WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cutting apparatus comprising:

a holding table having a rectangular holding surface holding a rectangular plate-shaped workpiece;

a rotating unit rotating the holding table with a center of the holding table as an axis;

a cutting unit having a cutting blade mounted to a rotatable spindle and cutting the plate-shaped workpiece held on the holding table;

a sensor unit in which a light projection section projecting detection light and a light reception section receiving the detection light are disposed to face each other, the sensor unit detecting a tip of the cutting blade entering between the light projection section and the light reception section;

a Z moving unit causing the cutting unit to move in a Z direction which is a direction perpendicular to the rectangular holding surface;

a Y moving unit causing the cutting unit to move in a Y direction which is an axial direction of the spindle and orthogonal to the Z direction; and

an X moving unit causing the holding table to move in an X direction which is a cutting direction of the cutting blade and orthogonal to the Z direction and the Y

direction,

wherein the rectangular holding surface has short sides and long sides, and

the sensor unit has an upper end disposed to be lower than a lower end of the holding table in the Z direction and is located below an axis of the spindle of the cutting unit in the Z direction, and when the short sides of the rectangular holding surface are set parallel to the Y direction, an upper side of the sensor unit is open to allow the cutting blade to enter between the light projection section and the light reception section.

2. The cutting apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit is located within a moving range in the Y direction and the Z direction of the cutting blade.

3. The cutting apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the sensor unit includes a first sensor and a second sensor spaced from the first sensor in the Y direction.

4. The cutting apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein a distance between the first sensor and the second sensor is longer than the short sides of the holding surface and shorter than the long sides of the holding surface.