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(54) **ARRAY SUBSTRATE FOR IN-PLANE SWITCHING MODE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE**

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G09G 3/36 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **345/92; 345/87; 349/141**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 345/87-92;
349/138-143, 147, 41-43

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An array substrate for an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device includes a first TFT in a pixel region and connected to a gate line and a first data line; a second TFT in the pixel region and connected to the gate line and a second data line; a first pattern connected to the first TFT and extending along the gate line; a plurality of first electrodes connected to the first pattern; a second pattern extending to be parallel to the first pattern; a second electrode extending along the first data line; a third electrode connected to the second pattern and extending along the second data line, the third electrode connected to the second TFT; and a plurality of fourth electrodes connected to the second pattern and alternately arranged with the plurality of first electrodes, wherein the plurality of first electrodes and the plurality of fourth electrodes are disposed between the second and third electrodes.

11 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

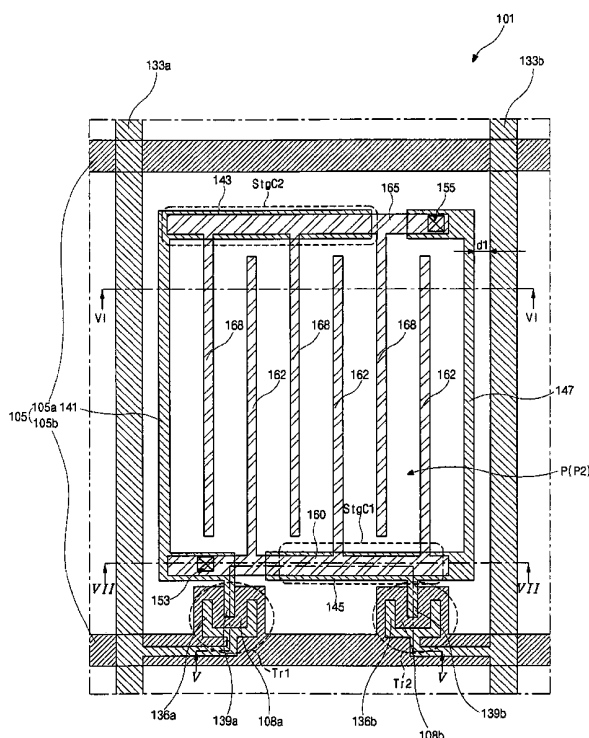


FIG. 1
RELATED ART

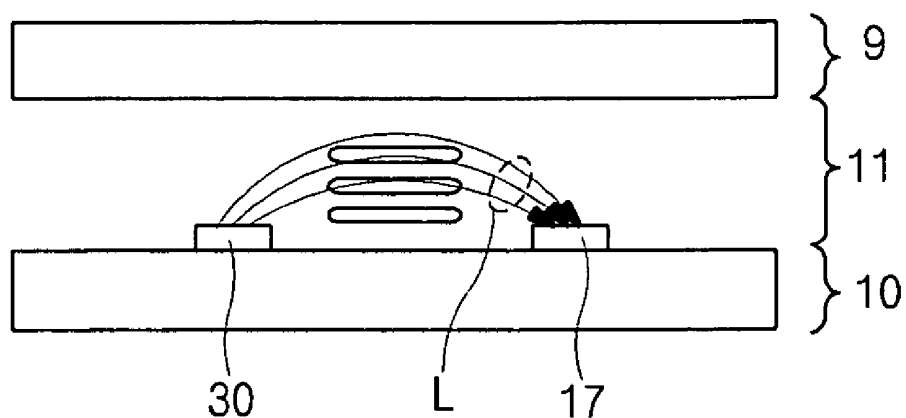


FIG. 2A
RELATED ART

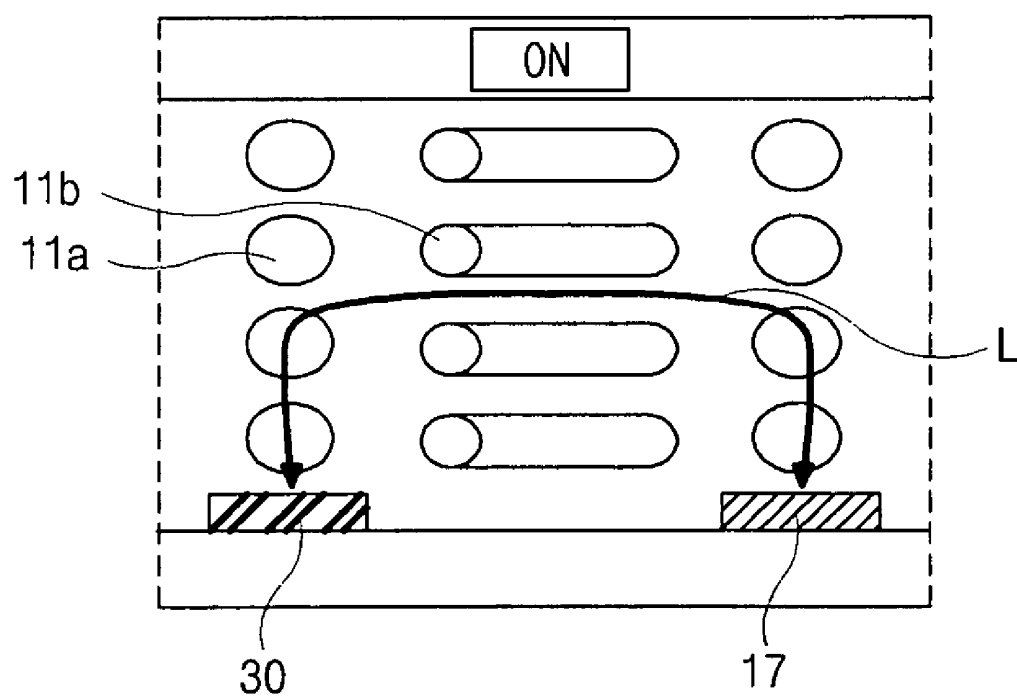


FIG. 2B

RELATED ART

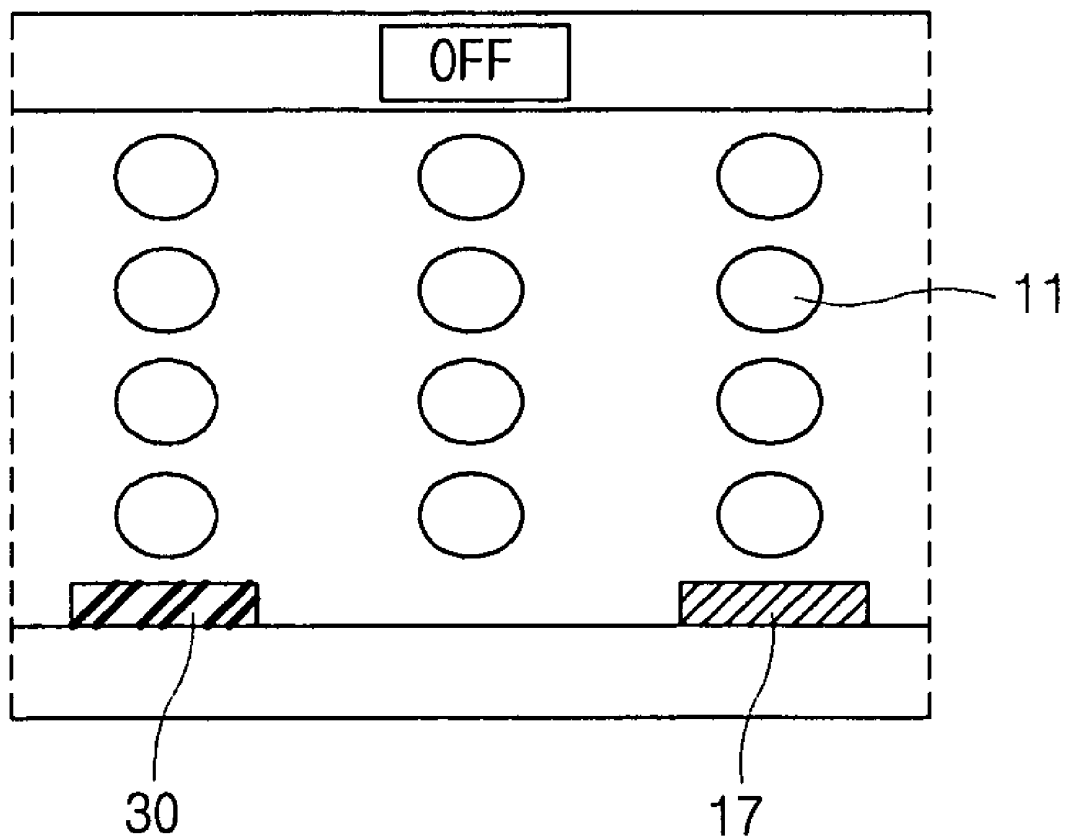


FIG. 3
RELATED ART

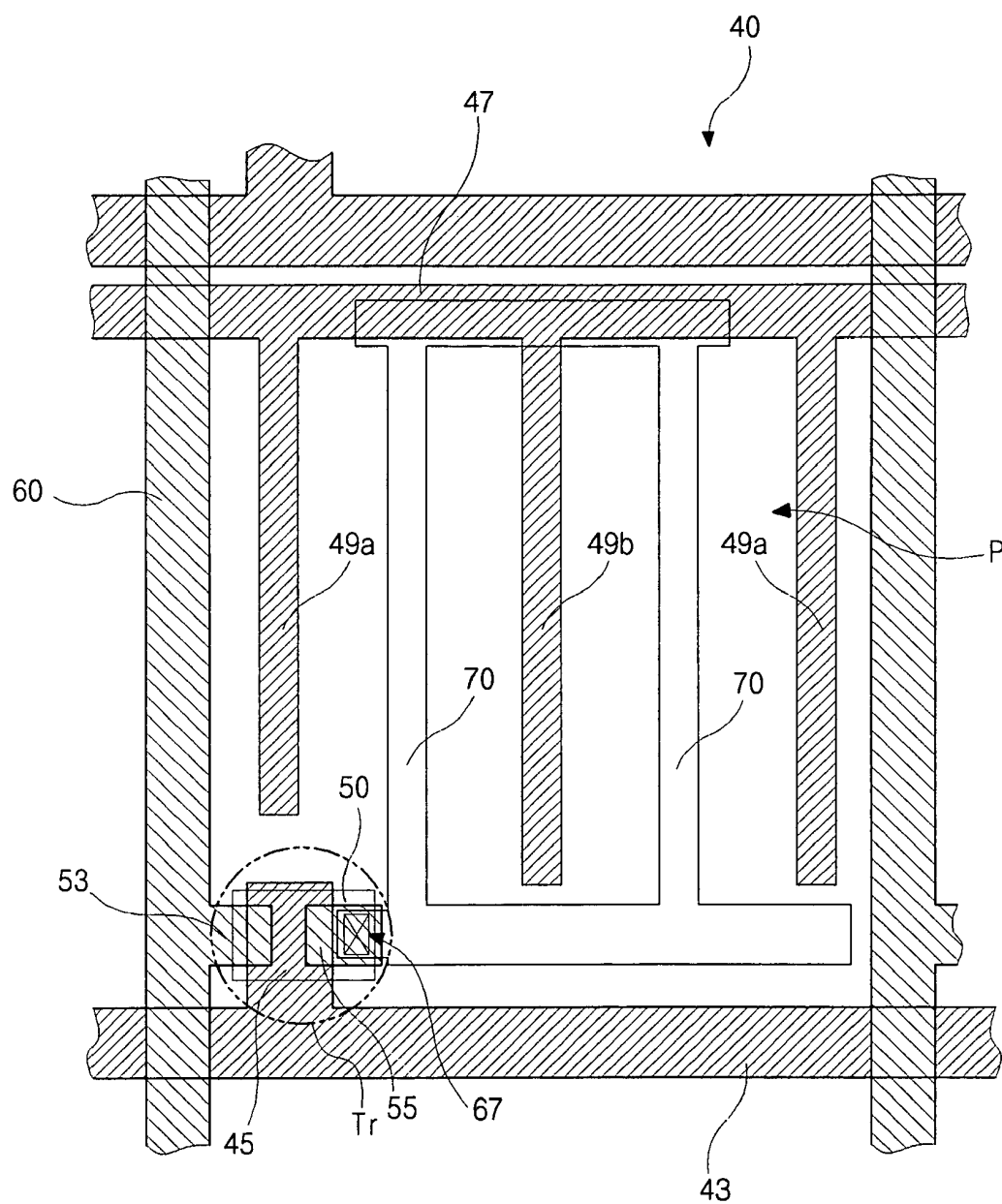


FIG. 4

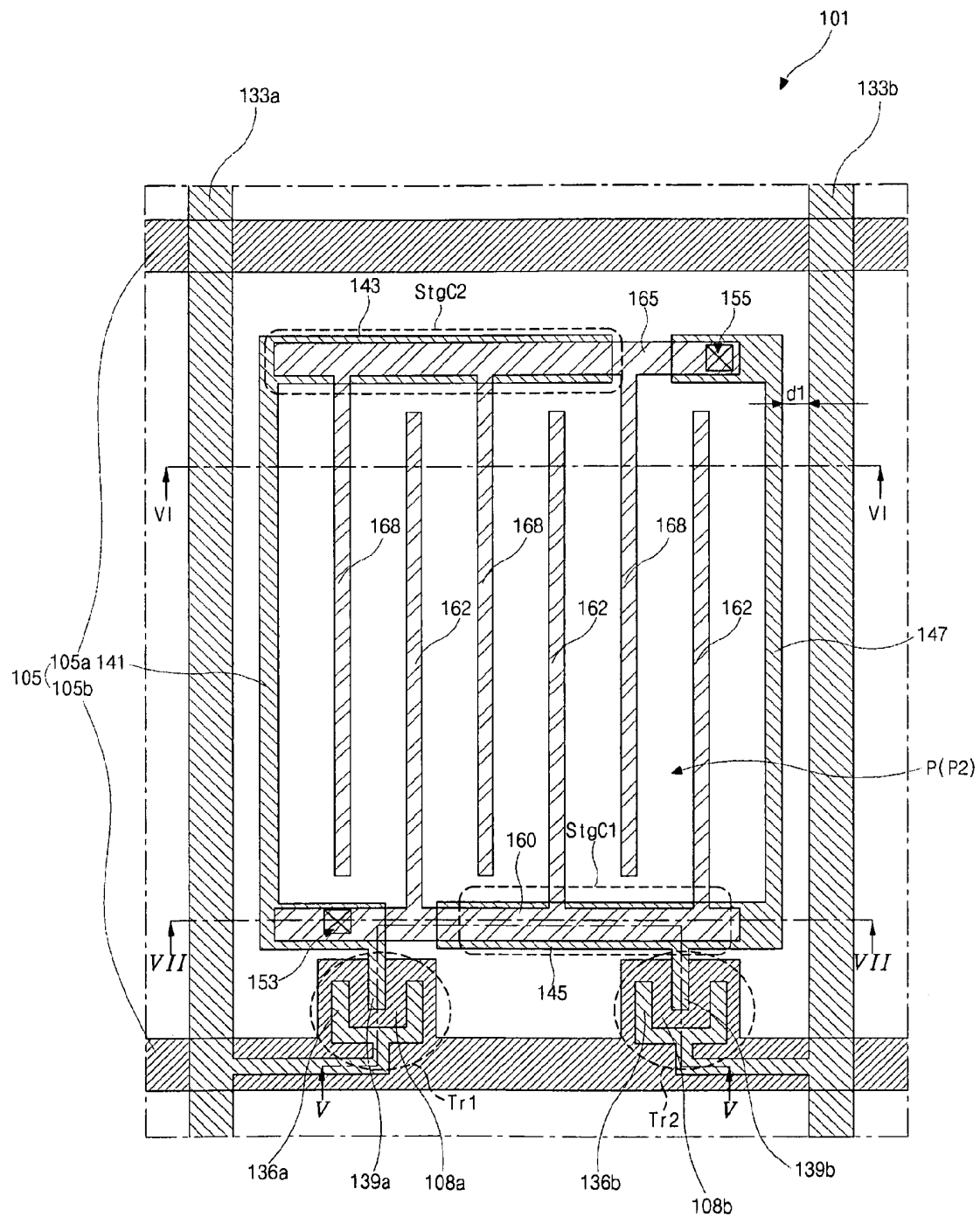


FIG. 5

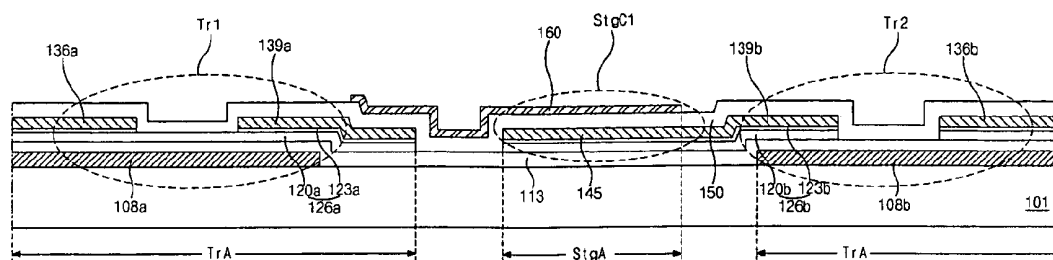


FIG. 6

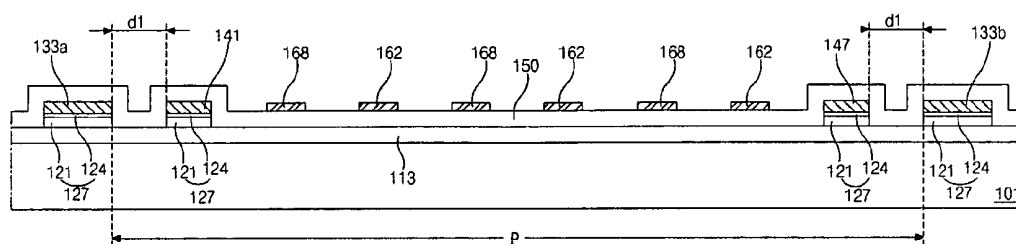


FIG. 7

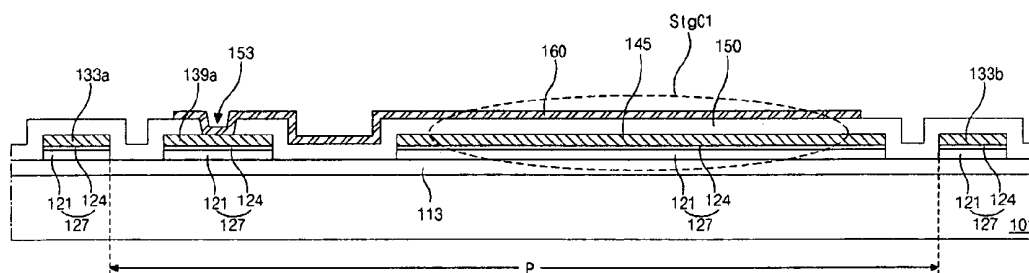


FIG. 8

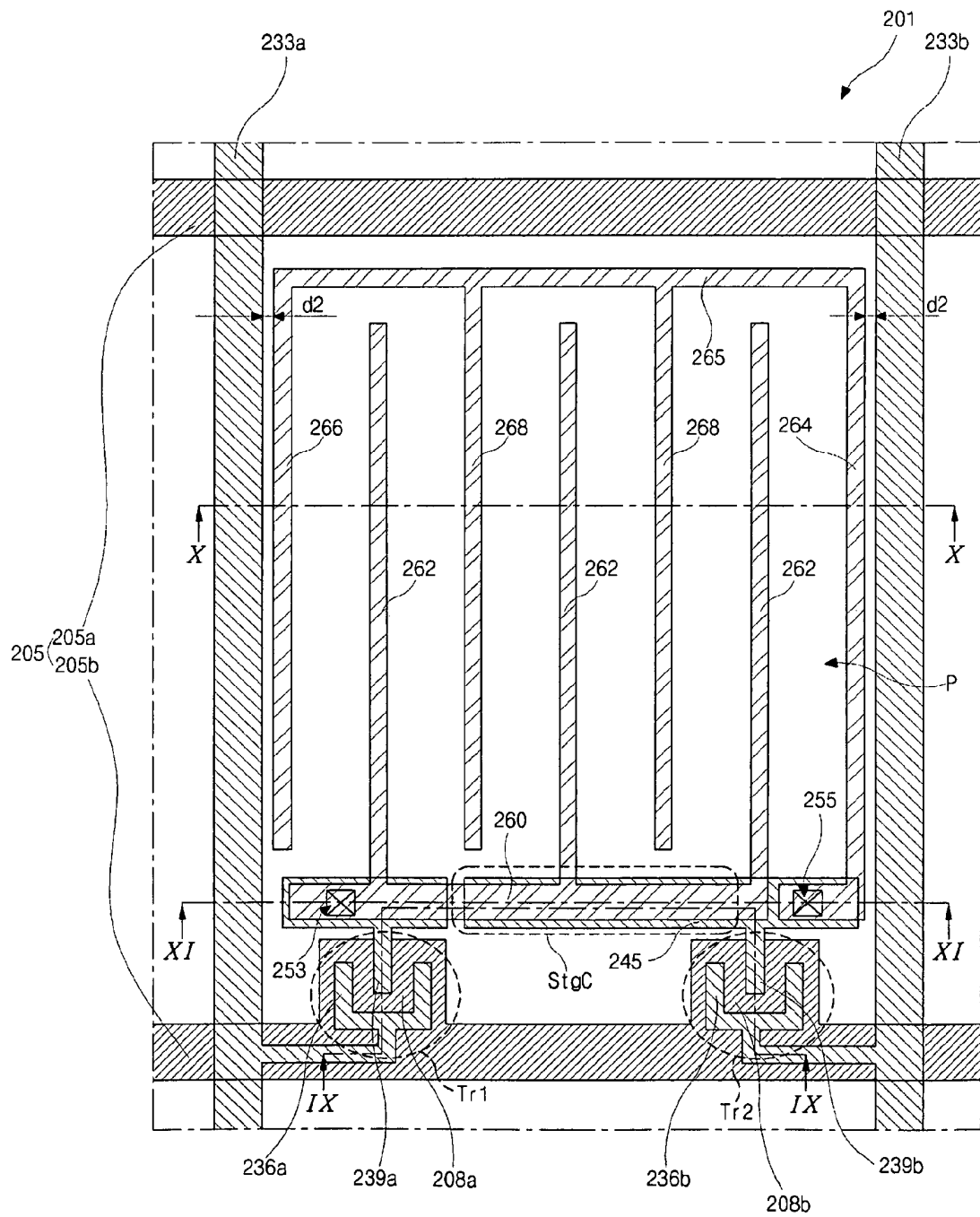


FIG. 9

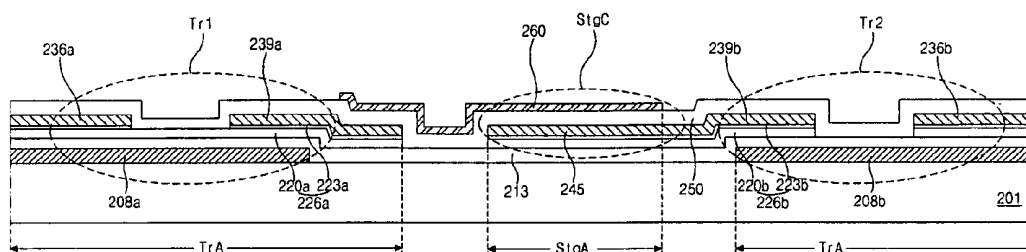


FIG. 10

