

Nanostructure Die, Embossing Roll, Device and Method for Continuous Embossing of Nanostructures

Specification

This invention relates to a nanostructure die for embossing of an embossing roll as claimed in Claim 1, an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures as claimed in Claim 4, a device for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures as claimed in Claim 7, a method for producing a nanostructure die for producing an embossing roll as claimed in Claim 11, and a method for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures as claimed in Claim 14. Moreover this invention relates to a method for producing an embossing substrate which has nanostructures as claimed in Claim 18.

In the development of mass production technologies of nanostructured surfaces and semiconductor structures for large area applications such as for example foils or films, there is a demand for functioning roll-to-roll machines which are able to emboss continuous nanostructured and/or semiconductor structures via rolling onto a track or a long workpiece. Major problems prevail here, especially in an application for imprint lithography; this has not been satisfactorily resolved to date.

In particular, one problem is to produce continuous patterns in the submicron or nanometer range. It can be easily imagined that as the embossing structures become smaller and smaller the technical problems increase in the implementation of continuous application to an above average degree.

The object of this invention is therefore to devise a nanostructure die and an embossing roll and method and device for producing them, with which continuous embossing of nanostructures is

possible even for very small dimensions of the nanostructures, especially relative to the size or to the diameter of the embossing roll, and reliable and reproducible results can be achieved. The diameters of current embossing rolls are known to one skilled in the art. The embodiment as claimed in the invention is in any case suitable for any diameter.

This object is achieved with the features of Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 14 and 18. Advantageous developments of the invention are given in the dependent claims. All combinations of at least two of the features given in the specification, the claims and/or the figures also fall within the framework of the invention. At the given value ranges values which lie within the indicated limits are also to be considered disclosed and claimed in any combination.

The invention is based on the idea of applying an embossing structure which is to be applied to the embossing roll in the step- and-repeat process such that there is seamless embossing on the entire periphery. To do this, as claimed in the invention a novel nanostructure die is disclosed which is suitable for a step-and-repeat process in order to apply a repeating structure on the periphery of the embossing roll.

It is also conceivable as claimed in the invention to apply the structure along one axis of rotation of a body of revolution in the step-and-repeat process. It is of special importance as claimed in the invention to produce a seamless microstructure or nanostructure with embossing in several steps so that the embossing roll in the later unwinding process can be transferred to the workpiece (producing an embossing substrate, also embossing product) more or less endlessly or continuously, therefore by a plurality of complete revolutions. The highly symmetrical and translational repetitions of the patterns which can be achieved with the step-and-repeat process makes it possible to generate materials with unique surface properties, especially with periodically repeating

structures. Use is especially advantageous in the field of optics, for example in the imprinting of glass plates. Symmetry in optics is of very great importance, especially when the desired optical effects can be achieved with greatest precision by highly symmetrical structures. Seamless means that within the tolerances of the step-and-repeat process on the entire periphery homogenous structures are embossed, especially also on the transition of the last embossing step to the first embossing step of peripheral embossing of the embossing roll.

Therefore an independent invention is a nanostructure die with a for example concavely curved nanostructured die surface for seamless embossing of at least one peripheral ring of a jacket surface of an embossing roll in the step-and-repeat process. The die surface of the nanostructure die is thus matched to the jacket surface of the embossing roll so that the entire jacket surface of an embossing roll can be embossed with a single nanostructure die. The simultaneous use of several nanostructure dies in the embossing of an embossing roll is likewise conceivable as claimed in the invention.

To the extent the nanostructure die has a die carrier to which a die form which encompasses the die surface is connected, especially permanently, the handling of the nanostructure die in a corresponding device for embossing of the embossing roll is simplified.

It is especially advantageous if the die form is produced directly by the embossing roll which is to be embossed. In this way the curvature of the nanostructure die or of the die surface of the nanostructure die corresponds exactly to the embossing roll which is to be embossed.

According to one advantageous embodiment of the invention, the die carrier is transparent to electromagnetic waves, especially UV light, in order to be able to provide curing of the die form and/or of the embossing layer of the embossing roll, which layer is to be embossed.

