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(54) LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE AND FABRICATING AND DRIVING METHOD THEREOF

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/102**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal display device includes a liquid crystal panel divided into a non-display area and a display area where pixel cells are arranged in a matrix, a backlight for supplying light to the liquid crystal panel, and a photo-sensing device in the non-display area for sensing an external light to control light output from the backlight in accordance with the sensed the external light.

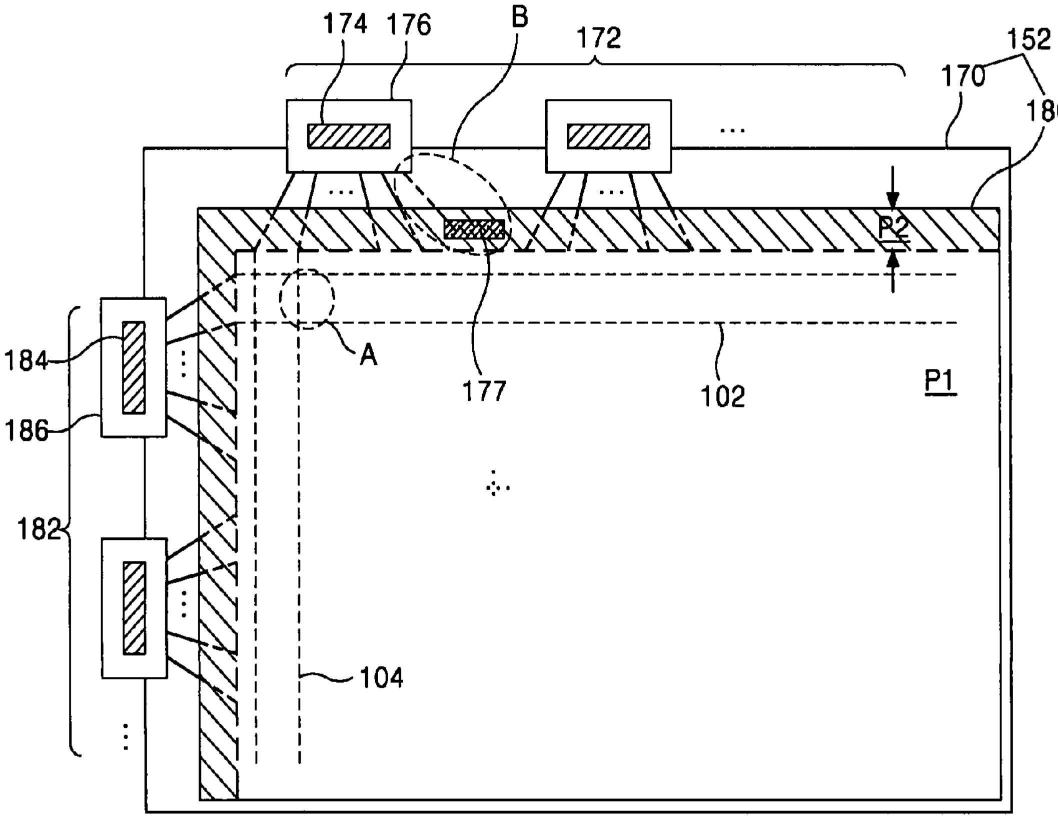


FIG. 1
RELATED ART

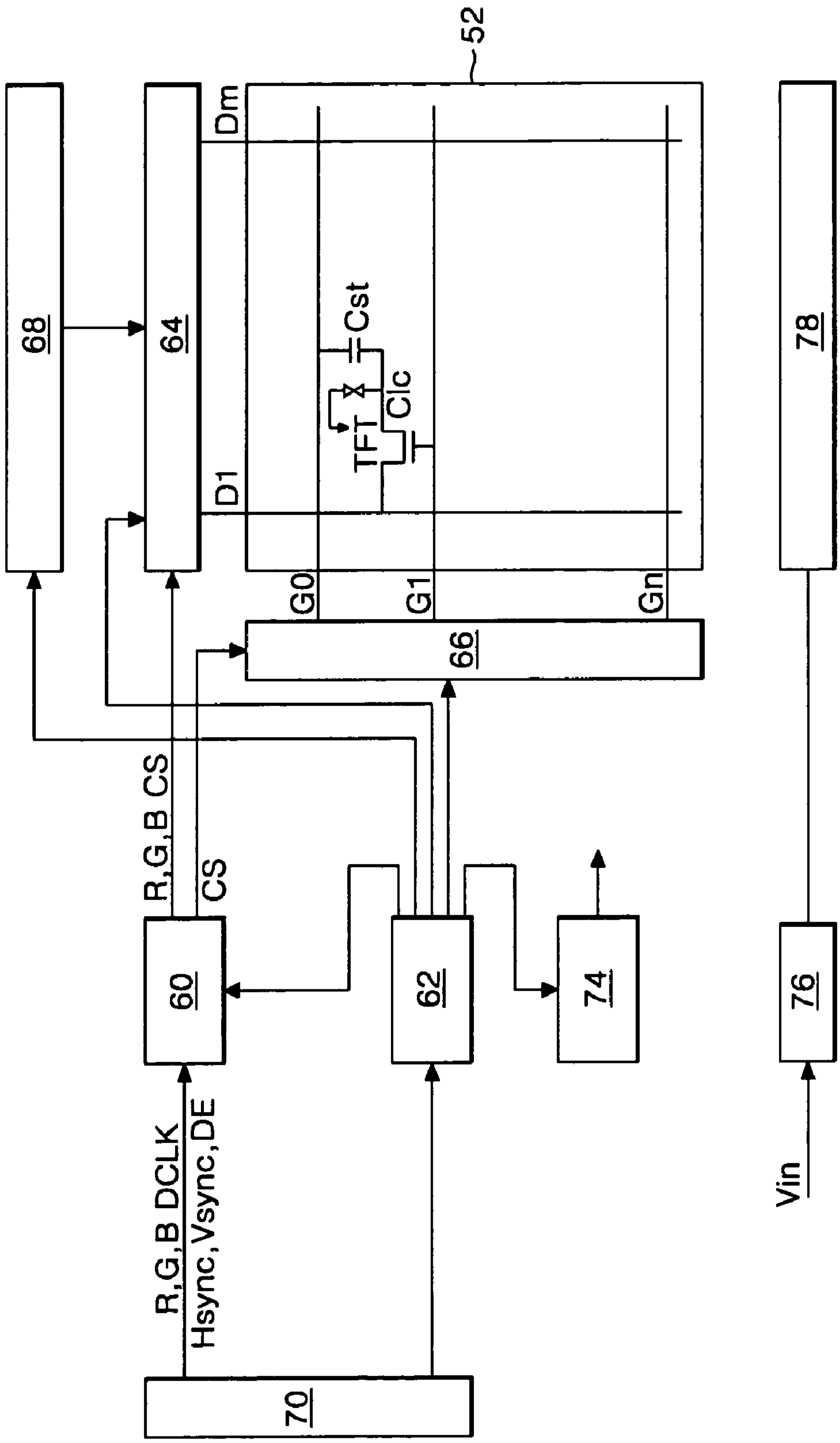


FIG.2

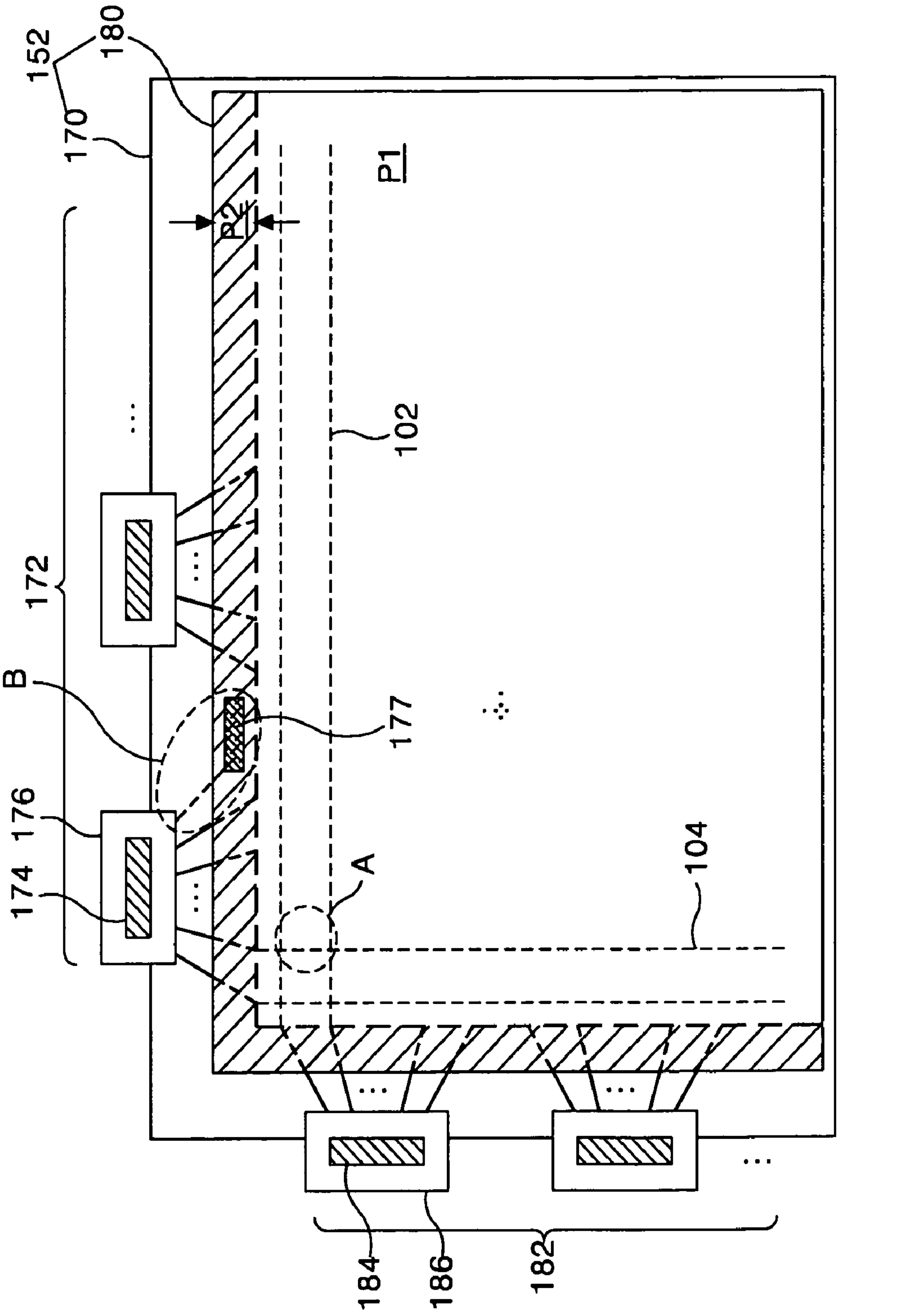
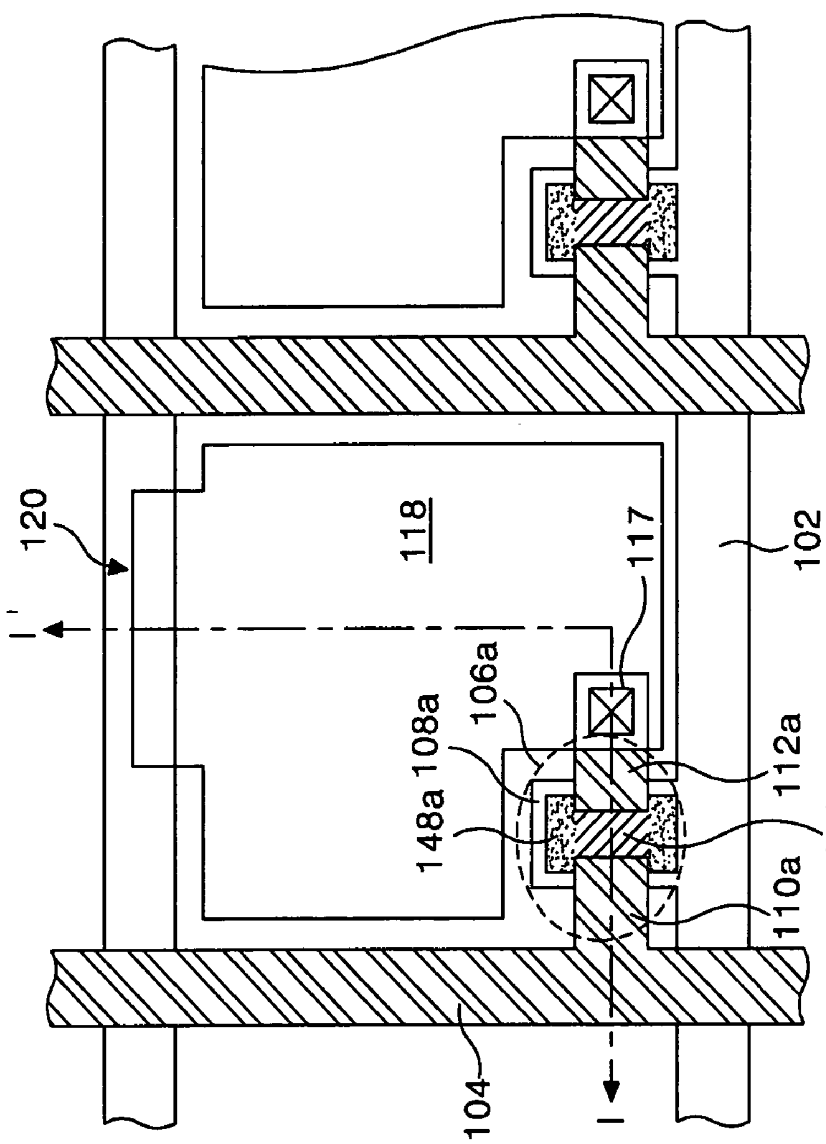


