

SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

COMPONENT MOUNTING APPARATUS AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to component mounting apparatus and method for mounting such components as electronic components, optical components and mechanical components onto a circuit board or other member onto which the components should be mounted. More specifically, the
10 invention relates to an improvement in the positional calibration of the component and the circuit board due to any shift of the optical axis of an image recognition optical system used in the component mounting apparatus or method.

15 Conventionally, in an electronic component mounting apparatus, an electronic component is mounted onto a circuit board after position recognition of the electronic component and the circuit board is executed by an image recognition optical system for enhanced mounting
20 precision. Then, calibration operation of the image recognition optical system is performed in order to suppress any shift of the mounting position due to distortion of the image recognition optical system or the like caused by changes in environmental temperature around
25 the electronic component mounting apparatus.

 Hereinbelow, an example of the electronic component mounting apparatus according to the prior art is described with reference to Figs. 16 and 17. Referring to

Fig. 16, reference numeral 921 denotes an electronic component, which is stored on a tray 922. Reference numeral 923 denotes a head, which sucks up and conveys the electronic component 921. Reference numeral 924 denotes a circuit board, which is sucked up and held to a bonding stage 925. The bonding stage 925 and the tray 922 are fixed on a slide base 926. Reference numeral 927 denotes an image recognition optical system, which performs position recognition of the circuit board 924 and the electronic component 921. Further, the head 923 is movable in an X direction, the slide base 926 is movable in a Y direction and the image recognition optical system 927 is movable in both X and Y directions.

Referring to Fig. 17, reference numeral 928 denotes a CCD camera of the image recognition optical system 927, with a magnifying lens 929 coupled thereto. Reference numeral 930 denotes a prism frame in which a prism 931 is fixed, and the magnifying lens 929 is coupled to this prism frame 930. An image of the electronic component 921 sucked up and held to the head 923 or the circuit board 924 sucked up and held to the bonding stage 925 is taken by the CCD camera 928 via the prism 931 and the magnifying lens 929. Then, the image recognition optical system 927 takes the image of either the electronic component 921 or the circuit board 924 through a switching of the field of view.

With respect to the electronic component mounting apparatus constructed as described above, its operation is

described below. First, after the head 923 and the slide base 926 have moved to specified positions, the head 923 moves down to pick up the electronic component 921 on the tray 922. Subsequently, the head 923 and the slide base 926 move again so that a coarse positioning for mounting the electronic component 921 onto the circuit board 924 is performed. Subsequently, for checking the position of the circuit board 924, the image recognition optical system 927 moves to such a position as to bring a feature point on the circuit board 924 into the field of view, performing image recognition of the feature point. Next, for checking the position of the electronic component 921, the image recognition optical system 927 moves to such a position as to bring a feature point on the electronic component 921 into the field of view, performing image recognition of the feature point. Then, position correction between the circuit board 924 and the electronic component 921 is performed based on the image recognition results of the circuit board 924 and the electronic component 921, and on an offset amount (optical-axis shift amount) between a field of view "e" on the electronic-component image recognition side and a field of view "f" on the circuit-board image recognition side which are inputted as previously measured and fixed values. After that, the head 923 moves down to mount the electronic component 921 onto the circuit board 924.

However, with the constitution as described above, even when the image-pickup positions of the electronic

component 921 and the circuit board 924 have changed because of a occurrence of distortion to the holding portion of the image recognition optical system 927 due to changes in the room temperature or heat generation inside the apparatus so that the inclination of the optical axis has changed, the position correction would be performed based on a decision that merely the position of the electronic component 921 or the circuit board 924 has changed. As a result, there might occur an issue that the mounting position of the electronic component 921 is shifted with an effect of the change in the inclination of the optical axis.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the above issues of the prior art, an object of the present invention is therefore to provide electronic component mounting apparatus and method in which the mounting position of the electronic component does not shift even when an offset amount between fields of view on the electronic-component image recognition side and the circuit-board image recognition side has changed due to a change in the room temperature or heat generation inside the apparatus.

In accomplishing these and other aspects, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus comprising:

a component holding and conveying device for holding and conveying a component and mounting the component onto a circuit board;

a circuit board holding device for holding the circuit board;

an image recognition optical system for performing position recognition of the component and the circuit board with different fields of view, respectively; and

a control section for determining to a plurality of times an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between a position of the component and a position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system, and based on determination results, determining an optical-axis shift amount for calibration,

wherein calibration of the image recognition optical system is performed based on the optical-axis shift amount for calibration determined by the control section and then the component is mounted onto the circuit board.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the first aspect, wherein the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system to three or more times, where if a plurality of shift amounts are left after excluding an upper-limit shift amount and a lower-limit shift amount from the determined shift amounts, a mean value of the left shift amounts is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, while if only one shift amount is left after excluding the upper-limit shift amount and the lower-limit shift amount, the left shift amount is taken as the optical-axis shift

amount for calibration, and based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration, the control section performs the calibration of the image recognition optical system.

5 According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the first aspect, wherein the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system to
10 three or more times, where if a difference of one shift amount from any other shift amount exceeds a threshold value, a mean value of shift amounts except the one shift amount is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration, the control section
15 performs the calibration of the image recognition optical system.

 According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus
20 according to the first aspect, wherein when the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount, images are recognized with individual fields of view to a plurality of times during an image capture process by the image recognition optical system, and the control section
25 determines the optical-axis shift amount between the position of the component and the position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system with the individual fields of view from among results of

the plurality of times of recognition, and based on results of iterating this determination process to a plurality of times, determines an optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration, performs the calibration of the image recognition optical system.

According to a fifth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus comprising:

10 a component holding and conveying device for holding and conveying a component and mounting the component onto a circuit board;

 a circuit board holding device for holding the circuit board;

15 an image recognition optical system for recognizing a position of a marking of a jig with one field of view to a plurality of times while holding the jig to the component holding and conveying device, and recognizes a position of the marking of the jig with another field of view to a plurality of times while holding the jig on a calibration stage of the circuit board holding device; and

20 a control section for determining optical-axis shift amounts between the positions of the marking of the jig based on results of the plurality of times of recognition with the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system, respectively, calculating a mean value of the determined optical-axis shift amounts, and taking the calculated mean value as an optical-axis shift

amount for calibration between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system,

wherein after calibration of the image recognition optical system is performed based on the optical-axis shift amount for calibration determined by the control section, the component is mounted onto the circuit board.

According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the fifth aspect, wherein when recognizing positions of the marking of the jig in the two states each to a plurality of times, the image recognition optical system recognizes a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the calibration stage each one time, and then the image recognition optical system iteratively recognizes the position of the marking of the jig in the respective states similarly.

According to a seventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the fifth aspect, wherein when recognizing positions of the marking of the jig in the two states each to a plurality of times, the image recognition optical system recognizes a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device to a plurality of times, and further recognizes a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to a plurality of times.

According to an eighth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the fifth aspect, wherein the image recognition optical system recognizes positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to three or more times, respectively, the control section determines that if a plurality of shift amounts are left after excluding an upper-limit shift amount and a lower-limit shift amount from the three or more shift amounts between the two fields of view determined based on results of the recognition, a mean value of the left shift amounts is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, while if only one shift amount is left after excluding the upper-limit shift amount and the lower-limit shift amount, the left shift amount is taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration instead of determining the mean value.

According to a ninth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the fifth aspect, wherein the image recognition optical system recognizes positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to three or more times, respectively, the control section determines that if a difference of one shift amount from any other shift amount exceeds a threshold value, a mean value of shift amounts except the one shift amount is determined

and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration.

According to a 10th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method comprising:

5 recognizing to a plurality of times a position of a marking of a jig by an image recognition optical system while the jig is held by a component holding and conveying device which holds and conveys a component and then mount the component onto a circuit board;

10 recognizing to a plurality of times a position of the marking of the jig by the image recognition optical system while the jig is held by a calibration stage of a circuit-board holding device which holds the circuit board;

15 determining an optical-axis shift amount between the positions of the marking of the jig between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system; and

 calculating a mean value of the determined optical-axis shift amounts and taking the mean value as an optical-axis shift amount between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system, and after performing calibration based on this optical-axis shift amount, mounting the component onto the circuit board.

