



US007403253B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Kang

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,403,253 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jul. 22, 2008**

(54) **PLANE SWITCHING MODE LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING STORAGE LINES OVERLAPPING GATE LINE AND COMMON LINE, AND FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF**

2005/0128413 A1* 6/2005 Son et al. 349/143

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

- (75) Inventor: **Won-Seok Kang**, Seoul (KR)
- (73) Assignee: **LG Display Co., Ltd.**, Seoul (KR)
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 361 days.

CN	1366206	8/2002
CN	1392965	1/2003
JP	04-355722	12/1992
JP	09-090343	4/1997
JP	10-123482	5/1998

(21) Appl. No.: **10/975,100**

(Continued)

(22) Filed: **Oct. 28, 2004**

Primary Examiner—Andrew Schechter

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—McKenna, Long & Aldridge LLP

US 2005/0094078 A1 May 5, 2005

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Oct. 29, 2003 (KR) 10-2003-0076080

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G02F 1/1343 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **349/141**; 349/39

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 349/141,
349/145, 146, 109

See application file for complete search history.

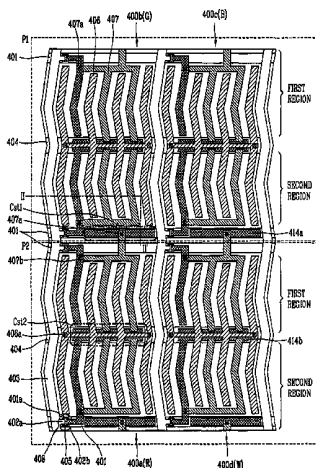
An IPS mode LCD device and its fabrication method are disclosed. The IPS mode LCD device includes: first and second substrates; a plurality of gate lines and data lines disposed horizontally and vertically on the first substrate; a plurality of sub-pixels defined by the gate lines and the data lines; a common line dividing the sub pixels into an upper region, a first region and a lower region, a second region, and defining first to fourth sub-pixels arranged in a 2x2 matrix form; at least one pair of a common electrode and a pixel electrode disposed in each of first to fourth sub-pixels and generating an in-plane electric field; a first storage line connected to the pixel electrode of the first region and disposed on the gate line; a second storage line connected to the pixel electrode of the second region and disposed on the common line; a switching device formed at an intersection of the gate line and the data line; and a liquid crystal layer formed between the first and second substrates.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,757,452 A *	5/1998	Masaki et al.	349/110
5,777,707 A	7/1998	Masaki et al.	
6,356,331 B1	3/2002	Ono et al.	
7,164,402 B2	1/2007	Yanagawa et al.	
2002/0057411 A1 *	5/2002	Kim et al.	349/141
2002/0093614 A1 *	7/2002	Moon et al.	349/141
2002/0159016 A1 *	10/2002	Nishida et al.	349/141
2003/0107037 A1 *	6/2003	Youn et al.	257/59
2004/0109122 A1	6/2004	Kumagawa et al.	
2005/0094077 A1 *	5/2005	Baek 349/141	

18 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS		
JP	2001-091972	4/2001
JP	2001-296523	10/2001
JP	2002-023185	1/2002
JP	2002-169179	6/2002
JP	2002-202736	7/2002
JP	2003-280037	10/2003
	* cited by examiner	

