

ABSTRACT

A mark with a focusing and tilt-correction design and an alignment method are disclosed. The mark includes an alignment sub-mark (20) and at least one pair of focusing sub-marks. The alignment sub-mark (20) is centered on any one of the line segments interconnecting the respective at least one pair of focusing sub-marks. Focusing and leveling of the alignment sub-mark (20) is enabled by determining optimal focal plane positions for the at least one pair of focusing sub-marks. The alignment method is used with the mark and enables high-precision focusing and leveling of the alignment sub-mark. With the mark being used, the impact of tilt can be eliminated while achieving focusing, which results in an improvement in measurement reproducibility.