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 According to an 11th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method according to the 10th aspect, wherein when the positions of the marking of the jig in the two states are recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times, the position of the marking of the jig that is held

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by the component holding and conveying device and the position of the marking of the jig that is held by the calibration stage are recognized by the image recognition optical system each one time, and then the positions of the marking of the jig in the respective states are recognized similarly.

According to a 12th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method according to the 10th aspect, wherein when the positions of the marking of the jig in the two states are recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times, the position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device is recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times, and the position of the jig that is held by the calibration stage is recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times.

According to a 13th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method according to the 10th aspect, wherein positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage are recognized to three or more times, respectively, where if a plurality of shift amounts are left after excluding an upper-limit shift amount and a lower-limit shift amount from the three or more shift amounts between the two fields of view determined based on recognition results, a mean value of the left shift amounts

is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, while if only one shift amount is left after excluding the upper-limit shift amount and the lower-limit shift amount, the left shift amount is taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration instead of determining the mean value, and then the calibration is performed based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration.

According to a 14th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method according to the 10th aspect, wherein positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to three or more times, respectively, where if a difference of one shift amount from any other shift amount exceeds a threshold value, a mean value of shift amounts except the one shift amount is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and then calibration is performed based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration.

According to a 15th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the first aspect, wherein the control section determines an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between the position of the component and the position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times with specified time intervals, and based on results of the determination, the optical-axis shift amount for calibration

is determined.

According to a 16th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method according to the 10th aspect, wherein when the recognition is performed by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times, the recognition is performed to a plurality of times with specified time intervals.

According to a 17th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus comprising:

a component holding and conveying device for holding and conveying a component and mounting the component onto a circuit board;

a circuit board holding device for holding the circuit board;

an image recognition optical system for performing position recognition of the component and the circuit board with different fields of view, respectively; and

a control section for determining an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between a position of the component and a position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system, and based on determination results, determining an optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and after correcting a mounting position of the component relative to the circuit board based on the determined optical-axis shift amount, mounting the component,

wherein the control section exerts control so that

the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system is performed during the operation of holding the circuit board to the circuit board holding device.

According to an 18th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the 17th aspect, further comprising a calibration stage on which a jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system is to be placed and which, for feeding the circuit board, moves so that the jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be recognizable for the image recognition optical system,

wherein the position of the jig placed on the calibration stage is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the circuit board is achieved, and the position of the jig resulting when the jig on the calibration stage is held by the component holding and conveying device is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the component is achieved.

According to a 19th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the 17th aspect, further comprising a calibration stage on which a jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system is to be placed and which, for feeding the circuit board, moves so that the jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be holdable for the

component holding and conveying device,

wherein the position of the jig placed on the calibration stage is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the circuit board is achieved, and the position of the jig resulting when the jig on the calibration stage is held by the component holding and conveying device is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the component is achieved.

According to a 20th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the 17th aspect, wherein the control section exerts control so that the image recognition for calibration of the image recognition optical system is not performed while a circuit board conveying device is moving.

According to a 21st aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus according to the 17th aspect, wherein the control section exerts control for:

picking up the circuit board by the circuit board conveying device, and concurrently performing image recognition of the jig on the calibration stage for calibration by the image recognition optical system;

after completion of the foregoing two operations, moving the circuit board conveying device toward the circuit board holding device, and making the jig picked up by the component holding and conveying device; and

thereafter, mounting the circuit board held by

the circuit board conveying device onto the circuit board holding device, and concurrently performing image recognition of the jig held by the component holding device for calibration by the image recognition optical system.

5 According to a 22nd aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method comprising:

 making a circuit board held by a circuit board holding device, and concurrently performing position
10 recognition of a component held by a component holding and conveying device for calibration with one field of view by an image recognition optical system;

 performing position recognition of the circuit board held by the circuit board holding device for
15 calibration with a field of view different from the foregoing field of view by the image recognition optical system; and

 determining an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between the position of the component
20 and the position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system, determining an optical-axis shift amount for calibration based on the determination results, and after correcting a mounting position of the component relative to the circuit board
25 based on the determined optical-axis shift amount, mounting the component.

 According to a 23rd aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method

according to the 22nd aspect, further moving, when the circuit board is held by the circuit board holding device, a jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system which is placed on a calibration stage, so that the
5 jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be recognizable for the image recognition optical system.

According to a 24th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method
10 according to the 22nd aspect, further moving a jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system which is placed on a calibration stage, when the circuit board is held by the circuit board holding device, so that the jig for calibration of the image recognition optical system is
15 located at such a position as to be holdable for the component holding and conveying device.

According to a 25th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method according to the 22nd aspect, wherein the image recognition
20 for calibration of the image recognition optical system is not performed while the circuit board conveying device is moving.

According to a 26th aspect of the present invention, there is provided a component mounting method
25 according to the 25th aspect, further comprising:

making the circuit board picked up by the circuit board conveying device, and concurrently performing image recognition of a jig for calibration of the image

recognition optical system;

after completion of the foregoing two operations,
moving the circuit board conveying device toward the
circuit board holding device, and making the jig picked up
5 by the component holding and conveying device; and

thereafter, mounting the circuit board held by
the circuit board conveying device onto the circuit board
holding device, and concurrently performing image
recognition of the jig held by the component holding device.

10 According to a 27th aspect of the present
invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus
according to the 18th aspect, wherein the calibration stage
is located at a deep-side end edge of a slide base in a
circuit board holding device which holds the circuit board,
15 which is a region that will not obstruct conveying-in and -
out operations of the circuit board.

According to a 28th aspect of the present
invention, there is provided a component mounting apparatus
comprising:

20 a component holding and conveying device for
holding and conveying a component and mounting the component
onto a circuit board;

a circuit board holding device for holding the
circuit board;

25 an image recognition optical system for
recognizing a position of a marking of a jig with one field
of view while holding the jig to the component holding and
conveying device, and recognizes a position of the marking

of the jig with another field of view while holding the jig on a calibration stage of the circuit board holding device; and

a control section for determining an optical-axis shift amount between the positions of the marking of the jig based on recognition result with the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system, which is taken as an optical-axis shift amount for calibration between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system,

wherein after calibration of the image recognition optical system is performed based on the optical-axis shift amount for calibration determined by the control section, the component is mounted onto the circuit board.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other aspects and features of the present invention will become clear from the following description taken in conjunction with the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the overall arrangement of an electronic component mounting apparatus according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the calibration stage in the state that a jig is placed in the electronic component mounting apparatus of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view representing positions of images of the jig taken with the upper and lower fields of view of the image recognition optical system of the electronic

component mounting apparatus of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a flow chart of calibration operation of the electronic component mounting apparatus of Fig. 1;

5 Fig. 5 is a block diagram showing the arrangement of the control section of the electronic component mounting apparatus of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal side view of the image recognition optical system in the first embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing the calibration operation in the first embodiment;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing the overall arrangement of an electronic component mounting apparatus according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the calibration stage provided in the electronic component mounting apparatus;

20 Fig. 10 is a view representing an image taken by the image recognition optical system provided in the electronic component mounting apparatus;

Fig. 11 is a flow chart showing operation of the electronic component mounting apparatus;

25 Fig. 12 is a flow chart showing a circuit-board supplying operation and a calibration operation of the image recognition optical system out of the operation of the electronic component mounting apparatus of the second embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 13 is a block diagram of the control section

of the electronic component mounting apparatus of the second embodiment of the invention;

5 Fig. 14 is a perspective view showing a slide base moving device of the electronic component mounting apparatus of the second embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 15 is a perspective view showing the image-recognition-optical-system moving device of the electronic component mounting apparatus of the second embodiment of the invention;

10 Fig. 16 is a perspective view showing the overall arrangement of an electronic component mounting apparatus according to the prior art; and

Fig. 17 is a longitudinal side view of the image recognition optical system of the prior art apparatus.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Before the description of the present invention proceeds, it is to be noted that like parts are designated by like reference numerals throughout the accompanying drawings.

20 Hereinbelow, electronic component mounting apparatus and method as an example of component mounting apparatus and method according to a first embodiment of the present invention are described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

25 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the electronic component mounting apparatus which carries out the electronic component mounting method in the first embodiment of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a

perspective view of the calibration stage of the image recognition optical system.

