

VARIABLE POWER FINDER AND IMAGING APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001]

5 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a variable power finder, and more particularly to a variable power finder suitable for a digital camera or the like, which is small in size and has an excellent optical performance, and also to an imaging
10 apparatus using the same.

[0002]

2. Related Art

Conventionally, in a camera in which a photographing system and a finder system are separately configured, where
15 the photographing system has a variable power function, the variable power function corresponding to the variation in an imaging angle of view is also configured in the finder system. As the above-mentioned finder system, real image type variable power finders, in which the visibility of a view frame
20 is good and a predetermined variable power ratio is easily obtained, are variously proposed.

[0003]

As the real image type variable power finder, those disclosed in Patent Document 1 and Patent Document 2 below
25 are known. They are provided with a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group and a positive third lens group, as an objective optical system. They try to shorten the entire length by dividing an inverting optical system which converts an inverted image taken by the objective optical
30 system into an erecting image and by displacing a part of reflection unit to a back focus unit of the objective optical

system.

[0004]

Also, in Patent Document 3, it is designed to further shorten the entire length by placing a third lens group on the incident surface of the inverting optical system.

[0005]

[Patent Document 1] Japanese Patent Application
Publication No. JP-A-Heisei 1-116616

[Patent Document 2] Japanese Patent Application
Publication No. JP-A-Heisei, 4-194913

[Patent Document 3] Japanese Patent Application
Publication No. JP-A-Heisei, 4-194913

[0006]

However, the trend toward compact models of the digital cameras in recent years has been progressed more than expected, and the further reduction in the entire length of the objective optical system is required. So, in order to attain the further miniaturization from the present situation, it is necessary to make the refractive force of each lens group stronger. However, it is very difficult to excellently compensate the various aberrations induced in the respective lens groups while maintaining the predetermined variable power ratio.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007]

Embodiments of the present invention seek to solve the above-mentioned problems.

[0008]

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a variable power finder comprising: an objective optical system having a positive refractive force; an inverting optical system for converting an inverted image taken by said objective optical system into an erecting image; and an ocular optical system having a positive refractive force to observe said erecting image obtained by said inverting optical system, arranged in the order from the object side, said objective optical system being composed of a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a positive third lens group, said second lens group being displaced onto an optical axis, performing variable power and compensating visibility change caused by said performed variable power through said displacement of said first lens group, wherein said third lens group being constituted by one lens prism having at least one reflection surface, and expressions (1) to (4) below are satisfied: (1) $f_3/f_w \geq 2.5$ (2) $-1.0 < (R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31}) < 1.0$ (3) $L_1/f_w^2 \leq 0.45$ (4) $L_2/f_w^2 \geq 0.03$ where f_3 is a focal distance of said third lens group, f_w is a focal distance at an wide angle end of said objective optical system, R_{31} is a curvature radius of an object side lens surface of said lens prism, R_{32} is a curvature radius of an image side lens surface of said lens prism, L_1 is an air equivalent distance from a middle imaging surface to the object side lens surface of said lens prism, and L_2 is a distance from the middle imaging surface to said image side lens surface of the lens prism, wherein said lens prism P1 of said third lens group G3 is designed such that an object side lens is constituted by spherical surface and image side lens surface is at least constituted by aspherical surface whose curvature is reduced as it gets away from the optical axis.

[0009]

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an imaging apparatus having a variable power finder, said finder comprising: an objective optical system

having a positive refractive force; an inverting optical system for converting an inverted image taken by said objective optical system into an erecting image; and an ocular optical system having a positive refractive force to observe said erecting image obtained by said inverting optical system, arranged in the order from the object side, said objective optical system being composed of a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a positive third lens group, said second lens group being displaced onto an optical axis, performing variable power and compensating visibility change caused by said performed variable power through said displacement of said first lens group, wherein said third lens group of said variable power finder being constituted by one lens prism having at least one reflection surface, and expressions (1) to (4) below are satisfied:

$$(1) f_3/f_w \geq 2.5 \quad (2) -1.0 < (R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31}) < 1.0 \quad (3) L_1/f_w^2 \leq 0.45$$