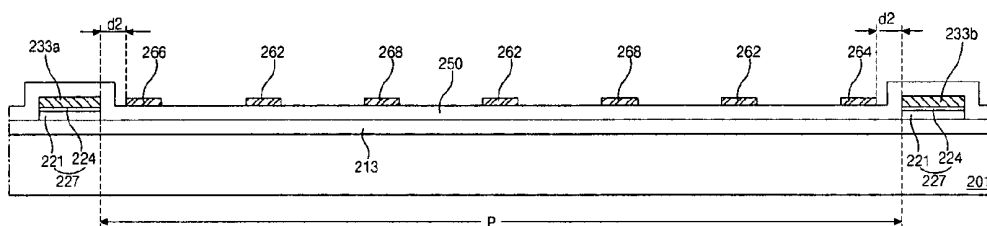


FIG. 11

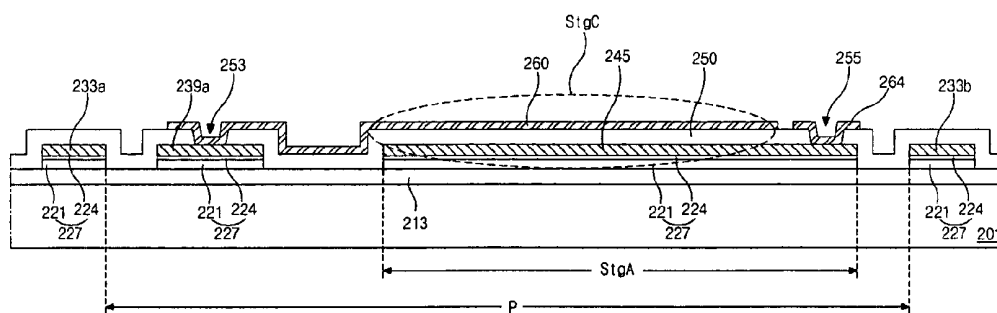
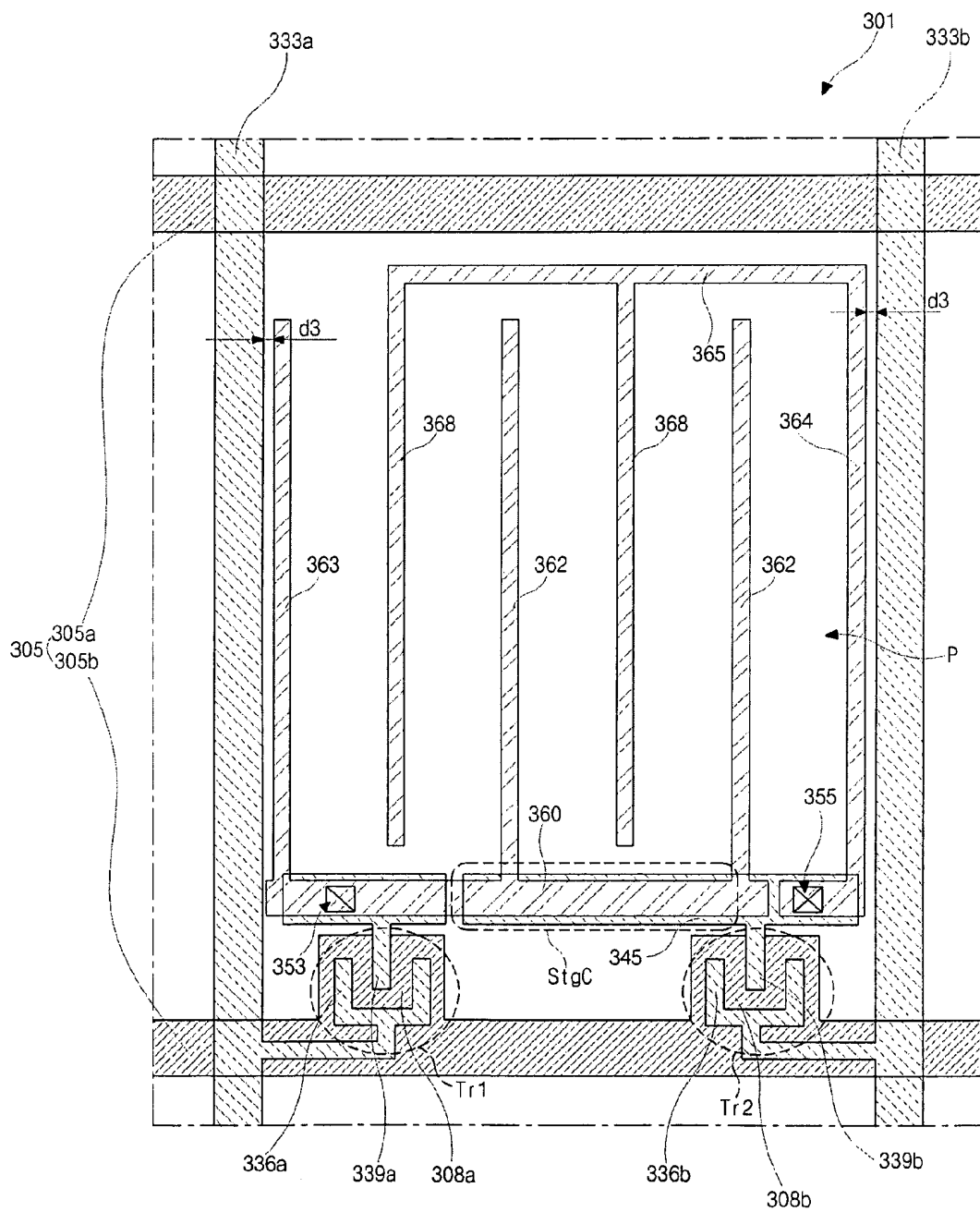


FIG. 12



ARRAY SUBSTRATE FOR IN-PLANE SWITCHING MODE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

The present application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2008-0055903, filed in Korea on Jun. 13, 2008, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an array substrate for an in-plane switching (IPS) mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device and more particularly to an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device having an improved aperture ratio.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

A related art liquid crystal display (LCD) device uses optical anisotropy and polarization properties of liquid crystal molecules. The liquid crystal molecules have a definite alignment direction as a result of their thin and long shapes. The alignment direction of the liquid crystal molecules can be controlled by applying an electric field across the liquid crystal molecules. In other words, as the intensity or direction of the electric field is changed, the alignment of the liquid crystal molecules also changes. Since incident light is refracted based on the orientation of the liquid crystal molecules due to the optical anisotropy of the liquid crystal molecules, images can be displayed by controlling light transmissivity.

Since the LCD device including a thin film transistor (TFT) as a switching element, referred to as an active matrix LCD (AM-LCD) device, has excellent characteristics of high resolution and displaying moving images, the AM-LCD device has been widely used.

The AM-LCD device includes an array substrate, a color filter substrate and a liquid crystal layer interposed therebetween. The array substrate may include a pixel electrode and the TFT, and the color filter substrate may include a color filter layer and a common electrode. The AM-LCD device is driven by an electric field between the pixel electrode and the common electrode to have excellent properties of transmittance and aperture ratio. However, since the AM-LCD device uses a vertical electric field, the AM-LCD device has a bad viewing angle.

