

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

OPTICAL PICKUP DEVICE, OPTICAL INFORMATION RECORDING AND
REPRODUCING APPARATUS, EXPANDER LENS, COUPLING LENS AND
CHROMATIC ABERRATION CORRECTING OPTICAL ELEMENT

An optical pickup apparatus includes

first and light sources; an objective lens; a spherical aberration correcting optical unit; and a chromatic aberration correcting optical element which includes a diffractive surface on at least one of optical surfaces of the chromatic aberration correcting optical element such that a diffractive structure which is constructed by a plurality of ring-shaped zones separated by fine steps is formed on the diffractive surface, wherein the depth of steps along an optical axis is designed so that n_2 which is a diffraction order of a diffracted ray having a largest diffraction efficiency among diffracted rays caused when the second light flux enters into the diffractive structure, is lower order than n_1 which is a diffraction order of a diffracted ray having a largest diffraction efficiency among diffracted light rays caused when the second light flux enters into the diffractive structure.