



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**
published in accordance with Art. 153(4) EPC

(43) Date of publication:
08.07.2009 Bulletin 2009/28

(51) Int Cl.:
G02F 1/1339 (2006.01) **G02F 1/1335** (2006.01)
G02F 1/13357 (2006.01) **G02F 1/1343** (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **07807633.8**

(86) International application number:
PCT/JP2007/068269

(22) Date of filing: **20.09.2007**

(87) International publication number:
WO 2008/081624 (10.07.2008 Gazette 2008/28)

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

(72) Inventors:
• **IKUMI, Itsumi**
Mie 511-0862 (JP)
• **SHIMOSHIKIRYOH, Fumikazu**
Mie 515-0043 (JP)
• **KAWABATA, Masae**
Mie 514-0063 (JP)

(30) Priority: **28.12.2006 JP 2006355052**

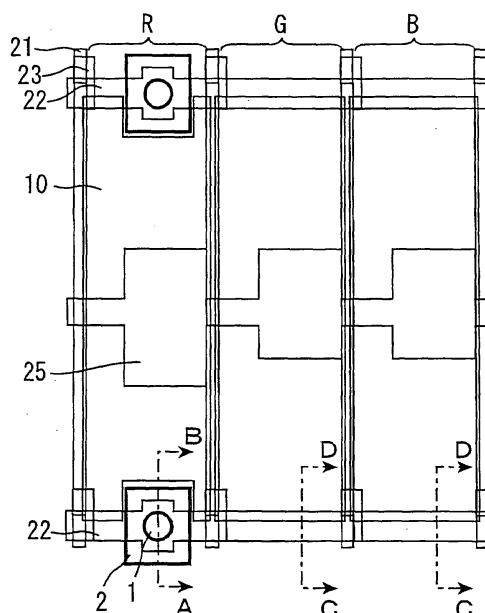
(74) Representative: **Müller - Hoffmann & Partner**
Patentanwälte
Innere Wiener Strasse 17
81667 München (DE)

(71) Applicant: **Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha**
Osaka-shi, Osaka 545-8522 (JP)

(54) **LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY APPARATUS**

(57) The present invention provides a liquid crystal display device which can more improve a luminance when the liquid crystal display device includes a column spacer. The present invention is a liquid crystal display device including a pair of substrates and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pair of substrates, and the liquid crystal display device having a red pixel, a green pixel, and a blue pixel, wherein a column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel among three pixels of the red, green, and blue pixels, and the red pixel has the smallest aperture ratio of the three pixels.

Fig.1



Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 **[0001]** The present invention relates to a liquid crystal display device. More specifically, the present invention relates to a liquid crystal display device including a column spacer as means for maintaining a cell gap.

BACKGROUND ART

10 **[0002]** A liquid crystal display device provides display by controlling optical characteristics of light emitted from a light source using a liquid crystal layer and the like in a liquid crystal display panel. Such a liquid crystal display device has been widely used in various fields, using its features such as slim profile, lightweight, and low power consumption. The liquid crystal display panel that is a main member of such a liquid crystal display device generally has a structure where a liquid crystal layer is interposed between a pixel array substrate and a color filter substrate, and a thickness (cell gap)
 15 of the liquid crystal layer is maintained by a spacer arranged between the substrates. Examples of the spacer include spherical spacers made of plastic, an inorganic material, and the like; and column spacers made of a resin material, and the like. Among these, the column spacer is excellent in that it can be directly formed on a substrate using a photosensitive resin and the like, for example, by a photolithography method, and such a column spacer can be arranged with high precision.

20 **[0003]** An arrangement position of such a column spacer can be determined in accordance with a desired spacer density. Generally, as shown in Fig. 8, one spacer is arranged in every pixel of red pixel R, green pixel G, and blue pixel B. If a column spacer 1 overlaps with a pixel electrode 10 arranged on the pixel array substrate, alignment of liquid crystals near the column spacer 1 tends to be disturbed. So, the pixel electrode 10 is provided with a notch in a region where the column spacer 1 is to be formed so that the pixel electrode 10 does not overlap with the column spacer 1.
 25 Due to the notch of the pixel electrode 10, an aperture ratio of the pixel is reduced, and the entire luminance is reduced. For this problem, a configuration in which the column spacer 1 is arranged in a region facing blue and red color filters or in a region facing only blue color filter among red, green, and blue color filters is disclosed as a configuration in which the reduction in aperture ratio is suppressed (for example, refer to Patent Document 1).

30 [Patent Document 1]
 Japanese Kokai Publication No. 2002-196338

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

35 **[0004]** However, such a configuration in which the number of the notch of the pixel electrode is just decreased has still room for improvement in order to increase a luminance while an appropriate chromaticity of a displayed color is maintained.

40 **[0005]** The present invention has been made in view of the above-mentioned state of the art. The present invention has an object to provide a liquid crystal display device which can more improve a luminance when the liquid crystal display device includes a column spacer.

45 **[0006]** The present inventors made various investigations on a liquid crystal display device which can more improve a luminance when the liquid crystal display device includes a column spacer. The inventors noted that an aperture ratio can be improved by arranging a column spacer and its base in not every pixel, and also noted a color of the pixel where the column spacer and its base are arranged. Then, the inventors considered a relationship between a reduction in aperture ratio and its influence on a luminance in each of three pixels of red, green, and blue pixels. As a result, the inventors found that if a column spacer and its base are formed only in the red pixel and the red pixel has the smallest aperture ratio of the three pixels, the influence on the luminance, due to the reduction in aperture ratio caused by arranging the column spacer and its base, can be reduced and display with high luminance can be provided. Thus, the above-mentioned problems can be admirably solved, leading to completion of the present invention.

50 **[0007]** That is, the present invention is a liquid crystal display device including a pair of substrates and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pair of substrates, and the liquid crystal display device having a red pixel, a green pixel, and a blue pixel, wherein a column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel among three pixels of the red, green, and blue pixels, and the red pixel has the smallest aperture ratio of the three pixels.
 The present invention is mentioned in more detail below.

55 **[0008]** The liquid crystal display device of the present invention includes a pair of substrates and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pair of substrates, and has red, green, and blue pixels. The above-mentioned pair of substrates generally includes a pair of electrodes on the liquid crystal layer side, and using the pair of electrodes, a voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer, thereby controlling ON and OFF of liquid crystal display. For example, in IPS (In-Plane-

Switching) mode, a pair of electrodes are arranged on either one of the pair of substrates, and in TN (Twisted Nematic) mode and VA (Vertical Alignment) mode, electrodes are formed on a pair of substrates to face each other. According to an active matrix driving liquid crystal display device, a scanning line (gate wiring) and a signal line (source wiring) are generally arranged to be perpendicular to each other on at least one of the pair of substrates, and a thin film transistor (TFT) that is a switching element is arranged at an intersection of the two lines. According to such a configuration, matrix-pattern regions surrounded by the scanning line and the signal line are pixels, and the pixels are each independently driven and controlled by different TFTs. In addition, a storage capacitor wiring (Cs wiring) is arranged to form a storage capacitance, and thereby a voltage of the liquid crystal layer when the TFT is in OFF state can be stabilized. The "pixel" used herein means a partition unit for processing image display, and includes not only a display region where the pixel electrode is formed but also a non-display region which is used for driving the pixel and has no contribution to display. Examples of the non-display region in the pixel include regions where the wirings such as a scanning line and a signal line are formed and a region where the TFT is formed. Accordingly, the pixels gather to constitute the entire display screen. One pixel corresponds to either one color of red, green, and blue. Color images are displayed using a pixel electrode, a colored layer, and the like, arranged in each pixel. In the present description, the red means a color having a dominant wavelength of 570 to 780 nm, green means a color having a dominant wavelength of 480 to 570 nm, and blue means a color having a dominant wavelength of 380 to 480 nm.