FIG.3



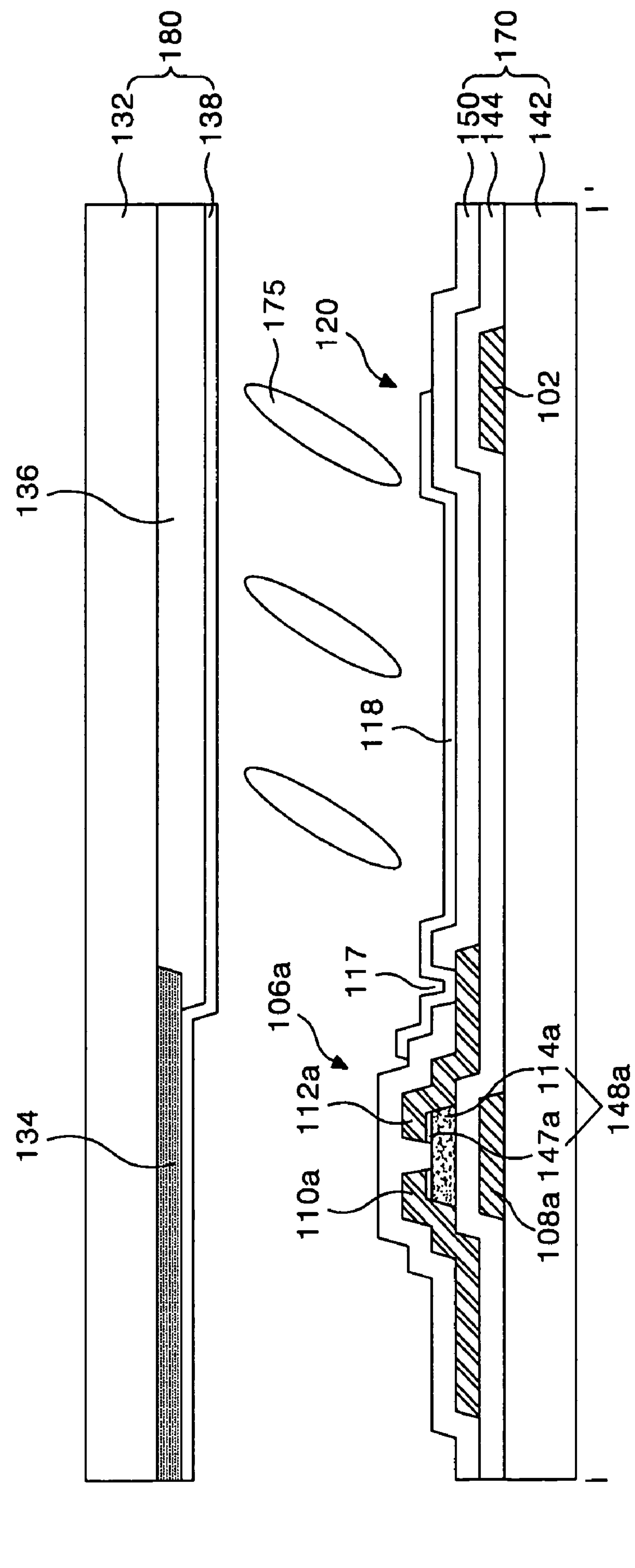

180
132
138
136
134
175
120
102
118
117
106a
112a
110a
114a
147a
108a
148a
170
150
144
142
I'
I

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

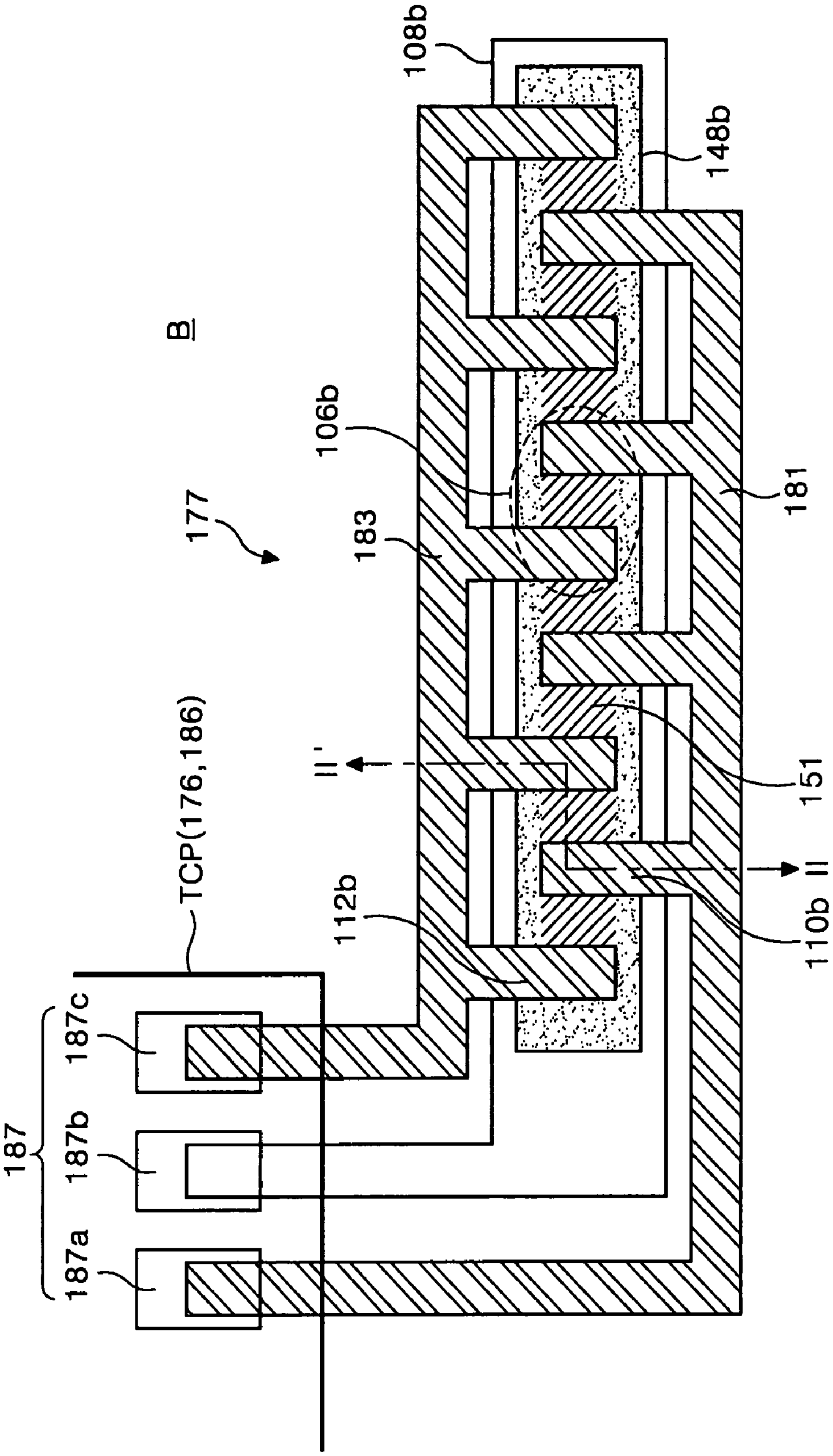

108b
148b
B
106b
177
183
181
151
II'
II
110b
112b
TCP(176,186)
187
187c
187b
187a