(4) $L_2/f_w^2 \geq 0.03$ where f_3 is a focal distance of said third lens group, f_w is a focal distance at an wide angle end of said objective optical system, R_{31} is a curvature radius of an object side lens surface of said lens prism, R_{32} is a curvature radius of an image side lens surface of said lens prism, L_1 is an air equivalent distance from a middle imaging surface to the object side lens surface of said lens prism, and L_2 is a distance from the middle imaging surface to said image side lens surface of the lens prism, wherein said lens prism P1 of said third lens group G3 is designed such that an object side lens is constituted by spherical surface and an image side lens surface is at least constituted by aspherical surface whose curvature is reduced as it gets away from the optical axis.

[0010]

In the above aspects, the

expression (1) sets the ratio of the focal distance of the third lens group to the focal distance at the wide angle end of the objective optical system. The expression (2) defines the shape of the lens prism constituting the third lens group as the lens shape of both convexes. The expression (3) sets the ratio of the air equivalent distance to the object side lens surface of the lens prism from the middle imaging surface to the square of the focal distance at the wide angle end of the objective optical system. And, the expression (4) sets the ratio of the distance to the image side lens surface of the lens prism from the middle imaging surface to the square of the focal distance at the wide angle end of the objective optical system. By satisfying those expressions, it may be possible to provide the variable power finder which is small in size and excellent in mass production and has the good optical performance.

[0011]

Embodiments of the present invention can attain the real image type finder which is small in size, good in optical performance, rid of visible dust, suitable for mass production, and high in variable power. It may be possible to miniaturize the imaging apparatus, such as a digital still camera or the like, to make the performance high and to make its cost down.

The variable power finder according to embodiments of the present invention can be installed in the body of and applied to the imaging apparatus, such as a digital still camera, a digital video camera or the like.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective view explaining a

variable power finder according to a first embodiment of the arrangement.

FIG. 2 is a schematic perspective view explaining a variable power finder according to a second embodiment of the arrangement.

FIG. 3A to 3C are configuration views of an optical system corresponding to Example 1.

FIG. 4A to 4C are aberration views corresponding to a wide angle end (WIDE) of Example 1.

FIG. 5A to 5C are aberration views corresponding to a middle (MID) of Example 1.

FIG. 6A to 6C are aberration views corresponding to a telescopic end (TELE) of Example 1.

FIG. 7A to 7C are configuration views of an optical system corresponding to Example 2.

FIG. 8A to 8C are aberration views corresponding to a wide angle end (WIDE) of Example 2.

FIG. 9A to 9C are aberration views corresponding to a middle (MID) of Example 2.

FIG. 10A to 10C are aberration views corresponding to a telescopic end (TELE) of Example 2.

FIG. 11A to 11C are configuration views of an optical system corresponding to Example 3.

FIG. 12A to 12C are aberration views corresponding to a wide angle end (WIDE) of Example 3.

FIG. 13A to 13C are aberration views corresponding to a middle (MID) of Example 3.

FIG. 14A to 14C are aberration view corresponding to a telescopic end (TELE) of Example 3.

FIG. 15A to 15C are configuration views of an optical system corresponding to Example 4.

FIG. 16A to 16C are aberration views corresponding to a wide angle end (WIDE) of Example 4.

FIG. 17A to 17C are aberration views corresponding to a middle (MID) of Example 4.

5 FIG. 18A to 18C are aberration views corresponding to a telescopic end (TELE) of Example 4.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0012]

10 Embodiments and examples of the present invention will be described below with reference to the drawings. FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective view explaining a variable power finder according to a first embodiment of the arrangement, and FIG. 2 is a schematic perspective view explaining a variable
15 power finder according to a second embodiment of the arrangement.

[0013]

The variable power finders according to these embodiments are provided with: an objective optical system 1
20 having a positive refractive force; an inverting optical system 2 for converting an inverted image taken by the objective optical system 1 into an erecting image; and an ocular optical system 3 having a positive refractive force to observe the erecting image obtained by the inverting optical system, in the
25 order from the object side.