FIG. 1A
RELATED ART

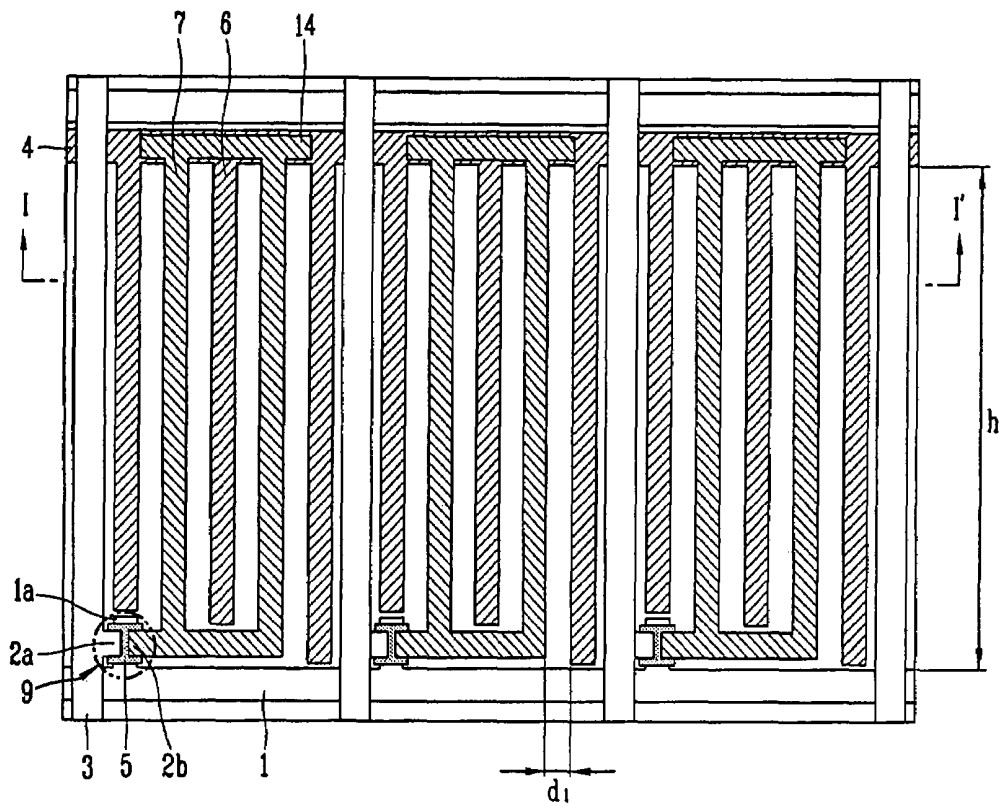


FIG. 1B
RELATED ART

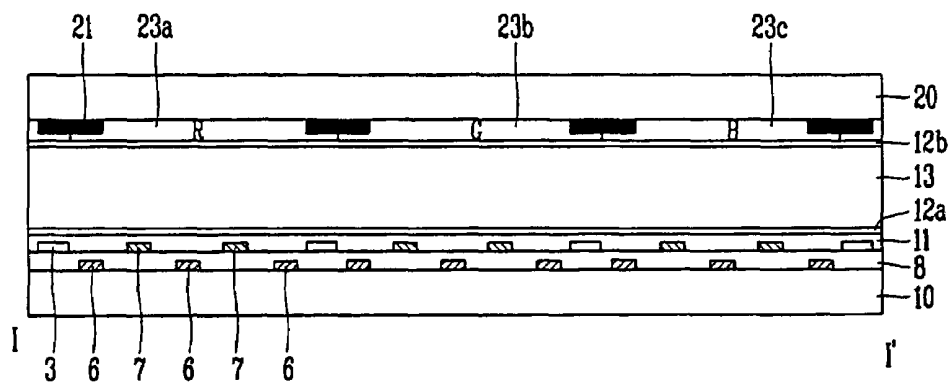


FIG. 2

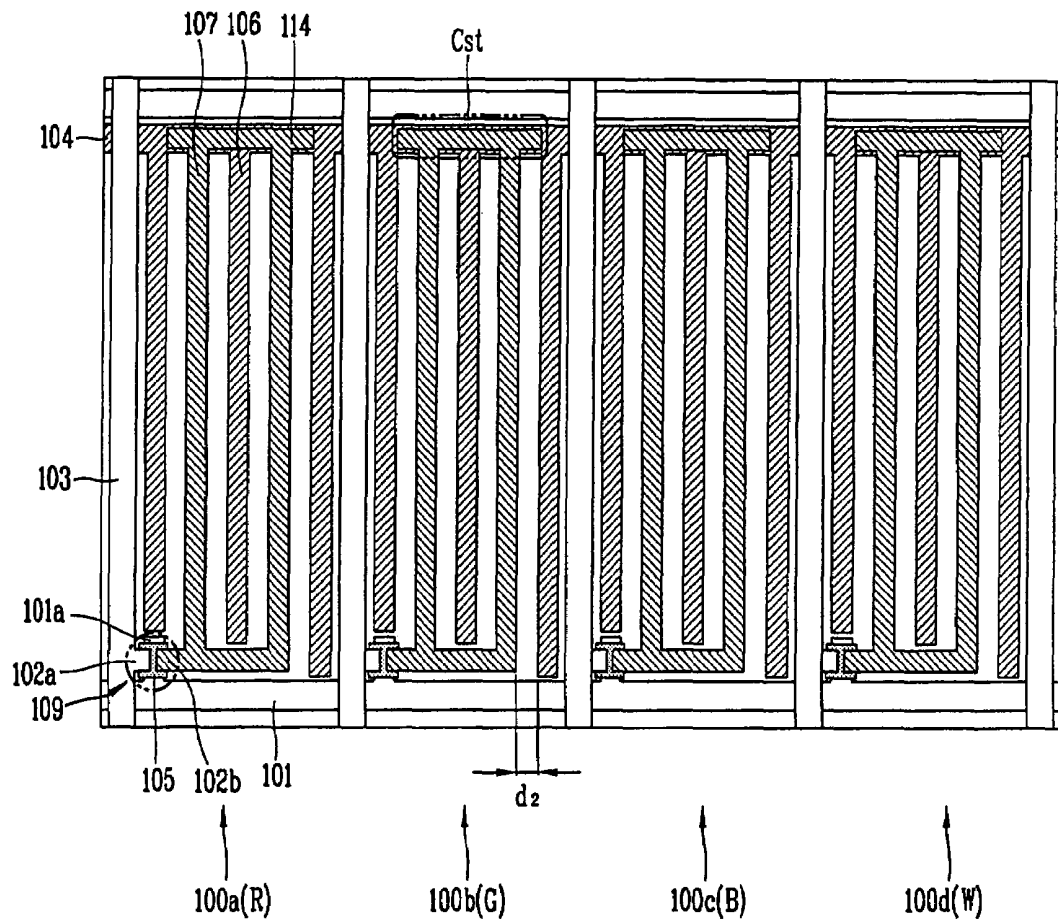


FIG. 3

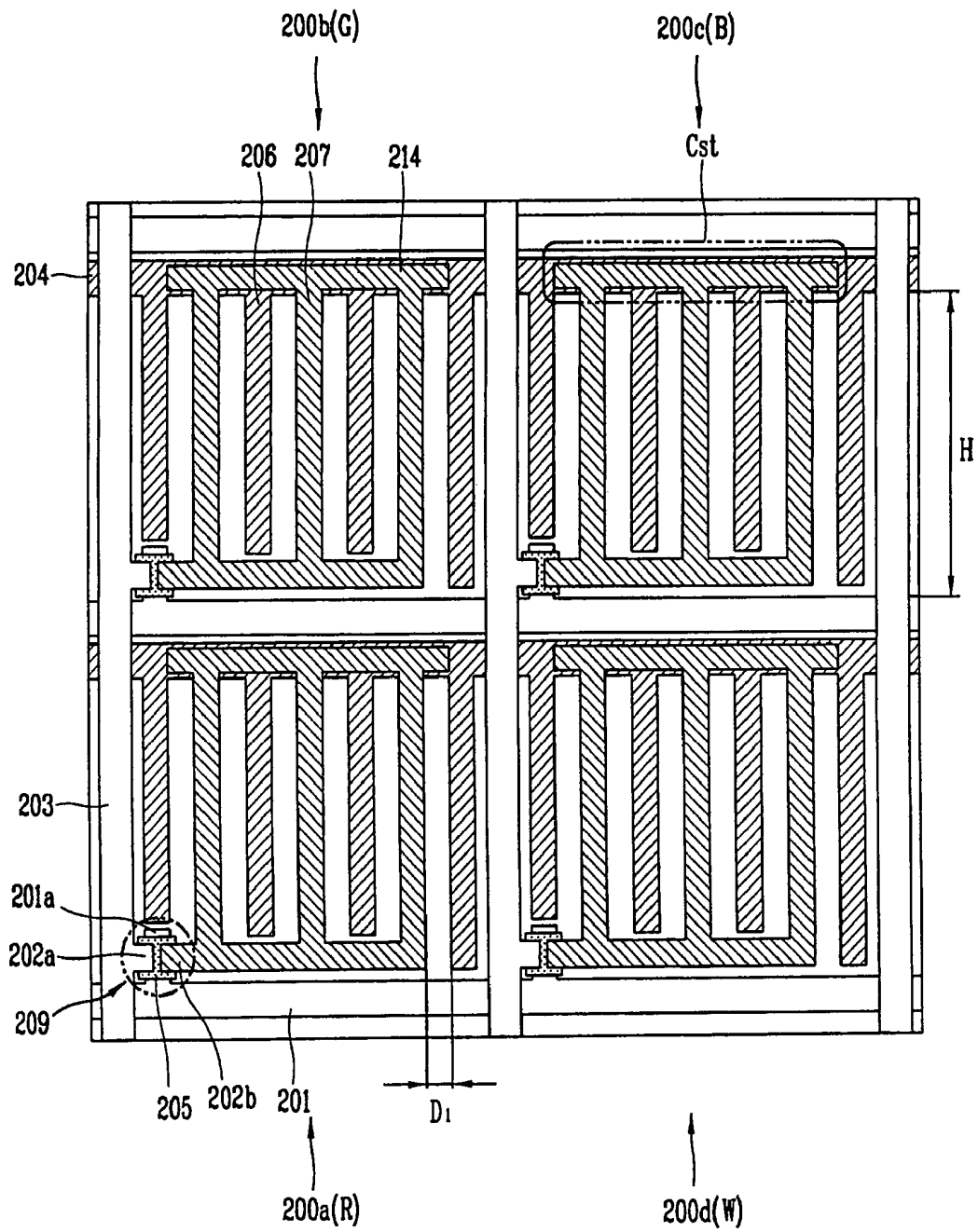


FIG. 4

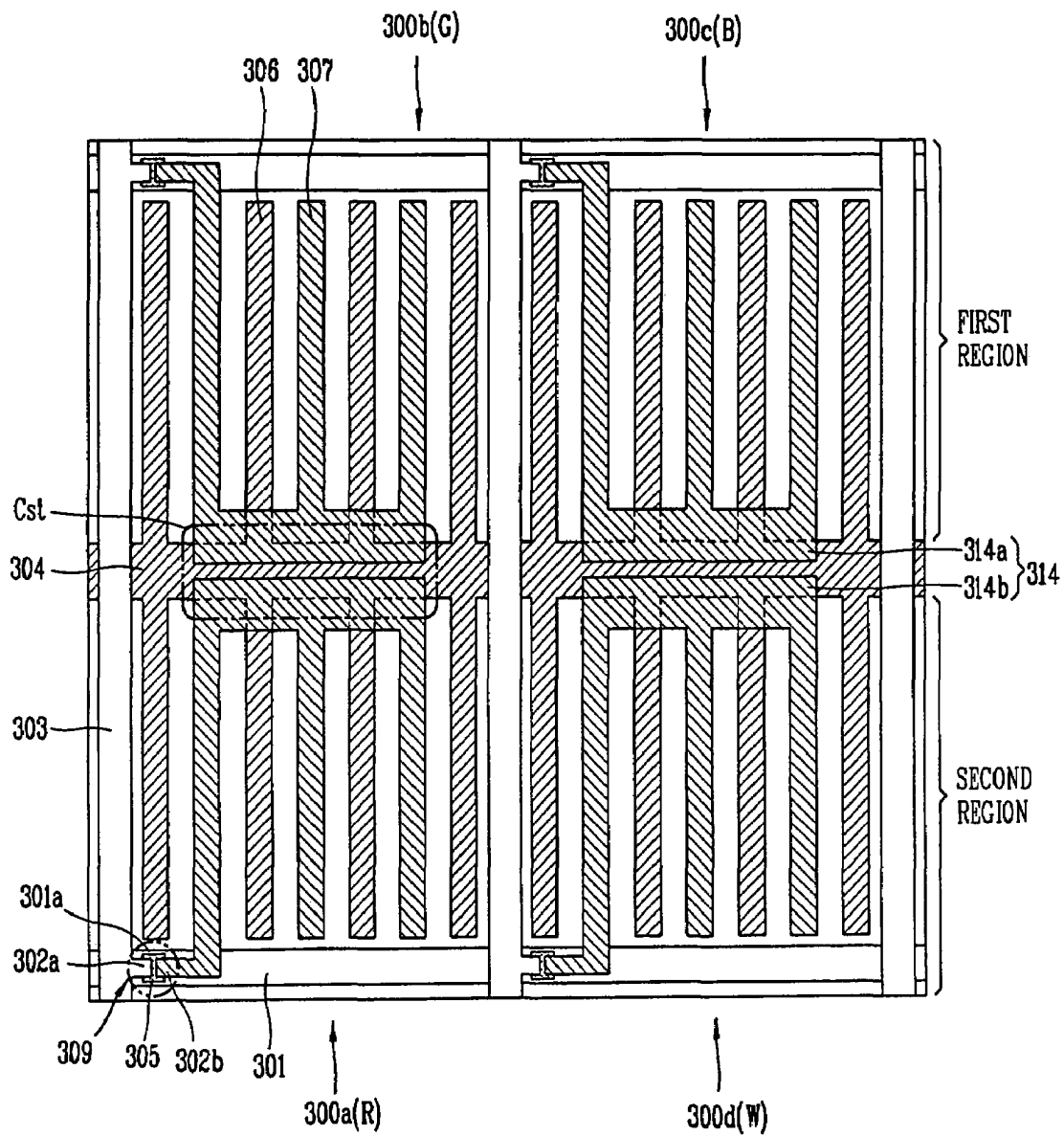


FIG. 5

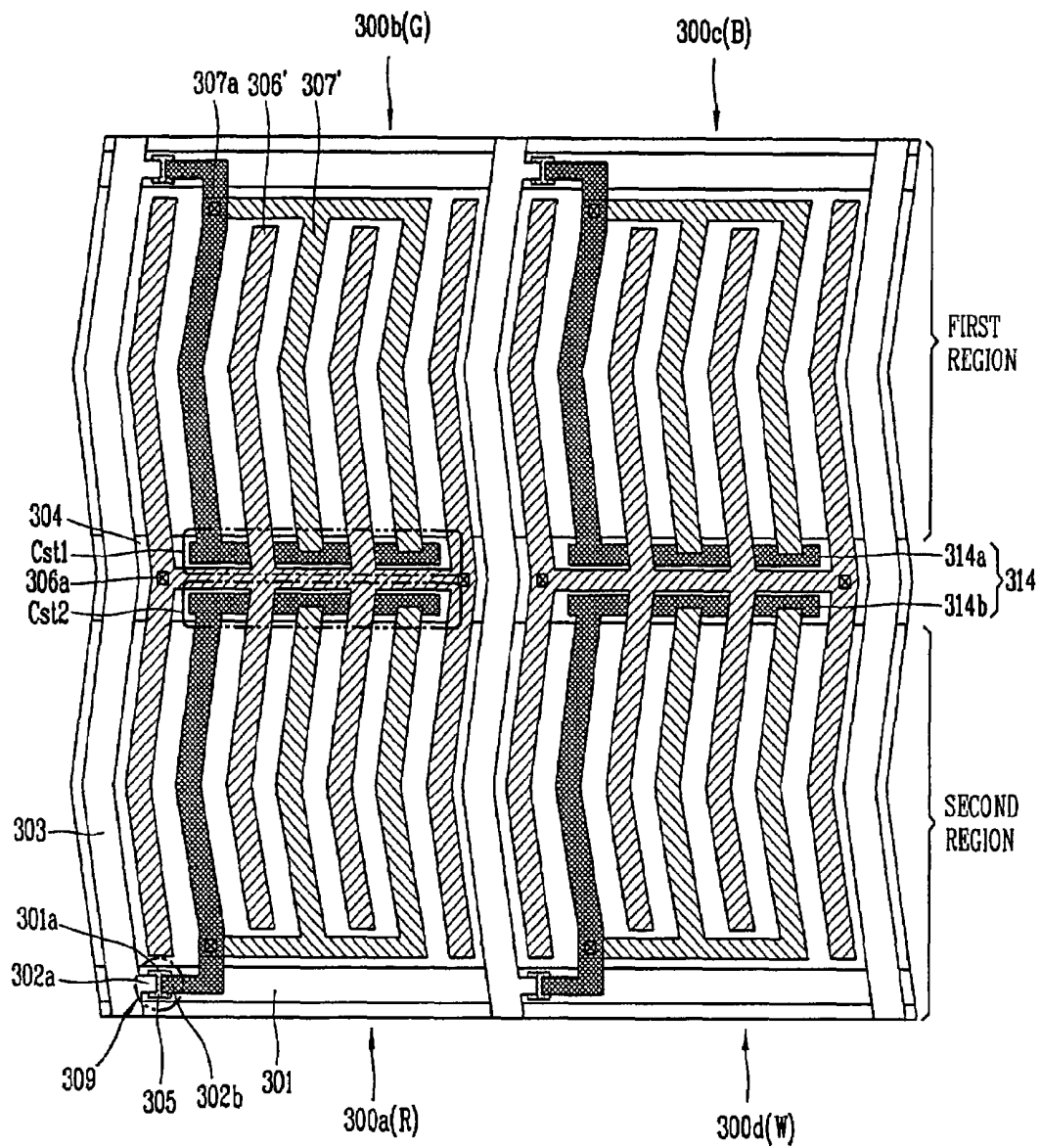


FIG. 6A

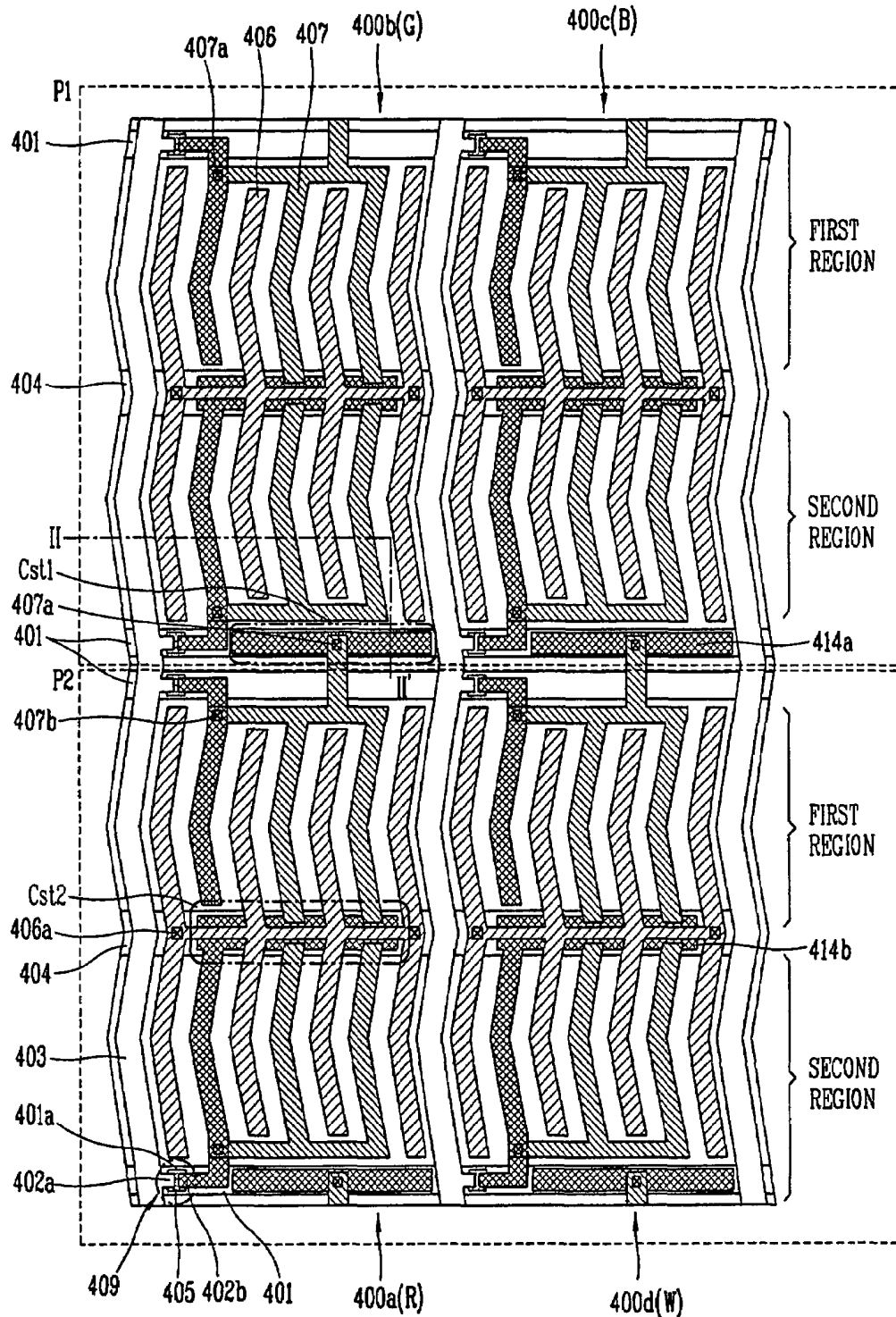


FIG. 6B

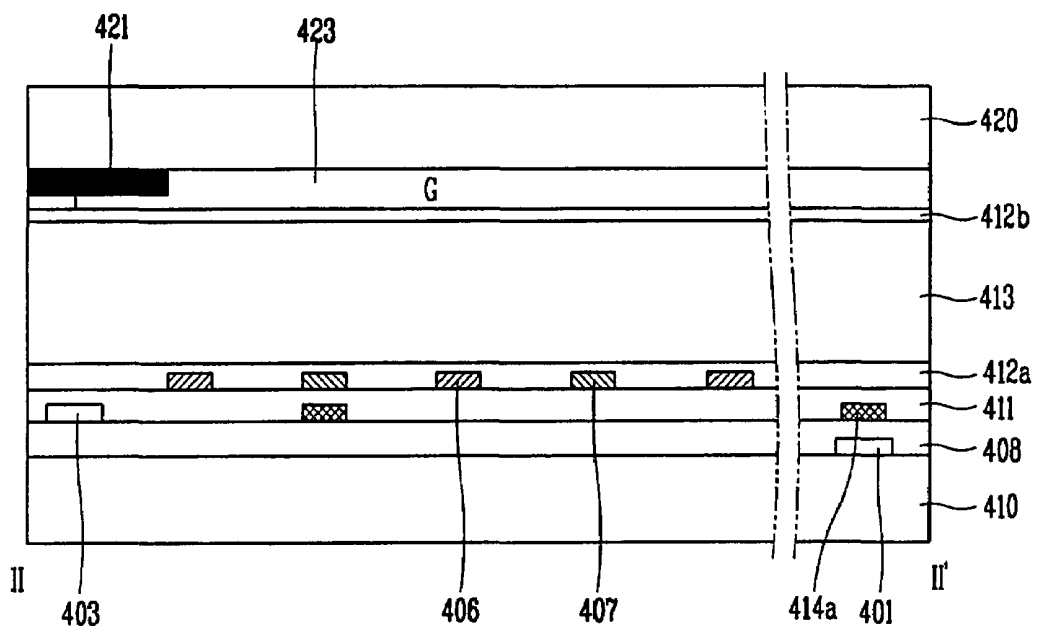


FIG. 7A

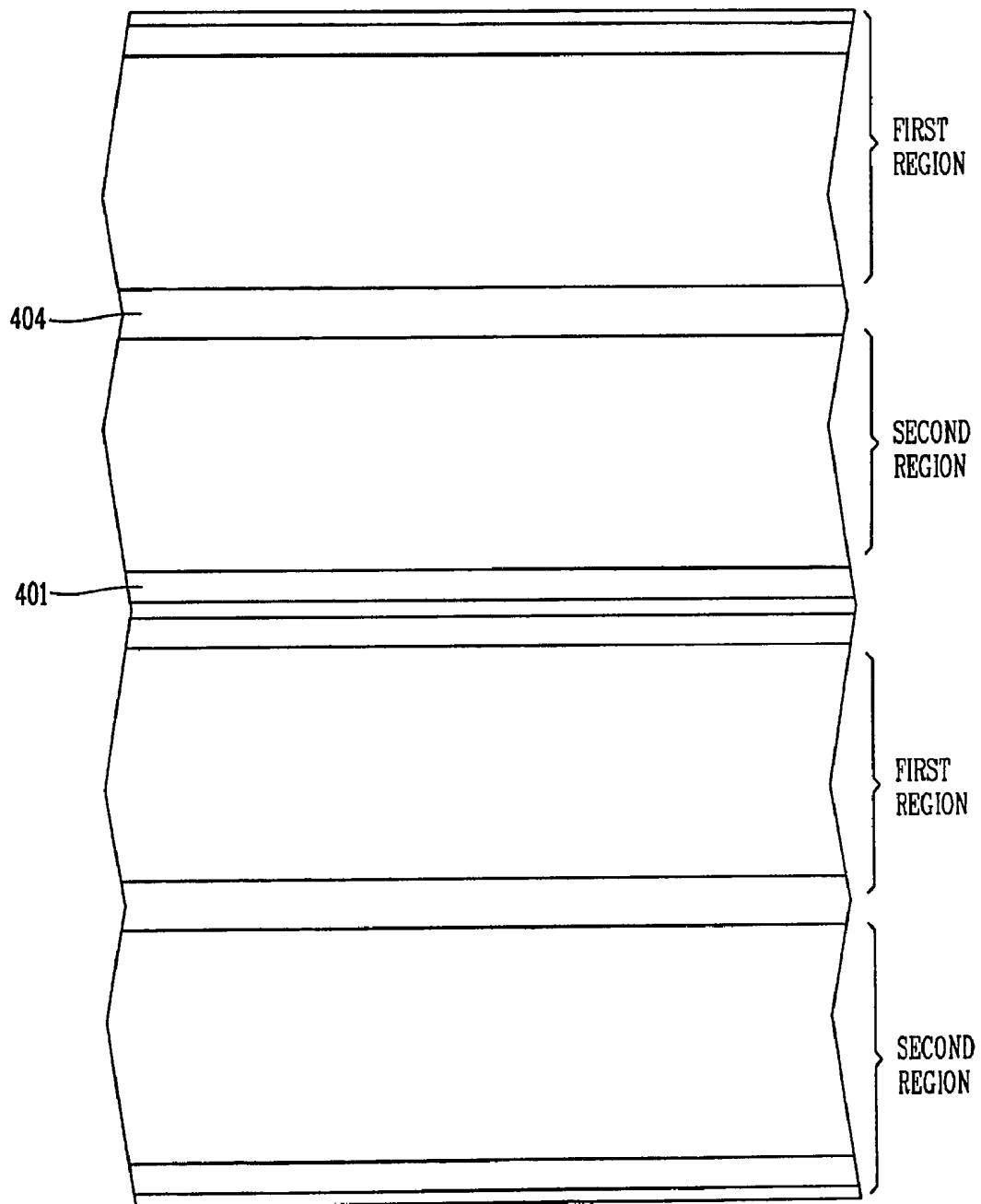


FIG. 7B

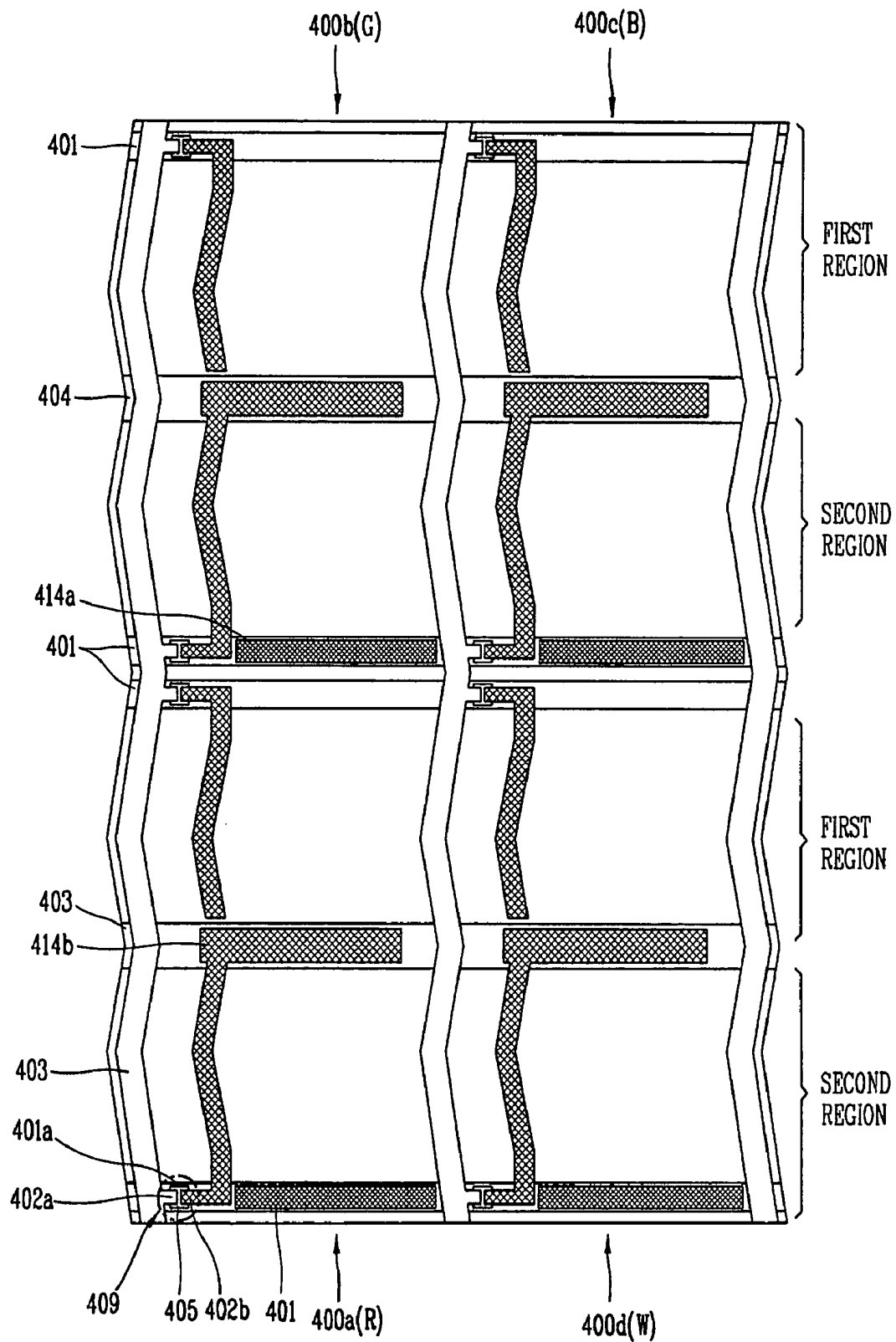
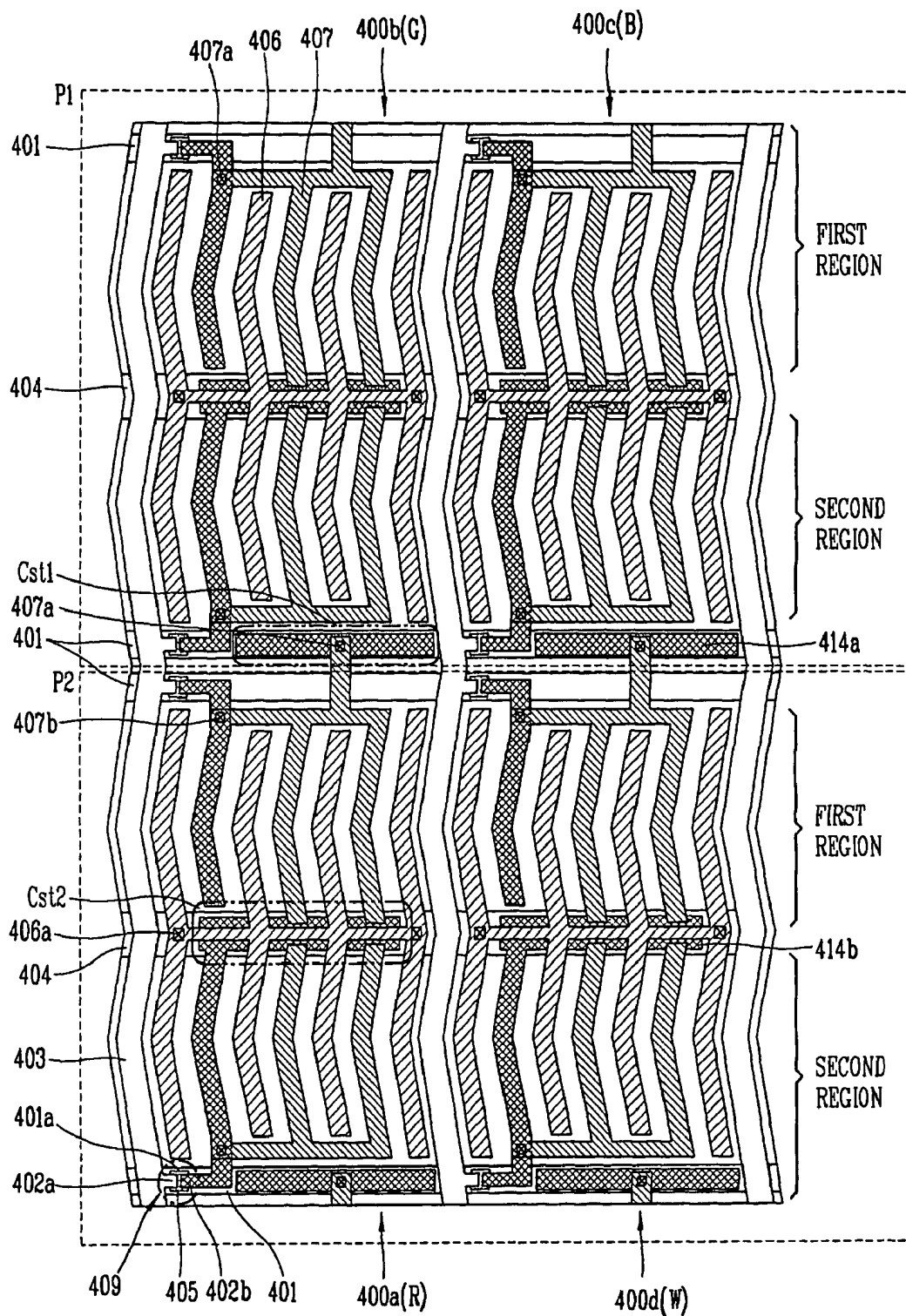


FIG. 7C



**PLANE SWITCHING MODE LIQUID
CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE HAVING
STORAGE LINES OVERLAPPING GATE
LINE AND COMMON LINE, AND
FABRICATION METHOD THEREOF**

This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 2003-76080, filed on Oct. 29, 2003, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes as if set forth herein.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device, and particularly, a quad type in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device and its fabrication method capable of improving an aperture ratio.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

A twisted nematic (TN) mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device, which is commonly used as a flat panel display device achieving high image quality and low power consumption, has a problem in that its viewing angle is narrow