FIG.6

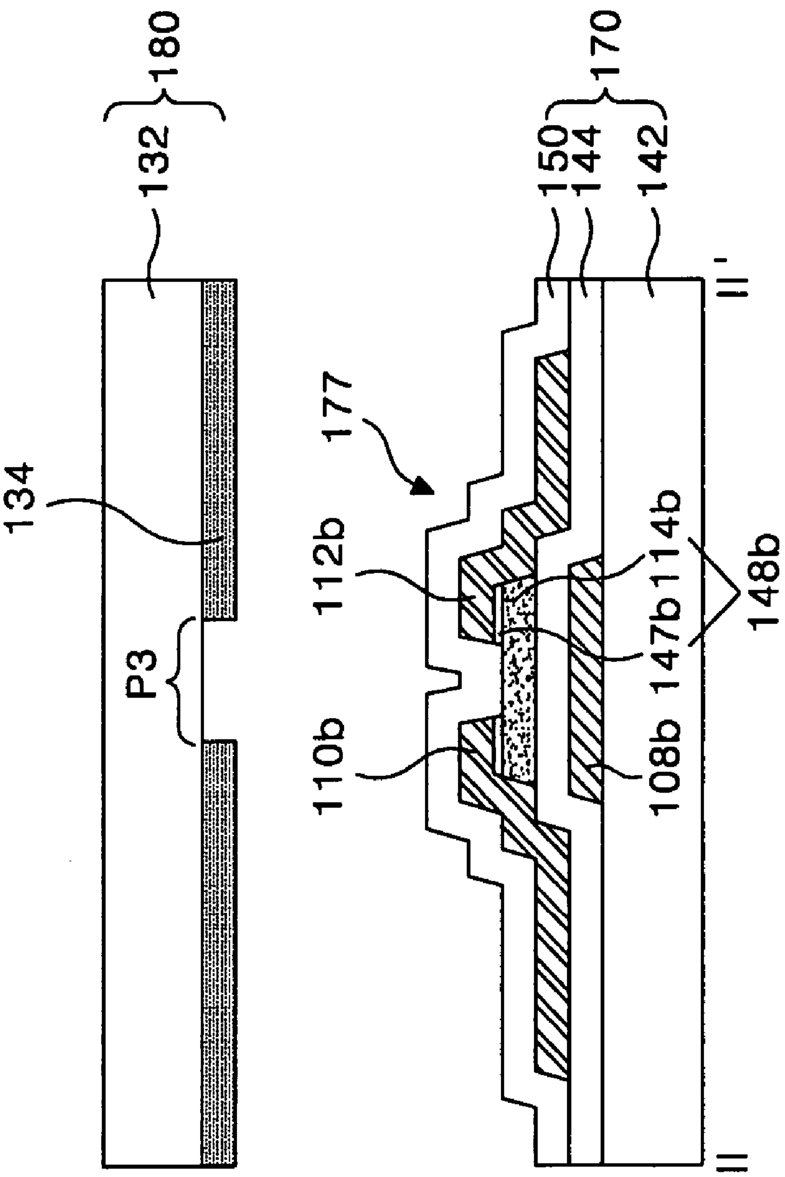

180
132
134
P3
177
112b
110b
114b
147b
108b
148b
150
144
142
170
II'
II

FIG. 7

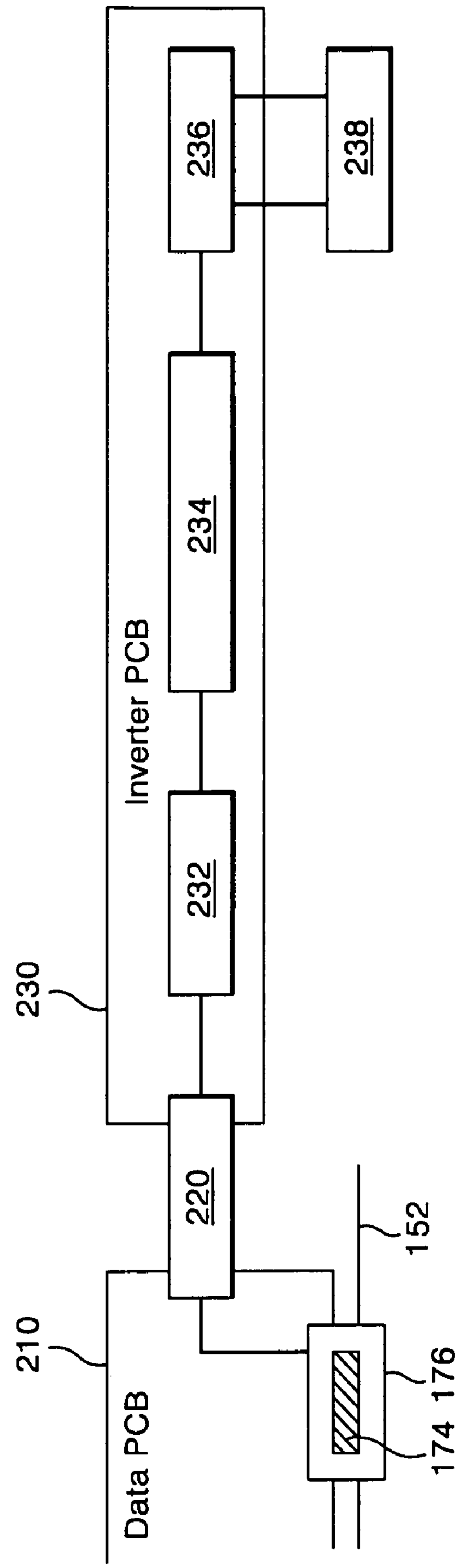


FIG.8

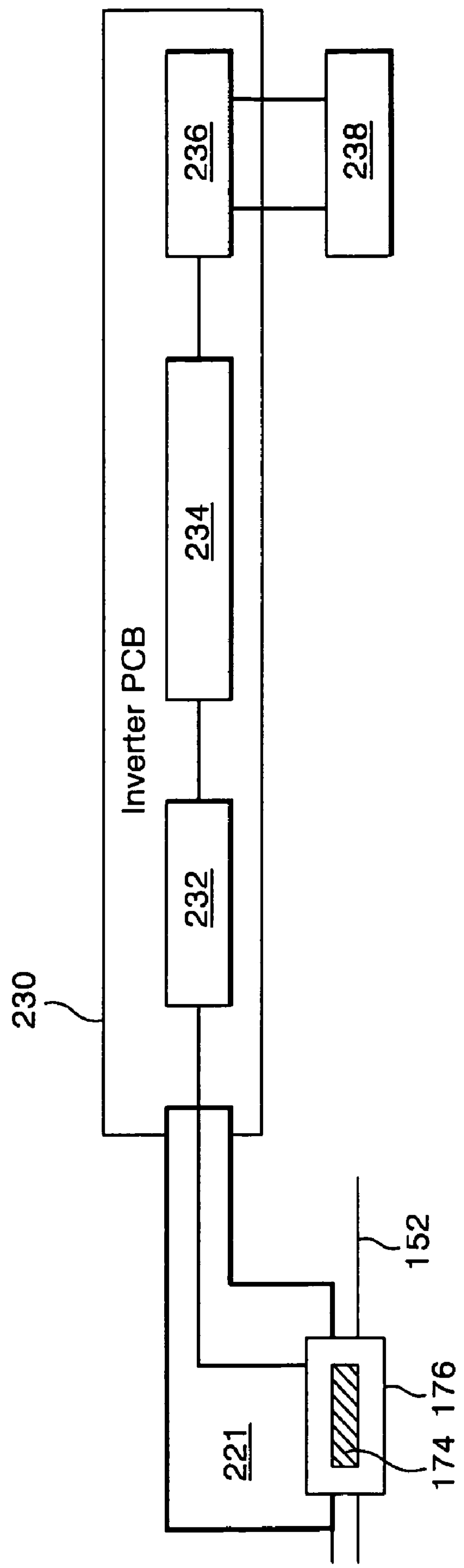
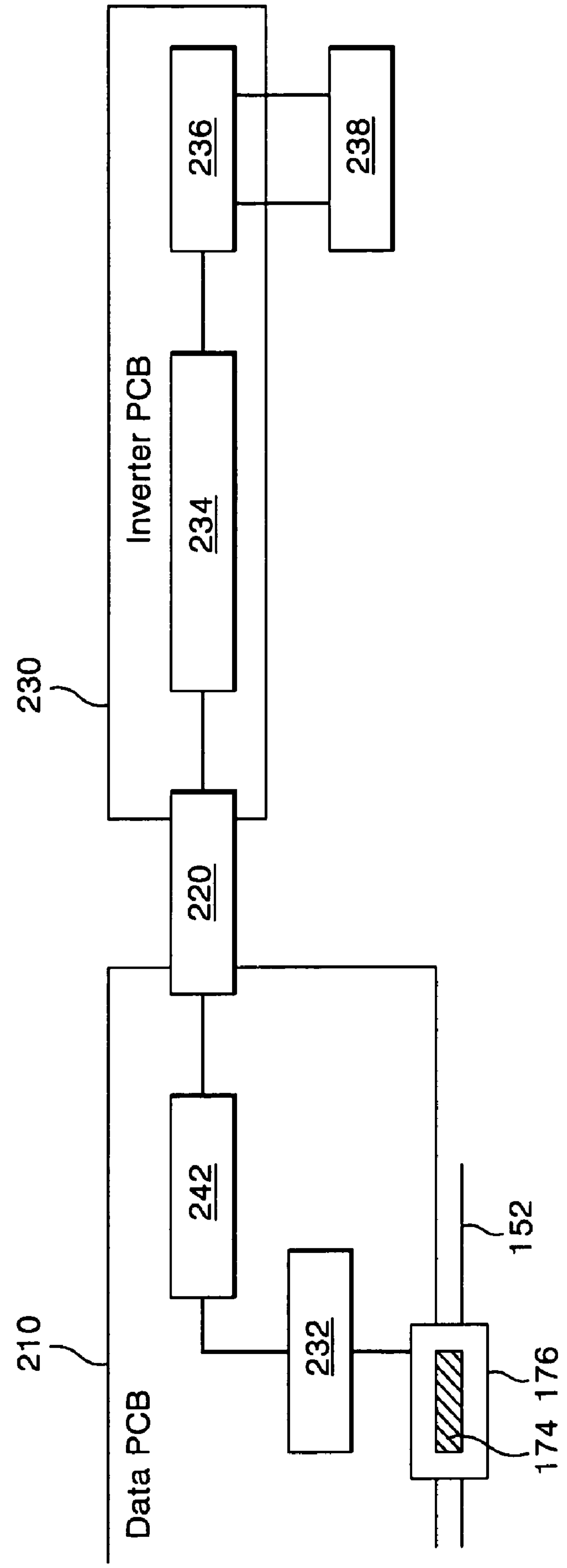


