

Description

The present invention relates to a method for determining a position of at least one lead of an electronic component, especially a semi-conductor element with respect to a reference plane, wherein said lead is illuminated from a first position situated sideways and out of a plane wherein the electronic component is disposed, and wherein a first shadow image of at least a part of said lead is formed on an image plane. The invention also relates to a device for performing the method.

Such a method is known from PCT/US88/01181 (publication number WO 88/08512) which discloses an apparatus for optically detecting the position of an edge of a workpiece in a sensing plane, in particular of leads extending from a body of a workpiece. The known method comprises the emission of electromagnetic energy from a source region in the sensing plane such as to cause the edge to create a shadow having a penumbra in the sensing plane. Position information can be determined by comparing a detected intensity of a light, which reaches a known region in the penumbra, with the intensity existing when the edge is absent, or with the intensity detected when the edge is at a known position with respect to a reference position.

There are several reasons for which the leads of an electronic component are not always aligned accurately. However, for the assembling of a chip on a card it is important that the leads are positioned well with respect to the soldering areas. A deviation between a lead and a soldering area can end in that there is no mechanical contact between soldering area and lead and therefore that no electronic contact will be realised so that the whole card can become useless. However, since the leads are frequently bent with respect to the desired distance, it is necessary to verify to which extent this bending can lead to an inoperational card. The known method allows to check, by a position determination whether the leads are arranged correctly.

The known method measures intensities, and thus requires accurate and means to provide accurate position information.

An object of the present invention is to provide a method and a device for determining the position of at least one lead of an electronic component, wherein use is made of simpler and therefore cheaper means without losing accuracy in the result of the measurement.

To this end, a method according to the invention is characterised in that said lead is illuminated from a second position, different from said first position, for forming a second shadow image on said image plane, and wherein a third respectively a fourth position is selected within said first respectively said second shadow image, said position of said at least one lead being determined from said third and fourth position. Due to the use of shadow images, it is not necessary to use a coherent light source, such as a laser, and it is therefore also not necessary to cover the device against light of a too high

intensity. By determining further two shadow images it is possible to establish unambiguously the position of the lead. Indeed, each deviation from a standard position automatically results in that both shadow images will be located in a position different from the position of the standard images, so that the position of the lead can always be determined unambiguously and reliably from the position of the set of shadow images.

A first preferred embodiment of a method according to the invention is characterised in that said third and respectively fourth position is located substantially in the middle of said first and respectively second shadow image. Due to this, the third and fourth position is simply to locate.

Advantageously, illuminating from said first and second position is done from substantially opposite positions. Due to this, the shadow images are situated according to the same axis which simplifies the position determination.

A device according to the invention is characterised in that said illumination means are further having a second light source provided for illuminating said lead from a second position, different from said first position and said image formation member is further provided for forming a second shadow image of at least a part of said lead illuminated from said second position, and in that a position determining member, connected to said image formation member, is provided for selecting a third respectively a fourth position within said first respectively said second shadow image and for determining said at least one lead from said third and fourth position.

A first preferred embodiment of a device according to the invention is characterised in that said position determining means are provided for determining said position from the difference between said third and fourth position. Because of this, the determination of said position can be carried out easily and quickly.

A second preferred embodiment of a device according to the invention is characterised in that said device comprises a frosted-glass plate disposed in the beam path between said lead and said image formation member. A frosted-glass plate allows to form a clear shadow image.

The invention will now be described into more details on the basis of an embodiment shown in the drawings. In the drawings :

Figure 1 shows schematically an embodiment of a device according to the invention ;

Figure 2 shows the formation of the first and second shadow image ;

Figure 3 shows the image formation for two different positions of a lead in a direction perpendicular to the projection plane ;

Figure 4 shows the image formation for two different

positions of a lead in a direction parallel to the projection plane ;

Figure 5 shows a block diagram of data processing means to be used in a device according to the invention.

In the drawings, the same or an analogous element has the same reference numeral.

