CLAIMS

1. Apparatus (10) for enabling determination of position of an object (12), the apparatus comprising:

a baseplate (14) configured to support a fixture (16) for retaining the object (12), the base plate (14) comprising: a body (24) comprising: a first connector (26) configured to connect to a second connector (34) of the fixture (16); and a plurality of first reference marks (28) distributed on at least a first surface (30) of the body (24); and

a sensor (40) configured to obtain a first image of at least a subset of the first reference marks (28) and the first connector (26); and a controller (38) configured to determine a first distance between the subset of the first reference marks (28) and the first connector (26) using the first image.

2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first connector (26) is located on a second surface (32) of the body (24), the second surface (32) of the body (24) being different to the first surface (30) of the body (24).

3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first surface (30) of the body (24) is inclined at an angle relative to the second surface (32) of the body (24).

4. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims, further comprising a fixture (16) for retaining the object (12), the fixture (16) comprising a second connector (34) configured to connect to the first connector (26) of the baseplate (14).

5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first connector (26) of the baseplate (14) and the second connector (34) of the fixture (16) provide a zero point mounting system.

6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or 5, further comprising a reference frame (18) comprising a plurality of second reference marks (36), the reference frame (18) and the fixture (16) being configured to magnetically couple to one another.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sensor (40) is configured to obtain a second image of at least a subset of the second reference marks (36) and a subset of the first reference marks (28); and the controller (38) is configured to determine a second distance between the subset of the imaged first reference marks and the subset of the imaged second reference marks using the second image.

8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the controller (38) is configured to determine a position of the object (12) relative to the second connector (34) using the determined second distance.

9. Apparatus as claimed in any of the preceding claims, further comprising a tool (22) comprising a third connector (55) configured to connect to the second connector (34) of the fixture (16).

10. A method of enabling determination of a position of an object (12), the method comprising:

providing a baseplate (14) configured to support a fixture (16) for retaining the object (12), the base plate (14) comprising: a body (24) comprising a first connector (26) configured to connect to a second connector (34) of the fixture (16); and a plurality of first reference marks (28) distributed on at least a first surface (30) of the body (24);

obtaining a first image of at least a subset of the first reference marks (28) and the first connector (26); and

determining a first distance between the subset of the first reference marks (28) and the first connector (26) using the first image.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising: connecting an elongate member (33) to the first connector (26) of the baseplate (14); and wherein determining the first distance comprises determining a distance between the elongate member (33) and the subset of the first reference marks (28).

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 or 11, further comprising:

providing a fixture (16) for retaining the object (12), the fixture (16) comprising a second connector (34) configured to connect to the first connector (26) of the baseplate (14); and

connecting the second connector (34) of the fixture (16) to the first connector (26) of the baseplate (14).

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

providing a reference frame (18) comprising a plurality of second reference marks (36); and

magnetically coupling the reference frame (18) and the fixture (16) to one another.