An in-plane switching (IPS) mode LCD device may be used to resolve the above-mentioned limitations. FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the related art IPS mode LCD device. As shown in FIG. 1, the related art IPS mode LCD device includes the array substrate and the color filter substrate separated apart from and facing each other. The array substrate includes a first substrate 10, a common electrode 17 and a pixel electrode 30. Though not shown, the array substrate may include a TFT, a gate line, a data line, and so on. The color filter substrate includes a second substrate 9, a color filter layer (not shown), and so on. A liquid crystal layer 11 is interposed between the first substrate 10 and the second substrate 9. Since the common electrode 17 and the pixel electrode 30 are formed on the first substrate 10 on the same level, a horizontal electric field "L" is generated between the common and pixel electrodes 17 and 30.

FIGS. 2A and 2B are cross-sectional views showing turned on/off conditions of the related art IPS mode LCD device. As shown in FIG. 2A, when the voltage is applied to the IPS mode LCD device, liquid crystal molecules 11a above the common electrode 17 and the pixel electrode 30 are unchanged. But, liquid crystal molecules 11b between the common electrode 17 and the pixel electrode 30 are horizon-

tally arranged due to the horizontal electric field "L". Since the liquid crystal molecules 11 are arranged by the horizontal electric field "L", the IPS mode LCD device has a characteristic of a wide viewing angle. For example, the IPS mode LCD device has a viewing angle of about 80 degrees to about 85 degrees without an image inversion or a color inversion.

FIG. 2B shows a condition when the voltage is not applied to the IPS mode LCD device. Because an electric field is not generated between the common and pixel electrodes 17 and 30, the arrangement of liquid crystal molecules 11 is not changed.