Referring to Fig. 1, reference numeral 13 denotes an electronic component, as an example of a component to be mounted, which is stored on a tray 14. Reference numeral 15 denotes a bonding head as an example of an electronic-component holding and conveying device, the bonding head 15 having a function of moving in an X direction and a function of moving up and down in a Z direction perpendicular to the X direction and a Y direction, and being operative for vacuum sucking up the electronic component 13 with a nozzle 15a and handling it. Denoted by reference numeral 16 is a circuit board as an example of a member onto which the electronic component 13 is to be mounted, the circuit board 16 being sucked up and held to a bonding stage 17 as an example of a circuit-board holding device. Then, the bonding stage 17 and the tray 14 are fixed on a slide base 18 having a function of moving in the Y direction. Reference numeral 19 denotes an image recognition optical system, which can recognize the position of the circuit board 16 located below the image recognition optical system 19 and the position of the electronic component 13 sucked up above the image recognition optical system 19 by the bonding head 15, whichever it is, by switching over the upper and lower fields of view. Also, the image recognition optical system 19 is movable in both X and Y directions. Reference numeral 20 denotes a calibration stage, which is fixed on

the slide base 18.

Referring to Fig. 2, a jig 21 made of glass for calibration of the optical system is sucked up and held on the top of the calibration stage 20 while keeping positioned by a pair of position regulating claws 20a, 20a.

Also, a marking 22 for image recognition is marked at a center portion of the jig 21.

Fig. 6 shows in detail the image recognition optical system 19. Reference numeral 19a denotes a CCD camera, with a magnifying lens 19b coupled thereto. Reference numeral 19c denotes a prism frame in which a prism 19d is fixed, and the magnifying lens 19b is coupled to this prism frame 19c. An image of the electronic component 13 sucked up and held to the head 15 or the circuit board 16 sucked up and held to the bonding stage 17 is taken by the CCD camera 19a via the prism 19d and the magnifying lens 19b. Then, the image recognition optical system 19 takes the image of either the electronic component 13 or the circuit board 16 through a switching of the field of view. In Fig. 6, reference numeral 419 denotes upper and lower shutters which are for switching between upper and lower fields of view and which are driven by shutter driving units 105. For a switching to the upper field of view, the lower shutter 419 is moved to a position 420 in the figure so as to shield the lower field of view while the upper shutter 419 is moved to a retreat position, allowing only the upper field of view to be recognized by the image recognition optical system 19. Meanwhile, for a

switching to the lower field of view, the upper shutter 419 is moved to a position 420 in the figure so as to shield the upper field of view while the lower shutter 419 is moved to a retreat position, allowing only the lower field of view to be recognized by the image recognition optical system 19. The drive of these two shutters 419 is controlled by a main controller 101.

With respect to the electronic component mounting apparatus constructed as described above, its operation is explained below.

For mounting the electronic component 13 onto the circuit board 16, a calibration operation of the optical system is first executed. The operation is described from now on. Fig. 4 is a flow chart of calibration operation for the image recognition optical system 19.

In the calibration operation, first, the image recognition optical system 19 moves in the X direction or the Y direction so that the marking 22 of the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20 fixed to the slide base 18 becomes recognizable for the image recognition optical system 19. Subsequently, the field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 is switched from the upper side to the lower side, and the position recognition of the marking 22 of the jig 21 mounted on the calibration stage 20 is performed (step S1 in Fig. 4).

Next, the image recognition optical system 19 withdraws (is retreated) backward with respect to the slide base 18, i.e., obliquely upward and rightward in the Y

direction in Fig. 1. After this, the bonding head 15 moves down to pick up the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20 (step S2 in Fig. 1).

5 Next, the field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 is switched to the upper side, and the image recognition optical system 19 moves forward, i.e., obliquely downward and leftward in the Y direction in Fig. 1, where the position recognition of the marking 22 of the jig 21 is performed again (step S3 in Fig. 1). The jig 21
10 is made of glass and pervious to light, so that the same marking 22 can be recognized by the upper and lower fields of view, respectively.

 Next, after the image recognition optical system 19 has withdrawn backward, the bonding head 15 moves down
15 to mount the jig 21 onto the calibration stage 20 (step S4 in Fig. 1). Then, based on the individual recognition results, an optical-axis shift amount (offset amount) between the upper and lower fields of view of the image recognition optical system 19 is determined (step S5 in Fig.
20 5). This is explained in detail with reference to Fig. 3.

 Fig. 3 represents positions of the marking 22 on the jig 21 taken by the image recognition optical system 19, where 23 represents a position of the marking 22 resulting from recognizing an image of the marking 22 with the lower
25 field of view, and 24 represents a position of the marking 22 resulting from recognizing an image of the marking 22 with the upper field of view of the image recognition optical system 19. Distances X1 and Y1 between the marking

23 and the marking 24 in this case represent an optical-axis shift amount between the lower field of view and the upper field of view of the image recognition optical system 19. This optical-axis shift amount between the fields of view would subtly vary due to the occurrence of distortion of the image recognition optical system 19 etc. caused by effects of changes in the environmental temperature around the electronic component mounting apparatus. Unless the optical-axis shift amount between the fields of view stored in the electronic component mounting apparatus is corrected, there would occur a shift in the mounting position corresponding to the temperature change.

Next, the measurement of the optical-axis shift amount between the fields of view is performed to a plurality of times (step S6 in Fig. 4), and a mean value among the optical-axis shift amounts between the fields of view is determined (step S7 in Fig. 4). This is because one-time measurement would be so much affected by handling precision of the jig 21 that the optical-axis shift amount could not be measured with high precision. Subsequently, for prevention of any shift in the mounting position, the optical-axis shift amount between the fields of view stored in the electronic component mounting apparatus is updated, in which process the amount is updated with an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use determined as the above means value (step S8 in Fig. 4).

In this connection, as the method for achieving the measurement with enhanced calibration precision, the

following ① to ③ methods are available:

① The measurement of optical-axis shift amount is performed to three or more times at step S6 in order to suppress any effect of the handling precision of the jig 21.

5 A mean value of measured values is determined, excluding the upper-limit measured value and the lower-limit measured value, at step S7. The determined mean value is used as a calibration result, i.e., an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use, at step S8. In addition, when only one
10 measured value is left after excluding the upper-limit measured value and the lower-limit measured value, the one measured value is used as an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use.

② The measurement of optical-axis shift amount is performed to three or more times at step S6 in order to suppress any effect of the handling precision of the jig 21.

At step S7, if a measured value, even when subtracted from the other measured values, results in difference beyond a threshold value, a mean value of measured values is
20 determined, excluding the aforementioned measured value at step S7. The determined mean value is used as a calibration result, i.e., an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use, at step S8.

③ For the measurement of the position of the marking 22
25 of the jig 21 under the image pickup with the upper and lower fields of view for enhanced recognition precision, image recognition of the marking 22 is performed to a plurality of times (see flows in one-dot chain line at

steps S1 and S3 in Fig. 4). The position of the marking 22 is determined at step S5 based on the plurality of recognition results.

5 In particular, adopting the ① and ② methods makes it possible to eliminate any effect of an abrupt, large shift of the jig 21 during the handling of the jig 21, as it may arise on rare occasions.

Referring now to a control section 200 relating to the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system 19, its construction and the operation flow are explained in more detail with reference to Figs. 4 and 10 5.

In the first place, the construction of the control section 200 provided in the electronic component mounting apparatus is explained. 15

Referring to Fig. 5, reference numeral 101 denotes a main controller of the control section 200 that controls the whole electronic component mounting apparatus.

The main controller 101 issues operation instructions and calculation instructions and puts data into and out of 20 memories according to a concatenated control sequence. Reference numerals 102, 103, 104 denote motor drivers, which correspond to a motor for moving the image recognition optical system 19 in the X direction, a motor for moving the image recognition optical system 19 in the Y 25 direction and a motor for moving the bonding head 15 in the Z (vertical) direction, respectively. Drivers corresponding to other motors are omitted in this figure.