To the extent a radiation source for electromagnetic waves, especially a UV source, is located within the embossing roll, especially in the form of a hollow cylinder, there is preferably a shielding means for the electromagnetic waves in regions of the embossing roll which are not to be exposed, especially on its inner periphery. This is preferably a UV-opaque protective jacket which protects all those sites which are not to be illuminated and is interrupted only on those regions through which the UV light is intended to pass in order to cure the embossing layer which can be cured by UV.

Advantageously a radian measure of the die surface of the nanostructure die as claimed in the invention in one unwinding direction on the embossing roll with reference to a corresponding circular periphery of the embossing layer to be embossed is an integral part so that in complete embossing of the circular periphery of the embossing layer in the unwinding direction of the embossing roll seamless embossing takes place. To the extent there is an overlapping section in the individual embossing steps as claimed in the invention, the radian measure can be expanded by the overlapping section.

In addition it is provided as claimed in the invention that the die can be dynamically deformed by deformation means, especially by external influence, in the micrometer and/or nanometer ranges, especially can be stretched and/or compressed.

In one embodiment of the deformation means this is achieved by the thermal expansion of the die by heating and/or cooling. In another embodiment, piezomaterials are used. For one skilled in the art in the field it is clear that the stretching of the die can be achieved in any manner, as long as it is ensured that the embossing structures pass seamlessly into one another when the surface is closed. To do this, there can be measurement means for measuring the ratios of the die surface

relative to the circular periphery of the embossing roll, especially for detection during the working (embossing). Alternatively, the degree of deformation can be fixed by calibration, especially by an embossing of the periphery. It is also conceivable as claimed in the invention to measure the periphery of the embossing roll with and/or without the embossing layer on the one hand and the dimension of the die surface on the other and then to determine the deformation, especially by computation. As claimed in the invention especially scanning force microscopes and/or optical microscopes and/or scanning electron microscopes are suitable as measurement methods.

An independent invention is also the embossing roll which has been produced especially with the nanostructure die as claimed in the invention for continuous embossing of nanostructures with an embossing layer which has been applied to a body of revolution with a jacket surface with at least one peripheral ring which has been embossed in the step-and-repeat process and formed seamlessly in the peripheral direction. Periodically repeating structures can be applied to a workpiece with the embossing roll.

The embossing roll can be advantageously produced by the jacket surface being embossed by the nanostructure die as claimed in the invention.

It is especially advantageous if the body of revolution is made as a cylinder, especially a circular cylinder. Thus the embossing roll can be advantageously used both in the production of the embossing roll and also in the functional use of the embossing roll in the continuous embossing of nanostructures (imprints).

An independent invention is moreover a device for producing an embossing roll as claimed in the invention for continuous embossing of nanostructures. It has an embossing roll receiver for accommodation and controllable rotation of a body of revolution of the embossing roll around an

embossing roll axis in a working space. The control takes place especially via a central control device. Furthermore the device as claimed in the invention has a die receiver for accommodation and controllable movement of a nanostructure die especially as claimed in the invention relative to one jacket surface of the embossing roll. The control likewise takes place by the central control device, by controlling the embossing roll receiver and the die receiver at least one peripheral ring being producible which has been embossed in the step-and-repeat process and which is made seamless at least in the peripheral direction of the jacket surface. In one advantageous embodiment of the device the working space is formed by a vacuum chamber and can be exposed to a vacuum so that during the production of the embossing roll an atmosphere which is suitable for production can be established.

According to another embodiment of the invention it is advantageously provided that there are means for applying an embossing layer which forms the jacket surface to a body of revolution of the embossing roll. This embodiment provides for further integration.

In another advantageous embodiment of the invention, it is provided that the device has curing means for curing of the embossed peripheral ring especially in sections, preferably with sections which correspond especially to a die surface of the nanostructure die and which correspond to the step-and-repeat process.