FIG. 3 is a plane view of a portion of an array substrate for the related art IPS mode LCD device. In FIG. 3, the array substrate 40 includes a gate line 43, a common line 47, a data line 60, a plurality of common electrodes 49a and 49b, a plurality of pixel electrodes 70 and a thin film transistor (TFT) Tr. The gate line 43 extends along a first direction, and the common line 47 is parallel to the gate line 43. The data line 60 extends along a second direction being different from the first direction to cross the gate line 43 and the common line 47. Particularly, a crossing of the gate and data lines 43 and 60 defines a pixel region P.

The TFT Tr is disposed at a crossing portion of the gate and data lines 43 and 60. The TFT Tr includes a gate electrode 45, a semiconductor layer 50, a source electrode 53 and a drain electrode 55. The source electrode 53 extends from the data line 60, and the gate electrode 45 extends from the gate line 43. The pixel electrodes 70 is connected to the drain electrode 55 through a drain contact hole 67 and disposed in the pixel region P. The common electrodes 49a and 49b are alternately arranged with the pixel electrodes 70 and extend from the common line 47.

The common electrodes include first common electrodes 49a and a second common electrode 49b. The second common electrode 49b is disposed between the first common electrodes 49a, and each of the first common electrodes 49a is disposed to be adjacent to the data line 60. In this case, the first common electrodes 49a is spaced apart from the data line 60 with a pre-determined distance. A common voltage is applied into the common electrodes 49a and 49b through the common line 47, which is across the pixel region P, and an additional compensation or tuning for a difference in a common voltage resulted from charging of a constant voltage is required. Accordingly, production costs increase and a fabricating process is complicated.