FIG. 9



Inverter PCB
236
238
234
230
220
Data PCB
210
242
232
152
174
176

FIG.10

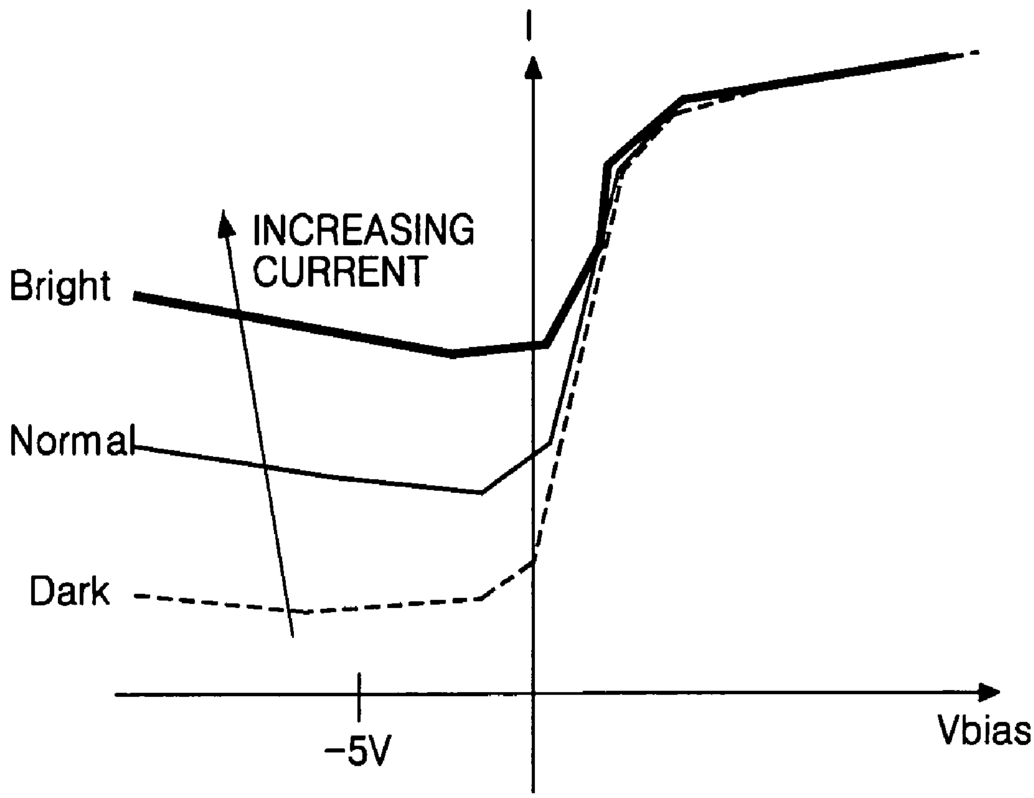


FIG.11A

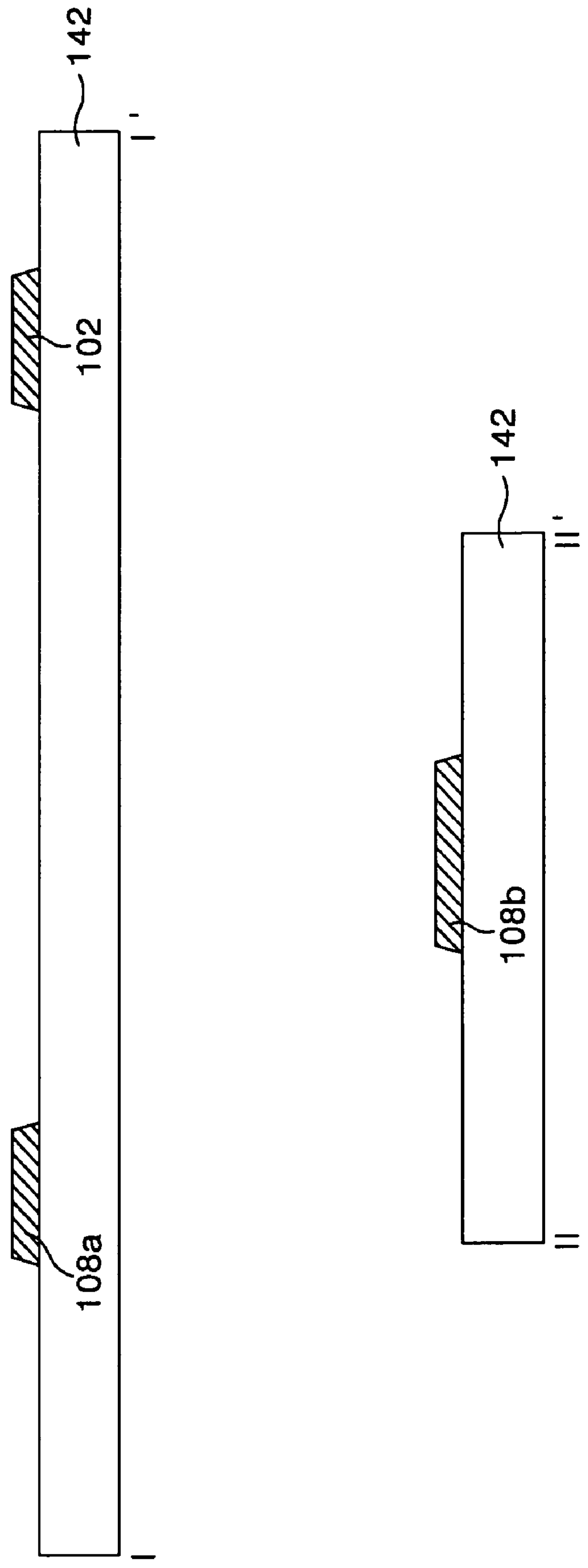
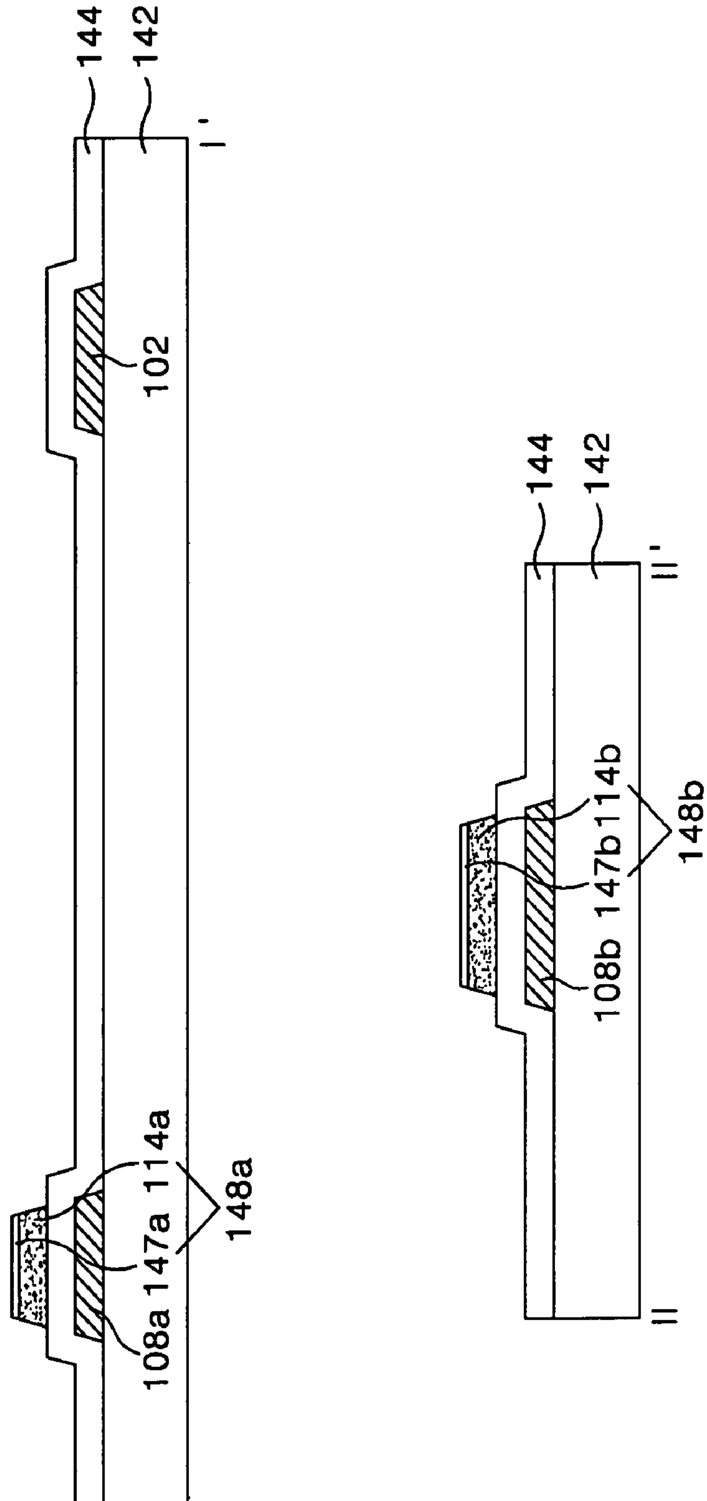


FIG.11B



144
142
I'
102
108a
147a
114a
148a
I
144
142
II'
108b
147b
114b
148b
II

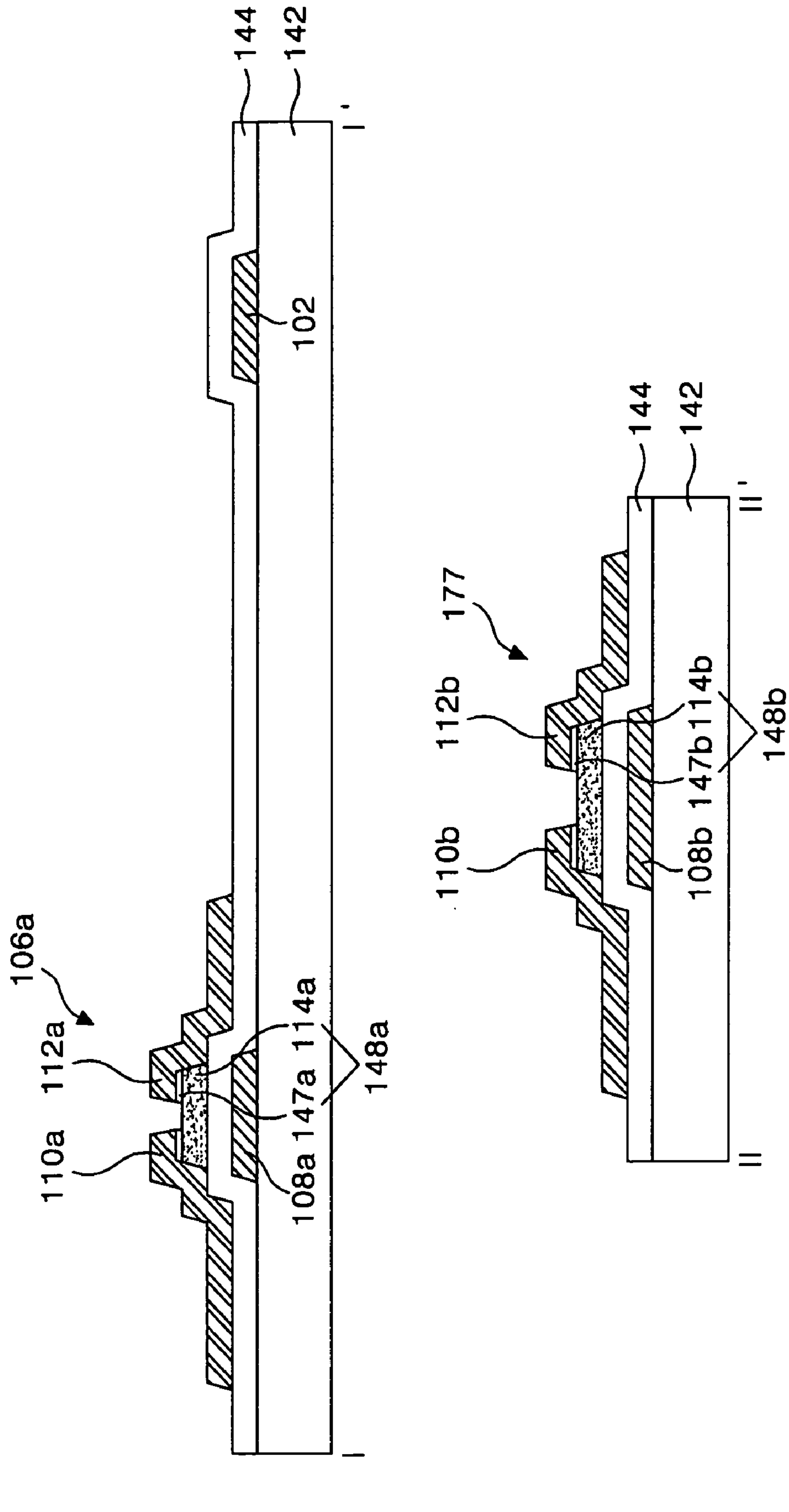

144
142
I'
102
106a
110a
112a
108a
147a
114a
148a
I
144
142
II'
177
110b
112b
108b
147b
114b
148b
II