Furthermore an independent invention relates to a method for producing a nanostructure die for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures with the following steps, especially the following sequence:

- fixing of a curved or curvable die negative of the nanostructure die on a peripheral section of one jacket surface of a body of revolution,

- application of a moldable die form material to the curved die negative,
- molding of the die form material on a die carrier for forming a concavely curved nanostructured die surface,
- curing of the die form material.

According to one advantageous embodiment of the invention it is provided that the peripheral section extends over less than half, especially less than $1/3$, preferably less than $1/4$ of the periphery of the jacket surface. The embossing force is applied more uniformly by these measures.

To the extent the body of revolution is a body of revolution of the embossing roll, the curvature of the die surface corresponds exactly to the shape of the embossing roll during embossing, especially when the thickness of the die negative corresponds roughly to the thickness of the embossing layer on the embossing roll.

According to another independent aspect of this invention, it relates to a method for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures with the following steps, especially the following sequence:

- receiving a body of revolution with an embossing layer which has a jacket surface onto an embossing roll receiver which is located in a working space,
- embossing of a peripheral ring which is made seamless in the peripheral direction of the jacket surface by means of a nanostructure die held on a die receiver in the step-and-repeat process.

The arrangement of the peripheral ring agrees exactly with the axis of rotation of the body of revolution of the embossing roll by embossing being done by rotation of the body of revolution in several especially sequentially running stamping steps.

According to another advantageous embodiment of this invention it is provided that the stamping steps are carried out for alignment partially overlapping on the structure which has been embossed beforehand. In this way an alignment of the nanostructure die on previously embossed and cured structures as claimed in the invention is conceivable so that high precision alignment takes place using the structures which have been embossed by the different stamping steps.

Because there are several stamping steps parallel to the axis of rotation in each rotation position the embossing roll is embossed to completion after a single complete rotation around the axis of rotation (therefore roughly 360 degrees, optionally with slight overlapping).

Features disclosed for the hardware should also be considered as disclosed as method features and vice versa.

Other advantages, features and details of the invention are illustrated by the following description of preferred exemplary embodiments and using the drawings; the drawings are schematic.

Figure 1a shows a first embodiment of the device as claimed in the invention for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures,

Figure 1b shows a second embodiment of the device as claimed in the invention for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures,

Figures 2a to 2f show one embodiment of a method as claimed in the invention for producing a nanostructure die for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures,

Figures 3a to 3g show one embodiment of a method as claimed in the invention for producing an embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures,

Figure 4a shows a plan view of a partially embossed embossing roll after a first step-and-repeat process sequence and

Figure 4b shows a plan view of an embossing roll with partially embossed structures after a second execution of the step-and-repeat process,

Figure 5 shows a sequence of the method of continuous embossing by means of the embossing roll as claimed in the invention for producing an "endlessly" or continuously embossed embossing substrate.

In the figures advantages and features of the invention are labeled with the reference numbers which identify them according to the embodiments of the invention, components or features with the same or equivalent function being labeled with the same reference numbers.

The figures do not show the features as claimed in the invention to scale, in order to be able to represent the function of the individual features. The relationships of the individual components are in part not proportional; this can be attributed especially to the nanostructures 14 which are shown highly enlarged. The nanostructures 14 which are embossed with this invention or which are used for embossing of corresponding nanostructures onto workpieces are in the nanometer and/or micrometer range, while the order of magnitude of the machine components is in the centimeter range.

Figure 1 schematically shows a vacuum chamber 2 which encompasses a working space 6 which can be exposed to a vacuum. The vacuum chamber 2 can be loaded via a sealed door or lock which is not shown.

In the working space 6 on one bottom 2b of the vacuum chamber 2 there is an embossing roll receiver 4 for accommodation and controllable rotation of a body of revolution 5. The body of

revolution 5 is a component of an embossing roll 16 for continuous embossing of the nanostructures 14, the embossing roll 16 being produced with the device shown in Figure 1. The rotation of the body of revolution 5 takes place around one embossing roll axis 5a which runs concentrically to the body of revolution 5 in the form of a circular cylinder. Corresponding driving means for exactly controllable driving of the body of revolution 5 at least in one direction of rotation is assumed to be known.