In addition, since the first common electrodes 49a is spaced apart from the data line 60 to prevent signal interference between the first common electrodes 49a and the data line 60, an aperture ratio of the IPS mode LCD device decreases.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

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.

To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, an array substrate for an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device includes a gate

line on a substrate; a gate insulating layer on the gate line; first and second data lines on the gate insulating layer and crossing the gate line to define a pixel region; a first thin film transistor (TFT) in the pixel region and connected to the gate line and the first data line; a second TFT in the pixel region and connected to the gate line and the second data line; a passivation layer on the first and second data lines and the first and second TFTs; a first pattern connected to the first TFT and extending along the gate line; a plurality of first electrodes connected to the first pattern and spaced apart from each other, the plurality of first electrodes parallel to the first and second data lines; a second pattern extending to be parallel to the first pattern; a second electrode extending along the first data line and spaced apart from the first data line by a first distance; a third electrode connected to the second pattern and extending along the second data line, the third electrode connected to the second TFT and spaced apart from the second data line by a second distance; and a plurality of fourth electrodes connected to the second pattern and alternately arranged with the plurality of first electrodes, wherein the plurality of first electrodes and the plurality of fourth electrodes are disposed between the second and third electrodes.

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

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.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the related art IPS mode LCD device;

FIGS. 2A and 2B are cross-sectional views showing turned on/off conditions of the related art IPS mode LCD device;

FIG. 3 is a plane view of a portion of an array substrate for the related art IPS mode LCD device;

FIG. 4 is a schematic plane view showing one pixel region of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line V-V of FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line VI-VI of FIG. 4;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line VII-VII of FIG. 4;

FIG. 8 is a schematic plane view showing one pixel region of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according to a second embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line IX-IX of FIG. 8;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line X-X of FIG. 8;

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line XI-XI of FIG. 8; and

FIG. 12 is a schematic plane view showing one pixel region of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 4 is a schematic plane view showing one pixel region of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according to a first embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. 4, the array substrate includes first and second gate lines **105a** and **105b** and first and second data lines **133a** and **133b** on a substrate **101**. Each of the first and second data lines **133a** and **133b** crosses the first and second gate lines **105a** and **105b** to define pixel regions P.

First and second TFTs Tr1 and Tr2 are formed in each pixel region P. The first TFT Tr1 is disposed at a crossing portion of the second gate line **105b** and the first data line **133a**, while the second TFT Tr2 is disposed at a crossing portion of the second gate line **105b** and the second data line **133b**. The first TFT Tr1 is connected to the second gate line **105b** and the first data line **133a**, and the second TFT Tr2 is connected to the second gate line **105b** and the second data line **133b**. Although not shown, there are also two TFTs in an upper pixel region of the pixel region P in FIG. 4. One of the two TFTs in the upper pixel region is connected to the first gate line **105a** and the first data line **133a**, and the other of the two TFTs in the upper pixel region is connected to the first gate line **105a** and the second data line **133b**. Hereinafter, the first and second gate lines **105a** and **105b** are referred to a gate line **105**.

The first TFT Tr1 includes a first gate electrode **108a**, a gate insulating layer (not shown), a first semiconductor layer (not shown), which includes a first active layer (not shown) of intrinsic amorphous silicon and a first ohmic contact layer (not shown) of impurity-doped amorphous silicon, a first source electrode **136a** and a first drain electrode **139a**. The first semiconductor layer and the gate insulating layer are stacked on the first gate electrode **108a**, and the first source electrode **136a** and the first drain electrode **139a** are formed on the first semiconductor layer. The first source electrode **136a** is spaced apart from the first drain electrode **139a**. The second TFT Tr2 includes a second gate electrode **108b**, a gate insulating layer (not shown), a second semiconductor layer (not shown), which includes a second active layer (not shown) of intrinsic amorphous silicon and a second ohmic contact layer (not shown) of impurity-doped amorphous silicon, a second source electrode **136b** and a second drain electrode **139b**. The second semiconductor layer and the gate insulating layer are stacked on the second gate electrode **108b**, and the second source electrode **136b** and the second drain electrode **139b** are formed on the second semiconductor layer. The second source electrode **136b** is spaced apart from the second drain electrode **139b**.

The first gate electrode **108a** and the second gate electrode **108b** are connected to the gate line **105**, and the first source electrode **136a** and the second source electrode **136b** are connected to the first and second data lines **133a** and **133b**, respectively.

In the pixel region P, a first electrode **141** is formed along the first data line **133a** to be adjacent to the first data line **133a**. One end portion of the first electrode **141** is connected to the first drain electrode **139a** of the first TFT Tr1, and the other end portion of the first electrode **141** is bent. The bent portion of the first electrode **141** is defined as a first bent portion **143**. In the pixel region P, a second electrode **147** is formed along the second data line **133b** to be adjacent to the second data line **133b**. One end portion of the second electrode **147** is connected to the second drain electrode **139b** of the second TFT Tr2, and the other end portion of the second electrode **147** is bent to face the other end portion of the first electrode **141**. The one end portion of the second electrode **147** further extends along the gate line **105**. The extending portion is defined as a second bent portion **145**.

In addition, first and second patterns **160** and **165** is formed to be parallel to and spaced apart from the gate line **105**. The first pattern **160** is located between the gate line **105** and the second pattern **165**. The first pattern **160** is connected to the first electrode **141** through a first contact hole **153**, and the second pattern **165** is connected to the second electrode **147** through a second contact hole **155**. The first contact hole **153** corresponds to the one end portion of the first electrode **141**, and the second contact hole **155** corresponds to the other one end portion of the second electrode **147**. Since the first electrode **141** extends from the first drain electrode **139a**, the first contact hole **153** may correspond to a portion of the first drain electrode **139a**.

Furthermore, in the pixel region P, a plurality of third electrodes **162** extend from the first pattern **160** and are spaced apart from each other. A plurality of fourth electrodes **168** extend from the second pattern **165** and are spaced apart from each other. The third electrodes **162** and the fourth electrodes **168** are alternately arranged with each other and disposed between the first and second patterns **160** and **165** and the first and second electrodes **141** and **147**.

The first pattern **160** overlaps the second bent portion **145** of the second electrode **147** such that an overlapped portion of the first pattern **160**, overlaps the second bent portion **145** of the second electrode **147** and an insulating material layer (not shown) therebetween constitute a first storage capacitor StgC1. The second pattern **165** overlaps the first bent portion **143** of the first electrode **141** such that an overlapped portion of the second pattern **165**, the first bent portion **143** of the first electrode **141** and an insulating material layer (not shown) therebetween constitute a second storage capacitor StgC2.

In the array substrate according to the present invention, a high signal voltage, which is greater than a reference voltage, is applied into the first data line **133a** in a pulse profile, and a low signal voltage, which is smaller than a reference voltage, is applied into the second data line **133b** in a pulse profile. Since the third electrodes **162** is electrically connected to the first data line **133a** through the first pattern **160**, the first contact hole **153**, the first electrode **141** and the first TFT Tr1 and the fourth electrodes **168** is electrically connected to the second data line **133b** through the second pattern **165**, the second contact hole **155**, the second electrode **147** and the first TFT Tr1, there is a voltage difference in the third and fourth electrodes **162** and **168** due to the high and low signal voltage in the pulse pattern. As a result, a horizontal electric field is induced between the third and fourth electrodes **162** and **168**. Even if the first and second TFTs TFT1 and TFT2 have an off state, the voltage difference in the third and fourth electrodes **162** and **168** maintains due to the first and second storage capacitors StgC1 and StgC2.

Being compared with the related art array substrate in FIG. 3, there is no common electrode adjacent to the data line. Accordingly, an additional compensation or tuning for a difference in a common voltage resulted from charging of a constant voltage is not required. As a result, production costs can decrease and a fabricating process can be simplified. In addition, since the high and low signal voltages have a pulse pattern, problems, such as a flicker phenomenon, can be prevented such that the IPS mode LCD device has an improved image quality.

With reference to FIGS. 5 to 7, a cross-sectional structure of the array substrate according to the first embodiment of the present invention in FIG. 4 is explained. FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line V-V of FIG. 4, FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line VI-VI of FIG. 4, and FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line VII-VII of FIG. 4. A switching region TrA, where the first and second

TFTs are formed, and a storage region StgA, where the first storage capacitor is formed, are defined in the pixel region.

In FIGS. 5 to 7, the gate line **105** (of FIG. 4) of a first metallic material is formed on the substrate **101**. The first and second gate electrodes **108a** and **108b** connected to the gate line are formed on the substrate **101** in the switching region TrA. The first and second gate electrodes **108a** and **108b** are formed of the same material as the gate line.