The embodiment of a device according to the invention represented schematically in figure 1 comprises four holders 1, 3, 5 and 7 comprising each a light source 2, 4, 6 and 8. The light emitted by each light source falls aslant upon one or more leads 15 of an electronic component 14, in particular a semi-conductor element. The electronic component is disposed on or right above a frosted glass plate 9 which is a component of an image formation member. Since the light is reflected, a shadow will be formed on and behind the frosted-glass plate each time near one of the illuminated leads. By using a frosted-glass plate, a shadow image of the lead or leads is obtained at the level of an image plane arranged behind the frosted-glass plate. This image plane is formed for example by a projection plane on which the light passing through the frosted-glass plate is projected. The image formation member further comprises a lens system 10 and a camera 11, for example a CCD camera. The camera 11 is connected with a data processing system 12 which takes care of the camera control as well as of the processing of the data recorded by the camera. The data processing system is further connected with an interface 13 which is further connected with the light sources 2, 4, 6 and 8 in order to control in this way switching the light sources on and off.

The oblique angle at which the emitted light falls in is preferably equal to 45° , which is advantageous for forming shadow images having sharp contours which can be located and positioned clearly and unambiguously. Moreover, for an angle of 45° a displacement in the z-direction is equal to the displacement in the x-direction. However, it will be clear that besides 45° other values are also possible. A combination of one light beam falling in under a 90° angle and the other light beam under an angle of 0° is to be excluded since this combination does not provide any useful information.

It will be clear that the embodiment shown schematically in figure 1 only relates to one possible embodiment and that several alternative embodiments are possible. Thus, it is for example possible to use as the illumination means not four but only two lamps which are arranged substantially opposite to one another, such as the lamps 2 and 4 for example, and which illuminate the leads of the electronic component preferably under an oblique angle. Moreover, the lamps must not necessarily be disposed at the same height and may be shifted as well in height (z-direction) as in the y-direction with respect to one another. Disposing them on a corresponding y-position does simplify the determination of the position of

the considered lead based on the position of the shadow images.

In a further embodiment use is made of only one light source which is mounted on a movable arm. In this way, the light source can be placed into different positions and it can illuminate from each of these different positions the leads of an electronic component. This movable arm can be controlled for example by the data processing unit 12.

It is, however, important that the light sources are arranged sideways with respect to the electronic component and out of the plane wherein the electronic component is disposed, otherwise no useful shadow images will be formed.

Preferably, the electronic component is suspended somewhat above the frosted-glass plate 9 having its lead directed towards the plate. This prevents the leads from being damaged or bent. The electronic component is kept in said position for example by means of a grab or a sucker which is also appropriate for bringing each time a next component in that position wherein the measurement takes place. However, it will be clear that when acting carefully, the electronic component can be laid on the frosted-glass plate itself.

Instead of using a frosted-glass plate, it is of course also possible to use a coated glass plate. Of course, the camera 11 can be replaced by another image formation means such as for example a photo detector.

The light source 2, 4, 6 and 8 is formed by a point source. Herefore, use is made of a small light bulb, for example a bicycle lamp. Since use is made of shadow images, the light source does not have to meet high requirements and simple means can be sufficient.

It is also possible to use a flash light. The latter offers the advantage of illuminating shortly while realizing, however, a sufficient light intensity to form a clear shadow image. Moreover, flash lights allow to switch quickly which shortens the measuring cycle time considerably and increases the efficiency of the device.

Figure 2 shows the shadow image formation resulting from the method according to the invention. This example starts from the situation that lead 15 is illuminated by means of light source 2 and 4 respectively from a first and respectively a second position defined by a height h_1 and h_r , respectively and a distance d_1 and d_r , respectively with respect to the origin O of a coordinate system. Now, the height h (z-direction) and the distance d (x-direction) have to be determined in order to determine the position of lead 15. The y-coordinate is determined by using a measurement window as will be described hereinafter. The position is then determined three-dimensionally.

The light beam starting from light source 2 and 4 respectively will now form a first 17 and respectively a second 18 shadow image on the projection plane P which shadow image is situated on a third x_1 and respectively a fourth x_r position. For simplicity's sake, the points x_r and x_1 are each chosen in the middle of the shadow image but it would also be possible to choose another ref-

erence, such as for example a border line of the shadow image.

Determining the position of points x_r and x_l for locating the shadow images is realized now by determining the distance x_r and x_l respectively with respect to the origin O in the x-direction. This can be done for example by counting image points of the image recorded by the camera or by means of a grey value determination. Since h_l , h_r , d_l and d_r are known, the distances h and d can be calculated by means of the following equations:

$$h = \frac{1}{\frac{d_l - x_l}{h_l} - \frac{d_r - x_r}{h_r}} (x_r - x_l)$$

$$d = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{(d_l - x_l)h_r}{(d_r - x_r)h_l}} \left(x_l - \frac{(d_l - x_l)h_r}{(d_r - x_r)h_l} x_r \right)$$

This calculation is executed for example by the data processing unit which controls also the switching on and off of the light source. When determining a position of lead, the data processing unit will switch the light sources thus successively on and off in order to determine each time a position of the shadow image formed by means of the light source which is switched on only for the measurement.

