this is countered by the user moving the brush assembly or a rotary brush tool provided with it back and forth over the surface for example.

Apart from the fact that such movement is exhausting and cannot necessarily provide the required uniformity, such procedures cannot be realized and implemented directly in the case of, for example, mechanical processing of the surface of the workpiece using a machine like for example a robot arm. In addition, the prior art requires even more effective machining of the surface of the workpiece. Here, the invention as a whole seeks to remedy the situation.

Embodiments of the invention seek to further develop such a brush assembly such that the roughness profile generated by it on the surface of the workpiece being treated has an increased uniformity with respect to previous prior art. At the same time, the possibility of increasing roughness if necessary is to be opened up.

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a brush assembly including a rotatable brush holder and a ring brush having an annular array of outwardly projecting bristles, and with a stop element engaged in the rotating bristle array, wherein the stop element is of noncircular cross section and is rotatable about its longitudinal axis.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a rotary brush tool having a housing, a brush assembly and a drive for the brush assembly, the brush assembly having a rotatable brush holder and a ring brush having an annular array of outwardly projecting bristles, and a stop element engaged in the rotating bristle array, wherein the stop element is of noncircular cross section and is rotatable about its longitudinal axis.

According to a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of machining a surface of a workpiece with a brush assembly having a rotatable brush holder and a ring brush having an annular array of outwardly projecting bristles and a stop element engaged in the rotating bristle ring, wherein the stop element is of noncircular cross section and rotates about its longitudinal axis.

In the context of the invention, therefore, a special stop element engaged in the rotating bristle array is initially used, namely one that is noncircular in cross section. This means that the stop element has a cross section that deviates from a round or circular cross section. It can for example be angular or polygonal. Thus, while in the prior art, the stop element is predominantly formed as a cylindrical pin, the invention works with a noncylindrical or prismatic stop element with a noncircular cross section. In fact, the stop element for this purpose is usually provided with at least one longitudinal ridge on