A gate insulating layer **113** of an inorganic insulating material is formed on the gate line and the first and second gate electrodes **108a** and **108b**. The first and second data lines **133a** and **133b** of a second metallic material are formed on the gate insulating layer **113**. The first and second data lines **133a** and **133b** cross the gate line to define the pixel region P. In the switching region TrA, a first semiconductor layer **126a** including a first active layer **120a** and a first ohmic contact layer **123a** and a second semiconductor layer **126b** including a second active layer **120b** and a second ohmic contact layer **123b** are formed on the gate insulating layer **113**. The first semiconductor layer **126a** and the second semiconductor layer **126b** correspond to the first and second gate electrodes **108a** and **108b**, respectively. The first source electrode **136a** and the first drain electrode **139a**, which are spaced apart from each other, are formed on the first semiconductor layer **126a**, and the second source electrode **136b** and the second drain electrode **139b**, which are spaced apart from each other, are formed on the second semiconductor layer **126b**. The first source electrode **136a** is connected to the first data line **133a**, and the second source electrode **136b** is connected to the second data line **133b**. Each of the first source electrode **136a**, the first drain electrode **139a**, the second source electrode **136b** and the second drain electrode **139b** may be formed of the same material as the first and second data lines **133a** and **133b**. The first gate electrode **108a**, the gate insulating layer **113**, the first semiconductor layer **126a**, the first source electrode **136a** and the first drain electrode **139a** constitute the first TFT Tr1. The second gate electrode **108b**, the gate insulating layer **113**, the second semiconductor layer **126b**, the second source electrode **136b** and the second drain electrode **139b** constitute the second TFT Tr2.

In addition, the first electrode **141**, which is parallel and adjacent to the first data line **133a**, is formed on the gate insulating layer **113**. The first electrode **141** is connected to the first drain electrode **139a** and formed of the same material as the first drain electrode **139a**. Referring again to FIG. 4, one end of the first electrode **141** is connected to the first drain electrode **139a**, and the first bent portion **143** (of FIG. 4) extends from the other end of the first electrode **141** into a region where the second storage capacitor StgC2 is formed. The first bent portion of the first electrode **141** is defined as a first capacitor electrode of the second storage capacitor StgC2 (of FIG. 4).

Referring to FIGS. 5 to 7, the second electrode **147**, which is parallel and adjacent to the second data line **133b**, is formed on the gate insulating layer **113**. The second electrode **147** is connected to the second drain electrode **139b** and formed of the same material as the second drain electrode **139b**. One end of the second electrode **147** is connected to the second drain electrode **139b**, and the second bent portion **145** extends from the one end of the second electrode **147** into the storage region StgA. The second bent portion **145** of the second electrode **147** is defined as a first capacitor electrode of the first storage capacitor StgC1.

A semiconductor pattern **127** having a double-layered structure of a first semiconductor pattern **124** and a second semiconductor pattern **121** is formed under each of the first and second data lines **133a** and **133b**, the first electrode **141**

and the second electrode 147. The first and second semiconductor patterns 124 and 121 are formed of the same material as the ohmic contact layers 123a and 123b and the active layers 120a and 120b, respectively. Whether the semiconductor pattern 127 is disposed under each of the first and second data lines 133a and 133b, the first electrode 141 and the second electrode 147 depends on a fabricating method of the array substrate. The semiconductor pattern may be omitted by another fabricating process.

A passivation layer 150 is formed on the first and second data lines 133a and 133b, the first and second TFTs Tr1 and Tr2, and the first and second electrodes 141 and 147. The passivation layer 150 has the first and second contact holes 153 and 155 respectively exposing a portion of the first drain electrode 139a and a portion of the second electrode 147. The passivation layer 150 may be formed of one of an inorganic insulating material and an organic insulating material.

The first pattern 160 of a third metallic material is formed on the passivation layer 150. The first pattern 160 contacts the first drain electrode 139a through the first contact hole 153 and overlaps the second bent portion 145 of the second electrode 147. An overlapped portion of the first pattern 160 is defined as a second capacitor electrode of the first storage capacitor StgC1. The second bent portion 145 of the second electrode 147 as the first capacitor electrode, the overlapped portion of the first pattern 160 as the second capacitor electrode, and the passivation layer 150 as a dielectric material layer constitute the first storage capacitor StgC1. In addition, the plurality of third electrodes 162 extend from the first pattern 160 and are spaced apart from each other. The second pattern 165 is formed on the passivation layer 150. The second pattern 165 contacts the second electrode 147 through the second contact hole 155 and overlaps the first bent portion 143 (of FIG. 4) of the first electrode 141. The second pattern 165 is spaced apart from and parallel to the first pattern 160. An overlapped portion of the second pattern 165 is defined as a second capacitor electrode of the second storage capacitor StgC2 (of FIG. 4). The first bent portion 143 (of FIG. 4) of the first electrode 141 as the first capacitor electrode, the overlapped portion of the second pattern 165 as the second capacitor electrode, and the passivation layer 150 as a dielectric material layer constitute the second storage capacitor StgC2 (of FIG. 4). In addition, the plurality of fourth electrodes 168 extend from the second pattern 165 and are spaced apart from each other. The third electrodes 162 and the fourth electrodes 168 are alternately arranged with each other. The second pattern 165, the third electrodes 162 and the fourth electrodes 168 may be formed of the same material as the first pattern 160.

In the above array substrate according to the first embodiment of the present invention, the first electrode 141 is formed at the same layer and the same material as the first data line 133a. In addition, the first electrode 141 is disposed to be adjacent to the first data line 133a. Moreover, the second electrode 147 is formed at the same layer and the same material as the second data line 133b. The second electrode 147 is disposed to be adjacent to the second data line 133b. To prevent a shortage problem between the first data line 133a and the first electrode 141 and between the second data line 133b and the second electrode 147, the first and second electrodes 141 and 147 are spaced apart from the first and second data lines 133a and 133b, respectively, by the first distance d1. Although the array substrate in FIG. 4 has an improved aperture ration with compared to the related art array substrate, a limitation in an aperture ration still exists.

FIG. 8 is a schematic plane view showing one pixel region of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according

to a second embodiment of the present invention. The array substrate in FIG. 8 has a much improved aperture ratio.

In FIG. 8, the array substrate includes first and second gate lines 205a and 205b and first and second data lines 233a and 233b on a substrate 201. Each of the first and second data lines 233a and 233b crosses the first and second gate lines 205a and 205b to define pixel regions P.

First and second TFTs Tr1 and Tr2 are formed in each pixel region P. The first TFT Tr1 is disposed at a crossing portion of the second gate line 205b and the first data line 233a, while the second TFT Tr2 is disposed at a crossing portion of the second gate line 205b and the second data line 233b. The first TFT Tr1 is connected to the second gate line 205b and the first data line 233a, and the second TFT Tr2 is connected to the second gate line 205b and the second data line 233b. Although not shown, there are also two TFTs in an upper pixel region of the pixel region P in FIG. 8. One of the two TFTs in the upper pixel region is connected to the first gate line 205a and the first data line 233a, and the other of the two TFTs in the upper pixel region is connected to the first gate line 205a and the second data line 233b. Hereinafter, the first and second gate lines 205a and 205b are referred to a gate line 205.

The first TFT Tr1 includes a first gate electrode 208a, a gate insulating layer (not shown), a first semiconductor layer (not shown), which includes a first active layer (not shown) of intrinsic amorphous silicon and a first ohmic contact layer (not shown) of impurity-doped amorphous silicon, a first source electrode 236a and a first drain electrode 239a. The first semiconductor layer and the gate insulating layer are stacked on the first gate electrode 208a, and the first source electrode 236a and the first drain electrode 239a are formed on the first semiconductor layer. The first source electrode 236a is spaced apart from the first drain electrode 239a. The second TFT Tr2 includes a second gate electrode 208b, a gate insulating layer (not shown), a second semiconductor layer (not shown), which includes a second active layer (not shown) of intrinsic amorphous silicon and a second ohmic contact layer (not shown) of impurity-doped amorphous silicon, a second source electrode 236b and a second drain electrode 239b. The second semiconductor layer and the gate insulating layer are stacked on the second gate electrode 208b, and the second source electrode 236b and the second drain electrode 239b are formed on the second semiconductor layer. The second source electrode 236b is spaced apart from the second drain electrode 239b.