[0009] According to the above-mentioned liquid crystal display device, a column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel among the three pixels, and the red pixel has the smallest aperture ratio of the three pixels. That is, as shown in Fig. 7, the column spacer structure is not formed in the green and blue pixels, and the column spacer structure is formed substantially only in the red pixel, and so, a large aperture ratio can be secured in the green and blue pixels. The red, green, and blue pixels generally have substantially the same area. So, in the present invention, the red pixel generally has the smallest aperture area of the three pixels. The aperture ratio of the red pixel preferably accounts for 50% or more of the aperture ratio of each of the green and blue pixels.

[0010] The reason why the column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel among the three pixels is mentioned below. First, a luminance perceived by human (luminous efficacy characteristics) is compared among the three pixels of red, green, and blue, which shows that an increase in the aperture ratio of the green pixel leads to the biggest improvement in the luminance. Accordingly, the location of the column spacer can be mentioned as follows: (1) the red pixel; (2) the blue pixel; and (3) the red and blue pixels. Compared to the chromaticity when a ratio of the aperture ratio is red : green : blue = 1 : 1 : 1, a change in chromaticity in each of the above-mentioned three cases is calculated as one example. For (1), x is -0.015 and y is -0.002. For (2), x is +0.016 and y is +0.022. For (3), x is 0 and y is +0.021. If the y is changed to the positive direction, the aperture ratio of the green pixel needs to be reduced. If this change is compensated by color of light emitted from a backlight, the luminance is reduced. So, the case (1) the red pixel is suitable as the position where the column spacer structure is arranged. In addition, the case (1) the red pixel is suitable because the change to the negative direction tends to decrease yellowness of liquid crystal. Also in the other cases, the tendency, whether the x and y are changed to a positive direction or a negative direction, is the same.

[0011] The above-mentioned column spacer structure is at least one of a column spacer and a base for spacers. The above-mentioned column spacer is a column member for maintaining a cell gap. The column spacer can be formed by forming a resin film over the entire surface and patterning it by photolithography, for example. The above-mentioned column spacer may be a single layer or a multilayer. The above-mentioned column spacer is preferably a photo spacer which can be formed by photolithography, and more preferably a multilayer photo spacer prepared by stacking layers which are formed simultaneously when other members are formed by photolithography. The multilayer photo spacer is made of the same material as a material for other members such as a colored layer, which can significantly efficiently perform production steps. The above-mentioned base for spacers is a bulge part that is a foundation of the column spacer, and the base is formed by partially arranging a foundation layer in a layer below the column spacer. Examples of the material for the above-mentioned foundation layer include a black matrix (BM), a colored layer, a metal wiring, an insulating film, and an electrode.

[0012] Preferable embodiments of the liquid crystal display device of the present invention are mentioned in more detail below.

It is preferable that the liquid crystal display device includes a backlight, wherein among red, green, and blue lights emitted by the backlight, the red light is emitted at the highest intensity. In the present invention, the column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel, and so the red pixel has the smallest aperture ratio of the three pixels. So, a backlight which emits red light at an intensity relatively higher than that of any other color light is used, and thereby the balance among the aperture ratios of the respective colors can be compensated, and display with excellent color can be provided. An emission spectrum of a typical backlight (three-wavelength fluorescence tube) used for the liquid crystal display device can be adjusted by varying a compounding ratio of fluorescent substances. According to the present embodiment, a chromaticity of a displayed color can be adjusted also by a backlight, and so, display with improved luminance can be provided while an appropriate chromaticity of the displayed color is maintained.

[0013] It is preferable that the liquid crystal display device includes a scanning line on at least one of the pair of

substrates, wherein a part of the scanning line in the green or blue pixel has a width smaller than a width of the scanning line in the red pixel. The column spacer structure is also arranged in the pixels other than the red pixel, conventionally. So, also in the green and blue pixels, the width of the scanning line is designed to be larger in order to use the scanning line as the base for the column spacer, which is not needed in the present invention. Accordingly, in the present embodiment in which the scanning line in the part which is conventionally used as the base for the column spacer is removed, the aperture ratio in the green or blue pixel is improved, leading to improvement in luminance. It is more preferable that the scanning line in each of the green and blue pixels has a width smaller than that of the scanning line in the red pixel.

[0014] The present invention is preferably employed if an area of the column spacer structure accounts for 2% or more of an area of one pixel. If the proportion of the area of the column spacer structure in one pixel is 2% or more, the reduction in aperture ratio, caused by arrangement of the column spacer structure, has an influence on visibility. The above-mentioned area of one pixel means an area of a region surrounded by the center lines of the scanning lines and the center lines of the signal lines.

[0015] It is preferable that the liquid crystal display device includes a pixel electrode in each pixel, wherein an area of the pixel electrode in the green and blue pixels is larger than an area of the pixel electrode in the red pixel. If the column spacer structure is arranged on the pixel electrode, alignment of liquid crystals near each column spacer is often disturbed. So, it is preferable that in the red pixel, the area of the pixel electrode is decreased in accordance with the size of the column spacer structure. In the green and blue pixels, the column spacer structure is not formed, and so, it is preferable that the pixel electrode is formed to have a larger area to increase the aperture ratio.

[0016] If the pixel electrode in the green and blue pixels have an area larger than that of the pixel electrode in the red pixel, it is preferable that the red pixel has the highest storage capacitance of the three pixels. In a Cs-on-Common system, for example, the storage capacitance is formed by arranging an insulating film between the storage capacitor wiring and the pixel electrode or a conductive part electrically connected to the pixel electrode, and in a Cs-on-Gate system, the storage capacitance is formed by arranging an insulating film between the scanning line and the pixel electrode or the conductive part electrically connected to the pixel electrode. If the aperture ratio of the pixel varies due to the difference of the area of the pixel electrode, the liquid crystal capacitance formed between the pixel electrode and the common electrode is different between the respective pixels. So, a drawing voltage (V_d) from the outside varies among the respective pixels, which causes a flicker. According to the present embodiment, the area of the pixel electrode positioned in the red pixel is smaller than the area of the pixel electrode positioned in the other pixels, and so, the liquid crystal capacitance of the red pixel is smaller than that of any other pixels. So, the storage capacitance of the red pixel is set to be larger than that of each of the green and blue pixel, and thereby generation of the flicker can be suppressed. In the Cs-on-Common system, it is preferable that the liquid crystal display device includes a storage capacitor wiring on at least one of the pair of substrates, wherein a part of the storage capacitor wiring in the red pixel has a width larger than a width of the storage capacitor wiring in the green and blue pixels. If the storage capacitor wiring in the red pixel is formed to have a width larger than a width of the storage capacitor wiring in the other pixels, a larger storage capacitance can be easily secured in the red pixel.