Above the body of revolution 5, by means of a die receiver 3 a nanostructure die 1 can be positioned, the die receiver 3 for accommodation and controllable movement of the nanostructure die 1 being movable relative to one jacket surface 5o of the body of revolution 5 or of the embossing roll 16 at least in one X, Y and one Z direction. The relative movement in the X and/or Y and/or Z direction can take place by moving the nanostructure die 1 by means of the die receiver 3 and/or by moving the body of revolution 5 by the embossing roll receiver 4. Thus the illustrated device is suitable for carrying out the step-and-repeat process.

In other words: The nanostructure die 1 has at least three degrees of translational freedom (X, Y and Z direction), especially in addition one degree of rotational freedom relative to the body of revolution 5. The body of revolution 5 has one degree of freedom in the rotation direction around the embossing roll axis 5a, especially in addition two degrees of translational freedom (in the X and Y direction). The degree of rotational freedom of the body of revolution 5 is provided in order for the body of revolution 5 to continue to turn around the embossing roll axis 5a after one embossing step or the embossing of several embossing steps.

According to Figure 1, there are moreover curing means in the form of a UV source 8 and/or a heating system 12 for curing of nanostructures 14 which have been embossed with the

nanostructure die 1 on the jacket surface 5o (see below on Figures 3a to 3g for more detailed description). The UV source 8 and/or the heating system 12 have to be positioned relative to the nanostructure die 1 such that the curing of the just newly produced nanostructures 14 takes place after a certain time interval, preferably as quickly as possible, most preferably immediately. The positioning of the heating system 12 according to Figure 1a relative to the nanostructure die 1 is therefore not the optimum, but the most obvious embodiment. In one special embodiment the UV source can also be located within a (hollow) cylinder (body of revolution 5) according to Figure 1b. The UV source 8 can be surrounded by a protective jacket 17 (shielding means) which can be rotated especially opposite or relative to the body of revolution in order to ensure that the UV light strikes the embossing layer 13 only in a region which is to be cured.

First of all, the production of the nanostructure die 1 according to Figures 2a to 2f is explained; this need be done only once especially for the production of several embossing rolls 16 since advantageously several embossing rolls 16 can be produced with one nanostructure die 1.

First of all, a die negative 9 (negative of the nanostructure die 1) is formed on a flat, planar substrate (see Figure 2a). The planar substrate consists preferably of a polymer or a thin structured metal foil or a material which can be flexibly adapted to a curved surface (here the jacket surface 5o of the body of revolution 5 which is used for producing the embossing roll 16). Thus the shape of the die negative 9 after application to the jacket surface 5o according to Figure 2b corresponds exactly to the shape of the nanostructures 14 which are to be embossed, especially when the thickness of the die negative 9 corresponds to the thickness of a embossing layer 13 which is to be applied to the jacket surface 5o (see Figure 3a). The embossing layer 13 is thinner than 1 mm, preferably thinner than 0.1 mm, more preferably thinner than 1 μm , still more preferably thin than

0.1 μm , most preferably thinner than 100 nm, most preferably of all thinner than 10 nm.

Subsequently the die form material 10 is applied to the die negative 9 by a means for applying the die form material 10, which means is not shown (see Figure 2c). The application can take place semiautomatically or fully automatically, but manual application is also conceivable as claimed in the invention.

Then the die carrier 11 is positioned relative to the die negative 9 so that the die form material 10 is located between the die negative 9 and the die carrier 11 (see Figure 2d). There are corresponding means, especially a robot arm, for positioning/ alignment/holding of the die carrier 11.

In the method step which is shown in Figure 2e, the die carrier 11 is moved in the direction of the body of revolution 5 or of the embossing roll axis 5a or the die negative 9 so that the die form material 10 is distributed between the die negative 9 and the die carrier 11. In this way the structures (depressions and elevations) of the die negative 9 are filled with the die form material 10 up to or beyond one edge 9r of the die negative 9.