Reference numeral 105 denotes shutter driving units such as motors or air cylinders, which drive the shutters 419 for switching between the upper and lower fields of view of the image recognition optical system 19. Reference numeral 106 denotes a nozzle suction driver, which performs the on-off switching of the suction of the suction nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15. Reference numeral 107 denotes an image recognizing section, which captures the marking 22 of the jig 21 for calibration use as image data by the image recognition optical system 19. Then, the captured image data is stored in a memory 108. Reference numeral 109 denotes an image processing section, which determines the position of the target, i.e. the marking 22, from the image data stored in the memory 108. The positional data of the marking 22 is stored in a memory 110. Reference numeral 111 denotes a calculating section, which calculates an optical-axis shift amount (offset amount) from the position of the marking 22 of the jig 21 stored in the memory 110. Then, the calculated optical-axis shift amount is stored in the memory 110. Also, data of target coordinates for the movement of respective motor drive shafts have been stored in a memory 112. Production conditions for producing the circuit board 16 on which the electronic components 13 are mounted have been stored in a memory 113.

Next the control flow is described. First, the main controller 101 reads from the memory 112 the X- and Y-coordinates stored in the memory 112 to which the image recognition optical system 19 should be moved to recognize

the image of the marking 22 of the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20, and issues instructions to the drivers 102, 103 so that the image recognition optical system 19 moves to the X- and Y-coordinates. Then, the
5 image recognition optical system 19 moves to the X- and Y-coordinates. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction to the shutter driving unit 105 to make the field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 switched to the lower side, thus switching the shutter 491
10 to the lower side one as previously described. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction to the image recognizing section 107 to capture an image, thus making an image of the marking 22 of the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20 captured by the image recognition
15 optical system 19, and further storing the captured image data into the memory 108. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for image processing to the image processing section 109, so that the image processing section 109 calculates a position 22-1 of the
20 marking 22 of the jig 21 from the above image data stored in the memory 110, storing it into the memory 110. The processes up to this point are the operation of step S1 in Fig. 4.

Next, in order that the image recognition optical
25 system 19 withdraws up to the rear X- and Y-coordinates stored in the memory 112, the main controller 101 reads from the memory 112 the X- and Y-coordinates to which the image recognition optical system 19 should move backward,

and then issues instructions for the drivers 102, 103 to move backward to the X- and Y-coordinates, so that the image recognition optical system 19 is moved backward up to the X- and Y-coordinates.

5 Next, the main controller 101 reads from the memory 112 a Z coordinate which is stored in the memory 112 and to which the bonding head 15 should move down to pick up the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20, and issues an instruction to the driver 104 so that the bonding head 15
10 moves to the Z-coordinate, thus the bonding head 15 moving down. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the nozzle suckup driver 106 to turn on the suckup of the jig 21 by the nozzle 15a, so that the jig 21 is sucked up by the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15.
15 Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the driver 104 to move to the coordinate origin, thus the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15 moving up. The processes up to this point are the operation of step S2 in Fig. 4.

20 Next, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the shutter driving unit 105 to switch the field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 to the upper side one, thereby switching the shutter from the lower side to the upper side as previously described.
25 Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the image recognizing section 107 to capture an image, so that an image of the marking 22 of the jig 21 sucked up by the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15 is captured by the

image recognition optical system 19, thus storing image data into the memory 108. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the image processing section 109 to perform image processing, so that
5 the image processing section 109 calculates a position 22-2 of the marking 22 of the jig 21 from the image data stored in the memory 108, thus storing it into the memory 110. The processes up to this point are the operation of step S3 in Fig. 4.

10 Next, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the calculating section 111 to determine an optical-axis shift amount between the upper and lower two fields of view, i.e. offset amount, of the image recognition optical system 19, so that the calculating
15 section 111 calculates the optical-axis shift amount by performing calculations from the position 22-1 of the marking 22 of the jig 21 and the position 22-2 of the marking 22 of the jig 21 stored in the memory 110, storing the calculated optical-axis shift amount into the memory
20 110. This operation is the optical-axis shift amount calculating operation of step S5. This operation of step S5 may be done after the operation of returning the jig 21 to the calibration stage 20 at step S4 as shown in Fig. 4, whereas the operation may also be done before the operation
25 of step S4. Otherwise, the steps S4 and S5 may be performed simultaneously.

Next, the main controller 101 reads the X- and Y-coordinates stored in the memory 112 to which the image

recognition optical system 19 should be moved to withdraw backward, and issues an instruction for the drivers 102, 103 to move to the coordinates, so that the image recognition optical system 19 moves to the coordinates.

5 Next, the main controller 101 reads from the memory 112 the Z-coordinate stored in the memory 112 to which the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15 should be moved down to release the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20, and issues an instruction for the driver 104 to move the nozzle
10 15a of the bonding head 15 up to the Z-coordinate, so that the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15 moves down to the Z-coordinate. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction for the nozzle suckup driving unit 106 to turn off the suckup of the jig 21 by the nozzle 15a, thus
15 stopping the suckup of the jig 21 by the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15, and returning the jig 21 onto the calibration stage 20. Subsequently, the main controller 101 issues an instruction to the driver 104 for the nozzle
20 15a of the bonding head 15 to move up to the coordinate origin, so that the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15 moves up to the coordinate origin. These processes are the operation of step S4.

 Then, the main controller 101 iterates the measurement of optical-axis shift amount of the steps S1 to
25 S5 until the number of times of measurement of optical-axis shift amount stored in the memory 113 is reached (step S6 in Fig. 4).

 Then, based on the optical-axis shift amounts

measured and stored in the memory 108, as shown in step S7, a mean value of the optical-axis shift amounts to be used for calibration is determined by the calculating section 111 in the following manner.

5 If it is set in the memory 113 that the measurement of optical-axis shift amount is performed to three or more times and that the upper- and lower-limit measured values are excluded, a mean value of optical-axis shift amounts is determined with the remaining measured
10 values after excluding the upper-limit measured value and the lower-limit measured value as invalid, and the resulting mean value is stored in the memory 110 as the calibration result, i.e., the optical-axis shift amount for calibration use. In addition, when only one measured value
15 is left after excluding the upper-limit measured value and the lower-limit measured value over the three times of measurement, the one measured value is used for calibration as an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use.

 Otherwise, in the case where a threshold value
20 for variations in the optical-axis shift amount is set in the memory 113, differences between the measured values are calculated by subtracting one measured value from the other measured values, and if the difference between a measured value and any of the other measured values, results beyond
25 the threshold value, a mean value of the measured values is determined, excluding the aforementioned measured value, and the determined mean value is stored in the memory 110 as an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use.

Also, without the setting for the exclusion of the upper- and lower-limit measured values, and without the setting of a threshold value, a mean value of optical-axis shift amounts is determined from all the measured values of the optical-axis shift amounts, and the determined mean value is stored in the memory 110 as an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use.

Also, when the number of times of recognition is set in the memory 113, image capturing process is performed continuously to the set number of times as shown by one-dot chain line at steps S1 and S3 in Fig. 4 in the capturing of the image of the marking 22 of the jig 21. Then, mean values among a plurality of positions of the marking 22 of the jig 21 determined from a plurality of image data are determined, respectively, and the determined mean values are stored in the memory 110 as the positions 22-1, 22-2 of the marking 22 of the jig 21 and used to calculate the optical-axis shift amounts between the fields of view, respectively.

Next, the operation of bonding the electronic component 13 onto the circuit board 16 is performed. This operation is described below.

First, in order that the image recognition optical system 19 is enabled to check the position of the circuit board 16 on the bonding stage 17 mounted on the slide base 18, the slide base 18 and the image recognition optical system 19 are moved under the control of the main controller 101. For this process, feature points for

position checking are marked in the circuit board 16.

Next, by the control of the main controller 101, the field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 is switched from the upper side to the lower side, where
5 the position recognition of the circuit board 16 mounted on the bonding stage 17 is performed.

Next, after the slide base 18 and the image recognition optical system 19 are moved to specified positions, the position recognition of the electronic
10 component 13 on the tray 14 is performed by the image recognition optical system 19.

Next, after the bonding head 15 and the slide base 18 are moved based on the above recognition results, the bonding head 15 moves down to suck and pick up the
15 electronic component 13 on the tray 14.