The first gate electrode 208a and the second gate electrode 208b are connected to the gate line 205, and the first source electrode 236a and the second source electrode 236b are connected to the first and second data lines 233a and 233b, respectively. The second drain electrode 239b of the second TFT Tr2 extends along a direction of the gate line 205 such that a drain extending portion 245 is formed.

In the pixel region P, a first pattern 260 is formed to be substantially parallel to the gate line 205. The first pattern 260 overlaps the drain extending portion 245 to form a storage capacitor StgC. The first pattern 260 contacts the first drain electrode 239a of the first TFT Tr1 through a first contact hole 253. A plurality of first electrodes 262 extend from the first pattern 260 and are spaced apart from each other.

In the pixel region P, a second electrode 264 is formed to be parallel and adjacent to the second data line 233b. One end of the second electrode 264 contacts the drain extending portion 245 through the second contact hole 255. The other end of the second electrode 264 is bent to form a second pattern 265 being parallel to and facing the first pattern 260. In addition, the second pattern 265 is bent to form a third electrode 266 being parallel and adjacent to the first data line 233a. A

plurality of fourth electrodes **268** extend from the second pattern **265** and are spaced apart from each other. The first electrodes **262** and the fourth electrodes **268** are alternately arranged with each other and disposed between the first and second patterns **260** and **265** and between the second and third electrodes **264** and **266**. Although the second and third electrodes **264** and **266** are connected to the second TFT Tr2 in FIG. **8**, they can be connected to the first TFT Tr1 not the second TFT Tr2. In this case, the first pattern **260** is connected to the second TFT Tr2.

The array substrate according to the second embodiment of the present invention has one storage capacitor StgC. Accordingly, the second and third electrodes **264** and **266** can be formed on a layer different from the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**. In addition, the second and third electrodes **264** and **266**, which are adjacent to the second and first data lines **233b** and **233a**, respectively, are connected to one of the first and second TFTs Tr1 and Tr2. Since there is no shortage problem between the first data line **233a** and the third electrode **266** and between the second data line **233b** and the second electrode **264**, the second and third electrodes **266** can be positioned to be closer to the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, respectively, than those of the array substrate in FIG. **4**. Namely, a second distance d2 between the first data line **233a** and the third electrode **266** and between the second data line **233b** and the second electrode **264** is smaller than the first distance d1 (of FIG. **4**). The second distance d2 may be smaller than about 5 micrometers. Accordingly, an aperture ratio of the array substrate is further improved.

With reference to FIGS. **9** to **11**, a cross-sectional structure of the array substrate according to the second embodiment of the present invention in FIG. **8** is explained. FIG. **9** is a cross-sectional view taken along the line IX-IX of FIG. **8**, FIG. **10** is a cross-sectional view taken along the line X-X of FIG. **8**, and FIG. **11** is a cross-sectional view taken along the line XI-XI of FIG. **8**. A switching region TrA, where the first and second TFTs are formed, and a storage region StgA, where the first storage capacitor is formed, are defined in the pixel region.

In FIGS. **9** to **11**, the gate line **205** (of FIG. **8**) of a first metallic material is formed on the substrate **201**. The first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b** connected to the gate line are formed on the substrate **201** in the switching region TrA. The first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b** are formed of the same material as the gate line.

A gate insulating layer **213** of an inorganic insulating material is formed on the gate line and the first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b**. The first and second data lines **233a** and **233b** of a second metallic material are formed on the gate insulating layer **213**. The first and second data lines **233a** and **233b** cross the gate line to define the pixel region P. In the switching region TrA, a first semiconductor layer **226a** including a first active layer **220a** and a first ohmic contact layer **223a** and a second semiconductor layer **226b** including a second active layer **220b** and a second ohmic contact layer **223b** are formed on the gate insulating layer **213**. The first semiconductor layer **226a** and the second semiconductor layer **226b** correspond to the first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b**, respectively. The first source electrode **236a** and the first drain electrode **239a**, which are spaced apart from each other, are formed on the first semiconductor layer **226a**, and the second source electrode **236b** and the second drain electrode **239b**, which are spaced apart from each other, are formed on the second semiconductor layer **226b**. The first source electrode **236a** is connected to the first data line **233a**, and the second source electrode **236b** is connected to the second data line **233b**. Each of the first source electrode **236a**,

the first drain electrode **239a**, the second source electrode **236b** and the second drain electrode **239b** may be formed of the same material as the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**. The first gate electrode **208a**, the gate insulating layer **213**, the first semiconductor layer **226a**, the first source electrode **236a** and the first drain electrode **239a** constitute the first TFT Tr1. The second gate electrode **208b**, the gate insulating layer **213**, the second semiconductor layer **226b**, the second source electrode **236b** and the second drain electrode **239b** constitute the second TFT Tr2. The second drain electrode **239b** extends into the switching region StgA to form the drain extending portion **245** being substantially parallel to the gate line. The drain extending portion **245** is defined as a first capacitor electrode of the storage capacitor.

A semiconductor pattern **227** having a double-layered structure of a first semiconductor pattern **224** and a second semiconductor pattern **221** is formed under each of the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**. The first and second semiconductor patterns **224** and **221** are formed of the same material as the ohmic contact layers **223a** and **223b** and the active layers **220a** and **220b**, respectively. Whether the semiconductor pattern **227** is disposed under each of the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b** depends on a fabricating method of the array substrate. The semiconductor pattern may be omitted by another fabricating process.

A passivation layer **250** is formed on the first and second data lines **133a** and **133b**, and the first and second TFTs Tr1 and Tr2. The passivation layer **250** has the first and second contact holes **253** and **255** respectively exposing a portion of the first drain electrode **239a** and a portion of the second drain electrode **239b**, specially the drain extending portion **245**. The passivation layer **250** may be formed of one of an inorganic insulating material and an organic insulating material.

The first pattern **260** of a third metallic material is formed on the passivation layer **250**. The first pattern **260** contacts the first drain electrode **239a** through the first contact hole **253** and overlaps the drain extending portion **245**. An overlapped portion of the first pattern **260** is defined as a second capacitor electrode of the storage capacitor StgC. The plurality of first electrodes **262** extend from the first pattern **260** and are spaced apart from each other. In addition, the second electrode **264** is formed of the same material and the same layer as the first electrodes **262**. One end of the second electrode **264** contacts the second drain electrode **239b**, specially the drain extending portion **245**. The second electrode **264** is substantially parallel and adjacent to the second data line **233b**. The other end of the second electrode **264** is bent to form the second pattern **265** being parallel to and facing the first pattern **260**. In addition, the second pattern **265** is bent to form the third electrode **266** being parallel and adjacent to the first data line **233a**. A plurality of fourth electrodes **268** extend from the second pattern **265** and are spaced apart from each other. The first electrodes **262** and the fourth electrodes **268** are alternately arranged with each other and disposed between the first and second patterns **260** and **265** and between the second and third electrodes **264** and **266**.

In the above array substrate, each of the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b** is formed on the gate insulating layer **213**, while each of the second and third electrodes **264** and **266**, which are adjacent to the second and first data lines **233a** and **233b**, respectively, is formed on the passivation layer **250**. Since there is no shortage problem between the first data line **233a** and the third electrode **266** and between the second data line **233b** and the second electrode **264**, the second and third electrodes **266** can be positioned to be closer to the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, respectively. The third electrode **266** and the second electrode **264** are

spaced apart from the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, respectively, by a second distance **d2** with a range smaller than about 5 micrometers. Accordingly, an aperture ratio of the array substrate is further improved.

FIG. 12 is a schematic plane view showing one pixel region of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according to a third embodiment of the present invention. Explanation of elements having the same structure as those in FIG. 8 is omitted.

Being different from the array substrate in FIG. 8, an electrode adjacent to a first data line is not connected to an electrode adjacent to a second data line in FIG. 12. Referring to FIG. 12, a plurality of first electrodes **362** and a third electrode **363**, which is substantially parallel and adjacent to a first data line **333a**, are connected to a first pattern **360**. Since the first pattern **360** extends from a first drain electrode **339a** of a first TFT Tr1, which is connected to the first data line **333a**, the first electrodes **362** and the third electrode **363** are connected to the first TFT Tr1. The third electrode **363** is formed on a layer different from the first data line **333a**. In addition, a second electrode **364**, which is substantially parallel and adjacent to a second data line **333b**, is connected to a second TFT Tr2, and a plurality of fourth electrodes **368** are connected to the second TFT Tr2 through the second electrode **364**. The third electrode **363** and the second electrode **364** are spaced apart from the first and second data lines **333a** and **333b**, respectively, by a third distance **d3** with a range smaller than about 5 micrometers. Since a number of the first and third electrodes **362** and **363** are same as that of the second and fourth electrodes **364** and **368**, an aperture ratio is further improved.