[0014]

Among them, the objective optical system 1 is composed of a negative first lens group G1 constituted by one concave lens, a positive second lens group G2 constituted by one convex
30 lens and a positive third lens group G3 constituted by one convex lens. The variable power is carried out by displacing

the second lens group G2 from a pupil side to an object side, and compensates the visibility change in the finder caused by the that by displacing the first lens group G1 so that the convex locus is drawn onto the pupil side. By the way, the third lens group G3 is fixed when the variable power is carried out.

[0015]

Also, the third lens group G3 is constituted by a lens prism P1 having two reflection surfaces, and this is designed to shorten the entire length of the variable power finder. In the first embodiment shown in Fig. 1, the lens prism P1 of the third lens group G3 is used to reflect an image to a vertical direction, and a prism P2 is then used to reflect the image to a horizontal direction. On the other hand, in the second embodiment shown in Fig. 2, the lens prism P1 of the third lens group G3 is used to reflect the image to the horizontal direction, and the prism P2 is then used to reflect the image to the vertical direction.

[0016]

In these embodiments, the third lens group G3 in this objective optical system is designed so as to satisfy the following expressions (1) to (4). Consequently, it enables to attain the real image type of the variable power finder which is excellent in the mass production while having the small size and excellent optical performance.

[0017]

- (1) $f_3/f_w \geq 2.5$
- (2) $-1.0 < (R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31}) < 1.0$
- (3) $L_1/f_w^2 \leq 0.45$
- (4) $L_2/f_w^2 \geq 0.03$

Here, f_3 is a focal distance of the third lens group G3, f_w is a focal distance at an wide angle end of the objective optical system 1, R_{31} is a curvature radius of a object side lens surface of the lens prism P1, R_{32} is a curvature radius of an
5 image side lens surface of the lens prism P1, L_1 is an air equivalent distance from a middle imaging surface to the object side lens surface of the lens prism P1, and L_2 is a distance from the middle imaging surface to the image side
10 lens surface of the lens prism P1.

[0018]

Also, in these embodiments, the lens prism P1 of the third lens group G3 is designed such that an image side lens surface r_6 is at least constituted by the aspherical surface
15 whose curvature is reduced as it gets away from the optical axis, and the second lens group G2 of the objective optical system 1 is designed to satisfy the following expression (5).

[0019]

$$(5) \quad \beta_{2t}/\beta_{2w} \geq 2.5$$

20 In the expression (5), β_{2w} is a lateral magnification at the wide angle end of the second lens group G2, and β_{2t} is a lateral magnification at the telescopic end of the second lens group G2.

[0020]

25 Here, among the above-mentioned expressions, the expression (1) sets the ratio of the focal distance of the third lens group G3 to the focal distance at the wide angle end of the objective optical system 1, and limits the refractive force of the third lens group G3. If it is less than the lower limit of this
30 expression (1), the refractive force of the second lens group G2 which is responsible for the variable power is reduced. For

this reason, in order to obtain the necessary variable power ratio, the displacement of the second lens group G2 becomes great, which makes the entire length long. At the same time, the spherical aberration on the under side generated in the third lens group G3 becomes great, which makes the optical performance poor. Thus, the satisfaction with this expression (1) enables the attainments of the miniaturization of the entire length of the variable power finder and the improvement of the optical property.

10 [0021]

Also, the expression (2) defines the shape of the lens prism P1 constituting the third lens group G3 as the lens shape of both convexes, and mainly limits the generation amount of off-axis aberration. The satisfaction with this expression (2) enables the compensation for the off-axis aberration, especially, image surface distortion and distortion aberration.

[0022]

Also, the expression (3) sets the ratio of the air equivalent distance from the middle imaging surface to the object side lens surface r_6 of the lens prism P1 to the square of the focal distance at the wide angle end of the objective optical system 1. The satisfaction with this expression (3) can suppress an optical path length from being excessively long and attain the miniaturization.