because of refractive anisotropy of its liquid crystal molecules. This is because the liquid crystal molecules are aligned parallel to a substrate in the absence of a voltage and are aligned almost perpendicularly to the substrate when a voltage is applied.

To overcome this deficiency, present research includes active development of an in plane switching (IPS) mode LCD for solving the viewing angle problem by aligning liquid crystal molecules almost parallel to a substrate.

FIG. 1 is a schematic view of a unit pixel of a general IPS mode LCD device of the related art, wherein FIG. 1A is a plan view, and FIG. 1B is a cross sectional view taken along line I-I' of FIG. 1A.

As illustrated in FIGS. 1A and 1B, Red (R), Green (G) and Blue (B) sub-pixels construct one unit pixel, and each sub-pixel is defined by a gate line 1 and a data line 3 arranged horizontally and vertically on a transparent first substrate 10. As used hereinafter, the horizontal direction corresponds to the orientation of the gate line; and the vertical direction, which is perpendicular to the horizontal direction, corresponds to the orientation of the data line. Both the vertical and horizontal directions are parallel to the surface of the substrate. Although the $n \times m$ number of sub-pixels are defined by the 'n' number of gate lines 1 and the 'm' number of data lines 3 in an LCD device, only one set of R, G and B sub-pixels are illustrated here. As used hereinafter, the R, G and B sub-pixels combine to form a unit pixel.