Next, the bonding head 15 and the image recognition optical system 19 are moved to specified positions, and the field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 is switched to the upper side, performing
20 the position recognition of the electronic component 13 sucked up to the bonding head 15. Then, by taking into consideration the image recognition results of the circuit board 16 and the electronic component 13 as well as the calibration result of the image recognition optical system
25 19, i.e., the optical-axis shift amount for calibration use, the position correction between the circuit board 16 and the electronic component 13 is performed, and after this, the bonding head 15 moves down to mount the electronic

component 13 onto the circuit board 16.

As described above, according to this first embodiment, measurement of the optical-axis shift amount (offset amount) between the fields of view of the image recognition optical system 19 is performed to a plurality of times during the calibration operation, and a measured value selected from among the measured values of the plurality of measurements or a mean value of those measured values is used as an optical-axis shift amount of calibration use. Thus, while the degree of effect of the handling precision of the jig 21 is suppressed low, the optical-axis shift amount between the lower-side field of view and the upper-side field of view of the image recognition optical system 19 can be determined with high precision so that any shift of the mounting position of the electronic component 13 relative to the circuit board 16 can be suppressed.

In this first embodiment, after a position recognition operation of the marking 22 of the jig 21 on the calibration stage 20 is performed at step S1, another position recognition operation of the marking 22 of the jig 21 sucked up by the nozzle 15a of the bonding head 15 is performed at steps S2 and S3. However, it is also possible that, conversely, after the operation of steps S2 and S3 is performed, the operation of step S1 is performed.

As shown above, according to the present invention, the optical-axis shift amount (offset amount) between the fields of view of the image recognition optical

system is determined to a plurality of times, and then based on the optical-axis shift amounts of the plurality of times of measurement, an optical-axis shift amount for calibration use is determined, for example, by taking a mean value of those values. Thus, while the degree of effect of the handling precision of the jig in determining the optical-axis shift amount for calibration use is suppressed low, the offset amount (optical-axis shift amount) between the lower-side field of view and the upper-side field of view of the image recognition optical system can be determined with high precision so that any shift of the mounting position of a component relative to the member onto which the component should be mounted can be suppressed.

Furthermore, in this first embodiment, when the plurality of times of measurement of the optical-axis shift amount is performed only once, for example, before the start of the mounting operation, there are some cases where some distortion occurs to the holding portion of the image recognition optical system due to changes in the room temperature or heat generation inside the apparatus during the mounting operation, causing the inclination of the optical axis to change, so that the mounting position of the component is shifted as a malfunction. Accordingly, to prevent this occurrence, it is preferable that, after the shift optical-axis shift amount is measured once as described above, a similar measurement is done after an elapse of another specified time, for example, two hours,

and an offset of the optical-axis shift amount is updated based on the measurement result.

This is explained more concretely with respect to an operation of mounting the electronic component 13.

5 First, after the head 15 and the slide base 18 have moved to specified positions, the head 15 moves down to pick up the electronic component 13 on the tray 14. Subsequently, the head 15 and the slide base 18 move again so that a coarse positioning for mounting the electronic component 13

10 onto the circuit board 16 is performed. Subsequently, for checking the position of the circuit board 16, the image recognition optical system 19 moves to such a position as to bring a feature point such as a recognition mark on the circuit board 16 into the field of view, performing image

15 recognition of the feature point by the image recognizing section 107. Next, for checking the position of the electronic component 13, the image recognition optical system 19 moves to such a position as to bring the feature point such as a recognition mark on the electronic

20 component 13 into the field of view, performing image recognition of the feature point by the image recognizing section 107. Then, position correction between the circuit board 16 and the electronic component 13 is performed based on the image recognition results of the circuit board 16

25 and the electronic component 13 and the latest calibration result of the image recognition optical system 19 which are stored in the memory 113. After that, the head 15 moves down to mount the electronic component 13 onto the circuit

board 16.

As shown above, according to this first embodiment, the position correction during the electronic component mounting operation is implemented by an amount of offset between the field of view on the electronic-
5 component image recognition side and the field of view on the circuit-board image recognition side measured and updated in the memory 113 at intervals of a specified time, for example, two hours. As a result, the mounting position
10 of the electronic component will never be shifted even if the inclination of the optical axis has changed because of an occurrence of distortion to the holding portion of the image recognition optical system due to changes in the room temperature or heat generation inside the apparatus.

15 With the electronic component mounting apparatus and method of the present invention, as apparent from the foregoing description, the offset amount between the fields of view of the image recognition optical system is measured at regular time intervals, the correction of the image
20 recognition results of the electronic component and the circuit board is made based on the measurement results. Thus, it becomes possible to achieve a position correction free from any distortion of the holding portion of the image recognition optical system during the electronic
25 component mounting operation, so that the electronic component can be mounted with high precision even upon occurrence of changes in the room temperature or heat generation inside the apparatus.

Hereinbelow, electronic component mounting apparatus and method according to a second embodiment of the present invention are described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

5 Fig. 8 is a perspective view of an electronic component mounting apparatus as an example of the component mounting apparatus. Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the stage for calibration of the image recognition optical system provided in the electronic component mounting
10 apparatus.

 Referring to Fig. 8, reference numeral 223 denotes an electronic component, as an example of the component, which is mounted on a circuit board 224 as an example of a member to which the component should be
15 mounted. Reference numeral 225 denotes a storage magazine, in which a plurality of tray plates 226 are set up, where a plurality of electronic components 223 prior to the mounting to the circuit board 224 are stored on the tray plates 226. Reference numeral 227 denotes a lifter, which
20 performs lifting and lowering operations of the storage magazine 225. Reference numeral 228 denotes a drawing unit having functions of moving forward and backward in a Y direction and clamping the tray plates 226, thus performing a drawing operation of a tray plate 226 to the storage
25 magazine 225. Reference numeral 229 is a reversal head having a function of moving up and down, and enabled to pick up the electronic component 223 on the tray plate 226 by vacuum suction. Also, the reversal head 229 has a

function of moving in an X direction perpendicular to the Y direction and being a function of turning 180° in an A direction. Reference numeral 230 denotes a recognition camera, which has a function of checking the position of the electronic component 223 on the tray plate 226 and which moves in the X direction together with the reversal head 229. Reference numeral 231 denotes a bonding head as an example of a component holding and conveying device, the bonding head 231 having a function of moving in the X direction and a function of moving up and down along an up-and-down direction perpendicular both X and Y directions, and being enabled to pick up the electronic component 223, which has been sucked up and held to the reversal head 229, from the reversal head 229 by vacuum suction and then mounting the electronic component 223 onto the circuit board 224.

Reference numeral 232 denotes a bonding stage, as an example of a circuit-board holding device, which sucks up and holds the circuit board 224. Then, the bonding stage 232 is fixed on a slide base 233. The slide base 233 has a function of being able to move in the Y direction under the guide of guide members 341, 341 by rotationally driving a ball screw 340a with a servo motor 340 shown in Fig. 14. Reference numerals 234, 235 denote conveyor arms, each as an example of a circuit-board conveying device, which are equipped with four suction pads 236 at the tip of each of the conveyor arms 234, 235, and which have a function of moving up and down and a function of moving in

the X direction. The tip portion of the conveyor arm 235, although not shown in the figure, has a construction similar to the conveyor arm 234. The conveyor arm 234 is enabled to suck up and convey the circuit board 224, which
5 has been conveyed up by a pair of loader conveyors 237, with the four suction pads 236 and then mount the circuit board 224 onto the bonding stage 232. Further, the conveyor arm 235 is enabled to transfer the circuit board 224 placed on the bonding stage 232 to a pair of unloader
10 conveyors 238 with four suction pads.

Reference numeral 239 denotes an image recognition optical system, which can recognize the position of the circuit board 224 located below the image
15 recognition optical system 239 and the position of the electronic component 223 located above the image recognition optical system 239 through the switching of the field of view. Also, the image recognition optical system 239 is movable in both X and Y directions by turning a ball screw 361 with rotation of an X-direction movement motor
20 360 shown in Fig. 15, and by turning a ball screw 371 with rotation of a Y-direction movement motor hidden below in Fig. 15, respectively. Reference numeral 240 denotes a calibration stage, which is mounted on the slide base 233.