[0023]

Also, the expression (4) sets the ratio of the distance from the middle imaging surface to the image side lens surface r_6 of the lens prism P1 to the square of the focal distance at the wide angle end of the objective optical system 1. If this value goes down to the lower limit of this expression (4), the

eyes will focus on the dust which is attached on the image side lens surface r6 of the lens prism P1. Consequently, the yield of manufacturing is made poor. Thus, if this expression (4) is satisfied, it is possible to attain the variable power finder
5 which is suitable for the mass production.

[0024]

Moreover, in this embodiment, the lens prism P1 of the third lens group G3 is designed such that the image side lens surface r6 is at least constituted by the aspherical surface
10 whose curvature is reduced as it gets away from the optical axis. In short, the image side lens surface r6 in which light flux is made narrow is constituted by the aspherical surface so that the distortion aberration is mainly compensated. Also, in this configuration, since the sensibility to the surface
15 eccentricity of the image side lens surface r6 is low, the manufacturing allowance can be relaxed, thereby attaining the improvement in the mass productivity.

[0025]

Also, the expression (5) sets the ratio of the lateral
20 magnification between the wide angle end and telescopic end of the second lens group G2. The satisfaction with this expression (5) can provide the real image type variable power finder having high variable power.

[Example 1]

25 [0026]

Examples 1 to 4 below will be described referring to the values according to the present invention. In the respective examples, the meanings of the symbols are as follows.

30 [0027]

2ω : entire image angle of view in diagonal

S_i : the i -th surface counted from object side
 R_i : curvature radius of the above i -th surface S_i
 d_i : distance between the i -th surface and the $(i+1)$ -th surface from object side
5 n_i : refractive index in d-line (wavelength 587.6nm) of the i -th lens
 v_i : the Abbe' number of the i -th lens
 $*$: surface where aspherical surface is used

[0028]

10 Also, the aspherical shape is defined by the following equation 1, where the depth of the aspherical surface is assumed to be X , and the height from the optical axis is assumed to be H . In the equation 1, A , B , C , and D are the fourth, sixth, eighth and tenth aspherical coefficients,
15 respectively.

[0029]

Equation 1

$$X = \frac{H^2/R}{1 + \sqrt{1 - (H/R)^2}} + AH^4 + BH^6 + CH^8 + DH^{10}$$

[0030]

20 FIG. 3A to 3C are optical system configuration views of a variable power finder according to Example 1. FIG. 4A to 4C are aberration views corresponding to the wide angle end (WIDE) of the variable power finder according to the example 1. FIG. 5A to 5C are aberration views corresponding to the
25 middle (MID) of the variable power finder according to Example 1. And, FIG. 6A to 6C are aberration views corresponding to the telescopic end (TELE) of the variable power finder according to Example 1. Here in Example 1, the configuration of the variable power finder is arranged

according to the first embodiment of the arrangement shown in FIG. 1.

[0031]

Also, Table 1 is the data indicating the configuration of the optical system according to Example 1. Table 2 is the data indicating the aspherical coefficients according to Example 1. Table 3 is the data indicating the change in the distance between the groups caused by the variable power according to Example 1. And, Table 4 is the data indicating the values of the expressions (1) to (5) according to Example 1.

[0032]

Table 1

$2\omega = 51.89^\circ$ to 18.27°

Si	Ri	di	ni	vi
1*	-33.839	0.80	1.5826	29.0
2*	11.598	D2		
3*	9.425	1.85	1.492	57.4
4*	-11.553	D4		
5	13.500	11.5	1.5247	56.2
6*	-17.436	2.00		
7	middle imaging surface	2.00		
8	∞	16.00	1.5247	56.2
9	-15.180	7.00		
10*	18.476	2.00	1.492	57.4
11*	-65.537	16.00		
12	eye point			

15

[0033]

Table 2

Si	A	B	C	D
1*	-3.32E-04	5.50E-05	-5.89E-06	2.67E-07
2*	-1.22E-03	3.08E-04	-4.99E-05	2.93E-06
3*	-1.07E-03	2.27E-04	-3.48E-05	1.61E-06
4*	-4.12E-04	1.89E-04	-2.93E-05	1.33E-06
6*	5.42E-03	-1.51E-03	2.42E-04	-1.39E-05
10*	2.04E-04	-2.25E-05	1.97E-06	-4.80E-08
11*	3.50E-04	-3.87E-05	3.20E-06	-8.05E-08