[0017] If the pixel electrode in the green and blue pixels has an area larger than an area of the pixel electrode in the red pixel, it is preferable that the liquid crystal display device includes a scanning line, a signal line, a switching element, and the pixel electrode on one of the pair of substrates, the switching element being electrically connected to the scanning line and the signal line, the pixel electrode being electrically connected to a drain electrode of the switching element, and the liquid crystal display device further including a common electrode on the other of the pair of substrates, wherein the pixel electrode and the common electrode form a liquid crystal capacitance (C_{lc}), one of the pixel electrode and the drain electrode, and one of a storage capacitor wiring and the scanning line, form a storage capacitance (C_s), the scanning line and the drain electrode form a gate drain capacitance (C_{gd}), and a ratio between the gate drain capacitance (C_{gd}), and a total of a liquid crystal capacitance (C_{lc}), the storage capacitance (C_s) and the gate drain capacitance (C_{gd}) is the same among the red, green, and blue pixels. That is, it is preferable that a value of $C_{gd}/(C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd})$ is the same among the red, green, and blue pixels. In the Cs-on-Common system, the storage capacitance is formed by arranging an insulating film between the storage capacitor wiring and the pixel electrode or the drain electrode. In the Cs-on-Gate system, the storage capacitance is formed by arranging an insulating film between the scanning line and the pixel electrode or the drain electrode. The drain electrode used herein is not especially limited as long as it is a conductive part electrically connected to the pixel electrode. In the present embodiment, "the value of $C_{gd}/(C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd})$ is the same" means the value is substantially the same unless the effects of the present embodiment are sacrificed, and specifically means that a difference in drawing voltage (V_d) calculated from the following formulae (1) to (3) is 100 mV or less, and preferably 50 mV or less. As a method of adjusting the value of $C_{gd}/(C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd})$, a method in which the area where the storage capacitance is formed is varied such as the above-mentioned method in which the width of the storage capacitor wiring is varied among the respective pixels is mentioned, for example. If the value of $C_{gd}/(C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd})$ is the same among the red, green, and blue pixels, the drawing voltage (V_d) from the outside can be the same among the respective pixels, and generation of the flicker can be suppressed, and the luminance can be improved.

$$V_d = V_{gpp} \times C_{gd}/C_{pix} \quad (1)$$

$$V_{gpp} = V_{gh} - V_{gl} \quad (2)$$

$$C_{pix} = C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd} \quad (3)$$

In the above formulae (1) to (3), V_d represents a drawing voltage from the outside; V_{gpp} represents a difference between the maximum value and the minimum value of the gate voltage; C_{gd} represents a parasitic capacitance between the gate electrode and the drain electrode of the TFT part; C_{pix} represents a pixel capacitance; V_{gh} represents the maximum value of the gate voltage; V_{gl} represents the minimum value of the gate voltage; C_{lc} represents a liquid crystal capacitance; and C_s represents a storage capacitance. The V_{gpp} is generally the same among the respective pixels, and so, if the value of $C_{gd}/(C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd})$ is the same among the pixels, the drawing voltage (V_d) can be the same among the respective pixels.

[0018] Further, if the pixel electrode in the green and blue pixels has an area larger than an area of the pixel electrode in the red pixel, it is preferable that a linear alignment control structure divides each of the red, green, and blue pixels into a plurality of alignment regions different in alignment direction of liquid crystals, and an area ratio among the plurality of alignment regions is the same among the red, green, and blue pixels. That is, in the liquid crystal display device, it is preferable that an area ratio among the alignment regions in the red pixel is the same as an area ratio among the alignment regions in each of the green and blue pixels. The above-mentioned linear alignment control structure is not especially limited as long as it is a structure which linearly extends as viewed in the normal direction of the substrate surface and contributes to alignment property of the liquid crystal. For example, a projection which projects to the liquid crystal layer side, a slit provided for an electrode used to apply a voltage to the liquid crystal layer, maybe mentioned. If the alignment control structure is formed, the liquid crystal in Vertical Alignment mode is generally aligned in such a way that a direction of a long axis of the liquid crystal is vertical to a wall surface of the alignment control structure under no voltage application, and the liquid crystal begins to be inclined from the alignment control structure continuously, by application of a voltage, in such a way that the direction of the long axis is inclined toward a direction parallel to the alignment control structure. Accordingly, the alignment control structure is formed to divide the pixel into a plurality of regions, and thereby the liquid crystal in each divided region is aligned in the same direction. Such a region where the liquid crystal is aligned in the same direction is called alignment region (domain). Thus, if the plurality of alignment regions different in alignment direction are formed, viewing angle characteristics can be improved. In order to uniform the viewing angle characteristics in up-and-down and right-and-left directions, it is preferable that at least four alignment regions are arranged. If the area ratio among the alignment regions different in alignment direction of the liquid crystal is the same among the respective pixels, the viewing angle characteristics can be improved. Particularly in order to uniform the viewing angle characteristics between up and down directions, and between right and left directions, it is preferable that a region where the liquid crystal is aligned in the right direction and a region where the liquid crystal is aligned in the left direction have the same area ratio, and a region where the liquid crystal is aligned in the up direction and a region where the liquid crystal is aligned in the low direction have the same area ratio. In the present embodiment, "the same area ratio" means that the regions have substantially the same area ratio unless the effects of the present embodiment are sacrificed, and means that a difference in the area ratio is within 5% or less, and preferably 1% or less. In the present invention, the column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel, and so, if the linear alignment control structure is formed in the red pixel in the same pattern as in the other pixels, the area of the alignment region near the column spacer structure is decreased, and the area ratio among the alignment regions is different between the red pixel and the other pixels. The area ratio among the alignment regions is adjusted to be the same among the respective pixels, and thereby the entire viewing angle characteristics can be adjusted. The following methods can be mentioned as a method of adjusting the area ratio, for example. A method in which the position of the alignment control structure is varied; a method in which a distance between the alignment control structures is varied; a method in which an area of the pixel electrode is varied; a method in which a width of a black matrix (BM) is varied; and a method in which a length and/or a width of the alignment control structure are/is varied. A balance of the viewing angle characteristics is enhanced if the liquid crystal is aligned to four oblique directions in one pixel, and as a result, a wide viewing angle can be obtained. As such a method in which the four alignment regions different in alignment direction are formed, a method in which the pixel is divided by a linear alignment control structure which has a V-shape as viewed in plane is mentioned, for example.

EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

[0019] According to the liquid crystal display device of the present invention, the column spacer structure is formed in the red pixel among the three pixels of red, green, and blue, and so, a luminance is improved while an appropriate chromaticity of a displayed color is maintained.