The fact that different lead positions result also in different positions of the shadow images is illustrated by means of figures 3 and 4. Figure 3 illustrates the shadow images of a point M and M', the latter being shifted in the z-direction with respect to M. The shadow images of M' are situated on positions x'_r and x'_l which are clearly different from the positions x_r and x_l . The same goes for the shadow images on the positions x''_r and x''_l formed by an element in position M'' as represented in figure 4 wherein position M'' is shifted in the x-direction with respect to M. Therefore, it results clearly from figures 3 and 4 that each set of shadow images corresponds clearly to one lead position. The position of the lead can therefore be determined unambiguously and accurately from these shadow images.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 2, the height h is determined with respect to the projection plane which coincides with the X-axis. However, the height h can be determined with respect to any other reference plane such as for example the plane formed by the bottom surface of the electronic component. However, in the latter case it is moreover necessary to determine first the position of this reference plane which can be realised also by means of shadow images as described hereinbefore.

Figure 5 shows an embodiment of the data processing unit 12 provided for controlling the device and for calculating the positions on the basis of the measured x_r and x_l values. The data processing unit comprises a communication bus 21, for example a VME bus, and a microprocessor 22 and a first 23 and a second 24 memory connected to said bus. The first and respectively the second memory are for example a ROM and respectively

a RAM. Further, an input-output interface 25 is connected to the bus 21. To the input-output interface is connected a control member 26 for controlling the device. Moreover, a sensor interface 27, an image fetching member 28 and a video generator 29 are connected to the bus 21. The latter elements are mutually connected by means of further busses 31 and 32, for example SC busses. The sensor interface is connected to the camera 11 while the video generator is connected to a display unit 30, for example a CRT.

The image formed by the camera 11 is scanned by the sensor interface 27 and converted into a digital image which is stored in a memory of the interface 27. The fetching member 28 fetches the image data out of the memory and processes them, for example by means of measuring windows to be defined in the formed image. Then the video generator makes an image of the image data, which image is represented on the screen of the display unit. The data processing is carried out under the control of the micro-processor 22 by means of programs stored in the ROM 23.

For determining the position of each lead of the electronic component, a window is defined around each lead. Herefore, use is made of the distance between the successive leads which is known per se. On the basis of the position of the window in the image as formed by the camera, an expected value is determined each time in order to delimit the area in which the shadow images are situated. This simplifies the search for the position of the shadow images. When determining the window, the length of the lead is taken into account.

When a window is defined around each of the leads to be considered, two profiles are determined for each window, i.e. a lead profile and a gravity profile. The lead profile is determined in the direction of the lead and represents the position of the individual leads. The gravity profile is determined across the lead and represents the middle of the leads.

After determining the lead profile, the grey value of each lead profile is compared to the one of a standard lead profile which is preferably triangular and which is obtained by taking a calibrating width (TI) expressed as a number of image points and by choosing a height which gives the ratio between the height of the lead and the height of the window. The use of such triangular standard profiles offers the advantage of keeping the tolerances low. Then, the centre of the lead is calculated from this lead profile in a way known per se. Afterwards, the X- and respectively Y-positions of the horizontal and respectively vertical series of leads are calculated from the mean value of these individual lead positions.

By using the gravity profile, the position of the horizontal and respectively vertical series of leads in the Y- and respectively X-direction are determined by calculating the gravity centres for each lead.

These calculations are all carried out by using the data processing system with its corresponding programs.

