

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an optical rotary encoder, a stationary plate having a zone plate and a rotary slit plate having slits are interposed between a light source and a light receiving element. A suitable radius of the innermost circle of the zone plate is selected so that the zone plates provide a sufficient convergence of light for reduction of slit interval (hence for improvement of the detection precision) with a distance between the stationary plate and the rotary slit plate maintained at a value permitting the fabrication of the encoder.