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0020] The present invention is mentioned in more detail below with reference to Embodiments using drawings, but not limited to only these Embodiments.

"Embodiment 1"

[0021] Fig. 1 is a planar view schematically showing pixels of red, green, and blue in a liquid crystal display device in Embodiment 1. The liquid crystal display device in the present Embodiment has a configuration in which an array substrate and a color filter substrate face each other with a liquid crystal layer therebetween. Such a liquid crystal display device is driven by an active matrix system.

[0022] As shown in Fig. 1, on the array substrate, a source wiring (signal line) 21 and a gate wiring (scanning line) 22 are arranged in vertical and horizontal directions, and at near an intersection of the source wiring 21 with the gate wiring 22, a TFT 23 that is a switching element is arranged. A pixel electrode 10 made of ITO and the like is arranged to be surrounded by the source wiring 21 and the gate wiring 22. The pixel electrode 10 is electrically connected to a drain electrode of the TFT 23 through a contact hole. A storage capacitor wiring (Cs wiring) 25 is arranged to pass through the center of a pixel, in parallel to the gate wiring 22.

[0023] According to the present Embodiment, a column spacer 1 is arranged at a position overlapping with the gate wiring 22, only in a red pixel R. A base 2 on which the column spacer 1 is arranged is arranged in a layer below the column spacer 1. In the red pixel R, the pixel electrode 10 has a notch in order for the pixel electrode 10 not to overlap with the base 2. A part of the gate wiring 22 in the region where the column spacer 1 is formed in the red pixel R, has a width larger than a width of the gate wiring 22 which is used as the base 2 on which the column spacer 1 is arranged in a green pixel G and a blue pixel B.

[0024] The storage capacitor wiring 25 forms a storage capacitance Cs with the pixel electrode 10 which is arranged on the storage capacitor wiring 25 with an insulating film therebetween. According to the present Embodiment, the pixel electrode 10 has a notch in the red pixel R, and so, a liquid crystal capacitance in the red pixel R is smaller than that in each of the green pixel G and the blue pixel B. Accordingly, in order to compensate this, a part of the storage capacitor wiring 25 in the red pixel R has a width larger than that of the storage capacitor wiring 25 in the green pixel G and the blue pixel B. The following methods are mentioned as a method of determining the width of the storage capacitor wiring 25, for example. First, it is determined if a Cs/Clc is a certain standard value or more in order to check whether response of liquid crystal can be secured in each pixel. Under the condition that the Cs/Clc is a certain standard value or more, each of the following values (1) to (3) :

$$V_d = V_{gpp} \times C_{gd}/C_{pix} \quad (1);$$

$$V_{gpp} = V_{gh} - V_{gl} \quad (2);$$

and

$$C_{pix} = C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd} \quad (3)$$

is adjusted to be the same among the red, green, and blue pixels. In the above formulae (1) to (3), V_d represents a drawing voltage from the outside; V_{gpp} represents a difference between the maximum value and the minimum value of the gate voltage; C_{gd} represents a parasitic capacitance between the gate electrode and the drain electrode of the TFT part; C_{pix} represents a pixel capacitance; V_{gh} represents the maximum value of the gate voltage; V_{gl} represents the minimum value of the gate voltage; C_{lc} represents a liquid crystal capacitance; and C_s represents a storage capacitance. The V_{gpp} is generally the same among the respective pixels, and so it is preferable to adjust a $C_{gd}/(C_{lc} + C_s + C_{gd})$ to be the same among the pixels.

[0025] Fig. 2 is a planar view schematically showing an embodiment in which the pixels shown in Fig. 1 are provided with an alignment control structure such as a rib 32 and an electrode slit 31. The electrode slit 31 is provided for the pixel electrode 10 in the array substrate. The projection (rib) 32 is arranged in the color filter substrate. The rib 32 is made of an insulator. The rib 32 and the electrode slit 31 have a V shape, and alternately arranged in parallel to each other. The rib 32 and the electrode slit 31 are arranged so that one pixel is divided into four or more alignment regions (domains) (10 alignment regions in Fig. 2) where the liquid crystals are aligned in four oblique directions. An area ratio among these four regions is set to be almost the same among the red pixel R, the green pixel G, and the blue pixel B. Specifically, only in the red pixel R, the rib 32 and the electrode slit 31 are moved in parallel in the up, down, right, or left direction while a distance between the rib 32 and the electrode slit 31 is maintained to be the same as a distance between the green pixel G and the blue pixel B, and thereby, the area ratio among the four alignment regions is adjusted to be almost the same as the area ratios in the green pixel G and the blue pixel B. So, the arrangement of the rib 32 and the electrode slit 31 in the red pixel R is different from those in the green pixel G and the blue pixel B.

[0026] Fig. 3-1 is a cross-sectional view schematically showing the pixel taken along dashed line A-B in Fig. 1 and shows a cross-section of the column spacer 1 and its base 2 formed in the red pixel R. As shown in Fig. 3-1, in an array substrate 3, the gate wiring 22, a gate insulating film 17, a passivation film 18, and an interlayer insulating film 19 are stacked (in this order) on a transparent substrate 16 toward a liquid crystal layer 5. In a color filter substrate 4, a black matrix (BM) 12, a red colored layer 13a, a green colored layer 13b, and a blue colored layer 13c, a common electrode 14 made of ITO, and the resin layer 15 are stacked in this order on a transparent substrate 11 toward the liquid crystal layer 5.

[0027] The column spacer 1 is a multilayer photo spacer composed of a multilayer body including the green colored layer 13b, the blue colored layer 13c, the common electrode 14, and the resin layer 15. The base 2, which is the part surrounded by the dotted line in the figure, is composed of: a base 2b arranged in the color filter substrate 4; and a base 2a arranged in the array substrate 3. The base 2b is composed of the BM 12 and the red colored layer 13a. The base 2a is composed of the gate wiring 22, the gate insulating film 17, the passivation film 18, and the interlayer insulating film 19. The base 2b includes the BM 12 as a foundation layer. The base 2a includes the gate wiring 22 as a foundation layer. The spacer in the present Embodiment is composed of the column spacer 1, the base 2a in the array substrate 3, and the base 2b in the color filter substrate 4. The spacer causes no reduction in display qualities due to light leakage even though being arranged in the display region, because the BM 12 that is one component of the base 2 has light-shielding property. A part of each layer constituting the spacer is made of the same material as a material for the colored layer in the pixel, that is, composed of the red colored layer 13a, the green colored layer 13b, and the blue colored layer 13c. So, the spacer can be produced with efficiency. The column spacer 1, the green colored layer 13b, the blue colored layer 13c, and the BM 12 are formed to have different areas. This is because a patterning accuracy at the time of forming each layer is taken into consideration. That is, a variation in thickness of the column is prevented even if the position where the layers are formed varies. As mentioned above, the BM 12 needs to have a large area in order to prevent light leakage. Thus, the column spacer and its base, having the multilayer structure, needs to have an area larger than that of a column spacer and its base, having no multilayer structure. Accordingly, the present invention can be particularly preferably applied to the case that the column spacer and its base having a multilayer structure are used.