The die form material 10 is cured by curing means which are not shown (analogously to Figure 1) and a die positive is formed on one die surface 7f of a die form 7 which has been formed by it. At the same time the die form 7 is connected especially permanently to the die carrier 11. The curing means can be especially UV radiators, infrared radiators or heaters. It is moreover conceivable to heat the body of revolution 5 itself, especially by arrangement of an electromagnetic radiation within the body of revolution 5.

After curing, the finished nanostructure die 1 is raised off the body of revolution 5 or the die negative 9.

Alternatively to the above described nanostructure die, as claimed in the invention the production of a hard die is also conceivable which is produced with considerable additional cost in the known manner, but in the other aspects as claimed in the invention can be used in the production of the roll. These hard dies are in any case complex and expensive to produce, especially with lithography methods and/or electron beam methods and/or milling methods; this can be done with extreme difficulty in curved die topography and for the very small structures compared to the approach as claimed in the invention.

In Figure 3 the nanostructure die 1 is used in the device which is shown in Figure 1. First of all, the body of revolution 5 is coated on its especially entire jacket surface 5o with the embossing layer 13 so that it forms a (new) jacket surface 13o. The coating of the embossing layer 13 takes place preferably by rotation of the body of revolution 5 in an immersion bath which accommodates only one peripheral section of the body of revolution or by spray methods, droplet dispersion, PVD methods or CVD methods. Alternatively the immersion of the entire body of revolution 5 into an immersion bath is conceivable. The coating material for the embossing layer 13 is preferably a liquid polymer. After exposing the jacket surface 5o to the material of the embossing layer 13, the embossing layer 13 is produced in the desired thickness, especially thinner than 1 mm, preferably thinner than 0.1 mm, more preferably thinner than 1 μm , still more preferably thinner than 0.1 μm , most preferably thinner than 100 nm, most preferably of all thinner than 10 nm.

The embossing structures themselves have an average lateral resolution of less than 1 mm, preferably less than 0.1 mm, more preferably less than 1 μm , still more preferably less than 0.1 μm , most preferably less than 100 nm, most preferably of all less than 10 nm.

The diameter of the embossing roll (16) can be chosen at will. For example, but not

exclusively it is larger than 1 mm, preferably larger than 1 cm, more preferably larger than 10 cm, most preferably larger than 1 m, most preferably of all larger than 10 m. Initial prototypes of the embodiment as claimed in the invention are implemented with diameters of the embossing roll (16) between 10 cm and 50 cm. The larger the diameter of the embossing roll (16), the gentler the separation of the microstructures and/or nanostructures (14) from the nanostructures (19).

Then the roll carrier 5 with the embossing layer 13 applied and cured (as shown in Figure 3a and Figure 1) is positioned and aligned, not only in the Y direction and the rotational position or angular position of the nanostructure die relative to the body of revolution 5, but also in the X direction along the jacket surface 13o parallel to the embossing roll axis 5a (see in this respect especially Figures 4a and 4b). Moreover it is essential to align the nanostructure die 1 exactly in the rotational position.

After alignment the nanostructure die 1 is moved in the Z direction (therefore toward the embossing roll axis 5a) until a first embossing section 14.1 (Figure 4a) or 14.3 (Figure 4b) of the nanostructures 14 is embossed from the die positive of the die surface 7f. As claimed in the invention, at least predominantly, preferably completely adjacent structure sections 14.n are embossed in sequence since in this way an alignment to structures which have been embossed beforehand, especially an overlapping structure 14e (overlapping section) on the edge of a structure section 14.[n - 1] which has been embossed beforehand is possible. In sequential embossing there are the alternatives shown in Figures 4a and Figure 4b.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 4a first of all as the first stamping step a nanostructure section 14.1 which corresponds to the die surface 7f is embossed and then a second structure section 14.2 in one stamping step is embossed by rotation of the body of revolution 5.

In the embodiment which is shown in Figure 4b, after embossing of a first nanostructure section 14.3 a row of several structure sections 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6 and 14.7 which runs parallel to the embossing roll axis 5a is embossed in sequence, during which no rotation of the body of revolution 5 takes place. Thus during the five embossing steps shown here only the nanostructure die 1 need be moved in the X direction and aligned especially on a structure of the nanostructure section 14.[n - 1] which had been embossed just previously. After embossing of the nanostructure sections 14.3 to 14.7 the body of revolution 5 rotates so that the next row can be embossed and so forth.