FIG.11C

FIG. 11D

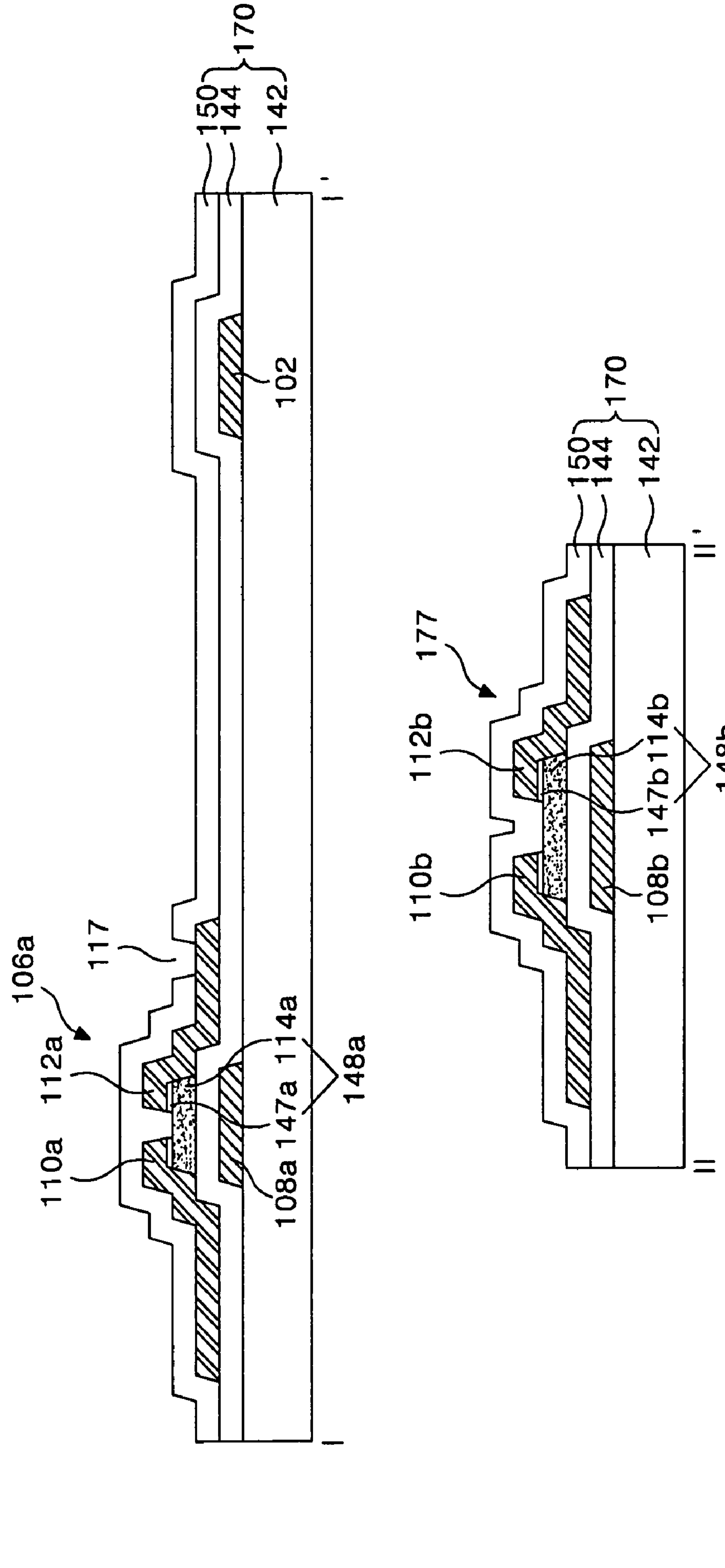

170
150
144
142
I'
102
117
106a
112a
114a
110a
147a
108a
148a
I
170
150
144
142
II'
177
112b
114b
110b
147b
108b
148b
II

FIG.11E

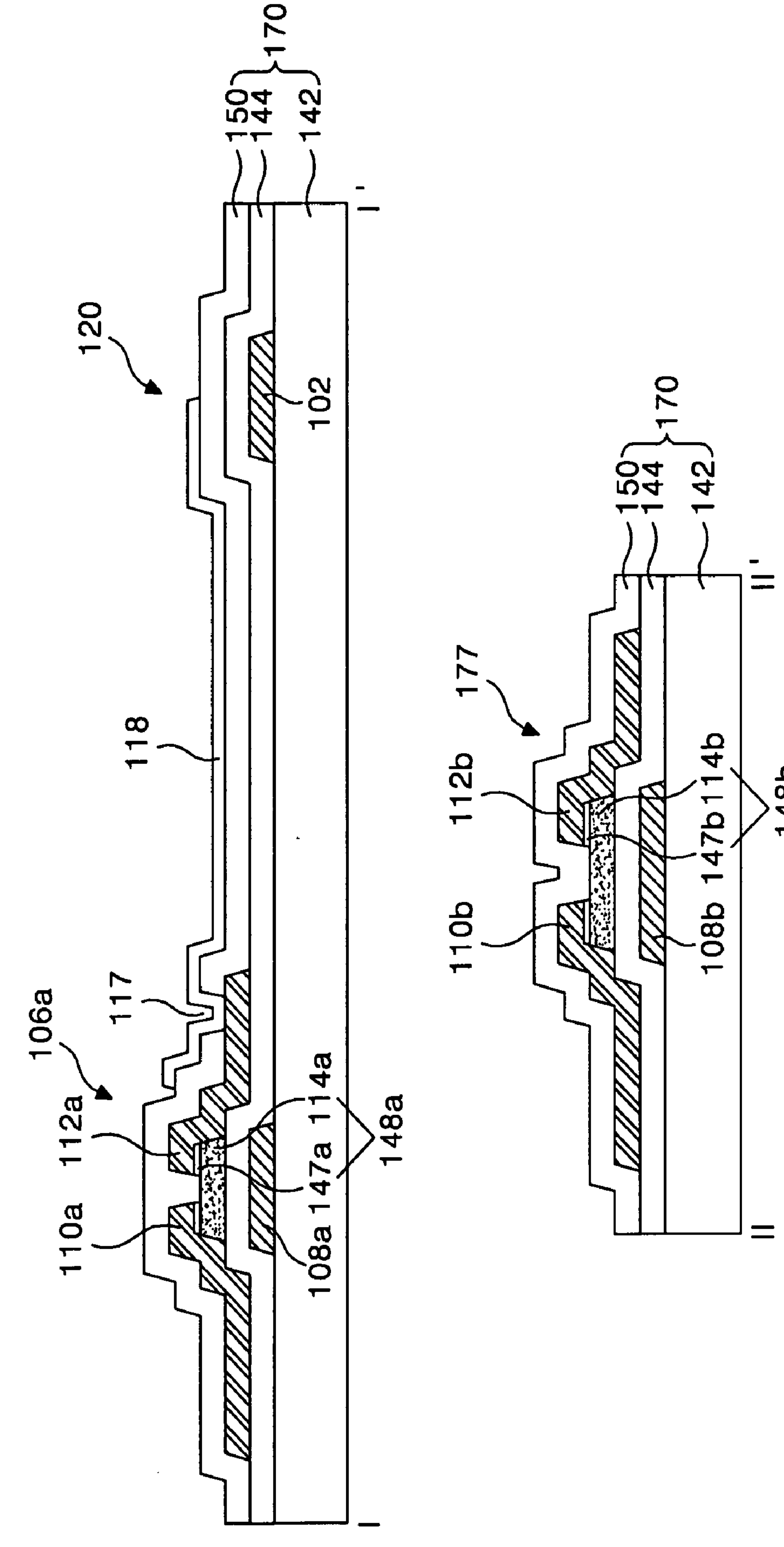
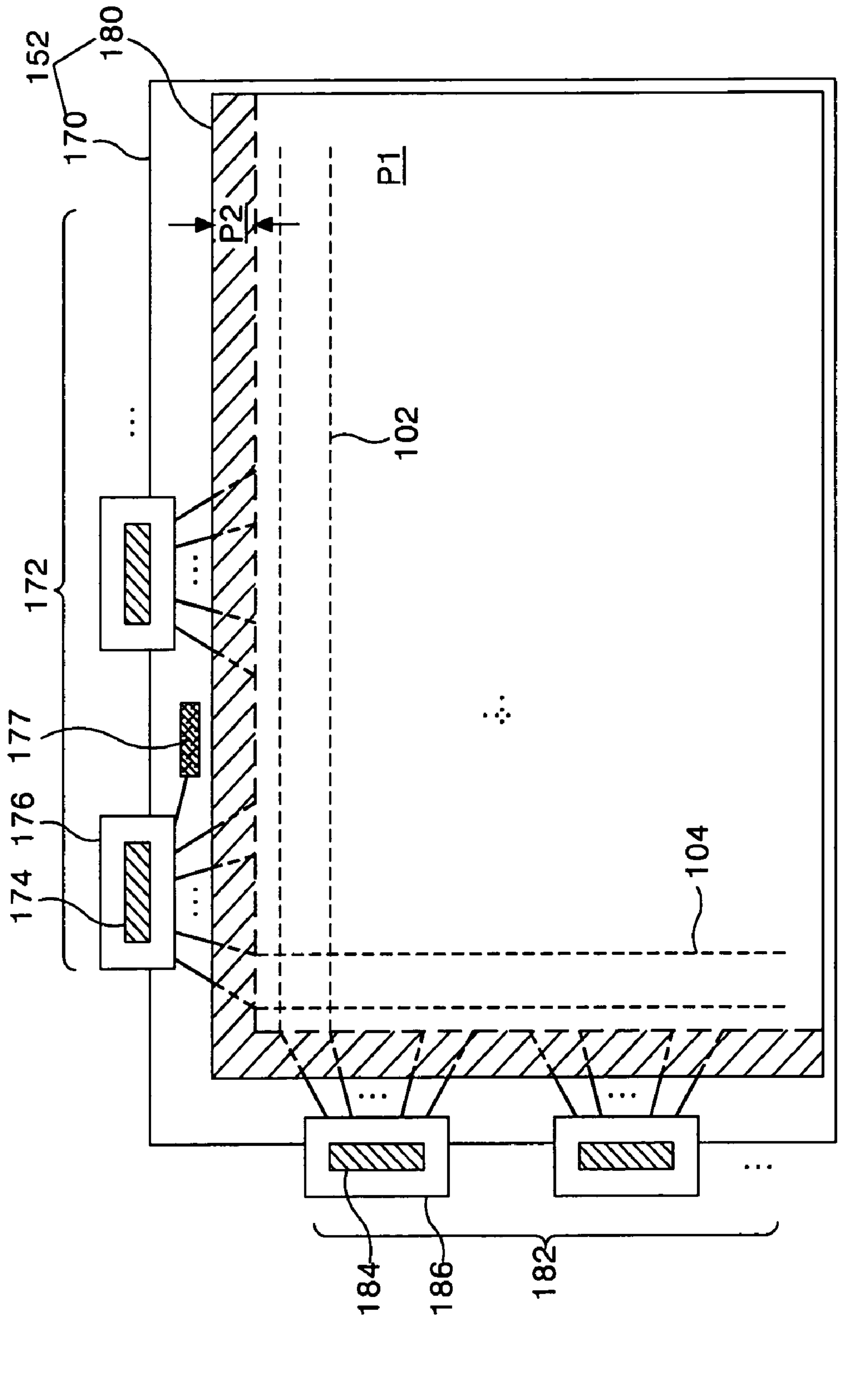

170
150
144
142
I'
120
102
118
117
106a
112a
110a
114a
147a
108a
148a
I
170
150
144
142
II'
177
112b
110b
114b
147b
108b
148b
II

FIG.12



LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE AND FABRICATING AND DRIVING METHOD THEREOF

[0001] This application claims the benefit of the Korean Patent Application No. P2005-0132268 filed on Dec. 28, 2005, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to a display device, and more particularly to a liquid crystal display device, and fabricating and driving method thereof.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] A liquid crystal display (hereinafter referred to as "LCD") device controls light transmittance of liquid crystal cells in accordance with a video signal to display a picture. The LCD device utilizes an active matrix of cells in which a switching device is used in each cell. The LCD device can be configured for use in several different types of display devices, such as computer monitor, television monitor and cellular phone display. A thin film transistor (hereinafter referred to as "TFT") is mainly used as the switching device in the active matrix of the LCD device.

