WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cutting apparatus comprising:

a consumable part holding unit having a holding surface for holding a consumable part;

a changing apparatus for changing the consumable part; and

a moving unit for moving the changing apparatus between a changing position for changing the consumable part and a retracted position, wherein

the changing apparatus includes

a rotational shaft having a rotational axis associated therewith,

a first holder for holding a used consumable part, the first holder having a first holding surface facing in an outward direction from the rotational shaft and the first holding surface being oriented perpendicularly to a radially outward extending line extending from the rotational axis of the rotational shaft to the first holding surface, the used consumable part facing the first holding surface when the first holder holds the used consumable part, and

a second holder for holding a replacement consumable part, the second holder being disposed in a position angularly spaced a predetermined angle from the

first holder around the rotational shaft, the second holder having a second holding surface facing in an outward direction from the rotational shaft and the second holding surface being oriented perpendicularly to a radially outward extending line extending from the rotational axis of the rotational shaft to the second holding surface, the replacement consumable part facing the second holding surface when the second holder holds the replacement consumable part.

2. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the changing apparatus further includes

a third holder having a third holding surface facing in an outward direction from the rotational shaft and the third holding surface being oriented perpendicularly to a radially outward extending line extending from the rotational axis of the rotational shaft to the third holding surface, and

a fourth holder having a fourth holding surface facing in an outward direction from the rotational shaft and the fourth holding surface being oriented perpendicularly to a radially outward extending line extending from the rotational axis of the rotational shaft to the fourth holding surface, and

the first holder, the second holder, the third holder, and the fourth holder are disposed in respective positions spaced at angular intervals of 90 degrees around the rotational shaft.

3. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the first holding surface of the first holder is tiltably coupled to the rotational shaft by a joint assembly having a resilient member, and

the second holding surface of the second holder is tiltably coupled to the rotational shaft by a joint assembly having a resilient member.

4. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a processing chamber for cutting a workpiece with a cutting unit therein, wherein

the changing apparatus is disposed outside of the processing chamber, and

the processing chamber has an exit/entrance port defined therein for allowing the changing apparatus to move therethrough into and out of the processing chamber.

5. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a consumable part housing container for housing a

consumable part transport jig therein, the consumable part transport jig having a plurality of rest surfaces for holding a plurality of consumable parts placed thereon and a held portion outside of the rest surfaces, the held portion is to be held by a transport unit;

a temporary rest for temporarily placing the consumable part transport jig thereon upon changing consumable parts;

the transport unit for transporting the consumable part transport jig from the consumable part housing container to the temporary rest; and

an image capturing unit for capturing an image of consumable parts placed on the consumable part transport jig, the image capturing unit being disposed in a transport route along which the transport unit transports consumable part transport jig.

6. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a cutting unit having a spindle and a cutting blade mounted on a distal end of the spindle by a mount flange, wherein

the consumable part includes the cutting blade and the consumable part holding unit includes the mount flange.

7. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1,

further comprising:

a holding table for holding a workpiece; and

a dressing board table for holding a dressing board, the dressing board table being disposed adjacent to the holding table, wherein

the consumable part includes the dressing board and the consumable part holding unit includes the dressing board table.

8. A changing method for changing consumable parts in a cutting apparatus,

the cutting apparatus including

a consumable part holding unit having a holding surface for holding a consumable part,

a changing apparatus for changing the consumable part, and

a moving unit for moving the changing apparatus between the changing position for changing the consumable part and the retracted position,

the changing apparatus including

a rotational shaft having a rotational axis associated therewith,

a first holder for holding the used consumable part, the first holder having a first holding surface facing in an outward direction from the rotational

shaft and the first holding surface being oriented perpendicularly to a radially outward extending line extending from the rotational axis of the rotational shaft to the first holding surface, the used consumable part facing the first holding surface when the first holder holds the used consumable part, and

a second holder for holding the replacement consumable part, the second holder being disposed in a position angularly spaced a predetermined angle from the first holder around the rotational shaft, the second holder having a second holding surface facing in an outward direction from the rotational shaft and the second holding surface being oriented perpendicularly to a radially outward extending line extending from the rotational axis of the rotational shaft to the second holding surface, the replacement consumable part facing the second holding surface when the second holder holds the replacement consumable part,

the changing method comprising the steps of:

transferring a replacement consumable part placed on a rest surface of a consumable part transport jig to the second holder, wherein the consumable part transport jig has a plurality of rest surfaces for holding a plurality of consumable parts thereon;

after transferring the replacement consumable part to the second holder, rotating the rotational shaft of the changing apparatus parallel to the holding surface of the consumable part holding unit to bring the first holding surface of the first holder into facing relation to the used consumable part being held by the consumable part holding unit, positioning the first holder in the changing position for abutting against the used consumable part, and transferring the used consumable part from the consumable part holding unit to the first holder of the changing apparatus;

retracting the first holder that has held the used consumable part from the changing position to the retracted position; and

after transferring the replacement consumable part to the second holder and after transferring the used consumable part from the consumable part holding unit to the first holder, rotating the rotational shaft to bring the second holding surface of the second holder that holds the replacement consumable part into facing relation to the holding surface of the consumable part holding unit, positioning the second holder in the changing position, and transferring the replacement consumable part from the second holder to the consumable part holding unit.

9. The changing method according to claim 8, wherein

the consumable part includes a cutting blade and the consumable part holding unit includes a mount flange.

10. The changing method according to claim 8, wherein

the consumable part includes a dressing board and the consumable part holding unit includes a dressing board table.