

ABSTRACT

PROTECTIVE FILM DETECTING METHOD

A protective film detecting method is a method for detecting whether or not a workpiece is coated with a water-soluble protective film. The method includes a preparatory step before detection and a detecting step ST2. The preparatory step includes: a reflection intensity acquiring step of irradiating with infrared light a first region coated with the water-soluble protective film and a second region not coated with the water-soluble protective film, of a reference, receiving the reflected light, and thereby acquiring an intensity of reflection from the first region and an intensity of reflection from the second region; and a threshold determining step of determining a threshold from the intensity of reflection from the first region and the intensity of reflection from the second region at a wavenumber of 3000 cm^{-1} to 3600 cm^{-1} . The detecting step includes irradiating a surface of the workpiece with the infrared light, receiving the reflected light, and comparing the thus obtained intensity of reflection with the threshold.

(Figure 6)