The calibration stage 240 is moved integrally by the Y-
25 direction movement of the slide base 233 during the feed of the circuit board, so that a jig 241 for use of calibration of the image recognition optical system is located to an image-recognizable position for the image recognition

optical system 239. Besides, the calibration stage 240 is moved integrally by the Y-direction movement of the slide base 233 during the feed of the circuit board, so that the jig 241 for use of calibration of the image recognition optical system 239 is located to a pickup-enabled position for the bonding head 231.

Referring to Fig. 9, the jig 241 made of glass for calibration of the image recognition optical system 239 is sucked up and held on the top of the calibration stage 240. Also, a marking 242 for image recognition is marked at a center portion of the jig 241.

Various operations of the electronic component mounting apparatus are controlled by a control section 400.

This control section 400, as shown in Fig. 13, is equipped with a main controller 301 which outputs operation instructions, calculating instructions and the like according to a concatenated control sequence, and puts data into and out of a memory 310. For the main controller 301 to output the operation instructions and the like and to receive various types of signals, connected to the main controller 301 are driving units and the like for such mechanisms as the conveyor arms 234, 235, the bonding stage 232, the bonding head 231, the slide base 233, the calibration stage 240, the loader and unloader conveyors 237, 238, the image recognition optical system 239, the reversal head 229, the drawing unit 228, the lifter 227, so that these members are operation-controlled by the main controller 301, respectively. More specifically, the

members connected to the main controller 301 include: a driving unit for up-and-down and X-direction movements of the conveyor arms 234, 235 and a vacuum suction device for the suction pads 236 of the arms 234, 235; a vacuum suction device for suction of the circuit board 224 by the bonding stage 232; a Y-direction movement motor for the slide base 233; an X-direction movement motor, a Y-direction movement motor, and shutter driving units for switching of the upper-and-lower fields of view for the image recognition optical system 239; the memory 310 for storing various types of data; an image recognizing section 307 for capturing the marking 242 of the jig 241 for calibration by the image recognition optical system 239 as image data and making the image data stored in the memory 310; an image processing section 309 for processing the image captured by the image recognizing section 307 and stored in the memory 310; a calculating section 311 for calculating an optical-axis shift amount between the upper-and-lower fields of view after the image processing by the image processing section 309, and then storing calculation results into the memory 310; an X-direction movement motor, an up-and-down movement motor, and a vacuum suction device for suction of the component suction nozzle for the bonding head 231; and a vacuum suction device for suction of the calibration stage 240. It is noted that the other drivers are omitted in the figure.

With respect to the electronic component mounting apparatus constructed as described above, its operation is

now explained with reference to Fig. 11. The following operations are executed under the control of the main controller 301.

5 First, (11) a feeding operation of the electronic component 223 (step S21 in Fig. 11) is executed. This operation is detailed below. The lifter 227 moves up or down so as to come to a specified height for drawing out the tray plate 226. Subsequently, the tray plate 226 set in the storage magazine 225 is clamped and drawn out by the
10 drawing unit 228. Subsequently, the position of the electronic component 223 on the tray plate 226 is checked by the recognition camera 230. Subsequently, based on the position checking results, the drawing unit 228 and the reversal head 229 are moved so that the electronic
15 component 223 can be picked up by the reversal head 229, and then the reversal head 229 moves down to pick up the electronic component 223. Subsequently, the reversal head 229 turns 180° in the A direction and moves in the X direction to a position where the electronic component 223
20 can be delivered to the bonding head 231.

While the sequential operation for feeding the electronic component 223 with the reversal head 229 is carried out, (12) a feeding operation of the circuit board 224 (step S22 in Fig. 11), (13) a calibration operation of
25 the image recognition optical system 239 (step S23 in Fig. 11), and (14) a position recognition operation of the circuit board 224 (step S24 in Fig. 11) are also carried out, where (12) the feeding operation of the circuit board

224 (step S22) and (13) the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system 239 (step S23) are carried out concurrently, and after both operations have been completed, (14) the position recognition operation of the circuit board 224 (step S24) is carried out.

First, (12) the feeding operation of the circuit board 224 (step S22) is explained. The circuit board 224 is first conveyed by the pair of loader conveyors 237 from the right of the electronic component mounting apparatus of Fig. 8 to a position where the circuit board 224 can be picked up by the conveyor arm 234. Subsequently, the conveyor arm 234 moves in the X direction for pickup of the circuit board 224, and then moves down to suck up and hold the circuit board 224 with the four suction pads 236, thus picking up the circuit board 224. Subsequently, the conveyor arm 234 moves in the X direction, and mounts onto the bonding stage 232 the circuit board 224 sucked up and held by the suction pads 236. Also, if any circuit board 224 over the mounting of all the electronic components 223 is left on the bonding stage 232, the operation of conveying out the circuit board 224 to the pair of unloader conveyors 238 by using the conveyor arm 235 is concurrently carried out with the feeding operation of the circuit board 224. During this process, the slide base 233 is located at the position of the origin on the Y-direction movement axis of the ball screw 340a driven by the servo motor 340.

Next, (13) the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system 239 (step S23) is explained.

The image recognition optical system 239 moves in the X direction and/or the Y direction so that the marking 242 of the jig 241 on the calibration stage 240 mounted on the slide base 233 becomes recognizable for the image recognition optical system 239. In this process, the slide base 233, which does not need to move, is located at the position of the origin of the Y-direction movement axis. Subsequently, the image recognition optical system 239 is switched to the lower-side field of view, and performs the position recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 mounted on the calibration stage 240. The recognized image is stored in the memory 310, and the position of the marking 242 is calculated by the image processing section 309 based on this image and stored in the memory 310. Subsequently, the image recognition optical system 239 withdraws backward (obliquely upward and rightward in Fig. 8), and then the bonding head 231 moves down to pick up the jig 241 by suction. Subsequently, the image recognition optical system 239 is switched to the upper-side field of view, and moves forward (obliquely downward and leftward in Fig. 8), performing the position recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 once again. The jig 241 is made of glass and pervious to light, so that the same marking 242 can be recognized by the respective fields of view. Therefore, the position recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 held by the bonding head 231 is performed, and the recognized image is stored in the memory 310, and further the position of the marking 242 is calculated by

the image processing section 309 and stored in the memory 310. Subsequently, the image recognition optical system 239 withdraws backward, and then the bonding head 231 moves down to mount the jig 241 onto the calibration stage 240. Then, based on the respective recognition results stored in the memory 310, an optical-axis shift amount (offset amount) between the fields of view of the image recognition optical system 239 is determined by the calculating section 311. This is described in detail with reference to Fig. 10.

Fig. 10 represents a position of the marking 242 of the jig 241 captured by the image recognition optical system 239, where 243 represents a position of the marking resulting from recognizing an image of the marking 242 with the lower field of view, and 244 represents a position of the marking resulting from recognizing an image of the marking 242 with the upper field of view. Distances X2 and Y2 between the marking 243 and the marking 244 in this case represent an optical-axis shift amount (offset amount) between the lower field of view and the upper field of view of the image recognition optical system 239. This optical-axis shift amount would subtly vary due to the occurrence of distortion of the image recognition optical system 239 or the like caused by effects of changes in the environmental temperature around the electronic component mounting apparatus. Unless the optical-axis shift amount stored in the memory 310 of the electronic component mounting apparatus is corrected, there would occur a shift in the mounting position corresponding to the change.

Therefore, in order to prevent any shift of the mounting position, the optical-axis shift amount between the fields of view stored in the memory 310 of the electronic component mounting apparatus is updated by the calibration operation.

Neither (12) the feeding operation of the circuit board 224 (step S22) nor (13) the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system 239 (step S23) requires the slide base 233 to be moved, and both operations can be implemented while the slide base 233 is in the position of the origin on the Y-direction movement axis. Therefore, (12) the feeding operation of the circuit board 224 (step S22) and (13) the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system 239 (step S23) can be implemented concurrently.