Each embossing step consists of the steps which are shown in Figures 3c to 3e, specifically raising of the nanostructure die 1 (Figure 3c), rotation of the body of revolution 5 and/or movement of the nanostructure die 1 in the X direction (see Figure 3d) and embossing of the structure section 14.n, especially by overlapping of at least one overlapping structure 14e which is provided on the edge of the previous nanostructure section (Figure 3e).

The described processes are repeated until the entire jacket surface 13o of the embossing layer 13 is provided with nanostructures 14 (see Figure 3g).

In the embodiment which is shown in Figure 4a first a peripheral ring 15 which corresponds to the width of the die surface 7f in the X direction is embossed, while in the embodiment shown in Figure 4b a peripheral ring 15' which extends essentially over the entire width of the jacket surface 5o is embossed.

In the embodiment according to Figure 4a, to cover the entire jacket surface 5o accordingly several peripheral rings 15 which are arranged next to one another must be embossed so that the body of revolution 5 must be repeatedly turned completely around its own axis. In the embodiment

shown in Figure 4b only a single revolution by roughly 360 degrees (somewhat more for overlapping) is necessary. It is however important that in overlapping as claimed in the invention the already embossed structures are not destroyed by the overlapping part of the die, but it engages the already existing structures without destroying them.

In any case, after each stamping step a raising of the nanostructure die 1 is necessary. Furthermore, it is preferred as claimed in the invention that the embossed nanostructure section 14.n be cured before or after raising, therefore before or after each stamping step. Multiple curing is also conceivable, after each individual embossing step of the nanostructure die 1 "precuring" being conceivable as claimed in the invention. It is also conceivable as claimed in the invention to carry out the deposition of the die material (embossing layer 13) only between the nanostructure die 1 and the embossing roll 5, to carry out the die (embossing) and curing process, to continue to turn the embossing roll 5 and only afterwards to coat the next part of the surface 5o. This prevents material which may have been applied to the lower and side surface of the embossing roll 5 from being deformed by gravity and the thickness of the embossing layer 13 from becoming nonuniform.

Otherwise it is critical to the invention that the viscosity of the embossing layer 13 after applying the embossing layer 13 be small enough for embossing, but large enough not to run.

It is preferred as claimed in the invention if when the peripheral ring 15 is closed, therefore during embossing of the nanostructure section 14.n which is the last for each peripheral ring 15, a seamless nanostructure section 14.n be embossed which agrees especially at a distance with the remaining nanostructure sections 14.n.

Since with the method as claimed in the invention a nanostructure die 1 can be easily produced, a perfect transition can be achieved by producing an exactly matched nanostructure die 1.

In order to adapt the nanostructure die 1 to the specific body of revolution 5, sample embossing according to a single peripheral ring 15 according to Figure 4a is conceivable. To the extent the embossing takes place perfectly, the nanostructure die 1 can be used for producing several embossing rolls 16. Otherwise the difference from the (correct) distance can be determined and an altered die negative 9 can be computed therefrom for producing a new nanostructure die 1.

Figure 5 shows the continuous embossing of an embossing substrate 18 which is provided more or less continuously with nanostructures 19 by means of the embossing roll 5, which in contrast to the prior art leads to uniform and seamless nanostructures 19 on the embossing substrate 18 which has been produced in this way.

Reference number list

1	nanostructure die
2	vacuum chamber
2b	bottom
3	die receiver
4	embossing roll receiver
5	body of revolution
5o	jacket surface
5a	embossing roll axis
6	working space
7	die form
7f	die surface
8	radiator
9	die negative
9r	edge
10	die form material
11	die carrier
12	heating means
13	embossing layer
13o	jacket surface
14	nanostructures
14.1 to 14.n	nanostructure section

14e	overlapping structure
15	peripheral ring
16	embossing roll
17	protective jacket
18	embossing substrate
19	nanostructures

Claims

1. A nanostructure die (1) with a concavely curved nanostructured die surface (7f) for seamless embossing of at least one peripheral ring (15, 15') of a jacket surface (13o) of an embossing roll (16) in the step-and-repeat process.