A thin film transistor 9 of the related art is disposed at a crossing of the gate line 1 and the data line 3 defining the sub-pixel. The thin film transistor 9 includes a gate electrode 1a, a semiconductor layer 5 and source/drain electrodes 2a, 2b.

In the sub-pixel of the related art, a common line 4 is arranged parallel to the gate line 1, and at least one pair of electrodes, a common electrode 6 and a pixel electrode 7, are arranged parallel to the data line 3. The electrodes are for switching the liquid crystal molecules. Here, the common electrode 6 and the pixel electrode 7 are respectively connected to the common line 4 and the drain electrode 2b. A passivation layer 11 and a first alignment film 12a are further applied on the first substrate 10 having the source electrode 2a and the drain electrode 2b.

In addition, a pixel electrode line 14, which overlaps the common line 4 and is connected to the pixel electrode 7, forms a storage capacitor with the common line 4, wherein

the pixel electrode line 14 and the common line 4 have a gate insulation layer disposed between them.

A black matrix 21 for preventing leakage of light, and R, G and B color filters 23a-23c respectively corresponding to the sub-pixels, is formed on the second substrate 20. Additionally, a second alignment film 12b, which along with the first alignment film 12a determines an initial alignment state of the liquid crystal, is applied to the second substrate 20.

According to an IPS pixel structure of the related art, the liquid crystal layer 13, which is formed between the first substrate 10 and second substrate 20, transmits light according to a voltage applied between the common electrode 6 and the pixel electrode 7.

The related art IPS mode LCD device having such a structure is advantageous in that a viewing angle can be improved because a common electrode and a pixel electrode are disposed on the same plane and thus generate an in-plane electric field. However, the related art IPS mode LCD device has problems in that an aperture ratio is decreased, and its brightness is degraded because the common electrode 6 and the pixel electrode 7 are disposed in a pixel region where light would otherwise be transmitted to form an image.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to an in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device and fabrication method thereof that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

An advantage of the present invention is to provide an IPS mode LCD device capable of improving brightness of a screen by constructing Red (R), Green (G), Blue (B) and White (W) sub-pixels as one pixel.

Another advantage of the present invention is to provide an IPS mode LCD device capable of effectively improving an aperture ratio by disposing four sub-pixels of R, G, B and W in a quad type (2x2 arrangement).

