

ABSTRACT

An optical path coupling member aligns an optical axis directed to a light condensing member of the first wavelength light having a shortest wavelength with that of the third wavelength light having a longest wavelength. A diffraction element condenses +2nd order diffracted light of the first wavelength light and +1st order diffracted light of the second wavelength light and third wavelength light into a first photodetector, the -2nd order diffracted light of the first wavelength light and -1st order diffracted light of the third wavelength light into a second photodetector, and -1st order diffracted light of the remaining second wavelength light into a photodetector, using ± 2 nd order diffracted light of the first wavelength light and ± 1 st order diffracted light of the second wavelength light and third wavelength light as signal light from an optical information recording medium. Consequently, the overall size of the optical pickup apparatus is reduced.

Fig. 1