WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A processing apparatus and a determining tool in combination,

the processing apparatus comprising:

a table; and

a machining unit including a machining tool, the machining tool and the table being movable relatively to each other in a processing-feed direction,

the determining tool comprising:

a bottom surface; and

a flat slanting surface inclined to the bottom surface;

wherein

the determining tool is held on the table by the bottom surface in an orientation in which the flat slanting surface extends transversely across the processing-feed direction;

the machining tool and the table are configured to move relatively to each other in the processing-feed direction such that a tip end of the machining tool cuts through the flat slanting surface to leave a machining mark on the flat slanting surface; and

the machining mark is checkable from a side of the determining tool opposite to the bottom surface,

while the determining tool remains held on the table in the orientation in which the machining mark was formed, to determine a shape of the tip end of the machining tool.

2. The combination according to claim 1, wherein an angle formed between the bottom surface and the slanting surface is in a range of 30° to 60°.

3. The combination according to claim 1, wherein the determining tool is made of silicon or carbon.

4. The combination according to claim 2, wherein the determining tool is made of silicon or carbon.

5. A shape determining method of determining a shape of a tip end of a machining tool that machines a workpiece held on a table while the machining tool moves relatively to the table, the method comprising:

holding, on the table, a bottom surface of a determining tool that includes the bottom surface and a flat slanting surface inclined to the bottom surface;

causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool in such a manner as to cut through the slanting surface while the slanting surface is directed across a direction in which the machining tool moves relatively to the table; and

checking a shape of a machining mark left on the

slanting surface by the tip end of the machining tool that has cut through the slanting surface, from a side of the determining tool that is opposite to the bottom surface, thereby determining the shape of the tip end of the machining tool.

6. The shape determining method according to claim 5, wherein the causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool includes causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool while the tip end of the machining tool stays clear of an end of the slanting surface that is closer to the bottom surface.

7. The shape determining method according to claim 5, wherein the causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool includes causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool while moving the machining tool and the table relatively to each other in the abovementioned direction.

8. The shape determining method according to claim 6, wherein the causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool includes causing the tip end of the machining tool to cut into the determining tool while moving the machining tool and the table relatively to each other in the abovementioned direction.

9. The shape determining method according to claim 5, wherein the determining the shape of the tip end of the machining tool includes determining that the tip end of the machining tool is round, if an end of the machining mark checked from the side of the determining tool that is opposite to the bottom surface is curved.

10. The shape determining method according to claim 6, wherein the determining the shape of the tip end of the machining tool includes determining that the tip end of the machining tool is round, if an end of the machining mark checked from the side of the determining tool that is opposite to the bottom surface is curved.

11. The shape determining method according to claim 7, wherein the determining the shape of the tip end of the machining tool includes determining that the tip end of the machining tool is round, if an end of the machining mark checked from the side of the determining tool that is opposite to the bottom surface is curved.

12. The shape determining method according to claim 8, wherein the determining the shape of the tip end of the machining tool includes determining that the tip end of the machining tool is round, if an end of the machining mark checked from the side of the determining tool that is opposite to the bottom surface is curved.