However, when the conveyor arms 234, 235 are moved in the X direction, any force is applied to a base 299 of the electronic component mounting apparatus due to acceleration and/or deceleration of the speeds of the conveyor arms 234, 235, so that vibrations occur to the whole electronic component mounting apparatus. When this occurs, the bonding head 231 and the calibration stage 240 are also vibrated by the vibrations of the whole electronic component mounting apparatus. If the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 is performed at this timing, the image would blur, resulting in lowered precision of image recognition and therefore lowered precision of the measurement of the optical-axis shift amount between the

upper field of view and the lower field of view, as an issue. This being the case, in this embodiment, it is controlled that, under the control of the control section 400, the conveyor arms 234, 235 start to move in the X direction after the completion of the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 with the lower field of view in the calibration operation, and the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 with the upper field of view is performed after the completion of the movement of the conveyor arms 234, 235 in the X direction. In addition, the completion of each operation can be confirmed by, as an example, outputting a completion signal from the operation-completed device to the main controller 301 at the time of the completion of the operation, and then by the main controller 301 receiving the completion signal. After the completion confirmation, a signal for driving the next driving unit may be outputted from the main controller 301 to the next driving unit. A flow chart showing such an operation is shown in Fig. 12. That is, first, while the pickup of the circuit board 224 by the conveyor arms 234, 235 or the conveyor arm 234 is performed at step S50, at the same time, the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 with the lower field of view is performed at step S53. Subsequently, while the X direction movement of the conveyor arms is performed at step S51, the pickup of the jig 241 by the bonding head 231 is performed at step S54. These operations of step S51 and step S54 do not necessarily need to be performed concurrently, but doing so

is preferable for further reduction in the mounting time. Subsequently, while the mounting of the circuit board 224 onto the bonding stage 232 by the conveyor arm 234 is performed at step S52, at the same time, the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 with the upper field of view is performed at step S55. In addition, a lateral arrow from right to left under the steps S53 and S50 in Fig. 12 imply that the operation of step S51 is performed after the completion of both the operation of step S50 and the operation of step S53. Also, a lateral arrow from left to right under the steps S51 and S54 in Fig. 12 imply that the operation of step S55 is performed after the completion of both the operation of step S51 and the operation of step S54.

Furthermore, the operation may be either ① or ② as follows. ① After the completion of the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 with both lower and upper fields of view for the calibration operation, the conveyor arm 234 starts to move in the X direction. ② After the completion of the X direction movement of the conveyor arm 234, the image recognition of the marking 242 of the jig 241 with the lower field of view is started. In addition, the completion of each operation can be confirmed by, as an example, outputting a completion signal from the operation-completed device to the main controller 301 at the time of the completion of the operation, and then by the main controller 301 receiving the completion signal. After the completion confirmation,

a signal for driving the next driving unit may be outputted from the main controller 301 to the driving unit.

Next, (14) the position recognition operation of the circuit board 224 (step S24 in Fig. 11) is explained.

5 First, in order that the image recognition optical system 239 is enabled to check the position of the circuit board 224 on the bonding stage 232 mounted on the slide base 233, the slide base 233 and the image recognition optical system 239 are moved. For this process, a feature point (e.g., a
10 recognition mark such as x mark) for position-checking is previously marked in the circuit board 224. Subsequently, the field of view of the image recognition optical system 239 is switched to the lower side, where the position recognition of the circuit board 224 mounted on the bonding
15 stage 232 is performed.

After the completion of the (11) to (14) operations, i.e., operations of steps S21 to S24, (15) a bonding operation (step S25 in Fig. 11) is performed. This operation is explained below. First, the bonding head 231
20 moves in the X direction, and performs the pickup of the electronic component 223 sucked up to the reversal head 229.

Next, the bonding head 231 is moved to a position where the position of the sucked electronic component 223 can be checked by the image recognition optical system 239.
25 Concurrently, the image recognition optical system 239 also moves for the position checking of the electronic component 223. Subsequently, the field of view of the image recognition optical system 239 is switched to the upper

side, and the position recognition of the electronic component 223 is performed by the image recognition optical system 239. Then, based on the position recognition result of the electronic component 223 as well as the position recognition result of the circuit board 224 in (14) the position recognition operation of the circuit board 224 (step S24), position correction of the bonding head 231 and the slide base 233 is performed, and the bonding head 231 moves down to mount the electronic component 223 onto the circuit board 224.

As described above, according to this second embodiment, the slide base 233 is located at the position of the origin so that the calibration stage 240 is located at a deep-side end edge of the slide base 233 in the electronic component mounting apparatus, which is a region that will not obstruct the conveying-in and -out operations of the circuit board 224, during the feeding of the circuit board. Therefore, it becomes possible to perform the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system 239 during the process of replacement of circuit boards, so that any extension of the mounting time due to the calibration operation of the optical system can be eliminated or that such extension of the mounting time can be suppressed.

As shown above, according to the present invention, when the circuit board is held by the circuit-board holding device, the calibration stage on which the jig for use of calibration of the image recognition optical

system is to be mounted is placed at a position which is a region outside the conveying-in and -out region for the circuit board and which allows an image of the jig to be recognized by the image recognition optical system. With this and other arrangements, the position recognition for calibration by the image recognition optical system is performed. Thus, it becomes possible to perform the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system during the process of replacement of circuit boards, so that any extension of the mounting time due to the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system can be reduced.

Although the present invention has been fully described in connection with the preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be noted that various changes and modifications are apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and modifications are to be understood as included within the scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims unless they depart therefrom.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A component mounting apparatus comprising:

a component holding and conveying device (15) for holding and conveying a component (13) and mounting the component onto a circuit board (16);

a circuit board holding device (17) for holding the circuit board;

an image recognition optical system (19) for performing position recognition of the component and the circuit board with different fields of view, respectively; and

a control section (200) for determining to a plurality of times an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between a position of the component and a position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system, and based on determination results, determining an optical-axis shift amount for calibration,

wherein calibration of the image recognition optical system is performed based on the optical-axis shift amount for calibration determined by the control section and then the component is mounted onto the circuit board.

2. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system to three or more times, where if a plurality of shift amounts are left after excluding an upper-limit shift amount and a lower-limit shift amount from



the determined shift amounts, a mean value of the left shift amounts is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, while if only one shift amount is left after excluding the upper-limit shift amount and the lower-limit shift amount, the left shift amount is taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration, the control section performs the calibration of the image recognition optical system.

3. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system to three or more times, where if a difference of one shift amount from any other shift amount exceeds a threshold value, a mean value of shift amounts except the one shift amount is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration, the control section performs the calibration of the image recognition optical system.

4. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein when the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount, images are recognized with individual fields of view to a plurality of times during an image capture process by the image recognition optical system, and the control section determines the optical-axis shift amount between the position of the component and the position of the circuit board recognized by the image



recognition optical system with the individual fields of view from among results of the plurality of times of recognition, and based on results of iterating this determination process to a plurality of times, determines an optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration, performs the calibration of the image recognition optical system.

5. A component mounting apparatus comprising:

a component holding and conveying device (15) for holding and conveying a component (13) and mounting the component onto a circuit board (16);

a circuit board holding device (17) for holding the circuit board;

an image recognition optical system (19) for recognizing a position of a marking (22) of a jig (21) with one field of view to a plurality of times while holding the jig to the component holding and conveying device, and recognizes a position of the marking (22) of the jig with another field of view to a plurality of times while holding the jig on a calibration stage (20) of the circuit board holding device (17); and

a control section (200) for determining optical-axis shift amounts between the positions of the marking of the jig based on results of the plurality of times of recognition with the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system, respectively, calculating a mean value of the determined optical-axis shift amounts, and



taking the calculated mean value as an optical-axis shift amount for calibration between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system,

5 wherein after calibration of the image recognition optical system is performed based on the optical-axis shift amount for calibration determined by the control section, the component is mounted onto the circuit board.

6. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein when recognizing positions of the marking of the 10 jig in the two states each to a plurality of times, the image recognition optical system recognizes a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the calibration stage each one time, and 15 then the image recognition optical system iteratively recognizes the position of the marking of the jig in the respective states similarly.

7. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein when recognizing positions of the marking of the 20 jig in the two states each to a plurality of times, the image recognition optical system recognizes a position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device to a plurality of times, and further recognizes a position of the marking of the jig that is held 25 by the calibration stage to a plurality of times.

8. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the image recognition optical system recognizes positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the



component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to three or more times, respectively, the control section determines that if a plurality of shift amounts are left after excluding an upper-limit shift amount and a lower-limit shift amount from the three or more shift amounts between the two fields of view determined based on results of the recognition, a mean value of the left shift amounts is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, while if only one shift amount is left after excluding the upper-limit shift amount and the lower-limit shift amount, the left shift amount is taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration instead of determining the mean value.

9. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the image recognition optical system recognizes positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to three or more times, respectively, the control section determines that if a difference of one shift amount from any other shift amount exceeds a threshold value, a mean value of shift amounts except the one shift amount is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration.

10. A component mounting method comprising:

recognizing to a plurality of times a position of a marking (22) of a jig (21) by an image recognition optical system (19) while the jig is held by a component holding and conveying device (15) which holds and conveys a component



(13) and then mount the component onto a circuit board (16);

recognizing to a plurality of times a position of the marking (22) of the jig by the image recognition optical system (19) while the jig is held by a calibration stage (20) of a circuit-board holding device (17) which holds the circuit board;

determining an optical-axis shift amount between the positions of the marking of the jig between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system; and

calculating a mean value of the determined optical-axis shift amounts and taking the mean value as an optical-axis shift amount between the two fields of view of the image recognition optical system, and after performing calibration based on this optical-axis shift amount, mounting the component onto the circuit board.

11. A component mounting method according to Claim 10, wherein when the positions of the marking of the jig in the two states are recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times, the position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and the position of the marking of the jig that is held by the calibration stage are recognized by the image recognition optical system each one time, and then the positions of the marking of the jig in the respective states are recognized similarly.

12. A component mounting method according to Claim 10, wherein when the positions of the marking of the jig in the two states are recognized by the image recognition optical



system to a plurality of times, the position of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device is recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times, and the position of the jig that is held by the calibration stage is recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times.

13. A component mounting method according to Claim 10, wherein positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage are recognized to three or more times, respectively, where if a plurality of shift amounts are left after excluding an upper-limit shift amount and a lower-limit shift amount from the three or more shift amounts between the two fields of view determined based on recognition results, a mean value of the left shift amounts is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, while if only one shift amount is left after excluding the upper-limit shift amount and the lower-limit shift amount, the left shift amount is taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration instead of determining the mean value, and then the calibration is performed based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration.

14. A component mounting method according to Claim 10, wherein positions of the marking of the jig that is held by the component holding and conveying device and of the jig that is held by the calibration stage to three or more times,



respectively, where if a difference of one shift amount from any other shift amount exceeds a threshold value, a mean value of shift amounts except the one shift amount is determined and taken as the optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and then calibration is performed based on the determined optical-axis shift amount for calibration.

15. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the control section (200) determines an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between the position of the component and the position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system to a plurality of times with specified time intervals, and based on results of the determination, the optical-axis shift amount for calibration is determined.

16. A component mounting method according to Claim 10, wherein when the recognition is performed by the image recognition optical system (19) to a plurality of times, the recognition is performed to a plurality of times with specified time intervals.

17. A component mounting apparatus comprising:
a component holding and conveying device (231) for holding and conveying a component (223) and mounting the component onto a circuit board (224);

a circuit board holding device (232) for holding the circuit board;

an image recognition optical system (239) for performing position recognition of the component and the circuit board with different fields of view, respectively;



and

a control section (400) for determining an optical-axis shift amount with the two fields of view between a position of the component and a position of the circuit board recognized by the image recognition optical system, and based on determination results, determining an optical-axis shift amount for calibration, and after correcting a mounting position of the component relative to the circuit board based on the determined optical-axis shift amount, mounting the component,

wherein the control section exerts control so that the calibration operation of the image recognition optical system is performed during the operation of holding the circuit board to the circuit board holding device.

18. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a calibration stage (240) on which a jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system is to be placed and which, for feeding the circuit board, moves so that the jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be recognizable for the image recognition optical system,

wherein the position of the jig placed on the calibration stage is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the circuit board is achieved, and the position of the jig resulting when the jig on the calibration stage is held by the component holding and conveying device is recognized by



the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the component is achieved.

19. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a calibration stage (240) on which a jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system is to be placed and which, for feeding the circuit board, moves so that the jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be holdable for the component holding and conveying device,

wherein the position of the jig placed on the calibration stage is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the circuit board is achieved, and the position of the jig resulting when the jig on the calibration stage is held by the component holding and conveying device is recognized by the image recognition optical system, whereby the position recognition of the component is achieved.

20. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the control section exerts control so that the image recognition for calibration of the image recognition optical system is not performed while a circuit board conveying device (234, 235) is moving.

21. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the control section exerts control for:

picking up the circuit board by the circuit board conveying device (550), and concurrently performing image recognition of the jig on the calibration stage for



calibration by the image recognition optical system (S53);

after completion of the foregoing two operations,
moving the circuit board conveying device toward the
circuit board holding device (S51), and making the jig
5 picked up by the component holding and conveying device
(S54); and

thereafter, mounting the circuit board held by
the circuit board conveying device onto the circuit board
holding device (S52), and concurrently performing image
10 recognition of the jig held by the component holding device
for calibration by the image recognition optical system
(S55).

22. A component mounting method comprising:

making a circuit board held by a circuit board
15 holding device (232), and concurrently performing position
recognition of a component held by a component holding and
conveying device for calibration with one field of view by
an image recognition optical system (239);

performing position recognition of the circuit
20 board held by the circuit board holding device for
calibration with a field of view different from the
foregoing field of view by the image recognition optical
system (239); and

determining an optical-axis shift amount with the
25 two fields of view between the position of the component
and the position of the circuit board recognized by the
image recognition optical system, determining an optical-
axis shift amount for calibration based on the



determination results, and after correcting a mounting position of the component relative to the circuit board based on the determined optical-axis shift amount, mounting the component.

5 23. A component mounting method according to Claim 22, further moving, when the circuit board is held by the circuit board holding device, a jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system which is placed on a calibration stage (240), so that the jig (241) for
10 calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be recognizable for the image recognition optical system.

24. A component mounting method according to Claim 22, further moving a jig (241) for calibration of the image
15 recognition optical system which is placed on a calibration stage (240), when the circuit board is held by the circuit board holding device, so that the jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system is located at such a position as to be holdable for the component holding and
20 conveying device.

25. A component mounting method according to Claim 22, wherein the image recognition for calibration of the image recognition optical system is not performed while the circuit board conveying device (234, 235) is moving.

25 26. A component mounting method according to Claim 25, further comprising:

 making the circuit board picked up by the circuit board conveying device (S50), and concurrently performing



image recognition of a jig (241) for calibration of the image recognition optical system (S53);

5 after completion of the foregoing two operations, moving the circuit board conveying device toward the circuit board holding device (S51), and making the jig picked up by the component holding and conveying device (S54); and

10 thereafter, mounting the circuit board held by the circuit board conveying device onto the circuit board holding device (S52), and concurrently performing image recognition of the jig held by the component holding device (S55).

27. A component mounting apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the calibration stage (240) is located at a deep-side end edge of a slide base (233) in a circuit board holding device (232) which holds the circuit board, which is a region that will not obstruct conveying-in and -out operations of the circuit board (224).

28. A component mounting apparatus comprising:
20 a component holding and conveying device (15) for holding and conveying a component (13) and mounting the component onto a circuit board (16);

a circuit board holding device (17) for holding the circuit board;

25 an image recognition optical system (19) for recognizing a position of a marking (22) of a jig (21) with one field of view while holding the jig to the component holding and conveying device, and recognizes a position of



the marking (22) of the jig with another field of view while holding the jig on a calibration stage (20) of the circuit board holding device (17); and

5 a control section (200) for determining an
optical-axis shift amount between the positions of the
marking of the jig based on recognition result with the two
fields of view of the image recognition optical system,
which is taken as an optical-axis shift amount for
calibration between the two fields of view of the image
10 recognition optical system,

 wherein after calibration of the image recognition
optical system is performed based on the optical-axis shift
amount for calibration determined by the control section,
the component is mounted onto the circuit board.

