

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

ILLUMINATION OPTICAL SYSTEM AND PROJECTOR COMPRISING THE SAME

Brightness of optical equipment can be adjusted as required. An illumination optical system comprises a light source, a lens array composed of a plurality of lenses for splitting light emitted from the light source into a plurality of sub-beams and a polarization conversion element for adjusting the light polarization directions. The illumination optical system further comprises a light shielding member between the lens array and the polarization conversion element to adjust the quantity of incident light on polarization splitting films provided in the polarization conversion element.

(Figure 8)