Claims

1. A method for determining a position of at least one lead (15) of an electronic component (14), especially a semi-conductor element with respect to a reference plane, wherein said lead (15) is illuminated from a first position situated sideways and out of a plane wherein the electronic component (14) is disposed, and wherein a first shadow image (17) of at least a part of said lead (15) is formed on an image plane, characterised in that said lead (15) is illuminated from a second position, different from said first position, for forming a second shadow image (18) on said image plane, and wherein a third respectively a fourth position is selected within said first (17) respectively said second shadow image (18), said position of said at least one lead (15) being determined from said third and fourth position.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that said third and respectively fourth position is located substantially in the middle of said first and respectively second shadow image.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that illuminating from said first and second position is done from substantially opposite positions.
4. A method according to anyone of the claims 1, 2 or 3, characterised in that a fifth position corresponding to the one wherein the reference plane is situated is determined.
5. A device for determining a position of at least one lead (15) of an electronic component (14), especially a semi-conductor element with respect to a reference plane comprising illumination means having a first light source (2) provided for illuminating said lead (15) from a first position situated sideways and out of a plane wherein the electronic component (14) is to be disposed, and comprising an image formation member for forming a first shadow image (17) of at least a part of said illuminated lead, characterised in that said illumination means are further having a second light source (4) provided for illuminating said lead from a second position, different from said first position and said image formation member is further provided for forming a second shadow image (18) of at least a part of said lead illuminated from said second position, and in that a position determining member, connected to said image formation member, is provided for selecting a third respectively a fourth position within said first (17) respectively said second (18) shadow image and for determining said at least one lead from said third and fourth position.
6. A device according to claim 5, characterised in that

said first and second position are situated substantially opposite one another.

7. A device according to claim 6, characterised in that said position determining means are provided for determining said position from the difference between said third and fourth position.
8. A device according to anyone of the claims 5-7, characterised in that said device comprises a frosted-glass plate (9) disposed in the beam path between said lead (15) and said image formation member.
9. A device according to anyone of the claims 5-8, characterised in that said image formation member comprises a camera (11).
10. A device according to claim 6, characterised in that said light source (2, 4) is a point source.
11. A device according to claim 10, characterised in that said point source is formed by a bicycle lamp.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zur Bestimmung einer Position mindestens eines Anschlusses (15) eines elektronischen Bauelements (14), insbesondere eines Halbleiterbauelements, bezüglich einer Referenzebene, wobei der Anschluß (15) von einer ersten Position angeleuchtet wird, die seitlich und außerhalb einer Ebene gelegen ist, in der das elektronische Bauelement (14) angeordnet ist, und wobei ein erstes Schattenbild (17) von mindestens einem Teil des Anschlusses (15) in einer Bildebene gebildet wird, **dadurch gekennzeichnet**, daß der Anschluß (15) von einer zweiten, von der ersten Position abweichenden Position zur Bildung eines zweiten Schattenbildes (18) in der Bildebene angeleuchtet wird, und wobei eine dritte bzw. eine vierte Position innerhalb des ersten (17) bzw. des zweiten Schattenbildes (18) gewählt wird, wobei die Position des mindestens einen Anschlusses (15) aus der dritten und vierten Position bestimmt wird.
2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die dritte bzw. vierte Position im wesentlichen in der Mitte des ersten bzw. zweiten Schattenbildes lokalisiert ist.
3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Anleuchten von der ersten und zweiten Position aus im wesentlichen gegenüberliegenden Positionen erfolgt.
4. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1, 2 oder 3,



dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eine fünfte Position bestimmt wird, die zu der einen, in der die Referenzebene gelegen ist, korrespondiert.

5. Vorrichtung zur Bestimmung einer Position mindestens eines Anschlusses (15) eines elektronischen Bauelements (14), insbesondere eines Halbleiterbauelements, bezüglich einer Referenzebene, wobei die Vorrichtung Anleuchtmittel mit einer ersten Lichtquelle (2) umfaßt, die zum Anleuchten des Anschlusses (15) von einer ersten Position aus vorgesehen ist, welche seitlich und außerhalb der Ebene, in der das elektronische Bauelement (14) angeordnet ist, gelegen ist, und die Vorrichtung ein Abbildungsteil zur Bildung eines ersten Schattenbildes (17) von mindestens einem Teil des angeleuchteten Anschlusses umfaßt,

dadurch gekennzeichnet,

daß die Anleuchtmittel weiter eine zweite Lichtquelle (4) aufweisen, die zum Anleuchten des Anschlusses von einer zweiten Position, welche von der ersten Position abweicht, vorgesehen ist, und das Abbildungsteil weiter zur Bildung eines zweiten Schattenbildes (18) von mindestens einem Teil des Anschlusses vorgesehen ist, der von der zweiten Position angeleuchtet ist, und daß ein an das Abbildungsteil angeschlossenes Positionsbestimmungsteil vorgesehen ist, um eine dritte bzw. eine vierte Position innerhalb des ersten (17) bzw. des zweiten (18) Schattenbildes auszuwählen und um den mindestens einen Anschluß aus der dritten und vierten Position zu bestimmen.

6. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die erste und zweite Position im wesentlichen einander gegenüberliegend angeordnet sind.

7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Positionsbestimmungsmittel zur Bestimmung der Position aus der Differenz zwischen der dritten und vierten Position vorgesehen sind.

8. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Vorrichtung eine Mattglasplatte (9) umfaßt, die in dem Strahlengang zwischen dem Anschluß (15) und dem Abbildungsteil angeordnet ist.

9. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Abbildungsteil eine Kamera (11) umfaßt.

10. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Lichtquelle (2, 4) eine Punktquelle ist.

11. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 10, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Punktquelle durch eine Fahrradlampe gebildet ist.

Revendications

1. Procédé pour déterminer une position d'au moins un conducteur (15) d'un composant (14) électronique, plus particulièrement un élément semi-conducteur par rapport à un plan de référence, suivant lequel ledit conducteur (15) est éclairé à partir d'une première position située latéralement et en dehors d'un plan où le composant (14) électronique est situé, et où une première image (17) d'ombre d'au moins une partie dudit conducteur (15) est formée sur un plan d'image, caractérisé en ce que ledit conducteur (15) est éclairé à partir d'une seconde position, différente de ladite première position, pour former une seconde image (18) d'ombre sur ledit plan d'image, et où une troisième respectivement une quatrième position est sélectionnée dans ladite première (17) respectivement ladite seconde image (18) d'ombre, ladite position dudit au moins un conducteur (15) étant déterminée à partir de ladite troisième et quatrième position.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que ladite troisième et respectivement quatrième position est située substantiellement au milieu de ladite première et respectivement seconde image d'ombre.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, caractérisé en ce que l'éclairage à partir de ladite première et seconde position est effectué à partir de positions substantiellement opposées.

4. Procédé selon une quelconque des revendications 1, 2 ou 3, caractérisé en ce qu'une cinquième position correspondant à celle où le plan de référence est situé est déterminée.

5. Dispositif pour déterminer une position d'au moins un conducteur (15) d'un composant (14) électronique, plus particulièrement un élément semi-conducteur par rapport à un plan de référence comprenant des moyens d'éclairage ayant une première source (2) de lumière agencée pour éclairer ledit conducteur (15) à partir d'une première position située latéralement et en dehors d'un plan où le composant (14) électronique doit être disposé, et comprenant un organe de formation d'image pour former une première image (17) d'ombre d'au moins une partie dudit conducteur éclairé, caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens d'éclairage disposent de plus d'une seconde source (4) de lumière agencée pour éclairer ledit conducteur à partir d'une seconde position,



différente de ladite première position et ledit organe de formation d'image est de plus agencé pour former une seconde image (18) d'ombre d'au moins une partie dudit conducteur éclairé à partir de ladite seconde position, et en ce qu'un organe de détermination de la position, connecté audit organe de formation d'image, est agencé pour sélectionner une troisième respectivement une quatrième position dans ladite première (17) respectivement ladite seconde image (18) d'ombre et pour déterminer ledit au moins un conducteur à partir de ladite troisième et quatrième position.

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6. Dispositif selon la revendication 5, caractérisé en ce que ladite première et seconde position sont situées substantiellement à l'opposé l'une de l'autre. 15
7. Dispositif selon la revendication 6, caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens de détermination de la position sont agencés pour déterminer ladite position à partir de la différence entre ladite troisième et quatrième position. 20
8. Dispositif selon une quelconque des revendications 5 à 7, caractérisé en ce que ledit dispositif comprend une plaque (9) de verre dépoli située dans la trajectoire du faisceau entre ledit conducteur (15) et ledit organe de formation d'image. 25
9. Dispositif selon une quelconque des revendications 5 à 8, caractérisé en ce que ledit organe de formation d'image comprend une caméra (11). 30
10. Dispositif selon la revendication 6, caractérisé en ce que ladite source (2, 4) de lumière est une source ponctuelle. 35
11. Dispositif selon la revendication 10, caractérisé en ce que ladite source ponctuelle est formée par une lampe de vélo. 40

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