate by dry etching. In that case, similar effects to those described above are obtained.

[0200] In the above-described embodiments, the planar substrates other than the one having a waveguide may be sheet optical elements in addition to or instead of the lens layer, the isolator layer and the filter layer. Examples of such sheet optical elements include a sheet attenuator attenuating optical power.

[0201] According to the present invention, a low-cost three-dimensional optical waveguide not requiring a complicated adjustment can be provided.

[0202] Moreover, when the planar waveguide, and the lens layer, the isolator layer or the filter layer are integrally formed on forming glass, a low-cost three-dimensional optical waveguide further not requiring a complicated adjustment can be provided.

[0203] Moreover, when the planar substrate has the lens layer, the isolator layer or the filter layer, a high-performance three-dimensional optical waveguide can be provided.

[0204] Moreover, according to the method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention, a precise and low-cost three-dimensional optical waveguide not requiring a complicated adjustment can be provided.

[0205] Moreover, according to the optical module having the three-dimensional optical waveguide of the present invention, a low-cost optical module not requiring a complicated adjustment can be provided.

What is claimed is:

1. A three-dimensional optical waveguide comprising a lamination of at least a planar substrate having a planar optical waveguide and a planar substrate having a sheet optical element.
2. A three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 1, wherein the planar substrate having a sheet optical element is one of a lens layer, an isolator layer and a filter layer.
3. A three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 2, wherein the planar substrate having the planar waveguide, and the said one of the lens layer, the isolator layer and the filter layer are integrally formed on forming glass.
4. A three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein a reflecting surface is formed on the planar optical waveguide and light passes through the said one of the lens layer, the isolator layer and the filter layer.
5. A three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 4, further comprising at least one of a light receiving element and a light emitting element.
6. A three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claims 1, wherein the planar substrates are positioned with respect to each other by markers integrally formed on at least two planar substrates.
7. A method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide comprising:

providing a plurality of planar substrates, each having a planar optical waveguide;

forming a marker on each of the planar substrates at a same time; and

laminating the planar substrates by positioning the planar substrates by using the markers.

8. A method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 7, wherein the markers have one of a concave or convex shape, and wherein before the planar substrates are laminated, the planar substrates are positioned by applying light to the markers and causing the light to be reflected or transmitted by the markers.

9. A method of manufacturing a three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 8, wherein bottom surfaces of the markers are one of inclined surfaces, scattering surfaces and lens surfaces.

10. An optical transmitter module, comprising:

an electric input terminal;

a light emitting element connected to the electric input terminal;

the three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 3, the waveguide transmitting light emitted from the light emitting element; and

an optical output terminal outputting light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide.

11. An optical receiver module, comprising:

an optical input terminal;

the three-dimensional optical waveguide according to claim 3 connected to the optical input terminal;

a light receiving element, that receives light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide; and

an electric output terminal connected to the light receiving element.

12. An optical transmitter and receiver module, comprising:

an electric input terminal;

a three-dimensional optical waveguide including a lamination of at least a planar substrate having a planar optical waveguide, a planar substrate having an isolator, and a planar substrate having a wavelength division multiplexing filter;

a light emitting element connected to the electric input terminal and connected to the three-dimensional optical waveguide;

a light receiving element connected to the three-dimensional optical waveguide;

an electric output terminal connected to the light receiving element; and

an optical input and output terminal connected to the three-dimensional optical waveguide,

wherein an electric signal input from the electric input terminal is converted into an optical signal and transmitted from the optical input and output terminal, and an optical signal received by the optical input and output terminal is converted into an electric signal and output to the electric output terminal.

13. An optical transmission system for transmission and reception, comprising:

an optical transmitter module, including:

an electric input terminal;

a light emitting element connected to the electric input terminal;

a three-dimensional optical waveguide having:

a lamination of at least a planar substrate having a planar optical waveguide connected to the light emitting element and a planar substrate having a sheet optical element;

the waveguide is transmitting light emitted from the light emitting element; and

an optical output terminal outputting light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide;

an optical fiber cable connected to the optical transmitter module; and

an optical receiver module, including:

an optical input terminal;

a three-dimensional optical waveguide having:

a lamination of at least a planar substrate having a planar optical waveguide connected to the optical input terminal and a planar substrate having a sheet optical element;

a light receiving element, that receives light transmitted through the three-dimensional optical waveguide; and

an electric output terminal connected to the light receiving element;

the optical receiver module is connected to the optical fiber cable.

14. An optical transmission system for optical transmission and reception, comprising:

the optical transmitter and receiver module according to claim 12; and

an optical fiber cable connected to the optical transmitter and receiver module.

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