

# High Speed 3D Laser Confocal Microscope





# High speed laser confocal microscope

NS-3500 is a high-speed confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM) for precise and reliable 3-dimensional (3D) measurement. A real time confocal microscopic image is achieved by fast optical scanning modules and signal processing algorithms. It is a promising solution to measure and inspect the microscopic 3D structures such as semiconductor wafers, FPD products, MEMS devices, glass substrates, and material surfaces.



## Real time confocal imaging with simple operation

## **Features & Benefits**

- High resolution nondestructive optical 3D measurement
- Real time confocal imaging
- Various optical zoom
- Simultaneous bright field and confocal imaging
- Automatic gain search with fine auto focus
- Inclination compensation

- Easy analysis mode
- Precise and reliable high-speed height measurement
- Inspection of features through semi-transparent substrate
- No sample preparation
- Dual Z-scanning mode
- Image stitching for wide range inspection

## **Measurement principle**



Plane-by-plane imaging

NS-3500 provides a color CCD image and a laser scanning confocal image at one time.

The height measuring ability comes from the confocal arrangement of a source, a sample, and a detector. By the out-of-focus signal rejection of confocal technique, only the in-focus signal is collected by a photo detector. It gives the optical sectioning ability to confocal microscope NS-3500. The confocal aperture also improves the imaging quality by rejecting the noise outside the focal point.

To get the 3D surface profile of the sample, optically sectioned plane-images are collected along the z-axis. As the light intensity becomes its maximum when the sample surface is placed in the focal plane, axial coordinates of sample surface can be directly found. With a violet laser, a photo-multiplier tube (PMT), and a piezoelectric axial scanner, NS-3500 performs the confocal optical sectioning in a most reliable manner.

# User interface software NSWorks & NSViewer

- Simple and plain operation even to a first-time user.
- A CCD image, a confocal image, and a main control panel are displayed in one operation window.
- Various adjustable parameters are provided for the advanced application.
- A real-time confocal image provides the immediate feedback from hardware.
- Separated analysis window with the convenient graphical reporting tools.
- The 3D graphical view makes a user easily recognize the microscopic structure of a sample.



#### **Operation software NSWorks**

#### **Analysis software NSViewer**



# **Analysis of measurement**

Cross-sectional image is directly converted to the 3D profile data. User can see the raw cross-sectional image in NSViewer. The internal structure can be imaged through the semi-transparent surface layers, which is uniquely realized only by confocal microscopy.

The analysis of the measured data can be easily performed with various function tools.

# 4-002-4-002 1, 1 2,656 13. 54.8 68.5 82.2 123.3 27.4 41.1 95.0 109.6

### **Cross sectional image display**

#### Roughness measurement for specified ROI (region of interest)



# Most reliable optical 3D measurement

NS-3500 can be used for most kinds of 3D profiling applications. The 3D measurement of NS-3500 is based on the most reliable real-time confocal image definitely superior to the image from other optical technologies.

#### Height measurement of the material of very low reflectivity



#### High contrast image of a patterned sapphire wafer substrate (PSS)



## **Powerful and convenient optical solution**

With powerful and unique performance of NS-3500, the application area of optical microscope imaging is enlarged. The image of the features under the transparent or semi-transparent layers can be clearly inspected, and the surface image of light-emitting or highly-heated materials can be distinctly monitored, which are not possible with the conventional optical microscope technology. NS-3500 is widely proven as a final and successful optical solution in the various application fields.

### **Film thickness measurement**

If transparent, or semi-transparent such as a film-coated surface, NS-3500's cross sectional image directly shows how the layers are constituted, and its thickness can be measured directly from this cross sectional image.



## **Image stitching**

For wide range inspection, the consecutive measurement and image tiling of pre-defined area is available with the motorized XY stage and NSMosaic, the image stitching software of NS-3500. The stitched image can be analyzed as one single measurement result.