[0028] Fig. 3-2 is a cross-sectional view schematically showing the pixel taken along dashed line C-D in Fig. 1, and shows a cross section of a part where the column spacer is conventionally arranged in the green pixel G or the blue pixel B. As shown in Fig. 3-2, in the array substrate 3, the gate wiring 22, the gate insulating film 17, the passivation film 18, and the interlayer insulating film 19 are stacked in this order on the transparent substrate 16 toward the liquid crystal layer 5. In the color filter substrate 4, the black matrix (BM) 12, the green colored layer 13b or the blue colored layer 13c, and the common electrode 14 are stacked in this order on the transparent substrate 11 toward the liquid crystal layer 5. The green pixel G and the blue pixel B also have the configuration shown in Fig. 3-1, conventionally. In the present Embodiment, however, in the green pixel G and the blue pixel B, the column spacer 1 and its base 2 are not formed, and so, the pixel electrode 10 is provided with no notch. Further, the gate wiring 22 in the green pixel G and the blue pixel B is formed to have a width smaller than a width of the gate wiring 22 in the red pixel R. So, the area of the BM 12 also can be decreased. As a result, the aperture ratio can be improved in comparison to that in a conventional configuration.

[0029] Fig. 4 is a graph showing one example of a proportion of the column spacer structure in an area of one pixel in each screen size of the liquid crystal display device. The above-mentioned screen size corresponds to a length of a diagonal line in a rectangular screen. As shown in Fig. 4, the proportion of the column spacer structure in one pixel area is increased as the screen size is decreased. When the screen size is 30-inch or less, the proportion of the column spacer structure is 2% or more in one pixel area. Fig. 5 is a graph showing one example of a proportion of the column spacer structure in one pixel area, in each resolution of the pixel in the liquid crystal display device. As shown in Fig. 5, the proportion of the column spacer structure is 2% or more in one pixel area when the resolution of the pixel is FHD, WXGA x 2, and FHD x 2.

[0030] Fig. 6 is a graph showing one example of an intensity ratio among the respective color components (hereinafter

also referred to as a backlight intensity ratio) of light emitted from a backlight. According to the present Embodiment, the aperture ratio of the red pixel is smaller than that of each of the green and blue pixels because the column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel. According to the present Embodiment, the intensity of the red component of light emitted from the backlight light is set to be larger than that of other colors, thereby adjusting the chromaticity balance.

With regard to a way of adjusting the chromaticity balance, for example, if a ratio of the aperture ratio among the respective colors is red : green: blue = 0.8:1:1 as shown in Fig. 6, the backlight intensity ratio is set to be inverse of the ratio of the aperture ratio, i.e., red: green: blue = 1.25:1:1, excellent display with adjusted chromaticity can be provided.

[0031] The present application claims priority under the Paris Convention and the domestic law in the country to be entered into national phase on Patent Application No. 2006-355052 filed in Japan on December 28, 2006, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0032] The terms "or more" and "or less" in the present description means that the value described (boundary value) is included.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0033]

[Fig. 1]

Fig. 1 is a planar view schematically showing the respective pixels of red, green, and blue in the liquid crystal display device in Embodiment 1.

[Fig. 2]

Fig. 2 is a planar view schematically showing the embodiment in which the pixels shown in Fig. 1 are provided with the alignment control structure such as a rib and an electrode slit.

[Fig. 3-1]

Fig. 3-1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of the pixel taken along dashed line A-B in Fig. 1 and shows a cross section of the column spacer and its base formed in the red pixel.

[Fig. 3-2]

Fig. 3-2 is a cross-sectional view schematically showing the pixel taken along dashed line C-D in Fig. 1 and shows a cross section of a part where the column spacer is conventionally arranged in the green or blue pixel.

[Fig. 4]

Fig. 4 is a graph showing one example of the proportion of the column spacer structure in the area of one pixel, in each screen size of the liquid crystal display device.

[Fig. 5]

Fig. 5 is a graph showing one example of the proportion of the column spacer structure in the area of one pixel, in each resolution of the pixel in the liquid crystal display device.

[Fig. 6]

Fig. 6 is a graph showing one example of the intensity ratio of the respective color components included in light emitted from the backlight.

[Fig. 7]

Fig. 7 is a planar view schematically showing arrangement of the column spacer of the present invention.

[Fig. 8]

Fig. 8 is a planar view schematically showing the conventional column spacer arrangement.

EXPLANATION OF NUMERALS AND SYMBOLS

[0034]

1: Column spacer

2: Base

2a: Base (array substrate side)

2b: Base (color filter substrate side)

3: Array substrate

4: Color filter substrate

5: Liquid crystal layer

10: Pixel electrode

11: Transparent substrate

12: Black matrix (BM)

13a: Red colored layer

13b: Green colored layer
 13c: Blue colored layer
 14: Common electrode
 15: Resin layer
 16: Transparent substrate
 17: Gate insulating film
 18: Passivation film
 19: Interlayer insulating film
 21: Source wiring (signal line)
 22: Gate wiring (scanning line)
 23: TFT
 25: Storage capacitor wiring
 31: Electrode slit
 32: Rib
 R: Red pixel
 G: Green pixel
 B: Blue pixel

Claims

1. A liquid crystal display device comprising a pair of substrates and a liquid crystal layer interposed between the pair of substrates, and
 the liquid crystal display device having a red pixel, a green pixel, and a blue pixel,
 wherein a column spacer structure is arranged in the red pixel among three pixels of the red, green, and blue pixels, and
 the red pixel has the smallest aperture ratio of the three pixels.
2. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 1, comprising a backlight,
 wherein among red, green, and blue lights emitted by the backlight, the red light is emitted at the highest intensity.
3. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 1 or 2, comprising a scanning line on at least one of the pair of substrates,
 wherein a part of the scanning line in the green or blue pixel has a width smaller than a width of the scanning line in the red pixel.
4. The liquid crystal display device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,
 wherein an area of the column spacer structure accounts for 2% or more of an area of one pixel.
5. The liquid crystal display device according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, comprising a pixel electrode in each pixel,
 wherein an area of the pixel electrode in the green and blue pixels is larger than an area of the pixel electrode in the red pixel.
6. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 5,
 wherein the red pixel has the highest storage capacitance of the three pixels.
7. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 6, comprising a storage capacitor wiring on at least one of the pair of substrates,
 wherein a part of the storage capacitor wiring in the red pixel has a width larger than a width of the storage capacitor wiring in the green and blue pixels.
8. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 5, comprising a scanning line, a signal line, a switching element, and the pixel electrode on one of the pair of substrates,
 the switching element being electrically connected to the scanning line and the signal line,
 the pixel electrode being electrically connected to a drain electrode of the switching element, and
 the liquid crystal display device further comprising a common electrode on the other of the pair of substrates,
 wherein the pixel electrode and the common electrode form a liquid crystal capacitance,
 one of the pixel electrode and the drain electrode, and one of a storage capacitor wiring and the scanning line, form

a storage capacitance,
the scanning line and the drain electrode form a gate drain capacitance, and
a ratio between the gate drain capacitance, and a total of a liquid crystal capacitance, the storage capacitance and
the gate drain capacitance is the same among the red, green, and blue pixels.

