

<Measurement of bending point depth>

A pad having a groove formed on a polishing layer surface was disposed so that a razor blade was vertical to a groove direction. Then, the pad was sliced in a groove depth direction. The obtained groove section was observed by an ultra-deep microscope VK-8500 manufactured by Keyence Corporation. A vertical distance from the polishing surface, to a midpoint between two bending points each including a first side surface and a second side surface and both facing each other, was measured. At locations of $1/3$ and $2/3$ of a radius from a pad center, the closest grooves were measured. An average of one each location, two locations in total, was calculated to serve as a bending point depth.

[0054]

<Measurement of initial inter-bending point distance>

A pad having a groove formed on a polishing layer surface was disposed so that a razor blade was vertical to a groove direction. Then, the pad was sliced in a groove depth direction. The obtained groove section was observed by an ultra-deep microscope VK-8500 manufactured by Keyence Corporation. A distance between two bending points each having an angle α and including a polishing surface and a first side surface and both facing each other was measured to obtain a inter-bending point distance. Also, the inter-bending point distance in the initial stage of polishing was determined as an initial inter-bending point distance.

[0055]

<Calculation of distortion constant>

A distortion constant was calculated according to the following equation:

$$\text{Distortion constant } (\mu\text{m}/\text{Pa}) = (T1 - T2) / (177 - 27) / 1000,$$