[0006] FIG. **1** represents a driving device of an LCD device of the related art. Referring to FIG. **1**, the driving device of the LCD device of the related art includes a liquid crystal panel **152** where m×n number of liquid crystal cells Clc are arranged in an active matrix having m number of data lines D**1** to DM crossing n number of gate lines G1 to Gn, and a TFT formed adjacent to each of the crossings; a data driver **64** for supplying a data signal to the data lines D**1** to Dm of the liquid crystal panel **152**; a gate driver **66** for supplying a scan signal to the gate lines G**1** to Gn; a gamma voltage supplier **68** for supplying a gamma voltage to the data driver **64**; a timing controller **60** for controlling the data driver **64** and the gate driver **66** using a synchronization signal supplied from a system **70**; a DC/DC converter **74** for generating voltages supplied to the liquid crystal panel **52** from a voltage supplied by a power supplier **62**; and an inverter **76** for driving a backlight **78**. The system **70** supplies a vertical/horizontal synchronization signal Vsync, Hsync, a clock signal DCLK, a data enable signal DE and data RGB to the timing controller.

[0007] The liquid crystal panel **52** includes a plurality of liquid crystal cells Clc that are arranged in a matrix shape defined by the crossing of data lines D**1** to Dm and gate lines G1 to Gn. A TFT is respectively formed in each of the liquid crystal cells Clc to switch the data signal from the data lines D**1** to Dm in response to the scan signal supplied from the gate line G. Further, a storage capacitor Cst is formed in each of the liquid crystal cells Clc. The storage capacitor Cst is formed between the pre-stage gate line and the pixel electrode of the liquid crystal cell Clc, or formed between a common electrode line and the pixel electrode of the liquid crystal cell Clc, thereby fixedly sustaining the voltage of the liquid crystal cell Clc.

[0008] The gamma voltage supplier **68** supplies a plurality of gamma voltages to the data driver **64**. The data driver **64** converts the digital video data RGB to an analog gamma voltage (data signal) corresponding to the gray level value in response to the control signal CS from the timing controller, and supplies the analog gamma voltage to the data lines D**1** to Dm. The gate driver **66** sequentially supplies a scan pulse to the gate lines G1 to Gn in response to the control signal CS from the timing controller **60**, thereby selecting a horizontal line of the liquid crystal panel **52** to which the data signal is supplied.

[0009] The timing controller **60** generates the control signal CS for controlling the gate driver **66** and the data driver **64** by use of the vertical/horizontal synchronization signal Vsync, Hsync and the clock signal DCLK which are inputted from the system **70**. Herein, the control signal CS for controlling the gate driver **66** includes gate start pulse GSP, gate shift clock GSC, and gate output signal GOE. And the control signal CS for controlling the data driver **64** includes source start pulse GSP, source shift clock SSC, source output signal SOE, and polarity signal POL. The timing controller **60** also re-arranges the data RGB supplied from the system **70** for supply to the data driver **64**.

[0010] The DC/DC converter **74** boosts or reduces the voltage of 3.3V input from the power supplier **62** and generates a voltage to be supplied to the liquid crystal panel **52**. The DC/DC converter **72** generates a gamma reference voltage, a gate high voltage VGH, a gate low voltage VGL, and a common voltage Vcom.

[0011] The inverter **76** drives the backlight **78** by use of the drive voltage Vinv supplied from any one of the power supplier **62** or the system **70**. The backlight **78** is controlled by the inverter **76** to generate light to supply to the liquid crystal panel **52**.

[0012] In the liquid crystal display **52** of the liquid crystal display device of the related art, constant light is always supplied from the backlight **78** regardless of the amount of available light in the external environment. Thus, the backlight may provide insufficient lighting to the liquid crystal panel in a bright light environment or waste power in a low light environment. To solve these problems, a technique is proposed in that the external light is sensed by use of a photo-sensor, such as a photodiode, and the brightness of the backlight **18** is adjusted by a user's manipulation. However, the photo-sensor is not located within the liquid crystal panel **52** such that its reliability is decreased. Further, there is cost increase if the photo-sensor is separately added to the LCD device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a liquid crystal display device and fabricating and driving method thereof that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0014] An object of the present invention to provide a liquid crystal display device that has reduced manufacturing cost, and fabricating and driving method thereof.

[0015] Another object of the present invention to provide a liquid crystal display device that has improved visibility and reducing power consumption, and fabricating and driving method thereof.

[0016] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

[0017] To achieve these and other objects of the invention, a liquid crystal display device according to an aspect of the present invention includes a liquid crystal display device includes a liquid crystal panel divided into a non-display area and a display area where pixel cells are arranged in a matrix, a backlight for supplying light to the liquid crystal panel, and a photo-sensing device in the non-display area for sensing an external light to control light output from the backlight in accordance with the sensed external light.

[0018] In another aspect, a fabricating method of a liquid crystal display device includes: forming a gate pattern having of a gate line and a first gate electrode of a thin film transistor connected to the gate line in a display area of a thin film transistor array substrate and a second gate electrode of a photo-sensing device in a non-display area of the thin film transistor array substrate; forming a gate insulating film on the gate pattern; forming a first semiconductor pattern of the thin film transistor and a second semiconductor pattern of the photo-sensing device on the gate insulating film; forming a source/drain pattern having a first source electrode and a first drain electrode connected to the first semiconductor pattern, second source electrodes and second drain electrodes connected to the second semiconductor pattern, and a data line crossing the gate line; forming a passivation film having a contact hole that exposes the first drain electrode of the thin film transistor; forming a pixel electrode that is connected to the first drain electrode through the contact hole; forming a color filter array substrate having a color filter array; and bonding the color filter array substrate and the thin film transistor array substrate with liquid crystal therebetween.

[0019] In yet another aspect, a driving method of a liquid crystal display device includes sensing an external light with a photo-sensing device formed on the thin film transistor array substrate and controlling a light output of a backlight supplied to the liquid crystal display device in accordance with the sensed result.

[0020] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0021] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

[0022] FIG. **1** is a diagram representing a driving device of a liquid crystal display device of the related art.

[0023] FIG. **2** is a diagram of a corner portion of a liquid crystal display device according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

[0024] FIG. **3** is a plan of an area A in FIG. **2**.

[0025] FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display device taken along line I-I' of FIG. **3**.

[0026] FIG. **5** is a plan view of area B in FIG. **2**.

[0027] FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display device along the line II-II' of FIG. **5**.

[0028] FIG. **7** is a diagram representing a driver of the liquid crystal display device and an inverter printed circuit board that drives a backlight of the liquid crystal display device.

[0029] FIG. **8** is a diagram representing that a voltage sensed by a photo-sensing device is supplied to the inverter printed circuit board through an interconnection circuit.

[0030] FIG. **9** is a diagram representing that the voltage sensed by the photo-sensing device is converted into and modulated a digital signal within a data printed circuit board, and then supplies the digital signal to the inverter printed circuit board.

[0031] FIG. **10** is a diagram representing a driving characteristic of a photo-sensing device.

[0032] FIGS. **11**A to **11**E are process charts representing a fabricating process of a thin film transistor array substrate of a liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. **12** is a diagram representing a liquid crystal display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0034] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. With reference to FIGS. **2** to **12**, embodiments of the present invention will be explained as follows.

[0035] FIG. **2** is a diagram of a corner portion of a liquid crystal display device according to a first embodiment of the present invention. The liquid crystal display (LCD) device shown in FIG. **2** has a photo-sensing device **177** formed on a thin film transistor array substrate **170** of a liquid crystal panel **152**. Thus, a photo-sensor device, such as a separate photo diode, mounted outside of the thin film transistor substrate is not required so that the manufacturing cost of the LCD device can be reduced. The photo-sensing device **177** is formed within the liquid crystal panel **152**, thereby improving the reliability of the photo-sensing device **177**. Hereinafter, in reference to FIGS. **2** to **6**, the configuration and operation of embodiments of the present invention will be described in detail.

[0036] As shown in FIG. **2**, the LCD device includes a liquid crystal panel **152** having a thin film transistor array substrate **170** on which a thin film transistor array is formed, a color filter substrate **180** on which a color filter array is formed, a data driver **172** for supplying a data signal to the liquid crystal display panel **152**, and a gate driver **182** for supplying a gate signal to the liquid crystal display panel **152**. The thin film transistor array substrate **170** is bonded to the color filter substrate **180**.

[0037] The gate driver **182** and the data driver **172** are integrated into the LCD device as a plurality of integrated circuits IC. That is to say, each gate driver **182** is integrated into gate integrated circuits **184** mounted on a gate TCP (tape carrier package) **186** connected to the liquid crystal panel **152** by a TAB (tape automated bonding) method, or mounted on the liquid crystal panel **152** by a COG (chip on glass) method. Each data driver **172** is integrated into data integrated circuits **174** mounted on the data TCP (tape carrier package) **176** connected to the liquid crystal panel **152** by a TAB (tape automated bonding) method, or mounted on the liquid crystal panel **152** by a COG (chip on glass) method. The integrated circuits **174** and **184** connected to the liquid crystal panel **152** by the TAB method through the TCP **176**, **186** receive the control signals and DC voltages input from the outside through the signal lines mounted in PCB (printed circuit board) (not shown) connected to the TCPs **176** and **186** and are connected to each other.

[0038] The liquid crystal panel **152** includes a thin film transistor array substrate **170** having a gate line **102** and a data line **104** crossing each other to define a pixel cell. The gate line **102** is electrically connected to the gate integrated circuit **184** that drives the gate lines **102**. And the data line **104** is electrically connected to the data drive IC **174** that drives the data line **104**.

[0039] The liquid crystal panel **152** is divided into a display area **P1** where a picture is realized and a non-display area **P2**. In the display area **P1**, the pixel cells (or liquid crystal cells) defined by the gate line **102** and the data line **104** are arranged in a matrix shape. In the non-display area **P2**, a photo-sensing device **177** is located in an area of the thin film transistor array substrate **170** that is not overlapped by either the gate line **102** or the data line **104**.

[0040] FIG. **3** is a plan of an area A in FIG. **2**. More particularly, FIG. **3** is a plan view of one pixel cell in a thin film transistor array substrate, and FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display device along the line I-I' of FIG. **3**. For the sake of convenience, FIG. **3** only shows the thin film transistor array substrate, and FIG. **4** shows both the thin film transistor array substrate and the color filter array substrate. Referring to FIGS. **3** and **4**, each of the pixel cells are arranged in a matrix shape within the display area **P1**. The color filter array substrate **180** is bonded to the thin film transistor array substrate **170** with the liquid crystal **175** therebetween. Each of the pixel cells have a color filter **136** on the color filter array substrate **180** and a pixel electrode **118** on the thin film transistor array substrate **170** with the liquid crystal **175** between the color filter **136** and the pixel electrode **118**.

