~~What is claimed is:~~ CLAIMS

1. A surface light source device, comprising:

a light source that emits light;

a light guiding plate that guides light from the light source that is incident on a rear surface side or a side surface side and emits the light from a front surface side; ~~and~~

a diffusion plate disposed on the front surface side of the light guiding plate that diffuses the incident light from the light guiding plate to a front surface side; and

a reflecting polarizing plate disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate;

wherein the diffusion plate is made from nonwoven fabric with an areal weight of not less than 10 g/m^2 and not more than 40 g/m^2 ~~and has a haze of not less than 80% and a gain of not less than 1.025~~, and the diffusion plate is achromatic.

~~2. The surface light source device according to claim 1, wherein a reflection plate is disposed on the rear surface side of the light guiding plate.~~

~~3. The surface light source device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a reflecting polarizing plate is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.~~

4~~2~~. The surface light source device according to ~~any one of claims 1 through 3~~ claim 1, wherein a prism sheet is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.

5~~3~~. A surface light source device, comprising:

a light source that emits light; ~~and~~

a diffusion plate that diffuses to a front surface side thereof the light from the light source incident on a rear surface side thereof, and

a reflecting polarizing plate disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate;

wherein the diffusion plate is made from nonwoven fabric with an areal weight of not less than 10 g/m^2 and not more than 40 g/m^2 ~~and has a haze of not less than 80% and a gain of not less than 1.025~~, and the diffusion plate is achromatic.

~~6. The surface light source device according to claim 5, wherein a reflection plate is disposed on the rear surface side of the diffusion plate.~~

~~7. The surface light source device according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein a reflecting polarizing plate is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.~~

~~8~~4. The surface light source device according to ~~any one of claims 5 through 7~~ claim 3, wherein a prism sheet is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.