What is claimed is:

1. A surface light source device, comprising:

a light source that emits light;

a light guiding plate that guides light from the light source that is incident on a rear surface side or a side surface side and emits the light from a front surface side; and

a diffusion plate disposed on the front surface side of the light guiding plate that diffuses the incident light from the light guiding plate to a front surface side;

wherein the diffusion plate is made from nonwoven fabric with an areal weight of not less than 10 g/m^2 and not more than 40 g/m^2 and has a haze of not less than 80% and a gain of not less than 1.025, and the diffusion plate is achromatic.

2. The surface light source device according to claim 1, wherein a reflection plate is disposed on the rear surface side of the light guiding plate.

3. The surface light source device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a reflecting polarizing plate is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.

4. The surface light source device according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein a prism sheet is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.

5. A surface light source device, comprising:

a light source that emits light; and

a diffusion plate that diffuses to a front surface side thereof the light from the light source incident on a rear surface side thereof, wherein

the diffusion plate is made from nonwoven fabric with an areal weight of not less than 10 g/m^2 and not more than 40 g/m^2 and has a haze of not less than 80% and a gain of not less than 1.025, and the diffusion plate is achromatic.

6. The surface light source device according to claim 5, wherein a reflection plate is disposed on the rear surface side of the diffusion plate.

7. The surface light source device according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein a reflecting polarizing plate is disposed on the front surface side of the diffusion plate.