

## ABSTRACT

This shape identification device includes an accommodation chamber for accommodating an object to be measured such that the same can be removed from and  
5 inserted into the accommodation chamber, a first imaging unit for imaging the object to be measured accommodated in the accommodation chamber, and an image processing unit for carrying out image processing on the basis of the image information imaged by the first imaging unit and recognizing the external shape of the object to be measured. The image processing unit comprises a storage unit having, stored therein beforehand, a plurality of  
10 types of sample external shapes corresponding to objects to be measured and a shape recognition unit for comparison and discrimination of the external shape information from the first imaging unit and the external shape information stored in the storage unit and recognition of an external shape matching or approximating the external shape information from the first imaging unit.

Fig. 3