2. The nanostructure die (1) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the nanostructure die (1) has a die carrier (11) to which a die form (7) which encompasses the die surface (7f) is connected, especially permanently.

3. The nanostructure die (1) as claimed in Claim 2, in which the die form (7) is produced using a body of revolution (5) of the embossing roll (16).

4. An embossing roll for continuous embossing of nanostructures with an embossing layer (13) which has been applied on a body of revolution (5), with a jacket surface (13o) with at least one peripheral ring (15) which is made seamless at least in the peripheral direction and which is embossed in the step-and-repeat process.

5. The embossing roll as claimed in Claim 4, in which the jacket surface (13o) is embossed by a nanostructure die (1) as claimed in Claim 1.

6. The embossing roll as claimed in one of Claims 4 or 5, in which the body of revolution (5) is a cylinder, especially a circular cylinder.

7. A device for producing an embossing roll (16) for continuous embossing of nanostructures with the following features:

- an embossing roll receiver (4) for accommodation and controllable rotation of a body of revolution (5) of the embossing roll (16) around one embossing roll axis (5a) in a working

space (6),

- a die receiver (3) for accommodation and controllable movement of a nanostructure die (1) relative to one jacket surface (13o) of the embossing roll (16),
- by controlling the embossing roll receiver (4) and the die receiver (3) at least one peripheral ring (15, 15') being producible which has been embossed in the step-and-repeat process and which is made seamless at least in the peripheral direction of the jacket surface (13o).

8. The device as claimed in Claim 7, in which the working space (6) is formed by a vacuum chamber (2) and can be exposed to a vacuum.

9. The device as claimed in Claim 7 or 8, in which there are means for applying an embossing layer (13) which forms the jacket surface (13o) to a body of revolution (5) of the embossing roll (16).

10. The device as claimed in one or more of Claims 7 to 9, in which there are curing means (8, 12) for curing of the embossed peripheral ring especially in sections, preferably with sections which correspond especially to a die surface (7f) of the nanostructure die (1) and which correspond to the step-and-repeat process.

11. A method for producing a nanostructure die (1) for producing an embossing roll (16) for continuous embossing of nanostructures with the following steps, especially the following sequence:

- fixing of a curved or curvable die negative (9) of the nanostructure die (1) on a peripheral section of one jacket surface (5o) of a body of revolution (5),
- application of a moldable die form material (10) to the curved die negative (9),
- molding of the die form material (10) on a die carrier (11) for forming a concavely curved

nanostructured die surface (7f),

- curing of the die form material (10).

12. The method as claimed in Claim 11, in which the peripheral section extends over less than half, especially less than one third, preferably less than one fourth, of the periphery of the jacket surface (5o).

13. The method as claimed in Claim 11 or 12, in which the embossing roll (16) is used as the body of revolution (5)

14. A method for producing an embossing roll (16) for continuous embossing of nanostructures with the following steps, especially the following sequence:

- receiving a body of revolution (5) with an embossing layer (13) which has a jacket surface (13o) onto an embossing roll receiver (4) which is located in a working space (6),
- embossing of a peripheral ring (15, 15') which is made seamless in the peripheral direction of the jacket surface (13o) by means of a nanostructure die (1) held on a die receiver (3) in the step-and-repeat process.

15. The method as claimed in Claim 14, in which the embossing roll is produced by rotation of the body of revolution (5) in several stamping steps which run especially sequentially.

16. The method as claimed in Claim 14 or 15, wherein the stamping steps are carried out partially overlapping for alignment on the structure which had been embossed previously.

17. The method as claimed in one or more of Claims 14 to 16, wherein there are several stamping steps parallel to the axis of rotation in each rotational position.

18. A method for producing an embossing substrate (18) which has nanostructures (19) by means of an embossing roll (16) for continuous embossing of the nanostructures (19).