WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cutting apparatus comprising:

a cutting unit including a spindle as a rotational shaft and a mount flange for mounting a cutting blade thereon, the mount flange being fixed to a distal end of the spindle;

a support unit for supporting a second cutting blade housed in a blade case, the support unit including a blade case support for supporting the blade case for housing the second cutting blade therein;

a changing mechanism for dismounting the~~a~~ cutting blade that has been mounted on the mount flange from the mount flange and mounting the second cutting blade that has been supported on the support unit on the mount flange; and

a moving mechanism for moving the changing mechanism between a changing position in which the cutting blade is able to be mounted on and dismounted from the mount flange, a blade transfer position in which the cutting blade is able to be transferred to and from the support unit, and a retracted position spaced from the changing position and the blade transfer position,~~.~~

~~2. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1,~~

wherein the support unit further includes a

rotating mechanism for rotating the blade case support, and has a plurality of the blade case supports for supporting respective blade cases, the blade case supports being arrayed along directions in which the blade case supports are rotatable by the rotating mechanism.

23. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the mount flange has a fixed mount fixed to the spindle and a holder flange mounted on the fixed mount with the cutting blade sandwiched and secured between the fixed mount and the holder flange,

the support unit further includes a holder flange support for supporting the holder flange, and

the changing mechanism mounts the cutting blade together with the holder flange on the fixed mount and dismounts the cutting blade together with the holder flange from the fixed mount.

34. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the blade case has a storage casing for storing the second cutting blade and a lid for closing the storage casing, and

the cutting apparatus further includes an opening and closing unit for opening and closing the lid of the blade case.

45. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a table for holding a dressing board for use in dressing the cutting blade or an inspection board for being cut by the cutting blade to form an inspection groove therein,

wherein the support unit further includes a board support for supporting the dressing board or the inspection board,

the moving mechanism moves the changing mechanism between a board transfer position in which the dressing board or the inspection board is able to be transferred to and from the support unit, a loading and unloading position in which the dressing board or the inspection board is able to be loaded to and unloaded from the table, the changing position, the blade transfer position, and the retracted position, and

the changing mechanism removes the dressing board or the inspection board from the table on which the dressing board or the inspection board has been held, and places, on the table, the dressing board or the inspection board that has been supported on the support unit.

56. The cutting apparatus according to claim 1,

further comprising:

a reading unit for reading identification marks; and

a blade case determining unit for determining whether information acquired when an identification mark attached to the cutting blade is read by the reading unit and information acquired when an identification mark attached to the blade case is read by the reading unit correspond to each other or not.

67. The cutting apparatus according to claim 45, further comprising:

a reading unit for reading identification marks; and

a board determining unit for determining whether information acquired when an identification mark attached to the cutting blade is read by the reading unit and information acquired when an identification mark attached to the dressing board or the inspection board is read by the reading unit correspond to each other or not.

78. The cutting apparatus according to claim 67, further comprising:

a blade case determining unit for determining whether information acquired when an identification mark attached to the cutting blade is read by the reading unit

and information acquired when an identification mark attached to the blade case is read by the reading unit correspond to each other or not.