With reference to FIGS. 8 to 11, a fabricating process of an array substrate for an IPS mode LCD device according to the second embodiment of the present invention is explained.

First, a first metallic material is deposited on an entire surface of the substrate **201** to form a first metal layer (not shown). A mask process, which includes a step of coating a photoresist (PR) layer, a step of exposing the PR layer, a step of developing the exposed PR layer, a step of etching the corresponding metal layer and stripping remained PR patterns, is performed to pattern the first metal layer (not shown). As a result, the gate line **205** and the first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b**, which are connected to the gate line **205**, are formed on the substrate **201**.

Next, the gate insulating layer **213** is formed on the gate line **205** and the first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b** by depositing an inorganic insulating material such as silicon oxide (SiO_2) and silicon nitride (SiNx).

Next, an intrinsic amorphous silicon layer (not shown), an impurity-doped amorphous silicon layer (not shown) and a second metallic material layer (not shown) are sequentially formed on the gate insulating layer **213**. Then, the intrinsic amorphous silicon layer (not shown), the impurity-doped amorphous silicon layer (not shown) and the second metallic material layer (not shown) are patterned by a single mask process using a refractive exposure mask or a half-tone mask or two mask process to form the first and second active layers **220a** and **220b** of intrinsic amorphous silicon, the first and second ohmic contact layers **223a** and **223b** of impurity-doped amorphous silicon, the first and second source electrodes **236a** and **236b**, and the first and second drain electrodes **239a** and **239b**. The first and second active layers **220a** and **220b** corresponds to the first and second gate electrodes **208a** and **208b**, respectively. The first and second ohmic contact layers **223a** and **223b** are disposed on the first and second active layers **220a** and **220b**, respectively, and expose a portion of the first ohmic contact layer **223a** and a portion of

the second ohmic contact layer **223b**, respectively. The first source electrode **236a** and the first drain electrode **239a** are disposed on the first ohmic contact layer **223a** and spaced apart from each other. The second source electrode **236b** and the second drain electrode **239b** are disposed on the second ohmic contact layer **223b** and spaced apart from each other. At the same time, the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b** are formed on or over the gate insulating layer **213**. Each of the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b** crosses the gate line **205** to define the pixel region P. The first and second source electrodes **236a** and **236b** are connected to the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, respectively. The second drain electrode **239b** extends into the switching region StgA to form the drain extending portion **245** being substantially parallel to the gate line **205**. The drain extending portion **245** functions as a first electrode of the storage capacitor StgC.

When the first and second active layers **220a** and **220b**, the first and second ohmic contact layers **223a** and **223b**, the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, the first and second source electrodes **236a** and **236b**, and the first and second drain electrodes **239a** and **239b** are formed by a single mask process, the semiconductor pattern **227** having a double-layered structure of a first semiconductor pattern **224** and a second semiconductor pattern **221** is formed under each of the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7.

However, when the first and second active layers **220a** and **220b**, the first and second ohmic contact layers **223a** and **223b**, the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**, the first and second source electrodes **236a** and **236b**, and the first and second drain electrodes **239a** and **239b** are formed by different mask processes, there is no the semiconductor pattern **227** under each of the first and second data lines **233a** and **233b**. In this case, each of the first and second active layers and the first and second ohmic contact layers has an island shape.

The first gate electrode **208a**, the gate insulating layer **213**, the first semiconductor layer **226a**, the first source electrode **236a** and the first drain electrode **239a** constitute the first TFT Tr1. The second gate electrode **208b**, the gate insulating layer **213**, the second semiconductor layer **226b**, the second source electrode **236b** and the second drain electrode **239b** constitute the second TFT Tr2.

Next, the passivation layer **250** is formed on the first and second data lines **133a** and **133b**, and the first and second TFTs Tr1 and Tr2 by depositing an inorganic insulating material such as silicon oxide (SiO_2) and silicon nitride (SiNx). The passivation layer **250** is patterned by a mask process to form the first and second contact holes **253** and **255** respectively exposing a portion of the first drain electrode **239a** and a portion of the second drain electrode **239b**, specially the drain extending portion **245**.

Next, a transparent conductive material layer (not shown) is formed on the passivation layer **250** by depositing a transparent conductive material such as indium-tin-oxide (ITO) and indium-zinc-oxide (IZO). The transparent conductive material layer is patterned by a mask process to form the first pattern **260** and the first electrodes **262**. The first pattern **260** contacts the first drain electrode **239a** through the first contact hole **253** and extends into the storage region to overlaps the drain extending portion **245**. An overlapped portion of the first pattern **260** functions as a second capacitor electrode of the storage capacitor StgC. The first electrodes **262** extend from the first pattern **260** and are spaced apart from each other. At the same time, the second electrode **264**, the second pattern **265**, the third electrode **266** and the fourth electrodes **268** are formed on the passivation layer **250**. The second electrode **264** is substantially parallel and adjacent to the

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second data line **233b**. One end of the second electrode **264** contacts the second drain electrode **239b** through the second contact hole **255**, and the other end of the second electrode **264** is bent to form the second pattern **265** being parallel to and facing the first pattern **260**. The second pattern **265** is bent to form the third electrode **266** being parallel and adjacent to the first data line **233a**. The fourth electrodes **268** extend from the second pattern **265** and are spaced apart from each other. The first electrodes **262** and the fourth electrodes **268** are alternately arranged with each other and disposed between the first and second patterns **260** and **265** and between the second and third electrodes **264** and **266**.

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. An array substrate for an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device, comprising:

- a gate line on a substrate;
- a gate insulating layer on the gate line;
- first and second data lines on the gate insulating layer and crossing the gate line to define a pixel region;
- a first thin film transistor (TFT) in the pixel region and connected to the gate line and the first data line;
- a second TFT in the pixel region and connected to the gate line and the second data line;
- a passivation layer on the first and second data lines and the first and second TFTs;
- a first pattern connected to the first TFT and extending along the gate line;
- a plurality of first electrodes connected to the first pattern and spaced apart from each other, the plurality of first electrodes parallel to the first and second data lines;
- a second pattern extending to be parallel to the first pattern;
- a second electrode extending along the first data line and spaced apart from the first data line by a first distance;
- a third electrode connected to the second pattern and extending along the second data line, the third electrode connected to the second TFT and spaced apart from the second data line by a second distance; and
- a plurality of fourth electrodes connected to the second pattern and alternately arranged with the plurality of first electrodes,

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wherein the plurality of first electrodes and the plurality of fourth electrodes are disposed between the second and third electrodes, wherein a portion of the second TFT extends to overlap the first pattern.

2. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second TFTs includes a gate electrode on the substrate, a semiconductor layer on the gate insulating layer and source and drain electrodes on the semiconductor layer.

3. The array substrate according to claim 2, wherein the gate electrodes of the first and second TFTs are connected to the gate line, and wherein the source electrode of the first TFT is connected to the first data line, and the source electrode of the second TFT is connected to the second data line.

4. The array substrate according to claim 2, wherein the portion of the second TFT is the drain electrode of the second TFT, and the passivation layer of an insulating material is disposed between the drain electrode and the first pattern.

5. The array substrate according to claim 2, wherein the passivation layer includes a first contact hole exposing the drain electrode of the first TFT and a second contact hole exposing the drain electrode of the second TFT, and wherein the first pattern and the third electrode contact the drain electrode of the first TFT and the drain electrode of the second TFT through the first and second contact hole, respectively.

6. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein the first and second patterns, the plurality of first electrodes, the second electrode, the third electrode and the plurality of fourth electrodes are formed on the passivation layer and of the same material as each other.

7. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second distances is smaller than about 5 micrometers.

8. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein a first signal voltage greater than a reference voltage is applied to the first data line, and a second signal voltage smaller than the reference voltage is applied to the second data line.

9. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein the second electrode is connected to the first pattern.

10. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein the second electrode is connected to the second pattern.

11. The array substrate according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of first electrodes and the plurality of fourth electrodes are disposed between the first and second patterns.

* * * * *

一种用于面内切换模式液晶显示装置的阵列基板，包括像素区域中的第一TFT，并连接到栅极线和第一数据线；像素区域中的第二TFT并连接到栅极线和第二数据线；第一图案，连接到第一TFT并沿栅极线延伸；多个第一电极连接到第一图案；第二图案延伸为与第一图案平行；沿第一数据线延伸的第二电极；第三电极连接到第二图案并沿第二数据线延伸，第三电极连接到第二TFT；多个第四电极连接到第二图案并与多个第一电极交替排列，其中多个第一电极和多个第四电极设置在第二和第三电极之间。