[0034]

Table 3

di	WIDE	MID	TELE
D2	13.18	6.19	1.99
D4	0.50	4.83	11.95

5

[0035]

Table 4

	EXPRESSION	VALUE
(1)	f_3/f_w	3.23
(2)	$(R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31})$	0.13
(3)	L_1/f_w^2	0.36
(4)	L_2/f_w^2	0.076
(5)	β_{2t}/β_{2w}	2.7

10 [Example 2]

[0036]

FIG. 7A to 7C are optical system configuration views of a variable power finder according to Example 2. FIG. 8A to 8C are aberration views corresponding to the wide angle end (WIDE) of the variable power finder according to Example 2. FIG. 9A to 9C are aberration views corresponding to the middle (MID) of the variable power finder according to Example 2. And, FIG. 10A to 10C are aberration views corresponding to the telescopic end (TELE) of the variable

power finder according to Example 2.

Here in Example 2, the configuration of the variable power finder is arranged according to the first embodiment of the arrangement shown in FIG. 1.

5 [0037]

Also, Table 5 is the data indicating the configuration of the optical system according to Example 2. Table 6 is the data indicating the aspherical coefficients according to Example 2. Table 7 is the data indicating the change in the distance between the groups caused by the variable power according to Example 2. And, Table 8 is the data indicating the values of the expressions (1) to (5) according to Example 2.
[0038]

Table 5

15

$2\omega = 51.40^\circ$ to 18.23°

Si	Ri	di	ni	vi
1*	-73.532	0.8	1.492	57.4
2*	8.044	D2		
3*	8.911	1.85	1.492	57.4
4*	-12.288	D4		
5	13.7	11.50	1.5247	56.2
6*	-17.541	2.00		
7	middle imaging surface	2.00		
8	∞	16.00	1.5247	56.2
9	-15.18	7.00		
10*	18.295	2.00	1.492	57.4
11*	-69.939	16.00		
12	eye point			

[0039]

Table 6

Si	A	B	C	D
1*	-1.23E-03	1.31E-05	8.98E-06	-6.05E-07
2*	-2.48E-03	2.67E-04	-3.01E-05	1.54E-06
3*	-1.10E-03	2.46E-04	-3.25E-05	1.37E-06
4*	-4.13E-04	2.09E-04	-2.76E-05	1.15E-06
6*	4.97E-03	-1.22E-03	1.86E-04	-1.04E-05
10*	2.02E-04	-2.28E-05	1.92E-06	-4.65E-08
11*	3.51E-04	-4.01E-05	3.25E-06	-8.18E-08

[0040]

Table 7

di	WIDE	MID	TELE
D2	13.16	6.26	2.09
D4	0.50	4.74	11.64

5

[0041]

Table 8

	EXPRESSION	VALUE
(1)	f_3/f_w	3.24
(2)	$(R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31})$	0.12
(3)	L_1/f_w^2	0.36
(4)	L_2/f_w^2	0.075
(5)	β_{2t}/β_{2w}	2.7

10 [Example 3]

[0042]

FIG. 11A to 11C are optical system configuration views of a variable power finder according to Example 3. FIG. 12A to 12C are aberration views corresponding to the wide angle end (WIDE) of the variable power finder according to Example 3. FIG. 13A to 13C are aberration views corresponding to the middle (MID) of the variable power finder according to Example 3. And, FIG. 14A to 14C are aberration views corresponding to the telescopic end (TELE) of the variable

power finder according to Example 3. Here in Example 3, the configuration of the variable power finder is arranged according to the second embodiment of the arrangement shown in FIG. 2.