Another advantage of the present invention is to provide an IPS mode LCD device and its fabrication method capable of easily controlling areas of sub-pixels by disposing a common line between the sub-pixels disposed vertically and thus making two-sub-pixels share the common line.

In order to achieve these and other advantages of the invention, an in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device comprises a first substrate and a second substrate; a plurality of gate lines disposed horizontally on the first substrate; a plurality of data lines disposed vertically on the first substrate, the gate lines and data lines defining a pixel region; a common line between the gate lines, the common line dividing the pixel region into a first region and a second region, and defining a first to a fourth sub-pixels arranged in a 2x2 matrix form within the pixel region; at least one pair of a common electrode and a pixel electrode disposed in each of the sub-pixels; a first storage line connected to the pixel electrode of the first region and disposed on the gate line; a second storage line connected to the pixel electrode of the second region and disposed on the common line; a switching device formed at an intersection of the gate line and the data line; and a liquid crystal layer formed between the first and the second substrates.

In order to achieve these and other advantages of the invention, an in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device comprises a first substrate and a second substrate; a plurality of gate lines disposed horizontally on the first substrate; a plurality of data lines disposed vertically on the first substrate, the gate lines and the data lines defining a pixel region; a

common line dividing the pixel region into a first region and a second region, and defining Red (R), Green (G), Blue (B) and White (W) sub-pixels arranged in a 2x2 matrix form; at least one pair of a common electrode and a pixel electrode disposed in each of sub-pixels; a first storage line disposed on the gate line; a second storage line disposed on the common line; a first contact hole electrically connecting the common electrode to the common line; a second contact hole electrically connecting the pixel electrode of the first region to the first storage line; a third contact hole electrically connecting the pixel electrode of the second region to the second storage line; a switching device formed at an intersection of the gate line and the data line; and a liquid crystal layer formed between the first and the second substrates.

In order to achieve these and other advantages of the invention, a fabrication method of an in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device comprises providing a first substrate and a second substrate; forming a plurality of gate lines and a common line parallel to and between the gate lines; forming a plurality of data lines disposed perpendicularly to the gate lines and defining R, G, B, and W sub-pixels together with the gate lines and the common line; a first storage line overlapping a gate line within the plurality of gate lines and forming a first storage capacitor; and a second storage line overlapping the common line and forming a second storage capacitor; forming a passivation layer on an entire surface of the substrate including the first and second storage lines; and forming a common electrode and a pixel electrode on the passivation layer.

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.

FIGS. 1A and 1B illustrate a structure of a related art IPS mode LCD device.

FIG. 2 is a view of an IPS mode LCD device according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates an IPS mode LCD device according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates an IPS mode LCD device according to a third embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a view of an IPS mode LCD device according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 6A and 6B are views illustrating an IPS mode LCD device according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 7A to 7C are views of an IPS mode LCD device according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

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

FIG. 2 illustrates a first embodiment of the present invention: an in plane switching (IPS) mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device having four sub-pixels, wherein each sub-pixel has four transmissive regions. This embodiment of the IPS

mode LCD device has a white sub-pixel **100d** in addition to the Red **100a**, Green **100b** and Blue **100c** sub-pixels. Here, the W sub-pixel **100d** may be accommodated by reducing the width of each sub-pixel and maintaining each sub-pixel's area.

The sub-pixels **100a**, **100b**, **100c** and **100d** are defined by a gate lines **101** and a data lines **103** arranged horizontally and vertically. In each sub-pixel **100a**, **100b**, **100c**, **100d**, a pixel electrode **107** substantially perpendicularly connects to a pixel electrode line **114**, and a common electrode **106** substantially perpendicularly connects to a common line **104**. The pixel electrode **107** and the common electrode **106**, which are alternately disposed, generate an in-plane electric field in the pixel when a voltage is applied between them. In addition, the common line **104** and the pixel electrode line **114** may overlap each other and form a storage capacitor (Cst) with a gate insulation layer (not shown) between them.

Also, as a switching device, a thin film transistor **109** may be disposed at the crossing of the gate line **101** and data line **103**. The thin film transistor **109** generally includes a semiconductor layer **105** formed on the gate electrode **101a**; a source electrode **102a** formed on the semiconductor layer **105**; and a drain electrode **102b** facing the source electrode **102a** and electrically connected to the pixel electrode line **114**. Also, although not shown in the drawing, a gate insulation layer may be applied on an entire surface of the substrate on which the gate line **101** has been formed. The gate insulation layer electrically insulates the common electrode **106** and the pixel electrode **107** from each other.

The following is a comparison between the first embodiment of the present invention and the related art. As illustrated in FIG. 1A, a separation distance between the pixel electrode **7** and the common electrode **6** is defined as d_1 . As illustrated in FIG. 2, the first embodiment of the present invention has a separation distance, d_2 , between the pixel electrode **107** and the common electrode **106**. Because of such an addition of the W sub-pixel **100d** in this embodiment, d_2 is approximately equal to $0.5d_1$. That is, if the W sub-pixel **100d** is added, brightness can be improved to a certain extent, but the light transmission region (transmissive area of the pixel region not blocked by the pixel electrode or the common electrode) is decreased. This is because a unit pixel of this embodiment has four sub-pixels. R, G, B and W, and substantially the same area as the unit pixel of the related art. The additional electrode structure of the W sub-pixel decreases the transmissive area of the unit pixel, which may reduce the increased brightness resulting from the addition of the W sub-pixel.

FIG. 3 illustrates a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention. In the second embodiment, sub-pixels R, G, B and W are arranged in a 2x2 matrix form, and each sub-pixel has six transmissive regions between electrodes **206** and **207**, wherein each transmissive region that has a width, D_1 , that is substantially the same as the corresponding width of the related art structure. The sub-pixel arrangement, and the width of the transmission region, D_1 , improve brightness and aperture ratio relative to the related art.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the IPS mode LCD device according to the second embodiment has R, G, B and W sub-pixels **200a-200d**, each having six transmissive regions, wherein the sub-pixels are arranged in the 2x2 matrix to form a unit pixel (P). The sub-pixels **200a-200d** are defined by gate lines **201** and data lines **203**, respectively, and are arranged horizontally and vertically. In each sub-pixel **200a-200d** is at least one pair of electrodes, a pair including a pixel electrode **207** connected to the pixel electrode line **214**, and a common electrode **206** connected to the common line **204**. The pixel electrodes **207** may be substantially perpendicularly oriented relative to the

pixel electrode line **214**, and the common electrode **206** may be substantially perpendicularly oriented relative to the common line **204**. The pixel electrodes **207** and the common electrodes **206** may be alternately disposed, and generate an in-plane electric field in the pixel on the application of a voltage. Further, the pixel electrode line **214** may overlap the common line **204** to form a storage capacitor (Cst).

A thin film transistor **209** is disposed as a switching device on the gate line **201**. The thin film transistor **209** includes a semiconductor layer **205** formed on the gate line **201**; a source electrode **202a** formed on the semiconductor layer **205**; and a drain electrode **202b** facing the source electrode **202a** and electrically connected to the pixel electrode line **214**. In addition, although not shown in the drawing, a gate insulation layer (not shown) may be deposited on an entire surface of a substrate on which the gate line **201** has been formed. The gate insulation layer insulates the pixel electrode **207** and the common electrode **206** from each other.

In the IPS mode LCD device of this embodiment, a separation distance **D1** between the pixel electrode **207** and the common electrode **206** may be the same as **d1**, the separation distance of the related four-block LCD device illustrated in FIG. 1A. With the sub-pixels **200a-200d** arranged in a 2x2 matrix form according to this embodiment, a gate line and a common line are added between the sub-pixels that are disposed vertically, which may result in an aperture ratio 'H' in a vertical direction. Here, 'H' is a value smaller than 'h', a vertical length illustrated in FIG. 1A, by about 15%. However, because two sub-pixels are disposed in a horizontal direction, the light transmission region may be increased by increasing **D1** or by further adding a common electrode and a pixel electrode.

By increasing **D1**, the aperture ratio increasing in the horizontal direction is greater than the aperture ratio decreasing in the vertical direction, thereby improving brightness and aperture ratio.

FIG. 4 illustrates a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention, in which the aperture ratio may be improved by making vertically disposed sub-pixels share a common line. The third embodiment is substantially similar to the second embodiment (FIG. 3), with a distinction in the disposition of a common line. This distinction is described below.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, in the IPS mode LCD device according to the third embodiment, a unit pixel is divided into sub-pixels by a common line **304** passing through a center of the pixel (P) parallel to a gate line **301**, and R, G, B and W sub-pixels **300a-300d** are arranged in a 2x2 matrix form. The region above the common line **304** may be referred to as a first region, and the region below the common line **304** may be referred to as a second region. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the G and B sub-pixels **300b** and **300c** are disposed in the first region, and R and W sub-pixels **300a** and **300d** are disposed in the second region.