[0041] The thin film transistor array substrate **170** includes a gate line **102** and a data line **104**, which are formed to cross each other and have a gate insulating film **144** therebetween; a thin film transistor **106**A formed at each of the crossings; the pixel electrode **118** formed in a pixel area defined by the crossings; and a storage capacitor **120** formed where the pixel electrode **118** and a pre-stage gate line **102** overlap.

[0042] The thin film transistor **106***a* includes a first gate electrode **108***a* connected to the gate line **102**, a first source electrode **110***a* connected to the data line **104**, a first drain electrode **112***a* connected t the pixel electrode **118**, an active layer **114***a*, which overlaps the first gate electrode **108***a* and forms a channel between the first source electrode **110***a* and the first drain electrode **112***a*. The active layer **114***a* partially overlaps the first source electrode **110***a* and the first drain electrode **112***a* and further includes a channel part between the first source electrode **110**A and the second drain electrode **112***a*. A first ohmic contact layer **147***a* for being in ohmic contact with the first source electrode **110***a* and the second drain electrode **112***a* is further formed on the first active layer **114***a*. Herein, the first active layer **114***a* and the first ohmic contact layer **147** are called a first semiconductor pattern **148***a*.

[0043] The thin film transistor **106***a* transmits the pixel voltage signal charged and maintained on the data line **104** in response to the gate signal supplied to the gate line **102**. The pixel electrode **118** is connected to the first drain electrode **112***a* of the thin film transistor **106***a* through the contact hole **117** that penetrates a passivation film **150**. The pixel electrode **118** generates a potential difference with a common electrode **138** in response to receiving the charged pixel voltage. The potential difference causes a liquid crystal **175** located between the thin film transistor array substrate **170** and the upper substrate **132** to rotate by dielectric anisotropy, thereby transmitting incident light through the LCD device.

[0044] The storage capacitor **120** includes the pre-stage gate line **102** and the pixel electrode **118**, which overlaps the gate line **102** with the gate insulating film **144** and the passivation film **150** therebetween. The storage capacitor **120** stably maintains the pixel voltage charged in the pixel electrode **118** until the next pixel voltage is received.

[0045] The color filter array substrate **180** includes a black matrix **134** bounding a pixel cell area on the upper substrate **132**, a color filter **136** which is divided by the black matrix **134** and faces the pixel electrode **118** of the thin film transistor array substrate **170**, and the common electrode **138** on the entire surface of the color filter **136** and the black matrix **134**. The black matrix **134** is formed on the upper substrate **132** corresponding to the gate lines **102** and the data line **104**, and provides defines a cell area where the color filter **136** is to be formed. The black matrix **134** prevents light leakage and absorbs the external light to increase contrast ratio. The color filter **136** is formed in a cell area defined by the black matrix **134** and corresponds to the pixel electrode **118** of the thin film transistor array substrate **170**. The color filter **136** is formed for each of red, green and blue colors to realize a color display. The common electrode **138** is formed over the entire surface of the upper substrate **132** where the color filter **136** is formed for making a vertical electric field with the pixel electrode **118**. On the thin film transistor array substrate **170** and the color filter array substrate **180**, alignment films (not shown) are further formed and a cell gap is sustained by a spacer (not shown).

[0046] FIG. **5** is a plan view of area B of FIG. **2**. More particularly, FIG. **5** is a plan view of a photo-sensing device **177** located in a non-display area **P2** of a liquid crystal panel **152**. FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of the liquid crystal display device along line II-II' of FIG. **5**. For the sake of convenience, FIG. **5** only shows the thin film transistor array substrate, and FIG. **6** both the thin film transistor array substrate and the color filter array substrate.

[0047] The photo-sensing device **177** includes a second gate electrode **108***b* connected to a first output pad **187***b* of the TCP **176**, **186**, a gate insulating film **144** formed to cover the second gate electrode **108***b*; a second semiconductor pattern **148***b* having an active layer **114***b* and a second ohmic contact layer **147***b* that overlaps the second gate electrode **108***b* with the gate insulating film **144** therebetween, second source electrodes **110***b* and second drain electrodes **112***b* that face each other with a channel of the second semiconductor pattern **148** therebetween; a source line **181** connected to the second source electrodes **110***b* and to a second output pad **187***a* of the TCP **176**; and a drain line **183** that is connected to the second drain electrodes **112**B and a first input pad **187***c* of the TCP **176**, **186**.

[0048] A first drive voltage is supplied to the second gate electrode **108***b* through the first output pad **187***b* of the TCP **176**, **186** from a separate voltage source for driving the photo-sensing device **177**. The source line **181** also receives a second drive voltage from a separate voltage source through the second output pad **187***a* of the TCP for driving the photo-sensing device **177**. The drain line **183** supplies the voltage sensed by the photo-sensing to the first input pad **187***c* of the TCP **176**, **186**. The second source electrodes **110***b* are formed to extend from the source line **181** so as to face the drain line **183**, and the second drain electrode **112***b* is formed to extend from the drain line **183** so as to face the source line **181**. The second source electrodes **110***b* and the second drain electrodes **112***b* are interleaved and have channels **151** in between. The photo-sensing device **177** in embodiments of the present invention has a structure in which a plurality of parallel connected thin film transistors **106***b* are configured to commonly share the second gate electrode **108***b*, second drain electrodes **112***b*, second source electrodes **110***b* and the second semiconductor pattern **148***b* such that their channels **151** acts as a light receiving part of a photo-sensing device **177**.

[0049] The black matrix **134** formed in the color filter array substrate **180** which faces the photo-sensing device **177** exposes the channels **151** of the photo-sensing device **177**. Thus, the black matrix **134** has an opening at light receiving area P3 that corresponds to the light receiving part of the photo-sensing device **177**. Accordingly, the external light can irradiate the photo-sensing device **177** through the light receiving area P3 of the color filter array substrate **180** so that the photo-sensing device **177** can sense the amount of the external light. Hereinafter, the process that the photo-sensing device **177** senses the external light will be explained.

[0050] A path of photo current flows to the second drain electrodes **112***b* through the channels **151** from the second source electrodes **110***b* of the photo-sensing device **177** in accordance with the received light amount if a first drive voltage Vdrv, e.g., a voltage of about 10V, is applied to the source electrode **110***b* through the source line **181** of the photo-sensing device **177**, a second drive voltage Vbias, e.g., a reverse bias voltage of about −5V, is applied to the second gate electrode **108**B of the photo-sensing device **177**, and light is received in the channel **151** area of the photo-sensing device **177**. The voltage by the photo current path is supplied to the first input pad **187***c* through the second drain electrode **112***b* of the photo-sensing device **177**.

[0051] FIG. **7** is a diagram representing an inverter printed circuit board which drives a driver and a backlight of the liquid crystal display device. The sensing voltage supplied to the first input pad **187***c*, as shown in FIG. **5**, is transmitted to the inverter PCB **230** through a FPC (flexible printed circuit) (or connector) **220** which connects the data PCB **210** to the inverter PCB **230**, as shown in FIG. **7**. The inverter **230** converts the sensing voltage from the PCB **230** into a digital signal through an analog-digital converter ADC **232**, and then supplies the digital signal to an inverter controller **234**. The inverter controller **234** controls the inverter **236** that uses the digital signal corresponding to the sensing voltage supplied to the ADC **232**. The inverter **236** controls the light output of the backlight **238** in response to the control signal from the inverter controller **234**.

[0052] The inverter controller **234** can include a Look-up table for modulating the digital signal from the ADC **232**. The inverter controller **234** compares the digital signal from the ADC **232** with a reference value and chooses the modulated digital signal corresponding to the compared result from the Look-up table, and then supplies the digital signal to the inverter **236** by use of the selected modulation digital signal. The inverter **236** controls the light output of the backlight **238** by use of the digital signal from the inverter controller **234**.

[0053] FIG. **8** is a diagram representing that a voltage sensed by a photo-sensing device is supplied to the inverter printed circuit board through an interconnection circuit. The sensing voltage supplied to the first input pad **187***c* is directly transmitted to the inverter PCB **230**, as shown in FIG. **8**, by use of a flexible printed circuit (FPC) (or connector) **221**. Thus, the sensing voltage does not pass through the data PCB.

[0054] FIG. **9** is a diagram representing that the voltage sensed by the photo-sensing device is converted into and modulated a digital signal within a data printed circuit board, and then supplies the digital signal to the inverter printed circuit board. A method of transmitting the sensing voltage supplied to the first input pad **187***c* to the inverter PCB is not limited to method described with regard to FIG. **7**. For example, as shown in FIG. **9**, the analog-digital converter ADC **232** is mounted on the data PCB **210** and a signal for controlling the backlight **238** is formed by use of a timing controller positioned on the data PCB **210**. In other words, the sensing voltage supplied to the first input pad **187***c* is converted into the digital signal through the analog-digital converter ADC **232** positioned on the data PCB **210** and then supplies the digital signal to the timing controller **242**. The timing controller **242** compares the digital signal from the ADC **232** with a reference value and chooses the modulated digital signal corresponding to the compared result from the Look-up table, and then supplies the selected modulation digital signal to the inverter **230** through the FPC **220**. The inverter controller **234** and the inverter **236** of the inverter PCB **230** controls the light output of the backlight **238** by use of the modulated digital signal. Hereinafter, the light output from the backlight **238** is explained in reference with the characteristic of the thin film transistor.

[0055] FIG. **10** is a diagram representing a driving characteristic of a photo-sensing device. The photo current (or "off" current) generated by the photo-sensing device **177**, as shown in FIG. **10**, becomes larger in size because the sensed light amount is larger as it goes from a dark environment to a bright environment. Accordingly, the light output of the backlight **238** is adjusted in proportion to the size of the current amount that is sensed by the photo-sensing device

177. For example, in the case of driving a transmissive liquid crystal display device in a bright environment where there is a lot of external light, the photo-sensing device **177** sense a large amount of light from the external light and controls the light output of the backlight **238** in accordance with the amount of sensed voltage. More specifically, a higher intensity light, which can make a displayed picture clearly visible in the bright environment, is supplied to the liquid crystal display panel **152** from the backlight **238**, thereby improving visibility. In another example, in the case of driving a transmissive liquid crystal display device in the dark environment, the photo-sensing device **177** senses a small amount of light and the light intensity of the backlight **238** can be proportionally reduced in accordance with the amount of the sensed sensing voltage, thereby reducing power consumption.

[0056] On the other hand, in the case of using a transflective liquid crystal display device, rather than the general transmissive liquid crystal display device, a contrary method of light amount control is used. That is, in the case of the transflective display, a picture is realized by use of the external light in the bright environment so that the supply of the light from the backlight **238** is minimized and the supply of the light from the backlight **238** should be increased in an environment where the external light is low. Thus, in the case of driving a transflective liquid crystal display device in the bright environment where the external light is large, the photo-sensing device **177** senses a lot of light from the external light and the amount of the light supply of the backlight **238** is inversely proportional to the amount of the sensed sensing voltage, and the light supply of the backlight **238** is increased in the dark environment.