5 [0043]

Also, Table 9 is the data indicating the configuration of the optical system according to Example 3. Table 10 is the data indicating the aspherical coefficients according to Example 3. Table 11 is the data indicating the change in
10 distance between the groups caused by the variable power according to Example 3. And, Table 12 is the data indicating the values of the expressions (1) to (5) according to Example 3.
[0044]

Table 9

15 $2\omega = 51.52^\circ$ to 18.25°

Si	Ri	di	ni	vi
1*	-17.319	0.80	1.5826	29.0
2*	14.098	D2		
3*	9.595	2.00	1.4920	57.4
4*	-9.804	D4		
5	32.6	14.50	1.5247	56.2
6*	-9.168	2.00		
7	middle imaging surface	2.00		
8	∞	16.00	1.5247	56.2
9	-25.66	7.00		
10*	16.984	2.00	1.4920	57.4
11*	-38.851	16.00		
12	eye point			

[0045]

Table 10

Si	A	B	C	D
1*	3.97E-04	-1.40E-04	2.41E-05	-1.27E-06
2*	-3.56E-04	1.14E-05	3.52E-06	-2.01E-07
3*	-5.07E-04	4.46E-05	-1.09E-05	6.01E-07
4*	2.10E-04	3.05E-05	-9.18E-06	4.97E-07
6*	2.95E-03	-4.43E-04	5.92E-05	-2.83E-06
10*	1.92E-04	-1.76E-05	1.77E-06	-4.04E-08
11*	3.53E-04	-3.21E-05	2.87E-06	-6.83E-08

[0046]

Table 11

di	WIDE	MID	TELE
D2	12.85	6.32	2.32
D4	0.50	4.47	11.04

5 [0047]

Table 12

	EXPRESSION	VALUE
(1)	f_3/f_w	2.77
(2)	$(R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31})$	-0.56
(3)	L_1/f_w^2	0.37
(4)	L_2/f_w^2	0.064
(5)	$\beta_{2t}/2w\beta$	2.7

[Example 4]

10 [0048]

FIG. 15A to 15C are optical system configuration views of a variable power finder according to Example 4. FIG. 16A to 16C are aberration views corresponding to the wide angle end (WIDE) of the variable power finder according to Example 4. FIG. 17A to 17C are aberration views corresponding to the middle (MID) of the variable power finder according to Example 4. And, FIG. 18A to 18C are aberration views corresponding to the telescopic end (TELE) of the variable power finder according to Example 4. Here in Example 4, the

configuration of the variable power finder is arranged according to the second embodiment of the arrangement shown in FIG. 2.

[0049]

5 Also, Table 13 is the data indicating the configuration of the optical system according to Example 4. Table 14 is the data indicating the aspherical coefficients according to Example 4. Table 15 is the data indicating the change in the distance between the groups caused by the variable power
10 according to Example 4. And, Table 16 is the data indicating the values of the expressions (1) to (5) according to Example 4.

[0050]

Table 13

$$2\omega = 51.47^\circ \text{ to } 18.20^\circ$$

Si	Ri	di	ni	vi
1*	-12.3	0.80	1.4920	57.4
2*	14	D2		
3*	9.612	2.00	1.4920	57.4
4*	-9.2	D4		
5	34.58	14.50	1.5247	56.2
6*	-8.673	2.00		
7	middle imaging surface	2.00		
8	∞	16.00	1.5247	56.2
9	-24.1	7.00		
10*	18.026	2.00	1.4920	57.4
11*	-37.078	16.00		
12	eye point			

[0051]

Table 14

Si	A	B	C	D
1*	4.38E-04	-8.35E-05	2.31E-05	-1.55E-06
2*	-3.95E-04	5.67E-05	5.26E-06	-6.52E-07
3*	-5.12E-04	7.05E-06	-8.25E-06	5.05E-07
4*	2.21E-04	1.35E-05	-9.33E-06	5.12E-07
6*	1.21E-03	1.50E-04	-1.22E-05	2.08E-07
10*	2.12E-04	-2.08E-05	1.66E-06	-3.10E-08
11*	3.67E-04	-3.57E-05	2.74E-06	-5.64E-08

[0052]

Table 15

di	WIDE	MID	TELE
D2	11.84	5.60	1.74
D4	0.50	4.33	10.69

5

[0053]