NSMosaic for image stitching

#### Matrix formation of images





Automatic boundary searching

Analysis of stitched image in NSViewer

# **Application field**

NS-3500 is a promising solution for the measurement of height, width, angle, area, and volume of micro and submicro structures such as

- · Semiconductor IC pattern, bump height, wire loop height, defect inspection, CMP process
- FPD product Touch panel screen inspection, ITO pattern, LCD column spacer height
- MEMS device 3D profile of structure, surface roughness, MEMS pattern
- · Glass surfaces-Thin film solar cell, solar cell texture, laser pattern
- Material researches-Tooling surface inspection, roughness, crack analysis

## Sample images



**VLSI height standard** FOV : 280 × 210 μm (50×)



**OLED glass protrusion** FOV :  $280 \times 210 \,\mu\text{m}$  (50×)



**OLED laser processing** FOV :  $280 \times 210 \,\mu\text{m} (50 \times)$ 



Quartz pattern FOV : 280 × 210 µm (50×)



**Diamond tool** FOV : 700 × 525µm (20×)



**Metal pillar** FOV : 1400 × 1050 μm (10×)



**Bump** FOV : 280 × 210 μm (50×)



**Graphene** FOV : 280 × 210 μm (50×)



**ITO pattern** FOV : 1400 × 1050 μm (10×)

# Industrial module application

Easy-to-install, and robust design for industrial equipment provides a good solution to the field applications. Customized design change is available.



# **Head dimensions**

[Unit:mm]







#### NS-3800-S Head





# System configuration



# **Hardware option**



#### **Objective lens**

Special configuration of objective lenses can be made by the customers' needs. Appropriate selection of objective lenses considering customers' application and environment will optimize optical performance of NS-3500.



#### Motorized nosepiece

Objective lens switching by a motorized revolving nosepiece will increase the work efficiency.



#### **Motorized XY stage**

Motorized XY stage with customized travel length can be interfaced with NS-3500. Automatic measurement of pre-defined target position can be programmed.

# **Dimensions**

[Unit:mm]







# **Specifications**

Model	Microscope	NS-3500					Remark
	Controller	NS-3500E					
Objective lens magnification		10x	20x	50x	100x	150x	
Observation/ Measuring range	Horizontal (H): µm	1400	700	280	140	93	
	Vertical (V): µm	1050	525	210	105	70	
Working distance: mm		16.5	3.1	0.54	0.3	0.2	
Numerical aperture (N.A.)		0.30	0.46	0.80	0.95	0.95	
Optical zoom		x1 to x6					
Total magnification		178x to 26700x					
Optical system for observation/measurement		Pinhole confocal optical system					
Height Measurement	Measuring scan range	Fine scan : 400 µm (and/or) Long scan : 10 mm [NS-3500-S]					Note 1
		Long scan : 10mm [NS-3500-T]					
	Display resolution	0.001 µm					
	Repeatability $\sigma$	0.010 µm					Note 2
Width measurement	Display resolution	0.001 μm					
	Repeatability 3σ	0.02 µm					Note 3
Frame memory	Pixel count	1024x1024, 1024x768, 1024x384, 1024x192, 1024x96					
	For monochrome image	12 bit					
	For color image	8-bit for RGB each					
	For height measurement	16 bit					
Frame rate	Surface scan	20 Hz to 160 Hz					
	Line scan	~8 kHz					
Auto function		Auto gain, Auto focus					
Laser beam light source for confocal measurement	Wavelength	Violet laser, 405nm					
	Output	~2mW					
	Laser Class	Class 3b					
Laser light-receiving element		PMT (Photomultiplier Tube)					
Light source for optical observation	Lamp	10W LED					
Color camera for Optical observation	Imaging element	1/2" Color CCD image sensor					
	Recording resolution	640x480					
	Auto adjustment	Gain, Shutter speed, White balance					
Data processing unit		Dedicated PC					
Power supply	Power-supply voltage	100 to 240 VAC, 50/60 Hz					
	Current consumption	500 VA max.					
Weight	Microscope	Approx. ~50 kg					
	Controller	(Measuring head unit : ~ 12 kg)					
Vibration isolating system		Active isolator					Option

Note 1: Fine scan is performed by piezoelectric actuator (PZT).

Dual scan mode by fine and long scanner is available only for NS-3500-S (Single lens type).

Note 2 : 100 times measurement of standard sample (1 $\mu$ m step height) with 100× / 0.95 objective.

Note 3 : 100 times measurement of standard sample (5 $\mu$ m pitch) with 100× / 0.95 objective.





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