[0057] The liquid crystal display device according to embodiments of the present invention forms the photo-sensing device **177** within the liquid crystal display panel **152** and controls the brightness of the backlight **238** by use of a sense signal from the photo-sensing device **177**. Accordingly, when the liquid crystal display panel **152** is located in a bright place, the light of the backlight **238** is adjusted to improve the visibility, and if the ambient brightness is dark, the light of the backlight **238** is reduced to lower power consumption. Further, the photo-sensing device **177** in the present invention can be simultaneously formed with the thin film patterns such as the thin film transistor **106***a* within the liquid crystal display panel **152**, thus in comparison with the related art, the separate photo-sensing device **177** is not necessary to be added to the outside, thereby reducing manufacturing cost.

[0058] FIGS. **11**A to **11**E are process charts representing a fabricating process of a thin film transistor array substrate of a liquid crystal display device according to an embodiment of the present invention. Hereinafter, in reference with FIGS. **11**A to **11**E, a fabricating method of the thin film transistor array substrate **170** where the photo-sensing device **177** is formed on the liquid crystal panel will be described according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0059] After a gate metal layer is formed on the lower substrate **142** by a deposition method, such as sputtering, the gate metal layer is patterned by a photolithography process and etching process, thereby forming the gate patterns having a first gate electrode **108***a* of the thin film transistor **106***a*, the gate line **102** in the display area P**1**, and the second gate electrode **108***b* of the photo-sensing device **177** in the non-display area P**2**, as shown in FIG. **11**A. Then, the gate insulating film **144** is formed by the deposition method, such as PECVD or sputtering, on the lower substrate **120** where the gate patterns are formed. Subsequently, an amorphous silicon layer and n+ amorphous silicon layer are sequentially formed on the lower substrate **142** where the gate insulating film **144** is formed. The amorphous silicon layer and the n+ amorphous silicon layer are patterned by a photolithography process and an etching process using a mask, as shown in FIG. **11**B, to form the first semiconductor pattern **148***a* for the thin film transistor **106***a* of the display are P**1** and the second semiconductor pattern **148***b* for the photo-sensing device **177** of the non-display area P**2**. The first semiconductor pattern **148***a* is made of a double layer of the active layer **114***a* and the ohmic contact layers **147***a*. The second semiconductor pattern **148***b* is made of a double layer of the active layer **114***b* and the ohmic contact layers **147***b*.

[0060] After sequentially forming a source/drain metal layer on the lower substrate **142** where the first and second semiconductor patterns **148***a* and **148***b* are formed, a source/drain pattern having the source line **181** and the drain line **183**, the second source electrode **110***b* and the second drain electrode **112***b* of the photo-sensing device **177** is formed, the data line **104** is formed, and the first source electrode **110***a* and the first drain electrode **112***a* of the thin film transistor **106***a* is formed, as shown in FIG. **11**C, by a photolithography process and an etching process using the mask.

[0061] A passivation film **150** is formed by a deposition method, such as plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition (PECVD), on the entire surface of the gate insulating film **144** where the source/drain patterns are formed. Then, the passivation film **150** is patterned by a photolithography process and an etching process to form a contact hole **117**, which exposes the first drain electrode **112**A of the thin film transistor **106**A, as shown in FIG. **11**D.

[0062] A transparent electrode material is deposited on the entire surface of the passivation film **150** by a deposition method, such as sputtering. Then, the transparent electrode material is patterned by a photolithography process and an etching process, thereby forming the pixel electrode **118**, as shown in FIG. **11**E. Accordingly, the thin film transistor arrays are formed in the display area P**1** of the thin film transistor array substrate **170**, and at the same time, the photo-sensing device **177** is formed in the non-display area P**2**.

[0063] The liquid crystal cell area on the color filter array substrate **180** is formed by a separate process. The color filter array substrate **180** has the black matrix **134** that prevents light leakage when driving the liquid crystal display device. The color filter array substrate **180** also has the color filter **136** formed in the liquid crystal cell area divided by the black matrix **134** and corresponding to the pixel area where the pixel electrode **118** is located. The black matrix **134** is not formed in an area corresponding to the pixel electrode **118***a* or in the light receiving area P**3** of the photo-sensing device **177** in the non-display area P**2**. The thin film transistor array substrate **170** and the color filter array substrate **180** are bonded with liquid crystal therebetween, thereby completing the liquid crystal display panel **152** inclusive of the photo-sensing device **177**.

[0064] FIG. **12** is a plan view of a liquid crystal display device according to a second embodiment of the present invention. The liquid crystal display device shown in FIG. **10** has the same components as the liquid crystal display device according to the first embodiment of the present invention, as shown in FIGS. **2** to **6**, except that the photo-sensing device **177** is positioned so as not to be covered by the color filter array substrate **180** but rather is exposed directly to the outside such that no separate light receiving area P**2** is provided in the black matrix **134**. Thus the same reference numerals are given to the same components as FIGS. **2** to **6** and a detail description will be omitted.

[0065] Referring to FIG. **12**, in the second embodiment of the present invention, the photo-sensing device **177** is not covered by the color filter array substrate **180**, so that the entire channel **151** area might be exposed to the external light. Accordingly, in case that the external light is incident to the photo-sensing device **177** in the second embodiment, external light does not pass through the color filter array substrate **180**, thus the efficiency of the external light sensing is increased and the reliability of the sensed light can be improved. Further, in the first embodiment, the incident light supplied to the photo-sensing device **177** first passes through a polarizer that is located at the rear surface of the color filter array substrate **180**. In the second embodiment, the incident light supplied to the photo-sensing device **177** does not pass through a polarizer, thereby making the photo-sensing more precise and reliable.

[0066] As described above, the liquid crystal display device and the fabricating method thereof according to embodiments of the present invention forms a photo-sensing device on the liquid crystal panel and controls the brightness of the backlight using a sensed signal from the photo-sensing device. Thus, in the case when a transmissive LCD device is located in a bright place, the light of the backlight is made bright to improve visibility, and if the ambient light is dark, the light of the backlight is made dark to reduce power consumption. Further, the photo-sensing device of the present invention is made to be simultaneously formed with the thin film patterns, thus the separate photo-sensor is not later added to liquid crystal panel like in the related art, thereby reducing manufacturing cost.

[0067] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a liquid crystal panel divided into a non-display area and a display area where pixel cells are arranged in a matrix;

a backlight for supplying light to the liquid crystal panel; and

a photo-sensing device in the non-display area for sensing an external light to control light output from the backlight in accordance with the sensed external light.

2. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal display panel includes a thin film transistor array substrate and a color filter array substrate that are bonded with liquid crystal therebetween, and the photo-sensing device is formed in the non-display area of the thin film transistor array substrate.

3. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the photo-sensing device is on a portion of the thin film transistor array substrate that is not overlapped by the color filter array substrate.

4. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the color filter array substrate includes:

a black matrix which defines pixel cells and has an opening for an area corresponding to a channel of the photo-sensing device; and

a color filter formed in the area.

5. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the photo-sensing device includes at least one thin film transistor.

6. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the photo-sensing device includes thin film transistors that share a semiconductor pattern and a gate electrode.

7. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the photo-sensing device includes a plurality of parallel connected thin film transistors sharing a semiconductor pattern and a gate electrode.

8. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, wherein the photo-sensing device includes:

a gate electrode formed on a lower substrate;

a gate insulating film formed over the gate electrode;

a semiconductor pattern overlapping the gate electrode with the gate insulating film therebetween;

source electrodes and drain electrodes which face each other on the semiconductor pattern;

a source line to which the source electrodes are commonly connected; and

a drain line to which the drain electrodes are commonly connected.

9. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 8, wherein the source electrodes and the drain electrodes are interleaved.

10. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 8, further comprising:

a driver which supplies drive voltages to the photo-sensing device for sensing light, wherein the driver includes:

a first output pad connected to the source line of the photo-sensing device to supply a first drive voltage to the source line;

a second output pad connected to the gate electrode of the photo-sensing device to supply a second drive voltage; and

a third output pad connected to the drain line of the photo-sensing device to receive a sensing voltage in accordance with light sensing of the photo-sensing device.

11. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inverter printed circuit board connected via an electrical interconnection circuit to the driver for driving the backlight.

12. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 11, wherein the inverter printed circuit board includes:

an analog-digital converter that converts a sensing voltage to a digital signal;

a timing controller modulates the digital signal and supplies the modulated digital signal to an inverter controller to control light output from the backlight.

13. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 10, further comprising:

a printed circuit board connected to the driver; and

an inverter printed circuit board that is connected to the printed circuit board for driving the backlight.

14. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 13, wherein the inverter printed circuit board includes:

an inverter circuit for controlling light output of the backlight;

an analog-digital converter that converts a sensed voltage into a digital signal; and

an inverter controller for the inverter circuit in response to receiving the digital signal.

15. A fabricating method of a liquid crystal display device, comprising:

forming a gate pattern having of a gate line and a first gate electrode of a thin film transistor connected to the gate line in a display area of a thin film transistor array substrate and a second gate electrode of a photo-sensing device in a non-display area of the thin film transistor array substrate;

forming a gate insulating film on the gate pattern;

forming a first semiconductor pattern of the thin film transistor and a second semiconductor pattern of the photo-sensing device on the gate insulating film;

forming a source/drain pattern having a first source electrode and a first drain electrode connected to the first semiconductor pattern, second source electrodes and second drain electrodes connected to the second semiconductor pattern, and a data line crossing the gate line;

forming a passivation film having a contact hole that exposes the first drain electrode of the thin film transistor;

forming a pixel electrode that is connected to the first drain electrode through the contact hole;

forming a color filter array substrate having a color filter array; and

bonding the color filter array substrate and the thin film transistor array substrate with liquid crystal therebetween.

16. The fabricating method according to claim 15, wherein the photo-sensing device does not overlap the color filter array substrate.

17. The fabricating method according to claim 15, wherein the second source electrodes, second drain electrodes, second semiconductor pattern and second gate electrode form a plurality of thin film transistors connected in parallel.

18. The fabricating method according to claim 15, wherein forming the color filter array substrate includes:

forming a black matrix in an area except an area corresponding to the pixel area and a channel area of the photo-sensing device; and

forming a color filter in an area corresponding to the pixel area.

19. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein the second source electrodes and the second drain electrodes are interleaved.

20. A driving method of a liquid crystal display device, comprising:

sensing an external light with a photo-sensing device formed on the thin film transistor array substrate; and

controlling a light output of a backlight supplied to the liquid crystal display device in accordance with the sensed result.

21. The driving method according to claim 20, wherein sensing the external light by the photo-sensing device includes:

supplying a first drive voltage to a gate electrode of the photo-sensing device;

supplying a second drive voltage to a source electrode of the photo-sensing device; and

external light irradiating a channel of the photo-sensing device.

22. The driving method according to claim 20, wherein the controlling the light output of the backlight supplied to the liquid crystal display device in accordance with the sensed result includes controlling the light output of the backlight proportionally to a sensed voltage for a transmissive mode liquid crystal display panel.

23. The driving method according to claim 20, wherein the controlling the light amount of the backlight supplied to the liquid crystal panel in accordance with the sensed result includes controlling the light output of the backlight inversely to the sensed voltage for a transflective mode liquid crystal display panel.

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摘要(译)

液晶显示装置包括分为非显示区域的液晶面板和以矩阵形式排列像素单元的显示区域，用于向液晶面板提供光的背光，以及非液晶面板中的光敏器件 - 显示区域，用于感测外部光，以根据感测到的外部光控制来自背光的光输出。