- 5
9. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 5,
wherein a linear alignment control structure divides each of the red, green, and blue pixels into a plurality of alignment
regions different in alignment direction of liquid crystals, and
an area ratio among the plurality of alignment regions is the same among the red, green, and blue pixels.
- 10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

Fig.1

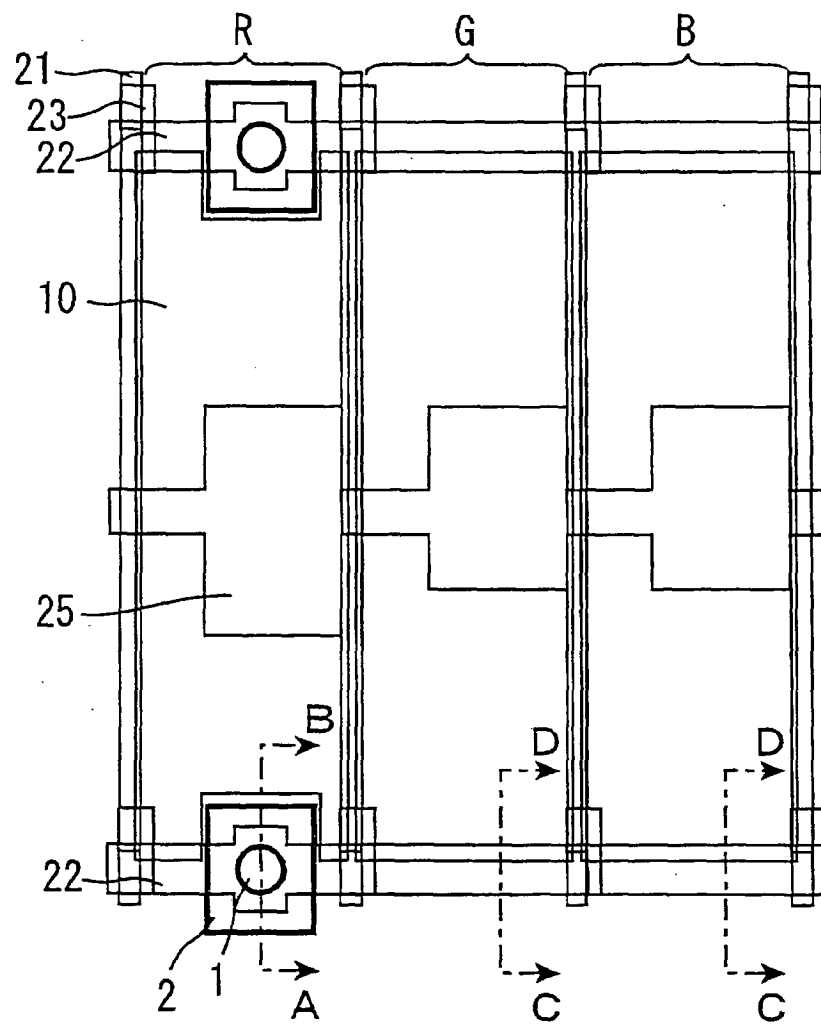


Fig.2

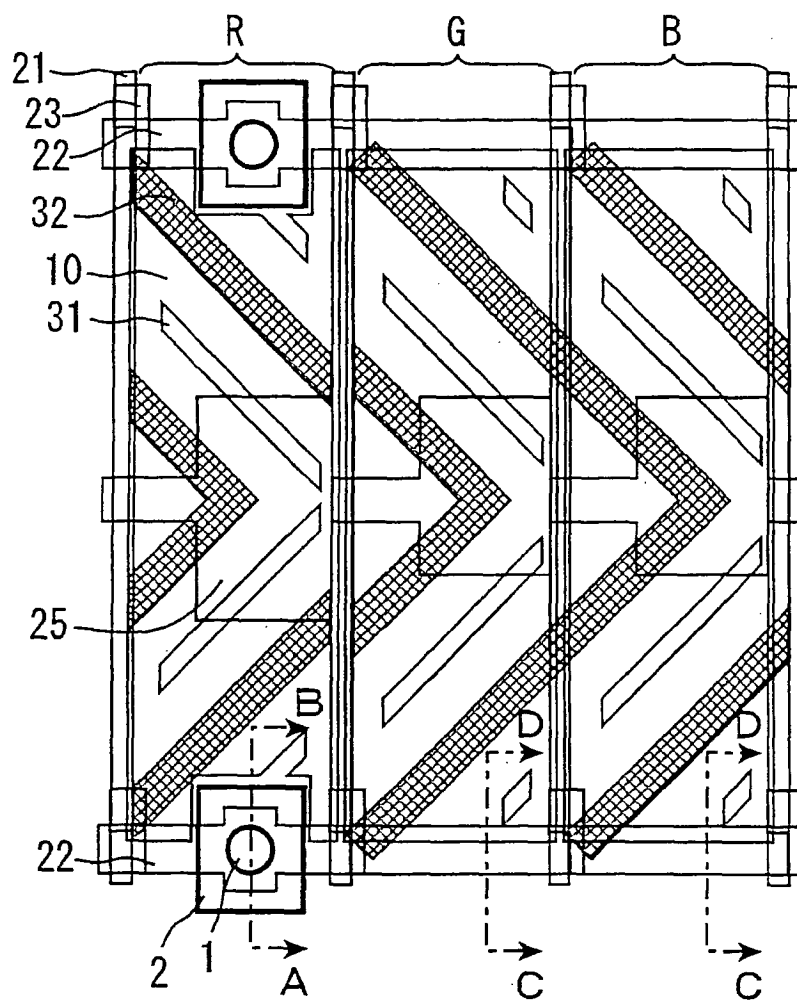


Fig.3-1

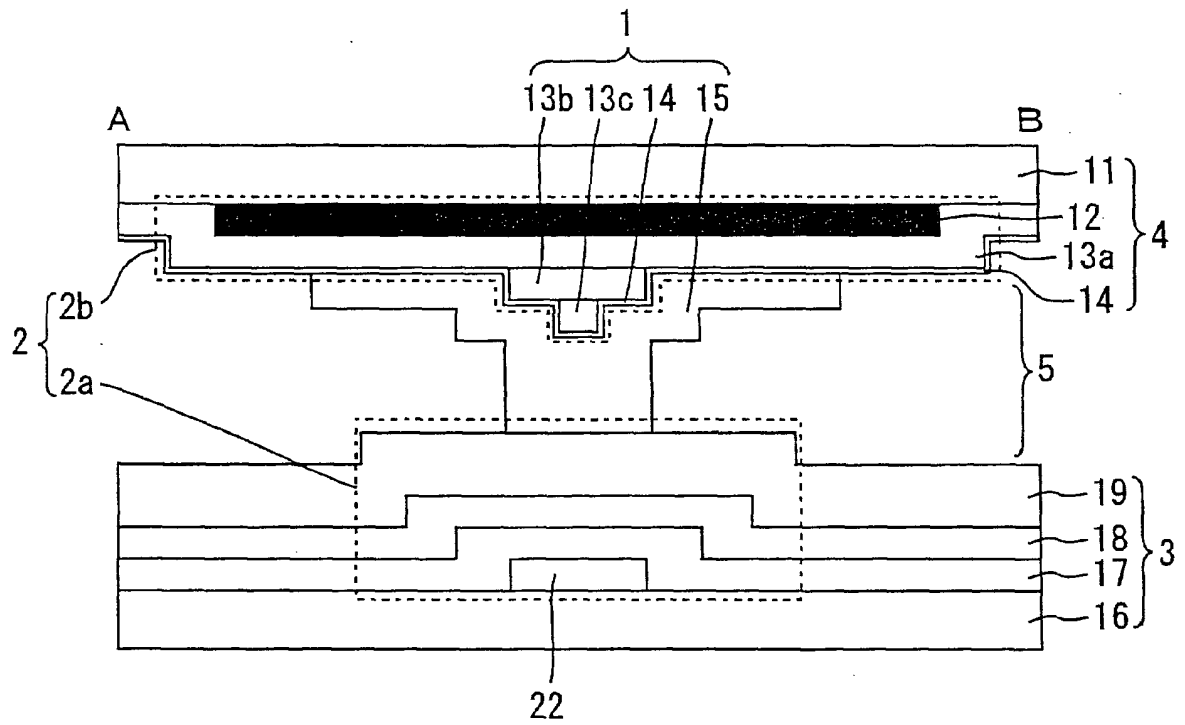


Fig.3-2

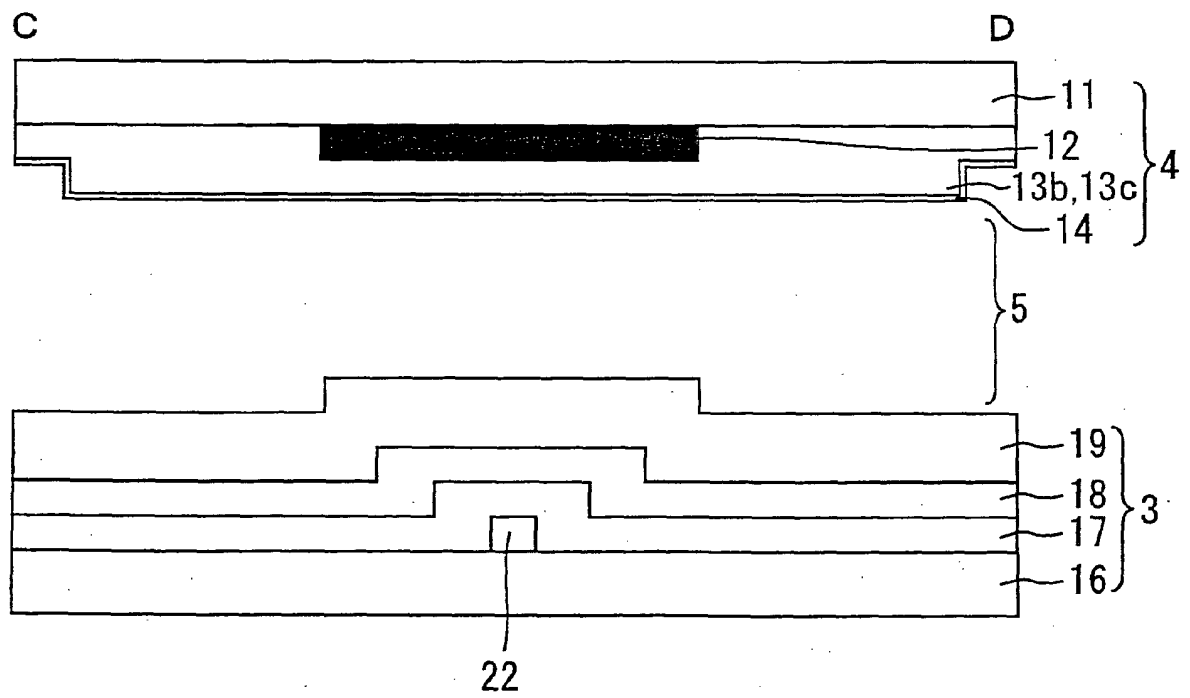


Fig.4

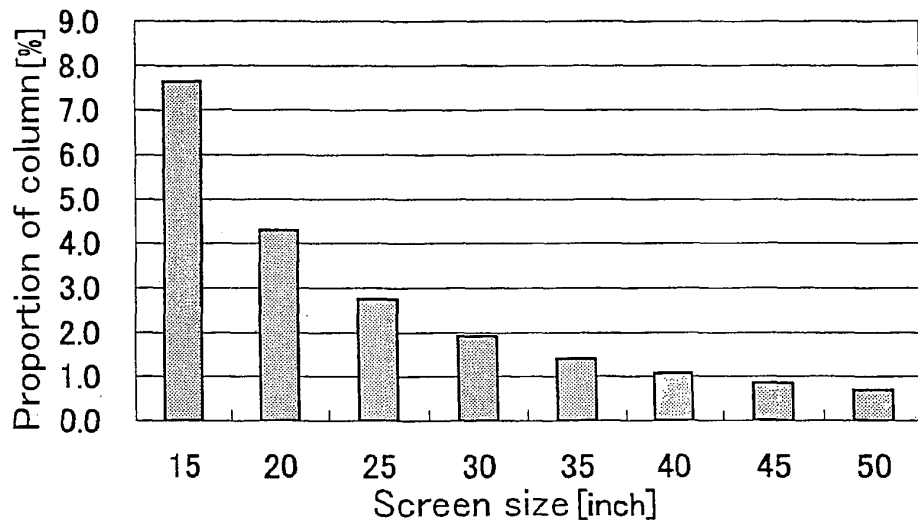


Fig.5

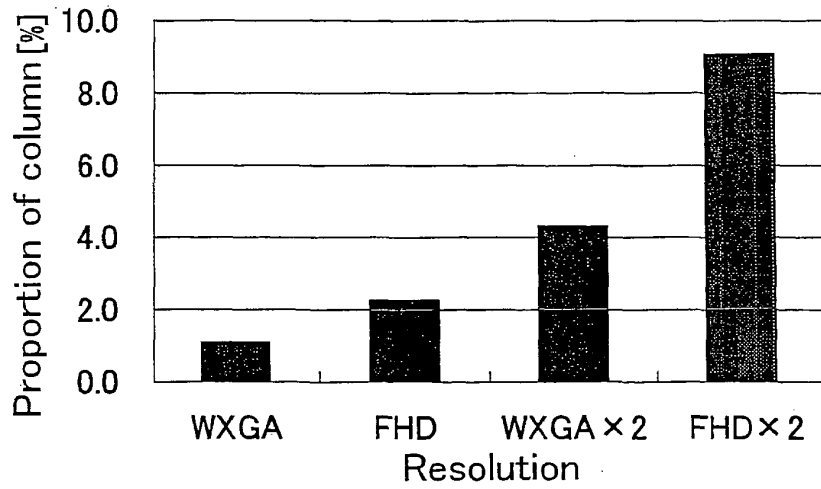


Fig.6

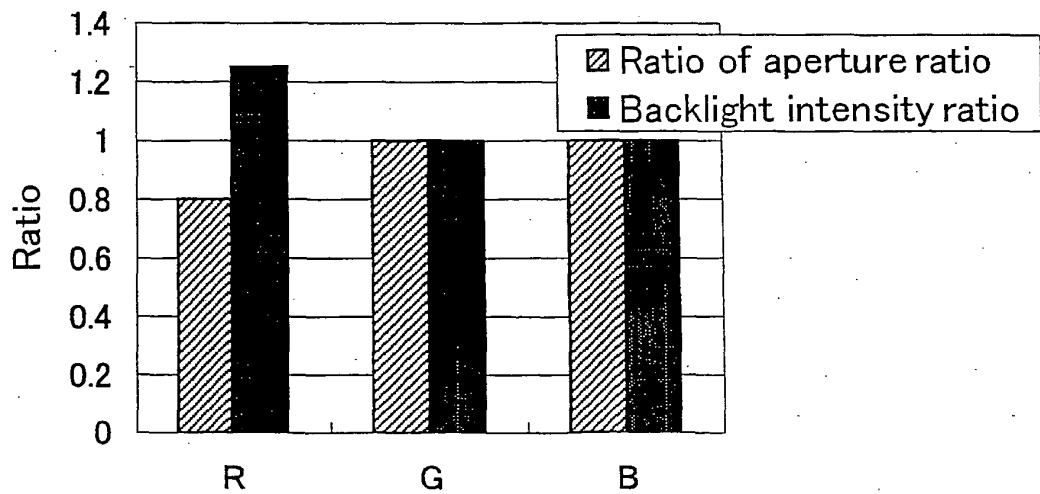


Fig.7

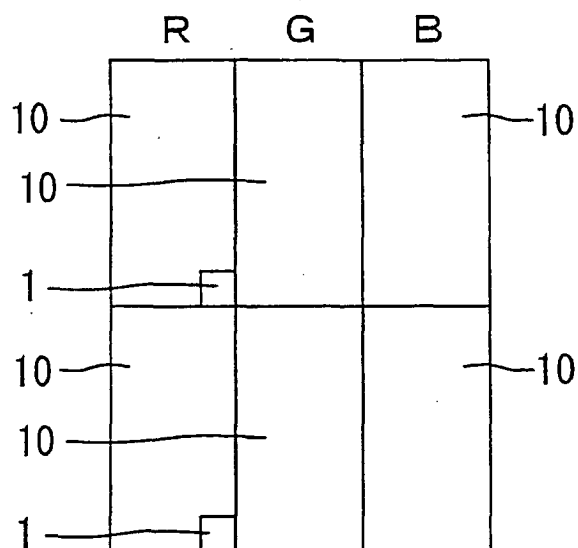
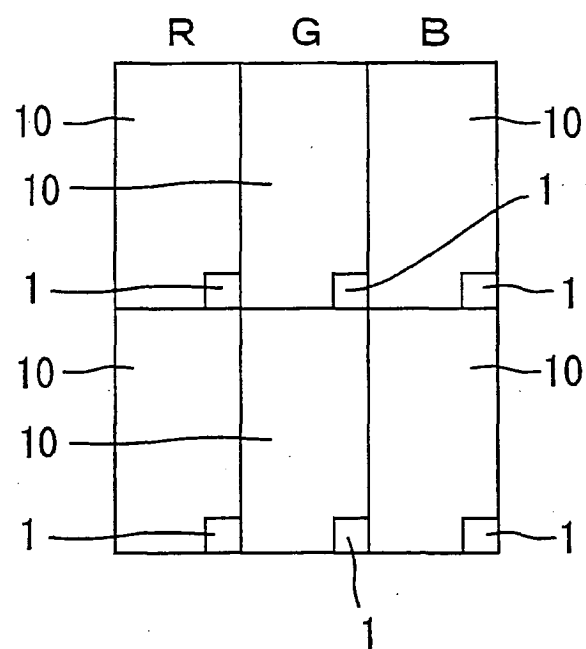


Fig.8



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2007/068269

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

G02F1/1339(2006.01)i, G02F1/1335(2006.01)i, G02F1/13357(2006.01)i,
G02F1/1343(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

G02F1/1339, G02F1/1335, G02F1/13357, G02F1/1343