Table 16

	EXPRESSION	VALUE
(1)	$f3/fw$	2.61
(2)	$(R32+R31)/(R32-R31)$	-0.6
(3)	$L1/fw^2$	0.35
(4)	$L2/fw^2$	0.061
(5)	$\beta2t/\beta2w$	2.7

What is claimed is:

1. A variable power finder comprising:

an objective optical system having a positive refractive force;

5 an inverting optical system for converting an inverted image taken by said objective optical system into an erecting image; and

an ocular optical system having a positive refractive force to observe said erecting image obtained by said inverting
10 optical system, arranged in the order from the object side,

said objective optical system being composed of a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a positive third lens group,

said second lens group being displaced onto an optical
15 axis, performing variable power and compensating visibility change caused by said performed variable power through said displacement of said first lens group,

wherein said third lens group being constituted by one lens prism having at least one reflection surface, and
20 expressions (1) to (4) below are satisfied:

(1) $f_3/fw \geq 2.5$

(2) $-1.0 < (R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31}) < 1.0$

(3) $L_1/fw^2 \leq 0.45$

(4) $L_2/fw^2 \geq 0.03$

25 where f_3 is a focal distance of said third lens group,

fw is a focal distance at an wide angle end of said objective optical system,

R_{31} is a curvature radius of an object side lens surface of said lens prism,

30 R_{32} is a curvature radius of an image side lens surface of said lens prism,

L1 is an air equivalent distance from a middle imaging surface to the object side lens surface of said lens prism, and

L2 is a distance from the middle imaging surface to said image side lens surface of the lens prism,

wherein said lens prism P1 of said third lens group G3 is designed such that an object side lens is constituted by spherical surface and image side lens surface is at least constituted by aspherical surface whose curvature is reduced as it gets away from the optical axis.

2. A variable power finder according to claim 1 ;
wherein said second lens group G2 of said objective

optical system is designed to satisfy the following expression (5):

$$(5) \quad \beta_t/\beta_{2w} \geq 2.5$$

where β_{2w} is a lateral magnification at the wide angle end of said second lens group G2, and β_{2t} is a lateral magnification at the telescopic end of said second lens group G2.

3. An imaging apparatus having a variable power finder, said finder comprising:

an objective optical system having a positive refractive force;

an inverting optical system for converting an inverted image taken by said objective optical system into an erecting image; and

an ocular optical system having a positive refractive force to observe said erecting image obtained by said inverting optical system, arranged in the order from the object side,

said objective optical system being composed of a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a positive third lens group,

said second lens group being displaced onto an optical axis, performing variable power and compensating visibility change caused by said performed variable power through said displacement of said first lens group,

wherein said third lens group of said variable power finder being constituted by one lens prism having at least one reflection surface, and

expressions (1) to (4) below are satisfied:

$$(1) \quad f_3/f_w \geq 2.5$$

$$(2) \quad -1.0 < (R_{32}+R_{31})/(R_{32}-R_{31}) < 1.0$$

$$(3) \quad L_1/f_w^2 \leq 0.45$$

$$(4) \quad L_2/f_w^2 \geq 0.03$$

where f_3 is a focal distance of said third lens group,

f_w is a focal distance at an wide angle end of said objective optical system,

R_{31} is a curvature radius of an object side lens surface of said lens prism,

R_{32} is a curvature radius of an image side lens surface of said lens prism,

L_1 is an air equivalent distance from a middle imaging surface to the object side lens surface of said lens prism, and

L_2 is a distance from the middle imaging surface to said image side lens surface of the lens prism,

wherein said lens prism P1 of said third lens group G3 is designed such that an object side lens is constituted by spherical surface and an image side lens surface is at least constituted by aspherical surface whose curvature is reduced as it gets away from the optical axis.

4. An imaging apparatus according to claims 3, wherein said second lens group G2 of said objective optical system is designed to satisfy the following expression (5):

$$(5) \quad \beta_{2t}/\beta_{2w} \geq 2.5$$

where β_{2w} is a lateral magnification at the wide angle end of said second lens group G2, and β_{2t} is a lateral magnification at the telescopic end of said second lens group G2.