The common line **304** is electrically connected to at least one common electrode **306** disposed in each sub-pixel, and forms a storage capacitor (Cst) together with a pixel electrode line **314** overlapping the common line **304**. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the pixel electrode line **314** overlapping the common line **304** includes a first pixel electrode line **314a** electrically connected to a pixel electrode **307** formed in the first region; and a second pixel electrode line **314b** electrically connected to a pixel electrode **307** formed in the second region.

The IPS mode LCD device having such a structure can improve the aperture ratio because the sub-pixels disposed at upper and lower portions of the pixel share one common line. The common line is disposed at a boundary line between the

first and second regions, and sub-pixels disposed vertically share the common line, thereby reducing a line-formed area.

The aperture ratio may be further improved by making the common electrode and the pixel electrode of a transparent conductive material.

FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary embodiment in which a common electrode **306'** and a pixel electrode **307'** are made of a transparent conductive material. Materials such as ITO (indium tin oxide) or IZO (indium zinc oxide) or the like may be used for the transparent conductive material. The common electrode **306'** and the pixel electrode **307'** are formed on different layers from the common line **304** and the pixel electrode line **314**, and thus contact holes for electrically connecting them are required. Accordingly, a first contact hole **306a** for connecting the common electrode **306'** with the common line **304** is formed, and a second contact hole **307a** for connecting the pixel electrode **307'** with the pixel electrode line **314** is formed. Here, the pixel electrode line **314** is connected to a drain electrode **302b**, and the drain electrode **302b** is connected to the pixel electrode **307'** through the second contact hole **307a**, so that the pixel electrode line **314** is connected to the pixel electrode **307'** (the pixel electrode line is separately formed in order to form a storage capacitor, and, hereinafter, will be referred to as "storage line").

In the IPS mode LCD device according to this exemplary embodiment, a common line **304** overlapping a first storage capacitor (Cst1), and the common line **304** overlapping a second storage capacitor (Cst2) of the second region forms a second storage capacitor (Cst2).

A structure according to this exemplary embodiment may have an improved aperture ratio since the sub-pixels formed at the first and second regions share the common line **304**. However, the first and the second storage capacitors (Cst1, Cst2), formed together at the common line, limit the extent to which the width may be reduced.

The aperture ratio may be improved by reducing the width of the common line. In a fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the first storage capacitor (Cst1) of the first region may be formed on a gate line **401**, and the second storage capacitor (Cst2) of the second region may be formed on a common line **404**, so that a width of the common line **304** is reduced and thus an aperture ratio may be improved while a total storage capacitor is maintained.

FIGS. 6A and 6B show a fifth embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 6A is a plan view of two pixels (P1, P2) disposed vertically, and FIG. 6B is a view showing a sectional structure taken along line II-II'. In the fifth exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a common line **404** is shared by sub-pixels disposed in the upper and lower regions, a storage capacitor (Cst2) of the sub pixel positioned in the first region is formed on a front gate line **401**, and a storage capacitor of the sub-pixel positioned in the second region is formed on common line **404**, so that a width of the common line is reduced, thereby improving an aperture ratio. The components of the fifth exemplary embodiment may be substantially similar to those of the fourth embodiment, with exceptions including the position of a common line **404** and a second storage capacitor (Cst2).

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 6A, pixels (P1 and P2) are defined by gate lines **401** and data lines **403**, which are respectively disposed horizontally and vertically. The four sub-pixels **400a-400d** are defined by a common line **404** passing through the center of the data line **403** perpendicularly. Accordingly, four sub-pixels construct one pixel.

In this exemplary embodiment, a common electrode **406** and a pixel electrode **407** for generating an in-plane electric

field in the pixel are disposed in each sub-pixel. The common electrode **406** is connected to a common line **404**, and the pixel electrode **407** is connected to a storage line (**414a**, **414b**). Herein, the storage line (**414a**, **414b**) is divided into a first storage line **414a** connected with a pixel electrode **407** of a first region and a second storage line **414b** connected to a pixel electrode **407** of a second region. The first storage line **414a** is disposed on a front gate line **401**, and the second storage line **414b** is disposed on the common line **404**. Accordingly, the first storage line **414a** and the gate line **401** form a first storage capacitor (Cst1), having a gate insulation layer **408** interposed between them, and the second storage line **414b** and the common line **404** form a second storage capacitor (Cst2), having a gate insulation layer **408** interposed between them.

Further, in the fifth exemplary embodiment, the common line **404** is connected to the common electrode **406** through a first contact hole **406a**, and the first storage line **414a** is connected to the pixel electrode **407** of the first region through a second contact hole **407a** formed on the front end gate line **401**. The second storage line **414b** is connected to a drain electrode **402b**, and the drain electrode **402b** is connected to the pixel electrode **407** of the second region through a third contact hole **407b**.

The LCD device according to this exemplary embodiment may enable a reduction of the width of the common line by half because the first storage capacitor is formed on the front gate line **401** and the second storage capacitor is formed on the common line **404**. Accordingly, the LCD device of the present invention may have an aperture ratio proportionate with the reduced width of the common line.

In addition, by disposing the common electrode and the pixel electrode in a zigzag structure, a multi domain structure providing for substantially symmetric viewing angle characteristics may be formed. The multi domain structure may cancel abnormalities in light transmission, and may minimize color shifting. The data line **403** may also have a zigzag structure similar to that of the common electrode **406** and pixel electrode **407**.

According to the fifth exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. 6B, the gate line **401** may be formed on a transparent first substrate **410**, and a gate insulation layer **408** may be applied thereon. The data line **403** and the first storage line **414a** may be formed on the gate insulation layer **408**. A passivation layer **411** may be deposited thereon, and the common electrode **406** and the pixel electrode **407** for generating an in-plane electric field may be formed on the passivation layer **411**, and a first alignment film **412a** may be applied thereon.

As described above, because the common electrode **406** and the pixel electrode **407** are formed on the same plane, an electric field between the two electrodes becomes stronger, and liquid crystal molecules in a liquid crystal layer can be switched at a higher speed by such a strong electric field.

The present invention does not limit positions of the common electrode **406** and the pixel electrode **407**. The common electrode **406** and the pixel electrode **407** may be formed on different planes. For example, the common electrode **406** may be formed on a substrate together with the common line **404**, and the pixel electrode **407** may be formed on a gate insulation layer **408** together with the first storage line **414a**.

Also, in this exemplary embodiment, a black matrix **421** for preventing leakage of light and R, G, B, and W color filters **423** for implementing colors are formed on a transparent second substrate **420**, and a second alignment film **412b** is applied thereon. In addition, a liquid crystal layer **413**, which is to be driven by an in-plane electric field generated between

the pixel electrode **407** and the common electrode **406**, is disposed between the first and the second substrates **410** and **420**.

The present invention may include a common line **404** that defines a first and second region of sub-pixels, wherein the sub-pixels may be different in area. The first region contains G and B sub-pixels **400b** and **400c**, and the second region contains R and W sub-pixels **400a** and **400d**. The G sub-pixel **400b** of the first region and the R sub-pixel **400a** of the second region are defined by the common line **404**. Given the placement and shape of the common line **404**, the R sub-pixel **400a** and the G sub-pixel **400b** may have substantially the same area, and thereby may have a sub-pixel area ratio (R/G) approximately equal to one. The common line **404** may be designed such that the B sub-pixel **400c** of the first region and the W sub-pixel **400d** of the second region are different in area. That is, the area of the B sub-pixel **400c** is larger than the W sub-pixel **400d**, thereby having a sub-pixel area ratio (B/W) greater than 1. Such a difference in area can be obtained since the common line **404** may be shifted to be disposed further toward the second region between the B sub-pixel **400c** and the W sub-pixel **400d**. In other words, the common line **404** is disposed substantially centrally between the R sub-pixel **400a** and the G sub-pixel **400b**, and then is shifted toward the W sub-pixel **400d** where it is disposed between the W sub-pixel **400c** and the W sub-pixel **400d**.

The B sub-pixel **400c** and the W sub-pixel **400d** may be made to be different in area so that the sum of the brightnesses of the R, G and B sub-pixels **400a-400c** becomes substantially the same as the brightness of the W sub-pixel **400d**. To achieve this, the area of the W sub-pixel **400d** is reduced.