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2007
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2007 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2007

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2003-172937 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 20 June, 2003 (20.06.03), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-9
A	JP 11-002717 A (Dainippon Printing Co., Ltd.), 06 January, 1999 (06.01.99), Par. Nos. [0014] to [0016]; Fig. 1 (Family: none)	1-9
A	JP 2004-061904 A (Sharp Corp.), 26 February, 2004 (26.02.04), Full text; all drawings & US 2004/0021808 A1 & CN 1475816 A	1-9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
18 October, 2007 (18.10.07)

Date of mailing of the international search report
30 October, 2007 (30.10.07)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2007/068269

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 11-353919 A (Toshiba Corp.), 24 December, 1999 (24.12.99), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-9

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (April 2007)

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

This list of references cited by the applicant is for the reader's convenience only. It does not form part of the European patent document. Even though great care has been taken in compiling the references, errors or omissions cannot be excluded and the EPO disclaims all liability in this regard.

Patent documents cited in the description

- JP 2002196338 A [0003]
- JP 2006355052 A [0031]

专利名称(译)	液晶显示装置		
公开(公告)号	EP2077465A1	公开(公告)日	2009-07-08
申请号	EP2007807633	申请日	2007-09-20
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	夏普株式会社		
申请(专利权)人(译)	夏普株式会社		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	夏普株式会社		
[标]发明人	SHIMOSHIKIRYOH FUMIKAZU KAWABATA MASAE		
发明人	IKUMI, ITSUMI SHIMOSHIKIRYOH, FUMIKAZU KAWABATA, MASAE		
IPC分类号	G02F1/1339 G02F1/1335 G02F1/13357 G02F1/1343		
CPC分类号	G02F1/13394 G02F1/133514 G02F2201/40		
优先权	2006355052 2006-12-28 JP		
其他公开文献	EP2077465A4 EP2077465B1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

本发明提供一种液晶显示装置，当液晶显示装置包括柱状间隔物时，该液晶显示装置能够进一步提高亮度。本发明是一种液晶显示装置，包括一对基板和介于所述一对基板之间的液晶层，以及具有红色像素，绿色像素和蓝色像素的液晶显示装置，其中柱状间隔物在红色，绿色和蓝色像素的三个像素中的红色像素中布置结构，并且红色像素具有三个像素的最小孔径比。

Fig. 1