Also, as the area of the W sub-pixel **400d** decreases, the area of the B sub-pixel **400c** increases proportionately. Such an increase little affects the sum of brightness of the R, G and B sub-pixels (**400a-400c**). Namely, extent of contribution of the R, G and B sub-pixels **400a-400c** in relation to overall brightness are approximately 35%, 55% and 10%, respectively. As such, the contribution of the B sub-pixel in relation to the overall brightness is very small. Accordingly, despite the increased area of the B sub-pixel **400c**, the sum of the brightnesses of the R, G and B sub-pixels is little changed, and the brightness of the W-sub-pixel **400d** is decreased. Hence, the difference between the sum of the brightnesses of the R, G and B sub-pixels **400a-400c** and the brightness of the W sub-pixel may be minimized.

An exemplary fabrication process of an IPS mode LCD device depicted in the fifth embodiment (FIGS. 6A and 6B) is described as follows. FIGS. 7A to 7C are plan views of a fabrication method of an LCD device depicted in the fifth embodiment.

First, as illustrated in FIG. 7A, a transparent insulation substrate **410**, such as glass, is prepared in which a metal such as Cu, Ti, Cr, Al, Mo, Ta, Al alloy, which is deposited on the substrate **410** through a method such as sputtering. The metal is patterned to form gate lines **401** and a common line **404** dividing a region between the gate lines **401** into a first region and a second region. The common line **404** is formed substantially parallel to the gate line **401**.

Thereafter, SiNx, SiOx or a similar insulating material is deposited on an entire surface of the substrate **410** including the gate line **401** and the common line **404** by a plasma CVD method, or a similar oxide deposition process, thereby forming a gate insulation layer (not shown).

As illustrated in FIG. 7B, amorphous silicon and n⁺ amorphous silicon is formed on the gate insulation layer (not shown) and patterned to create a semiconductor layer **405** on the gate line **401**. Next, a metal such as Cu, Mo, Ta, Al, Cr, Ti,

Al alloy is deposited on the semiconductor layer **405** and the gate insulation layer (not shown) through a sputtering method and patterned to form the following: a data line **403** disposed substantially perpendicularly to the gate line **401** and the common line **404**; source/drain electrodes **402a/402b** formed on the semiconductor layer **405** and isolated from each other at a prescribed interval; a first storage line **414a** overlapping a front gate line **401** and forming a first storage capacitor (Cst1); and a second storage line **414b** overlapping the common line **404**, connected to the drain electrode **402b** and forming a second storage capacitor (Cst2).

Next, an inorganic material such as SiNx or SiOx or an organic material such as benzocyclobutene and acryl is applied on the substrate where a thin film transistor **409** has been formed. Then, contact holes **406a**, **407a** and **407b** are formed by removing a portion of the passivation layer disposed on the common line **404**, the gate line **401** and the drain electrode **402b**, respectively.

As illustrated in FIG. 7C, a transparent conductive material such as ITO (indium tin oxide) or IZO (indium zinc oxide) is deposited on the passivation layer **411** and patterned to form a common electrode **406** and a pixel electrode **407**. The common electrode **406** may be connected to the common line **404** through the first contact hole **406a**, and a pixel electrode **407** may be connected to the first storage line **414a** and the drain electrode **402b** through the second and third contact holes **407a** and **407b**, respectively.

Next, the first substrate fabricated through the exemplary process, and a second substrate on which a color filter is formed, are attached together. The common electrode **406** and the pixel electrode **407** may be formed on different layers, and the two electrodes may be made of an opaque metal as well as a transparent material.

In the quad type IPS mode LCD device according to the present invention described as above, sub-pixels disposed vertically share a common line, a storage capacitor of the upper sub-pixel (Cst1) is formed on a front gate line **401**, and a storage capacitor of the lower sub-pixel (Cst2) is formed on a common line **404**, thereby reducing a width of the common line as much as possible. Accordingly, the area occupied by the common line in a pixel is reduced, thereby improving the aperture ratio.

As described, in an IPS mode LCD device according to the present invention, brightness can be improved by disposing R, G B and W sub-pixels in a 2x2 matrix form. Also, in the present invention, an aperture ratio can be improved because sub-pixels, which are disposed vertically, share one common line. In addition, according to the present invention, sub-pixels, which are disposed vertically, share a common line, a storage capacitor of an upper sub-pixel is formed on a front gate line, and a storage capacitor of a lower sub-pixel is formed on a common line, thereby effectively reducing a width of the common line and further improving the aperture ratio.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variation 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 in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device, comprising:

- a first substrate and a second substrate;
- a plurality of gate lines disposed horizontally on the first substrate;

a plurality of data lines disposed vertically on the first substrate;

a common line between the gate lines, the gate lines, the data lines and the common line defining a first to a fourth sub-pixels arranged in a 2x2 matrix form;

a thin film transistor at an intersection of the gate lines and the data lines in each sub-pixel;

at least one pair of a common electrode and a pixel electrode disposed in each of the sub-pixels, the pixel electrode at each sub-pixel being connected to the thin film transistor thereof;

two first storage lines respectively connected to the pixel electrodes of the upper two sub-pixels of 2x2 matrix form and disposed on the gate line;

two second storage lines respectively connected to the pixel electrodes of the lower two sub-pixels of 2x2 matrix form and disposed on the common line; and

a liquid crystal layer formed between the first and the second substrates.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the pixel electrode and the common electrode include a transparent material.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the transparent material includes indium tin oxide (ITO).

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the first to the fourth sub-pixels are Red (R), Green (G), Blue (B) and White (W) pixels, respectively.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein the gate line and the first storage lines form two first storage capacitors.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the common line and the two second storage lines form two second storage capacitors.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the thin film transistor includes:

- a gate electrode;
- a gate insulation layer formed on an entire surface of a substrate including the gate electrode;
- a semiconductor layer formed on the gate insulation layer; and
- a source and a drain electrodes formed on the semiconductor layer.

8. The device of claim 1, wherein the common electrode and the pixel electrode each have a zigzag structure.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the data lines have a zigzag structure.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the common electrode and the pixel electrode are formed on the same plane.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the common line is shared by sub-pixels of the 2x2 matrix form.

12. The device of claim 1, further comprising a gate insulation layer interposed between the gate line and the first storage lines and between the common line and the second storage lines.

13. A fabrication method of an in plane switching mode liquid crystal display device comprising:

- providing a first substrate and a second substrate;
- forming a plurality of gate lines and a common line parallel to and between the gate lines;

forming a plurality of data lines disposed perpendicularly to the gate lines and defining R, G, B, and W sub-pixels together with the gate lines and the common line; a thin film transistor at each of the R, G, B, and W sub-pixels; two first storage lines overlapping a gate line within the plurality of gate lines and forming two first storage capacitors, the two first storage lines being respectively connected to the thin film transistors in two of the sub-pixels; and two second storage lines overlapping the common line and forming two second storage capaci-

11

tors, the two second storage lines being respectively connected to the thin film transistors at the other two of the sub-pixels;
forming a passivation layer on an entire surface of the substrate including the first and second storage lines; 5
and
forming a common electrode and a pixel electrode on the passivation layer.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein the common electrode and the pixel electrode are made of a transparent conductive material. 10

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein the transparent conductive material includes indium tin oxide (ITO).

12

16. The method of claim **13**, further comprising forming a contact hole for exposing the common line and the gate line by etching a part of the passivation layer.

17. The method of claim **13**, wherein the providing the second substrate includes:

forming a black matrix on a transparent second substrate;
and

forming a color filter on the second substrate.

18. The method of claim **13**, wherein the common electrode and the pixel electrode each have a zigzag structure.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	具有与栅极线和公共线重叠的存储线的平面切换模式液晶显示装置及其制造方法		
公开(公告)号	US7403253	公开(公告)日	2008-07-22
申请号	US10/975100	申请日	2004-10-28
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	姜元SEOK		
申请(专利权)人(译)	姜元硕		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	LG DISPLAY CO. , LTD.		
[标]发明人	KANG WON SEOK		
发明人	KANG, WON-SEOK		
IPC分类号	G02F1/1343 G02F1/133 G02F1/136 G02F1/1362 H01L21/00 H01L29/786		
CPC分类号	G02F1/134363 G02F1/136213 G02F2201/40 G02F2001/134345		
优先权	1020030076080 2003-10-29 KR		
其他公开文献	US20050094078A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

公开了一种IPS模式LCD装置及其制造方法。IPS模式LCD装置包括：第一和第二基板；在第一基板上水平和垂直设置的多条栅极线和数据线；由栅极线和数据线限定的多个子像素；公共线，将子像素划分为上部区域，第一区域和下部区域，第二区域，以及以2×2矩阵形式排列的第一至第四子像素；至少一对公共电极和像素电极设置在第一至第四子像素的每一个中并产生面内电场；第一存储线，连接到第一区域的像素电极并设置在栅极线上；第二存储线，连接到第二区域的像素电极并设置在公共线上；开关器件，形成在栅极线和数据线的交叉处；以及在第一和第二基板之间形成的液晶层。

